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ANNUAL PEARL DIVING EVENT KICKS OFF 193 SKIPPERS AND SAILORS EMBARK ON A VOYAGE



KUWAIT: Family members bid farewell to pearl divers as the annual traditional pearl diving event kicks off yesterday morning. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Faten Omar, KUNA

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Ford Motor Company reminds customers that Ford cars and services are available at Alghanim Auto in Kuwait. Ford has been in a contractual relationship with Alghanim Auto since March 27, 2016.

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Go Further

Local Spotlight

THE DRUG MERCHANTS



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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The Ministry of Interior foiled an attempt to smuggle a huge amount of Captagon pills into the country. The pills were professionally hidden in a container coming from Turkey. The operation was described as the largest seizure of drugs - an estimated 10 million pills of Captagon worth 25 million Kuwaiti dinars! Authorities allowed the container to enter the country and followed it until its final destination in an open area in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. They waited for three days, until a 28-year-old Syrian man came to receive it and was caught red-handed. Investigations will reveal the truth, but this should be a lesson, and that the Syrian, who could just be a messenger, is guilty too.

The most important question remains: Who has such a large amount of money to trade in drugs, and when will the MoI disclose the name of this merchant? The director of security and media public relations at the interior ministry said that the role of the ministry is to detect and arrest drug traffickers and users, then register cases against them to be referred to the prosecution, and it is up to the courts to issue the right punishments.

Some MPs have called for public executions to make such crimes an example for those tempted to

Investigations will reveal the truth, but this should be a lesson, and that the Syrian, who could just be a messenger, is guilty too.

subvert society and waste youth potentials. Issuing death sentences or imprisonment is the jurisdiction of the court, based on the evidence presented by the Ministry of Interior. However, the Ministry of Interior is responsible for following the subject until the arrest of the mastermind of this crime.

Talking about the implementation of public death sentences is usually accompanied by a lot of different opinions. Some think it may be harsh, while others see it as a lesson for those who believe they can commit such a crime and escape punishment. In some cases, execution, public or not, is necessary. The death penalty could be a step against drugs dealers, but it will not stop this trade, even if it helps to reduce its occurrence.

It is likely that the money could be used to finance terrorist operations, and this theory is worth looking into. Terrorist organizations could be behind this crime and not just individuals, because millions of dinars are involved. This is beyond a one-man show. We should not be naïve to assume that this crime will be the last. We need the MoI to be alert all the time. They did a great job to catch this shipment before it spread in the country. The community needs to know who is behind this shipment - the real culprit, whose punishment should be a lesson for others. Not getting the official and right answer may lead to wrong conclusions and speculations that lead to rumors.

The Photographer's Eye

IN FOCUS: PHOTOJOURNALIST FOUAD AL-SHAIKH



Kuwait National Day

Kuwait Times is lucky enough to employ several highly qualified and talented photojournalists. In this occasional series, we would like to highlight some of our staff's best work and thank them for their continuous efforts and professional endeavors. Fouad Al-Shaikh is a veteran photojournalist who has worked for the Kuwait Times for 8 years. He has photographed VIPs, important and historical moments in Kuwait's recent history as well as captured the unique, interesting and beauty in the daily life of the state. This collection of some of his recent works illustrate his diversity of talent and the depth of his photographic eye. — All photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



Kuwait Towers



A helicopter



Lamps

This is a collection of some of Fouad Al-Shaikh recent work - illustrating his diversity of talent and the depth of his photographic eye.



Aqua Park



Sharq Mall



Sunset



A glass of tea



Pigeons

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KUWAIT: Friends and family members bid farewell to pearl divers as the annual traditional pearl diving event kicks off yesterday morning. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Pearl diving event kicks off

By Faten Omar, KUNA

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KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and other top officials are pictured during the annual traditional pearl diving event, which kicked off yesterday morning.



With a fleet of 13 wooden ships and 193 skippers and sailors, the ceremony for the annual pearl diving trip began. The brave souls involved in this yearly tradition are expected to stay at sea until 6th August. Speaking at the ceremony, Sheikh Salman commended all those involved in the trip, saying that their participation upheld a great tradition that the younger generation of Kuwaitis must experience for themselves. He thanked the Kuwait Sea Sports Club for its continuous involvement in the pearl diving trip, affirming that their efforts will surely encourage the sailors to become better people once they return.

Meanwhile, head of the Sea Sports Club General Fahad Al-Fahad lauded the Kuwaiti leadership for its unconditional support to the pearl diving trip, stressing that it was important to continue this tradition which is an integral part of Kuwait's history. At least 193 young men from Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman are participating in this year's voyage. This tradition

started 28 years ago under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to preserve and celebrate Kuwait's heritage.

The participants stood on the podium, and passed the diving flag to the representative of HH the Amir, Minister of Information and State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud. The Kuwaiti flag was then raised as a signal to officially inaugurate the diving trip. The family members of the participants attended the farewell ceremony.

"This activity reminds us of our fathers' hard work to protect the country. The pearl diving trip is a remarkable event, both locally and regionally. It is aimed at unifying the citizens of this country and to strengthen a sense of one family," KSSC's heritage committee chairman Ali Al-Qabandi said. The Dasha ceremony was attended by senior state officials, club executives, and family members of the involved sailors.



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti sailors carrying traditional fishing nets on their heads prepare to board Dhows ahead of a pearl diving trip yesterday. Pearl-diving trips are held annually under the patronage of the HH The Amir in order to keep alive traditions that accompanied the once important national trade of pearl diving, prior to the discovery of oil.



Announcement Regarding Alghanim Auto

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Photos by Vivien Allender

KUWAIT PARTICIPATES IN GLOBAL T(W)EENS PROJECT

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

While we live in a world clouded by misinformation and confusion, some persist in their bid for peace and emphasize the idea that we are all equal despite being ethnically different. Differences melt and fade in the world of the young who have a lot more in common deep down despite where they grew up and how they were brought up.

Australian photographer Vivien Allender has been traveling the globe to get acquainted with teens and preteens around the world. Kuwait was one of her stops. Vivien is a photographic artist, an educator and an inspiration seeker. She came to Kuwait in coordination with a Kuwaiti friend who introduced her to a group of kids. "I found Kuwaiti children sweet, smart, well-mannered and vibrant. My friend Farah introduced me to some Kuwaiti tweens and teens. Teens are fascinating. So much goes on in the years between childhood and adulthood!" Vivien told Kuwait Times.

She noticed that while dealing with this age group, the younger ones are less difficult to photograph, while the older girls tend to care more about their image. "Older girls are at least more concerned with their looks. I asked them to come in their natural and casual state, but many girls ended up wearing makeup. They don't know their natural beauty! I think they'll only understand the power of their own natural beauty when they get older," Vivien explained.

The work of the Global T(W)eens Project is artistically directed by Italian coordinator Serena Uberti, who met Vivien in New York City 20 years ago. Vivien has visited Italy, Japan, Australia, US, Germany, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, Britain, Argentina, Russia and Kuwait. More countries are expected to be visited. Kids are asked to wear casual clothes and be themselves, and are photographed in their own environment.

The project, which was launched from Italy, will return to be exhibited in the same place approximately next year. Vivien hopes that their work will help to invoke awareness



of common grounds and the contrast between teenagers and preteens worldwide and their perceptions of what they will be in the future.

Just like anyone who experiences the hot summer of Kuwait, Vivien was a little shocked. "The heat is not for me!" she exclaimed. "However, the people I met were all kind, warm and generous of spirit. Just outside Kuwait City is a desert landscape full of seemingly endless rows of electricity pylons and the mushroom-like blue and white striped water towers. Both form a brilliant visual which I would love to photograph," she added.



Vivien Allender



Staples of old Kuwaiti sanitation

KUWAIT: Kuwaitis of yesteryears have long relied on a slew of cleaning tools that had become an inextricable part of everyday life back then. In spite of the adversity faced by our forefathers and the simplicity of life in their day, they have always made it a point to stay hygienic and tidy. Needless to say, the tools they used back then were a far cry from those we have at our disposal today.

In an interview with KUNA, Kuwaiti researcher Saleh Al-Methen noted that Kuwaiti domiciles have always been spotlessly clean, where toilets are typically far away from bedrooms and living rooms. Amongst those tools was a spherical container made from metal and copper known as "Al-Tasht", where the sight of women bathing their children while ensconced in those containers was an everyday occurrence.

Moreover, amongst the prominent detergents used then were a collection of soaps including, "Rita, Ragi (watermelon-based soap), Bu Deek, and Teen Khawa. "The latter was some greenish medicinal mud women would often use on their manes, as it was known to contain nourishing properties. In addition, another frequently used detergent was "Al-Juwait", a deep bluish powder often diluted in water used to clean white clothing. Similarly, "Leefa" was a hand-sized scrub that came in an assortment of sizes.

Furthermore, "Al-Takhta" was another cleaning tool used back then, a wooden chair people would often sit on while showering. Kuwaitis back then often used an apparatus known as "Mathrabat Al-Harees", where they would use it to strike wet clothes after washing them, Al-Methen added.

Meanwhile, children back then were disciplined and taught to stay dapper, as they often used a small chair known as "Al-Qaysara" for all their toilet needs. Another tool, "Al-Gubgab" was a wooden pair of shoes used in bathrooms.

Another ubiquitous tool back then was "Dram", a steel trash can the government would provide all houses with, as all the litter was taken to "Al-Smada", a place where the loads of garbage was stored. "Al-Maghsal", an apparatus used by the elderly to wash their hands was another household staple, in addition to "Al-shamla", a piece of garment used to dry off soaked hands, Al-Methen said. All of these tools conjure fond memories for those who have lived long enough to use them, giving the current generation an inkling of how simple yet delightful life was back then. — KUNA



Kuwaiti researcher Saleh Al-Methen



Photos show cleaning tools used by Kuwaitis in the olden days. — KUNA photos

BAE PROFITS BOOSTED BY DEFENSE DEMAND

KUWAIT'S ORDERS PROVIDE £1 BILLION WORTH OF WORK FOR BAE

LONDON: BAE Systems, the British maker of military equipment, posted a modest increase in first-half profits yesterday on the back of rebounding demand from governments worldwide. Net profits rose almost five percent to £408 million (\$536 million, 487 million euros) in the six months to the end of June, compared with £390 million a year earlier, BAE said in a results statement. "Despite economic and political uncertainties, governments in our major markets continue to prioritize national security, with strong demand for our capabilities," said chief executive Ian King.

"In the United States, we are seeing encouraging signs of a return to growth in defense budgets and improved prospects for our core franchises." In the UK, the result of the EU referendum will lead to a period of uncertainty, but we do not anticipate any material near-term trading impact on our business." The maker of Astute submarines and Eurofighter warplanes is gaining new orders as mounting tensions between its main government clients in NATO and China and Russia prompt a reversal of military-budget cuts that followed the 2008 global recession.

BAE is also seeking customers in new countries and more revenue from outside the defense area through acquisitions in

recent years to bolster its cyber-security business. The company will meanwhile win an earnings boost after Britain's parliament gave the green light last week to replace the ageing submarines that carry the nation's nuclear arsenal. British lawmakers approved the construction of four new submarines to carry the Trident missile system and their nuclear warheads.

Kuwait's order

An order that the company's Italian partner in Eurofighter, Leonardo-Finmeccanica SpA, signed in April to supply 28 of the jets to Kuwait, will provide £1 billion worth of work for BAE, it added yesterday. Deliveries of the model, which BAE markets as the Typhoon, continued to the UK and Saudi Arabia, while the first five Hawk trainer aircraft for Saudi Arabia under a 2012 contract were handed over in the first half, BAE said. "Our business benefits from a large order backlog, with established positions on long-term programs in the US, UK, Saudi Arabia and Australia," added the group. "We are well placed to maximize opportunities, deal with the challenges and continue to generate attractive shareholder returns." — AFP



KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah (right) receives US Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas A Silliman. — KUNA

US MILITARY OFFICIALS UNDERSCORE IMPORTANCE OF KUWAIT RELATIONS

WASHINGTON: US military officials have reiterated the importance of lasting relationships with nations in the region, including Kuwait, in deterrence measures against hostile threats. These measures include "efforts to formalize basing with countries like Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain, and a continued focus on agreements in place for access, bases and oversight with countries in the region," an official said at a Pentagon panel discussion.

Commander of US Central Command Army Gen Joseph L Votel also pointed out "posture and presence, including long-term military relationships with countries like Egypt," read a Defense Department statement. Other ways, Votel suggested, are "building partner capacity and capability." Meanwhile, Acting Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Brian McKeon noted to what he called "gray zone confrontations," which he explained, "occur just below the level of armed conflict but involve military-backed coercion." Groups in the gray zone can use individually-small steps in

aggression, he said, whereby "taking no action will yield an unacceptable outcome".

FM meets diplomats

In another development, Acting Prime Minister and Minister Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday received outgoing US Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas A Silliman on the occasion of the end of his tenure. The Kuwaiti minister lauded Ambassador Silliman's efforts in promoting ties, wishing him the best in his future ventures. Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled met separately with newly appointed Ambassadors of Germany and the Vatican to Kuwait. The Foreign Minister affirmed that Kuwait was eager to bolster relations with both Germany and the Vatican. He welcomed the two Ambassadors and wished them the best during their tenure. The meetings were attended by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah in addition to senior officials at the ministry. — Agencies

News

i n b r i e f

Kuwait Consul in Frankfurt denies social media reports

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Consul General in the German city of Frankfurt Dherar Altuwaijri has denied what has been posted on social media networks regarding clashes between a Kuwaiti national and German security men at Frankfurt airport. Commenting on a footage posted on these networks regarding the incident, the Consul said that after contacting officials at the airport, it was shown that the man, who was quarrelling with the security men, was not a Kuwaiti citizen. Altuwaijri urged users of social media to abide by accuracy and objectivity.

Iraq's parliament endorses Kuwait aviation agreement

BAGHDAD: Iraq's parliament yesterday unanimously voted to endorse an aviation agreement with Kuwait, the latest in a series of agreements approved by Baghdad. The majority of lawmakers voted to approve the agreement, which was finalized by both nations back in 2013, a media source said. "This agreement aims to facilitate aviation exchange between Kuwait and Iraq," the source added. Moreover, the governments of both countries sealed the deal during His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's visit to Iraq in June 2013.

Sudan commends Kuwait's support for Arab solidarity

KHARTOUM: Sudan's Minister of Cabinet Affairs Ahmed Saad Omar has lauded Kuwait's stances backing solidarity among the Arab states. During a meeting with the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Sudan, Talal Mansour Al-Hajri whose term in office has ended, the minister praised the embassy's efforts to boost bilateral ties. Omar reiterated his country's keenness on enhancing cooperation with Kuwait in administrative training. He said that the courses organized by the Kuwaiti-based Arab Institute for Planning, had opened up fresh prospects for bilateral cooperation. He stressed Kuwait's role for reconstruction and development in Eastern Sudan. For his part, ambassador Al-Hajri expressed appreciation for the cooperation shown by the Sudanese officials during his term in office, as well as their efforts to consolidate ties between the two countries.



Online shopping up by 59% in the Middle East

DUBAI: Online shopping in the Middle East went up by 59 percent according to recent international studies, said a Kuwaiti businesswoman yesterday. Electronic shopping specialist and owner of the (koot.com) website, Luma Bourisly told KUNA that international reports by the likes of (e-Marketer), a US independent research company, revealed the number of Middle East online shoppers have increased to around 20 million users. She added that the value for online shopping in the region was at \$4.9 billion, adding that the number is expected to reach \$10 billion by 2018. The growth of the e-market in the Middle East will benefit the consumers because of the competitive prices and the easy access to online outlets through computers and smartphones, said Bourisly. The Kuwaiti businesswoman encouraged Arab ladies to take a chance and venture into this line of business to discover their endless potential.

FLAGGING NON-OIL BUSINESS DAMPENS OUTLOOK FOR GULF

KUWAIT EXPECTED TO RUN A FISCAL DEFICIT OF 1.5%

DUBAI: Economists have cut growth forecasts for most of the rich oil exporting countries of the Gulf as non-oil business activity slows because of government austerity measures, a quarterly Reuters poll found. Last year, growth in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council began to lose steam as governments reduced spending to limit big budget deficits caused by cheap oil. This year, those austerity measures - including cuts to energy price subsidies, smaller bonuses for state employees, and higher taxes and fees - are starting to make a major dent in consumers' income, slowing economies further.

Median forecasts for gross domestic product growth this year have been cut for four of the six GCC countries, including the biggest, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the poll of 18 economists showed. Forecasts were cut for next year's growth in five countries. In Saudi Arabia, the median prediction for GDP growth this year was lowered to 1.2 percent from 1.5 percent in the last Reuters poll, conducted in April. Growth in 2017 is now expected to be 1.7 percent instead of 1.9 percent.

First-quarter Saudi GDP data, released by the government earlier this month, showed the non-oil sector shrank 0.7 percent from a year earlier, its worst performance in at least five years. "We think that tighter fiscal policy will continue to weigh on the non-oil sector for the foreseeable future," said London-based Capital Economics, which forecasts growth of just 0.3 percent in Saudi Arabia this year, the second-lowest estimate among the 18 analysts. "At the same time, growth in the oil sector has slowed sharply in recent months and, given the backdrop of ample global oil supplies, we expect it to remain sluggish for the rest of this year."

In the UAE, the median growth forecast for this year was cut to 2.5 percent from 2.8 percent, and for next year to 2.7 percent from 2.9 percent. The poll does, however, show predictions for budget deficits in the biggest GCC countries being trimmed - the result of the rebound in oil prices since the start of the year as well as efforts by governments to bring their finances under control.

Economists now expect Saudi Arabia to post a fiscal deficit of 13.5 percent of GDP this year instead of the previous forecast of 15.5 percent; next year's deficit forecast has been lowered to 9.4 percent from 9.7 percent. However, analysts remain concerned about the outlook for Oman and Bahrain, which they see as the GCC's weakest economies in the face of low oil prices. They have smaller oil and gas resources than their neighbors, and smaller financial reserves. Oman's fiscal deficit is now forecast at 16.9 percent of GDP this year, instead of the previously projected 16.7 percent, and 11.4 percent next year instead of 10.0 percent.

Bahrain is now expected to run a deficit of 11.2 percent this year, smaller than the 13.5 percent previously forecast, but the outlook for next year's gap has worsened to 12.0 percent from 10.5 percent. Because of domestic political opposition, Kuwait has held off on introducing painful reforms to curb state spending such as cuts to energy subsidies, though the government has indicated it intends to take such steps. Partly because of the delay, Kuwait is now expected to run a fiscal deficit of 1.5 percent of GDP next year instead of the 2.1 percent surplus previously forecast. This year's deficit is projected at 5.3 percent.— Reuters



KUWAIT: Photos show participants during a campaign launched by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research at Kuwait International Airport. — KUNA photos

KISR CAMPAIGN AIMS TO INSTILL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN YOUTH

KUWAIT: Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) launched a campaign yesterday in Kuwait International Airport, aimed at instilling the virtue of social responsibility in youngsters. The campaign, christened, "Kuwait's Mark", is part of efforts to impart on youths the importance of humanitarian and social values, academic official Dr Narjas Abul said in a statement to the press. Moreover, she noted that the campaign, which is part of an ongoing training program, would feature charitable acts such as handing out snacks to bystanders at the airport, which would help illustrate that such benevo-

lence is embedded in Kuwaiti culture.

Further, Abul added that such endeavors are routinely undertaken by KISR as means of enhancing and honing youth skills and capabilities. Similarly, KISR official Muna Al-Failakawi noted that a total of 145 students from high school and college levels have been registered in the course. Meanwhile, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Director General Yousef Al-Fouzan pointed out that the airport is the country's welcoming grounds, saying that such endeavors would give visitors a taste of the hospitality that awaits them.— KUNA



Dr Narjas Abul



Yousef Al-Fouzan



Muna Al-Failakawi

News

i n b r i e f

Public Works signs two contracts for KD 7.6 m

KUWAIT: Ministry of Public Works announced yesterday, that it has signed two contracts for KD 7.6 million to build pedestrian bridges and public parking lots across the country. The first contract is at a value of KD 3.9 million, while the second is at KD 3.7 million. Both contracts will be designated to design, construct, and maintain these projects.

Kuwaiti authorities keep close eye on fundraising

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti authorities' measures and regulations for charitable work have proven largely effective and only a countable number of law violations have been recorded, the Social Affairs Minister Dr Hind Al-Subaih said yesterday. Minister Al-Subaih, also Minister of Labor said in a statement that charitable proceeds have increased by 100 percent, explaining that the ministry's steps has organized the sector, rather than trimming it. Fifteen charities raised KD 32.701 million in the past fasting month of Ramadan, as compared to KD 18.232 million the same month in 2015 and KD 14.815 million in 2014, Minister Al-Subaih revealed, affirming that reports in her hands showed that law violations significantly dropped. Inspection teams carried out 465 inspection missions at mosques and humanitarian associations, she said and disclosed that there were 25 breaches by 12 societies, indicating that some of the donation campaigns were executed without prior permission from the ministry. Up to 17 kiosks set up to collect second-hand clothes for the needy were shut down. Up to 41 violations were registered for raising money, illegally, via the electronic social media, as well as 31 by individuals who did not obtain a license.



Yemen's conciliation consultations resume

KUWAIT: Inter-Yemeni conciliation consultations resumed yesterday under the chairmanship of the UN envoy for the Yemeni crisis Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed following his participation in the latest Arab Summit hosted by Mauritania. The international troubleshooter held a meeting with Kuwait Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and a number of ambassadors, discussing the Yemeni file namely efforts that have been exerted to reach a final settlement to the crisis. Cheikh Ahmed is scheduled to hold separate meetings with the Yemeni Government delegation and representatives of the opposition parties, Ansarullah and the General Peoples' Congress, to pursue discussions on main topics in the peace process agenda. The talks are focusing on key issues namely fighting cessation, activating work of the pacification committee and other commissions, forming a military council to be tasked with overseeing gunmen's withdrawal, guns' handover and opening safe passages for delivering humanitarian aid to civilians in need.

EU approves acquisition of firm by Kuwait Petroleum

BRUSSELS: The European Commission announced yesterday the approval (under the EU Merger Regulation and the acquisition of Termica Milazzo of Italy) by Raffineria di Milazzo which is a joint venture between Eni and Kuwait Petroleum Italia. Termica Milazzo operates a thermal power unit of 145 megawatts located in Sicily, Italy. Raffineria di Milazzo operates a refinery located at the same site as Termica Milazzo's thermal power unit. Eni is active in the oil, natural gas and electricity sectors worldwide. Kuwait Petroleum Italia is a subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and it is active in the supply of fuel, jet fuel, bunker fuel, lubricants and other petroleum derivatives, said the European Commission in a statement. The EU's executive body concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns, because of the very limited overlaps between the companies' activities generated by the transaction.

Crime

Report

DRUNK KUWAITI JUMP THE FENCE

KUWAIT: Farwaniya detectives have arrested a man who entered a citizen's house by climbing over the fence. The suspect said he was drunk and could not differentiate between his house and his neighbor's home. He thought his family locked the gate, so he decided to climb the fence, only for him to discover later that it was not his house. A citizen lodged a complaint, so police went to the house - looking for traces. The detectives took a blood sample to the forensics department who were able to identify the suspect. He denied that he entered the house with any intention of theft.

Suspects in video clips

Jahra detectives have arrested the two persons who appeared in a social media video clip recently. The video clip shows a man being attacked and robbed - while in another clip, the victim was forced to say it was a joke. Detectives were able to identify the two suspects - a bedoon (Bader FA) who did the beating, another bedoon (Wael F S) who filmed the incident and the person who posted the clips on the social media. The department's statement said the suspects are abnormal - and they are found to be friends.

Barber with tuberculosis

Residency detectives arrested a Moroccan barber who is infected with tuberculosis. Director General of Residency Affairs Department Brig Saud Al-Khader received a tip about the barber in Jahra who is infected with contagious disease. An arrest warrant was issued. The suspect was placed in isolation prior to his deportation.

Unknown gang

Despite warnings from the telecommunications companies to their customers about a gang who uses financial prizes to lure their victims, citizens and expats continue to fall victims to them. The latest is a Filipina who told Salmiya police about a person who called her with a foreign number and made her believe she won KD 20,000, so she gave him her civil ID number, ATM and pin number. With that, the unknown man withdrew KD 2850 from her account and then called her back saying she was 'stupid' and hung up.

Bedoon woman raped

A stateless (bedoon) woman who works for the Interior Ministry told Firdous police that she was beaten, locked up for 12 hours and then raped three times. The woman said she is in love with a young man who wanted to marry her, but they had some family problems. She then called her boyfriend's sister to tell her the situation of things. The boyfriend's sister asked her to come to a house in Jleeb, which she did. After few minutes later, her boyfriend appeared and beat her up and raped her.

Environment police

Three expats and their sponsor were arrested by Environment policemen after they were caught throwing garbage in an open yard in a residential area. A police Major reported about a vehicle in Rumaithiya with three persons throwing garbage in an open area. The three suspects (Indians) called their sponsor who said he ordered them to do that. —Al Anbaa

KUWAIT COURT STOPS MOSQUE DEMOLITION

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Urgent Matters Administrative Court has ruled to stop and cancel the decision to demolish Shamlan Al-Roumi mosque. The court said that demolishing the mosque will damage one of the Kuwait Islamic antiquities - built 120 years ago.

Fire in Qurain area

Firemen rescued a family from a fire in a house in Qurain area. Qurain Fire Center under the command of Lt Nasser Dashti rushed to the scene and evacuated the resi-

dents before battling the blaze. No injuries were reported.

Project in Jahra

Municipality Director General Eng Ahmad Al-Manfouhi said the municipality is keen on supporting project in Jahra directorate, adding that the Higher Committee for Planning and Coordination has decided to ask the Organization and Structural Plan and Projects Development sector to submit a report on the projects to be implemented in the governorate. He said it will include entertainment projects like the marina and sea front to be built in Jahra.



Kuwait Red Crescent Society officials hand out 45,000 food parcels to displaced Iraqis. — KUNA photos

KRCS HANDS OUT 45,000 FOOD PARCELS TO DISPLACED IRAQIS

IRBIL: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) handed out some 45,000 food baskets to displaced families in various cities within the Kurdistan region of Iraq. KRCS official Yousef Al-Meraj said yesterday that since the beginning of 2016, KRCS has handed out food baskets for a number of 250,000 displaced Iraqis in the region. Kuwait Red Crescent Society has handed out 4,000 coupons and clothes to fulfill the needs of the displaced Iraqis during Eid Al-Fitr. He added that Kuwait will continue offering aid to ease the pain and suffering of displaced Iraqis and refugees in the region.

Refugees in Lebanon

Also, KRCS in cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross yesterday launched the 13th campaign to provide food for the Syrian refugees in northern Lebanon. KRCS delegate Dr Musaad Al-Enizi said in a statement to KUNA that 3,000 Syrian refugee families will benefit from the campaign with over 6,000 bags of bread distributed daily in the city of Tripoli. Dr Al-Enizi said that several bakeries were chosen based on proximity to the dwellings of the refugees to eliminate the difficulty of transporting food. KRCS distributed 45 million loaves of bread since the establishment of this project last year. — Agencies



International

FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2016

Pope Francis misses step, falls down before Mass in Poland



Armed with party support, Clinton to make case for the White House



Nepal, India floods leave more than 90 dead



GENEVA: Staffan de Mistura, UN Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, speaks about the International Syria Support Group's Humanitarian Access Task Force, at the European headquarters of the United Nations yesterday. — AP

RUSSIA ANNOUNCES HUMANITARIAN OPERATION IN SYRIA'S ALEPPO

'LARGE-SCALE HUMANITARIAN OPERATION'

MOSCOW: Russia and the Syrian government said they will open humanitarian corridors in Syria's embattled city of Aleppo yesterday and offer a way out for opposition fighters wanting to lay down their arms, even as Syrian forces took another district from rebels in the city.

The Russian announcement by Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu came as Syria's President Bashar Assad offered a general amnesty for rebels who give up their weapons and surrender to authorities over the next three months.

Rebels and residents of Aleppo said they were deeply skeptical of the offer, and there was no immediate sign of people massing to leave the besieged parts of the city. Rights groups said opening safe passages to civilians trapped in eastern Aleppo city won't avert a catastrophe and does not give Syrian and Russian forces carte blanche to further blockade the opposition-controlled territory.

In a statement Thursday, the London-based

Amnesty International said providing safe routes for those civilians wishing to leave is "no substitute for allowing impartial humanitarian relief for civilians who remain in opposition-held areas," many of whom will be skeptical about government and Russian promises.

"Providing safe routes for those civilians who wish to flee Aleppo city will not avert a humanitarian catastrophe," said Philip Luther, director of the Middle East and North Africa program for Amnesty.

"The fact that you provide this option doesn't mean that the people who stay behind are legitimate military targets," said Nadim Houry, the deputy Middle East director at Human Rights Watch, in comments to The Associated Press.

For days now, Syrian government forces and allied troops have encircled the main rebel enclave in Aleppo, urging fighters there to surrender. The encirclement set the stage for a prolonged siege that the government hopes will eventually force the

rebels to surrender, a tactic Assad's forces have used elsewhere, including in the central city of Homs.

Major catastrophe

But humanitarian groups have warned of a major catastrophe if the siege on the rebel-held parts of Aleppo continues. Some 300,000 residents are trapped in the eastern part of the city that is controlled by rebels, according to the United Nations. Shoigu said in televised comments that President Vladimir Putin has ordered a "large-scale humanitarian operation" that will be launched outside Aleppo to help civilians as well as allow fighters who wanted to lay down the arms to surrender.

He said three corridors will be open for civilians and fighters who lay down their arms and a fourth corridor providing fighters a "safe exit with weapons." "Given the fact that our American counterparts have not provided intelligence about the Nusra Front and Syrian Free Army squads (we) will

create a fourth corridor for a safe exit with weapons in the north of Aleppo in the direction of the Castello highway," he said. The Nusra Front is al-Qaida's branch in Syria while the Syrian Free Army is the name of the main Western-backed rebels. Both have fighters in Aleppo.

The UN envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, said he wants to see how the United Nations could coordinate with Russia on its plan to help civilians and opposition fighters who lay down their weapons outside Aleppo, which he called "de-facto" besieged.

"In Aleppo, the situation is extremely serious, no doubt," de Mistura said. "There is probably - we heard - two to three weeks of supplies, and in view of the bombing of the warehouses, medical facilities, bakeries, and the need of treating wounded people when in fact medical facilities are being hit, the humanitarian situation is getting more and more concerning." — AP

US CONCERNED OVER ISRAEL'S SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY

WASHINGTON: The United States is deeply concerned about Israel's reported plans to build an additional 323 units in settlements in East Jerusalem on top of previously announced 770 units in the settlement of Gilo, the US State Department said.

Such action by Israel "continues this pattern of provocative and counterproductive action," State Department spokesman John Kirby said in a statement on Wednesday. Kirby called the settlement activity "corrosive to the cause of peace."

