

SUBSCRIPTION

Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2016

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HILLARY CLINTON MAKES HISTORY, BLASTS TRUMP

ACCEPTING NOMINATION, CLINTON OFFERS 'CLEAR-EYED' VISION



Min 35°
Max 49°



PENNSYLVANIA: Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton celebrates on stage after she accepted the nomination during the fourth and final night of the Democratic National Convention at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. — AFP

PHILADELPHIA: US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton cast herself as the steady leader at a "moment of reckoning" for America, contrasting her character with what she described as a dangerous and volatile Donald Trump. In the biggest speech of her quarter century in politics, Clinton on Thursday accepted the Democratic presidential nomination for the Nov 8 election with a promise to make the United States a country that worked for everyone. "We are clear-eyed about what our country is up against. But we are not afraid," she said.

She presented a sharply more upbeat view of the country than her rival Trump offered when Republicans nominated him last week, and even turned one of Republican hero Ronald Reagan's signature phrases against the New York real-estate developer. "He's taken the Republican Party a long way, from 'Morning in America' to 'Midnight in America,'" Clinton said. "He wants to divide us - from the rest of the world, and from each other."

Clinton portrayed Trump as a threat to the country, saying "a man you can bait with a tweet is not a man we can trust with nuclear weapons." Vying to be the first woman elected US president, Clinton called her nomination "a milestone." "When any barrier falls in America, for anyone, it clears the way for everyone. That's why when there are no ceilings, the sky's the limit," the 68-year-old Clinton said. On Friday, she will hit the campaign trail with her running mate, US Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia. The two will hold a rally in Philadelphia before setting off on a bus tour of Pennsylvania and Ohio, two Rust Belt states that could be pivotal in the November election. Trump will campaign in Colorado on Friday and is scheduled to visit Ohio next week.

While her speech was not as electrifying as those given by President Barack Obama and some other prominent Democrats at the Philadelphia convention, Clinton was authoritative and self-assured in her pitch to the American public.

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YEMENI PEACE TALKS COLLAPSE

GOVERNMENT TEAM LEAVES

KUWAIT: Yemen's government delegation to UN-brokered peace talks in Kuwait said it will leave today, signaling the collapse of four months of UN-brokered negotiations with Shiite Houthi rebels. "Today, we are holding some farewell meetings... and the delegation will leave today," delegation spokesman Mohammad Al-Emrani said. "There can be no more talks after the new coup," he said referring to the rebels' formation of a supreme political council to run war-torn Yemen.

The Iran-backed Houthi rebels and the General People's Congress of former president Ali Abdullah Saleh on Thursday jointly announced setting up the 10-member council. The job of the council would be to "manage state affairs politically, militarily, economically, administratively, socially and in security", a statement issued by the rebels said. UN special envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed said the rebels' move "contravenes" their commitment to the peace process and "represents a grave

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QAEDA AND AL-NUSRA FRONT SPLIT

BEIRUT: The Syrian branch of Al-Qaeda, Al-Nusra Front, said yesterday it was breaking ties with the global terror network, in a video showing its leader Abu Mohamad Al-Jolani for the first time. The footage broadcast by Al-Jazeera news channel follows several days of online chatter over a split between Al-Qaeda and its Syria affiliate, a main rival of the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group from which it wants to distance itself as a target of foreign air strikes.

Appearing in public for the first time, Jolani said Al-Nusra changed its name to Jabhat Fateh Al-Sham (Front of the Conquest of Syria) and would unify ranks with other mainstream fighters in Syria. "We decided to stop operating under the banner of Al-Nusra and to set up a new front, called Jabhat Fateh Al-Sham," he said. Clad in military fatigues and wearing a turban, the bearded Jolani thanked "the commanders of Al-Qaeda for having understood the need to break ties". And he vowed the new group would "have no links whatsoever with foreign parties".

Analysts said Al-Nusra aims to rebrand and defend itself as it comes under increased pressure after Moscow and



An image grab taken from a video shows the head of Al-Nusra Front in Syria, Abu Mohamad Al-Jolani, giving a speech from an undisclosed location. — AFP

Washington agreed to step up joint efforts against jihadist groups. US Secretary of State John Kerry and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov said last week they had agreed "concrete

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah is pictured with Ambassador Sami Suleiman and members of the diplomatic mission. — KUNA



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah visits Kuwait's Embassy in France.

PM VISITS KUWAIT EMBASSY IN FRANCE

PARIS: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah paid a visit to Kuwait Embassy in France Thursday. During the visit, His Highness met with members of the diplo-

matic mission, including Ambassador Sami Suleiman, who briefed him on latest developments in the country and the embassy's role in securing the safety and security of Kuwaiti nationals, especially in

the wake of recent events that took place in Nice and Normandy. His Highness the Premier was also informed with the health office's services to Kuwaitis who receive medical treatment in France, and

the diplomatic mission's activities and participations at the UN Educational, Scientific and, Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and other international events. — KUNA

DJIBOUTI SPEAKER LAUDS RESULTS OF VISIT TO KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Djibouti's National Assembly Speaker Mohamed Ali Houmed lauded, before his departure yesterday, the results of his official visit to Kuwait, affirming that it will hopefully lead to the bolstering of bilateral relations.

The Djiboutian lawmaker, who met with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and a number of top Kuwaiti officials including his counterpart Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, said that the meetings touched on a variety of issues pertaining to the ties between his country and Kuwait. Houmed also said that he met with Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah during the visit. He lauded the efforts carried out by Kuwait Fund for Arabic Economic Development (KFAED) in Djibouti, stressing that the fund's project had helped in the development of his country. The lawmaker was seen off at Kuwait International Airport by head of the honorary delegation MP Ahmad Lari. — KUNA

KUWAIT TO HOST DONORS FOR BACKING EDUCATION IN SOMALIA

TUNIS: The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) announced yesterday that the State of Kuwait would host early next year an international donors conference to back up education in Somalia. His Highness the Amir (of Kuwait) Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah declared the plan for holding the convention during the latest Arab summit hosted by Mauritania.

ALECSO's General Director Dr Abdullah Al-Muhareb said at a news conference that the international convention would be held after Somali elections, due in September, affirming that the State of Kuwait would be among the number-one contributors for aiding Somalia. The organization will launch a campaign to promote the conference that would be hosted by Kuwait. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah, during the Arab Summit, adopted such an initiative.

"We are seeking to ensure success of this international convention so it may be an example to be followed in other states with declining education," Muhareb said, noting that the Palestinian Authority had requested holding an identical gathering for overhauling education in the Palestinian territories. Meanwhile, Issam Al-Jamea, Somalia's permanent delegate at ALECSO, praised His Highness the Amir, whose humanitarian deeds made him earn the UN-designed title, the Humanitarian Leader. — KUNA



KRCS HANDS OUT FRESH WATER TO SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

BEIRUT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) handed out fresh water to some 1,200 refugee families in Al-Bekaa, eastern Lebanon yesterday. The society's delegate to Lebanon Dr Musaed Al-Enezi said that the water has been trans-

ferred from the treatment plant that was built by KRCS jointly with Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) early 2016. He stated that the plant provided around 40,000 liters of water per day. Moreover, KRCS will continue offering all sorts of

help and assistance needed to ease the suffering of the Syrian refugees. Since the beginning of the Syrian conflict in 2011, KRCS had been aiding around one million Syrian refugee residing in different camps in Lebanon. — KUNA

EU RENEWS SUPPORT FOR YEMEN TALKS IN SHADOW OF SNAGS

BRUSSELS: The European Union, together with the other international partners present in Kuwait, continue to support the efforts of the UN Special Envoy in pursuing negotiations among the Yemeni parties, an EU spokesperson said yesterday. "We understand that the UN Special Envoy is currently undertaking consultations on the way forward in the negotiations," said the spokesperson, who asked not mention his name. "The Houthis, the General Popular Congress (GPC), and their allies signed, on July 28 2016 (Thursday), an agreement establishing a political council with broad executive and legislative powers, which contravenes their commitments

to the UN-facilitated peace talks. The Houthis, GPC and other Yemeni parties should refrain from unilateral actions contravening violating the GCC Initiative and UN Security Council Resolutions, in particular Resolution 2216, as these actions further undermine chances for a lasting and inclusive political settlement in Yemen," said the spokesperson.

"As we are witnessing an intensification of the conflict in recent days, it is particularly important at this critical juncture that all parties to the conflict engage in good faith towards difficult compromises without provocations," stressed the spokesperson. "An inclusive negotiated political set-

tlement in line with relevant UN Security Council resolutions is the only way to restore state authority, enabling in particular decisive action against terrorist groups and the provision of much-needed assistance to alleviate the suffering of millions of Yemenis," added the spokesperson. The inter-Yemeni conciliation consultations resumed in Kuwait, on Thursday, under chairmanship of the UN envoy for the Yemeni crisis Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, who met 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.—KUNA

US EMBASSY: NO CHANGES IN TRAVEL PROCEDURES FOR KUWAITIS

KUWAIT: Changes in travel procedures brought about by the US's visa waiver program does not apply to current valid visas, or nationals of countries that are not participating in the program, the US embassy said on Thursday.

"Travel to Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen and Somalia does not nullify visas obtained by Kuwaiti nationals," said a statement by the embassy, denying the veracity of contradictory information disseminated on social media.

"The visa waiver program and the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) application do not apply to citizens of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations and has no bearing on Kuwaitis wishing to travel to the US," the statement added. It also urged all those looking for more details on US travel procedures to visit the US Department of Homeland Security's website. —KUNA

ARAB MINISTERS COUNCIL CALLS FOR SPECIAL FORCES TO GUARD BORDERS

TUNIS: The Arab Interior Ministers Council has called for special security forces to guard border crossings, to counter potential terrorist attacks and protect personnel at these sites. A statement issued by the council's Secretariat, participants in the 13th joint meeting of the chiefs of the Arab border security, airports and ports security bodies and customs departments, urged the member states to consolidate efficiency of the staff by providing them with the necessary equipment.

The conference stressed on the dire need to exchange data and maintain direct communications among the relevant security bodies in the Arab countries, especially those sharing borders. Recommendations also emphasized the momentousness of cooperation among the border security, airports and ports security bodies and customs departments to combat terrorism and organized crime. Exchanging field visits is of prior importance to benefit from others' experience, participants agreed. The experiment of the GCC Secretariat is a leading one to benefit from, they said. — KUNA

SOCIAL MEDIA IN KUWAIT: A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

72% KUWAITIS USE SOCIAL MEDIA 5+ HOURS A DAY

KUWAIT: Social media plays an integral role in today's world, shaping public and social opinions as well as increasing interaction amongst people. With this fact in mind, the public and private sectors acknowledged the power of social media and began using these tools to promote their services and campaigns.

However, the impact of social media within the public and private domains varied due to the important of crowd involvement and interaction with such tool. Social media could be a great method to spread news, images, and videos regarding current events, but it also could be used to create panic and scatter rumor.

Direct nature

Speaking on the impact of social media, head of the security media department at the Ministry of Interior Brigadier Adel Al-Hashash said that this method of communication was important due to its direct nature.

Delivering a message from the Interior Ministry nowadays does not require going through the same bureaucratic channels as before, affirmed the security official who indicated that with a quick swipe on any smartphone, a piece of information was readily available for mass consumption.

"Our department uses social media and the internet to reach the public directly," said Hasash, adding that the department made its mission to deliver quick and accurate news and information to the general populace.

On the same note, head of the Health Ministry's website operations department



Dr Abdulaziz Al-Rshaid noted that the Ministry continuously battles against those spreading rumors through its official accounts on the internet and social media. It is vital in this day and age to deliver the correct message to the masses or else chaos and disarray would prevail, added Dr Rshaid.

The health official revealed that there were teams of dedicated individuals at the ministry who spread Public Service Announcements (PSAs), refute rumors on the spread of disease, and advise against using counterfeit drugs.

Five hours

According to a survey conducted by Kuwait News Agency's (KUNA) IT department, around 72 percent of Kuwaitis are spending over five hours daily using

social media applications and websites. The survey revealed that social media helped in spreading news and rumors alike by 65 percent, revealing that the top Social Media application was 'WhatsApp' with 90 percent of usage followed by 'Snapchat', 'Instagram', and 'Twitter' with 40, and 38, and 25 percent of usage respectively.

The survey revealed that some 25 percent of users log on to social media applications around 50 times a day with the average age being between 31 and 40. Social issues reigned champion amongst topics discussed by social media users with 81 percent, said the survey, adding that cultural, political, and religious matters were less prominent in daily discussions of users. —KUNA

KUWAIT OIL PRICE DROPS TO \$38.40 PB

KUWAIT/VIENNA: Price of Kuwait crude oil dropped 74 cents reaching \$38.40 per barrel in Thursday's trades against \$39.14 pb on Wednesday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said yesterday. Meanwhile in the international markets, the crude rates on Thursday dropped for the sixth session in a row, affected by jitters regarding forecast supply rise, with data showing hike of the American crude reserves by 1.7 million barrels in a

week. Nymex forwards for September's delivery closed with a 1.9 percent rise, 78 cents, settling at \$41.14 pb.

The price of OPEC basket of 14 crudes fell by 79 cents on Thursday to \$39.79 pb, compared with \$40.49 the previous day, OPEC said yesterday. The annual average of the OPEC basket price hit \$49.64 pb, it said.

The OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Oriente (Ecuador), Rabi Light (Gabon), Minas (Indonesia), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Qatar Marine (Qatar), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Mery (Venezuela).

During a meeting in Vienna on June 2, OPEC oil ministers emphasized that Member Countries should continue to closely monitor developments over the coming months, and if necessary meet again and suggest further measures according to prevailing market conditions. They also decided that their next ordinary meeting will convene in Vienna on November 30, 2016. — KUNA



KFH PATRONIZES KUWAITI RIDER IN MOTOCROSS MESHARI BU SHAYBA

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) patronized the Kuwaiti Rider in Motocross Meshari Bu Shayba in the framework of its commitment towards assuming the social responsibility and keenness to support the youth and sports. Bu Shayba achieved many local, regional and international titles in the Motocross sport that is a form of off-road motorcycle racing held on enclosed off-road circuits. KFH's support to Bu Shayba emanates

from its social responsibility and keenness to support the youth and sport, while recognizing the national talent in efforts to motivate them to win international titles and elevate Kuwait's name in the international championships and forums. Meanwhile, Bu Shayba praised KFH's support and keenness on appreciating him, which comprises an impetus for further success and achievements in his upcoming championships.



Yousef Al-Ruwaieh honors Bu Shayba.

MORE THAN 200 ARRESTED IN MAHBOULA CRACKDOWN



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A total of 229 people were arrested during a wide scale crackdown carried out at Mahboula on Thursday, the Interior Ministry announced yesterday. The campaign, which was supervised by a number of senior ministry officials led by Undersecretary Lieutenant General

Suleiman Al-Fahad, started at 5:00 pm as police cordoned the area completely to prevent lawbreakers from escaping.

The detainees include two persons arrested on criminal charges, 120 wanted for absconding, four for violating labor regulations, 13 with expired visas and 61 who failed to produce IDs. Meanwhile, one person was arrested for theft and

one on liquor-related charges. They were all sent to the proper authorities for further action.

The campaign was carried out as part of the Interior Ministry's ongoing crackdowns to fight crime in coordination with the relevant state departments, the Relations and Security Media Department said in a statement.





SHIITE MPs DECRY IRAN'S NEWS AGENCY INSULT TO AMIR

COURT ORDERS HALT IN HISTORICAL MOSQUE DEMOLISHING

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Three Shiite MPs on Thursday strongly criticized the insult by Iran's news agency Fars against the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah while attending the Arab summit. MP Abdullah Al-Tameemi said Iran should submit an official apology to the Amir, the government and the people of Kuwait as "we will not accept any insult from the agency against" the Amir. Tameemi said that the insult could jeopardize the diplomatic ties between the two neighbors Iran and Kuwait and demanded that Iranian authorities take decisive actions against the agency.