In addition to the plans for East

Jerusalem and Gilo, Kirby cited plans for other units, including 531 in Ma'ale Adumim, 19 in Har Homa, 120 in Ramot, and 30 in Pisgat Ze'ev. He also noted a plan to legalize an outpost near Ramallah; and tenders for 42 units in Kiryat Arba. "These steps by Israeli authorities are the latest examples of what appears to be a steady acceleration of settlement activity that is systematically undermining the prospects for a two-state solution," he said. According to the advocacy group Peace Now, Israeli authorities issued tenders for the construction of 323 housing units in East

Jerusalem. Peace Now, which opposes settlements, said the tenders were for homes that were offered in the past and never taken up. Last week, the Jerusalem municipality filed construction plans for 770 housing units in the settlement of Gilo, part of a 1,200-home project that won initial ratification in 2012.

Israel says Jews have a right to live anywhere in Jerusalem, a city it considers its "eternal and indivisible capital." Palestinians want East Jerusalem as the capital of a state they seek to establish in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The United States is also con-

cerned about increased demolitions of Palestinian houses and buildings in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, which "reportedly have left dozens of Palestinians homeless, including children," Kirby said.

The activity raises doubts over Israel's commitment to a negotiated settlement with the Palestinians. Israel says it carries out demolitions because Palestinians had built them without permits. Palestinians and foreign governments monitoring settlement activities and demolitions say permission is nearly impossible to obtain. — Reuters



SAINT-ETIENNE-DU-ROUVRAY, NORMANDY, FRANCE: People gather to pay respect with flowers and candles next to the church where a priest died on Wednesday. — AP

FRENCH ID 2ND CHURCH ATTACKER; POLICE HAD WARNING ABOUT HIM

PARIS: French officials yesterday identified the second man who attacked a Normandy church during morning Mass, saying he's a 19-year-old from eastern France who was spotted last month in Turkey as he supposedly headed to Syria - but who returned to France instead. The prosecutor's office identified him as Abdel-Malik Nabil Petitjean following DNA tests on his corpse. A security official confirmed that he was the unidentified man pictured on a photo distributed to French police on July 22 with a warning that he could be planning an attack.

Four days later, Petitjean and another 19-year-old local man, Adel Kermiche, stormed the church in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray during Mass on Tuesday. They held five people hostage - the priest, two nuns and an elderly couple - before fatally slashing the priest's throat and seriously wounding the other man. Another nun at the Mass slipped away, raised the alarm, and the attackers were killed by police as they left the church.

The attack was claimed by the Islamic State group, which released a video Wednesday allegedly showing Kermiche and his accomplice clasping hands and pledging allegiance to the group. Petitjean was born in eastern France, in Saint-Die-des-Vosges, but recently lived in the Alpine town of Aix-les-Bains where his mother lives, the prosecutor's office said. Kermiche was from Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, where the attack took place in northwest France.

Youth held for questioning

A youth believed to be 16 was detained after the church attack is still being held for questioning, the prosecutor's office said. A security official said Turkey spotted Petitjean at a Turkish airport going to Syria on June 10, and that on June 29 he was flagged to French authorities and immediately put on a special watch list.

"But he didn't go to Syria," said the official, who was not authorized to discuss the case and asked not to be identified by name. "He turned around" and returned to France on June 11. That information was gleaned as police and intelligence officials tried to track back to learn the identity of the second attacker.

Although it's not clear what caused Petitjean to turn around, in recent months Islamic State propaganda has encouraged Western recruits in particular not to join extremists in the war zones in Syria or Iraq but to remain home and carry out attacks. —AP

EU CALLS TURKEY'S CRACKDOWN ON MEDIA 'WORRYING'

RESPECT FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

ISTANBUL: The European Union and journalist associations expressed concern yesterday about a widening crackdown on media in Turkey, calling on Ankara to respect fundamental freedoms.

As a candidate nation for EU membership, Turkey "needs to aspire to the highest possible democratic standard and practices, including on the freedom of the media," said EU spokeswoman Maja Kocijancic.

Turkey declared a state of emergency following a failed July 15 coup attempt that left 290 people dead, and is conducting a large-scale crackdown on people suspected of ties to U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom the government accuses of masterminding the coup. Gulen himself has denied any knowledge of the attempted coup.

Turkey has detained nearly 16,000 people for suspected links to the failed uprising, and about half of them were formally arrested to face trial. In total, more than 66,000 people have been suspended or dismissed from their jobs in the wider public sector for alleged ties to the Gulen movement, according to the state-run Anadolu news agency, including in health care, education, the judiciary, ministries, municipalities and even Turkey's national airline. "It is worrying that, following the entry into force of the state of emergency in Turkey, arrest warrants have been issued against a large number of journalists and a number of outlets have been shut down," Kocijancic told reporters in Brussels.

Respect the law under any circumstances

Kocijancic said it was "extremely important the Turkish authorities respect under any circumstances the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms." Ankara has defended the crackdown, saying it is rooting out people affiliated with Gulen. Authorities have issued warrants for the detention of 89 journalists. Dozens of media organizations - most of them also linked or formerly linked to Gulen - were ordered shuttered late Wednesday. They include 45 newspapers including the daily Taraf newspaper, 16 television stations, including a children's channel, 23 radio stations, 15 magazines and 29 publishing houses. Gulen was a close ally of Erdogan until tensions between the two came to a



ISTANBUL: Yesterday A woman walks past the headquarters of 'Zaman' newspaper, after being closed by the government. — AP

head with corruption allegations against Erdogan's inner circle in 2013. For years, media affiliated with Gulen had been vocal supporters of Erdogan's government. Some say many of the media affected by the current crackdown backed purges against other sectors in the past. Reporting in the Taraf newspaper was instrumental in the 2010 trial of pro-secular military officers accused of plotting against the government. The officers were later acquitted on the grounds that much of the evidence was fabricated. But the speed and scope of the current crackdown has alarmed media rights groups.

"The situation came to a point where local media's fear of being arrested is leading to an increasing muzzlement of the press, thus infringing fundamental human rights such as freedom of expression and the public's right to know," the International Federation of Journalists said. The IFJ said it and the European Federation of Journalists were calling on the EU "to take additional steps to hold Turkish President Erdogan accountable for press freedom breaches."

Ozgur Ogret, the Turkey representative for the Committee to Protect Journalists, said the latest decree not only shut down media outlets but also "grants cabinet members (the power) to shut down any

other media if they deem it to be a threat to national security." "I fear this purge may continue with other opposing media, especially the Kurdish media," Ogret said.

Whether those who have detention orders issued against them "have committed a crime or did they become wanted people due to their employer or political stance is a valid question, considering Turkey's past press freedom record," he added. "The legal process should be about evidence of wrongdoing, not political classification." Amnesty International also voiced concerns, saying the "ongoing crackdown on civil society and the assault on media freedom has reached disturbing and unprecedented levels."

Detentions and arrests have not been limited to mainstream media, with several people in the last week having detention or arrest warrants issued against them on charges of insulting the president or praising the coup on social media, according to Anadolu. "The Turkish government's news media shutdown shows how the State of Emergency law is being used to deny the right to free speech beyond any legitimate aim of upholding public order," Human Rights Watch said in a statement. Fraser reported from Ankara, Turkey. Raf Casert in Brussels and Cinar Kiper in Istanbul contributed. — AP



BAYONNE, SOUTHWESTERN FRANCE: A French police officer watches the festivities through binoculars on the roof of the town hall, during the opening night of the Bayonne festival, or "Fetes de Bayonne", on Wednesday.—AP

BIG BAGS BANNED FROM CANNES BEACHES AS ATTACKS PRECAUTION

PARIS: Vacationers in the French Riviera city of Cannes have been banned from bringing big bags to the beach for security reasons in hopes of deterring a terrorist attack.

Cannes Mayor David Lisnard says the restriction seeks to stop "bags that could contain explosives or weapons and allows police forces to intervene in a pragmatic way." Lisnard said yesterday that the ban on large

backpacks, suitcases and other luggage would run until at least the end of October.

His decision comes two weeks after a Tunisian man used a truck to kill 84 people celebrating Bastille Day on the waterfront in Nice, 33 kilometers (21 miles) northeast of Cannes, and two days after a Catholic priest was killed while celebrating Mass in Normandy, northern France.—AP

POPE FRANCIS MISSES STEP, FALLS DOWN BEFORE MASS IN POLAND

CZESTOCHOWA, POLAND: Pope Francis missed a step and fell to the ground yesterday as he walked on an open-air platform to celebrate Mass at Poland's holiest shrine of Jasna Gora.

In a dramatic moment, the 79-year-old Francis, walking in his long robe with an incense holder in his hand, did not notice a step down from the platform and fell to the ground before the altar. Francis braced his fall with his left hand and priests around him rushed to help, with Mons. Guido Marini, an aide, helping him back to his feet.

The Mass proceeded as planned and the pope delivered a long homily before tens of thousands of faithful gathered at the foot of the Jasna Gora monastery in Poland's southern city of Czestochowa.

Asked if Francis had suffered any ill effects from the fall, a Vatican spokesman, Greg Burke, said "the pope is fine." Czestochowa Archbishop Wlodek Gadecki said Francis fell because he had closed his eyes and appeared to miss a step. "He is in good condition. He did not even complain at all. He never said a word," Gadecki said. "Also the homily showed that the pope has strength and this strength he gets from the people."

Francis enjoys relatively good health, despite putting in long days of ceremonies, audiences and meetings. In his youth, he had a section of one lung removed, and on occasion he has sounded somewhat winded.

A few times in the past, Francis has missed a step or even fallen on stairs. Each time he has gotten up on his own or thanks to an aide lending a hand, then carried on without missing a beat for the rest of the long ceremonies.—AP



CZESTOCHOWA, POLAND: Pope Francis is helped by Vatican Master of Ceremonies, Mons. Guido Marini as he stumbles on the altar as he celebrates a mass yesterday.—AP

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BIDEN TO SPEAK AT VIGIL FOR SLAIN BATON ROUGE OFFICERS

BATON ROUGE: Vice President Joe Biden and US Attorney General Loretta Lynch are scheduled to speak at a Baton Rouge vigil honoring the three law enforcement officers who were killed by a gunman during a shootout outside a convenience store.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards and relatives of the slain officers also are expected to speak during the ceremony at Healing Place Church, where a funeral was held last Friday for Baton Rouge Police Officer Matthew Gerald, 41.

Gerald, Sheriff's Deputy Brad Garafola, 45, and Police Officer Montrell Jackson, 32, were shot and killed July 17 by Gavin Long, an Army veteran from Kansas City, Missouri. Long, 29, also wounded three other officers before a SWAT officer gunned him down.

Sheriff's Deputy Nicholas Tullier was critically wounded and has remained in a hospital since the shooting. Authorities said Long was targeting police when he ambushed the officers in Baton Rouge, where racial tensions had been mounting amid protests over a deadly police shooting. Alton Sterling, 37, a black man, was shot and killed during a struggle with two white police officers July 5. The killing was captured on cellphone video and circulated widely on the internet.

Jackson, a corporal, was a 10-year veteran of the Baton Rouge Police Department. He was married and had a 4-month-old son. Days before he was shot to death, Jackson posted a message on Facebook about the difficulties of being both a black man and a police officer in the tumultuous aftermath of Sterling's shooting.

"Please don't let hate infect your heart. This city MUST and WILL get better," wrote Jackson, whose funeral was Monday. Garafola, whose funeral was Saturday, is survived by a wife and four children: sons ages 21 and 12, and daughters ages 15 and 7.

East Baton Rouge Sheriff Sid Gautreaux said Garafola "went down fighting," with surveillance video showing him firing at the gunman as bullets hit the concrete around him. Gerald was a former Marine and Army veteran who served three tours in Iraq before joining the police force nine months ago. His wife, Dechia Gerald - now a widow with two young daughters - called him "my blue-eyed rock" in a written tribute. She expressed hope that his legacy will "bridge the gap and foster peace in the country he lived, loved and died for."—AP

HINDU MAN SHOT DEAD IN PAKISTAN

KARACHI: Unknown gunmen have shot dead a Hindu man in a southern Pakistani town, police said, after a burnt Quran prompted days of religious tension in the area. Police were patrolling the streets in Ghotki, around 420 kilometers north of Karachi in Sindh province, in an effort to halt any potential unrest, authorities said yesterday.

"Unknown gunmen yesterday (Wednesday) shot dead an 18-year-old Hindu boy and wounded another," senior police official Masood Bangash told AFP.

Bangash said another Hindu man was arrested in the town four days earlier after burnt copies of Islam's holy book were found at the local mosque. Pakistan has extremely strict laws against blasphemy, including the death penalty for insulting the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). Even unfounded rumors can stir mob lynchings and violence. "So far no arrests have been made in connection with the shooting and it is too early to link the killing of Hindu man with the Quran burning incident," he added. Bangash said that after several days of tension markets have reopened and city life had returned to normal, but police were patrolling in the area.

Pakistan is rife with violence against religious minorities, with the Taliban and other militant groups regularly targeting Christian, Sikhs, Hindus, Ahmadi and Shiite communities in the country.—AFP



PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA: US President Barack Obama (L) waves with US Presidential nominee Hillary Clinton during the third night of the Democratic National Convention at the Wells Fargo Center on Wednesday.—AFP

ARMED WITH PARTY SUPPORT, CLINTON TO MAKE CASE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

CAPPING THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONVENTION

PHILADELPHIA: Hillary Clinton makes her case for the White House day, armed with a ringing endorsement from President Barack Obama and the crucial backing of the opponent she beat to become the Democratic Party candidate for November's election.

Capping a Democratic Party convention that has sought to heal divisions from a protracted primary battle, former Secretary of State Clinton, 68, will accept the nomination to run against Republican Donald Trump. In doing so, she will become the first woman presidential candidate of a major US party.

In her speech in Philadelphia, Clinton needs to make a convincing argument that she can bring about change, while still representing the legacy of Obama, who is nearing the end of his second term with high approval ratings. She also needs to make inroads with voters who find her untrustworthy.

Seeking to rally the party on Wednesday night, Obama offered rousing support for Clinton and an optimistic view of the United States that he contrasted with Trump's vision.

Clinton, wife of former President Bill Clinton and a former US senator, was likely to issue a similarly upbeat message. She aimed to draw on an idea that has driven her throughout her career, that every American should be given the chance to fulfill their potential, a campaign aide said. Clinton, who will be introduced on the stage by her daughter, Chelsea, was still working on her speech on Thursday, the aide said.

In his speech, Obama urged

Democrats to enable Clinton to finish the job he started with his election in 2008. "There has never been a man or woman, not me, not Bill - nobody more qualified than Hillary Clinton to serve as president of the United States," he told the cheering audience.

"Tonight, I ask you to do for Hillary Clinton what you did for me. I ask you to carry her the same way you carried me," he said. As he finished, Clinton joined him on stage where they hugged, clasped hands and waved to the crowd.

Clinton lost the Democratic nomination to Obama in 2008, and went on to be his secretary of state from 2009 to 2013. She promises to tackle income inequality, tighten gun control and rein in Wall Street if she wins the Nov. 8 election. Trump, a 70-year-old New York businessman who has never held political office, is running just ahead of Clinton in a RealClearPolitics average of recent national opinion polls.

He has hammered Clinton as untrustworthy, and Republicans have painted her as a Washington insider who would represent a "third term" for what they view as failed policies under Obama's two-term presidency.

Assault on Trump

The Democratic gathering began on a note of discord on Monday, with backers of Bernie Sanders, the US senator from Vermont who lost the nomination to Clinton, reluctant to get behind her and noisily booing her name.

But Sanders himself has urged his

supporters to support her, and a string of party leaders have warmly endorsed Clinton. That contrasted with last week's Republican convention in Cleveland, where many party notables showed their concern about Trump's rhetoric and policies by staying away.

Trump, a former reality TV star whose campaign appearances have been peppered with insults and tough talk, has portrayed the country as being under siege from illegal immigrants, crime and terrorism and losing influence in the world. He has proposed a temporary ban on Muslims entering the country and a wall along the border with Mexico to keep illegal immigrants out. Speakers were scathingly critical of him on Wednesday night. Obama took aim at his campaign slogan and promise to "Make America Great Again." "America is already great," the president said. "America is already strong. And I promise you, our strength, our greatness, does not depend on Donald Trump."

Vice President Joe Biden called Trump an opportunist with no clue about how to make America great. Vice presidential nominee Tim Kaine, a US senator from Virginia, said Trump is a "one-man wrecking crew" who cannot be trusted in the Oval Office.

Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a Republican-turned-independent media mogul, joined the Democratic gathering to call Trump's presidential bid a "con" and rip into his history of bankruptcies and lawsuits.—Reuters

RIFT BETWEEN SANDERS' LOYALISTS, DEMOCRATIC BRASS LINGERS

PHILADELPHIA: The tension between Bernie Sanders activists and Democratic Party brass set to crown Hillary Clinton their nominee lingered in pockets of Philadelphia as the final day of the convention dawned.

Actors and delegates took center stage in smaller and more subdued protests by Bernie Sanders supporters on a mostly quiet Day 3 of the Democratic National Convention. Susan Sarandon, Danny Glover, Shailene Woodley and Rosario Dawson joined forces as night fell to protest what they consider slights against loyalists of Sanders, a Vermont US senator who competed against Hillary Clinton in the party's presidential primaries before endorsing her. Sarandon said convention organizers scuttled planned remarks from prominent Sanders surrogate Nina Turner, a former Ohio state senator, at the convention on Tuesday night. "There's been a lot of difficulty in executing the will of Bernie Sanders' people and surrogates, and this was just a topping for the whole thing because she was ready to go. And she was very, very disappointed," Sarandon said as the other celebrities joined her on a platform. "This has not gone by lightly, and ... we are upset."

Protesters gathered

Late Wednesday, hundreds of protesters gathered outside the convention site as Vice President Joe Biden, vice presidential nominee Tim Kaine and President Barack Obama spoke inside. There were two distinct groups of protesters; one peaceful, the other anti-government. At one point a protester's clothes caught on fire while trying to stomp out the flames on a burning flag. The protester dropped to the ground and rolled around to put the fire out. Another tense moment arose when protesters knocked over part of a security fence, but police quickly moved in and put the fence back up. The Secret Service said seven people were arrested and will be charged with entering a restricted area. A group of peaceful protesters then sat on the ground and sang as the tension in the streets dropped back to normal. — AP



PHILADELPHIA: Supporters and delegates of former Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders protest for a #DemExit outside the 2016 Democratic National Convention on Wednesday. — AFP

INDIAN FLIGHT DIVERTED AFTER PASSENGER SITS ON FOOD CART

MUMBAI: Indian budget airline IndiGo was forced to divert an international flight yesterday after an unruly passenger sat on the plane's food cart before attacking another traveller, it said. The morning flight from Dubai to Calicut, in the southern Indian state of Kerala, was diverted to Mumbai where the passenger was offloaded and handed over to police, IndiGo said in a statement. "A little before landing, a passenger... started misbehaving with the crew. He jumped on the forward cart (which is used for food and onboard merchandise) and sat on it."

"This passenger after stepping down from the cart, suddenly got violent and started physically abusing the other co-passenger," it added. The flight later landed in Calicut, also known as Kozhikode, around two hours behind schedule.

IndiGo, famed for its no-frills approach, commands almost 40 percent of India's aviation market, the biggest share of any airline. It is the country's only consistently profitable airline. In May, it grounded two pilots for attempting to land their plane on a road which they mistook for a runway in the northern Indian state of Rajasthan. — AFP



BALTIMORE: Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby, at podium yesterday, holds a news conference near the site where Freddie Gray, depicted in mural in background, was arrested after her office dropped the remaining charges against three Baltimore police officers awaiting trial in Gray's death. — AP

INDIVIDUALS, AGENCIES DODGE BLAME AS FREDDIE GRAY CASE ENDS

FOURTEEN MONTHS AFTER DEATH

BALTIMORE: Fourteen months after the death of a black man whose neck was broken in a police van prompted massive protests, spawned rioting and toppled the careers of Baltimore's police commissioner and a Democratic mayor poised for reelection, authorities abandoned efforts to punish the officers involved.

The city's top prosecutor was righteous in her rage Wednesday as she made official what was already clear after four failed attempts to prosecute: no one will go to jail for Freddie Gray's death.

Earlier in the day, Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby had dropped the cases against the rest of the six police officers charged in Gray's death after prosecutors had suffered blow after crippling blow as a judge acquitted three others in rapid succession. Instead of conceding defeat, she blasted the police department for a biased investigation she blamed for failing to secure a single conviction.

"The prosecution of on-duty police officers in this country is surprisingly rare and blatantly wrought with systemic and inherent complications," the Democratic prosecutor said. "Unlike other cases where prosecutors work closely with the police to investigate what actually occurred, what we realized very early on in this case was that, police investigating police - whether they're friends or colleagues - was problematic. There was a reluctance and bias that was consistently exemplified."

Background

Gray died a week after he suffered a spinal injury in the back of the detainee wagon while he was handcuffed and shackled, but not buckled in with a seat belt. Prosecutors alleged the officers involved in his arrest and transport were criminally negligent when they failed to

use the seat belt, instead placing Gray face-down and head-first on the floor of a prisoner compartment. The state also said the officers erred when they chose not to call a medic after Gray indicated he wanted to go to a hospital.

Last May, Mosby said in announcing the charges that her decision to prosecute was based on both a police department investigation and a separate, independent investigation conducted by her office.

Three of the four officers who stood trial elected to have Circuit Judge Barry Williams hear their cases without juries. Williams then ruled three times in a row that although the officers may have exercised poor judgment, the state presented no evidence to prove they meant to hurt Gray. Without evidence or eyewitnesses to prove intent, he said, he could not convict. The other trial ended in a mistrial. The city spent roughly \$7.4 million on the trials, according to Anthony McCarthy, a spokesman for Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake.

The proceedings revealed deep fissures among the police, prosecutors and the people of Baltimore. During the trial of van driver Officer Caesar Goodson, Chief Deputy State's Attorney Michael Schatzow accused a lead detective of trying to sabotage the investigation; in turn, the detective accused another prosecutor, Jan Bledsoe, of dismissing unfavorable evidence.

Police Commissioner Kevin Davis rejected Mosby's accusations, saying that "while we are all entitled to our own opinions, we are not entitled to our own facts." Marc Zayon, Nero's attorney, said Mosby had "spun a false narrative" in her prosecution of the officers with "no evidence that there was any wrongdoing." Ivan Bates, who represented Sgt. Alicia White, added, "it is the Baltimore city state's

attorney's office that denied justice to the Gray family and to these officers."

Black Lives Matter

Gray's death prompted protests and became a rallying cry for the Black Lives Matter movement. Three of the officers charged in his arrest and death are black, and three are white. Some legal experts say the case's outcome proves that Mosby's desire to charge the officers was ill-conceived and politically motivated. To others, her office's failure to secure a conviction is simply indicative of the grave challenges associated with prosecuting police, and the fact that she brought the charges in the first place should be celebrated as a slice of victory.

"This is part of the pains of breaking new ground," said Doug Colbert, a University of Maryland, Baltimore, law school professor who observed each trial. "It's an arduous task that requires dedication. But the message to every police officer is: You must protect and safeguard your prisoner or face possible prosecution. That wouldn't happen if these cases hadn't been prosecuted. It would have been just another person dying and the police would continue to engage in the same practices." But Warren Alperstein, an attorney in private practice who also watched the trials in their entirety, said Mosby's inability to convict "was a total failure by the state's attorney's office."

"Considering back in May of last year Ms. Mosby passionately promised the citizens of Baltimore city that justice would be sought through the conviction of these six officers, the bottom line is the state failed." University of Baltimore law professor David Jaros said the acquittals and dropped cases will embolden both Mosby's supporters and critics. — AP

INDIAN COUPLE HACKED TO DEATH OVER 22-CENT DEBT

NEW DELHI: An axe-wielding shopkeeper hacked a couple to death in northern India yesterday after they failed to pay a debt of 22 US cents, police said.

The middle-aged couple from the lowest Dalit caste in Uttar Pradesh state were on their way to work early yesterday when the grocery store owner asked them to pay their 15-rupee (22-cent) debt. "The shopkeeper demanded money but they pleaded to be able to pay it later. He became enraged and attacked them with an axe," Arun Kumar, the investigating officer in Mainpuri district, told AFP.

The officer said the couple had bought goods from the shop last week with a promise to pay the 60-year-old owner within a few days. "Their refusal to pay made him angry and he killed them," Kumar said.

The owner was arrested soon after the incident and the murder weapon recovered, the officer said. Hundreds of people are murdered in India each year over sudden provocations, often trivialities. In 2014, almost 15 percent of the murders in New Delhi were unmotivated, according to police, and were mostly committed by non-criminals acting in a fit of rage. More than 33,000 people were murdered in India in 2014, according to latest figures released by national criminal records bureau.—AFP



INDIA: Indian villagers travel on a raft in the flood-affected Sildubi village in Morigoan district, some 70 km from Guwahati, in India's northeastern state of Assam yesterday.—AFP

DEAD BANGLADESH-AMERICAN SUSPECT WAS FRIEND OF CAFE ATTACKER

DHAKA: One of nine suspected militants killed in a police raid in Bangladesh this week was a Bangladeshi-American who was a friend of one of the gunmen who attacked a cafe on July 1 killing 22 people, police said yesterday.

The attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery, a cafe in Dhaka's diplomatic quarter, was one of the most brazen militant assaults in the country's history. Most of the 22 people killed were foreigners and police have been scouring the country for accomplices of the five gunmen who were all killed when police ended the siege.

On Tuesday, police raided a building in a Dhaka suburb and killed nine militants, who police said were from the same domestic group as the cafe attackers, and who had been plotting their own similar attack. Eight of the nine were identified from their fingerprints, which are taken when national identity cards are issued, and one turned out to be a wanted Bangladeshi-American, said Dhaka police spokesman Masudur Rahman.

"Shazad Rouf, 24, was an American passport holder and had been missing for six months," Rahman told Reuters. Rouf's father had filed a missing person report for him on Feb. 6, the spokesman said, adding that Rouf had been wanted by police on suspicion of plotting a subversive act.

Also wanted in the same case was Nibras Islam, one of Rouf's friends, who had been among the cafe attackers, Rahman said. Rouf was from a well-off family in Dhaka, Rahman said, but added that he had no information on his US connection.

A US embassy spokesman declined to comment. Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the café attack but the government has dismissed suggestions the group has a presence in Bangladesh.

Instead, authorities have blamed the banned domestic group, Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, which has pledged allegiance to Islamic State, for the cafe attack.

Police said another of the nine militants killed on Tuesday had been identified as the trainer of the cafe attackers. The man had been a religious student who had gone missing a year ago, counter-terrorism police chief Monirul Islam told a news conference.

In the past year, al Qaeda and Islamic State have made competing claims over the killings of liberals and religious minorities in the mostly Muslim nation of 160 million. While authorities blame the violence on domestic militants, security experts say the scale and sophistication of the cafe attack suggested links to a transnational network. Islamic State has warned that violence would continue until Islamic law was established worldwide.—Reuters

NEPAL, INDIA FLOODS LEAVE MORE THAN 90 DEAD

TWO MILLION RESIDENTS FLEE HOMES

KATHMANDU: Floods and landslides in Nepal and India have killed more than 90 people in recent days, with at least two million residents forced to flee their homes, officials said yesterday.

Nepal has been worst hit, with homes and bridges destroyed after days of torrential monsoon rains, although water levels were now slowing receding. "Since Monday, 73 people have been killed in the floods and landslides," home ministry deputy spokesman Jhanka Nath Dhakal told AFP, increasing the death toll from Tuesday after the discovery of 15 more bodies.

"Our teams are working continuously in affected areas to search and rescue. We are also providing relief to the victims." Images released by the army, which is involved in the operations, showed villagers waiting on rooftops to be evacuated in motorboats.

The worst-hit district was Pyuthan, 250 kilometers west of Kathmandu, where dozens of houses have been swept away. Scores of people die every year from flooding and landslides during the monsoon rains in Nepal and neighboring India.

The situation is particularly desperate this year because millions of Nepalis are still living in tents or makeshift huts after a devastating earthquake that killed nearly 9,000 people in 2015. Floods have also hit India's remote, northeastern state of Assam where 19 people have lost their lives mainly after rivers burst their banks in the last week, officials there said.

"An estimated two million people have been rendered homeless after the floods

hit 3,000 villages in 21 districts," Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal told journalists during a tour of hard-hit areas on Thursday.

Thousands of those were sheltering in makeshift camps set up along highways and on higher ground, officials said. "We

are providing food, medicines and other relief materials to the flood affected victims," Sonowal said. Concerns were mounting for the safety of rare one-horned rhinos and other animals trying to flee Assam's famed Kaziranga National Park, which was also flooded.—AFP

INDIA HOME MINISTER TO VISIT PAKISTAN AS TENSIONS FLARE

NEW DELHI: India's home minister will travel to Pakistan next week for a one-day regional meeting, New Delhi said yesterday, as tensions flare between the nuclear-armed rivals over unrest in disputed Kashmir.

Rajnath Singh will attend a meeting of home ministers from countries belonging to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in Islamabad but will not hold a one-on-one with his Pakistani counterpart, the Indian foreign ministry said. It comes days after India lashed out at Pakistan, accusing its neighbor of fanning violent protests in Indian-administered Kashmir that have claimed more than 50 lives this month. "There is no such proposal (for a bilateral meeting)," foreign ministry spokesman Vikas Swarup said in New Delhi. "We want a peaceful, cooperative relation with Pakistan. We are prepared to discuss all outstanding issues with Pakistan but in an atmosphere

free of terror and violence," he said, without specifying which issues would be raised in the August 4 meeting.

The SAARC group includes India, Pakistan, Nepal, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. In a surprise move last December, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a visit to his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif with a view to restarting a stalled dialogue. But planned peace talks were postponed after seven Indian soldiers died when an air base came under attack in January, which New Delhi blamed on a banned Pakistan-based group. Indian-administered Kashmir has seen massive protests since the killing on July 8 of popular young rebel leader Burhan Wani in a gunfight with soldiers. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since the rivals won independence from British rule in 1947. Both claim the territory in full.—AFP



SEOUL: South Korean protesters hold placards showing portraits of former "comfort women" during a rally against the Reconciliation and Healing Foundation outside an office of the foundation yesterday.—AFP

PROTESTS AS SOUTH KOREA OPENS 'COMFORT WOMEN' FOUNDATION

SEOUL: South Korean protestors clashed with police yesterday as they tried to disrupt the opening in Seoul of a Tokyo-funded foundation for women forced to work in Japanese wartime brothels.

The plight of the so-called "comfort women" is a hugely emotional issue that has marred relations between Seoul and Japan for decades and which, for many South Koreans, symbolizes the abuses of Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule over the Korean peninsula.

Last December, the two nations reached a "final and irreversible" agreement, under which Tokyo offered an apology and a one-billion yen (\$8.5 million) to open the foundation for the dwindling number of comfort women who are still alive.

But the deal was condemned by some of the women and South Korean activists, who took issue with Japan's refusal to accept formal legal responsibility. "You can't silence the victims with money!" scores of protestors chanted at Thursday's opening event, which they picketed with banners reading: "This is not what the comfort women want!"

Several college students forced their way into the venue where foundation officials were due to hold a press conference, and had to be forcibly removed by police. "Listen to the voices of the victims!" one protestor shouted tearfully as police carried her and other activists out by their arms and legs. The Reconciliation and Healing Foundation tried to play down the protests, saying opposition to the deal with Tokyo was limited to a vocal minority. "Some victims I met expressed gratitude for reaching the deal while they are alive," the foundation's head Kim Tae-Hyun told reporters. "The deal is not completely satisfactory ... but we shouldn't let these controversies put out this small light of hope that we managed to find," she added. Kim said the foundation's money would be used to fulfill the remaining comfort women's last wishes as many of them were ill and impoverished. Mainstream historians say up to 200,000 women, mostly from Korea but also other parts of Asia including China, were forced to work in Japanese military brothels during World War II.—AFP



DHARMSALA, INDIA: Nyima Lhamo, 26, the niece of a prominent Tibetan religious leader Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, is greeted with Tibetan ceremonial scarves by exile Tibetans on Wednesday.—AP

POPE AIDE INVESTIGATED OVER CHILD ABUSE CLAIMS

NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO PRESS CHARGES

SYDNEY: Australian police said yesterday that they are investigating child abuse complaints against Vatican finance chief George Pell, but had not yet decided whether to press charges.

It follows explosive allegations against the cardinal aired by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation on Wednesday, which he strongly denied. "That's a matter that we investigated and still are investigating," Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton said of the claims.

They include allegations from two men, now in their 40s, who said they were grouped by Pell in summer 1978-79 at Eureka pool in Ballarat, where the cleric had grown up and worked. "You know, his hand touching your genitals and stuff on the outside of your bathers or shorts. And then that slowly became (a) hand down the front of the pants or your bathers or whatever you call them," one of the complainants Lyndon Monument told the ABC.

The broadcaster also alleged Pell was naked in front of three young boys, believed to be aged eight to 10, in a Torquay surf club changing room in summer 1986-87. It said it had obtained eight police statements from complainants, witnesses and family members that have been helping the police investigation.

Ashton said the matter had been sent to the Office of Public Prosecutions for their assessment on whether there was a case to answer. "We're waiting to hear back from them at this stage," he told Melbourne radio station 3AW, adding that while Pell had not been interviewed, detectives may be sent to Rome to do so.

Asked if charges were possible, he said: "Anything is possible at this stage." Pell, Australia's most senior Catholic cleric, has denied the allegations and suggested there was a conspiracy against him.

"He denies the claims absolutely," said a statement from the 75-year-old's office, adding that they were "nothing more than a scandalous smear campaign, which appears to be championed by the ABC".



ROME: This file photo taken on March 3, 2016 shows Vatican finance chief Cardinal George Pell speaking to the media at the Quirinale hotel in Rome at the end of evidence via video-link to Australia's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Sydney for a second of three days.—AFP

'A good man'

The archbishops of Sydney and Melbourne both said Pell deserved the presumption of innocence. "Trial by media benefits no one," said Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher, while his Melbourne counterpart Denis Hart said Pell, who he has known for 55 years, was a good man.

"The allegations made on the ABC against Cardinal Pell do not reflect the man I know or the behavior which I have observed over the years I have known him," Hart said. "Cardinal Pell is entitled to have allegations against him investigated according to the usual lawful processes without being compromised or sensationalized by the media."

The allegations come just months after Pell admitted he "mucked up" in dealing with pedophile priests in Victoria in the 1970s, while giving evidence to a national inquiry into institutional responses to child sex abuse.

He was accused of historic sex abuse claims when he was the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney in 2002, but was later cleared of any wrongdoing.

In comments to Australian media Thursday, Pell claimed that Victoria Police leaked information to the ABC and had compromised the judicial process. But Ashton denied this, adding that Pell had previously demanded an inquiry into claims of police leaks which were forwarded to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC). "And IBAC had a look at that and wrote back to me saying they had examined that and dismissed the complaint," Ashton said.

Pell was ordained in Rome in 1966 before returning to Australia in 1971 and rising to become the nation's top Catholic official. He left for the Vatican in 2014 after being hand-picked by Pope Francis to make the church's finances more transparent, although his powers were reined in earlier this month.—AFP

NIECE OF TIBETAN PRIEST FLEES CHINA, SAYS HE DIED OF TORTURE

DHARMSALA: The niece of a prominent Tibetan religious leader has fled China and arrived in exile in northern India to reveal what her family says is the truth about the man's death in a Chinese prison.

Nyima Lhamo told The Associated Press late Wednesday that her family believes Tenzin Delek Rinpoche died as a result of torture and not from a heart attack as Chinese officials said. Nyima, 26, said that her uncle told her mother during prison visits that he was repeatedly beaten and starved and asked to demonstrate his religious powers by police officials.

The family was informed of the high

priest's death in July last year and only allowed to see the body after Nyima tied a ceremonial Tibetan scarf to the bars of the prison gate and tried to hang herself.

Nyima and her mother were only given a few moments with Tenzin Delek's body. But other monks in prison, who had dressed his body in monks' robes and laid it on a platform, told them that his nails were black and he had a deep hollow behind his head. Nyima said her uncle's lips had also turned black.

She arrived in the northern hill town of Dharmsala via Nepal Sunday after two weeks on the road with the help of smug-

glers whom she paid \$9,700 for the trip. Dharmsala is home to the Dalai Lama, the supreme spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists. She said she made the difficult decision to leave her aging mother and 6-year-old daughter behind to tell her uncle's story to the world. "We don't trust what China is telling us and demand a thorough investigation into his death," she said. Tenzin Delek Rinpoche was sentenced to death in 2002 on charges of terrorism and inciting separatism in connection with a blast in Chengdu earlier that year, but the sentence was commuted to life and later to 20 years in prison.—AP



BANGKOK: Smoke billows from the multi-screen Major Cineplex Pinklao yesterday.—AP

FIRE COLLAPSES ROOF AT BANGKOK THEATER, NO SERIOUS INJURIES

BANGKOK: A large fire collapsed part of the roof at a Bangkok movie theater complex yesterday but caused no serious injuries. The fire in the Major Cineplex Pinklao reportedly began in a third-floor cinema in the seven-story shopping and theater complex. About 30 to 40 fire trucks and 100 crew members battled the blaze, which sent large plumes of black and white smoke into the sky.

Members of Bangkok's Emergency Medical Services said a firefighter and another man were treated for slight injuries. The building is in Thonburi, across the Chao Phraya River from Bangkok proper. It is owned by Thailand's largest operator of movie theaters, the Major Cineplex Group.—AP

BRITISH MP IN CHINA PROPAGANDA VIDEO 'DEEPLY CONCERNED'

LONDON: A British MP has complained about appearing in a video promoting Beijing's claims in the disputed South China Sea, saying she was "deeply concerned" that her words had been misrepresented.

Catherine West, a foreign affairs spokeswoman from the main opposition Labor Party specializing in the Asia-Pacific region, is briefly quoted in the video. The video shows white-sand beaches and crystal-blue waters, but conveniently omits images of the artificial islands Beijing has built in the strategically vital waters also claimed by the Philippines and Vietnam, among others.

It includes clips of talking heads who support China's claims to most of the waters and seem to downplay the international tribunal that rejected the legal basis for China's assertions. West is featured as one of the speakers, saying: "I think talks are crucial and that's why we have to be careful. We need to resolve something very locally and have a grown-up approach to dialogue."

Her comments appear to support China's position that the dispute should be settled through direct talks between claimants, not through the international legal system. But West said her words were used out of context.

The three-minute video is running about six hours a day on a big screen in New York's Times Square—one of the world's busiest tourist destinations. It started playing on July 23 and will be shown 120 times a day until August 3, according to China Daily. The video is "not a reflection of my record or views," West said on Twitter, adding she was "deeply concerned by this misrepresentation" and that she had "consistently voiced concern over militarization of (the) South China Sea by China".

Beijing refused to participate in the case that was brought by the Philippines to the international tribunal in the Hague and says it will not respect its judgment. West was not the only Briton in the video, which also featured John Ross, a former economic adviser to then London mayor Ken Livingstone who now lives in China.—AFP

N KOREA: US HAS CROSSED RED LINE, RELATIONS ON WAR FOOTING

KIM JONG UN ON US LIST SANCTIONED INDIVIDUALS

PYONGYANG: North Korea's top diplomat for US affairs told The Associated Press yesterday that Washington "crossed the red line" and effectively declared war by putting leader Kim Jong Un on its list of sanctioned individuals, and said a vicious showdown could erupt if the US and South Korea hold annual war games as planned next month.

Han Song Ryol, director-general of the US affairs department at the North's Foreign Ministry, said in an interview that recent US actions have put the situation on the Korean Peninsula on a war footing. The United States and South Korea regularly conduct joint military exercises south of the Demilitarized Zone, and Pyongyang typically responds to them with tough talk and threats of retaliation.

Han said North Korea believes the nature of the maneuvers has become openly aggressive because they reportedly now include training designed to prepare troops for the invasion of the North's capital and "decapitation strikes" aimed at killing its top leadership.

Han says designating Kim himself for sanctions was the final straw. "The Obama administration went so far to have the impudence to challenge the supreme dignity of the DPRK in order to get rid of its unfavorable position during the political and military showdown with the DPRK," Han said, using the acronym for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "The United States has crossed the red line in our showdown," he said. "We regard this thrice-cursed crime as a declaration of war." Although North Korea had already been heavily sanctioned internationally for its nuclear weapons and long-range missile development programs, Washington's announcement on July 6 was the first time Kim Jong Un has been personally sanctioned.

Less than a week later, Pyongyang cut off its final official means of communications with Washington - known as the New York channel. Han said Pyongyang has made it clear that everything between the two must now be dealt with under "war law."

US officials could not be immediately reached for comment, and South Korea's unification, defense and foreign ministries did not immediately comment.

Sanctioned individuals

Kim and 10 others were put on the list of sanctioned individuals in connection with alleged human rights abuses, documented by the United Nations Human Rights Commission, that include a network of political prisons and harsh treatment of any kind of political dissent in the authoritarian state. US State Department officials said the sanctions were intended in part to highlight those responsible for the abuses and to pressure lower-rank-



PYONGYANG, NORTH KOREA: Han Song Ryol, director-general of the US affairs department at North Korea's Foreign Ministry, talks during an interview with the Associated Press yesterday.—AP

ing officials to think twice before carrying them out.

Pyongyang denies abuse claims and says the UN report was based on fabrications gleaned from disgruntled defectors. Pointing to such things as police shootings of black Americans and poverty in even the richest democracies, it says the West has no moral high ground from which to criticize the North's domestic political situation. It also says US allies with questionable human-rights records receive less criticism. Han took strong issue with the claim that it not the US but Pyongyang's continued development of nuclear weapons and missiles that is provoking tensions.

"Day by day, the US military blackmail against the DPRK and the isolation and pressure is becoming more open," Han said. "It is not us, it is the United States that first developed nuclear weapons, who first deployed them and who first used them against humankind. And on the issue of missiles and rockets, which are to deliver nuclear warheads and conventional weapons warheads, it is none other than the United States who first developed it and who first used it."

Unprecedented in scale

He noted that US-South Korea military exercises conducted this spring were unprecedented in scale, and that the US has deployed the USS Mississippi and USS Ohio nuclear-powered submarines to South Korean ports, deployed the B-52 strategic bomber around South Korea and is planning to set up the world's most advanced missile defense system, known by its acronym THAAD, in the South, a move that has also angered China.

Echoing earlier state-media reports, Han ridiculed Mark Lippert, the US ambassador to South Korea, for a flight on a US Air Force F-16 based in South

Korea that he said was an action "unfit for a diplomat." "We regard that as the act of a villain, who is a crazy person," Han said of the July 12 flight. "All these facts show that the United States is intentionally aggravating the tensions in the Korean Peninsula."

Han warned that Pyongyang is viewing next month's planned US-South Korea exercises in this new context and will respond if they are carried out as planned. "Nobody can predict what kind of influence this kind of vicious confrontation between the DPRK and the United States will have upon the situation on the Korean Peninsula," he said. "By doing these kinds of vicious and hostile acts toward the DPRK, the US has already declared war against the DPRK. So it is our self-defensive right and justifiable action to respond in a very hard way. "We are all prepared for war, and we are all prepared for peace," he said. "If the United States forces those kinds of large-scale exercises in August, then the situation caused by that will be the responsibility of the United States."

Last year's Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercises involved 30,000 American and 50,000 South Korean troops and followed a period of heightened animosity between the rival Koreas sparked by land mine explosions that maimed two South Korean soldiers. In the end, the exercises escalated tensions and rhetoric, but concluded with no major incidents. Han dismissed calls for Pyongyang to defuse tensions by agreeing to abandon its nuclear program. "In the view of cause and effect, it is the US that provided the cause of our possession of nuclear forces," he said. "We never hide the fact, and we are very proud of the fact, that we have very strong nuclear deterrent forces not only to cope with the United States' nuclear blackmail but also to neutralize the nuclear blackmail of the United States."—AP

FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2016

Friday Times

Lifestyle

www.kuwaittimes.net

A dancer, dressed with the traditional Yi costume, waits to perform at the Torch Festival, in Xichang, China's Sichuan province. As a result of fast urbanization in the rural area of China Like Lienchang prefecture, the traditional costume is fading away for the Yi people in daily life.— AFP

Gyllenhaal, Portman in Venice film fest lineup

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Holocaust Survivor Band returns home to Poland

They survived the Holocaust, and held on to their love of life despite their childhood ordeal—and in their twilight years, now living in the United States, they started a band. This week, the two grandfathers returned to their homeland Poland to pay their respects to the victims of the Nazi German genocide, and to perform at the site of Warsaw's wartime Jewish ghetto. Peering at the crowd from behind his drum set on Wednesday night in the capital, 91-year-old Saul Dreier yelled into the mic: "Is everybody happy?" The crowd cheered.

The dynamic duo came to "play for the people that perished and to play for the peace of the world. As simple as that," the retired building contractor told AFP. Dreier, who welcomed his first great-grandchild last week, survived three concentration camps and lost most of his family in World War II. "My parents were burned in Treblinka. Either Treblinka, Majdanek or Belzec. I don't know which one," he told AFP, referring to death camps set up by Nazi Germany in occupied Poland. "And the rest was burnt in Auschwitz," the largest Nazi German death camp where 1.1 million people, mostly European Jews, lost their lives.

While Dreier sometimes joins in, the lead singer in the band is Reuwen "Ruby" Sosnowicz, who also plays accordion and keyboard. Together, they mainly perform klezmer music—traditional Jewish songs from Eastern Europe. Sosnowicz, 88, was back in his native Warsaw for the first time since he escaped the ghetto and hid in a barn for three years thanks to a kind Polish farmer. "Some people were nice people. They helped, you know. The farmer did a big thing. If they would find out that he did it, they would kill him," said Sosnowicz, who is more low-key than his fast-talking bandmate.

'Miracles in our music'

Non-Jews who stood up to the Nazis have been honored as "Righteous Among the Nations" by Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust remembrance center. Some of them attended the packed concert, sharing in the joy of the evening as hundreds of music lovers danced, sang along and drank beer. The band was joined on stage for part of the gig by the youthful and folksy Warsaw Sentimental Orchestra, plus popular 52-year-old Polish rocker Muniak Staszczuk, who said: "It's a great honour to be with the boys." "Their optimism is contagious. They're full of life," audience member Justyna Tarnacka said of the Holocaust Survivor Band.

"It's phenomenal. I admire these people. They have so much energy. We might not have as much at 90, if we even live that long," the 32-year-old television journalist told AFP. Dreier attributes their good health and vigour to "God and miracles". "We had miracles in concentration camps, we had miracles in hiding, now we've got miracles in our music," he said. He was inspired to start the band two years ago, when he read an obituary for 110-year-old Alice Herz-Sommer. She survived Terezin concentration camp by playing the piano. "When I saw this, it hit my heart," Dreier told AFP, saying he immediately went to his wife with the Holocaust Survivor Band idea.

"What? You crazy?" was the response. His rabbi later told him, "What you need this for?" "And because those people tell me no, I said yes!" Dreier exclaimed, adding: "I went out the following day and bought a set of drums. Brand new." His search for a bandmate led him to Sosnowicz, a hairdresser and lifelong musician, or as Dreier put it: "Not only he's a musician, he's a master musician. He's number one."

'The best healer'

The idea came at a good time, according to Sosnowicz's daughter Chana Rose, who had moved back in with her parents to help them out. She later went on to become the band manager and a fellow musician, doing backing vocals and percussion for the Holocaust Survivor Band. "My mom got very sick, she had a massive stroke. And, you know, dad went into a depression... My first inkling was, 'Wow this would be great for dad,'" she told AFP. They have since played nursing homes, synagogues and other local Florida venues—even The Venetian casino in Las Vegas. In Poland, they also brought their instruments to Auschwitz and Treblinka. "Music makes you alive. Even during the war, we played music. We didn't have what to eat but enjoyed music," Sosnowicz said. "Music is the best healer in life."—AFP



The Holocaust Survivor Band, made up of two Holocaust survivors who live in Florida, perform with Polish musicians in the area of the former Warsaw Ghetto in Warsaw, Poland.—AP

50 years later, Dylan's motorcycle crash remains mysterious

Bob Dylan tumbled from a Triumph motorcycle on a sunny Friday morning here 50 years ago on July 29, 1966. The banged-up musician holed up in the mountains of upstate New York for months afterward, dramatically altering the rocket ride of his career. It's the most analyzed motorcycle crash in pop-culture history, but details have been as hard to pin down as the meaning of a Dylan lyric. Biographers, reporters and Dylanologists digging into the '60s period when the singer-songwriter lived in this arts colony with his young family have uncovered sometimes contradictory information.

The sun got in his eyes. The bike slipped on an oily patch. He flew off the bike. He simply tipped over. He broke his back. He got a concussion. That is, unless he didn't really hurt himself. Or maybe the crash was a tall tale. Dylan has talked about the crash, but often in general terms. "I had been in a motorcycle accident and I'd been hurt, but I recovered," he wrote in his memoir, "Chronicles." The few witnesses have remained tight-lipped. Ambiguity surrounding an accident that indelibly marked the 25-year-old's life and music has helped it take on near-mythic dimensions.

When something's not right, it's wrong

Initial reports were sketchy. A two-sentence story published four days later in The New York Times under the headline "Dylan

Hurt in Cycle Mishap" said he was under a doctor's care. Rumors sprouted over the following months that he was gravely injured, blind or disfigured. Over the years, Dylan has indicated that he broke a vertebra and got a concussion. But without a police report, there is no official record of the crash. It's possible Dylan crashed shortly after pulling out of the Woodstock home of his manager, the late Albert Grossman.

Howard Sounes writes in "Down the Highway" that Dylan was being followed in a car by his wife, Sara, who took her injured husband back to Grossman's house. Grossman's wife, Sally, was there and saw Dylan "kind of moaning and groaning" but noticed no obvious signs of injuries, according to Sounes. Sally Grossman declined comment for this article. A likely spot for the crash is along or near Striebel Road, a winding, hilly ribbon of road running by that house.

Shelter from the storm

Dylan was driven about an hour to Middletown to the home of a doctor he knew, Dr Ed Thaler. Dylan arrived "very upset," the doctor's widow, Selma Thaler, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "He didn't want to go to the hospital, so we said, 'You can stay here.'"

Dylan stayed in a third-floor bedroom of the Thaler home for about a month, eating dinner with the family and having



In this May 22, 1966 file photo, Bob Dylan gestures during a press conference in Paris, France.

friends over on Friday nights, including Allen Ginsberg and the musicians who would later become famous as The Band. They showed a movie on the living room wall. She thinks it was the Dylan documentary "Don't Look Back." Dylan was sweet and quiet, Thaler said, but she can't recall him showing any visible signs of injury. She believes he broke his neck.

Because the world's gone wrong

The accident gave Dylan a chance to hit reset and revive himself. By 1966, Dylan had gone from an up-and-coming folkie to the voice of the '60s generation, and he was uncomfortable with it. Woodstock had become a "nightmare," with moochers at his door and goons breaking in. "Everything was wrong, the world was absurd," he wrote in his memoir.

Some Dylan historians have suggested the motorcycle wreck may have saved his life. He was exhausted from constant touring and, according to some accounts, had been taking large amounts of amphetamines while on the road in 1966. After the accident, tour dates were put off, and he lay low in Woodstock.—AP



In this Jan 20, 1968 file photo, Bob Dylan, center, performs with drummer Levon Helm, left, Rick Danko, second left, and Robbie Robertson of The Band at Carnegie Hall in New York, in Dylan's first public appearance after his 1966 motorcycle accident.—AP photos



A picture taken on February 2, 1989 shows members of the Yugoslav rock band 'Bijelo Dugme', Goran Bregovic (left), Alen Islamovic (center) and Zoran Redzic (right), during a concert in Belgrade. — AFP photos



A picture taken on September 13, 1985 shows Yugoslav police officers controlling the crowd during an autograph session of the Yugoslav, Sarajevo based, rock band 'Plavi orkestar' in Belgrade.

Rock becomes collateral victim of Yugoslav breakup

Little more than a quarter-century ago, Yugoslav rockers sold millions of records, went on mega-tours and the country's vibrant musical press breathlessly followed every album, band bust-up and reunion. Today, to the sorrow of its ageing followers, this small but rich seam of world music is no more. A once-dynamic industry has ebbed away, a victim of the breakup that saw the Yugoslav Federation disintegrate bloodily into seven states. Petar Janjatovic is author of the "YU Rock Encyclopedia"—an almanac of the glory days.

He points to the fate of the band Zabranjeno Pusenje ("No smoking"), as the emblem of what happened. Rock bands that, before, had a happy mix of Croats, Serbs and Bosnians found themselves breaking apart along ethnic lines as claims of loyalty weighed upon them. Once based in Sarajevo, the Zabranjeno Pusenje split with one band continuing in Zagreb and another in Belgrade... and both of them playing under the same name. "This group is a metaphor of Yugoslavia's dissolution. Two friends who grew up together and were separated by the war," Janjatovic says.

Zabranjeno Pusenje guitarist Davor Sucic, nicknamed Seyo Sexon, who left for Zagreb, contends the bustup had "nothing to do with religion, ideology or nationalism... we disagreed on how to continue". In Belgrade, his former buddy Nenad Jankovic, nicknamed Dr Nele Karajlic, prefers to remain silent.

Dawn of 'YU rock'

Rock bloomed in Yugoslavia thanks to a unique twist of history. In the Soviet bloc, Western music was frowned upon by Communist regimes as decadent or subversive. But Tito's Yugoslavia, while also communist and ruled with an iron fist, was eager to present itself as more liberal and more humane. "It tolerated the development of rock," says Dragan Kremer, a prominent music critic at the time. In 1972, Goran Bregovic and his progressive rock group Bijelo Dugme ("White Button") set down the foundations YU rock. Their debut album "Kad bi' bio bijelo dugme" ("If I Were a White Button") was a huge success, propelling the band to Led Zeppelin-like stardom at local level.

"It was a revolutionary phenomenon. Its impact was massive," recalls Sinisa Skarica, the group's producer at the time. In 1977, Bregovic made a brilliant move by staging a free open-air concert Belgrade's Kosutnjak forest. As many as 100,000 people showed up—it became known as the "Yugoslav Woodstock"—and YU rock was born. At their zenith, Skarica's Zagreb-based production company Jugoton and its Belgrade rival PGP RTS cranked out more than a million and a half records monthly, in a country of just 20 million people.

"We were playing 200-250 gigs a year," recalls Misa Aleksic, bassist with the Serbian group Riblja Corba ("Fish Soup"). "Sometimes, you even forgot which town you were in," says the group's frontman Bora Djordjevic. Tito's death in 1980 did not mean the end for YU rock. Quite the contrary: the demise of the Communist strongman was followed by a rise in raucous anti-establishment sounds. Elektricni Orgazam, Elvis J Kurtovich Idoli, Sarlo Akrobata, Azra, Film, Prljavo Kazaliste... their names may have little resonance outside the Balkans, but within Yugoslavia, their music was a new wave—a swipe at musical and sometimes

political convention. Loyalties were sometimes fiercely local, with bands such as Partibrejkers in Belgrade, Haustor in Zagreb and an autonomous movement in Sarajevo which was called "the new primitives." "It was the golden age of Yugoslav rock," Skarica says simply.

Twilight

But Tito's death also unleashed the forces of nationalism. Musicians watched helplessly as the Yugoslav federation began to strain and then fall apart. In July 1991, as war flared in Croatia, some of the top bands launched a desperate appeal for peace at a concert in Sarajevo. Their bid was in vain: over the next decade, 130,000 people would die and millions would flee their homes. "I don't think that we could have prevented" the federation's breakup, said Aleksic. "We are only musicians." From then on, the fate of YU rock was sealed. In a region riven by ethnic violence and hatreds, youthful optimism had evaporated.

Many ex-Yugoslav rock musicians found refuge abroad, such as Branimir Stulic, the frontman of Zagreb-based Azra, Dusan Kojic Koja of Belgrade's Disciplina Kicme and Bregovic himself. But there were also some, like the band Prljavo Kazaliste in Zagreb or Galija in Belgrade, who joined nationalist elites. Today, YU rock musicians are playing the nostalgia market, but the scars of the 1990s wars are deep. For many, playing in a neighboring state that is a former enemy is out of the question. "We do not play any more in Croatia and in the Croatian-Muslim part of Bosnia," Djordjevic said. "We don't think it's moral to make money in those regions. We were not playing marbles, we were at war." — AFP

Guns N' Roses tour to extend into 2017

The long-awaited and lucrative reunion tour by Guns N' Roses will extend into 2017, the band's production manager said in remarks aired Wednesday. The hard rock legends reunited in April for their first shows bringing together singer Axl Rose and guitarist Slash in more than two decades. The band is touring North America and recently announced a leg in Latin America that will last through November 26. But Dale Skjerseth, the production manager for the tour, said: "I've been told there's no end date."

"I've seen plenty of dates going into next year, far into next year," he told reporters in Atlanta ahead of the band's show in the city Wednesday, according to footage on local television station WXIA. "Everybody's working together to keep a common goal and common direction—keep the machine going," he said. While Skjerseth did not specify locations for further concerts, the reunited Guns N' Roses have not yet toured Europe, Asia or Australia and New Zealand. Guns N' Roses stormed onto the music scene with the raw energy of 1987's "Appetite for Destruction," which remains the top-selling debut album ever. But friction between Rose and Slash was rarely far from the surface and for years they passed up lucrative offers to reunite. The band was once notorious for its hard living but the latest tour has been largely smooth, with the rockers even taking the stage on time.

However, police arrested 47 people at the band's two shows last weekend in New Jersey, including a woman who allegedly assaulted two officers, according to local newspaper The Record. The reunion is nonetheless without Izzy Stradlin, the rhythm guitarist and writer of some of the band's best-known songs, who has declined to participate. — AFP



In this file photo, guitarist Slash, formerly of the band Guns N' Roses, performs in concert during the MMRBQ Music Festival 2015 in Camden, NJ. — AP



In this file photo, members of the group The O'Jays, from left, Eric Grant, Eddie Levert and Walter Williams attend the 2016 Apollo Theater Spring Gala in New York. — AP

O'Jays ask Republican congressman to stop using their music

The founding members of the O'Jays are asking a Republican to stop using their music for the second time in a week. In a statement released Wednesday, Eddie Levert and Walter Williams said they sent a letter to Rep John Mica, R-Florida, asking him to stop using their song "For The Love Of Money" in an online video featuring Donald Trump posted in 2014. The R&B group previously decried Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump for using their song "Love Train" during last week's Republican National Convention, including a version remixed as "Trump Train" without the O'Jays' consent.

"Trump and his people have no right to help themselves to our music," Levert said. "He presents himself as supporting 'law and order' but, in truth, he's not respecting the law at all." The O'Jays' song "For The Love Of Money" served as the theme song for Trump's reality show "The Apprentice." A Trump campaign spokeswoman didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. — AP



This image released by STX Productions shows, from left, Kristen Bell, Mila Kunis and Kathryn Hahn in a scene from, "Bad Moms."



This image released by STX Productions shows, from left, Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell and Kathryn Hahn in a scene from, 'Bad Moms.' — AP

'Bad Moms'

Film Review

In one of the many tellingly funny moments in "Bad Moms," a fitfully hilarious satire of the woes of up-to-the-minute motherhood, Amy (Mila Kunis), a working parent of two who feels like she barely has time to breathe, trades barbs with her two new buddies about the escape hatch that each of them fantasizes about. Amy confesses that she'd love to have a quiet breakfast, and adds, with a wistful sense of impossibility, "By myself." That, for her, would be nirvana. Then Kiki (Kristen Bell), a stay-at-home mom with four kids, goes her one better. She talks about her fantasy of being in a car accident, which would then result in a two-week hospital stay, during which she'd have nothing to do but lay around and eat Jell-O and watch bad TV.

Kiki has some self-esteem issues (hence the personal-injury dimension of her escape plan). Nevertheless, it's a sign of how close to the bone—and I don't just mean the funny bone—"Bad Moms" hits that this anecdote provokes major giggles of recognition. A car accident? Why not. Anything to relieve the stressed-out behaviorally correct high-maintenance juggling act that is contemporary motherhood. People with kids are notorious for saying they don't have time to go to the movies. That raises a question regarding the target demo for "Bad Moms." It's a comedy about, and for, the current generation of overstressed, overworked, overly perfectionistic—and, as often as not, under-appreciated—mothers. But will they have the time and inclination to get away and see it? Let's hope so, because the laughter this movie offers could provide cathartic medicine for the middle-class mom blues.

Up-and-coming team

Of course, it's been shown that when a movie has "bad" in the title and features a true celebration of bad behavior ("Bad Santa," "Bad Teacher"), it may just have a commercial edge. "Bad Moms" deserves to. Written and directed by the up-and-coming team of Jon Lucas and Scott Moore ("21 & Over"), it's a sociological farce that revels in cruelty and raunch, yet it's truly about something: the way that today's moms, trapped in a bubble of never-ending demands, can think they're going crazy—and can think that it's crazy they're even feeling that way (which only makes them feel crazier).

Amy, who lives in suburban Chicago, has two nice but overindulged middle-school brats, a deeply clueless husband, and a sales job at a hipster coffee company that's supposed to be three days a week, only her entitled geek boss wants her there...always. Her days are a numbing whirlwind of spilled food and soccer games, homework and pickups and drop-offs, and getting everywhere late. She's neither an inept nor unloving mother—far from it. Yet she's so hands-on that she spoils her kids and turns her life into thankless drudgery. According to the movie, she's the prototype for what has, with the best of intentions, gone slightly off the rails in motherhood: an entire generation of women all working a little too hard to be supermoms.

Control-freak discipline

Kiki, if possible, has less room for herself than Amy does, and that's why they're both drawn to Carla (Kathryn Hahn), a dissolute divorced parent who actually tries to act like a hooker and really is a bad mom. For her, the less time spent nurturing her dopey jock son the better. When Kiki and Amy come under Carla's slovenly influence, it's just what they need: a ticket to drinking, letting loose, slacking off—but

more than that, it's a way of giving in to their inner crazy. Owning it. They turn themselves into characters out of a feminine Adam Sandler comedy—and that turns out to be just what they should be doing. Their nemesis is Gwendolyn (Christina Applegate), the snobbish P.T.A. president who's a monster of control-freak discipline.