MP Youssef Al-Zalzalah said Iranian authorities should take to account those responsible for the insult in order to preserve the good ties between the two countries. He said he is confident that wise peo-



MP Abdullah Al-Tameemi

ple in the Iranian government hold high esteem for the Amir's leading role in spreading the principle of peace and security among nations.

MP Ahmad Lari warned that the insult could greatly undermine bilateral relations between the two



MP Youssef Al-Zalzalah

nations. A large number of MPs have strongly condemned the Iranian insult to the Amir and called for diplomatic action against the Islamic republic including recalling the Kuwaiti ambassador from Tehran.



MP Ahmad Lari

Historical mosque

Separately, a Kuwaiti court ordered the government to halt plans to demolish a 123-years old mosque in Kuwait City and set September 8 to hear the case to

nullify the decision to demolish the mosque. The court, acting on an urgent lawsuit presented by lawyer Adel Al-Abdulhadi, said the mosque is historical and that the constitution bans the demolishing of historical sites and accordingly ordered a halt in the process. It said it will begin on September 8 the hearings to rule whether to permanently ban the removal or not. The ruling is not final as it can be challenged by the government.

The decision to demolish Shamlan Al-Roumi mosque, built in 1893, to clear the way for a road construction stirred an online campaign by activists who demanded that measures should be taken to preserve the historical site. A number of MPs threatened to grill the minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs Yacoub Al-Sane if the mosque was demolished. They also threatened political action.

Crime

Report

CARTOONIST SENTENCED TO JAIL

KUWAIT: The comprehensive court sentenced a Kuwaiti cartoonist to six months in jail after he was found guilty of public insult and misuse of a mobile phone, as well as spreading false information about a person who filed a case against him. The complainant's lawyer said the suspect insulted and compromised the honor of his client by making drawings, adding her pictures to them, then publishing them on social media. The complainant had also claimed damage for 'unsuitable comments' that social media users made on the pictures posted online.

Thief arrested

A man caught a thief who entered his diwaniya uninvited, and handed him over to police. The Fahad Al-Fahad area resident entered his diwaniya normally but found a stranger, who attempted to escape immediately but failed. Police were called to the scene and they arrested the man. The suspect, Kuwaiti, was found to be an ex-convict with history of facing theft charges.

Fugitive caught

A citizen who was laughing for no apparent reason was found to be wanted to serve a 7-year-old jail sentence. Policemen at a checkpoint in Salmiya became suspicious of a driver who was laughing in a hysterical manner. They checked his ID and discovered that he was wanted to serve a jail sentence on a felony case. He was sent to concerned authorities.

Liquor trade

Farwaniya police arrested three men for trading in liquor. The Indian men had 650 homebrewed liquor bottles in their possession. One of the suspects was found reported absconding. They were taken to the proper authorities for further action.

Sexual assault

An Arab expat waited for a woman until she went to take out the trash at dawn and raped her. The Filipina woman went to police and told them she was sexually assaulted by an unknown person who was hiding near her building, a security source said. Khaitan detectives took over the case, and they managed to arrest the suspect four days later during a set up in which he tried to attack his victim for a second time.— Al-Rai



Liquor bottles found with a man who was arrested yesterday.



Paramedics carry a man on a stretcher to be taken to the hospital after he was rescued along with three others from a malfunctioned boat yesterday.

MAN DEAD, FIVE HURT IN HAWALLY CRASH

EMPLOYEE CHARGED KD 2,000 TO LIFT COMPANIES' SUSPENSIONS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A motorist died and five others were injured in a collision reported yesterday at the crossroad between the Beirut and Muthana streets in Hawally. Paramedics, firemen and police arrived to the scene shortly after the accident was reported, and they worked immediately to free the victims who were trapped inside their wrecked vehicles. One person was pronounced dead on the scene, while five others were rushed to the Mubarak Hospital for treatment. A case was filed to determine the circumstances behind the accident.

Illegal transactions

A government employee was arrested for carrying out illegal labor-related transactions in exchange for money, the Interior Ministry announced yesterday. The suspect used his authority as an employee at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's inspection depart-

ment to access the labor department's database for registered companies in Kuwait. He offered to lift suspension under code number 73, which prevents violating companies from renewing their workers' visas or carrying out any other labor-related transactions before the violations are corrected, in exchange for KD 2,000 for each company.

Forgery

Meanwhile, the Land Border Security Department announced arresting an employee at the Nuwaiseeb border outlet who finalized a number of transactions in violation of the law in favor of a group of people. The officer used his job at the passports' counter to register entry for three persons who haven't entered Kuwait since the last time they left in 2010. The man confessed during investigations that as a favor for a relative, he agreed to access the system using his username and password and register entry for the three bedoon (stateless) brothers on April 4, 2015.

Bootlegger caught

Criminal Investigations Department officers arrested a man on charges of trading in alcoholic drinks, the Interior Ministry announced yesterday. The suspect, bedoon (stateless), was caught red handed with possession of 47 assorted liquor bottles prepared for sale. The arrest came following investigations that went underway after Mubarak Al-Kabeer detectives received information about an unemployed man's activity in illegal alcohol trade. The suspect was taken to the proper authorities to face charges.

Four rescued

Firemen rescued four people who became stranded after their boat malfunctioned three nautical miles away from Khairan yesterday. One of the four Kuwaiti men was taken to the hospital to be treated from fatigue.

International

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CAIRO: Egyptian students shout slogans during a demonstration against the Education Minister and the education system outside the Ministry of Education in the capital Cairo. Answers to final exams had been leaked anonymously on Facebook by people who said they wanted to spark a debate on the quality of education last month. — AFP

EGYPT EDUCATION SYSTEM UNDER SPOTLIGHT

EXAMS LEAKED, TURNS INTO A NIGHTMARE

CAIRO: High school finals are always a terrifying prospect for Egyptian students. After cheat sheets were leaked this year, the exams turned into a nightmare for Mariam Khaled. She had gone home to sleep after finishing an exam. When she woke up, she discovered she would have to resit it. The leaks have put the spotlight on flaws in Egypt's education system, which critics say favors students who can afford private tuition to go on to coveted universities and faculties.

The leaks "put me on the same footing as those who haven't studied at all", said Khaled, an 18-year-old at a private school in Cairo who wants to become an engineer. "I've been preparing my whole life for this exam to be able to plan my future. Now I feel extreme injustice," she said. The fiasco prompted student protests and clashes with police outside the education ministry in late June. One placard at the demonstrations in June read: "2016, the class of injustice."

The answers had been leaked anonymously on Facebook by people who said they wanted to spark a debate on education in Egypt. Critics say underpaid teachers at state schools

offer poor tuition, making private tuition a must. One Facebook group called on authorities to raise teachers' salaries and update curricula to match the jobs market.

Chaotic and absurd

Education in Egypt is in a "chaotic and absurd state, with corruption a main component", said Kamal Mogheith, an expert at the governmental National Centre for Educational Research and Development. "What is happening is a wide-scale protest movement... against a failed educational system that does not teach a thing, yet it drains families' energy and funds for years," Mogheith said. Khaled's family say they have struggled to support her dream of studying engineering at a state university. "Money was tight for the whole family due to high school expenses. Making funds available for school and private classes in the current economic situation wasn't easy," said Ola Mahfouz, her mother.

If Khaled is not accepted at a state faculty, she can still enroll at a private university, but that would place a further

burden on family finances. Egyptian students face fierce competition to study subjects such as engineering and medicine, which are considered routes to social advancement. Over 12 percent of Egyptians were unemployed in late 2015, with the rate reaching nearly 28 percent among young people, official figures show. With nearly half a million students enrolled at high schools in the academic year that ended in July, the challenge of reforming the system is huge.

The education minister promised this month that the exams' system would change starting next year. Some students admitted they took advantage of the leaks, while others said they used bluetooth headphones and mobile phone applications to cheat. Ahmed Hesham, 18, who attended the protest in June, said he cheated to level the playing field. Hesham, whose father is a craftsman, showed AFP a group chat on WhatsApp through which he had obtained several leaked exam papers. "The children of wealthy parents buy the exams, so why oppose the leaks now?" asked Hesham. "This is equality in an unjust and corrupt society." — AFP

IS EXECUTES 24 CIVILIANS

CALLS GROW FOR SYRIA TO END ALEPPO SIEGE

BEIRUT: The Islamic State jihadist group has executed at least 24 civilians after seizing a village in northern Syria from a US-backed Kurdish-Arab alliance, a monitor said yesterday. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said IS executed 24 civilians "in the last 24 hours" after taking Buyir from the Syrian Democratic Forces. The village is located some 10 kilometers northwest of Manbij, a key waypoint between the Turkish border and the IS de facto capital of Raqa city.

IS seized control of several villages in the countryside northwest of Manbij since launching a "fierce assault" on Thursday, according to the Observatory, which relies on sources inside Syria for its information. The SDF, backed by air strikes from a US-led coalition, launched an offensive to retake Manbij from IS on May 31. The alliance managed to enter the town but have since faced fierce opposition from the jihadists who have fought back with suicide bombers and car bombs. More than 280,000 have been killed and millions displaced in Syria's five-year conflict.

End Aleppo siege

Meanwhile, aid agencies called yesterday on Syria's government to end its encirclement of rebel-held east Aleppo as a handful of civilians managed to use humanitarian corridors to flee the ruined city. Pro-regime forces have surrounded Aleppo's eastern districts since July 17, leaving an estimated 250,000 trapped without reliable access to food or medical aid. Russia, a key ally of President Bashar Al-Assad, on Thursday announced the opening of humanitarian passages for civilians and surrendering fighters seeking to exit the city's rebel-held eastern neighborhoods.

The Red Cross welcomed the corridors but said Russia and pro-govern-



ALEPPO: Syrian army soldiers patrol the area around the entrance of Bani Zeid after taking control of the previously rebel-held district of Leramun, on the northwest outskirts of Aleppo. —AFP

ment forces had an obligation to protect everyone in Aleppo, once Syria's economic hub and a battleground city seen as key in its five-year-old conflict. "Those who decide, for whatever reason, to stay in Eastern Aleppo must be protected, and all sides must allow humanitarian agencies to reach and assess their well-being and needs," the International Committee of the Red Cross said in a statement.

Residents have reported food shortages and spiraling prices in rebel districts since regime forces cut off the opposition's main supply route into the northern city. The US-based International Rescue Committee said those left behind in east Aleppo risked starvation and called for a humanitarian pause in fighting. "The people of Aleppo should not be forced to choose

between fleeing their homes and remaining under attack in a besieged area," said IRC's acting Middle East director Zoe Daniels.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said Thursday that three humanitarian corridors were being opened "to aid civilians held hostage by terrorists and for fighters wishing to lay down their arms". But only a few Aleppo residents were able to leave eastern neighborhoods through the passages before rebels prevented them from fleeing, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. "Around 12 people managed to use the Bustan al-Qasr corridor before rebel groups reinforced security measures and prevented families from approaching the corridors," Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman said. —Agencies

FBI PROBES HACKING OF US DEMOCRATIC GROUP

SAN FRANCISCO: The FBI is investigating a cyber attack against another US Democratic Party group, which may be related to an earlier hack against the Democratic National Committee, four people familiar with the matter said. The previously unreported incident at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, or DCCC, and its potential ties to Russian hackers are likely to heighten accusations, so far unproven, that Moscow is trying to meddle in the US presidential election campaign to help Republican nominee Donald Trump.

The Kremlin denied involvement in the DCCC cyber-attack. Hacking of the party's emails caused discord among Democrats at the party's convention in Philadelphia to nominate Hillary Clinton as its presidential candidate. The newly disclosed breach at the DCCC may have been intended to gather information about donors, rather than to steal money, the sources said on Thursday. It was not clear what data was exposed, although donors typically submit a variety of personal information including names, email addresses and credit card details when making a contribution. It was also unclear if stolen information was used to hack into other systems.

The DCCC raises money for Democrats running for seats in the US House of Representatives. The intrusion at the group could have begun as recently as June, two of the sources said. That was when a bogus website was registered with a name closely resembling that of a main donation site connected to the DCCC. For some time, internet traffic associated with donations that was supposed to go to a company that processes campaign donations instead went to the bogus site, two sources said.

The sources said the Internet Protocol address of the spurious site resembled one used by Russian government-linked hackers suspected in the breach of the DNC, the body that sets strategy and raises money for the Democratic Party nationwide. Cyber security experts and US officials have said there was evidence that Russia engineered the DNC hack to release sensitive party emails in order to influence the US presidential election. "I have concerns that an agency of foreign intelligence is hacking and interfering with a US election," said Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta, who added he had not seen news of the DCCC attack.

Asked by Reuters to comment on whether Russia played a role in a cyber-attack on the DCCC, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "We don't see the point any more in repeating yet again that this is silliness." The release of the DNC emails by activist group WikiLeaks caused uproar in the party because they appeared to show favoritism within the DNC for Clinton over US Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who ran a close race for the nomination for the Nov 8 election. The committee is supposed to be neutral.

The DNC and the DCCC share the same office space on South Capitol Street in Washington. The DCCC and donation processing company ActBlue had no comment on Thursday. CrowdStrike, the California-based cyber security firm that investigated the DNC breach, declined to comment. Justin Harvey, chief security officer at Fidelis Cybersecurity company, said the suspect website in the hack was affiliated with others that host sophisticated malware undetected by the vast majority of antivirus providers. "It's really rare malware," which would be more likely to be wielded by government hackers than ordinary criminals, he said.

Great concern

Russian officials have dismissed allegations of Moscow's involvement in hacks of US political groups. "It is so absurd it borders on total stupidity," Kremlin spokesman Peskov said on Thursday. Some Democratic officials have accused Russia of hacking the DNC emails in order to help Trump win the race for the White House. "It's no coincidence someone is hacking into Democratic Party computers. It's almost sounding like a repeat of Watergate," Gilberto Hinojosa, the chairman of the Texas Democrats said, after Reuters reported the DCCC hacking.

"This is just the kind of dirty politics we expect from Donald Trump. I have no doubt Donald Trump is behind it," he said, citing the businessman's praise of Russian President Vladimir Putin and recent remarks about Russia and Clinton's deleted emails. — Reuters

RARE CANADIAN POLICE CONVICTION PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON RACE RELATIONS

TORONTO: A six-year prison sentence given to a Toronto policeman in the shooting death of a teenager three years ago was a rare occurrence in Canada, where activists say officers too often get off easy in brutality cases. The case, along with this week's death of a black man who witnesses say was beaten by police officers, has brought race relations in Canada to the forefront. The 2013 fatal shooting of Sammy Yatim, 18, which occurred after an altercation on a streetcar with the teen, who was brandishing a knife, was caught on video and led to widespread protests in Toronto.

The sentencing of the officer, James Forcillo, who was convicted in January, came days after a mentally ill black man, Abdirahman Abdi, died following his arrest by police in Ottawa. The deaths have shone an unflattering light on race relations in Canada, which prides itself on its multiculturalism and tolerance, especially in contrast to the United States. In Montreal, about 50 protesters demonstrated over Abdi's death, chanting: "Black lives matter." Marlihan Lopez said that as the mother of a 6-year-old black boy with autism, the case hit close to home.

"In terms of the police, we live in a world where my son's skin color is deemed as being threatening and his mental state is not understood," she said. The deaths echoed events in the United States, where a string of police killings of black men and allegations of police brutality and racial bias have sparked protests. Some confrontations in the United States were also caught on video. Julian Falconer, a lawyer for Yatim's mother,

said police needed more training to deal with mentally ill people as well as lapel cameras to ensure accountability.

"You have people that are not well and they are shot like dogs in the street," he told reporters. "It's a tragic day for the Forcillo family, for the Yatim family, for the community, and for policing," said Michael McCormack, president of the Toronto Police Association union. "There's never going to be any good outcome from this and it's tragic all around."