She's a passive-aggressive bee-otch, lording it over everyone, but the joke of Applegate's acidly spot-on performance is that her Gwendolyn represents the fulfillment of everything that motherhood is now supposed to be. She's doing it the "right" way (whatever that means), and has no patience for anyone who does it the "wrong" way (which is more or less everyone). When, and why, did this ever happen to motherhood? After all, hasn't it been fifty years since Betty Friedan wrote a book—"The Feminine Mystique"—about the existential drudgery of the early-'60s housewife? About women who felt imprisoned by a job the culture didn't recognize as a job, and by the lack of options outside it? Wasn't the feminist revolution supposed to be a way to bid goodbye to all that? "Bad Moms" has the ruefully funny wisdom to say, "Yes and no."

New satirical terrain

The film takes off from the notion that even as women liberated themselves to join the work force, that didn't necessarily make the job of motherhood any easier. In many ways, it made it harder. If the new ideal was to "have it all," the new reality was that women were now often expected to do it all. But that point has been made many times.



Where "Bad Moms" plunges into zesty new satirical terrain is in capturing the ruthless one-upmanship of the mommy-wars era, when all the progressive thinking of the last 40 years has only ratcheted up the perfectionistic demands on children and parents alike. Before, everyone simply read and followed their Dr Spock.

Now, almost every aspect of child-rearing is placed under the social-media microscope—the food that kids are eating (should they have sugar? gluten? nuts?), their sleep training and play habits, how early they launch into pre-school and start climbing that ladder to success. In the new era, every decision reflects a belief, an ideology, and the result is that moms, in addition to being overworked, spend much of their lives fighting the feeling that every decision they make is being judged. Or, as one of the characters in "Bad Moms" puts it, "In this day and age, it's impossible to be a good mom." Like so many men in so many decades of arrested-development comedies, the heroines of "Bad Moms" respond to all this by getting in touch with their inner delinquent. The film has some of the full-throttle raunchy glee of a comedy like "Bridesmaids" or "Trainwreck," even though it lacks their full-blooded humanity.

Comic epiphany

There's a lot of formulaic cereal floating around in the movie's farce recipe. When Amy's 12-year-old daughter, the precocious, owl-eyed Jane (Oona Laurence), is benched on the soccer team due to the machinations of Gwendolyn, Amy decides to run against her for PTA president a standard clanking 1980s slob-against-the-squares plot. Amy's husband, Mike (David Walton), who she catches in the middle of an on-line sexual affair, is a one-dimensional boyish lout, and the hunky widower (Jay Hernandez) who attracts her eye is a little too perfect a dreamboat. "Bad Moms" is often a bit of a cartoon, yet it's funny enough to be resonant. When Amy realizes she needs to take a stab at sleeping with someone new, the scene where she tries on the sad clothes in her closet has a ring of truth that will leave you in stitches.

Gazing at one droopy dress, Carla says, "Are you trying to get laid or adopted?" and the number that both women do on Amy's "sexy" bra is a comic epiphany that keeps on giving. Kathryn Hahn, with her regal sneer, delivers her lines with the crack of a whip; she rules "Bad Moms" like a born movie-comedy star. (If she had been cast in the remake of "Ghostbusters," the ghosts would have melted.) But the other two actresses are aces as well: Bell, so pert and polite you're just waiting to see the demons she's carrying around inside, and Kunis, whose accomplished performance turns Amy into the movie's frantic, devoted, beleaguered, proud, confused, nurturing soul. Near the end, when a bunch of moms stand up at a PTA meeting to confess their sins, the hilarity is that they're speaking for everyone in the audience: all the moms who feel like they're bad, because no one could be as good as they're supposed to be. — Reuters

Mila Kunis, a cast member in 'Bad Moms,' turns back for photographers at the premiere of the film at the Mann Village Theatre in Los Angeles.—AP

Gyllenhaal, Portman in Venice film fest lineup

This year's Venice Film Festival will include a stylish thriller from Tom Ford, a sci-fi drama with Jeremy Renner and Amy Adams and a star turn from Natalie Portman as Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Organizers of the world's oldest film festival announced a 20-strong competition lineup yesterday that includes fashion designer Ford's "Nocturnal Animals," with Jake Gyllenhaal and Amy Adams, Denis Villeneuve's sci-fi feature "Arrival" and Pablo Larrain's biopic of the former US first lady, "Jackie." Venice is an important awards-season springboard - along with the overlapping Toronto Film Festival - and gave Academy Award best-picture winner "Spotlight" its world premiere last year.

Potential awards contenders in Venice this year include U.S. filmmaker Derek Cianfrance's "The Light Between Oceans" - a domestic drama set in a remote lighthouse starring Michael Fassbender and Alicia Vikander - and Dutch director Martin Koolhoven's thriller "Brimstone," with Dakota Fanning and Guy Pearce. Films competing for the festival's coveted Golden Lion prize also include American auteur Terrence Malick's documentary "Voyage of Time" and new films from cinema heavyweights including France's Francois Ozon ("Frantz"), Germany's Wim Wenders ("The Beautiful Days of Aranjuez"), Serbia's Emir Kusturica ("On the Milky Road") and Russia's Andrei Konchalovsky ("Paradise").

Other contenders include "The Bad Batch," a cannibal love story starring Jim Carrey and Keanu Reeves from Iranian-American director Ana Lily Amirpour, and "La Region Salvaje" ("The Untamed") by hard-hitting Mexican filmmaker Amat Escalante. Also screening at the festival, although not in prize competition, is Mel Gibson's World War II drama "Hacksaw Ridge." The story of a pacifist army medic, it's Gibson's first film as a director since 2006, the year he launched an anti-Semitic tirade during a drunk-driving arrest.

The 73rd Venice festival opens Aug 31 on the maritime city's Lido island with the world premiere of Damien Chazelle's musical romance "La La Land," with singing, dancing performances from Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone. The festival closes Sept. 10 with Antoine Fuqua's remake of the classic Western, "The Magnificent Seven," starring Denzel Washington. The winner of the Golden Lion and other prizes will be decided by a jury led by "American Beauty" director Sam Mendes. — AP



Venice Biennale President Paolo Baratta, left, and Venice Film Festival Director Alberto Barbera attend a press conference to present the 73rd edition of the Venice Film Festival in Rome, yesterday. — AP



Jackie Chan, second left, and co-stars, from left, Nana Ou-Yang, Erica Xia-Hou and Tess Haubrich speak to the media during a press conference to announce the start of filming in Australia of his new film Bleeding Steel in Sydney, Australia, yesterday. — AP

Jackie Chan's 'Bleeding Steel' adds Australian cast

Australian actors Tess Haubrich ("Alien: Covenant") and Callan Mulvey ("Captain America: The Winter Soldier," TV's "Underbelly") have joined Jackie Chan in the cast of Chinese-Australian sci-fi thriller "Bleeding Steel." The official start of production was announced yesterday at a ceremony at Sydney Opera House involving the state of New South Wales' acting premier Troy Grant and minister for skills John Barilaro. Producers repeated the assertion that "Bleeding Steel" is the biggest budget Chinese film ever to shoot in Australia. However, despite repeated inquiries by Variety, the producers refused to disclose any details that might substantiate such a claim-the overall production budget, the proportion that will be spent in Australia or the scale of the subsidies from Australian state and federal sources.

The film, which has actually been shooting in the streets of Sydney for the past few days, is backed by China's Heyi Pictures and by Village Roadshow Pictures Asia. Filming will continue in mainland China and Taiwan. The film is written and directed by China's Leo Zhang. Zhang's script sees Chan as a special force agent who becomes embroiled in a huge conspiracy, while protecting a young woman who is an important witness for a major

case. Years later, after the publication of an epic sci-fi novel, the parties behind the conspiracy resurface.

Other cast includes Nana Ouyang ("To the Fore"), newcomer Erica Xia-Hou, and Show Luo ("Journey to the West," "Mermaid"). Chan's parents moved from Hong Kong to Australian capital Canberra when he was a 7 year old. He later held laboring and restaurants in the country before his film career took off. Heyi Pictures is the film production arm of Youku Tudou, the Alibaba-owned online video company. The company says it draws heavily on online content business models and has a strong commitment to exploring innovative uses of "big data" for strategy, marketing and brand development in the production process.

VRPA is the Beijing based offshoot of Australia's Village Roadshow group and largely focuses on Sino-foreign co-productions. It has been involved with Stephen Chow's "Journey to the West," Leste Chen's "Say Yes!" and "Zhong Kui: Snow Girl and the Dark Crystal." Its upcoming films include "Mountain Cry," "Hide and Seek" and "Reborn." — Reuters

Beatles documentary 'Eight Days' to include Shea Stadium concert

The upcoming documentary "The Beatles: Eight Days A Week-The Touring Years" will include 30 minutes of footage from the group's iconic Shea Stadium concert in 1965. Ron Howard's authorized documentary about the early years of the Beatles has been set for US theatrical release on Sept 16 through Abramorama. The film will become available to stream exclusively to Hulu subscribers on the next day, Sept 17. The Shea Stadium event, one of the first rock concerts ever staged in a stadium in front of more than 55,000 people, was filmed at the peak of the group's popularity about a year and a half after their "Ed Sullivan Show" appearances.

The footage was shot with 14 35mm cameras by Ed Sullivan Productions and Brian Epstein and has been restored in the 4K format with sound remastered at Abbey Road Studios by Giles Martin and Sam Okell. It includes performances of "A Hard Day's Night," "I'm Down," "Everybody's Trying To Be My Baby" and "Dizzy Miss Lizzy." The film is produced with the full cooperation of Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Yoko Ono Lennon and Olivia Harrison. White Horse Pictures' Nigel Sinclair and Scott Pascucci are producing with Brian Grazer of Imagine Entertainment with Howard. Apple Corps Ltd's Jeff Jones and Jonathan Clyde are serving as executive producers, along with Imagine's Michael Rosenberg and White Horse's Guy East and Nicholas Ferrall. Also executive producing is the film's editor Paul Crowder and long-time collaborator Mark Monroe, who is also serving as writer.

Studiocanal and PolyGram Entertainment are anchor partners on the film, having acquired U.K., France, Germany and Australia and New Zealand rights. "The Beatles: Eight Days A Week-The

Touring Years" is based on the first part of The Beatles' career from 1962 to 1966 and will delve into how they made decisions, created their music and built their collective career together from the days of The Cavern Club in Liverpool to their last concert at Candlestick Park in San Francisco in 1966. The title is taken from the 1964 hit single. When the band stopped touring, they had performed 166 concerts in 15 countries and 90 cities. — Reuters





Summer squash makes flavorful 'pasta' dish

By Sara Moulton

Summer squash reproduces so energetically that calling it prolific is understating the case. Still, why not take advantage of its bounty? Here I slice the squash into long ribbons and employ it as "pasta." Use a mandoline (be sure to use the guard that comes with it), although a Y-shaped peeler will also work. The resulting "pasta" is more flavorful and less caloric than pasta itself. I coat the sliced squash with a creamy sauce based on low-fat cream cheese, sometimes called Neufchatel, which is lower in fat and calories than full-fat cream cheese and also lighter in texture. And it's one of the few dairy products that can be heated in a sauce without curdling in the process.

Summer squash is so tender and delicate that it's easily overcooked and turned into mush. The goal is to cook it so that it retains a bit of bite, just like pasta al dente. Accordingly, cook it briefly, stirring gently with tongs. Actually, you don't even stir it; just lift it up and move it around. If you sliced the squash with a mandoline, the "pasta" will likely be thicker than if you used a peeler and will probably require three full minutes to cook. If you used a peeler, you may need no more than two minutes. Again, you want it to turn out tender with a hint of firmness.

Summer squash gives off a lot of water as it cooks, which tends to dilute the sauce. That's why I advise you to remove the cooked squash from the skillet (to keep it from overcooking) and then reduce the sauce. Boiling off the extra water in this way helps concentrate the sauce's flavor and make it creamy. Once you've reduced the sauce, add back the squash. For a vegetarian dish, omit the prosciutto and use vegetable broth instead of chicken broth. Serve with a tossed green salad or some dressed sliced tomatoes, and a slice or two of crusty bread.

Summer squash ribbon 'pasta' with lemon cream sauce

Start to finish: 40 minutes (30 active)
Servings: 4

2 pounds medium summer squash
1 cup chicken or vegetable broth
1 teaspoon lemon zest
6 ounces Neufchatel (1/3-less-fat cream cheese)
Salt and black pepper
2 ounces thinly sliced prosciutto cut into strips
1 to 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice, or to taste
1/3 cup toasted chopped walnuts or almonds
Freshly grated Parmigiano-Reggiano for garnish
1/3 cup finely chopped parsley

Preparation

Cut off the ends of the squash and, using a mandoline or a Y-shaped peeler, slice or shave the squash about 1/8-inch thick into wide ribbon-like strips. In a large skillet, combine the chicken broth and the zest; whisk the mixture until the zest is evenly distributed. Bring the mixture to a boil, break the cheese into small pieces

and add it to the skillet. Reduce the heat to a simmer, cover the pan and let simmer for 3 minutes. Remove the lid and whisk the mixture until smooth.

Add the squash ribbons, a pinch of salt and several grinds of pepper and, using tongs, very gently lift up and turn the ribbons in the sauce so they are evenly distributed. Cover and cook for 3 minutes, stirring the squash once or twice with the tongs. Remove the pan from the heat, using the tongs transfer the ribbons from the skillet to a large bowl making sure all the liquid clinging to the squash drips back into the pan. Return the skillet to the heat and simmer the liquid, whisking every so often until it is thickened, about 5 minutes. Return the squash to the skillet, along with the prosciutto and lemon juice; cook for 1 minute, stirring with the tongs. Divide the squash and sauce among 4 pasta bowls; top each portion with some of the nuts, the cheese and the parsley.

Carrots go from boring to zesty after a visit to Morocco

By Melissa D'Arabain

Serving a couple of vegetables every night at dinner is a great strategy for families with picky-eaters. Offering young kids a choice ("Would you like green beans or parsnips or both tonight?") gives them a small but important sense of efficacy, while also helping to demystify ingredients that are served (non-threateningly) at the table. And for the rest of us, eating a couple of vegetables with each meal is a great opportunity to get in the variety of nutrients that keeps us healthy.

But two vegetables a night adds up quickly, and we can find ourselves a little lost for creative preparations, especially when time is short. One of my favorite ways to cook veggies quickly (even thicker root veggies) is the pan-saute/steam method. It's quick and melds the best of sautéing (a little fat and flavor) and steaming (speedy cooking without bland boiling).

Start by adding a little fat to a saute pan. I love coconut oil for the healthy benefits and slightly nutty and exotic notes it adds the veggies, but any neutral oil will do. Saute the veggies for a couple of minutes, adding in whatever spices or aromatics you have around the house that your family loves. You can go simple with shallots or garlic or more complex with curry paste or Chinese five-spice powder.

Next, add liquid - water, broth, citrus juice - and cover to steam for a few minutes. Once the veggies are crisp-tender from the steam, uncover the pan and allow the liquid to evaporate, leaving the veggies in a tasty and simple glaze. Top with some kind of acid - lime juice, or tangy plain yogurt both work well with a variety of flavors. And the final touch? Something crunchy (like pumpkin seeds or chopped nuts) and something fresh like chopped basil, cilantro or mint. The perfect veggie plan for weeknights.



MOROCCAN SPICED CARROTS WITH YOGURT SAUCE

Start to finish: 15 minutes

Servings: 4

1 pound baby carrots, peeled and greens removed
1 teaspoon coconut oil
1/2 teaspoon mustard seed
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon granulated garlic
3/4 teaspoon Ras El Hanout (Moroccan seasoning)
1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika
1/4 cup chicken or vegetable stock
1 tablespoon lime juice

1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

Sauce:

1/4 cup plain Greek lowfat yogurt
1 tablespoon lime juice
1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons toasted chopped walnuts
Torn mint leaves for garnish

Preparation

Heat a large saute pan over medium heat. Cook the mus-

tard seed in coconut oil until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add the cumin, ras el hanout, paprika, granulated garlic and stir. Add the carrots and salt and stir to coat carrots with spices, and cook until the spices are deep in color, stirring, about 3 minutes. Then deglaze the pan with stock and lime juice. Cover the pan and let steam for 3 minutes, then uncover and cook until liquid evaporates, another 2 minutes. Meanwhile make the sauce by mixing yogurt, lime juice, smoked paprika and salt in a small bowl. Lay the carrots on a platter and spoon some yogurt over the carrots. Top with walnuts and mint leaves to serve. - AP



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Friday Times

FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2016

Kids



Color me!



1. General Playground Safety Rules

- Always play safe by being careful and showing courtesy.
 - Never run around or push and pull others while near playground equipment. Keep your hands and feet to yourself. Physical contact and verbal abuse (mean words) are not permitted.
 - Don't go too close to the front or rear of moving equipment; instead, walk out around it.
 - Wear proper clothing. Make sure your shoes are tied and never wear clothes that have drawstrings. Necklaces, scarves, drawstrings and very loose clothes could get tangled.
 - When you get off equipment make sure there isn't anyone in the way. If you jump, always bend your knees slightly and land on two feet.
 - Don't play on equipment that is wet because the surface will be slippery.
 - If you go to the playground in the summertime, make sure the equipment is not too hot.
 - Take turns and get in a line when more than one person wants to use a piece of equipment. By sharing, everyone will get a turn. No holding places or butting in line.
 - Sit properly on equipment and do not overcrowd. If a piece of equipment has a handrail, make sure you hold it at all times.
 - Ask an adult for help if there is a problem or someone is hurt.
 - Never go to a playground by yourself or without letting an adult know. Have an adult go with you when you're in primary and have a friend go with you when you get older.
- 2. Slides**
- Keep your shoes tied and don't wear any loose strings or clothing on the slide.
 - Be patient and wait your turn in line before getting on the climbing ladder.
 - Take one step at a time and hold the handrails with both hands

- when climbing the ladder to the top of the slide. Never climb or run up the slide surface or the frame.
- Slide down feet first and sitting up, never head first or on your back, knees or stomach. Go down one at a time with no fancy tricks.
 - Check the bottom of the slide to see if it is clear before sliding down. When you reach the bottom, get off and move away from the end of the slide.
 - On hot days, feel the slide with your hand before climbing to the top. If the side is too warm, don't play on it.

3. Swings

- Always sit in the center of the swing; don't stand or kneel. Hold the chains tightly with both hands. Stop the swing completely before getting off.
- No jumping out of swings, no twisting chains or swinging sideways. Do not swing empty seats!
- Never double up with two kids to a swing or try to swing too high.
- Don't push other children on swings. If you cannot start swinging, ask an adult to push you softly to get you started.
- Stay a safe distance from other children on swings being careful not to run or walk in front, in back or between them. Walk out around instead.

4. Climbing Equipment

- Stay well behind the person in front of you and beware of swinging feet. Never reach for bars or ropes that are too far away.
- When you drop from the bars or ropes make sure you have enough room to not hit the equipment and hurt yourself. Bend your knees, land on both feet and don't touch others.
- Don't overcrowd the equipment. Everyone start from one side and move in the same direction. When climbing down watch out for those climbing up.
- Always stay in line, take turns and never push or try to touch others.

JOKES

Doctor, Doctor, I swallowed a bone.
Are you choking?
No, I really did!
Doctor, Doctor, I've got wind! Can you give me something?
Yes - here's a kite!
Doctor, Doctor, everyone keeps throwing me in the garbage.
Don't talk rubbish!

Doctor, Doctor, I feel like a pack of cards.
I'll deal with you later.
Doctor, Doctor, will this ointment clear up my spots?
I never make rash promises!
Doctor, Doctor, I keep seeing an insect spinning around.
Don't worry, it's just a bug that's going around!

SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION

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





KIDS RECIPES



Chia, almond and cacao balls

Ingredients:

- 1 vanilla bean, split
- 2 tablespoons white chia seeds (see box)
- 2 tablespoons unsweetened almond milk
- 1 cup blanched almonds
- 1 cup walnuts
- 1/2 cup shredded coconut
- 1/3 cup cacao powder (see Notes)
- 1/4 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup almond spread
- 2 tablespoons rice malt syrup

Method

1. Scrape seeds from vanilla bean. Discard vanilla pod. Place chia seeds and milk in a small bowl. Stir to combine.

2. Meanwhile, process almonds, walnuts and 1/4 cup coconut until finely chopped. Transfer to a large bowl. Add cacao, salt, cinnamon and vanilla seeds. Stir to combine. Add almond spread, rice malt syrup and chia mixture. Stir to combine, adding an extra 2 teaspoons of rice malt syrup to bind mixture, if needed.
3. Place remaining coconut in a shallow dish. Using 1 tablespoon of mixture, press and roll mixture together to form a ball. Roll ball in coconut to lightly coat. Place on a large baking tray lined with baking paper. Repeat with remaining mixture and coconut. Store in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 1 week. Remove from fridge 10 minutes before serving.

DID YOU KNOW?



- The lemon is native to Asia, around Northeast India, North Burma, and China.
- Lemons are believed to be a hybrid between a sour orange and a citron.
- The lemon is an evergreen tree, it blooms (a white flower) and produces fruit all year round. Each tree can produce between 500 and 600 pounds (225kgs and 270kgs) of lemons a year.
- Christopher Columbus took lemon seeds with him to the America's in 1493, introducing the fruit there.
- Lemons have a sour taste to them, this is due to the fact that lemon juice contains about 5-6% citric acid.
- Lemon juice is the main ingredient of lemonade. The sour taste of the juice also makes it ideal for squeezing on fish, while slices of lemon or lemon rind are used as a garnish for many other foods and drinks.
- Lemon zest (grated outer rind) is used for flavor in baking of cakes, sponges and biscuits, puddings like lemon meringue pie, rice and other dishes.
- Even the leaves of a lemon tree can be used to make tea and in the preparation of cooked meats and sea foods.
- Due to its high acidic nature the juice of a lemon can be used for cleaning. Lemon

- halves dipped in salt or baking powder can be used to brighten up copper and clean kitchenware.
- An experiment that involves attaching electrodes to a lemon can create a battery that produces electricity. Several lemon batteries can power a small digital watch.
- The top 5 producers of lemons in the world each year, in no particular order, are China, India, Mexico, Argentina and Brazil.
- Because lemons are high in vitamin C they can prevent the disease scurvy which was common among sailors stuck on ships for months. Even today, the British Navy requires ships to carry enough lemons so that every sailor can have one ounce of juice a day.
- The demand for lemons and their scurvy-preventing abilities hit a peak in the California Gold Rush of 1849. Malnourished miners were willing to pay a lot for a single lemon. Today, California is still full of lemon trees as a result.
- Common varieties of lemon include Meyer, Eureka, and Lisbon.
- In 2003, the heaviest lemon ever grown was recorded in Kefar Zeitim, Israel. It weighed 5.265 kg (11 lb 9.7 oz), had a circumference of 74 cm (29 in) and was 35 cm (13.7 in) high. Guinness World Records 2013.

ULTIMATE MOVIE WORD SEARCH



- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| A BUGS LIFE | FRANKENWEENIE | PLANES | THE LORAX |
| ALADDIN | HAPPY FEET | POCAHONTAS | TOY STORY |
| ALPHA AND OMEGA | HERCULES | PUSS IN BOOTS | TURBO |
| ASTRO BOY | ICE AGE | RIO | UP |
| BOLT | KNOME AND JULIET | ROBOTS | WALL-E |
| BRAVE | KUNG FU PANDA | SHREK | WRECK IT RALPH |
| CARS | MADAGASCAR | SLEEPING BEAUTY | |
| DESPICABLE ME | MEGAMIND | SNOW WHITE | |
| EPIC | MONSTER HOUSE | THE CROODS | |
| FINDING NEMO | MONSTERS INC | THE INCREDIBLES | |
| FLUSHED AWAY | PARANORMAN | THE LION KING | |

ACTIVITY



Make a woolly polar bear

What you need

- * 1 x empty toilet roll
- * 1 x A4 piece of felt
- * 1 x ball of white wool
- * 2 x googly craft eyes
- * 1 x 5cm Styrofoam ball
- * fast-drying craft glue
- * scissors
- * pencil

Activity

1. Rim the toilet roll by cutting about 3cm off the bottom.
2. Glue the Styrofoam ball to one end of the toilet roll.

3. Now you need to make some bits out of felt:
 - * 2 x arms
 - * 2 x feet
 - * 1 x nose (circle)
 - * 2 x ears
4. Cut these out.
5. Next you need to win the white wool all around the body and head of your polar bear. First, paint a section with glue and start winding the wool around the body. It doesn't need to be neat and you can go back and overlap if there are gaps.
6. Once you've done that, glue his arms, feet, nose, eyes and ears on.





Friday Times Travel

Best places to travel in **August 2016**



August travel isn't just about soaking up the northern hemisphere's summer on a beach somewhere - as proven by our experts, who've dealt travelers a handful of wild-card recommendations this month. From whale watching on Australia's west coast to encountering jaguars in the Brazilian wetlands, August is a chance to see nature at its best. Alternatively, how about a spot of time travelling in Sweden?



Mokoro journeys in the Okavango Delta, Botswana

The waters of the Okavango River take months to reach their final resting place, the world's most famous inland delta. Here the fresh waters from the Angolan highlands don't flow into any sea or ocean, but instead evaporate in the African sun and sink into the sands of the Kalahari. But their demise brings great life to the Okavango Delta - flora erupts and iconic African animals migrate here in their thousands.

Although blue skies and pleasant temperatures dominate August, it is actually a month when waters in the delta are at their highest. This is incredibly

beneficial on two fronts: Wildlife abounds, and areas of the inner delta are accessible by mokoro (dugout canoe). When not being poled romantically through the myriad reed channels of this surreal environment in traditional watercraft, you can also venture further afield to reach epic wildlife sightings in modern powerboats. Either way, a safari to remember. And the dry winter weather means mosquitoes are almost non-existent. Happy days.



Whale watching in Western Australia

Seeing a whale breaching in the ocean is an unforgettable experience. An estimated 30,000 humpback whales migrate along the west coast of Australia each year, passing the Unesco-listed Ningaloo Reef en route. This August, visitors to Ningaloo will have the opportunity to swim with them as part of a new government-backed trial that could become permanent if it proves to be successful.

One of the country's best-kept secrets, Ningaloo is a haven for all manner of marine life including dolphins, manta rays, turtles and dugongs. And the humpbacks are not the only gentle giants to frequent Australia's largest fringing reef: it is also one of the best places in the world to swim with whale sharks.

Medieval madness in Visby, Sweden

This August, step off a boat and back in time with a trip to the Hanseatic town of Visby on the Swedish island of Gotland. For seven days each year, this Unesco-listed port becomes a time warp during Medeltidsveckan (medeltidsveckan.se/en), the world's largest festival celebrating the Middle Ages. Visitors flock to the cobbled streets inside Visby's ancient town walls to marvel at the fiesta of jousting, banqueting and unashamed revelry, medieval

style. With markets, crafts, re-enactments, music and storytelling, this is as close to time travel as it's possible to get without a Tardis. With over 500 events planned throughout the week, this year's festival runs from 7-14 August and the organizers expect up to 40,000 visitors, so book early to be sure of securing a place to lay down your lute.





Spot bison in the August rut, Yellowstone Park, USA

Witnessing the rut (mating season) across America's national parks is not just a memorable visual experience - it's auditory too. In Yellowstone National Park in August, herds of bulls gather to compete for females. They use aggressive sounds and behavior to assert their dominance and 'courtship postures' to secure a mate. The guttural roars of the rut resonate across Hayden Valley and are said to be audible nearly three miles away. If you park close to a herd and switch off your engine, you'll hear all sorts of ungodly sounds, from snorts and grunts to angry roars and ground-shaking bellows.

Bulls also wallow to lay down their scent or displace aggression. Watching a majestic bison pitch side to side, all four feet in the air, is a sight quite unlike any other. You may also spot bison running for short distances. Despite its bulk, America's largest land mammal can reach speeds of 35mph! - (www.loneplanet.com)



Jaguar spotting in Brazil's Pantanal

This August, the world will set its sights on Brazil when the Olympics take place in Rio de Janeiro. Though the Cidade Maravilhosa (Marvelous City) will bask in the limelight, travellers headed to Brazil for the Games should consider a jaunt westward to the Pantanal, the country's top destination for watching wildlife.

Located in the heart of South America, the Pantanal is the largest floodplain in the world and its vast, open wetlands are home to an immense variety of flora and fauna. When the waters recede during the dry season, it's possible to probe deeper into the wilderness and August is the prime time to see animals in their natural habitats - particularly the elusive jaguar, which is easier to spot against the vivid green grasses that spring up from the muddy banks of the marshes at this time of year.



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You do your job and others do their job-progress. This afternoon you may be asked to exchange ideas and solve problems with some of your co-workers. This is a time of great mental activity and heightened communication with others. Intellectualism and the exchange of ideas have a special appeal to you. You are full of wit and sharp insights. This could be a time for real breakthroughs in the idea department. You are in top form when it comes to mental activity. You may have opportunities today to be with young people, perhaps guiding young people. There is a chance to understand those around you and to have a special time with someone you love. There are good feelings and a sense of harmony.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There are several opportunities for in-depth discussions and probing conversations with all sorts of business associates today. Others will find you at your mental best. Your perceptive abilities are at a high point. Past problems can be set aside for now. This workday seems to accent your own ideas and expectations. Working within a group or groups in a spirit of cooperation and communion is a natural. This evening you may be feeling more inward and more like sharing some time with your loved one or with close friends. This is a good time for propping your feet up and enjoying some good communication between yourself and those you love. Close relationships take on more emotional depth, power and importance now.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You seem very focused today and that is good because most of the people around you seem a bit unorganized. You are not interested in the superficial or the things that do not relate to business or the subject at hand. You do not care about the worldwide situations, only about how things impact you and yours. There is an intellect and emotions mix to the point of inseparability. An instinctive imperative to be powerful and in control may lead to a greater interest in investing. There is a tendency to be too strict with you. You can't solve your problems and all the world's in one day. Your ambition is intensified. You can get the most out of others and as a result, you could see a raise in pay when you become the next manager or some other type of supervisor.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Someone around you is getting more education and someone else is getting that long-desired job; another friend or relative is going into business for himself or herself. You catch the bug and have a yearning to broaden your possibilities. You have always wanted to have a business of your own and now could be the time. Law, politics, education, travel, religion-these are some of the areas in which a home based business could begin. What is needed now is a plan, particularly since your interests are so varied. Although there is much dedication when you do choose a goal, you can sometimes change your mind in the middle of the stream, so to speak; so, give this some time to settle in your mind. Your logic and practicality will come with time.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your career, sense of judgment and investigative abilities are at the top of the list of concerns if you are under stress. Some internal monologue may help to calm you. This may mean that the idea of some upcoming event is more stressful than the event itself. We can all conjure up worst-case scenarios. A number of career changes occur to you and you think about positive ways to make one of them happen. A boss or some other superior respects your talents and may want to guide you into a better position. This may be a good time to think about looking for the better job within your own company-at least think about how you can help your company from a different position and make you and your talents known. Enjoy the special times.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are powerfully motivated today. A lot of energy goes into getting things scheduled and organized. A busy schedule has you occupied-you might end up taking work home if you do not have the power to allocate a few of the errands. Rushing through today can only cause mistakes and irritability; welcome your breaks and do not forget healthy dieting. There is a tendency to be too strict with yourself, to insist that whatever does not contribute to security and other long-term goals is trivial. Your ambition is intensified. Slow and easy moves will get you into the fast lane just as quickly as the reckless moves. The difference is in the endurance. A last-minute invitation leads to fun and relaxation this evening.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Real insight into your own inner workings or psychology could surface today and in a manageable form. You may be in the mood for deep and penetrating conversations. You are a good worker, always thinking and caring for things. You are naturally service-oriented and enjoy taking care of the needs of others. You are very discriminating and can sort out the good apples from the bad. You may find yourself lecturing or at the very least, speaking to a small audience. Your imagination and sense of what connects all of life are felt in your speech and in the way you communicate. You love a good story and this afternoon may find you reading or entertaining young people . . . Your mind soars on wings of the imagination.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Obtaining and exchanging information is important now-competition could be involved. There is a tremendous drive to succeed and some sheer good luck, bringing about a real accomplishment. There is a lot of physical energy available. You are very ambitious and motivated and could serve as group leader or manager. A family person at heart, you will find that a family business could work well now or in the near future. You are more involved with neighbors or siblings this afternoon-there is joy among good friends and family members. This evening you may enjoy a good movie or book or feel like escaping from everyday realities for a while. You appreciate an imaginative approach and many futuristic or advanced ideas.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may find that your ideas and thoughts run smoothly today. Your outward charm and your desire to be all things to all people are what are most central to your personality. This ability to solve problems, to give advice and always to put others at ease is the key to meeting and coming to know you. There are opportunities springing up all around you and you must be prepared to stretch beyond your average production and move forward. Be prepared. You must decide whether a risk is worth the change it will bring about in your present situation. A business trip is likely soon and you will be able to connect with important contacts. You may consider taking a class or involving yourself with some hobby that stimulates you intellectually.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Gut-level is the way you think, speak and perceive in the cycle you have just begun. You are not interested in the superficial; instead, you want to get right to the root of things. You do not care about the universal, only about how things impact you and yours. Intellect and emotion mix to the point of inseparability. You can be very practical when it comes to dealing and working with others. You know just what to do and can act without haste. You are called on to make use of your natural abilities and talents at this time. This afternoon there are opportunities to visit with friends, join a party or a few other social activities. If you visit a short while within a social atmosphere, you can do a lot to energize yourself. Consider going home early.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your understanding of a particular situation is very intuitive. You put a lot of thought and energy into a desirable outcome and you avoid the commonplace with great effort. Your drive to find new ways to use things is well coordinated. This afternoon you can back off the push to complete projects as you have accomplished more than you set out to accomplish. Your career always seems to get the support you need and this is one area of life that runs smoothly-particularly today. Later today is a good time for some form of levity. A light movie, a new joke book, a positive friend-all seem to be what you enjoy delving into after such a tough day at work. A light evening meal is not a bad idea either and it could be time for you to choose fish.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your work or career is in harmony with the rest of your life. There is a tendency to be too strict with yourself but it is okay to relax a little and move with the flow of the day. Change is the one thing you can count on so going with the flow of work is what will make you most successful. Ambition is intensified and you will achieve quite a lot within a short time. This may be surprising to learn but as you trust in your skills and keep moving forward, you will find less time spent in frustration. Circumstances are favorable for whatever project needs attention. Things may seem almost magical in the way they work out. Your mind tends to be very imaginative this evening. Ideas and writings of a mystical or poetic nature may appeal to you.

COUNTRY CODES

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



- 03:25 Ten Deadliest Snakes
- 04:15 Gator Boys
- 05:02 Treehouse Masters
- 05:49 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
- 06:12 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
- 06:36 Swamp Brothers
- 07:00 Swamp Brothers
- 07:25 Too Cute!
- 08:15 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
- 08:40 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
- 09:10 Treehouse Masters
- 10:05 Tanked
- 11:00 Too Cute!
- 11:55 Bondi Vet
- 12:20 Bondi Vet
- 12:50 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
- 13:15 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
- 13:45 Gator Boys
- 14:40 Treehouse Masters
- 15:35 Tanked
- 16:30 Ten Deadliest Snakes
- 17:25 River Monsters
- 18:20 River Monsters
- 19:15 Tanked
- 20:10 River Monsters
- 21:05 Treehouse Masters
- 22:00 River Monsters
- 22:55 Gator Boys
- 23:50 River Monsters
- 00:45 I'm Alive
- 01:40 River Monsters
- 02:35 Tanked



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



- 03:40 GI Dough
- 04:05 Auction Hunters
- 04:30 Dallas Car Sharks
- 05:00 How Do They Do It?
- 05:30 How Stuff's Made
- 06:00 Mythbusters
- 06:50 Man vs Expert
- 07:40 Incredible Engineering
- Blunders: Fixed
- 08:30 Diamond River Hunters
- 09:20 Venom Hunters
- 10:10 So You Think You'd Survive?
- 11:00 What On Earth?
- 11:50 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
- 12:40 Mega Shippers
- 13:30 Fast N' Loud
- 14:20 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
- 15:10 Street Outlaws
- 16:00 Gold Divers
- 21:00 Fast N' Loud
- 21:50 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
- 22:40 Street Outlaws
- 23:30 Lions Of Sabi Sand: Brothers In Blood
- 01:10 Fast N' Loud
- 02:00 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
- 02:50 Street Outlaws



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

- 04:07 Bubble Guppies
- 04:29 Little Charmers
- 04:41 Shimmer And Shine
- 05:05 Dora And Friends
- 05:27 Zack & Quack
- 05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 06:00 Paw Patrol
- 06:13 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 06:36 Dora The Explorer
- 07:00 Wanda And The Alien
- 07:11 Zack & Quack
- 07:22 Dora And Friends
- 07:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 08:10 Paw Patrol
- 08:35 Shimmer And Shine
- 08:58 Dora The Explorer
- 09:22 Little Charmers
- 09:32 Paw Patrol
- 09:57 Bubble Guppies
- 10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 10:40 Zack & Quack
- 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
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- 16:41 Shimmer And Shine
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- 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
- 22:40 Zack & Quack
- 22:52 Team Umizoomi
- 23:15 Louie
- 23:22 Louie
- 23:30 Ni Hao, Kai-Lan
- 23:53 Olive The Ostrich
- 00:03 Max & Ruby
- 00:26 Wanda And The Alien
- 00:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 01:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 01:45 Zack & Quack
- 01:55 Zack & Quack
- 02:05 Team Umizoomi
- 02:28 Louie
- 02:35 Louie
- 02:48 Paw Patrol
- 02:58 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
- 12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 13:00 Breadwinners
- 13:24 The Loud House
- 13:48 Get Blake
- 14:12 Rabbids Invasion
- 14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
- 15:00 Game Shakers
- 15:24 The Loud House
- 17:00 Sanjay And Craig
- 17:24 Harvey Beaks
- 17:48 Breadwinners
- 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



- 03:00 What Happened Next?
- 03:50 Ultimate Survival
- 04:40 How It's Made
- 05:30 Dirty Jobs
- 06:20 Mythbusters
- 07:00 Doki
- 07:25 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
- 07:50 My Cat From Hell
- 08:40 How It's Made
- 09:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 10:20 Mythbusters
- 11:10 Bondi Vet
- 11:35 Bondi Vet
- 12:00 My Cat From Hell
- 12:50 Ultimate Survival
- 13:40 How It's Made
- 14:05 How It's Made
- 14:30 Dirty Jobs
- 15:20 Mythbusters
- 16:10 Doki
- 16:35 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
- 17:00 Troy
- 17:50 Race To Escape
- 18:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 19:30 Mythbusters
- 20:20 How It's Made
- 20:45 How It's Made
- 21:10 Troy
- 22:00 Race To Escape
- 22:50 What Happened Next?
- 23:40 Ultimate Survival
- 00:30 Mythbusters
- 01:20 Troy

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



- 03:00 Missing In Maui: A Disappeared Special
- 03:48 Web Of Lies
- 07:00 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 07:25 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 07:50 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 10:20 Reel Crime/Real Story
- 11:10 Heartbreakers
- 12:00 Web Of Lies
- 12:50 Web Of Lies
- 13:40 Web Of Lies
- 14:30 Web Of Lies
- 15:20 The Wives Did It
- 16:10 Murder Comes To Town
- 17:00 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 17:50 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 18:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 19:30 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 20:20 The Wives Did It
- 21:10 A Crime To Remember
- 22:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
- 22:50 The Vanishing Women
- 23:40 Vanity Fair Confidential
- 00:30 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion
- 01:20 Obsession: Dark Desires
- 02:10 The Vanishing Women

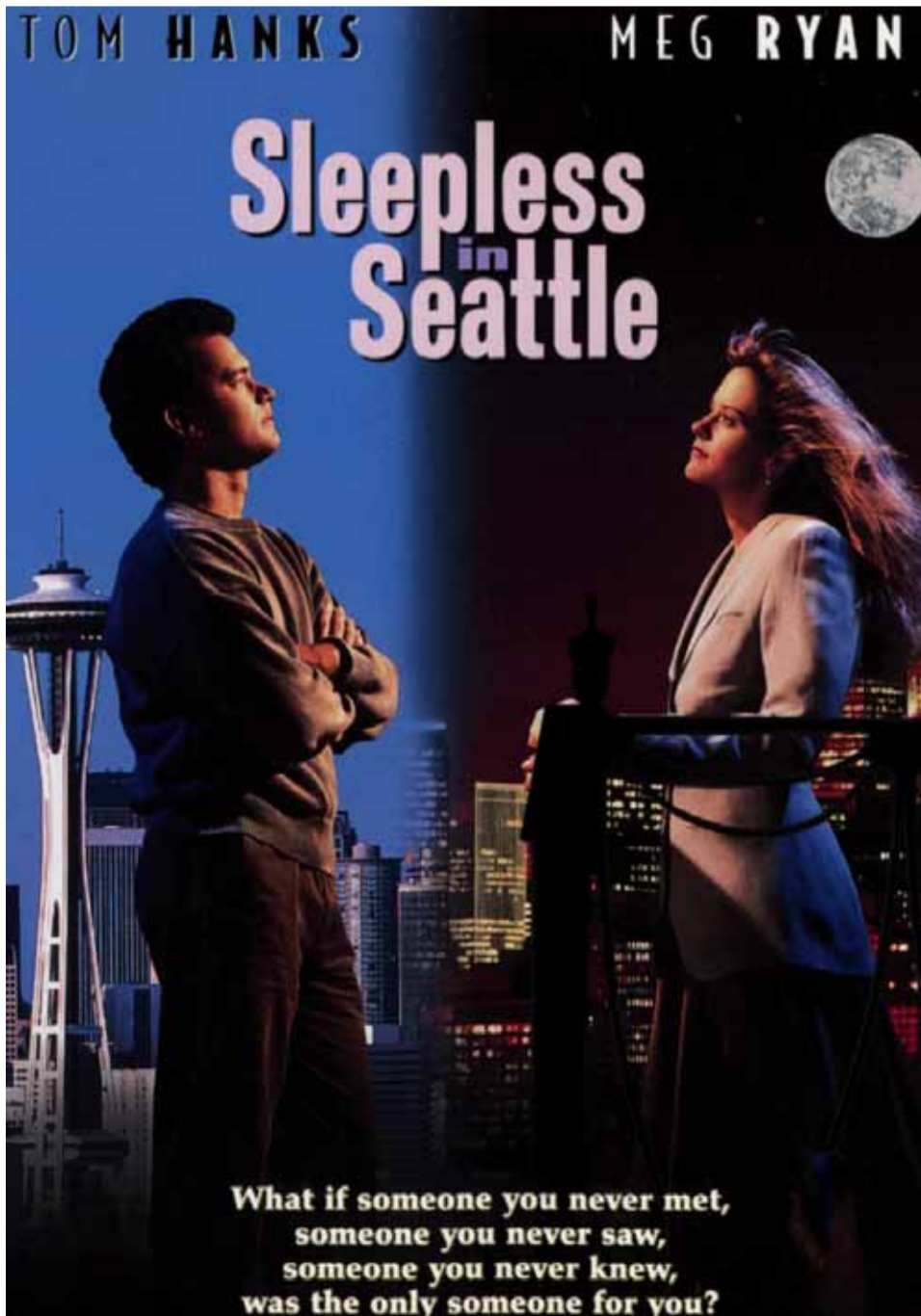


- 03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:20 Calimero
- 03:35 Zou
- 03:45 Loopedidoo
- 04:00 Art Attack
- 04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:35 Calimero
- 04:50 Zou
- 05:00 Loopedidoo
- 05:15 Art Attack
- 05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:50 Calimero
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:20 Loopedidoo
- 06:35 Art Attack
- 07:00 The Hive
- 07:10 Zou
- 07:25 Loopedidoo
- 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

- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:00 Violetta
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 Mouk
- 06:00 Hank Zipzer
- 06:25 Sofia The First
- 06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 06:55 Gravity Falls
- 07:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 07:45 Backstage
- 08:10 Bunk'd
- 08:35 Shake It Up
- 09:00 Hannah Montana
- 09:25 Hannah Montana
- 09:50 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 10:15 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 10:40 Good Luck Charlie
- 11:05 Good Luck Charlie
- 11:30 Jessie
- 11:55 Jessie
- 12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 12:45 Hank Zipzer
- 13:10 Austin & Ally
- 13:35 Austin & Ally
- 14:00 Liv And Maddie
- 14:25 Liv And Maddie
- 14:50 Dog With A Blog
- 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 Bad Hair Day
- 18:55 The 7D
- 19:05 Austin & Ally
- 19:30 Bunk'd
- 19:55 Jessie



- 03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 04:00 Man Fire Food
- 04:30 Man Fire Food
- 05:00 Chopped
- 06:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 07:00 Man Fire Food
- 07:30 Man Fire Food
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Barefoot Contessa



SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2016

- 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 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 21:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 22:00 Chopped South Africa
- 23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 23:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 00:00 Iron Chef America
- 01:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 02:00 Chopped South Africa



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



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



THE EXPENDABLES 3 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



- 03:30 Two And A Half Men
- 04:00 The Goldbergs
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 06:00 George Lopez
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:00 The Goldbergs
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:30 The Goldbergs
- 14:00 Two And A Half Men
- 16:00 Last Man Standing
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:00 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving
- 18:30 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving
- 19:00 2 Broke Girls
- 19:30 New Girl
- 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 21:30 Last Man Standing
- 22:00 It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia
- 22:30 Louie
- 23:00 Louie
- 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 01:00 Last Man Standing



- 03:00 The Leftovers
- 04:00 Generation Kill
- 05:00 The Fever
- 07:00 Walkout
- 09:00 Witness Protection
- 11:00 Conspiracy
- 13:00 Always Outnumbered
- 15:00 The Pentagon Wars
- 17:00 San Francisco 2.0
- 18:00 Any Given Wednesday With Bill Simmons
- 18:30 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
- 19:00 11.22.63
- 20:00 Six Feet Under
- 21:00 True Blood
- 22:00 Vinyl
- 23:00 Tell Me You Love Me
- 00:00 11.22.63
- 01:00 Six Feet Under
- 02:00 True Blood



- 03:00 Second Chance
- 04:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 The Art Of More
- 07:00 Devious Maids
- 08:00 The Blacklist
- 09:00 The Flash

- 10:00 Second Chance
- 11:00 Devious Maids
- 12:00 The Blacklist
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 Second Chance
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 The Blacklist
- 19:00 The Flash
- 20:00 Shark Tank
- 21:00 Suits
- 22:00 Downton Abbey
- 23:00 Outlander
- 00:00 Devious Maids
- 01:00 Suits
- 02:00 Downton Abbey



- 04:00 388 Arletta Avenue
- 06:00 The Expendables 3
- 08:15 Hercules Reborn
- 10:00 Breakdown
- 12:15 In The Name Of The King: The Last Mission
- 14:15 The Expendables 3
- 16:30 Pearl Harbor
- 20:00 Hours
- 22:00 John Wick
- 00:00 Mockingbird
- 01:30 Automata



- 04:00 Father Hood
- 06:00 Mr. Destiny
- 08:00 Romy And Michelle's High School Reunion
- 10:00 Father Hood
- 12:00 Space Dogs
- 14:00 Sleepless In Seattle
- 16:00 Romy And Michelle's High School Reunion
- 18:00 Sweet Home Alabama
- 20:00 We'll Never Have Paris
- 22:00 Ted
- 00:00 Are You Here
- 02:00 Sweet Home Alabama



- 03:00 The Disappearance Of Eleanor Rigby: Her
- 05:00 A Mother Betrayed
- 07:00 Before I Go To Sleep
- 09:00 Reach Me
- 11:00 A Mother Betrayed
- 13:00 A Valentine's Date
- 15:00 The Love Guide
- 17:00 Reach Me
- 19:00 Foxcatcher
- 21:15 Blue Ruin

- 23:00 Fury
- 01:15 Reach Me



- 03:15 College Road Trip
- 05:15 Tinker Bell And The Legend Of The NeverBeast
- 07:00 Dunston Checks In
- 09:00 Monsters University
- 11:00 Treasure Planet
- 13:00 Snow Dogs
- 15:00 Up
- 17:00 Paddington
- 19:00 Ice Princess
- 21:00 Dinosaur Island
- 23:00 Paddington
- 01:00 Ice Princess



- 03:00 What's Love Got To Do With It
- 05:00 Listen To Me Marlon
- 07:00 Prefontaine
- 09:00 The Guardian
- 11:15 Listen To Me Marlon
- 13:00 A Civil Action
- 15:00 Belle
- 16:45 The Guardian
- 19:15 Short Term 12
- 21:00 Tracks
- 23:00 God's Pocket
- 00:45 Belle
- 02:30 Short Term 12



- 03:00 Ricki And The Flash
- 05:00 Big Eyes
- 07:00 Jackie & Ryan
- 09:00 Ricki And The Flash
- 10:45 Avengers: Age Of Ultron
- 13:15 The Maze Runner
- 15:00 Barely Lethal
- 17:00 Hot Pursuit
- 18:45 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes
- 21:00 Far From The Madding Crowd
- 23:00 Kingsman: The Secret Service
- 01:15 Rage



- 04:15 Memory Loss
- 06:00 Snow Queen
- 08:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
- 09:45 Justice League: Attack Of The Legion Of Doom
- 11:15 Pixies

- 12:45 Delhi Safari
- 14:30 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 16:00 Kikoriki: Team Invincible
- 18:00 Justice League: Attack Of The Legion Of Doom
- 20:00 Earth To Echo
- 22:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 23:30 Kikoriki: Team Invincible
- 01:15 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
- 02:45 Earth To Echo



- 04:00 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart
- 06:00 The Last 5 Years
- 08:00 Song For Marion
- 10:00 Shadow Witness
- 11:45 The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
- 14:00 Step Up Revolution
- 16:00 Song For Marion
- 18:00 What If
- 20:00 Playing It Cool
- 22:00 Ex Machina
- 00:00 Love & Mercy
- 02:00 Song For Marion



- 04:00 Con Air
- 06:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic
- 08:00 Kill Bill: Vol. 2
- 10:30 Six Days, Seven Nights
- 12:30 Rob Zombie's Halloween
- 14:15 All's Faire In Love
- 16:00 Beyond A Reasonable Doubt
- 17:45 Hidalgo
- 20:00 Captain America: The Winter Soldier
- 22:15 The King's Speech
- 00:15 Face Off
- 02:30 10 Things I Hate About You



- 03:00 Switched At Birth
- 04:00 Making Mr.Right
- 05:00 Fit For Fashion
- 06:00 The Simpsons
- 06:30 The Simpsons
- 07:00 Bones
- 08:00 American Idol
- 09:00 American Idol
- 10:00 Private Practice
- 11:00 Switched At Birth
- 12:00 Making Mr.Right
- 13:00 Fit For Fashion

- 14:00 The Simpsons
- 14:30 The Simpsons
- 15:00 Bones
- 16:00 American Idol
- 17:00 Cougar Town
- 17:30 Cougar Town
- 18:00 Desperate Housewives
- 19:00 Desperate Housewives
- 20:00 The Secret Life Of The American Teenager
- 21:00 American Idol
- 22:00 American Idol
- 23:00 American Idol
- 00:00 Switched At Birth
- 01:00 Making Mr.Right
- 02:00 Desperate Housewives



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



- 03:40 Jacqueline Argentine
- 05:10 Vernon, Florida
- 06:10 Discovering: Lennon
- 07:00 Swedish Auto
- 08:40 Circles
- 10:30 Letter's From The South
- 12:15 Christmas, Again
- 13:35 The Fits
- 14:45 Battle For Britain
- 15:00 The Sunshine Boy
- 16:55 Painter's Progress
- 17:50 Swedish Auto
- 19:30 Glassland
- 21:00 Cathedrals Of Culture
- 21:30 Hollywood's Best Film Directors
- 22:00 Christmas, Again
- 23:20 The Fits
- 00:30 Circles
- 02:20 Bottled Up



- 03:00 Electra Glide In Blue
- 04:55 Fuzz
- 06:25 Big Screen
- 06:40 Crimes And Misdemeanors
- 08:25 Funny Thing Happened...Forum
- 10:05 Adventures Of Hercules
- 11:35 Big Screen
- 11:50 Alexander The Great
- 14:05 Puckoon
- 15:30 The Real Howard Spitz
- 17:15 Peggy Sue Got Married

WORD SEARCH

Animals 1

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

- | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|
| ALLIGATOR | GOAT | PELICAN |
| BARRACUDA | JACKAL | QUAIL |
| BISON | LEOPARD | REINDEER |
| CHINCHILLA | LLAMA | SLOTH |
| COUGAR | MEADOWLARK | SWORDFISH |
| DONKEY | MOOSE | TURKEY |
| EAGLE | OTTER | WOLF |
| FERRET | PARROT | |

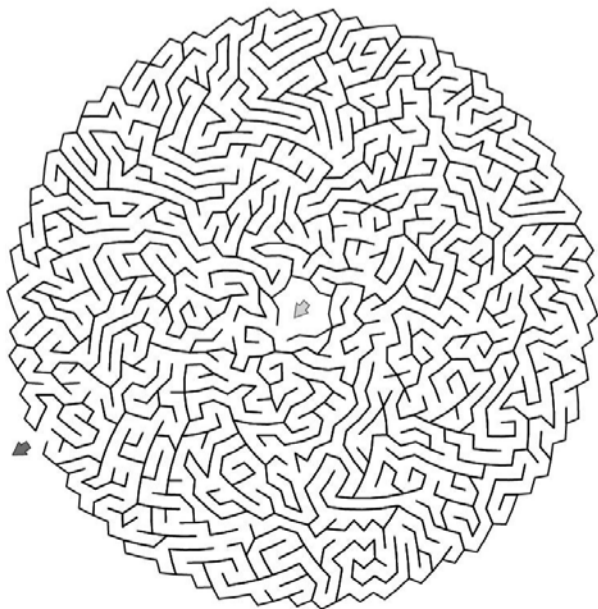
Yesterday's Solution

Fish 3 - Solution

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

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|------------|
| BASS | MACKEREL | SHEEPSHEAD |
| BLUEFISH | MARLIN | SNOOK |
| BONITO | PADDLEFISH | STEELHEAD |
| CISCO | PIKE | SUNFISH |
| CREVALLE | POMPANO | TILAPIA |
| GOLDFISH | ROCKFISH | TUNA |
| GRAYLING | ROOSTERFISH | WEAKFISH |
| HADDOCK | SHAD | |

CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1326

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15			16								17		
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73	74	75					76	77					
78					79		80			81			
82				83			84		85		86		
87				88							89		

ACROSS

- The compass point that is one point south of due west.
- An autonomous province of Georgia on the Black Sea.
- A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
- A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
- Avitaminosis caused by lack of thiamine (vitamin B1).
- The month following February and preceding April.
- The capital and largest city of Uganda on the north shore of Lake Victoria.
- (computer science) A measure of how densely information is packed on a storage medium.
- A fee charged for exchanging currencies.
- Having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude.
- According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
- The vertical triangular wall between the sloping ends of gable roof.
- Utter a high-pitched cry, characteristic of pigs.
- (Greek mythology) Son of Daedalus.
- Small genus of succulent annual herbs found on sandy shores of North America and Europe.
- Small drought-resistant sorghums having large yellow or whitish grains.
- Any plant of the genus *Erica*.
- Of or in or relating to the nose.
- Exactly vertical.
- A heavy silvery toxic univalent and bivalent metallic element.
- Any of several tall tropical palms native to southeastern Asia having egg-shaped nuts.
- An anticipated outcome that is intended or that guides your planned actions.
- The azimuth of a celestial body is the angle between the vertical plane containing it and the plane of the meridian.
- The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
- The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Thailand and Burmese borderlands.
- Soviet physicist who worked on low temperature physics (1908-1968).
- (Scotland) A small loaf or roll of soft bread.
- A doctor's degree in education.
- (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
- A set of rules or principles or laws especially written ones.
- (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- A dry scab formed on the skin following a burn or cauterization of the skin.
- The unit of plane angle adopted under the System International d'Unites.
- Form or weave into a braid or braids.
- Completely devoid of wisdom or good sense.
- Of or relating to the language of the Hebrews.
- (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- United States Film actress and daughter of Henry Fonda (born in 1937).
- United States musician (born in Japan) who married John Lennon and collaborated with him on recordings (born in 1933).
- Not upright in position or posture.
- The basic unit of money in Cambodia.
- (British) Your grandmother.
- Small voraciously carnivorous freshwater fishes of South America that attack and destroy living animals.
- A small cake leavened with yeast.

DOWN

- Flightless New Zealand rail of thievish disposition having short wings each with a spur used in fighting.
- (informal) Exceptionally good.
- The language of the nomadic Lapp people in northern Scandinavia and the Kola Peninsula.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- A logarithmic unit of sound intensity equal to 10 decibels.
- A village of huts for native Africans in southern Africa.
- An expression of greeting.
- A French abbot.
- United States comedian.
- Of or relating to located near the iris of the eye.
- The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
- A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- Lacking in liveliness or charm or surprise.
- Organized persecution of an ethnic group (especially Jews).
- A town in northern Egypt.
- A Mid-Atlantic state.
- A soft yellow malleable ductile (trivalent and univalent) metallic element.
- A fatal disease of cattle that affects the central nervous system.
- Indian religious leader who founded Sikhism (1469-1538).
- Of or relating to cilia projecting from the surface of a cell.
- A person who has received a degree from a school (high school or college or university).
- Date used in reckoning dates before the supposed year Christ was born.
- A river in southeastern France.
- Closed with a lace.
- Either of two large African antelopes of the genus *Taurotragus* having short spirally twisted horns in both sexes.
- A blood group antigen possessed by Rh-positive people.
- One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- The cry made by sheep.
- Marrow squash plant whose fruit are eaten when small.
- A town in western Washington.
- Depressing in character or appearance.
- Queen of England as the 6th wife of Henry VIII (1512-1548).
- A midwestern state in north central United States in the Great Lakes region.
- An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
- Marked by or showing unaffected simplicity and lack of guile or worldly experience.
- Accumulate on the surface.
- Diving ducks of North America having a bluish-gray bill.
- Region of western Asia Minor colonized by Ancient Greeks.
- A unit of dry measure used in Egypt.
- City in Sudan.
- A Russian river.
- Very dark black.
- (used of count nouns) Every one considered individually.
- An emotional response that has been acquired by conditioning.
- An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
- A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

ARMY SECRETARY SPREADING THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH

HONOLULU: Army Secretary Eric Fanning says the Army is paying more attention to behavioral health and making sure one who's injured while defending the nation gets the treatment they need. The Army and other military branches are conducting research into how military deployment affects anger, and they are encouraging mental health treatment before deployment to mitigate the effects of anger after soldiers return, he said. "There's a tremendous amount of research the Army's been doing, the military's been doing," Fanning said. "It's clear we have a lot of work left to do."

Fanning told The Associated Press on Wednesday he's concerned that two recent mass shootings involved military veterans, but he said the research doesn't show any cause and effect between military service and what happens after soldiers leave the armed forces. Earlier this month, Army reservist Micah Johnson shot and killed five Dallas police officers at a rally protesting the deaths of two black men by white police officers. Also in July, Gavin Long, a former Marine and Iraq war veteran, killed three law enforcement officers in Louisiana. Long's mother has told the PBS TV network that he had post-traumatic stress disorder.

There is no data that suggest veterans as a whole are more likely to commit crimes, said Major Chris Ophardt, public affairs officer for the Secretary of the Army, in an email. "We want to make sure that we are understanding any impacts that service might have," Fanning said. "We don't see that as being the cause." Fanning is in Hawaii as part of weekslong tour of military bases throughout the

Pacific region that includes stops in Guam, Malaysia, Japan, Alaska and other destinations.

Anger issues

He toured Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, which treats soldiers stationed in the Pacific, and met with doctors who treat men and women for issues like post-traumatic stress disorder. "Research was showing there are things we can do in advance to lay the groundwork before the deployment and after the deployment," Fanning said. "This would be a new way of looking at the anger issue that we haven't done before."

This month, researchers at Tel Aviv University released a study that found computerized training before deployment could help prevent flare-ups of post-traumatic stress disorder. The research team followed soldiers from basic training to combat and found that those who avoided potential threats presented on a computer screen were at greater risk for developing post-traumatic stress disorder. The study was conducted in collaboration with the Israel Defense Forces, the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and the National Institutes of Health.

Fanning wants to look at the stigma he said still exists about behavioral health. Seeking help is a sign of strength, not a sign of weakness, he said. "The brain is the most complicated organ in the body, and we go to specialists for everything else," Fanning said. "Why wouldn't we encourage people to seek specialists for any type of behavioral issues that they're having?" — AP



HONOLULU: Army Secretary Eric Fanning, right, tours Tripler Army Medical Center. — AP

LACK OF EXERCISE COSTS OVER \$67BN IN ANNUAL HEALTH TAB

PARIS: Health problems caused by a lack of daily physical exercise cost the world some \$67.5 billion (61 billion Euros) in 2013 — more than many countries' GDP, researchers said yesterday. The total was divided between \$53.8 billion in healthcare spending and \$13.7 billion in lost productivity, according to a study published in The Lancet medical journal. The research relied on economic and population data from 142 countries, representing 93 percent of the world's population, its authors said. But the figure was likely an underesti-

mate as the data covered only five diseases—coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, breast cancer and colon cancer—at least the percentage attributable to physical inactivity.