Shootings underreported

Last year, a Toronto police officer shot and killed Andrew Loku, a 45-year-old Sudanese immigrant with a history of mental illness. No charges were filed. Sandy Hudson, co-founder of Black Lives Matter Toronto, the only official Canadian chapter of the movement, said police shootings were underreported by media in Canada because surveillance footage was not as accessible and data was not always compiled by race north of the border. "The reason for our existence is to dispel the myth that it is somehow safer in Canada, that it doesn't happen in Canada," she said. The group strategizes with Black Lives Matters' national chapter in Los Angeles, which has provided organizational support for larger protests, she added. Ontario's Special Investigations Unit, or SIU, an arms-length agency that investigates cases of death, serious injury or sexual assault involving police, launched 266 cases in the 2014-15 fiscal year, including six shooting deaths, 12 deaths in custody and 41 sexual assault allegations.— Reuters

POPE WALKS ALONE THROUGH HORRORS OF AUSCHWITZ

OSWIECIM: Pope Francis yesterday walked alone through the notorious wrought-iron "Arbeit Macht Frei" gate as he visited the former Nazi death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. Free for once of his security entourage or cardinals, he sat on a bench among the trees and bowed his head in prayer, remaining at length in silent contemplation before meeting Holocaust survivors. In front of the death wall where the Nazis summarily executed thousands of people by firing squad, he tenderly kissed the former prisoners.

Among them was Helena Dunicz Niwinska, a 101-year-old woman who played the violin in the Auschwitz orchestra, as well as inmates who worked at the camp hospital or who were there as children. "It was very moving," 86-year-old survivor Janina Iwanska said after meeting Francis. "I wanted to kneel before him, but he took me in his arms and kissed my cheeks." Fellow survivor Alojzy Fros, who is 99, still remembered his arrival at the camp. "Just after I arrived, through an open door I saw naked bodies piled up like logs about a meter high," he said. "I'll never forget it."

Francis lit a candle in front of the death wall, bowing his head in prayer before visiting the cell of Polish priest and saint Maximilian Kolbe, who died at Auschwitz after taking the place of a condemned man. The visit falls on the 75th anniversary of the day Kolbe was condemned to death. Francis cut a solitary figure in the dark, underground cell where the priest was starved then executed. The Argentine later led prayers for the 1.1 million people, most of them Jewish, who were murdered at the camp as part of Nazi Germany's "Final Solution" of genocide against European Jews which claimed six million lives in World War II.

'Forgive the cruelty'

"Lord, have mercy on your people. Lord, forgive so much cruelty," Francis wrote in the memorial book. He had said that rather than making a speech, he would stand in silence to reflect on the horrors committed and let his tears flow. As he arrived Wednesday in Poland—the heartland of Nazi Germany's atrocities—the pontiff said the world had been plunged into a piecemeal third world war. He has repeatedly

denounced those committing crimes in the name of religion, after a string of deadly jihadist attacks in Europe.

The pope travelled the two miles to Birkenau, the main extermination site, and was driven alongside train tracks which allowed prisoners to be transported directly to the gas chambers and crematoria. Francis prayed near the ruins of a crematorium blown up by the Nazis as they evacuated the camp, as Poland's Chief Rabbi Michael Schudrich sang a Jewish prayer for the dead in

Hebrew. The pontiff clutched his crucifix to his chest as he walked slowly along a row of memorial plaques, written in the 23 languages spoken by the prisoners.

Executed in childbirth

Some 25 Christian Poles who risked their lives during the war to help hide and protect Jews—a group recognized by Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust museum as "Righteous Among the Nations"—also met Francis. — AFP



OSWIECIM: Pope Francis prays in front of the Memorial at the former Nazi Death Camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, in Oswiecim, Poland yesterday. — AP



CENTRAL JAVA: Indonesian navy conduct a patrol off the waters of Nusa Kambangan, home to a high-security prison where Indonesia carries out executions. — AFP

INDONESIA EXECUTES FOUR DRUG CONVICTS

CILACAP: Indonesia executed four drug convicts yesterday but 10 others due to face the firing squad were given an apparent reprieve in a confused process one lawyer condemned as a "complete mess". The executions on a remote prison island went ahead despite strong protests from international rights groups, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the European Union who had urged Indonesia not to proceed.

Four inmates—three Nigerians and one Indonesian—were put to death just after midnight. One of the Nigerian prisoners was cremated hours later, while the bodies of the three others were being prepared for burial. Questions swirled about the handling of the process, which saw the other 10 prisoners slated for death—including from India, Pakistan and Zimbabwe—spared at the last minute. Authorities did not give a reason for the reprieve, but the prison island where they were expected to be executed in outdoor clearings was hit by a major storm as the other sentences were carried out.

Attorney General Muhammad Prasetyo said yesterday the 10 inmates had been returned to their cells, suggesting their executions were not imminent. "The fate of the other 10 we will determine later. We will see when the right time will be," Prasetyo told reporters. "But one thing is for sure—we will never stop executing people on death row." Local prisons chief Molyanto, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, said the major security seen in recent days around the island had been reduced and he thought more executions were unlikely in the near future. — AFP

AUSTRALIAN MUSLIM MIGRANTS ON EDGE

RACE RELATIONS FALTER WITH RISE OF THE RIGHT

SYDNEY: Race relations in Australia have deteriorated so badly that some community leaders fear violence will erupt in a political vacuum where the new government, elected with a bare majority, must rely on the support of parties that have fomented the discord. The potential for violence after a bitter election campaign, which featured calls for a ban on Muslim immigration, is palpable for people like Afghan-born Muhammad Taqi Haidari. Haidari, from Afghanistan's Shiite Muslim Hazara minority, no longer tells people his name is Muhammad, preferring to use Taqi.

"When there is a problem like in Paris and now in Nice they hear the name Muhammad. They include me as one of those Muhammads," Haidari, who lives in Sydney's less affluent western suburbs said. Australia, a staunch US ally with troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, has been spared the mass violence that has become commonplace among other US allies, particularly in Europe. In barely more than a month, scores of people have been killed in Paris, in smaller French towns such as Nice, and across Germany, many of them in attacks claimed by the militant Islamic State group.

Machete-wielding attackers and suicide bombers have also struck with devastating effect in Bangladesh and Kabul. In Australia, once fringe parties such as Pauline Hanson's One Nation, which first gained international notoriety in the late 1990s, have exploited the fear such attacks have generated by saying that Muslim immigration must be stopped. However, community leaders

such as Stepan Kerkyasharian, a veteran former head of a government anti-discrimination board, fear their rhetoric will also generate retaliatory acts against Muslim migrants.

Potential for violence

That is an even more pressing concern after the narrow win secured by Australia's conservative coalition in July 2 elections, which also gave a stronger voice to fringe political players like Hanson. "The intensity and feeling has been there for some time but it has now made it into the public discourse. It would be a serious mistake to underestimate the potential for violence," Kerkyasharian said. "Unfortunately there has been a reluctance on the part of political leadership to engage people in rational debate and discussion on this matter," he said.

Race relations have threatened to erupt in the barely four weeks since Hanson secured her return to the Australian parliament. Her public appearances have attracted protesters and supporters in numbers rarely seen in Australian politics. Outwardly easy-going and peaceful, Australia has a troubling race relations record. The White Australia Policy, which was only dismantled in the late 1960s, favored European migrants over non-whites. Australia's Aborigines were administered under flora and fauna laws until then and remain far behind the rest of the population in literacy, health and economic standards.

There have also been racial flash-points before. In 2005, riots broke out in the Sydney beachside suburb of

Cronulla between white residents and Lebanese from other suburbs, gaining international notoriety. Duncan Lewis, director-general of the Australian Security Intelligence Organization, told a parliamentary committee in May that as many 59 Australians had been killed fighting with Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. So it is not entirely surprising that many ordinary Australians, and even morning TV show presenters, have come out in favor of Hanson's Muslim immigration ban, stirring fierce debate on prime-time television and on social media.

Her unexpectedly influential position after an indecisive election - Hanson and a small handful of others will likely form a bloc whose vote will determine the passage or rejection of legislation - mean that mainstream politicians ignore her at their peril. Foreshadowing that newfound influence, Hanson released a video message on Monday after meeting Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, telling her supporters they had discussed several policies and that he was "prepared to listen to me".

Rise of the right

The rise of One Nation in Australia echoes what has been seen in Europe, where centrist governments are being challenged by right-wing, anti-immigration parties after hundreds of thousands poured in, fleeing war in Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq. Brian Burston, who represents Hanson's One Nation in New South Wales, Australia's most populous state, said a moratorium on Muslim immigration was needed to alleviate community fear. — Reuters



CALIFORNIA: A house lies in ashes after a fire at Palo Colorado Canyon in Big Sur yesterday. —AP

CALIFORNIA COASTLINE WILDFIRE GETS BIGGER

RESIDENTS FLEE AMID RAGING FIRE

BIG SUR: A wildfire burning along California's Big Sur coastline keeps growing a week after it broke out, and looks to be a problem for the scenic region for weeks to come. Anxious residents driven from their homes awaited word on their properties and popular parks and trails closed at the height of tourist season because of the blaze, one of several large fires burning across western states. As of Thursday, the blaze spanned 42 square miles and was only 10 percent contained.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection estimated it will take until the end of August to extinguish it. "Every day the fire is gaining ground on us," Cal Fire Battalion Chief Robert Fish said. It has destroyed at least 34 homes and put at least 2,000 homes and other buildings at risk. A 35-year-old father of two girls was killed this week when the bulldozer he was operating rolled over on the fire lines.

On Thursday he was identified as Robert Reagan, a 35-year-old father of two daughters from Fresno County who also helps care for a young niece, according to his sister Hannah Cunnings. Cunnings said he was the kind of person who would offer to put snow chains on a neighbor's car or fix an

engine that needed repair. "Even since he was a boy, he just really wanted to help people," she said, crying. Firefighters worked in rugged terrain near State Highway 1 in an area that draws tourists from around the world for the dramatic vistas of ocean and mountains. The famous roadway remained open, but smoke and the threat of flames forced the closure of state parks near Big Sur, a big economic driver for the region. Tom and Donna Huntington, both 65, have lived for 29 years in the community of Palo Colorado, which was hard-hit by the fire. They fled their home last Friday and have been staying with friends and a Red Cross shelter at a school. "It's a heartbreaker. I could cry right now," Tom Huntington said. "I'm so lucky I didn't lose my house. And I know some people that have."

Eric Beninger, a former firefighter who also lives in Palo Colorado, isn't sure his home is still standing. "When I did leave yesterday I ended up seeing flames coming up my road," he said. "Just hope for the best, that's about all I can do." Four people who escaped the fire early in the week acknowledged growing marijuana in the area for the last three months, Monterey County sheriff's Sgt. Kathy Palazzolo said.

Another man was killed last week in a wildfire still burning on the outskirts of Los Angeles.

Crews have stopped the spread of that nearly 60-square-mile (155-square kilometer) blaze, which destroyed 18 homes in mountains and canyons around Santa Clarita. Authorities have not determined a cause for either California fire. In Idaho, a wildfire burning timber in rugged terrain crossed a state highway and threatened a back-country yurt system popular among winter recreationists. The 20-square-mile blaze burning west to east crossed State Highway 21 about 5 miles south of Lowman, officials said.

There are six yurts with a replacement cost of \$60,000 each that are booked solid through the winter by cross country skiers, parks officials said. In Wyoming, favorable weather conditions allowed firefighters to take the offensive Thursday for the first time against a large wildfire threatening seasonal homes in the west of the state. The fire in the Shoshone National Forest northwest of Dubois has burned about 19 square miles. It has burned up to a rural subdivision area with about 290 seasons homes, but no structures have been lost. —AP

News

in brief

Bikini-clad officer makes arrest while sunbathing

STOCKHOLM: She was off duty and wearing a bikini but that didn't stop Swedish police officer Mikaela Kellner from catching a suspected thief. A photo of Kellner pinning the suspect to the ground was trending on social media in Sweden this week. "My first intervention while wearing a bikini during my 11 years as a police officer," she wrote on Instagram. Kellner and three friends were sunbathing Wednesday in a Stockholm park, a homeless man selling newspapers approached, she told Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet. After he left, one friend noticed her phone was missing. Kellner and a fellow police officer gave chase. Kellner said she didn't hesitate to make the arrest while wearing a bikini. "If I had been naked I would have intervened as well," she said.

China accuses Vietnam officials of 'profanity'

HANOI: China has urged Vietnam to investigate claims that a Chinese visitor's passport was defaced with profanities by officials at Ho Chi Minh City airport, in an apparent reference to a bitter territorial spat between the nations. Photographs circulated in online Chinese media this week purported to show a Chinese passport with the words "fuck you" scribbled on two pages next to maps of China and its hotly contested "nine-dash line". Beijing says the line demarcates its territory in the South China Sea. But Hanoi, which alongside several other nations has competing claims to the strategically key waters, rejects it. Earlier this month a UN tribunal said China's line had no legal basis, reviving the acrimony between the two countries.

Hell hath no fury: Wife jailed over bomb hoax

GRENOBLE: It is often said that Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned, but one cheated wife went to extraordinary lengths to exact revenge on her husband's mistress. Tired of playing second fiddle to her husband's paramour, the jealous 41-year-old mother-of-four triggered a bomb scare at Geneva airport in an effort to stop her going on holiday, prosecutors said yesterday. Following her false tip on Tuesday, the airport undertook a "massive security operation" at "colossal cost" that included a full evacuation of the terminal, the re-screening of 13,000 passengers and the deployment of 20 additional guards. Several flights were delayed by the chaos. Swiss authorities traced the hoaxer to the French town of Annecy where she lived—less than one hour from Geneva's airport by car. The woman, who was not named, was sentenced at a court in Annecy to six months prison of which she will have to serve at least three months.

One cop killed, one injured in San Diego

ASHINGTON: A police officer died and another was wounded in a shooting at a traffic stop in San Diego, police said yesterday. A Hispanic man was later taken into custody, San Diego police chief Shelley Zimmerman told a news conference. The officers radioed in that they were making a traffic stop late Thursday, then called for emergency backup soon after, she said.

AT 90, FIDEL CASTRO - SYMBOL OF CUBAN RESISTANCE TO CHANGE

HAVANA: White-haired, thin and bent at nearly 90, Fidel Castro in person is a faint echo of the man who remade his country, defied the United States and fueled socialist uprisings around the world. But 10 years after he handed control to his brother Raul, Cuba's former leader has taken on a powerful new role in a country suffering an economic crisis and debating its direction in a new era of normalization with Washington.

After a decade out of the public eye, Fidel Castro has surged back in the run-up to his Aug 13 birthday as the inspiration for Cubans who want to maintain strict Communist ortho-

doxy in Cuba in the face of mounting pressures to loosen political control and allow more private enterprise. "We reiterate our commitment to stay faithful to the ideas he's fought for throughout his life and to keep the spirit of resistance, struggle and dialectic thought alive," Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, the hard-line second secretary of the Cuban Communist Party told the nation Tuesday at the celebration of Castro's 1953 attack on a government barracks.

The peak of Castro's return to public prominence came April 19 at the closing session of the Cuban

Communist Party's 7th Congress. The three-day gathering featured a string of speeches denouncing President Barack Obama's visit to Cuba the month before, in which the US leader called on Cubans to look toward a future of reconciliation and greater freedom. Castro opened with a defense of his communist ideology, declaring the Russian Revolution of 1917 to be "a grand social revolution that represented a great step forward in the fight against colonialism and its inseparable companion, imperialism."

During 47 years in power, Fidel was a constant presence for Cubans but prohibited the statues, portraits and

other tributes beloved by other total leaders. Today, his image is everywhere as the country fills with tributes to him on his 90th birthday. Fidel is now mentioned by hardliners in the same breath as Jose Marti, the 19th century poet and revolutionary fighter whose status is similar to that of the founding fathers in the US. "In the ideology of Marti, and the path of Fidel, we've been warned about the need to prepare ourselves for a war of ideas, and to be informed, so we can't be confused," the head of Cuba's official journalists' union wrote Sunday. "We have the historic privilege of having shared our fate with Fidel." — AP

CHURCH ATTACKER THREATENED FRANCE IN NEW VIDEO

PARIS: A jihadist involved in the brutal killing of an elderly priest pledged to attack France in a newly released video, as Catholic bishops called for a day of prayer in a nation shaken by the latest assault. The assailant has been named as 19-year-old Abdel Malik Petitjean, who was listed in June on France's "Fiche S" system of people posing a potential threat to national security after he tried to reach Syria from Turkey. Petitjean threatened France and directly addressed President Francois Hollande and Prime Minister Manuel Valls in the footage released by the Islamic State-linked Amaq news agency.

Dressed in a striped t-shirt, Petitjean speaks mostly in French but uses some

Arabic phrases, and appears to be filming in a home. Petitjean, whose face was disfigured when he was shot dead by police, had been harder to identify than his accomplice Adel Kermiche, also 19. Investigators confirmed his identity after a DNA match with his mother. The pair pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group in a video made before they stormed a church in the Normandy town of Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray on Tuesday and slit the throat of 86-year-old priest Jacques Hamel at the altar.

The president of the Conference of Bishops in France Georges Pontier called on all Catholics in the country to observe a day of national prayers and fasting Friday "for our country and for

peace in the world". "We have various sentiments at this time. We know well that the only brotherhood, in our country, is the voice that leads to lasting peace. Let's build it together," he said in a statement earlier this week. Hamel's funeral will be held in the Gothic cathedral of nearby Rouen next Tuesday.

'Government guilty'

The church attack came as the government was already facing a firestorm of criticism over alleged security failings after the Bastille Day truck massacre in Nice that left 84 people dead two weeks ago. A brief show of political unity at a mass attended by different faiths in Paris on Wednesday quickly

dissolved as Prime Minister Manuel Valls and Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve faced fresh calls to resign.

"Even if the government is not responsible for the wave of terrorism, it is guilty of not having done everything to stop it," Laurent Wauquiez, the deputy leader of the right-wing Republicans party, said in an interview. Meanwhile, President Francois Hollande responded to remarks by US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump that "France is no longer France" as a result of the attacks. "France will always be France, because France will never yield and because France is always the bearer of ideals, values and principles, for which we are recognized throughout the world," he said. — AFP

FRANCE MULLS TEMPORARY BAN ON FOREIGN-FUNDED MOSQUES

PM URGES A 'NEW MODEL' FOR RELATIONS WITH ISLAM

PARIS: France's prime minister said yesterday he would consider a temporary ban on foreign financing of mosques, urging a "new model" for relations with Islam after a spate of jihadist attacks. Manuel Valls, under fire for perceived security lapses around the attacks, also admitted a "failure" in the fact that one of the jihadists who stormed a church and killed a priest on Tuesday had been released with an electronic tag pending trial.

In an interview with French daily Le Monde, Valls said he was "open to the idea that for a period yet to be determined there should be no financing from abroad for the construction of mosques." The Socialist prime minister also called for imams to be "trained in France, not elsewhere." He said Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve, whose portfolio also includes religious affairs, was working on building a "new model" for France's relations with Islam. And Salafism—the deeply fundamentalist branch of Islam espoused by many jihadists—"has no place in France," Valls said.

France has just over 2,000 mosques, for one of Europe's largest Muslim populations which numbers around five million. Some large mosques have been financed by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf or Northern African countries, according to local media reports. Both Valls and Cazeneuve have faced calls to resign after the second jihadist attack in less than a fortnight raised questions over France's vigilance and preparedness. The government has faced tough questions since it emerged that both church attackers had been on the radar of intelligence services and had tried to go to Syria.

Sparking particular ire was the revelation that one of the assailants, 19-year-old Adel Kermiche, had been released from prison while awaiting trial on terror charges after his second attempt to travel to Syria. The electronically tagged Kermiche was allowed out of his home on weekday mornings, enabling him and his accomplice to storm a church in the Normandy town of Saint-Etienne-



SAINT-ETIENNE-DU-ROUVRAY: People gather near floral in front of the church of Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, where French priest Jacques Hamel was killed in the church during a hostage-taking claimed by Islamic State group. — AFP

du-Rouvray and slit the throat of 86-year-old priest Jacques Hamel at the altar. Kermiche's accomplice Abdel Malik Petitjean, also 19, had been on the security watchlist since June after trying to reach Syria from Turkey.

'You take a knife'

Yesterday, the French weekly L'Express revealed that Kermiche had described the modus operandi of the attack on the encrypted messaging application Telegram. "You take a knife, you go into a church. Bam!" says a chilling message recorded just a few days before the attack whose authenticity was confirmed by a source close to the investigation, according to L'Express. Other messages speak of the influence of a "sheikh" Kermiche met in prison, his wish to set up a terrorist cell and details of his failed attempts to reach Syria.

Some 200 people were in the Telegram group receiving the messages, L'Express said. The church attack came as the government was already facing a firestorm of criticism over alleged security failings after the Bastille Day truck massacre in Nice that left 84 people

dead two weeks ago. In the government's first admission of a lapse since the two attacks, Valls acknowledged Kermiche's liberty was a "failure, it has to be recognized", adding that judges needed to take a "different, case-by-case, approach, given the jihadists' very advanced concealment methods". But he said it was "too easy to hold judges responsible for this act of terrorism."

Syrian refugee held

Meanwhile a source close to the investigation said a Syrian asylum seeker had been taken in for questioning after being arrested at a refugee centre in Alliers, central France. A photocopy of a Syrian passport was found at Kermiche's home that may be that of the asylum seeker, the source said. Two jihadist attacks this month in Germany's south were carried out by asylum seekers, reviving a backlash against Chancellor Angela Merkel's decision last year to open the borders to those fleeing war and persecution. A 30-year-old member of Petitjean's family and a 16-year-old whose brother travelled with Kermiche are also in custody. — AFP

CHURCH ATTACKERS; ISLAMIC STATE LINK

PARIS: Two jihadists who attacked a French church and brutally murdered a priest had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group. The attack in the Normandy town of Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray came as France was still coming to terms with the Bastille Day killings in Nice claimed by IS. Here is what we know so far about the church attack:

What happened?

Two men arrived at the 17th century Eglise Saint-Etienne during morning mass, attacking the church and taking five hostages inside. During the siege they killed a priest in his 80s by slitting his throat and seriously injured another captive. The victim was Father Jacques Hamel, a semi-retired assistant parish priest, according to the archbishop of nearby Rouen, Dominique Lebrun. Hamel was born in 1930 in Darnetal, a town near Saint-Etienne du Rouvray, and was ordained in 1958, according to information on the diocesan website. This is the first jihadist attack on a church on French soil since IS carried out its first assaults in Syria's war in 2013. Some 65 per cent of France's population identify as Catholics, according to the Ifop polling centre. The country's second-largest religion, Islam, has five million followers.

Taken down by police

As the two attackers made to leave the church they were confronted by a French police unit specializing in hostage situations, the BRI, and shot dead. Three of the hostages were freed unharmed. The scene was then secured by officers from France's elite RAID unit, who scoured the area for explosive devices. None was found.

Who were the attackers?

One of the attackers has been identified as French jihadist 19-year-old Adel Kermiche, who was awaiting trial on terror charges and had been fitted with an electronic tag despite calls from the prosecutor for him not to be released. Sources close to the investigation also said the second assailant, named as Abdel Malik Petitjean, "strongly resembles" a man hunted by anti-terrorism police in the days before the attack over fears he was about to carry out an act of terror. Petitjean, also 19, was listed in June on France's "Fiche S" system of people posing a potential threat to national security after he tried to reach Syria from Turkey.

New video posted by the IS news agency Amaq showed Petitjean, speaking in French and Arabic, threatening France and directly addressing President Francois Hollande and Prime Minister Manuel Valls. In a separate video also posted by Amaq, two bearded men, calling themselves by the noms de guerre Abu Omar and Abu Jalil Al-Hanafi, hold hands as they swear "obedience" to IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Earlier this week, IS said the two assailants were its "soldiers" and the attack retribution for France's fight against the jihadists in the Middle East. Kermiche, who was known to France's anti-terrorism police, tried twice to go to Syria in 2015. He had already threatened to attack a church, according to witness testimony collected in his neighborhood. — AFP

WHO IS SETTING KENYA'S SCHOOLS ON FIRE?

NAIROBI: Dozens of secondary schools across Kenya have been deliberately set on fire, but as the authorities struggle to pinpoint why, fractious relations between pupils, teachers and a controversial education minister offer clues. In the last three months, 117 Kenyan schools have been partially burnt by arsonists. Yet the arson attacks, which are countrywide, don't seem to correspond to any of the usual ethnic, geographical or socioeconomic fault lines that often spark tension in Kenya.

A confidential report by the police and education ministry seen by AFP identifies a clear pattern of behavior in the planning of the crimes, as the authorities struggle to contain the phenomenon. The fires "mainly affect dormitories where students sleep, and appear well coordinated because so far students have never been caught by the fire, meaning they escape well in

advance with prior knowledge," the report said. In response, education minister Fred Matiang'i has held several meetings with teachers, religious leaders and police, and more than 150 students have been arrested so far. But the

problem persists: on Thursday night alone, four schools were set on fire.

Fear and loathing

Identifying those orchestrating the attacks, or merely proving they might be copy-

cat acts, is proving difficult. The media has relayed fears of parents for their children's safety along with strident editorials condemning the incidents as symptomatic of a soft touch approach to parenting and education in Kenya today. "An education system in which students burn hostels and destroy school property every day is an indictment of the collective ethos of a nation. It is a shame and a reflection of a society gone haywire," the Daily Nation newspaper thundered on Thursday. The government has meanwhile seized upon recent reforms designed to stop epidemic levels of cheating to explain the fires.

They say the burning schools are retribution from a "cartel" formerly linked to the country's exam-setting body, which used to profit handsomely from selling papers and answers. Questions were exchanged by text messages

and on social media, with some sold for around \$10. The cheating ring was dismantled in March 2015 and several senior figures from the government agency were arrested. Others blame students themselves, saying they are scared of failing their exams, and still more point to their parents, whom they characterize as angry after losing out financially due to the cheating crackdown.

Ministerial role

The role of education minister Matiang'i is also a suspected factor, following months of complaints from teachers, students and parents against his tough approach. Matiang'i has effectively reduced the length of the school holidays by modifying the scholastic calendar, and has altered the allocation of funds for school supplies, angering the education establishment. — AFP



KISII, Kenya: Students of St Peter's-Nyamesocho in Kisii county rummage through a burnt-out dormitory for salvageable items after it was set on fire by some of the students during a night of unrest. — AFP

HK GROUPS WANT 'UNLIKELY CHINA EXIT' AS VOTE LOOMS

AFTER BREXIT, HONG KONG DREAMS OF OWN VERSION

HONG KONG: Britain had its Brexit. Now some in Hong Kong are dreaming of their own version. As the Asian financial center prepares for legislative elections in September, a new wave of radical political activists is planning to join the campaign, including some who advocate the once-unthinkable idea of independence from China. Separatist sentiment is largely on the fringe but has gained momentum recently, fueled by public fears that Hong Kong's identity is being eroded by mainland China's growing influence.

It has the potential to turn a normally humdrum vote into an embarrassment for Beijing by highlighting the challenges the Chinese Communist Party faces as it seeks to exert control over the freewheel-

ing former British colony. The Hong Kong government has tried to counter the activists. Over the past week election officers have warned candidates they must pledge to uphold Hong Kong's mini-constitution, including a section stating the city is an "inalienable" part of China.

Some candidates have refused to sign that part of the nomination form because they say it amounts to political screening. Others have launched legal challenges but the High Court declined to rule before Friday's deadline. Hong Kong became part of China in 1997 after more than a century of British rule. As part of the deal paving the way for Beijing to take control under a 50-year transition period, it guaranteed Hong Kong could

have considerable autonomy and keep the rule of law and its own legal and financial system.

Beijing will never accept Hong Kong independence. During a visit earlier this year, Zhang Dejiang, the Chinese Communist Party official responsible for overseeing the city, warned groups "flying the banner of Hong Kong independence" against trying to "override the law." China's nationalist Global Times newspaper last month blasted independence as "a joke." It's hard to gauge the true extent of support in Hong Kong for independence, which has become a serious political topic only this year, discussed on news sites, Facebook groups and at universities.

In a rare poll on the topic released Sunday by Chinese University of Hong Kong, some 17.4 percent of Hong Kongers support independence after 2047, with support strongest among the young. At the same time, less than 4 percent of the 1,010 people surveyed thought independence was even possible. The poll was conducted by phone July 6-15 and has a margin of error of 3.1 percent. "The Hong Kong government and the central government in Beijing appear to be deeply concerned about the possible entry of the radical localists into the legislative chamber," said Sonny Lo, a political analyst at The Education University of Hong Kong. The term localists refers to small, incipient factions that reject mainland China's rising influence, which they fear threatens the city's unique Cantonese-based culture. Recent mysterious detentions of five Hong Kong booksellers by mainland authorities have fed concerns about Chinese law enforcement's overreach. — AP



HONG KONG: High-profile localist candidate, Edward Leung of Hong Kong Indigenous (right) shouts slogan during a demonstration in Hong Kong. — AP

UNEMPLOYED MAY TURN AWAY FROM ANC IN ELECTION

UMLAZI: Young, poor, supporters of South Africa's African National Congress are weary of reminders of its liberation struggle, concentrating instead on the ruling party's failure to deliver jobs which could cost it votes in local elections next week. With a quarter of the work force unemployed and the jobless rate among blacks aged between 20 and 24 at over 48 percent, millions of voters say their lives have barely improved since the ANC won the first multi-racial elections in 1994.

Discontent is rising and ANC supporters are seeking alternatives. Polls say the main opposition party, the Democratic Alliance will win 36 percent of the vote in the economic hub of Johannesburg in the Aug. 3 vote, compared to 35 percent at the last municipal elections in 2011 and may also see gains in two other big metro areas. But the real switch amongst unemployed ANC supporters may be towards the Economic Freedom Fighters, whose radical leftist ideology, including a vow to redistribute the economic wealth still largely held by whites among poor blacks, resonates with unemployed youth in Africa's most industrialized country.

"I don't think the ANC government is doing enough to create jobs. Five years is too long to be unemployed," said Lindo Mavundla, 24, who has not had a job since leaving agricultural college in 2011. "I'm not sure there's any point in voting next week, but if I do, it will be for the EFF," Mavundla, who lives in Umlazi township outside the coastal city of Durban and survives mainly on the social grant received by his grandmother.

Polls predict the EFF will win 9 percent, 13 percent and six percent in the three key metros of Johannesburg, Tshwane and Nelson Mandela Bay, in its first municipal contest. As a result, the ANC's support is seen dropping to 31 percent, 23 percent and 28 percent respectively from 59 percent, 55 percent and 52 percent five years ago. ANC supporter Zinhle Khumalo has also lost faith in the party of the country's first black president, Nelson Mandela. Many say President Jacob Zuma has not lived up to the optimism that heralded Mandela's inauguration 22 years ago.

Among many scandals, Zuma survived impeachment in April after the top court said he breached the constitution by ignoring a recommendation by the graft watchdog to pay back some of the money used to refurbish his rural residence. "We keep getting promises of municipal jobs but they never materialise. — Reuters

QAEDA AND AL-NUSRA FRONT...

Continued from Page 1

steps" to save a failing Syria truce and tackle jihadists like Al-Nusra and IS. But with the amicable break from Al-Qaeda, Jolani "can now call upon a broad spectrum of armed groups in Syria to agree to unite initiatives", said analyst Charles Lister.

"It's also, plain and simple, a recognition of the need to confuse one's enemies, given US-Russian plans to begin military operations" against Al-Nusra, he said. Washington said it still considers Al-Nusra Front a security threat despite the announcement. "We certainly see no reasons to believe that their actions or their objectives are any different," said State Department spokesman John Kirby. "They are still considered a foreign terrorist organization," Kirby said. "We judge a group by what they do, not by what they call themselves."

In the brief recording, Jolani, flanked by two bearded men, said the split was aimed at "protecting the Syrian revolution" and to offset any excuse by the international com-

munity to target Al-Nusra. "We hope to form a unified body, based on the shura (Islamic law), uniting the masses of the people of Al-Sham, liberating their lands, giving victory to their faith and upholding their testimony of faith," he said. Al-Nusra is already a leading member of the Army of Conquest, an alliance of Islamist and rebel fighters, that controls the northwest province of Idlib.