The "cost calculations are based on conservative estimates, and the true cost may be even higher," said a statement. The paper was the first to estimate the monetary cost of the global "pandemic" of inactivity, and was part of a special series timed for release ahead of the August 5 opening of the Rio Olympic Games. —AFP

CLINIC
PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT PAPER IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (28/07/2016 TO 03/08/2016)

SHARQIA-1
 ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 11:45 AM
 THE CONJURING 2 2:00 PM
 KANGAR HOBINA 4:45 PM
 KANGAR HOBINA 7:00 PM
 THE CONJURING 2 9:15 PM
 THE CONJURING 2 12:05 AM

SHARQIA-2
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D 1:00 PM
 KANGAR HOBINA 1:30 PM
 ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 3:30 PM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN 5:45 PM
 ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 8:00 PM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D 10:15 PM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN 12:30 AM

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

MUHALAB-1
 JASON BOURNE 12:15 PM
 JASON BOURNE 3:00 PM
 JASON BOURNE 5:30 PM
 ABU SHANAB 8:00 PM
 JASON BOURNE 10:15 PM
 JASON BOURNE 12:45 AM

MUHALAB-2
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN 11:30 AM
 FINDING DORY 2:00 PM
 FINDING DORY 4:15 PM
 THE CONJURING 2 6:30 PM
 THE CONJURING 2 9:30 PM
 THE CONJURING 2 12:30 AM

MUHALAB-3
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D 12:30 PM
 ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 2:45 PM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D 5:15 PM
 ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 7:30 PM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN 9:45 PM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN 12:05 AM

FANAR-1
 THE CONJURING 2 12:15 PM
 KANGAR HOBINA 3:00 PM
 KANGAR HOBINA 5:00 PM
 ABU SHANAB 7:15 PM
 KANGAR HOBINA 9:30 PM
 ABU SHANAB 11:45 PM

FANAR-2
 SUBMERGED 11:30 AM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN 1:30 PM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D 3:45 PM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN 6:00 PM
 ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D 8:15 PM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D 10:30 PM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN 12:45 AM

FANAR-3
 FINDING DORY 12:15 PM
 SUBMERGED 2:30 PM
 SUBMERGED 4:30 PM
 FINDING DORY 6:45 PM
 SULTAN- HINDI 9:00 PM
 SUBMERGED 12:15 AM

FANAR-4
 ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 12:00 PM
 ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 2:15 PM
 ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 4:45 PM
 THE CONJURING 2 7:00 PM
 THE CONJURING 2 9:45 PM
 THE CONJURING 2 12:30 AM

FANAR-5
 JASON BOURNE 11:30 AM
 JASON BOURNE 2:00 PM
 JASON BOURNE 4:30 PM
 JASON BOURNE 7:00 PM
 JASON BOURNE 9:30 PM
 JASON BOURNE 12:05 AM

MARINA-1

JASON BOURNE 12:30 PM
 JASON BOURNE 3:00 PM
 FINDING DORY 5:30 PM
 JASON BOURNE 7:45 PM
 JASON BOURNE 10:15 PM
 JASON BOURNE 12:45 AM

MARINA-2
 THE CONJURING 2 11:30 AM
 FINDING DORY 2:15 PM
 THE CONJURING 2 4:30 PM
 ABU SHANAB 7:15 PM
 THE CONJURING 2 9:30 PM
 THE CONJURING 2 12:15 AM

MARINA-3
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN 12:45 PM
 ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 3:00 PM
 ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 5:15 PM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN 7:30 PM
 NO FRI
 Special Show "THE LEGEND OF TARZAN" 7:30 PM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN 10:00 PM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN 12:30 AM

AVENUES-1
 FINDING DORY 11:45 AM
 KANGAR HOBINA 2:00 PM
 DISHOOM -HINDI 4:15 PM
 KANGAR HOBINA 7:00 PM
 KANGAR HOBINA 9:15 PM
 KANGAR HOBINA 11:30 PM

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

AVENUES-3
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 11:45 AM
 THE CONJURING 2 2:00 PM
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 4:45 PM
 THE CONJURING 2 7:00 PM
 THE CONJURING 2 9:45 PM
 THE CONJURING 2 12:30 AM

AVENUES-4
 ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 11:30 AM
 JASON BOURNE 1:45 PM
 FINDING DORY 4:30 PM
 ABU SHANAB 6:45 PM
 ABU SHANAB 9:15 PM
 NO MON
 Special Show "THE CONJURING 2" 9:00 PM
 MON
 JASON BOURNE 11:45 PM

360°-1
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D 12:30 PM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN 3:00 PM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D 5:30 PM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN 8:00 PM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D 10:30 PM
 THE LEGEND OF TARZAN 1:00 AM

360°-2
 ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 11:45 AM
 NOW YOU SEE ME 2 2:15 PM
 SULTAN- HINDI 5:00 PM
 SULTAN- HINDI 8:15 PM
 NOW YOU SEE ME 2 11:30 PM

360°-3
 FINDING DORY 12:45 PM
 FINDING DORY 3:00 PM
 FINDING DORY 5:15 PM
 FINDING DORY 7:30 PM
 LAMMA SHOFTAK (When I Saw You) 10:00 PM
 THE CONJURING 2 12:15 AM

AL-KOUT.1
 ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 12:30 PM
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 2:45 PM
 ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 5:00 PM
 ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 7:15 PM
 THE CONJURING 2 9:30 PM
 THE CONJURING 2 12:15 AM

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Pakistan Embassy in Kuwait requires the services of an

Receptionist-cum-Telephone Operator

Interested candidates, meeting the following criteria may apply:

- ◆ Minimum education qualification Higher Secondary School Certificate/ A-Level
- ◆ Must have good typing speed and proficiency in use of MS Word and MS Excel
- ◆ Proficient in English, Urdu and Arabic, written and spoken
- ◆ Relevant experience
- ◆ Must have transferable work visa

Interested candidates may send their CV at email parepkwait@mofa.gov.pk by 11th August, 2016.

ACCOMMODATION

1 room in a fully furnished CAC 3 bedroom flat is available for single individual with kitchen and drawing room facility in Ishbiliya Block 1. Indian/Pakistani Muslim is preferred. Contact: Afzal Shafi 99714430 (C 5193) 23-7-2016

FOR SALE

Chrysler 200 (2.4l), 29,500 km, sky blue, model 2013, excellent condition, diplomat's used car, KD 2,500. Contact: 99407427. (C 5194) 26-7-2016



Fajr: 03:36
Shorook 05:06
Duhr: 11:54
Asr: 15:30
Maghrib: 18:42
Isha: 20:09

PRAYER TIMINGS



Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381

Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2016



Smartphone sales drive up Samsung Q2 profit

EURO EQUITIES SLIP IN LINE WITH DOLLAR

PAGE 39

Page 41

ABK POSTS OPERATING PROFIT OF KD 44.2M SUSTAINED GROWTH EXPANSION STRATEGY DRIVES H1 PROFIT



Mr Talal Behbehani



Mr Michel Accad

KUWAIT: Keeping pace with Q1 2016, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced an operating profit of KD 44.2 million in the first half of 2016 compared to KD 42.9 million for the corresponding period in 2015, climbing 3% while sustaining a positive outlook for the Bank in the second half of the year. This is as a result of the Bank's expansion strategy into Egypt and continued growth momentum. This outstanding performance was recently recognized by Euro money for the 'Best Bank Transformation in the Middle East' based on ABK's 'Simpler Banking' strategy, and by The Banker, an FT affiliate, for the 'Deal of the Year' for the acquisition of Piraeus Bank Egypt. Net Profit dropped by 26.3 % which reflects strategic management actions under challenging market conditions by taking aggressive precautionary reserves.

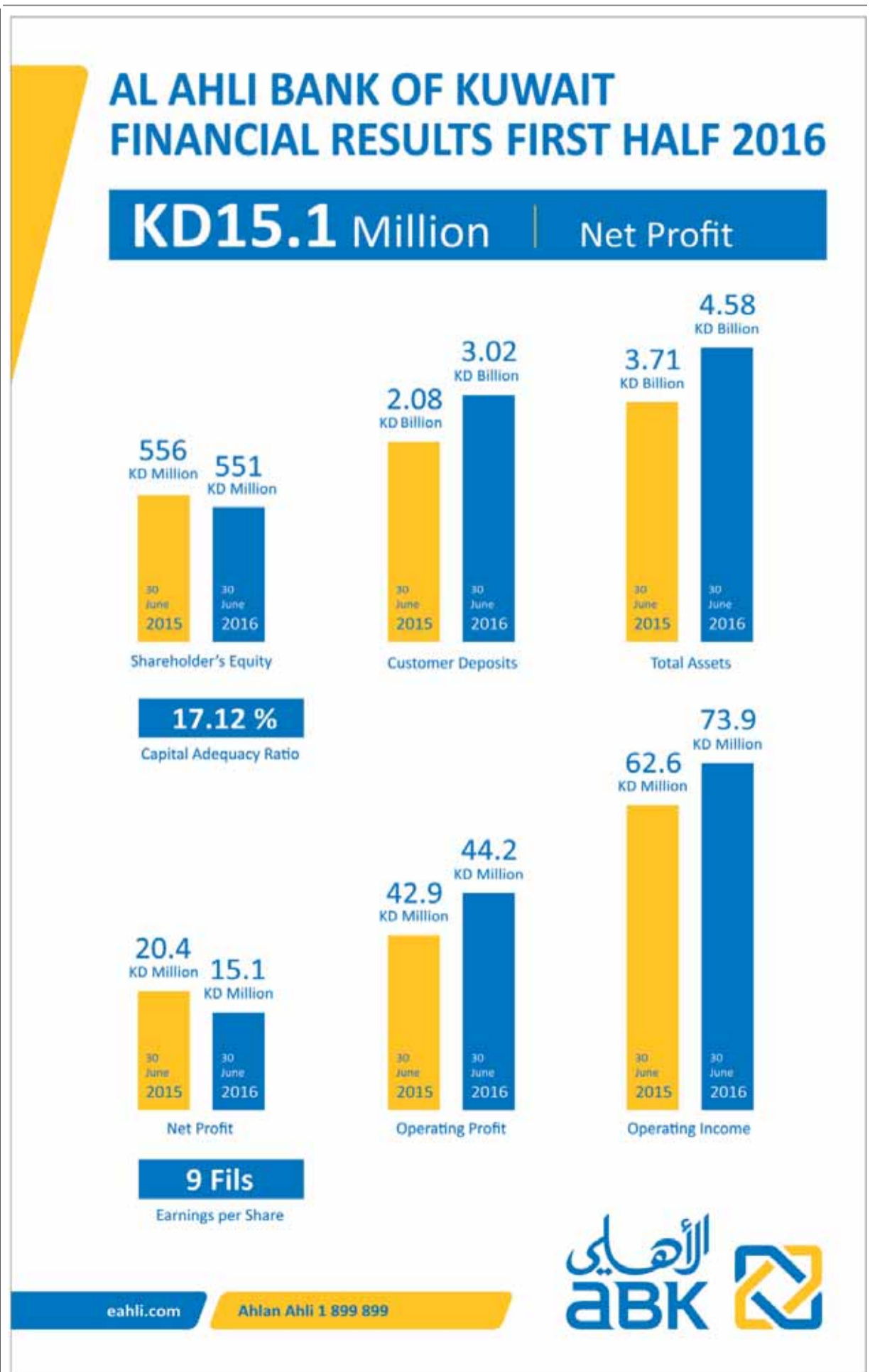
Commenting on the results, Mr Talal Mohammed Reza Behbehani, Chairman of Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, said, "We have recorded an overall positive performance with increased operating profits at 3 per cent year-on-year, which we are confident will continue in the future. We have also witnessed an increase of 45.3% in customer deposits year-on-year. The successful execution of our strategy and aggressive precautionary management measures taken are also a strong indication that the Bank is moving in the right direction and the Board has high expectations of improved financial performance for the year."

ABK received a number of additional awards reconfirming the Bank's performance, including : 'Bank of the Year' by Arabian Business Magazine, 'Retail Bank of the Year' by Asian Banker, 'Best Commercial Bank' by Banker Middle East, 'Retail Bank of the Year' by The European - a Thomson Reuter Affiliate and 'Employer of the Year' award from Naseba. Chief Executive, Michel Accad was also recognized as 'Banker of the Year' by Banker Middle East.

With the customer being at the forefront of the Bank's activities, Mr Michel Accad, Chief Executive Officer at Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, said: "We have taken confident steps to position the bank to face the current economic situation. We are now focused on ensuring we meet the needs of our customers by further improving our digital services, which will make banking a much safer, convenient and faster process. In addition, we are enhancing our banks in Kuwait, UAE and Egypt, where the name change approval has recently been granted and the rebranding process will begin."

In its drive to make banking simple, ABK has implemented numerous plans this year, including the 'Double Your Salary' campaign, which is a program that seeks to reward customers who transfer their salaries to the bank. In addition, ABK has evolved on a digital front with enhancements made in Touch ID on Mobile Banking, Caller ID recognition in the Contact Centre, Online Utility Bill Payments and Priority Queuing in the Contact Centre for VIP customers and International Callers.

Further maximizing the bank's reach across Kuwait with the expansion of the Banks Offsite ATM fleet by an increase of 25%, ABK is also focused on becoming more accessible to customers. It was also recently certified in the two newest Visa Innovative payment solutions; 'Verified by Visa' for enhanced online security and 'PayWave' tap-and-go payment functionality.



EGYPT EXPECTS TO GET \$2BN FROM IMF LOAN

CAIRO: Egypt expects to receive at least \$2 billion within two months of agreeing a three-year \$12 billion loan program with the International Monetary Fund, a senior finance ministry official said yesterday. Egypt announced late on Tuesday it was seeking \$4 billion a year over three years from the IMF to help plug a funding gap and restore market stability. The government hopes to finalize the deal when an IMF team begins a two-week visit to Cairo on July 30. The Egyptian economy has struggled since the 2011 uprising ended Hosni Mubarak's 30-year rule and ushered in a period of turmoil that scared off foreign investors and tourists - both significant earners of hard currency.

At a news conference yesterday, deputy finance minister for monetary policy Ahmed Kojak said that each tranche of the IMF loan would have to be repaid within five years, which will include a three-and-a-quarter year grace period. "If an agreement happens with the IMF we will receive the first tranche within two months, with a minimum \$2 billion." Egypt has already said it expects to secure the IMF lending program at interest rates as low as 1 or 1.5 percent. The country is also planning to issue \$2 billion to \$3 billion in international bonds in September or October.

Kojak said Egypt would next week begin seeking out international institutions to arrange that eurobond issue. He said the proposed IMF deal was only part of Egypt's program to turn around an economy. Egypt is also expecting the African Development Bank to approve in September the release of the second tranche of a \$1.5 billion three-year loan program signed in December, Kojak said. Egypt has already received the first \$500 million tranche. Finance ministry spokesman Ayman Al-Kaffas said the release of the next tranche hinged on Egypt implementing eight reforms including in the energy, power, trade and industry sectors. He said measures related to reforming the administration of public funds had already been completed by the finance ministry. "There is a meeting of the board of directors (of the AfDB) in September... Hopefully we will get the approval and receive the second tranche," Kaffas said.

Egypt plans to introduce a long-awaited fuel smart card system in the 2016-17 fiscal year which began this month, Kojak said. The cards are part of a wider effort to reform a subsidy programme that eats up a large chunk of public spending in a country with a budget deficit of 9.8 percent. When the IMF talks were announced, the finance minister said the government had decided to turn to the international lender after facing years of rising deficits and a funding gap. Egypt has obligations worth between \$7 billion and \$8 billion that it plans to repay this fiscal year, Kojak said. — Reuters

SABIC WEIGHS ON SAUDI INDEX

DUBAI: Riyadh's stock market edged down 0.4 percent yesterday as shares in Saudi Basic Industries, the country's top petrochemical firm, fell 2.4 percent after it posted lower second-quarter profits and cut its dividend. In Abu Dhabi, where the index was up 0.2 percent, shares in National Bank of Abu Dhabi lost 1.5 percent while First Gulf Bank gained 1.2 percent.

Both banks, which are expected to merge early next year, reported second-quarter profit drops broadly in line with expectations. SABIC reported a 23.2 percent drop in second-quarter net profit to 4.74 billion riyals (\$1.26 billion) because of lower selling prices for its products. The result beat the 3.92 billion riyal average estimate of analysts polled by Reuters. But SABIC, whose shares had risen in the past week on hopes for a positive earnings surprise, also said it would cut its dividend to 2 riyals per share for the first half of 2016 from 2.5 riyals a year ago.

Telecommunication operators Zain Saudi dropped 6.3 percent after it reported a net loss that widened to 329 million riyals in the three months to June 30. Analysts had on average forecast a 222.1 million.

The largest food group in the kingdom, Savola, tumbled 4.8 percent after it reported a 43.2 percent fall in second-quarter net profit and cut its dividend, citing higher operating expenses and financial charges. Dubai's index edged down 0.2 percent. Dubai-based courier firm Aramex jumped 3.4 percent after it reported a 36 percent rise in second-quarter net profit. — Reuters



LONDON: A bus passes a branch of Lloyds Bank. — AP

BREXIT SHOCK AFFECTS BRITISH JOBS, CONSUMER CONFIDENCE

LONDON: Shockwaves from Britain's vote to leave the European Union rocked the economy yesterday, with thousands of jobs lost at one of the country's biggest banks, consumer confidence plunging, and construction and car sales slowing. Preparing for a Brexit-related slowdown, Lloyds Banking Group said it would cut a further 3,000 jobs and one of Britain's biggest car dealerships, Inchcape, predicted growth in new car registrations would fall. "The public are still absorbing the EU referendum result but it is clear that consumer confidence has taken a significant and clear dive," said Stephen Harmston of the YouGov polling organisation.

A month after the referendum, the latest signs of an economic slowdown are likely to fuel expectations of action by the Bank of England on Aug. 4, when many economists believe it will cut interest rates and might start buying bonds again to pump money into the financial system. Lloyds, Britain's largest retail bank, said it aims to save 400 million pounds (\$530 million) by the end of 2017 by axing the jobs - on top of 4,000 positions it has already said it would cut from its 75,000-strong workforce - and by closing an additional 200 branches.

"Following the EU referendum the outlook for the UK economy is uncertain and, while the precise impact is dependent upon a number of factors including EU negotiations and political and economic events, a deceleration of growth seems likely," it said. The economy grew fairly robustly in the run-up to the vote but economists expect businesses and consumers to cut back after the referendum shock, although a dive in the pound has helped some companies which make most of their earnings abroad.

Tourism still strong

Rolls-Royce shares rose sharply after it forecast profits would improve in the second half of the year, helped by a pick-up in

deliveries of large aero engines. Drinks group Diageo, reporting higher sales, said it had not so far seen any impact from Brexit. The company is the world's biggest maker of Scotch whisky, which is mostly exported and would benefit from sterling's weakness.

Another winner was Merlin Entertainments, which runs tourist attractions such as Madame Tussauds waxworks and Legoland and expects to benefit from the lower pound attracting more foreign visitors to its British sites. But travel company Thomas Cook cut its profit target as the weak pound, together with attacks in Europe and a failed coup in Turkey forced British customers to change their holiday plans. An index of British consumer confidence plunged nearly five points to 106.6 in July - matching its biggest fall in six years and hitting its lowest level since 2013, polling firm YouGov and the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) said.

People are particularly worried about what will happen to the value of their homes, the survey found. The European Commission's consumer confidence gauge for Britain suffered its biggest monthly drop in July since January 1991, hitting its lowest level since June 2013. House price growth edged up in July but the data might not yet reflect any impact from the referendum because of a lag, mortgage lender Nationwide said. Britain's biggest lettings and estate agency company, Countrywide Plc, issued a profit warning, saying that commercial and London residential transactions had stalled after the Brexit vote.

Economists say spending by consumers offers the best hope that Britain can avoid a Brexit-related recession. But retailers said sales fell sharply after the referendum, according to a survey published on Wednesday. French advertising company JCDecaux said it would reduce investments in Britain, citing uncertainty about

the Brexit impact on the economy and advertising revenues.

Retailers under cosh

In construction, growth in activity slowed after the vote, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said. Contributors to a RICS survey predicted a 1 percent rise in workloads over the next 12 months, down from growth of 2.8 percent that they had foreseen in the first quarter. Britain's property market has been one of the worst hit sectors since the referendum with shares in housebuilders plunging while investors pulled out cash from commercial funds, forcing many to be suspended.

Construction firms cut back their forecasts for hiring, mirroring moves by British retailers who reported the fastest fall in full-time equivalent employment in two years in the second quarter, as the referendum approached. But a survey by the British Retail Consortium showed 93 percent of retailers intended to keep staffing levels unchanged in the next three months, compared with 83 percent in the second quarter of last year. A third survey published yesterday showed pay awards in Britain stuck in a slow gear.

Median pay settlements in the three months to the end of June were worth 1.8 percent for a third month in a row, after a two-year run when increases of 2 percent had become normal, according to XpertHR, an online human resources firm. "It remains to be seen how the uncertainty around the impact of the Brexit vote will feed through to pay settlements, but we are likely to see pay awards remaining subdued for many months to come," XpertHR's Sheila Attwood said. In a boost for the British government's drive to encourage investment post-Brexit, French state-owned utility EDF was expected to give the go-ahead later yesterday to an 18 billion pound (\$24 billion) nuclear power project in southwest England. — Reuters

CHINESE POLLUTERS TO FACE MORE RESTRICTIONS

SHANGHAI: Chinese firms guilty of exceeding emissions limits or building plants without environmental permits will face tougher punishments including credit bans and land use restrictions, the country's environmental ministry said late on Wednesday. China has been cracking down on polluting enterprises, raising fines and threatening criminal action against persistent offenders, but regulators have long struggled to impose rules on powerful industrial enterprises and local governments anxious to protect revenue and jobs.

The country has sought to beef up its tradi-

tionally underpowered environment ministry and spread the burden of enforcement to other agencies, including dedicated courts, police authorities and financial regulators. The Ministry of Environmental Protection said in a notice published on its website that it has signed a cooperation agreement with 30 government departments, including the central bank, to broaden the range of punishments for offenders as well as improve information sharing.

The 31 government departments will draw up a blacklist of offenders in order to create a

"unified punishment mechanism", the ministry's official publication, China Environmental News, said. Businesses or individuals that have seriously violated environmental rules would not be able to apply for new land, safety or business permits, and would not be able to get their products certified by customs. Preferential tax policies could be cancelled, and firms would also face restrictions when issuing bonds or making use of other financing tools. Some could also be restricted or banned from entering the market.

Earlier this month, the China Securities Regulatory Commission said that it would only allow companies that have a clean bill of environmental health for three full years to issue shares on local stock exchanges. "Environmental enforcement needs to be enhanced, but if they can be assisted by other stakeholders and other powerful departments, especially investors, banks and stock market regulators, it can provide a big help," said Ma Jun, director of the Institute for Public and Environmental Affairs, which campaigns against pollution. —Reuters

SHELL PROFIT DROPS ON LOW OIL PRICES

LONDON: Royal Dutch Shell's net profit collapsed in the second quarter on low oil prices, weak refining margins and production outages, the British energy giant said yesterday. Net profits sank 71 percent to \$1.175 billion in the three months to June, compared with \$3.986 billion in the same part of 2015, Shell announced in a results statement. Profit on a current cost-of-supplies (CCS) basis—which strips out changes to the value of its oil and gas inventories—slid 72 percent to \$1.045 billion in the reporting period.

That was almost half of market expectations for CCS profit of \$2.16 billion, according to Bloomberg News. A 25-percent rebound in Brent oil prices last quarter provided some relief, but the market hit three-month lows yesterday as rising US inventories sparked resurgent supply glut fears. "Downstream and integrated gas businesses contributed strongly to the results, alongside Shell's self-help program," said chief executive Ben van Beurden. "However, lower oil prices continue to be a significant challenge across the business, particularly in the upstream."

The downstream business includes refining, marketing and distribution, while upstream comprises exploration and production. Second-quarter production stood at 3.51 million barrels of oil equivalent a day, which missed forecasts of 3.63 million as output was hit by shutdowns in Canada and Nigeria. The recent slump in oil prices has pushed energy groups worldwide to slash spending and jobs, and sell off assets.

"We are managing the company through the down-cycle by reducing costs, by delivering on lower and more predictable investment levels, executing our asset sales plans and starting up profitable new projects," added van Beurden. "At the same time, integration of Shell and BG is making strong progress, and our operating performance continues to further improve." The company completed in February a £47-billion takeover of BG Group, in a deal aimed at strengthening Shell's position in the liquefied natural gas (LNG) market.

"Our investment plans and portfolio actions are focused firmly on reshaping Shell into a world-class investment case through stronger, sustained and growing free cash flow per share," said van Beurden. In late morning deals, Shell's 'B' shares sank 3.73 percent to 2,026.50 pence on London's FTSE 100 index, which fell 0.12 percent to 6,742 points. "Shell followed BP's lead from earlier in the week to post a wince-worthy 72-percent slide in profits thanks to the continued weakness of oil and gas prices," said Spreadex analyst Connor Campbell. — AFP

TURKISH TOURISM PLUMMETS IN JUNE

ANKARA: The number of foreigners visiting Turkey plummeted more than 40 percent in June, official data showed yesterday, marking the biggest drop in at least 22 years as tensions with Russia and a series of deadly bombings kept tourists away. Tourist arrivals fell 40.86 percent year-on-year in June, with 2.44 million people arriving during the month, data from the Tourism Ministry showed. It was the biggest drop on record, according to the data, which goes back to 1994. The previous record was set in May, when tourist arrivals fell 34.7 percent. Tourism has been hit hard by tensions with Moscow after Turkey shot down a Russian jet over Syria last year. While Ankara and Moscow have recently started to rebuild ties, tourist arrivals from Russia dropped 87 percent in the first six months of the year, the data showed. — Reuters



NEW YORK: In this Wednesday, May 4, 2016, file photo, trader Edward Curran, right, works near the post that handles CBS Corp. on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. — AP

EURO EQUITIES SLIP IN LINE WITH DOLLAR

LONDON: European stocks and the dollar slid yesterday after the Federal Reserve held interest rates and indicated it would take a slow, measured approach to any hikes. Markets also digested a barrage of company results, including from Britain's Lloyds Banking Group, Rolls-Royce and Royal Dutch Shell, as well as France's Carrefour, BNP Paribas and Renault, and Germany's troubled Volkswagen.

London drifted 0.3 percent lower, while in the Eurozone, Frankfurt dipped 0.2 percent and Paris lost 0.3 percent in value. Tokyo meanwhile led most Asian markets lower on worries over the size of the Bank of Japan's expected stimulus announcement due Friday. In early morning London foreign exchange deals, the European single currency jumped to a near two-week dollar high at \$1.1119.

"The US dollar is sliding today despite some slightly hawkish shifts in the monetary policy statement last night, as the market was likely expecting more to suggest that a rate rise was imminent," said

analyst David Cheetham at London brokerage XTB. The Federal Reserve held borrowing costs overnight, but noted the world's top economy had improved and expressed less fear about the impact of Britain's vote to leave the European Union last month.

The meeting followed a string of positive readings—particularly on jobs growth and key consumer spending—that has fanned speculation of a tightening in monetary policy despite weakness in most other global economies. "Whilst rate hikes are seen by many as negative for stocks, an increase at present from the Fed would represent a show of faith in the US economy," Cheetham told AFP.

"In raising the Fed funds rate by 25 basis points the central bank would be giving a vote of confidence to the economy and in doing so suggest that its robust enough to continue to perform well even in a higher rate environment. "The lack of speed possibly reveals a lack of faith that the economy and markets can withstand

a rate rise," he said, adding that this was weighing on sentiment. In Frankfurt, Volkswagen shares went into reverse, dropping 1.9 percent to 125.30 euros after the scandal-struck German carmaker said second-quarter profits dived 57 percent to 1.15 billion euros (\$1.3 billion).

Earnings were weighed down by almost 2.5 billion euros of special items, mostly related to 2015's diesel emissions cheating scandal. In Paris, Carrefour topped the fallers board, shedding 4.1 percent to 22.73 Euros. The French supermarket giant said half-year net profits tumbled 40 percent to 129 million Euros, hit by low fuel prices, currency fluctuations and restructuring costs. Auto manufacturer Renault slid 2.6 percent to 77.54 Euros, despite posting a record first-half net profit of 1.5 billion Euros, up 7.5 percent from a year earlier on strong sales of new cars. The group cautioned however that it was "much too early" to say what the impact of Brexit would be on the company. —AFP



SINGAPORE: A Government of Singapore Investment Corporation (GIC) sign (L) is seen on the facade of the Capital Tower building. — AFP

SINGAPORE WEALTH FUND WARNS OF TOUGH INVESTMENT DECADE

SINGAPORE: Singapore multi-billion-dollar sovereign wealth fund GIC yesterday reported a substantial dip in returns and warned of "difficult" global investment conditions over the next decade. GIC said in a statement its annualized rate of return, excluding global inflation, for the past 20 years fell to 4.0 percent in the year to March 2016, from 4.9 percent in 2015, adding future returns will be challenged by uncertainties caused by the low-yield environment.

"These difficult investment conditions can stretch for the next 10 years," said Lim Chow Kiat, deputy group president and chief investment officer. "GIC is prepared for this protracted period of all-time low interest rates, modest global growth prospects and high valuations of financial assets," he added. In the face of a global slowdown, most central banks around the world—with the notable exception of the US Federal Reserve—have cut or are considering cutting borrowing costs as they look to ramp up inflation and kickstart their economies.

GIC, formerly known as the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation, manages Singapore's foreign reserves with a focus on long-term performance. It does not disclose the exact value of its portfolio, saying only that it has "well over US\$100 billion of assets" in more than 40 countries, including real estate, equities and fixed-income investments. The US-based Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute says GIC has \$344 billion of assets under management, making it the world's eighth largest.

GIC says 34 percent of its portfolio is in the United States, 20 percent in Asia outside Japan and 11 percent in Japan. Singapore's other global investment company, Temasek Holdings, this month said its global portfolio suffered its first annual drop since 2009 at the height of the global financial crisis. Temasek announced that the value of its global assets was Sg\$242 billion (\$180 billion) by March, down nine percent from last year's record Sg\$266 billion. — AFP

NEW GIG ECONOMY ARRIVES IN CHINA

BEIJING: China's Cabinet issued its first rules for ride-hailing and told local officials yesterday to promote the booming industry, confirming the legal status of Uber Technologies Inc. and local competitors following run-ins with regulators. The Cabinet document sets guidelines for registration, fares, employment of drivers and payments. It said details for each city will be decided by local authorities but told them to "encourage, support and guide" the industry.

China is one of a series of markets where Uber and competitors have grown fast but faced legal challenges to their business model, which lets customers summon a car using a smartphone app. Uber's offices in several Chinese cities were raided last year by police who accused it of operating unlicensed taxi services. Taxi drivers have protested over competition from such services. Regulators last year banned Uber and Chinese competitors led by Didi Chuxing from using drivers without taxi licenses. The services adapted by working through vehicle-rental companies. Yesterday, Uber and Didi Chuxing said they welcomed the rules and the official endorsement of the industry. "The rules legalized online car-booking services at the national level for the first time, marking a milestone in China's endeavor toward steady and healthy development of the rideshare industry," Didi Chuxing said in a statement. — AP

REGULATORS PROPOSE OVERHAUL OF DEBT COLLECTION INDUSTRY

NEW YORK: The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau proposed a massive overhaul of the multibillion dollar debt-collection industry yesterday, which would restrict collectors from calling numerous times a day, require them to have more documentation on what's owed, and give people more ability to dispute their bills.