Lister said that one of the men sitting beside Jolani was Al-Qaeda veteran leader Ahmed Salameh Mabrouk. "Al-Qaeda is playing a critically important role in shaping this development and their thinking and strategizing will remain crucial for this new Jabhat Fateh Al-Sham movement," he said. "It will still oppose the most moderate of opposition groups in Syria; it will still be viciously sectarian, and it will still ultimately seek the establishment of an Islamic emirate in Syria and the potential launching of external attacks on the West."

Al-Qaeda, founded by Osama bin Laden and to which Al-Nusra pledged allegiance in 2013, prepared the ground for Thursday's announcement. — AFP

HILLARY CLINTON MAKES HISTORY...

Continued from Page 1

She acknowledged some people still do not know her well. "I get it that some people just don't know what to make of me. So let me tell you. The family I'm from, well no one had their name on big buildings," Clinton said in a reference to Trump, whose name is plastered across his properties.

She said her family built a better life and a better future for their children, using whatever tools they had and "whatever God gave them." The speech capped a four-day nominating convention that opened in discord after a leak of hacked Democratic National Committee emails showed party officials favored Clinton over primary rival Bernie Sanders, a US senator from Vermont. Even though DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, a Clinton ally, resigned on Sunday, angry Sanders supporters throughout the week disrupted the convention and undermined efforts by Clinton and Sanders to present a united front.

On Thursday, people familiar with the matter said the FBI is investigating a cyber attack against another Democratic Party group, which may be related to the earlier hack against the DNC. The incident at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and its potential ties to Russian hackers are likely to heighten accusations, so far unproven, that Moscow is trying to meddle in the US election to help Trump. Sanders supporters on Thursday wore fluorescent green T-shirts that said "Enough is Enough." Their occasional chants of protest were drowned out by Clinton supporters chanting, "Hillary!" Clinton acknowledged Sanders and his supporters. "I want you to know, I've heard you," she said. "Your cause is our cause."

Appeal to Republicans

She appealed to voters beyond the party, praising Arizona Senator John McCain, a former Republican candidate for president, as a war hero, and the military service of the son of Trump's running mate, Indiana Governor Mike Pence. "I will be a president for Democrats, Republicans and independents," she said. Clinton said it would be her "primary mission" to create more opportunities and more good jobs with rising wages, and to confront

stark choices in battling determined enemies and "threats and turbulence" around the world and at home. "America is once again at a moment of reckoning. Powerful forces are threatening to pull us apart," said Clinton, a former secretary of state. "No wonder people are anxious and looking for reassurance - looking for steady leadership."

The evening sounded at times more like a traditional Republican convention than a Democratic one. During retired General John Allen's remarks, chants of "USA!" filled the hall and large flags were brought in to be waved. Speakers, some of whom included military and police officers, made frequent mentions of religion and patriotism. "I certainly know that with her as our commander-in-chief, our foreign relations will not be reduced to a business transaction, I also know that our armed forces will not become an instrument of torture," said Allen. Clinton embraced her reputation as a policy wonk, offering a litany of proposals for tuition-free college, infrastructure investment, immigration reform, gun control, affordable child care, paid family leave and more.

'A fantasy universe'

Trump, a 70-year-old reality TV show host who has never held political office, is running just ahead of Clinton in a RealClearPolitics average of recent national opinion polls. They both garner high "unpopularity" ratings. In a statement after the speech, the Trump campaign said Clinton had described "a fantasy universe," not reality. "Hillary Clinton's speech was an insulting collection of cliches and recycled rhetoric. She spent the evening talking down to the American people she's looked down on her whole life," said Stephen Miller, senior policy adviser.

At a rally in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, earlier in the day, Trump said he did not want to watch the speech. "I think we'll stay here all night because I don't really want to go home and watch that crap," he said. Trump has portrayed the country as being under siege from illegal immigrants, crime and terrorism and as 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.— Reuters

YEMENI PEACE TALKS COLLAPSE

Continued from Page 1

violation" of UN Security Council Resolution 2216 on Yemen's conflict.

A UN spokesman in Kuwait, however, said Ould Cheikh Ahmed was scheduled to meet with the rebels later on Friday and with ambassadors of the 18 countries backing the peace process in Yemen. Indirect negotiations held in Kuwait since April have failed to make headway. Most of the discussions focused on the type of the government to run Yemen during a transition period. "It must be made clear here that it is the Houthi-Saleh alliance that foiled the peace talks in Kuwait. They have shown that they were never serious

about a peaceful settlement," Emrani said.

A top aide to President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi said on Thursday that the government considered the peace talks had wound up without agreement. "The negotiations have completely ended," said Abdullah Al-Olaimi, deputy director of the president's office and a member of the government delegation. More than 6,400 people have been killed in Yemen since the Saudi-led coalition intervened in support of Hadi's government. Another 2.8 million people have been displaced and more than 80 percent of the population urgently needs humanitarian aid, according to UN figures. — AFP



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INDIAN 'ORPHANS' FACE ABUSE, NEGLECT IN CARE HOMES

CHENNAI: Dhanalakshmi was 14 and pregnant when she was rescued from a children's home in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. She had been entrusted in the care of the unregistered institution by her mother, a ragpicker who could no longer afford another mouth to feed. But instead of receiving protection, the teenager was raped for months by staff in the home, according to a report by a committee set up by the local social welfare department to investigate the matter.

"Her story blew the lid off something we have known for a long time," said Zaheeruddin Mohammad, a member of the committee that also fought for the rights of the girl to be protected. "Inside unregistered homes, there is rampant abuse and little care for the needs of a child." State authorities have closed 500 homes since 2011, citing mismanagement, a lack of registration and misconduct but human rights groups say abuse is rife across the 1,500 government and state institutions in the state.

Rights groups have long complained that children's homes in India are poorly regulated, not inspected often enough, and that many privately-run institutions are able to operate without a licence leaving thousands of children open to mistreatment. The scope of the problem was outlined in a petition filed in Chennai's High Court by A. Narayanan, the director of

advocacy group CHANGEIndia. "Not a week passes without news of neglect, physical violence such as torture and branding with iron, sexual abuse including rape, murder and suicides in child care homes in Tamil Nadu," the affidavit said.

Pull of good education

Child rights campaigners estimate that 200,000 children in Tamil Nadu are residents of private orphanages, state-supported care homes, Islamic madrasas, temples and hostels. Many children are not orphans but placed in institutional care by their parents too poor to feed, clothe and shelter them. "An increasing number of these children are from marginalized families," CHANGEIndia's Narayanan told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "The parents are lured by the pull of good education and promise of better care for their children. They are relying on institutional care."

Various reports submitted to the government in the past five years have warned of shoddy conditions in children's homes - from poor lighting and cramped accommodation to violence. In the majority of reported cases, the perpetrators of abuse have been wardens, watchmen, cooks and other staff. Tamil Nadu government officials have said in court that they were looking at the recommendations made by campaigners, which include better monitoring of homes, indi-

vidual child care plans, more counselors and encouraging the idea of foster care. In one of the latest closures, state authorities shut down after another privately-run institution housing 32 children near the port city of Chennai last month after complaints of mismanagement. "These organizations have become organized rackets," Narayanan said. "There are many organizations which have a valid registration but no child care plan, no counselors and no expertise on how to fulfill a child's emotional needs."

Misrepresented

Children rescued in a separate operation on June 30, from an institution in Tambaram, near Chennai, described being made to clean toilets and eat "unpalatable" food, according to RN Manikandan, chairman of a local child welfare committee. He also said the children shared the same space as residents of a nursing home run by the same organization, which also caused concern. Child welfare committee members also raised questions about the babies they found in the premises during an earlier inspection, who are now missing. According to Narayanan's affidavit, many children from poor families were shown as destitute orphans in the records and "paraded" before potential adoptive parents and donors funding these homes. — Reuters

INDIA RE-IMPOSES CURFEW IN KASHMIR AS CLASHES PERSIST

'WE WANT FREEDOM. GO INDIA, GO BACK'

SRINAGAR: Authorities re-imposed a curfew to prevent a protest march to the main mosque in Indian-controlled Kashmir's main city yesterday, but fresh street demonstrations and clashes still occurred amid outrage over the killing of a top rebel leader earlier this month. Residents said government forces visited homes in Srinagar before dawn and asked them to stay indoors. One resident, Bashir Ahmed, said police didn't allow bakers and milkmen to deliver supplies in the area.

Hundreds of men and women defied the curfew after Friday prayers and marched to a United Nations office in Kashmir and held a protest demonstration. They chanted "We want freedom. Go India, Go back." Police fired tear gas and used wooden batons to disperse the protesters. However, youths regrouped

in streets later and clashed with the police, hurling rocks at them. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Similar confrontations between the protesters and government forces also were reported from at least 10 places in northern parts of Kashmir, including Bandipora and Sopore towns. Doctors at the main hospital in Srinagar said they have treated at least 50 people for injuries, most of them caused by pellets, in the past three days. Security forces apparently continued using pellet guns despite India's Home Minister Rajnath Singh cautioning them to minimize the weapons' use because of serious eye injuries to protesters, some of whom have been blinded.

The curfew, re-imposed after being lifted Thursday, had been in effect since July 9, the day after Burhan Wani was

killed by government forces. Security forces also prevented people from praying in big mosques across the region, but did not interfere with those visiting small neighborhood mosques in rural areas for Friday prayers. Shops, businesses and schools remained closed as separatists asked people to hold strikes and street protests. Key separatist leaders Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Yasin Malik had called for the protest march to the main Jamia Masjid mosque yesterday.

Geelani and Mirwaiz Farooq, who were put under house arrest, defied the restrictions and came out of their homes to march to the mosque. Police stopped them and took them away, a police officer said on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to talk to reporters. Police have kept Malik in a lockup to prevent him from leading the protest. Areas of southern Kashmir where most of the deadly street protests have been centered have remained under curfew. At least 49 civilians, mostly teenagers and young men, have been killed as government forces fired live ammunition and pellets. A policeman also died after protesters pushed his vehicle into a river.

About 2,000 civilians and 1,500 police and soldiers have been injured in the clashes. Kashmir, a predominantly Muslim region, is divided between India and Pakistan, but both claim it in its entirety. The rivals have fought two wars over control of Kashmir since independence from Britain in 1947. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Kashmiri rebels who have been fighting since 1989 for independence for Kashmir or its merger with Pakistan. Islamabad denies the charge, saying it provides political and diplomatic support to Kashmiris. — AP



Flood affected villagers travel with cattle on a boat at Sildubi village, in the northeastern Indian state of Assam yesterday. — AP

THOUSANDS STRANDED AS RAINS FLOOD ROADS

NEW DELHI: Thousands of Indians were left stranded overnight yesterday as major traffic gridlock paralyzed roads leading to a key business city near New Delhi and authorities struggled to get the situation under control. Television images showed thousands of partially submerged cars stranded in miles-long jams on a key highway and link roads connecting New Delhi with the satellite town of Gurgaon. Office-goers and locals were pictured wading through knee-deep water after heavy monsoon rains deluged streets late Thursday.

Local authorities issued an order Friday asking people to avoid travelling to the area in northern Haryana state and shut schools for two days. Dubbed "Millennium City", Gurgaon is home to scores of top multinational companies, expensive condominiums, a world-class golf course, top hospitals and gleaming shopping malls. However, like many Indian cities it lacks an efficient drainage system making it prone to flooding. "People coming to Gurgaon from Delhi are advised to stay back today to avoid being stuck in traffic jams due to flooding on roads," Gurgaon police posted on Twitter.

Anubhuti Sharma was unable to pick up her child from a creche a few kilometres away from her office after getting stuck. "I had to pick my child at 7:00 pm but got stuck in the jam till 9:30 pm. My relative picked him at 8:00 pm and was stranded on road for two hours," Sharma told AFP. Several commuters took to social media to vent their anger. "Gurugram! What a nightmare. 5 hours to cover 1 km. Parked car on roadside, slept in the car and now back in office," Rajesh Mehta wrote on Twitter. Gurgaon was in April formally renamed Gurugram by the local Hindu nationalist government. — AFP



KASHMIR: Kashmiri protestors clash with Indian government forces near the United Nations Military Observer Group India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) office in Srinagar yesterday. — AFP

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2016

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OOREDOO LAUNCHES KUWAIT'S FIRST VIRTUAL CALL-IN STORE

KUWAIT: A service that reinforces the company's position as a leading smart solutions provider Ooredoo Kuwait, member of international Ooredoo group has recently announced launching its first virtual store in Kuwait, allowing customers across the country to enjoy a unique shopping experience at the comfort of their home.

Customers who wish to make use of this innovative solution can simply call 143 and ask for any Ooredoo product, service or offer. The virtual call-in store agent has full access to Ooredoo's systems and will be able to serve the customer and



schedule a delivery time along with necessary documents that should be signed. This service met the praise of many users across Kuwait for its convenience, speed and efficiency.

Commenting on this, Ahmed Dardab, Director of Retail Sales and Franchise at Ooredoo said: "We are very proud to be

the first in Kuwait to offer such a unique and simple shopping experience. Our valued customers have always been and will remain a priority so providing them with innovative, accessible, easy to use services remain key target for us. Through this service we aim offering our services to customers at their ultimate convenience, saving their time and efforts"

This service is in alignment with Ooredoo's continuous efforts to enrich people's lives through the latest technology. Ooredoo's latest offers include the most advanced smartphones, tablets and routers.

GULF INSURANCE GROUP ANNOUNCES KD 7.1 MILLION (US\$ 23.6 MILLION) NET PROFIT FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2016

KUWAIT: Gulf Insurance Group (gig) announced a net profit of KD 7.1 million (US\$ 23.6 million), or 39.83 fils per share, for the first half of 2016 compared with net profit of KD 7.5 million (US\$ 24.8 million) for the same period last year with a decrease of KD 0.4 million (US\$ 1.2 million) or 4.9 percent. This decrease is due to the devaluation of Egyptian Pound with 14 percent during this year that had a negative effect on our existing investments with this currency and the decrease of the group share of results from one of its associates compared with same period last year. Group posted Net Underwriting Income of KD 8.7 million (US\$ 28.7 million) with an increase of 24.9 percent or KD 2.2 million (US\$ 7.2 million) compared to the same period last year.

In the second quarter (the three months ended June 30, 2016), the Group achieved a net profit of KD 3.8 million (US\$ 12.7 million), an increase of 2.3% compared to the same period

in 2015. Shareholder equity reached KD 86.4 million (US\$ 286.4 million), reflecting a growth of 2.1% or KD 1.8 million (US\$ 6.1 million) as at June 30, 2016 compared to the same period last year.

Book value per share reached fils 484, compared with fils 472 as at June 30, 2015. During the first half of 2016, Gross written premium reached KD 98.5 million (US\$ 326.4 million), with an increase of 14% compared to KD 86.4 million (US\$ 286.4 million) reported for the first half of 2015.

Net technical reserves rose from being KD 112.7 million (US\$ 373.4 million) on December 31, 2015 to stand at KD 113.1 million (US\$ 374.8 million) as at June 30, 2016. This 0.4% growth will support the company's technical operations and protect the policyholders' rights, thereby strengthening gig's ability to withstand emergencies and risks that may rise in the future.

Total assets reached KD 358.3 million (US\$ 1.19 billion) during the first half of 2016, an increase of KD 6.4 million (US\$ 21 million) or 1.8 percent compared to the same period last year.

Mr. Khaled Saoud Al Hasan, gig's CEO, said, "Our results for the 1st half of 2016 reflects the growth we have achieved. This is also a strong indication of the Group's ability to protect its assets and shareholders' equity. It is also in line with our constant strive to provide the best insurance services to our clients across all markets we operate in, supported by our strategy for regional expansion and increasing our domestic and regional market share."

He added, "We thank our clients for these achievements, as well as the support of our shareholders, namely KIPCO - Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) - and Fairfax Middle East Ltd. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to our dedicated employees for their efforts."



Group CEO Khaled Al Hasan



BOSTON: In this Thursday, May 19, 2016, photo, passers-by walk near the construction site a high-rise building. — AP

US ECONOMY 'SLUGGISH'

OFFSET BY WEAKNESS IN HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

WASHINGTON: Growth in the US economy was sluggish again in the spring, dashing expectations for a robust rebound after a tough winter. Stronger consumer spending was offset by weakness in housing construction and a big slowdown in the pace that businesses restocked store shelves.

The Commerce Department said yesterday that the gross domestic product - the broadest measure of the economy - grew at a 1.2 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter. That was far below the 2.6 percent GDP growth rate that economists had been forecasting.

The government also revised down its estimate of first-quarter growth to 0.8 percent from 1.1 percent. The economy has now grown at lackluster rates for three straight quarters. Consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic activity, did accelerate in the spring, growing at an annual rate of 4.2 percent. That was more than double the 1.6 percent rate in the first quarter. It was the strongest surge for consumer spending since the final three months of 2014.

But business slowed further restocking

of their shelves, which cut growth by 1.7 percentage points in the second quarter. Businesses have struggled for more than a year to get their stockpiles more in line with sales. The inventory slowdown in the spring was the sharpest since the first quarter of 2014. Trade was a slight positive in the second quarter, adding 0.2 percentage points to growth. But the government sector trimmed growth by 0.2 percent, reflecting weakness at both the federal and state and local levels. Business nonresidential investment declined for a third straight quarter as the energy sector continued to struggle with falling oil prices that have caused sharp cutbacks in oil exploration. Housing construction, which has been a bright spot for the economy, shrank at an annual rate of 6.1 percent in the second quarter, reflecting weakness in both single-family and apartment construction.

GDP report

The new GDP report will likely be used by both Democrats and Republicans to try to score political points. Republicans contend that GDP over the past seven years

has grown at the weakest pace of any post-World War II recovery and blame the Obama administration's policies. Democrats point instead to structural changes in the US economy and to obstructionism by Republican leaders in Congress who have blocked spending initiatives.

Analysts predict that the economy will grow at an annual rate slightly above 2 percent in the second half of the year - a modest pace in line with the pattern that's existed since the recovery began in June 2009. Still, even tepid growth would be preferable to the possible recession that some had feared might be nearing after the economy's woeful start to the year.

After stabilizing in February, financial markets went into a second nosedive in June after Britain voted to leave the European Union, an unexpected outcome that raised fears that the already weak global economy might slide further. On top of that, job growth in the United States slowed sharply in April and May. But the job market came roaring back with 287,000 additional jobs in June, the biggest monthly gain since October. — AP

MERCK PUTS UP STRONG 2Q NUMBERS, BUT CHOPPY WATER AHEAD

NEW YORK: Merck & Co. lowered its financial forecasts for 2016, citing higher restructuring and other costs, despite a big jump in second-quarter profit.

The drug maker is transitioning to what it hopes is a new cycle of growth fueled by promising new drugs as it continues to cut costs to offset the impact of increased competition for its best sellers. That's reducing sales or slowing growth. However, its new drugs in the hot categories of hepatitis C and immune system-boosting cancer drugs are trailing those of rivals dominating those markets.

75 percent jump

The Kenilworth, New Jersey, company yesterday reported a 75 percent jump in second-quarter net income. It edged past Wall Street expectations for profit and it matched sales forecasts, as overall sales rose slightly.

Shares rose 87 cents, or 1.5 percent, to \$59.30 in premarket trading. Merck posted net income of \$1.21 billion, or 43 cents per share, up from \$687 million, or 24 cents per share, a year earlier. Earnings, adjusted for one-time costs related to mergers and acquisitions and restructuring costs, came to 93 cents per share. The average estimate of nine analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of 92 cents per share. The second-biggest US drug maker reported revenue of \$9.84 billion in the period, up 1 percent. Merck said it now expects full-year earnings in the range of \$1.98 to \$2.08 per share, excluding one-time items. That's down from its May forecast of \$1.96 to \$2.23.

It expects adjusted 2016 earnings of \$3.67 to \$3.77 per share, a tighter range than the \$3.65 to \$3.77 per share it forecast in the spring, and revenue of \$39.1 billion to \$40.1 billion. "We remain committed to advancing our pipeline, delivering a balanced and differentiated portfolio, and achieving long-term sustainable growth," CEO Kenneth Frazier said in a statement. The company said the strong dollar reduced sales by 2 percent, though those negative effects declined from recent years. The maker of Type 2 diabetes pill Januvia and cholesterol drugs Zetia and Vytorin said sales of its prescription drugs increased 2 percent in the quarter, to \$8.7 billion. Januvia, Merck's top seller, only rose 2 percent, to \$1.06 billion, while sales declined significantly for Vytorin, HIV drug ISENTRESS, cancer vaccine Gardasil and immune disorder drug Remicade, which Merck sells outside the US. Merck's two new potential blockbuster drugs are slowly building sales, but lag far behind the category leaders. Hepatitis C drug Zepatier, launched in January, posted sales of just \$112 million. — AP



KENILWORTH, NEW JERSEY: The Merck logo on a stained glass panel at a Merck company building. — AP

MARKETS SUBDUED BY BOJ'S MODEST STIMULUS BUT YEN SURGES

LONDON: Stock markets around the world are ending the week on a flat note after the Bank of Japan disappointed investors with a smaller than anticipated stimulus. However, the yen surged following Friday's decision.

KEEPING SCORE: In Europe, Britain's FTSE 100 slipped 0.1 percent to 6,713 while Germany's DAX rose 0.3 percent to 10,305. France's CAC 40 was 0.1 percent higher at 4,423. Wall Street was poised for a subdued opening too with Dow futures and the broader S&P 500 futures down 0.1 percent.

JAPAN SURPRISE: Japan's central bank

ended a policy meeting Friday by announcing it will expand purchases of exchange traded funds from financial institutions to help inject more cash into the world's third-largest economy and pursue its 2 percent inflation target. But the measures fell short of hopes for more aggressive action. That helped the yen surge in the currency markets as investors priced in fewer yen in circulation - the dollar was 2.1 percent lower at 103.03 yen.

ANALYST TAKE: "The fact that the BoJ undershot market expectations should come as no surprise given the lessons learnt from

both the Bank of England and European Central Bank meetings this month," said Joshua Mahony, market analyst at IG. "The BoJ has used every weapon bar the helicopter and there is going to come a time when the BoJ takes stock to consider whether their policies are even making a difference."

EUROPE SLIPS: A run of economic data out of the 19-country eurozone did little to alter the underlying mood during European trading. Official figures showed growth across the region halved in the second quarter of the year to 0.3 percent. It also found inflation edged up

modestly to 0.2 percent in the year to July and unemployment holding steady at 10.1 percent in June. **ASIA'S DAY:** Japan's Nikkei 225 gained 0.6 percent to 16,569.27, recovering from earlier losses. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 1.3 percent to 21,891.37. Australia's S&P ASX 200 rose 0.1 percent to 5,560.40. China's Shanghai Composite Index slipped 0.5.

OIL: In the energy market, benchmark U.S. crude fell 42 to \$40.72 on the New York Mercantile Exchange while Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 75 cents to \$42.95 in London. — AP



CUMMING, GEORGIA: A United Parcel Service driver starts his truck after making a delivery on June 20, 2014. —AP

UPS 2Q REVENUE IMPROVES ON STRENGTH IN US, ABROAD

ATLANTA: UPS's second-quarter revenue improved on solid performances from its domestic and international package divisions. The package and delivery service's revenue increased to \$14.63 billion from \$14.1 billion. Analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research expected \$14.6 billion in revenue.

Revenue for the US domestic package unit climbed 4 percent, with average daily package volume up 2.5 percent. For the international package division, revenue rose 1.1 percent and daily export packages climbed 3.9 percent.

The package and delivery industry is a competitive field, with UPS doing battle with rivals such as FedEx and the US Postal Service. There is also concern that Amazon Inc. may enter the fray. Amazon has leased 40 cargo planes from Boeing and Atlas Air to create an air cargo network. The company says it doesn't plan to build its own delivery service and is just looking to work more closely with package-delivery services like the US Postal Service, FedEx and UPS, but the cargo fleet and drone experimentation are clear steps in taking more control in the delivery process.

For the three months ended June 30, United Parcel Service Inc. earned \$1.27 billion, or \$1.43 per share. That compares with \$1.23 billion, or \$1.35 per share, a year earlier.

The results met the expectations of analysts polled by Zacks. UPS maintained its full-year forecast for earnings in a range of \$5.70 to \$5.90 per share. Analysts polled by FactSet predict \$5.80 per share. Its shares slipped 2 percent before the market open on yesterday. —AP

EXXON MISSES STREET 2Q FORECASTS

IRVING, Texas: Exxon Mobil Corp. (XOM) yesterday reported second-quarter profit of \$1.7 billion. The Irving, Texas-based company said it had profit of 41 cents per share.

The results did not meet Wall Street expectations, but Exxon does not adjust its reported results based on one-time events such as asset sales. The average estimate of 10 analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of 64 cents per share.

The oil and natural gas company posted revenue of \$57.69 billion in the period, which also fell short of Street forecasts. Three analysts surveyed by Zacks expected \$59.83 billion.

Exxon shares have risen 16 percent since the beginning of the year, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index has climbed 6 percent. The stock has risen slightly more than 9 percent in the last 12 months. —AP



TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA: The sign for the Exxon Mobil Torrance Refinery. —AP



SEOUL: Senior South Korean prosecutor Jin Kyung-joon, center, is surrounded by media upon his arrival for questioning at the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office. —AP

SENIOR SOUTH KOREAN PROSECUTOR INDICTED ON CORRUPTION CHARGES

SEOUL: South Korean prosecutors yesterday indicted a fellow senior prosecutor for allegedly pocketing millions of dollars from shady stock transaction deals with an online game maker.

Jin Kyung-joon, who holds a rank of vice minister, faces charges including bribery and violating the law on financial transactions, prosecutor Lee Keum-ro announced in a televised news conference. Jin became the most senior prosecutor to be arrested last week.

Corruption scandals involving high-profile figures routinely take place in South Korea, one of Asia's leading economies that became a liberal

democracy in the late 1980s after decades of dictatorships.

Jin allegedly took 420 million won (\$374,830) from the founder of Nexon and bought unlisted company shares before selling them back to the company at a much higher price. Prosecutors accused Lee of using the profits to purchase shares of Nexon Japan and sold them again for 12.6 billion won (\$11 million) last year.

Jin also allegedly received a luxury sedan and 50 million won (\$44,620) for personal travel expenses from Nexon. In a brief encounter with reporters three days before his arrest, Jin said he

committed "wrong behavior" but didn't elaborate. There were no fresh comments from him since he was put in a detention facility.

Prosecutors yesterday also indicted Nexon founder Kim Jungju, one of South Korea's richest men with an estimated wealth of 4 trillion won (\$3.5 billion).

Kim issued a statement yesterday saying "I lower my head and apologize." Nexon, known for hit games like "MapleStory" and "Dungeon & Fighter," has about 300 million users in about 150 countries, according to Nexon officials. —AP

TURKEY WIDENS ITS POST-COUP CRACKDOWN TO BUSINESSMEN

ANKARA: Turkish authorities yesterday widened their post-coup crackdown to the business sector, detaining three top tycoons as part of investigations into the activities of US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen.

Twenty-one journalists also appeared in an Istanbul court after being rounded up in the sweeping purge, which has seen almost 16,000 people detained since the failed July 15 putsch. Turkish authorities blame Gulen for the rebellion, which aimed to unseat President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and they are now seeking to erase the reclusive cleric's influence from all aspects of Turkish life. But the scale of the crackdown has sparked international alarm, with the EU enlargement commissioner implicitly warning the bloc would freeze Turkey's accession talks if it violated the rule of law. Johannes Hahn said he needed to see "black-and-white facts about how these people are treated." "And if there is even the slightest doubt that the (treatment) is improper, then the consequences will be inevitable," he told German daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung. Military reshuffle Following a shake-up of the military on Thursday after nearly half of its 358

generals were sacked, the top brass of the reshuffled armed forces met Erdogan at his presidential palace in Ankara. Ninety-nine colonels have been promoted to generals and admirals, although Chief of staff General Hulusi Akar—who was held hostage during the coup attempt—stayed in his post along with the heads of the navy, land and air forces. Turkey insisted its military would keep up the fight against Islamic State (IS) jihadists and other militants, saying the armed forces would emerge stronger from the purge.

"When we weed them (pro-Gulenist elements) out, our army will first of all be more dynamic, cleaner and more effective," Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said, dismissing concerns that the forces would be weakened. Meanwhile the probe into coup plotters shifted focus to the financing of Gulen's activities in Turkey, with what appeared to be the first major arrests targeting the business world. Security forces in the central city of Kayseri detained the chairman of the family-owned Boydak Holding company, Mustafa Boydak, and two other top executives, state-run Anadolu news agency said. — AFP

BRITISH AIRWAYS OWNER CUTS OUTLOOK ON BREXIT

LONDON: International Airlines Group, owner of BA and Iberia, lowered its annual earnings forecast yesterday following the recent Brexit vote. The group, which also owns Ireland's Aer Lingus and Spain's Iberia, predicted that operating profit would see "low double-digit percentage growth" in 2016.

That contrasted sharply with the 70 percent increase that was forecast prior to the shock June 23 EU exit vote. IAG had already warned one day after

the referendum that it would unlikely meet its target, given the slumping pound and post-Brexit economic uncertainty.

"In the lead up to the vote we witnessed softer than expected trading, principally with UK corporate," said IAG chief executive Willie Walsh on a conference call. "Had the vote gone the other way we would have expected that to bounce back. Clearly that didn't happen and that trend has continued."

Walsh said a recovery would come "at some point," but suggested it was too early to say whether that will be this year or in 2017. IAG added Friday that its operating profit rose about five percent to 555 million euros in the second quarter or three months to June, compared with a year earlier.

The group took a foreign exchange hit of 148 million Euros for the period, following the Brexit-driven collapse in the pound. "Numerous external factors affected our airlines including the

impact of terrorism, uncertainty around the UK's EU referendum and Spain's political situation and increased weakness in Latin American economies," added Walsh in the results statement.

"This led to a softer than expected trading environment, especially in June. "In addition, the airlines' operations have been considerably disrupted by 22 air traffic control strikes in Europe so far this year. This has impacted our passenger revenues." —AFP



NEW YORK: Electronic screens post prices of Alphabet stock at the Nasdaq MarketSite. —AP

ALPHABET INC SOARS DESPITE RISING 'MOONSHOT' LOSSES

GOOGLE'S PARENT COMPANY CAN AFFORD TO GAMBLE

SAN FRANCISCO: Business is booming at Google's parent company, Alphabet Inc., even as it loses billions of dollars on kooky-sounding projects that may never produce any revenue.

Huge chunks of the losses have been piling up in Alphabet's "X" lab, a well-spring of far-out ideas that has become known as a "moonshot factory" since Google co-founder Sergey Brin launched it about six years ago.

The lab is responsible for some one-zany projects, such as Google's self-driving cars, that matured into potentially revolutionary technology. It also has pursued but ultimately abandoned other outlandish endeavors, such as an effort to convert seawater into gasoline.

Like going to the moon, exploring new technological frontiers is expensive. Although Alphabet doesn't specify just how much money it pours into the X lab, it is among the costliest drains in a far-flung category that falls under the "Other Bets" segment in the company's financial statement. Fiber, an effort to bring ultra-fast Internet service to major US cities, is also requiring huge investments.

Alphabet's second-quarter earnings report, released Thursday, showed an operating loss of \$859 million in Other Bets, widening from a \$660 million loss a year ago. It's the second consecutive quarter in which losses have deepened.

Last year, Other Bets lost \$3.6 billion - exceeding the annual revenue of many companies.

Afford to gamble

The Mountain View, California, company can afford to gamble because Google runs the world's most profitable advertising network, spread across its dominant search engine, YouTube video site and Gmail, as well as well millions of third-party websites that draw upon its marketing machine.

Powered by Google, Alphabet earned \$4.9 billion during the April-June quarter, a 24 percent increase from the same time last year. After subtracting ad commissions, Alphabet's revenue climbed 22 percent to \$17.5 billion.

Although Alphabet CEO Larry Page has repeatedly told investors to expect big money to be wagered on Other Bets, the company has been reining in expenses since hiring Wall Street veteran Ruth Porat as its chief financial officer 14 months ago.