It would be the biggest overhaul of the debt collection industry since Congress passed the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act nearly 40 years ago. Regulators estimate roughly 70 million Americans are contacted by debt collectors each year, and more Americans submit complaints to state and federal agencies about unfair or deceptive practices than any other part of the consumer financial system.

"This is about bringing better accuracy and accountability to a market that desperately needs it," said CFPB Director Richard Cordray. Like payday loans and so-called binding arbitration agreements — two parts of the US financial system that the CFPB has proposed regulating more tightly — the new proposals from are likely to be resisted strongly by the industry and its allies in Washington. Under the proposed rules, debt collectors would first have to more substantially prove a debt is valid before starting collection. Collectors typically find business by buying large databases of past-due loans and credit cards for pennies on the dollar, but those databases can include loans discharged in bankruptcy or some too old to legally collect.

'Tear off'

The changes would affect only third-party debt collectors. The CFPB has yet to propose rules that would impact first-party debt collection practices, such as credit card companies and payday lenders. Once a debt is considered valid, the new rules would limit a collector to no more than six communication attempts per week. If someone wants a



RICHMOND: In this March 26, 2015, file photo, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director Richard Cordray speaks during a panel discussion. — AP

collector to stop calling a certain number, such as a workplace, the new rules would make it easier to request that.

If a consumer disputes the debt's validity, the proposals would require collectors provide clearer and easier ways for that person to challenge it. That would include a proposed "tear off" portion of a collection notice where someone can specify why the amount is wrong or why the debt is invalid, or allowing consumers to start disputing the debt over the phone. Right now, most disputes must be handled in writing.

Collectors would be required to pause if a consumer disputes a debt, until they collect enough evidence to substantiate it. If the debt is sold, the new collector would inherit the dispute and would still have to provide validation, the CFPB says. This would solve a major source of complaints by consumers that collectors can harass them

over debts that are in dispute already.

An advocacy group praised the CFPB for tackling the issue, but said the proposal does not go far enough. Margot Saunders with the National Consumer Law Center said the rules are overly complicated and still lets debt collectors rely on databases that may be inaccurate. The CFPB proposals do not address or increase the penalties that abusive debt collectors could face.

The CFPB is also proposing a 30-day waiting period for loans tied to a person who has recently died, stopping all collection attempts from a surviving spouse or child during that period. The agency will hold a hearing Thursday in Sacramento, California, to discuss the proposed rules. This is the first step in CFPB's rulemaking process. Once formal rules are written, likely later this year, the public will have 90 days to comment before they go into effect. — AP

US JOBLESS CLAIMS RISE

WASHINGTON: The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits rose more than expected last week, but the underlying trend continued to point to sustained labor market strength. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits increased 14,000 to a seasonally adjusted 266,000 for the week ended July 23, the Labor Department said yesterday. Claims for the prior week were revised to show 1,000 fewer applications received than previously reported. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast initial claims rising to 260,000 in the latest week. Claims have now been below 300,000, a threshold associated with a healthy labor market, for 73 consecutive weeks, the longest stretch since 1973.

Prices of US Treasuries were unchanged after the data. US stock futures were trading lower and the dollar was weaker against a basket of currencies. The claims data tend to be volatile around this time of the year when automobile manufacturers normally idle assembly lines for retooling. Some, how-

ever, often keep production running, which can throw off the model the government uses to strip out seasonal fluctuations from the data.

A Labor Department analyst said there were no special factors influencing last week's claims data and only claims for Hawaii and Puerto Rico had been estimated. The four-week moving average of claims, considered a better measure of labor market trends as it irons out week-to-week volatility, fell 1,000 to 256,500 last week, the lowest level since April.

The Federal Reserve said on Wednesday the labor market had "strengthened" and that nonfarm payrolls and other job market measures pointed to some "increase in labor utilization in recent months." The US central bank left interest rates unchanged amid concerns over persistently low inflation. The economy added 287,000 jobs in June, the largest increase this year. Labor market strength is fueling consumer spending, which in turn is spurring faster economic growth.

According to a Reuters survey of economists, the government is expected to report on Friday that gross domestic product increased at a 2.6 percent annual rate in the second quarter after rising at a 1.1 percent pace in the January-March period. Yesterday's claims report showed the number of people still receiving benefits after an initial week of aid increased 7,000 to 2.14 million in the week ended July 16. The four-week average of the so-called continuing claims fell 7,000 to 2.14 million, the lowest level since November 2000.

The continuing claims report covered the survey week for July's unemployment rate. The four-week average of continuing claims fell 9,750 between the June and July survey periods. That, together with a survey on Tuesday showing an improvement in households' perceptions of labor market conditions, suggests the unemployment rate could decline this month after rising two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.9 percent in June. — Reuters

SMARTPHONE SALES DRIVE UP SAMSUNG Q2 PROFIT

SEOUL: Solid sales of its flagship smartphone and an aggressive cost-cutting drive saw Samsung Electronics yesterday post a better-than-expected gain in net profit for the second quarter. The giant South Korean conglomerate said its key mobile division enjoyed “substantial earnings improvement” in the April-June period led by expanded sales of its high-end Galaxy S7 and S7 Edge phones.

Industry trackers estimate that the world’s largest smartphone maker has sold about 26 million units of the S7 since it hit stores in March ahead of launches by competitors, including arch-rival Apple. The mobile division accounts for the lion’s share of Samsung’s business, but it has been increasingly squeezed by competition both from Apple’s iPhone and by lower-end devices from Chinese rivals such as Huawei. Samsung’s overall net profit for the second quarter stood at 5.85 trillion won (\$5.2 billion), up 1.7 percent from the previous year and slightly above analyst estimates.

Marketing costs down

Operating profit was up nearly 18 percent at 8.1 trillion won, Samsung said in an earnings statement, reflecting a sizeable cut in mobile marketing costs — partly due to the underwhelming performance of the iPhone. The Samsung earnings came two days after Apple announced a 27 percent second quarter profit slump on a sharp drop in sales of its iconic handset.

Television and component sales were also strong in the April-June period, Samsung said, with increased profits among premium product ranges. “Looking ahead to the second half of 2016, the company expects its solid performance to continue... mainly driven by earnings increase in the component business due to sales growth in high value-added products,” the statement said. It also flagged a likely rise in mobile division marketing costs with the launch of its latest outsized Galaxy Note smartphone next week. The Note series has never had as much of a sales impact as the S-series smartphone, and there will be increased competition with a new iPhone set for release later in the year.

Currency concerns

Greg Roh, an analyst at HMC Investment, said a steady strengthening of the South Korean currency could also eat into profit margins. “It will be harder for Samsung in the third quarter because of the stronger won and an increase in marketing costs,” Roh said. “The key point will be whether components-like semiconductors-will be able to make up for the loss in profits from finished products,” he added.

Sustained profit gains from the company’s cheaper smartphones, such as the J series, also helped to boost Samsung’s mobile earnings in the second quarter. Operating profit at the mobile unit rose to 4.32 trillion won from 2.76 trillion won a year ago. Operating income at the semiconductor unit was 2.64 trillion won, compared with 3.40 trillion won a year earlier, as weaker demand pressured component prices. The chip unit had helped buttress Samsung’s profit margins when the mobile business went into a protracted slump from late 2014.

The world’s number-two chipmaker has dominated production of faster, larger-capacity chips using a technology called 3D NAND. Samsung was the first to mass produce chips using the technology and is producing the high-margin chips-used in mobile gadgets and hard drives for servers-at its factories at home and in China. —AFP



SEOUL: Middle school students try out Samsung Electronics’ Galaxy S7 Edge smartphones at the company’s showroom. — AP

PRESSURE FOR BOJ EASING INTENSIFIES

TOKYO: Political pressure on the Bank of Japan to expand stimulus today is intensifying with the economy minister calling on the bank to work with the government to boost economic growth. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sent a “powerful message” by announcing a 28 trillion yen (\$267 billion) stimulus package on Wednesday, Economy Minister Nobuteru Ishihara was quoted as saying by Japanese media hours after the announcement. The figure was larger than markets had expected.

“I think people at the BOJ will take that into account and make an appropriate decision. I think (BOJ Governor Haruhiko) Kuroda understands that the world is watching,” he said in a television appearance on Wednesday evening, the Kyodo news agency reported. The remarks suggest the earlier-than-expected announcement of Abe’s economic package was an attempt by the government to pressure the BOJ into expanding stimulus at a two-day rate review ending today.

“Abe’s announcement is a squeeze play on the BOJ. The BOJ has to move now. It is unavoidable,” said Hiroaki Muto, an economist at Tokai Tokyo Research Center. “There is a growing sense that the BOJ cannot move the market on its own, which is part of the reason why the government wants to combine fiscal and monetary policy.”

Inflated package

Abe’s announcement of the package boosted Japanese stocks on Wednesday and reinforced market expectations that the BOJ will match fiscal stimulus with another dose of monetary expansion. But

the package is inflated by 15 trillion yen of loans from quasi-government financial institutions, loan guarantees and subsidies to private firms, sources briefed on the matter told Reuters. Direct fiscal spending would be only around 7 trillion yen, just a quarter of the total package, the sources said, which could disappoint some market players expecting bigger outlays.

Another 6 trillion yen will be for a fiscal loan and investment program aimed at spurring private-sector spending such as for construction of a “maglev” train line. Japan’s Nikkei average declined more than 1 percent yesterday as the initial hype over Abe’s package fizzled. The market’s attention is now squarely focused on the BOJ.

There is near-consensus in markets the BOJ will sharply cut its inflation forecasts and further ease policy by expanding its already massive asset-buying program and possibly cutting interest rates deeper into negative territory. But the central bank appears in little mood to deploy radical steps to overwhelm hyped-up market expectations, even if it were to ease.

Many BOJ policymakers prefer to hold off on easing today, worried about the growing risks of further asset purchases, which are drying up bond market liquidity. But Ishihara’s remarks suggest that political considerations may nudge the BOJ into action, even as it struggles to revive the economy with dwindling ammunition. Sources familiar with the deliberations say finance ministry officials have been pressuring the BOJ behind the scenes to ease today to drive borrowing costs even lower. —Reuters

LG’S TV PROFITS UP BUT MOBILE IN RED

SEOUL: LG Electronics Inc said yesterday its second-quarter net income jumped 19 percent thanks to strong sales of high-end TVs and home appliances that outweighed another quarterly loss in its handset business. Its April-June earnings came in at 268.51 billion won (\$238.59 million), on sales of 14 trillion won (\$12.44 billion).

LG said its TV and home appliance divisions reported the strongest results in the company’s history. The TV business saw higher profit even as its sales and shipments dropped due to lower sales in emerging markets. Instead, its portion of premium models, such as the OLED TV, went up, boosting profitability. The company expected that demand for the high-end TVs would be robust during the current quarter. But its mobile phone division was in the red for a fifth straight quarter despite the company’s ambitious launch of the G5 smartphones.

Initially, the G5 received positive reviews with its modular designs that feature a bottom that pops out and can be swapped in with other hardware. But LG failed to increase sales of flagship phones. Its overall smartphone shipment declined from last year. LG’s mobile phone division lost 153.5 billion won (\$132.1 million) during the quarter. The company’s handset business has never been profitable since April last year and it quickly lost market shares to up-and-coming Chinese phone makers. The company said its mobile division’s performance will improve in the next quarter with the launch of its V series smartphones, which feature a large screen, and more mid- and low-end models. — AP

MULARKEY BELIEVES TITANS RIGHT FIT AS NFL COACH

NASHVILLE: Coach Mike Mularkey warned the Tennessee Titans' 10 draft picks. They better study hard because he planned to call on them during a team meeting the next day to test their knowledge of the playbook and didn't want any rookie embarrassed. Sure enough, Mularkey brought the rookies in front of their teammates where he pulled a surprise by asking them to spell instead of questions about pass protections and quarterback blitzes.

A spelling bee in an NFL team meeting? Titans defensive coordinator Dick LeBeau had never heard of such a thing in his 57 years in the league, but Mularkey got what he wanted. The spelling bee left the Titans laughing for days, especially the memory of one rookie misspelling "physical," while also ensuring Tennessee's newest players pored over their playbooks.

"I think outside the box all the time of what can I do differently that will keep them constantly on edge and keep thinking," Mularkey said. Being hired as an NFL head coach even once isn't easy. And third chances are pretty rare, and Mularkey and his career 18-39 record has gotten just that

in Tennessee after two seasons with Buffalo and one in Jacksonville. Titans controlling owner Amy Adams Strunk saw enough of Mularkey as he finished the final nine games last season as interim coach to give him the job after interviewing a handful of coaches in January. Her decision made Mularkey the 16th man hired as a permanent coach of three or more NFL teams since the NFL-AFL merger in 1970. He joined Seattle's Pete Carroll and John Fox of Chicago as the league's current coaches with their third different team. And both Carroll and Fox have coached in multiple Super Bowls.

"I must be doing something right that people believe in me and trust in me to take over their team and lead it," Mularkey said. "And I'm very confident in my ability. I think I'm very good at what I do regardless of records or personal comments from people that don't know me very well." A ninth-round draft pick in 1983 out of Florida who played nine NFL seasons at tight end for Bud Grant in Minnesota and Chuck Noll in Pittsburgh, Mularkey believes his diligent note-taking kept him around much longer than skill or his surgically repaired knees should have

allowed. When Strunk fired Ken Whisenhunt on Nov. 3 last season, one of the first things Mularkey did was start checking the notes taken in meetings. After a full offseason, Mularkey is seeing better answers to his questions. "In team meetings, I call it rapid fire. ... I'll pop them a question that they need to know immediately in front of their teammates without looking at their notes, and it's been pretty impressive, especially the rookies," Mularkey said. "I've picked on them a lot this offseason, and I think they've already been forewarned: 'You better be prepared when you come in that team meeting room.'"

Competition starts every morning during the team meeting usually pitting receivers versus defensive backs, offense against defense and special teams. "Whatever he has in store for us, we never know," wide receiver Kendall Wright said. "We're just ready for it. It makes you think. It makes you go home and study stuff because you never know what he's going to do." Linebacker Wesley Woodyard, who said NFL players love to compete even at rock, paper, scissors, understands what Mularkey is trying to achieve. "If you have the mindset 'I have to compete

against this guy across from me and I have to beat him and I have to win,' it definitely translates onto Sundays," Woodyard said. "Me, I can only speak for me just being a linebacker that's made his career off of competition. It brings the best out of everybody, and we welcome it." Yet as a head coach, Mularkey has only one winning season to his credit - his first when he went 9-7 in Buffalo in 2004. He resigned after going 5-11 in 2005 and was fired in Jacksonville after going 2-14 in 2012 with a new owner who wanted to rebuild. Now he's trying to turn around a franchise that has had one winning season since last reaching the playoffs in 2008.

Mularkey believes the Titans are the right team at the perfect time for him. "I'm happy with what's going on here," Mularkey said. "There's a lot of good things that are different than any of the previous two places I've been a head coach, and I'm excited."

"I'm a little bit different in the sense that if there's anything I'm trying to have a little more fun with the players, that they enjoy coming into work every day. We work hard, we work really hard, but we also are going to have fun doing it." — AP

TEAM USA LOOK TO SWEEP GOLDS IN RIO

TORONTO: Team USA will be without many star players in Rio due mainly to concerns over Zika and injuries, but such is the depth of the country's basketball talent that they are expected to cruise to a third consecutive gold medal.

The lengthy list of American players opting to skip the Aug. 5-21 Rio Summer Games for one reason or another is a who's who of the basketball world and includes such titans like LeBron James, Stephen Curry and Russell Westbrook. But while the Rio-bound men's roster may not match up with the U.S. "Dream Team" from the 1992 Games that included 11 future Hall of Fame players, they possess everything needed to reach the top of podium again without much of a challenge. The field of 12 for the men's tournament has been set and the United States, powered by Olympic gold medalists Kevin Durant and Carmelo Anthony, are in Group A along with France, Venezuela, Serbia, China and Australia.

While that may present a tougher set of group games for Team USA compared to most years, they still appear too deep to be upset by perennial contender France, led by Tony Parker, or pesky Australia, powered by Andrew Bogut. Spain, runners-up at the last two Olympics, are expected to dominate Group B play and perhaps represent the toughest challenger for the United States, a team they have pushed on several occasions.

But the current squad does not appear as dominant given a decline in form of 36-year-old power forward Pau Gasol and the absence of his younger brother Marc, 31, who was unable to recover from a broken foot in time.

That could open the door in Group B for Croatia and Lithuania. In the women's competition, the U.S. team will look to cap a two-decade run of domination by seeking a sixth consecutive Olympic gold medal.

Since settling for bronze at the 1992 Barcelona Games, the Americans have gone on a 41-game winning streak and own the longest gold medal streak in any women's Olympic team sport.

The United States have won seven of the 10 gold medals in women's basketball at the Olympics—the other three were won by the Soviet Union/Unified Team—and will be powered in Rio by four-times Olympic gold medalists Diana Taurasi, Sue Bird and Tamika Catchings. — Reuters

DAY, MCILROY AMONG EARLY STARTERS AS PGA BEGINS

SPRINGFIELD: World number one Jason Day, four-time major champion Rory McIlroy and five-time major winner Phil Mickelson were poised to make morning charges at Baltusrol as the 98th PGA Championship began yesterday.

Sunny skies greeted the early starters from the field of 156, the strongest lineup of talent in any event based on world rankings since their 1986 creation. The 7,428-yard, par-70 layout features only two par-5 holes, those at 17 and 18 to ensure drama and eagle chances to the end. Defending champion Day has struggled in the run-up to the year's final major tournament with only a Wednesday practice round, an illness and a hospital trip after his wife Ellie suffered an allergic reaction after the Champions Dinner on Tuesday.

"I really don't look at it as a title defense," Day said after having taken his first major title last year at Whistling Straits. "I really look at it as I need to come back in, try and execute a game plan and try and win the tournament. I won it last year."

That was fantastic and I need to focus on what I need to do this year to win the Wanamaker Trophy again." McIlroy, playing alongside Day, won the Irish Open and has nine other top-10 showings in US and European Tour events this year, including a share of fifth at the British Open two weeks ago. "I feel like my game is in good shape," McIlroy said. "Everything is straight out in front of you. There's no real hidden secrets to it. That's what really let's me excel. I feel like I can play my game in PGA Championships. I can hit driver off the tee and from there, if I drive it well, I feel like I have a big advantage."

Mickelson, who completes the trio teeing off at the 10th hole 90 minutes after the opening shot, won the 2005 PGA at Baltusrol and comes in off his 11th runner-up showing in a major, hav-



SPRINGFIELD: Jason Day of Australia and caddie Colin Swatton wait on the 13th tee during the first round of the 2016 PGA Championship at Baltusrol Golf Club yesterday in Springfield, New Jersey. — AFP

ing lost a duel with Sweden's Henrik Stenson at the British Open. At 46, the US left-hander would be the fourth-oldest major winner if he claims the title. And it doesn't hurt that "Lefty" is a fan favorite in the metro New York area.

"It not only makes it fun to play but it also keeps my energy level up throughout the round when I have a tendency to make a mistake or two," Mickelson said. "It helps me overcome some of those mistakes. I'm very appreciative for the way people here have treated me." Other early starters include past PGA winners Vijay Singh, John Daly and Pádraig Harrington, South African four-time major winner Ernie Els, Americans Rickie Fowler and Zach Johnson, Japan's Hideki Matsuyama and Australian Adam Scott.

MAJOR WINNERS START LATE

Stenson, US Open winner Dustin Johnson of the United States and Masters winner Danny Willett this year's

major winners-tee off in the afternoon feature group off the first tee, with only three final trios behind them. Just in front of them are England's Justin Rose, American Patrick Reed and South African Louis Oosthuizen.

And the trio teeing off ahead of that offers two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson, another American in two-time major winner Jordan Spieth and Spain's Sergio Garcia, trying to win his first major title in his 73rd try and 70th consecutive major start dating to the 1999 British Open. "The only thing I can do is just keep giving myself chances and just wait for it. Hopefully it will happen," Garcia said.

"If it doesn't happen, it's not going to change my life. I'm not going to go in a cave and stay there until I die because I didn't win a major or anything like that. It's not that serious. 'I'm not going to lie. It would be nice to get at least one. But it's not the end of the world.'" — AFP

VENUS OPENS ROGERS CUP WITH BLOWOUT WIN

MONTREAL: Venus Williams opened play in the Rogers Cup on Wednesday with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over Barbora Strýcova.

Playing her last event before the Rio Olympics, the 36-year-old Williams finished off the overmatched Czech player in 58 minutes. Williams was coming a loss to Britain's Johanna Konta on Sunday in the final of the Bank of the West Classic in California.

"It was definitely more straightforward than some of our other matches," Williams said. "I'm never happy with my matches.

Even an easy scoreline is never enough. But it's about figuring out how to win instead of playing perfect."

The seven-time Grand Slam champion, seeded sixth, gave up 10 points in the 24-minute second set. The only hiccup for Williams was the seventh game of the first set. Up 4-2, she had her serve broken.

"I just needed to stay focused," said Williams. "A 4-4 is definitely different than a 5-3. But it wasn't necessarily a turning point, because there are matches where I've been

down and came back, and vice versa, so you realize that the match isn't over until it's over."

Williams will face Madison Keys in the first round. Keys beat fellow American Madison Brengle 6-4, 6-3. Konta also advanced, topping Vania King of the United States 7-5, 6-1.

Fourth-seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland beat Monica Niculescu of Romania 6-1, 7-5; seventh-seeded Roberta Vinci topped fellow Italian Camila Giorgi 2-6, 6-3, 6-4; and Slovakia's Kristina Kucova beat eighth-seed-

ed Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain 3-6, 6-4, 6-4. Hometown player Francoise Abanda tumbled out, falling 7-6 (2), 7-6 (3) to Ukraine's Elina Svitolina. The 19-year-old from Montreal pushed both sets to tiebreakers, but her service game let her down. Svitolina broke the Canadian twice in the first set, and four times in the second set in the second-round match.

Svitolina will face second-seeded Angelique Kerber of Germany or Mirjana Lucic-Baroni of Croatia. —AP

SEVEN-UP LEANDER HAS GAMES IN BLOOD

RIO DE JANEIRO: For India's Leander Paes, the Olympics run in the family and his record seventh appearance at the Games represents another landmark in a career which has straddled three bruising decades.

The 43-year-old jokes that he was even conceived during the Olympics-in 1972 in Munich where his father Vece played in India's bronze-medal winning hockey team and mother Jennifer played in the basketball. Paes himself went on to win a bronze medal in singles at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Four years later, he carried his country's flag at the opening ceremony of the Sydney Olympics.

"I love playing for the country. I love playing for our people," said Paes. Despite his fondness for playing for India, it has not always been an easy ride for Paes. The veteran has been paired with Rohan Bopanna in the men's doubles in Rio despite his higher-ranked partner wanting to play originally with Saketh Myneni. Paes was slotted in at the insistence of the All India Tennis Association (AITA) in a row which had echos of a farce before the 2012 London Olympics 2012. Back then, Mahesh Bhupathi was teamed with Bopanna in the men's doubles despite Paes being in the top 10. As part of a compromise, Paes, who had threatened to pull out of the Games, reluctantly played with Vishnu Vardhan in the men's doubles while being controversially teamed with Sania Mirza in the mixed. It was an unhappy experience all round.

MOVIE GANGSTER

Paes and Vardhan, who was ranked just below 300 in the world at the time, exited in the second round as did Bhupathi and Bopanna. Paes and Mirza made it to the quarter-finals in the mixed, losing to eventual champions Max Mirnyi and Victoria Azarenka. Despite the controversies, nobody can doubt Paes's longevity. He was a Wimbledon and US Open junior singles champion and world number one in the boys division in 1990. His bronze medal at Atlanta in 1996 was India's first in an individual event in more than 40 years.

But it is doubles where Paes has carved out his timeless career. He has 55 career titles, including eight Grand Slam men's doubles trophies — three alongside Bhupathi with whom his relationship has veered between cordial and ice cold-and 10 in mixed.—AFP



LONDON: This file photo taken on July 30, 2012 shows Leander Paes of India (L) hitting a volley during his men's first round doubles match with partner Vishnu Vardhan against the Netherland's Robin Haase and Jean-Julien Rojer for the 2012 London Olympic Games in Wimbledon, southwest London. —AFP



Andy Murray

NOTE PERFECT MURRAY READY FOR MORE OLYMPIC GLORY

LONDON: Andy Murray has revealed the secret behind the personalised notes that fuelled his Wimbledon triumph and will inspire his bid for more Olympic glory.

Murray was often seen reading a sheet of paper in breaks between games as he marched to a historic second Wimbledon title in July. The Scot offered a rare insight into the motivational scribbles after his success at the All England Club.

The 29-year-old, who has worked with a sports psychologist in the past, writes down important aspects of his game-plan to focus on during each match and sprinkles in inspirational reminders of his qualities.

As Murray prepares to defend the Olympics singles gold medal he won so memorably in London four years ago, the world number two will again turn to his notes for guidance in Rio.

"They're personal notes. Some of them stay the same the whole time. They're basic things I remind myself to do during the matches," Murray said. "When I play my best tennis I feel like I'm doing these things.

"They would be like, Make sure you're moving your feet when you're nervous. People have a tendency when

they're nervous to not move, not use their legs. "I think when I play my best tennis, I do this, X, Y and Z, whatever it is on the notes. Then I have some notes of the tactics for the match.

"Sometimes when you're in the heat of a second set tie-break in a slam final, it's easy to forget exactly what you're trying to do.

IMPERIOUS

"Sometimes I just look at the tactics that I've written down for the match. I refer to them at change of ends. I find it helps me." Murray's notes are typical of the perfectionist nature of the British star, who will travel to Brazil refreshed after a long break in the aftermath of his draining fortnight at Wimbledon.

His imperious march to the title culminated in a final victory over Milos Raonic which made him the first British man to win multiple All England Club crowns since Fred Perry in the 1930s.

Determined to recover mentally and physically in time for the Olympics, Murray opted out of Great Britain's Davis Cup quarter-final win over Serbia and also pulled out of the Toronto Masters 1000 event.

That will leave the three-time Grand Slam champion with no match action

under his belt since Wimbledon. Instead, Murray was due to fly to Mallorca to begin his Olympic preparations with a 10-day training camp including practice time with injury-plagued Spanish star Rafael Nadal.

For all Murray's success at the majors, the Olympics will always retain a special place. Having lost in a tearful Wimbledon final to Roger Federer, Murray returned to the All England Club weeks later to avenge that painful defeat.

Inspired by seeing Mo Farah and a host of other British athletes take gold on home turf, Murray routed Federer in the Olympic final-becoming the first British man to win the singles gold medal in tennis since 1908. He also earned a silver medal with Laura Robson in the mixed doubles.

It was a far cry from Murray's Olympic debut in 2008 when he suffered an embarrassing first round loss to Taiwan's Lu Yen-Hsun in Beijing. Murray has his sights set on taking home another medal from Rio.

"You obviously want to try to win a medal. Yeah, I'm looking forward to it," Murray said. "I love being involved in the Olympics, hopefully I can have a good run there."—AFP

WAGNER ON SONG WITH CAREER-BEST 6-WKT HAUL

BULAWAYO: Fiery seamer Neil Wagner claimed career-best test figures of six for 41 as New Zealand took complete control of the opening day of the first test against Zimbabwe at the Queen's Sports Club yesterday. The tourists bowled their hosts out for 164, with more than half the runs coming in an 85-run ninth wicket stand, before closing the day on 32 without loss.

Openers Martin Guptill (14 not out) and Tom Latham (16 not out) will resume in the morning with New Zealand just 132 behind, but day one belonged to Wagner, who produced fiery spells of fast bowling that targeted the bodies of the timid home batsmen.

Zimbabwe, playing their first test in almost two years, had elected to bat on what still looks a flat wicket, but after losing Brian Chari (four) to the second ball of the innings off the bowling of Tim Southee, found themselves 72 for eight soon after lunch.

South African-born Wagner did the damage, taking three wickets in an over as the Zimbabwe middle order struggled to find an answer to his lively bowling.

"It was a tough wicket (to bowl on) and we had to fight really hard to create some opportunities," Wagner told reporters. "The ball got a little soft and it was easier to bat then. It was hard graft for us."

Left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner (2-16 in 14 overs) did some early damage before Wagner accounted for debutant opener Chamu Chibhabha (15), caught at mid-wicket. Sean Williams (one) lobbed a catch to the same area, though he was convinced the ball had come off his helmet. With no review system for this series he had to accept the decision of Australian umpire Paul Reiffel.

Then came that explosive 33rd over as Wagner struck three times in five balls. Sikandar Raza (22) was another victim for mid-wicket and Regis Chakabva (0) nicked behind before home captain Graeme Cremer edged a rising delivery to short leg for a first-ball duck.

There was some belated resistance from Zimbabwe as debutant Prince Masvaure (42) and Donald Tiripano (49 not out) put on a patient 85 for the ninth wicket before the former was unlucky to be given out lbw to Southee.

Wagner ended the innings when he bowled Michael Chinouya for one to take his sixth wicket and earn test-best figures. — Reuters

SCOREBOARD

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe: Scoreboard at the close of play on the first day of the first Test between Zimbabwe and New Zealand yesterday:

Zimbabwe 1st Innings

B. Chari c Guptill b Southee	4
C. Chibhabha c Latham b Wagner	15
H. Masakadza c and b Santner	15
C. Ervine st Watling b Santner	13
S. Williams c Sodhi b Wagner	1
Sikandar Raza c Latham b Wagner	22
P. Masvaure lbw b Southee	42
R. Chakabva c Watling b Wagner	0
G. Cremer c Nicholls b Wagner	0
D. Tiripano not out	49
M. Chinouya b Wagner	1
Extras (lb2)	2
Total (all out, 77.5 overs)	164
Fall of wickets: 1-4 (Chari), 2-35 (Chibhabha), 3-35 (Masakadza), 4-36 (Williams), 5-72 (Ervine), 6-72 (Sikandar Raza), 7-72 (Chakabva), 8-72 (Cremer), 9-157 (Masvaure), 10-164 (Chinouya)	
Bowling: Southee 17-8-28-2, Boult 11-5-23-0, Santner 14-5-16-2, Wagner 20.5-8-41-6, Sodhi 15-3-54-0	

New Zealand 1st Innings

M. Guptill not out	14
T. Latham not out	16
Extras (nb2)	2
Total (for 0 wkts, 10 overs)	32
Still to bat: Kane Williamson, Ross Taylor, Henry Nicholls, Mitchell Santner, BJ Watling, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee, Neil Wagner, Trent Boult	
Bowling: Chinouya 4-0-10-0, Tiripano 3-0-13-0, Masvaure 1-0-2-0, Cremer 1-0-1-0, Sikandar Raza 1-0-6-0.	