Astro Teller, who runs the X lab, says he strives for a balance between the pursuit of envelope-pushing technology and Wall Street's demands for some semblance of fiscal prudence. "In short, we try to steer X to be 'responsibly irresponsible' as we develop new products," Teller wrote in an online essay published Thursday.

The X lab understands most of its projects will fall by the wayside, but Teller doesn't view that as a waste of time - or money. "To make progress toward any audacious idea, you have to make mistakes? You have to seek out frequent, messy, instructive failure that shows you what to do (or not do) next," Teller wrote.

The money that Google spent on areas that have little to do with internet search and advertising used to frustrate investors who wanted to see bigger profits. BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis says that exasperation is fading away since Porat has made it clear that there will be limits on the spending. Since her arrival, the increases in expenses haven't been outpacing the rate of revenue growth, as it had been.

Plus, Gillis says, people are starting to realize that technology companies should be plowing some of their profits into research that could pay off in future years to avoid becoming too dependent on a single product. Apple Inc., for instance, has been hurt during the past year by its reliance on the iPhone for most of its revenue, as demand for that device has fallen.

Alphabet's stock gained \$43.16, or more than 5 percent, to \$809, positioning it to potentially surpass its all-time high of \$810.35 in Friday's regular trading session. —AP

UK NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT FACES NEW DELAYS, HURDLES

PARIS: A major nuclear power project in Britain is facing more hurdles as the government announced an unexpected delay and unions at EDF, the French energy firm that will build the plant, argued it would be so expensive as to put the company itself at risk.

French unions say the 24-billion-euro (\$27 billion) project, which the EDF board approved late Thursday, is far too high and could go over-budget. The French government, which pushed for the project and owns a majority stake in EDF, didn't comment on the company's decision.

Three major French unions said in a statement yesterday "we know the success conditions are not all met" for the Hinkley Point power plant project. They have taken legal action against EDF's management to repeal the decision and delay the project. The court decision is expected on Sept. 22.

EDF faces harsh criticism over the cost of the project, with some observers saying the company might not be solid enough to face the investment effort. French unions also pointed out "technical uncertainties" as the British project is based on a new technology called EPR, which has yet to go online anywhere in the world.

Similar projects currently under construction in France and Finland are years behind schedule and face billions of dollars in cost overruns. In Britain, speculation grew about the project's future after the British government announced it will take time - at least until early autumn - to consider the details of the project.

The British GMB union immediately denounced it as "unnecessary hesitation" putting 25,000 new jobs at risk. "It is a gross error of judgment and must be reversed," GMB national secretary for energy Justin Bowden said.

The Confederation of British Industry welcomed EDF's green light. Josh Hardie, the business lobby's deputy director-general, stressed that "action is needed on key infrastructure projects" such as Hinkley Point.

The two reactors could ultimately produce 7 percent of British electricity, according to EDF. The French company is to build the plant in conjunction with Chinese state-owned company CGN, which takes one third of the cost of construction. CGN said in a statement it "respects" the British government's "need to familiarize itself with a project as important to the UK's future energy security". —AP



PARIS: The EDF tower of French state-owned power giant Electricite de France (EDF), is seen in the La Defense business district. —AP

ROMANIA: SENIOR BANKER DETAINED IN CORRUPTION PROBE

BUCHAREST: The deputy governor of Romania's central bank has been detained on suspicion that he engaged in influence-peddling, illicitly receiving 1 million Euros (\$1.1 million) when he was parliament speaker, anti-corruption prosecutors said yesterday.

Prosecutors said Bogdan Olteanu had been detained amid an investigation into allegations he asked for and received the money from a businessman from July-November 2008 in return for persuading the government to appoint a certain governor for the Danube Delta.

A court will rule later whether to arrest him. The central bank said Olteanu's duties would be taken over by other officials. There was no immediate reaction from Olteanu.

The businessman, Sorin Ovidiu Vantu, was sentenced last week to six years and two months in prison for money-laundering and embezzlement. Journalist Liviu Mihaiu, who worked for a publication owned by Vantu, was governor of the delta from September 2008 to February 2009. Shortly after he was appointed, Mihaiu authorized gas stations in the delta for Petromservice, a petroleum-facility maintenance company controlled by Vantu. Yesterday, Mihaiu denied wrongdoing.

Olteanu was appointed deputy governor of the National Bank of Romania in 2009. He was speaker of the Chamber of Deputies from 2006 to 2008. —AP

SONY'S PROFIT FALLS ON YEN, LAGGING CELLPHONES, JAPAN QUAKE

TOKYO: Sony Corp.'s fiscal first-quarter profit dipped 74 percent to 21.2 billion yen (\$205 million), as earnings were hammered by a strong yen and lagging smart phone sales, and a quake in southwestern Japan that disrupted its camera parts and semiconductor production.

The Japanese electronics and entertainment giant reported yesterday that April-June sales slipped nearly 11 percent year-on-year to 1.6 trillion yen (\$15.7 billion). Quarterly profit last year totaled 82.4 billion yen.

Tokyo-based Sony, the maker of Bravia TVs and Walkman portable players, said game software sales for the PlayStation 4 video game console performed well. Results were hurt by the earthquake in April that devastated parts of Kumamoto, on the southern island of Kyushu that slowed development and manufacturing of camera parts, resulting in repair costs, damages and other expenses, it said.

Sony has been pursuing a turnaround in recent years, and selling some assets, such as its Vaio personal computer business. This week, it agreed to sell its battery business to Japanese electronic components maker Murata Manufacturing Co. It hopes to complete a deal by October and do the transfer by March next year.

Sony's TV division has lost money for years, and its smart phone offerings have suffered amid intense competition from Apple Inc.'s iPhone and Samsung Electronics Co.'s Galaxy line. Its movie division benefited from the popularity of "The Angry Birds Movie," Sony said. Among its music best-sellers was Beyonce's "Lemonade," it said.

Sony kept its profit forecast for the full fiscal year unchanged at 80 billion yen (\$774 million), a fraction of the 148 billion yen earned in the fiscal year that ended in March. It lowered its annual sales forecast to 7.4 trillion yen (\$71.6 billion) from an earlier 7.8 trillion yen (\$75.5 billion). — AP



TOKYO: A woman sits near the logo of Sony Corp. —AP



BRUSSELS: Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi speaks during an EU summit on June 29, 2016. —AP

ITALIAN BANKS UNDER GLARE AS EU STRESS TESTS RESULTS DUE NEEDS TO AVOID REKINDLING A EURO ZONE CRISIS

MILAN: The spotlight is on Italy's troubled banks as regulators prepare to release the results of stress tests of EU lenders that will show how much money the country's financial sector, the most troubled in the region, needs to avoid rekindling a euro zone crisis.

Banks in several countries could be shown to be financially weak, but Italy's are under particular scrutiny as they still lumber under 360 billion Euros (\$400 billion) in loans that aren't being repaid.

Of the five big Italian banks being tested by the European Banking Authority, Monte dei Paschi di Siena is most notably expected to come up short. On the eve of the stress test, Monte dei Paschi's board confirmed that it had rival proposals to save the world's oldest bank. They reportedly involve the sale of non-performing loans and raising capital. Shares soared 7 percent to 0.31 euros on opening Friday.

Concern over Europe's banks has grown since Britain's vote to leave the European Union has increased market jitters. In particular, the potential economic impact of a British exit suggests central banks will keep interest rates lower for longer - something that weighs heavily on the earnings of banks, which rely on higher rates to make money when lending.

Rescue the banking system

The outcome of the test is likely to shape the terms under which Italian

Premier Matteo Renzi can rescue the banking system. The issue is important because rescuing failed banks has overwhelmed the public finances of some euro zone states before, leading to bailouts, such as Ireland's.

With Italy ranking as the third-largest euro zone economy, any crisis of confidence over the state's financial health has the potential to rekindle concerns about the overall currency's integrity.

The European Central Bank and other banking supervisory bodies will have the weekend to digest the results before issuing any recommendations for any capital increases. Investors can also plot their next move.

Unlike previous tests of banks' financial health, the European Banking Authority will not declare on Friday passing or failing grades. Rather, the oversight agency will assess whether banks would prove financially resilient in case of an extreme economic drop and market volatility.

Italian banks have been hard hit by market speculation this year, much of that since Britain voted to leave the EU although there has been a rebound since the early sell-off. The pressure has forced major strategic and structural changes at Italy's biggest bank, UniCredit, where the new CEO Jean Pierre Mustier has moved quickly to sell assets and reshuffle the organizational structure. He has promised a new strategic plan by the end of the year.

ECB's recommendations

Whatever the ECB's recommendations, Renzi will have to take into account new European Union rules when devising a strategy to protect Italian banks. The EU is blocking the use of public money to rescue the banks, following new rules to block bailouts. Taxpayer money can now only be used after bank creditors, including bondholders, take a loss first - a measure to make sure bank rescues don't overwhelm state finances. But in Italy even that rule carries risk for Renzi's government since about one third of bank bonds are held by small retail investors. Renzi's has called for a temporary suspension of EU rules, something EU executives have been hesitant to grant.

Lorenzo Codogno, an analyst at consultancy LC Macro Advisors LTD, said the most likely response will be a combination of public and private interventions, but he expressed concern that possible measures were still under debate five years after the eurozone sovereign debt crisis "gripped Italy's lenders and produced a quasi-credit crunch."

"The situation of Italian banks may well be manageable, but there is need for bold policy action to stop the collapse in confidence and the spreading of uncertainty, which can result in a self-fulfilling prophecy," Codogno said. "Repairing balance sheets and raising capital remain key to facilitate new lending and provide support to economic growth." —AP

US HOMEOWNERSHIP RATE OF 62.9 PERCENT MATCHES A 51-YEAR LOW

WASHINGTON: The proportion of US households that own homes has matched its lowest level in 51 years - evidence that rising property prices, high rents and stagnant pay have made it hard for many to buy.

Just 62.9 percent of households owned a home in the April-June quarter this year, a decrease from 63.4 percent 12 months ago, the Census Bureau said Thursday. The share of homeowners now equals the rate in 1965, when the census began tracking the data.

The trend appears most pronounced among millennial households, ages 18 to 34, many of whom are straining under the weight of rising apartment rents and heavy student debt. Their homeownership rate fell 0.7 percentage point over the past year to 34.1 percent. That decline may reflect, in part, more young adults leaving their parents' homes for rental apartments.

The overall decline appears to be due largely to the increased formation of rental households, said Ralph McLaughlin, chief economist at the real estate site Trulia. McLaughlin cautioned, though, that the decrease in homeownership from a year ago was not statistically significant. America added nearly a million households over the past year and all of them were renters. Home ownership has declined even as the housing market has been recovering from the 2007 bust that triggered the Great Recession. Ownership peaked at 69.2 percent at the end of 2004.

Home prices have been steadily outpacing gains in average earnings. This has made it harder for first-time buyers to save for down payments, thereby delaying their ability to purchase a home.

The median home sales price was \$247,700 in June, up 4.8 percent from a year ago, according to the National Association of Realtors. That increase is roughly double the pace of average hourly wage gains.

Mortgage rates, which are near historic lows, have helped boost sales of existing homes to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.57 million, the strongest pace since early 2007. But few properties are being listed for sale, giving would-be buyers a limited selection and increasing price pressures.—AP

BARCLAYS POSTS SLIDING FIRST-HALF PROFITS

LONDON: British bank Barclays saw first-half net profits tumble by almost a third, hit by non-core losses and an impairment at its French retail division, it said yesterday. Turning to Britain's recent EU exit referendum, Barclays—which had backed the unsuccessful Remain campaign—said it was well placed to survive any economic fallout.

Earnings after taxation dived 31 percent to £1.1 billion (\$1.45 billion, 1.31 billion Euros) in the six months to June, compared with £1.6 billion a year earlier, Barclays said in a results statement. Pre-tax profits fell 21 percent to just over £2.0 billion in the same period. Non-core assets, which the group has flagged for disposal, made a pre-tax loss of £1.904 billion. Core assets logged a £3.967-billion profit.

And the group made a £372-million impairment on its French retail, and wealth and investment management business. Barclays took another £400-million hit for compensation for the mis-selling of credit insurance or payment protection insurance (PPI), which has blighted the nation's banking sector. "This has been a quarter of very encouraging progress against our strategy," said chief executive Jes Staley. "Our core businesses, Barclays UK and Barclays Corporate & International, continue to thrive."

He added: "Non-core (assets) rundown—the key to unlocking the full earnings power of that core—has good momentum, and we remain committed to closing the unit in 2017."

Turning to Brexit, he added that the bank was "open for business" despite ongoing uncertainty over the matter. "Given the inherent diversification of our business model, coupled with a longstanding conservative approach to risk, Barclays is well positioned to weather any potential economic consequences of that decision," Staley said. "We are very much open for business, and fully committed to supporting our customers and clients, and the real economy, through this period of uncertainty."—AFP

'SMART DRIVING' CAN SAVE DRIVERS MONEY AT THE PUMP THIS SUMMER

KUWAIT: With the summertime in full swing and holiday plans in motion, many consumers are looking for effective ways to reduce their spending and curb spiraling costs - without having to radically change their lifestyle. What most people don't know however, is that 'Smart Driving' can help improve fuel economy on your regular commute and help the vehicle perform better.

In line with this, Chevrolet recommends the following tips to save fuel:

1. Take it easy and drive smoothly: Not accelerating smoothly is one of the most common mistakes drivers make on the road. Aggressive driving like jumping on the gas at every light only to then hit the brakes will not get the driver home any faster. According to Chevrolet engineers, by driving smoothly, drivers can improve their mileage by approximately 20 percent.

2. Use cruise control: Using cruise control helps maintain a constant speed

over time, which is much more efficient than speeding up and slowing down over and over again.

3. Roll up the windows: Leaving windows open on the highway increases air pressure in your car, acting like a parachute trying to slow the vehicles down, which consumes much more energy than the air conditioner will, slowing you down and consuming fuel.

4. Check tire pressure: Even with tired just five pounds under the recommended air pressure, it will make the engine work harder to turn the wheels. Chevrolet recommends checking tires at least once a month, and the Tire Information Label located on the inside of your vehicle's doorframe has the recommended cold tire pressure for your vehicle.

5. Don't ignore the "check engine" light: A "check engine" light can be something as simple as a loose gas cap. But, a more serious engine problem can cut fuel economy by up to 40 percent.

6. Avoid excess idling: A car gets 0 kpl when the engine is idling. Turn off your engine when your vehicle is parked to save fuel.

7. Remove the roof carriers and car ornaments: Roof carriers to haul gear and car ornaments like country flags increases aerodynamic drag (wind resistance) and lowers fuel economy. At highway speeds, up to a third of your fuel is used to overcome wind resistance, so even small changes to your vehicle's aerodynamics will have a big impact in fuel economy.

8. Cut access weight: When it comes to saving on gas, it's not just the distance but how a vehicle is loaded and driven that counts. Carrying heavy items in your car makes it work harder and consume more gas. Keep in mind that for every 100 kg you carry onboard, your car uses about 0.5 L/100 km more gas (around 2 percent extra) - and even more in smaller vehicles.



LONDON: Peter Lowman, chief investment officer at Investment Quorum.—AFP

UK FUNDS FLEE EQUITIES, PROPERTY INVESTMENTS POST-BREXIT

LONDON: UK investors, gearing for further shockwaves from Britain's Brexit vote, slashed equity holdings in July to the lowest in at least five years, while almost halving property allocations in their portfolios.

The Reuters monthly survey of UK-based funds, conducted July 15-27, is the first to fully reflect allocation shifts after the June 23 referendum on Britain's European Union membership that resulted in a win for the Leave camp.

Ripples from the vote are already reverberating through the economy, with big hits to consumer demand and property prices seen tipping the UK into recession. While the UK-focused FTSE 250 index has recovered its losses over the past month on expectations of more

stimulus from the Bank of England, investors are clearly bracing for pain in coming months.