PALLEKELE: Australia's captain Steven Smith delivers a ball during the third day of the opening Test match between Sri Lanka and Australia at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Pallekele yesterday. — AFP

MENDIS TON REVIVES LANKA HOPES AGAINST AUSSIES

PALLEKELE: A brilliant maiden century by Kusal Mendis helped Sri Lanka claw their way back into contention in the first Test against Australia yesterday and open up a 196-run lead before play was suspended early due to bad light.

At the close of play on the third day in Pallekele, Sri Lanka had reached 282 for six, with Mendis unbeaten on 169, as the hosts gained the upper hand in a gripping contest against the world's number one Test team. Mendis' knock was the highest score by any Sri Lankan against Australia at home and came after no player from either side had managed to even score a half century in the first innings.

Mendis, who came to the crease in the first over of the day after the early dismissal of Dimuth Karunaratne, hardly put a foot wrong in his 243-ball innings which has so far featured 20 boundaries. He played Australia's seamers with confidence before cutting loose against the spin bowlers with an array of boundaries. He reached his century in spectacular fashion when he slog-swept Nathan Lyon for six and then reached his 150 by cutting the same bowler for four. The 21-year-old, playing in his seventh Test, is closing in on the record score by a Sri Lankan against Australia and now only needs to overhaul Kumar Sangakkara's 192 at Hobart in 2007.

The visitors' bowlers struggled in the absence of spinner Steve O'Keefe who

pulled a hamstring, as first Dinesh Chandimal and then Dhananjaya de Silva gave Mendis some solid support.

Mendis and Chandimal put on 117 runs in their fifth wicket partnership. After Chandimal was out lbw for 42 off Marsh's bowling, the debutant de Silva then scored 36 in a partnership worth 71 before becoming Lyon's 200th Test victim, caught at long-on by Usman Khawaja. Sri Lanka only managed another eight runs before bad light and then rain brought an early end to proceedings for the third afternoon in a row but they now have an unlikely sniff of victory.

Starting the day on 6 for 1, still 80 runs behind the Australians, the hosts

were soon in even deeper trouble when Karunaratne was judged lbw against Mitchell Starc without adding to the overnight score. The hosts also lost their skipper Angelo Mathews and the opener Kaushal Silva in the morning session before Mendis launched the revival act. A total of 75 overs so far have been lost due to rain and bad light but the steady succession of wickets on the first two days means that the match is still expected to yield a result.

Adam Voges top-scored in Australia's first innings total of 203 all out in reply to Sri Lanka's score of 117. The match is the first in a three-Test series which will also see the Australians travel to Galle and then Colombo. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

PALLEKELE: Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and Australia in Pallekele yesterday:

Sri Lanka 1st innings 117 (D de Silva 24, K Perera 20; Josh Hazlewood 3-21, Nathan Lyon 3-12)
Australia 1st innings 203 all out (A. Voges 47; Rangana Herath 4-49, Lakshan Sandakan 4-58)

Sri Lanka 2nd innings (Overnight 6 for one)	Total: (6 wicket, 80 overs)	282
K. Perera lbw b Starc	4	Fall of wicket: 1-6 (Perera), 2-6 (Karunaratne), 3-45 (Silva), 4-86 (Mathews), 5-203 (Chandimal), 6-274 (de Silva)
K. Silva lbw b O'Keefe	7	
D. Karunaratne lbw b Starc	0	
K. Mendis not out	169	
A. Mathews c Burns b Lyon	9	
D. Chandimal lbw b Marsh	42	
D. de Silva c Khawaja b Lyon	36	
D. Perera not out	5	
Extras (lb 10)	10	
Bowling: Starc 12-4-44-2, Hazlewood 13-3-41-0, O'Keefe 16.2-3-42-1, Lyon 26-2-98-2, Warner 1-0-10-0, Voges 1.4-0-3-0, Marsh 9-1-33-1, Smith 1-0-1-0.		
To bat: Herath, Sandakan, Pradeep.		

BAEZ HITS 2-RUN HR, RUSSELL ADDS SLAM AS CUBS ROUT WHITE SOX 8-1

CHICAGO: Javier Baez hits a tiebreaking two-run homer deep into Wrigley's Field's left bleachers in the seventh and Addison Russell added a grand slam in a five-run eighth as the Chicago Cubs beat the White Sox 8-1 on Wednesday night. Jason Hammel (10-5) allowed one run and five hits while striking out seven in seven innings. Hector Rondon pitched a perfect eighth, and Aroldis Chapman worked a 1-2-3 ninth - striking out Jose Abreu and Avisail Garcia - in his Cubs debut. Baez went deep on a full-count pitch against Anthony Ranaudo (1-1) to chase the right-hander in his White Sox debut. Ranaudo didn't allow a hit until Kris Bryant's solo homer with one out in the sixth tie the score 1-1. Bryant's 26th homer matched his total last season when he was NL Rookie of the Year. After Ben Zobrist's RBI double in the eighth, Russell followed two hitters later with his 12th homer to help the Cubs end the White Sox's four-game winning streak. Ranaudo allowed three runs and two hits - both homers - in 6 2/3 innings and smacked an opposite-field homer in the fifth for his first major league hit. Chapman had 20 saves in 21 chances this season with the Yankees before the Cubs acquired the hard-throwing lefty on Monday for a package of prospects.

REDS 2, GIANTS 1

Jay Bruce homered in his career-high fifth straight game, connecting off Madison Bumgarner in Cincinnati's victory over slumping San Francisco. Bruce broke a 1-1 tie in the seventh inning with his sixth homer during his five-game streak and 25th of the season. The NL West-leading Giants got just four hits and lost for the ninth time in 11 games since the All-Star break. The last-place Reds are 8-4 over that stretch. Dan Straily (6-6) gave up three hits in 7 2/3 innings, and Tony Cingrani pitched a scoreless ninth for his 12th save. Bumgarner (10-6) allowed one earned run and five hits in eight innings, striking out nine. The Giants have lost six of his last eight starts. Conor Gillaspie hit a solo homer for the Giants in the second. San Francisco left fielder Angel Pagan dropped a flyball in the fifth, setting up Tucker Barnhart's tying sacrifice fly.

NATIONALS 4, INDIANS 1

Stephen Strasburg shut down Cleveland for seven innings and bounced back from his only loss this season, leading Washington past the Indians. Strasburg (14-1) began the season with 13 straight wins before he was beaten by the Los Angeles Dodgers on July 21. The powerful right-hander shook off that blemish, holding the Indians to three hits. Strasburg walked one and struck out seven. Washington rookie Trea Turner drove in three runs and Daniel Murphy hit his 20th homer off Carlos Carrasco (7-4). Murphy extended his hitting streak to 13 games with the towering shot. Nationals reliever Blake Treinen stopped Cleveland's threat in the ninth, getting a game-ending double play for his first major league save.

CARDINALS 5, METS 4

Yadier Molina and pinch-hitter Kolten Wong each had an RBI double in the ninth inning, and St. Louis rallied past New York to end Jeurys Familia's saves streak at 52 games. Yoenis Cespedes hit a go-ahead homer off Adam Wainwright to cap a three-run comeback in the seventh that gave the Mets a 4-3 lead. But then Familia, who hadn't blown a regular-season save opportunity since July 30 last year, finally faltered. Jedd Gyorko drew a one-out walk in the ninth and was replaced by pinch-runner Randal Grichuk. Molina hit the next pitch to deep center

field, and Grichuk scored to tie it. Molina was thrown out at third by Familia (2-2) on pinch-hitter Jeremy Hazelbaker's comebacker, but Hazelbaker stole second and scored when Wong lined a double just inside the left-field line. Familia's franchise-record saves streak was the third-longest in major league history behind Tom Gordon (54) and Eric Gagne (84). Jonathan Broxton (3-2) threw a scoreless eighth, and Seung Hwan Oh worked the ninth for his sixth save.

RAYS 3, DODGERS 1

Matt Moore pitched four-hit ball into the seventh inning, Evan Longoria hit a two-run homer and the Tampa Bay Rays won at Dodger Stadium for the first time. Luke Maile had an RBI double in a three-run fourth inning to help Tampa Bay wrap up a nine game West Coast road swing by snapping a four-game skid. The Rays were swept in a three-game series at Chavez Ravine in 2013, the only other time they've visited the Dodgers' hallowed home turf. Moore (7-7) struck out five and allowed an unearned run. Alex Colome pitched a perfect ninth for his 22nd save in 23 chances. Brandon McCarthy (2-1) lasted just four innings for the Dodgers in his first loss since Sept. 23, 2014.

TIGERS 4, RED SOX 3

Miguel Cabrera hit a tiebreaking home run in the ninth inning that bounced off the top of the wall and into Boston's bullpen, lifting Detroit past the Red Sox for a three-game sweep. James McCann also hit a solo homer, and Victor Martinez had four singles, a walk and drove in two runs for Detroit. The Tigers have won five of seven. Boston is the last major league team to be swept in a series of any length this season. Xander Bogaerts and Dustin Pedroia had solo homers for the Red Sox. They lost for the fifth time in six games to complete a nine-game homestand at 4-5. Bruce Rondon (4-2) got one out for the win. Justin Wilson got the final three for his first major league save. Brad Ziegler (0-1) took the loss.

ROCKIES 3, ORIOLES 1

Nick Hundley broke up Dylan Bundy's no-hit

bid with a sixth-inning homer, and Colorado used a strong pitching performance by Jon Gray to beat Baltimore. David Dahl hit his first major league home run in his third game for the Rockies. Colorado took two of three from the AL East leaders, has won six of seven and is 9-4 since the All-Star break. Manny Machado connected for the Orioles. Gray (7-4) outpitched Bundy (3-3) in a duel between rookie right-handers. Carlos Estevez got three straight outs for his 10th save.

ATHLETICS 6, RANGERS 4

Khris Davis homered twice, Coco Crisp also went deep and Oakland beat AL West-leading Texas. Oakland has won four consecutive series for the first time since May 2014. The A's are 9-4 since the All-Star break. Crisp's two-run homer in the eighth, on a 99 mph fastball from Matt Bush (3-2), put the A's up 4-3. Davis added another two-run shot, his 25th homer of the season, in the inning. Ryan Dull (5-2) threw 1 1/3 perfect innings in relief of Sean Manaea. Ryan Madson worked the ninth for his 22nd save. Rangers starter Yu Darvish, winless in his last nine starts against Oakland, stuck out six without a walk and departed with a 3-2 lead after six innings. Ian Desmond hit his 20th homer for Texas.

MARLINS 11, PHILLIES 1

Giancarlo Stanton hit a two-run homer in the first inning to lead a 16-hit attack in Miami's victory over Philadelphia. Stanton hit his 22nd homer in support of Adam Conley (7-5), who pitched around eight hits and three walks to throw 6 2/3 scoreless innings. Don Kelly, who began the game 1 for 22 this season, went 3 for 5 with two triples, two RBIs and two runs scored. That raised his average from .045 to .148. The Marlins' Ichiro Suzuki did not play and remained at 2,997 hits.

PADRES 8, BLUE JAYS 4

Adam Rosales hit a two-run home run, Alex Dickerson and Brett Wallace each hit solo shots and San Diego beat Toronto to avoid a three-game sweep. San Diego extended its club-record streak with at least one home run to 25 games. It's the longest run since 2002 Texas set

the major league record by homering in 27 straight. Luis Perdomo (5-4) allowed four runs and six hits in 5 2/3 innings. R.A. Dickey (7-12) was the loser. He has surrendered 26 home runs this season, tying Kansas City's Ian Kennedy and Chris Young for most in the majors. Melvin Upton Jr. made his first start for Toronto after being acquired from San Diego on Tuesday. He went 1 for 4 with a single.

PIRATES 10, MARINERS 1

Gerrit Cole threw a three-hitter for his first career complete game and slumping Andrew McCutchen had a three-run home run and two other hits in Pittsburgh's victory over Seattle. Making the 88th start of his four-year career, Cole (6-6) struck six and walked one while winning for the first time since May 20. McCutchen and Jung Ho Kang each had four RBIs to help the Pirates win for the sixth time in nine games. James Paxton (3-5) was the loser.

ASTROS 4, YANKEES 1

Lance McCullers struck out 10 in six innings, Colby Rasmus broke out of a slump with a two-run homer and Houston beat New York. Rasmus snapped an 0-for-29 skid when he sent an off-speed pitch from Masahiro Tanaka (7-3) into the seats behind the bullpen in right-center field to make it 4-0 with in the third. McCullers (6-4) allowed five hits and one run and tied a season high by fanning 10 for the second straight game. Ken Giles and Luke Gregerson pitched a scoreless inning each before Will Harris got his 11th save by striking out two in the ninth.

DIAMONDBACKS 8, BREWERS 1

Yasmany Tomas hit two home runs, Archie Bradley pitched seven innings and Arizona took advantage of Milwaukee's season-high five errors. Tomas had his fifth multihomer game of the season. He hit a three-shot off in the first and sliced an 0-2 pitch for a two-run homer in the fifth, both off of Jimmy Nelson (6-9). Bradley (4-6) allowed one run on four hits, walked three and struck out six. Brewers right fielder Kirk Nieuwenhuis had three errors, and shortstop Jonathan two.

ROYALS 7, ANGELS 5

Raul Mondesi had a bunt single for his first big league hit, with two runs scoring on the play on pitcher Matt Shoemaker's throwing error, and Kansas City beat Los Angeles. Shoemaker, who did not allow a base runner until the fifth inning, yielded singles to Alex Gordon and Paulo Orlando to start the seventh. Mondesi put down a bunt and beat the throw to first as the throw by Shoemaker (5-11) sailed into right field. Both runners scored and Mondesi wound up on third. Angels manager Mike Scioscia came out claiming interference, and after a review the call on the field stood. Scioscia officially protested the game. Joakim Soria (4-4) pitched a scoreless inning for the victory.

BRAVES 9, TWINS 7

Freddie Freeman homered, doubled and tied a career high with five RBIs and Atlanta held off Minnesota for a two-game sweep. Freeman went 4 for 4 with a walk. His 18th homer gave the Braves a 7-0 lead in the fourth inning. The Twins closed to 8-7 in the sixth on an RBI grounder by Joe Mauer. Nick Markakis singled home a run in the Atlanta eighth. Mike Foltyniewicz (4-4) got the win despite giving up seven runs and 12 hits in 5 1/3 innings. Jim Johnson pitched the ninth for his fourth save. Tyler Duffey (5-8) was chased in the second. — AP



CHICAGO: Anthony Ranaudo #45 of the Chicago White Sox hits a one run home run against the Chicago Cubs umpire Dale Scott #5 at Wrigley Field on Wednesday in Chicago, Illinois. The Chicago Cubs won 8-1. — AFP

N KOREA'S 'GUERRILLA' CAMPAIGN FOR GAMES GOLD

PYONGYANG: For isolated North Korea, the Olympic Games offer a rare opportunity to take to the global stage and compete for applause and prestige rather than censure and condemnation.

A virtual pariah state due to its nuclear weapons programme, the North has made international sporting success a strategic priority, with leader Kim Jong-Un as cheerleader-in-chief. North Korean athletes will compete in judo, wrestling, table tennis and other events in Rio, but their best hope of medals will come in the weightlifting.

While rival South Korea is an international sporting success, the North's sporting record has largely failed to fulfil its aspirations. Its brightest moment in the global spotlight came way back at the 1966 football World Cup when it pulled off a stunning upset by defeating Italy 1-0 on the way to the quarter-finals.

North Korea has competed in nine summer Olympics since Munich in 1972, but taken home only 14 gold medals. The four golds it won in 2012 in London—three in weightlifting and one in judo—equalled its best-ever tally.

'GUERRILLA' TACTICS

Since taking power following the death of his father Kim Jong-Il in late 2011, Kim Jong-Un has pushed for sporting progress with an at times militaristic fervour. In an open letter to the nation's athletes last year, Kim urged them to adopt "guerrilla-style" tactics to boost the nation's underwhelming impact on the global sporting stage.

Lamenting the fact that North Korea was "trailing behind the world", he promised to turn it into a sports powerhouse "within a few years". Andray Abrahamian, a North Korea specialist at Australia's

Macquarie University, said the country's highly structured society with its emphasis on participating in organisational life was primed for grooming top-class athletes. "The system is very good at spotting talent, which can then be developed at specialised sports academies and clubs. The best of the best are then very well resourced indeed," Abrahamian said.

Sporting accomplishment is seen as a valuable propaganda tool and investment is very selective, focusing on sports and events with a high global profile and a commensurate chance of success.

SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS

In 2013 the Pyongyang International Football School opened—a modern, well-equipped facility with Korean and foreign coaches and a 200-strong roster of 8-15 year-old, live-in students—hand-picked from schools and clubs across the

country. The brightest prospects are sent overseas, some of them to elite academies in Italy and Spain.

Six members of the North Korean team that won the 2014 Asia Under-16 championship—with a 2-1 victory over South Korea in the final—had trained in Europe. Success on the global stage brings individual rewards, with top performers earning the title of "People's Athlete" and gifts that include cars and a high-end apartment in Pyongyang.

Athletes competing overseas are expected to remain relentlessly on-message in crediting their achievements to state largesse.

"Winning a medal is a personal honour, but our athletes see it as a way of paying back the love of the party and the Dear Leader Kim Jong-Un," intoned Son Yong-Min, a director at the Tongil Sports Center in Pyongyang. — AFP

HOPES REST ON BOLT TO LEAD ATHLETICS OUT OF DOPING DARKNESS

RIO DE JANEIRO: What you need to know about athletics at the Rio Olympics: World athletics is counting on Jamaican superstar and six-time Olympic gold medallist Usain Bolt to lead the sport out of its darkest hour amid doping and corruption scandals. "I accept the man is a genius. He's probably the most recognisable sportsman or woman on the planet. It's a high-class problem. Many sports would really like to be discussing a Usain Bolt in their ranks: they don't and they can't," said IAAF president Sebastian Coe who still believes that other track stars deserve the Rio spotlight.

Organised athletics can be traced back to the Ancient Olympic Games from 776 BC. The rules and format of modern athletics events were defined in Western Europe and North America in the 19th and 20th century, and then spread to other parts of the world. Athletics forms the backbone of the Summer Olympics after being first included in the first modern Olympic Games in 1896, with women allowed to compete from 1928.

Athletics is overseen by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), founded in 1912, which has been plunged into its worst crisis by doping and corruption scandals affecting several countries and former leaders. "I feel the pain that we all feel at the moment because we love our sport. It's been painful to see where our sport is at the moment in public perception," IAAF president Sebastian Coe told AFP recently.

"Citius, altius, fortius" - "faster, higher, stronger", the Olympic ethos perfectly summing up athletics, which will feature 47 events (24 for men, 23 for women - they skip the 50km race walk) from the blue riband 100m to the marathon. Running from August 12-21, track and field will feature 2,000 athletes (1,100 men and 900 women), each country limited to three athletes for individual events and a maximum of six for the relays. The venue is the revamped 47,000-capacity Olympic Stadium, while the marathon will finish at the Sambodrome and the race walks take place alongside the Pontal beach.

Aside from Bolt, much attention will be on any Russian athletes who manage to get to Rio. Doping cheat 800m runner turned-whistleblower Yuliya Stepanova had hoped to compete as a neutral after being accepted by the IAAF.

But the IOC has said the Olympic Charter does not allow such a gesture even if they have invited Stepanova and her husband to Rio. Stepanova said the IOC decision was "unfair" and would put off future whistleblowers. US-based Russian long jumper Dariya Klishina has been cleared to compete. — AFP

RUSSIA'S DEPLETED OLYMPIC TEAM HEADS FOR RIO DE JANEIRO

MOSCOW: A depleted Russian team departed for the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro yesterday, missing dozens of athletes who were excluded amid the country's doping scandal. Team members left on a charter flight from Moscow's Sheremetevo airport to Brazil, a day after an emotional farewell ceremony with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin. More than 100 athletes from what was originally a 387-strong team have been barred from competing in Rio by international sports federations under sanctions which most Russian athletes consider unfair.

"We're after medals, that's it," handball player Anna Sen said as she prepared to board the flight. "We need to fight for those athletes who were disqualified." Volleyball player Sergei Tetyukhin, a four-time Olympic medalist, will be Russia's flagbearer for the opening ceremony in Rio, according to pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva. Isinbayeva, a two-time Olympic gold medalist, has become a de facto spokeswoman for Russian athletes excluded from the Olympics and gave a tearful address to the team in the Kremlin on Wednesday.

"Today, as never before, we need to stay united and become a family," the 40-year-old Tetyukhin said, ignoring what he called "provocations addressed at our team and our mighty country." No track and field athletes were among the contingent heading for Rio, since the entire track team is banned from competing, except for a single US-based long jumper, following revelations of widespread doping.

The track team did, however, attend the ceremonial farewell with Putin on Wednesday, when the Russian president branded restrictions on Russia as "pure discrimination." Hours after the plane carrying the Russian team took off, the track and field team gathered across town in a small stadium for what was billed as an Olympic consolation event.

World champions competed against regional-level athletes in front of around 150 spectators in an event hastily organized after the track team's ban was upheld by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) last week. Isinbayeva watched from the



MOSCOW: Russian Olympic team members attend a farewell ceremony for the Rio Games at Moscow's Sheremetevo airport yesterday. — AFP

sidelines, vowing defiance and legal action. "You can't break Russians," she said. "People have tried to break us down, but it's never worked ... What doesn't kill us makes us stronger." She added that she plans to file another appeal to CAS and also the European Court of Human Rights.

RESTRICTIONS

While Russia avoided a blanket ban from the games at a meeting of the International Olympic Committee board on Sunday, the IOC imposed new restrictions on Russia. International sports federations must now remove any athlete previously banned for doping or who was implicated in last week's McLaren report alleging a mass cover up of failed drug tests. Some federations have taken a tough line, with exclusions of much of Russia's team from events such as rowing, canoeing and swimming. Other sports, such as judo and tennis, have allowed the entire Russian team to compete in their sport. These rulings must still be ratified by the CAS. Some Russian athletes had flown to Rio in advance of the main delegation, including gymnasts and swimmers. Russia's head swim coach Sergei Kolmogorov told Russian agency R-Sport that swimmers barred from the games, including world 100-meter breaststroke

champion Yulia Efimova, were at a pre-Olympic training camp in Brazil in hope of a late reprieve to allow them to race in Rio.

Russia's weightlifting team has been dogged by doping cases and faced further embarrassment Wednesday when retests of samples from the 2012 Olympics saw four Russians, including three medalists, test positive. The entire lifting team risks being banned from the Rio Games because of the large number of failures in retests from the 2008 and 2012 Olympics. Putin last week called for the creation of a new state-backed anti-doping commission to draw up future strategy. In a clear sign of coordination, it was set up within hours under Vitaly Smirnov, a former Soviet sports minister and IOC member.

Smirnov told local media yesterday that the new commission would be independent of the government, despite containing several senior figures with links to the Kremlin. Smirnov also insisted the government was not involved in doping, despite allegations in World Anti-Doping Agency reports that Sports Ministry officials oversaw a mass doping program and a cover-up. "We will welcome the arrival of WADA and we rule out any attempts at interference by the state or other structures," he said. "In Russia there is not and never has been any state support for doping." — AP

FIFTY YEARS ON, 1966 WORLD CUP STIRS ENGLISH SENSES

PARIS: This Saturday marks 50 years since English football's finest hour, when Alf Ramsey's side beat West Germany 4-2 in an incident-packed 1966 World Cup final at Wembley. It was England's first and only World Cup triumph and, not surprisingly, is still recalled with passion and fondness.

The late Bobby Moore lifted the trophy, while Geoff Hurst became the only player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final which was full of incident and controversy, some of which still burns to this day.

When England started the 1966 tournament, the prospect of winning the title appeared a long way off. An opening goalless draw with Uruguay saw the team widely criticised, and their matches did not start to be sold out until the knockout stages.

Comfortable victories over Mexico and France saw England safely through to the quarter-finals, where Hurst's late header saw off 10-man Argentina in a bruising encounter at Wembley. The South Americans' skipper Antonio Rattin was sent off for "violence of the tongue". Ramsey described Argentina as "animals". Bobby Charlton's stunning brace then helped the hosts past a Eusebio-inspired Portugal 2-1 in the semis, before the thrilling final at Wembley on July 30, 1966. In front of 96,000 fans, Hurst was imperious in the air once more against West Germany to cancel out Helmut Haller's early opener, and Martin Peters' 78th-minute volley appeared to have won it for England.

And even though Wolfgang Weber stabbed in at the back post to force extra-time, Hurst grabbed what proved to be the winner. The West Ham United striker's shot hit the underside of the crossbar and didn't appear to cross the line, but the Swiss referee Gottfried Dienst consulted with the linesman Tofiq Bahramov and awarded one of the most hotly-contested goals in history. In Hurst's mind though, he still has no doubt that it was the right decision.

"I turned away to celebrate but it wasn't kidology. It was 2-2, in the World Cup final," he wrote in the Mail on Sunday last week.

"For me the clinching piece of evidence is Roger Hunt, wheeling away, instinctively, to celebrate. If you're not sure, you try to put it in and Roger didn't. It might have saved all this debate if he had, but I'm glad he didn't."

Hurst added his third in the dying moments, and the game, watched by an estimated 32 million television viewers, went down in English sporting folklore. Despite controversies both in the final and through-



LONDON: This file photo taken on July 30, 1966 shows England's national soccer team captain Bobby Moore holding aloft the Jules Rimet trophy as he is carried by his teammates following England's victory over Germany (4-2 in extra time) in the World Cup final 30 July 1966 at Wembley stadium in London. (From L : Gordon Banks, Alan Ball, Roger Hunt, Geoff Hurst - who scored three goals, Ray Wilson, George Cohen and Bobby Charlton). — AFP

out the competition helping them on their way to glory, England have not had as good a team since. The best chance they had of repeating the feat was probably four years later in Mexico with largely the same side, but they blew a 2-0 half-time lead to lose to West Germany in the quarter-finals.

There were the 1990 World Cup and Euro 96 heartbreaks to German teams in semi-final penalty shoot-outs. 1966 remains the only time England have played in a major final. Earlier this month Sam Allardyce became the 12th manager since Ramsey was sacked in 1974 to be tasked with leading

England to international triumph, after Roy Hodgson was the latest to come unstuck in an embarrassing Euro 2016 exit to minnows Iceland.

Perhaps all the failures in the last half a century have helped keep the 1966 final so vividly recalled. Few are more poignant than those of Tina Moore, the wife of the England captain who died from cancer in 1993 at the age of 51. "I can still see Bobby climbing the steps, wiping his hands so as not to soil the Queen's white gloved hand. I recall laughing and thinking only Bobby would do such a thing, forever the gentleman," she recalled. — AFP

FABREGAS SEES RED AS CHELSEA BEAT LIVERPOOL

PASADENA: Chelsea's Cesc Fabregas was sent off for a reckless lunge at Liverpool new boy Ragnar Klavan, overshadowing a 1-0 win for the Blues in a friendly at the Pasadena Rose Bowl here Wednesday.

The Premier League giants locked horns in the pre-season International Champions Cup in a match which was more remarkable for its clumsy fouls than free-flowing football.

Spanish midfielder Fabregas, 29, could have no complaints as he got his marching orders in the 70th minute for sliding late into Klavan with his studs up. By then Californian referee Baldomero Toledo had already been forced to show yellow cards to four Liverpool players—with another to come—and one to Chelsea's Gary Cahill.

It was the England defender who got the 53,000 crowd going in the 10th minute when he rose above several Liverpool defenders to connect with a Fabregas corner for an all-too-simple header. Liverpool looked the more enterprising side for much of the game, creating chances and dominating possession, but they lacked a cutting edge up front with striker Daniel Sturridge deemed unfit.

Liverpool's best chance came in the first half when Willian gave away a throw inside his own half and left-back Alberto Moreno was played in down the left. The 24-year-old Spaniard cut it back for Roberto Firmino, who got the ball stuck under his feet and couldn't pull the trigger. The striker had a goal ruled offside minutes later after finishing off a gorgeous exchange of back-heel passes.

Liverpool pushed for an equalizer in the later stages, but they were unable to break down a deep-lying Chelsea defense.

The International Champions Cup is an exhibition tournament involving 17 clubs playing on four different continents, all tuning up for their league seasons.

Sturridge did not join Liverpool's traveling party to Southern California, staying at their base in Palo Alto to complete extra training sessions. Reds fans had been hoping to see Georginio Wijnaldum after the Netherlands international became the club's sixth summer signing following his arrival from Newcastle, but he was left out. The £25 million (\$33 million, 30-million-euro) buy is on an intense training programme designed to ensure he reaches the fitness levels of the rest of the squad, according to the Liverpool Echo.

Also missing were Belgian forward pairing Christian Benteke and Divock Origi, who are focusing on fitness after extended leave following their involvement in Euro 2016. — AFP

DORTMUND FACES MAN CITY AS TRANSFER RUMOURS SWIRL

SHENZHEN: Borussia Dortmund boss Thomas Tuchel takes a philosophical approach when it comes to dealing with the distraction of off-season transfer speculation that keeps swirling around his club.

"I can't predict the future," shrugged the German, on the eve of his clash with Manchester City at the Shenzhen Universiade Stadium. The two European heavyweights might be in China, half a world away from where they usually ply their trade, but that has not stopped the transfer rumour mill from grinding away back home.

Reports stemming from Europe of a host of players coming in and out of both clubs have been mostly dismissed by officials,

who are trying instead to focus players' attention on preparations ahead of domestic seasons that kick off next month.

Tuchel was responding to reports from Germany—which have been denied—that Dortmund's 27-year-old Gambonese star Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang might soon be on his way out. Media have suggested he could be heading to Manchester City or Real Madrid.

"Right now he is our player, he stays our player," said Tuchel. "He is a huge personality for us." Fresh from a breakout season of 39 goals in all competitions for Dortmund, Aubameyang scored against Manchester United in his club's 4-1 win in Shanghai last Friday. He has since flown back to Germany

to spend time with his wife before she gives birth. Aubameyang said he was misquoted in a report saying he had a desire to leave Dortmund and opt for Spanish giants Real. "There is no deal with Madrid. The only thing I said is that I promised my grandad I would play there some day, nothing more," he told the BeIN Sports network.

Dortmund, last season's Bundesliga runners up, have also been linked to Liverpool star Moussa Sissoko, though those reports have not been confirmed. Manchester City has said they have no official response to reports they are about to push their off-season spending spree over the 100 million British pound (\$130 million) mark.

Everton's John Stones is the latest player

reported to be "on the verge" of joining the Sky Blues before the English Premier League season kicks off next month.

Others apparently in the mix include German winger Leroy Sane, Colombian forward Marlos Moreno and 19-year-old Brazilian striker Gabriel Jesus.

Tuchel is hoping some time away from home might help his players keep level heads despite all the off-season madness floating around. "If you stand in front of a hotel, like we did in Shanghai, and you meet a guy who tells you he travelled 26 hours just to come there to stand there for 24 hours in front of our hotel, it changes something in you," said Tuchel. "It keeps your feet on the ground." — AFP



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Russia's depleted Olympic team heads for Rio de Janeiro

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MOSCOW: Russia's National Olympic team members attend the farewell ceremony before Russian team's departure to Rio Olympics, in Moscow's Sheremetyevo, Russia, yesterday. — AP