"Financial markets ... have continued to be very generous to global investors over the recent month, even though the economic backdrop, and fall out, from Brexit has been very well documented as bad news for the global economy," said Peter Lowman, chief investment officer at Investment Quorum.

"However, alongside these uncertainties came the normal response from the leading central banks as they spoke about the possibility of additional loose monetary policies, to assist the global economy, and the prospects for other actions such as helicopter money." The latter was a reference to central banks delivering money more or less directly

to consumers. Rattled by the prospect of more turmoil ahead, UK asset managers ramped up safe haven bond allocations, which jumped by 5 percentage points to 30.7 percent - the highest level in at least five years.

This came at the expense of equity allocations across global balanced portfolios, which were slashed to 42.6 percent from 47 percent in June while exposure to property nearly halved to 3.8 percent from 6.5 percent the month before. Property investments had come into sharp focus following the referendum when more than six British property funds suspended withdrawals to tackle a tide of redemptions by investors unnerved that the uncertainty would hit demand to rent and buy commercial property.—Reuters

Weekender

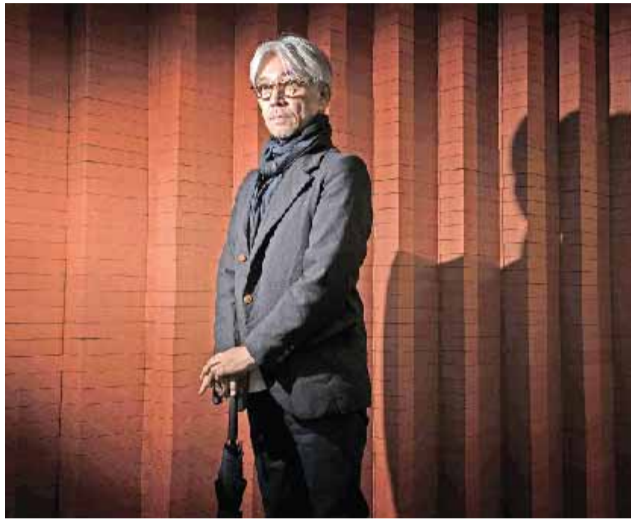
SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2016

Michael Keaton poses for photographers during a ceremony honoring him with a star on Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood, California. — 3AFP



Shiite tattoos a show of pride amid tensions

SEE PAGE 24



This file photo shows Japanese musician, composer, record producer, pianist, activist, writer, actor and dancer Ryuichi Sakamoto posing in Paris. — AFP

Composer Sakamoto dreams of a masterpiece 'before I die'

Before he dies, the Oscar-winning Japanese composer Ryuichi Sakamoto wants to do just one thing: "To record the perfect album. That is my dearest wish." The actor-musician burst onto the international scene with his soundtrack for the 1983 film "Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence" in which he also played a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp commandant opposite his friend David Bowie. The rock legend's death earlier this year shook Sakamoto badly, having only just survived throat cancer himself. "It left me in shock for a long time," Sakamoto told AFP in a low, barely audible voice.

"It took me more than a month and a half to accept the reality of his death. I couldn't believe it." Bowie died on the same day as the Golden Globe awards, in which Sakamoto had been nominated for his score for "The Revenant", marking his comeback from cancer. Still exhausted by his illness, the pianist had toiled for months on the soundtrack. "I worked on the music for six long months. Normally it would take me two months maximum. Sometimes four weeks is enough. But it was terribly difficult," he added.

"It was just after my treatment, and I wasn't back on my feet. My morale wasn't the best and it wasn't an ideal situation," said the 64-year-old, a pioneer of synthpop, techno and house music genres. But his love of nature and working on an installation with his friend and longtime collaborator artist Shiro Takatani for "The Great Animal Orchestra" exhibition in Paris helped put him back on his feet.

'Delighted to be alive'

"It's a choreography of tiny (aquatic) creatures," he said. "I'm just delighted to be living, to be able to have a simple conversation, to feel a ray of sunlight on my skin and listen to the breeze move through the leaves of a tree." The composer was speaking on a visit to the French capital, where the work is on show at the Fondation Cartier until January 2017. A huge star in his native Japan, like Bowie he has lived in New York for years. But Sakamoto still misses "the beautiful facets of Japanese culture" and particularly Kyoto, the most traditional of Japanese cities.

Working with Takatani—who lives there—helps bridge the gap. The pair have been collaborating for nearly two decades on works like "Garden Live" (2007) in the Daitoku-ji Buddhist temple in Kyoto, and on "Forest Symphony" in 2013. Sakamoto—who won his Oscar for Bernardo Bertolucci's "The Last Emperor" in 1987, in which he also acted—said composing for an art installation was "completely different than for a disc, a concert or a film".

While he was working on "The Revenant" for director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, he was also preparing another score for "Nagasaki: Memories of My Son" by the veteran Japanese director Yoji Yamada. And he has done another soundtrack since for the Korean Lee Sang-il's "Anger", which comes out later this year.

But it is his own music which is preoccupying Sakamoto now. Having gone seven years without making an album, he said "it is time to bring out another". "I hope to record the perfect album, my masterpiece before I die. That is my dearest wish, and I am working on it." — AFP

Hillary Scott's conversation with God resonates with fans

When country trio Lady Antebellum announced a hiatus last year, singer Hillary Scott thought it was a good opportunity to finally work on an album of hymns with her equally talented musical family. But instead she found herself grieving over a miscarriage she had last year and feeling like she was at the most broken point in her life. Scott turned to songwriting to have a conversation with God about the pain she felt, and "Thy Will" became the focal point of the deeply personal family faith album called "Love Remains," released Friday.

"I fully believe that God showed up that day and we were pass-throughs for a message that he knew and I quickly saw that a lot of people needed to hear," Scott, 30, said of the song that she wrote with Emily Weisband and Bernie Herms. "And that is it is OK to question why things happen. We're supposed to - he expects that." Scott, who has a three-year-old daughter Eisele Kay with her husband Chris, said she didn't want to hide the truth from her fans about the miscarriage. "It just felt like this silent struggle," she said. "And there is some pressure, whether it's put on myself or society or whatever, to not talk about it. I just had to go in with a hammer and bust that out because I knew that this was something that was going to be a part of me for the rest of my life."

Scott said that it's easy to get consumed by doubt and self-blame after a miscarriage, but she said it's necessary to mourn that loss. "To feel like you can't outwardly grieve, that is really messed up, in my opinion," Scott said. "I know it's not something everyone can see." Her message has clearly resonated, as "Thy Will" has topped Billboard's Hot Christian songs and Christian digital songs charts, and even crossed over to the country charts. Prior to her career as one-third of the Grammy-winning Lady Antebellum, Scott grew up singing with her family. Her mother, Linda Davis, came to Nashville in the 1980s to pursue music and won a Grammy with her mentor Reba McEntire for their duet, "Does He Love You." Her father, Lang



Hillary Scott, of the band Lady Antebellum, poses in Nashville, Tenn. — AP

Scott, is a musician, singer and songwriter as well. And Scott's 15-year-old sister, Rylee, also sings on the "Love Remains" album.

Personal experiences

This passion project initially started as covers of hymns, but the recording process blossomed when they started writing new songs and finding new Christian songs to record. They asked their close friend and bluegrass musician Ricky Skaggs to produce the record, who has a long history of recording gospel music and working with family groups like the Whites. The music includes contemporary Christian pop and country, along with distinct nods to bluegrass, Southern spirituals and traditional gospel music. "I really wanted to honor the contemporary sound they were going for on certain songs, so that was a learning curve for me, too,"

Skaggs said.

He said Scott pushed herself through tears on the recording of "Thy Will," which features her vocals simply paired with piano and strings. "She knew the emotions she had over the miscarriage and she also knew she wanted to get that pain and emotion out to where others could hear it," Skaggs said. The Scott family is planning a few appearances together, but Davis is out on tour with Kenny Rogers and Scott is already working with Lady A partners Dave Haywood and Charles Kelley on new music. But even without being able to tour together just yet, the message has already spread by word of mouth, Scott said. She also said that fans have rallied around her and shared their own personal experiences after hearing "Thy Will." "It's allowed me to connect with people on a deeper level than I have ever been able to," Scott said. — AP

Official Prince tribute concert set for October

Prince's family says an official tribute concert honoring the late icon will take place in October in the singer's hometown of Minneapolis. In a statement to The Associated Press on Thursday, Prince's family said the concert will be held on Oct 13 at the US Bank Stadium. Performers will soon be announced on a rolling basis. Tickets will go on sale next month. Prince died April 21 of a drug overdose. The Purple One's brothers and sisters said in a joint statement that they "have been moved by the tremendous love and support of Prince's friends and fans around the world."

"We are excited for the opportunity to bring everyone together for the official family celebration of Prince's life, music

and legacy, and there is no better place to do it than his hometown of Minneapolis," the statement read. "We are honored by the artists who will pay tribute and grateful to those that have worked so hard to make this celebration possible." Since Prince's death, countless performers have paid tribute to the entertainer. Beyoncé and the Dixie Chicks have covered his songs during their live shows, and Madonna sang "Nothing Compares 2 U" and "Purple Rain" - with the help of Stevie Wonder - at the Billboard Music Awards in May. BET dedicated much of its awards show last month to Prince with performances from Sheila E, The Roots, Erykah Badu, Janelle Monae, Maxwell, Bilal, Tori Kelly, Wonder and Prince's ex-wife, Mayte Garcia. — AP



In this Nov 22, 2015 file photo, Prince presents the award for favorite album - soul/R&B at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles. — AP

Director's debut explores 'The Land' with Nas, Badu help

Director Steven Caple Jr was mentoring some elementary school students at an inner-city park in Los Angeles when he spotted two stray kids hopping a fence with their skateboards. He went to go kick them out of the park and ended up talking with them instead. They spilled that they were selling marijuana to fund their entry into skateboarding competitions and new equipment. It was their ticket out.

That seed of an idea eventually became "The Land," Caple's feature debut about a group of kids, Cisco (Jorge Lendeborg Jr), Junior (Moises Arias), Boobie (Ezri Walker) and Patty Cake (Rafi Gavron), who do just that, but with a sack of Ecstasy they find. The film is currently playing in New York and Los Angeles. Caple stayed in touch with those kids from the park during his time at USC's film school. Later, he found out that one ended up getting a sponsorship. The other disappeared. "I started writing it about the kid who made it out, but I switched gears to make it about the kid who didn't because we don't see that too often," Caple said in an interview. "I wanted to tell it from his perspective."



In this file photo, director Steven Caple Jr. poses for a portrait to promote his film, "The Land", during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. — AP

Life and experiences

Instead of Los Angeles, the movie is set in Caple's hometown of Cleveland, where he explores a grittier side of a city that rarely gets the Hollywood treatment. "There's Cleveland and there's 'the land,'" he said during the Sundance Film Festival, where the film had its premiere. IFC Films later came on to distribute. Caple secured some high-profile talent for a first film right out of grad school, including Michael Kenneth Williams of "The Wire" and executive producers like Nas and Erykah Badu, who also collaborated on one of the film's songs, "The Bitter Land." Badu and rapper Machine Gun Kelly appear in the film, and the soundtrack features songs from Kanye West, Pusha T and French Montana.

While skateboarding is the hook, it also becomes a backdrop as the boys get in over their heads bumping up against more hardened criminals. "The core of it is these boys just trying to get out," he said. Most of the different characters are taken from Caple's own life and experiences in Cleveland. They filmed in some of the city's roughest neighborhoods and often heard gunshots and sirens. "There were times when we were scared, but (the actors) got a real sense of what 'the land' was," he said.

Fall in love

Caple didn't want to make the boys angels, and actually introduces them committing a crime. It was a big point of contention with some of the financiers and advisers who were shown the film in its early stages. They wanted to see them as good kids first before the fall. "That's not the way that people see these kids. The first perception is they are criminals, that they are thugs," Caple said. "I wanted to introduce you to these criminals first and then later let you fall in love with who they are and see that the people who we call criminals at the end of the day are still just kids." Some also told Caple that he should have made a film that falls more easily into a specific genre, like "Fast & Furious" on skateboards," he said.

"It has this grit to it. It wasn't like this movie they could sell overseas and play in China. It wasn't a big film," he said. But Caple stuck to his premise: a more complicated, nuanced and bleak portrait of these lives. It took a year, but he eventually found support and funding for his vision. "You have filmmakers like myself and ('Creed' and 'Fruitvale Station' director) Ryan Coogler who are like, 'I'm going to go out and get it somehow,' whether it be a Kickstarter campaign or finding the right crazy people just like myself who believe in a project." — AP



Harrison Ford opens the door on his plane for Jodie Gawthrop, of Westchester, Ill, who was selected to fly with Ford, at the Experimental Aircraft Associations AirVenture air show at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, Wis. — AP

Yes, Harrison Ford uses checklists when he flies

Yes, Hollywood actor Harrison Ford uses a checklist when he flies. The "Star Wars" and "Indiana Jones" star was accompanied by an inquisitive teenager when he flew his DeHavilland Beaver on Thursday at the AirVenture Oshkosh 2016 air show. His passenger, 16-

year-old Jodie Gawthrop of Westchester, Illinois, won the flight in a national contest though the Young Eagle program, which uses pilot and ground volunteers to introduce children to flying.

Ford took her flying to help celebrate the program reaching 2 million members.

Ford was the program's chairman from 2004 to 2009. Ford told reporters that flying with Gawthrop was "really, really fun" and he'll remember the flight for a long time. He says Gawthrop asked if celebrities use checklists. He says he told her celebrities absolutely need checklists. — AP

Streep joins Blunt in 'Mary Poppins' sequel

Is Meryl Streep ready for a spoonful of sugar? Sources tell Variety, the Oscar-winning actress is in talks to join Emily Blunt and Lin Manuel-Miranda in Disney's "Mary Poppins Returns." If a deal closes, the family film would reunite Streep with the "Into the Woods" musical team of Blunt, director Rob Marshall, and producer Marc Platt.

Streep and Blunt also shared the screen in "The Devil Wears Prada." Streep is said to play the role of Poppins' cousin, Topsy, a supporting role that wasn't in the 1964

classic. Streep would also sing for the part, much like she did in "Into the Woods," which earned her a record 19th Oscar nomination.

The Mary Poppins sequel hits theaters Dec 25, 2018. Related 'The Devil Wears Prada' Turns 10: Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway and Emily Blunt Tell All David Magee wrote the screenplay, based on the stories by PL Travers, with Marc Shaiman composing an all-new score and writing original songs with Emmy nominee and Tony-winner Scott Wittman. — Reuters



Meryl Streep

Mary J Blige files for divorce from husband of 13 years

Mary J Blige is ending her marriage to her husband-manager after nearly 13 years. Court records show the "Family Affair" singer filed for divorce from Martin "Kendu" Isaacs on Tuesday in Los Angeles, citing irreconcilable differences. No additional details for the breakup were included in the filing. Blige and Isaacs were married in December 2003 and have no children together. The actress-singer has won

nine Grammy Awards, including for her albums "Growing Pains" and "The Breakthrough."

The singer is asking a court to deny Isaacs spousal support. A representative for the singer said Blige is saddened by the end of her marriage but will continue working on new music for an album slated to be released later this year. The divorce was first reported Thursday by celebrity website TMZ. — AP



In this May 20, 2010 file photo, singer Mary J Blige and her husband, Martin Kendu Isaacs, arrive for the amFAR Cinema Against AIDS benefit during the 63rd Cannes international film festival, in Cap d'Antibes, southern France. — AP



A Lebanese Shiite supporter of Hezbollah with a tattoo on his head that reads in Arabic, "Oh Ali", beats his chest during the holy day of Ashoura. — AP photos

Shiite tattoos a show of pride amid tensions

Hamada Bayloun is not particularly religious, but across his entire upper back spreads a large tattoo of the most revered saint in Shiite Islam, Imam Ali. He is one of a growing number of Shiite Muslims in Lebanon who have inked themselves with Shiite religious and political symbols as a show of pride in their community since neighboring Syria's civil war broke out in 2011, fanning hatreds between Shiites, Sunnis and other faiths across the region.

The 30-year-old Bayloun got his tattoo a few months after the war began, partly as a response to attempts to bomb Shiite shrines in Syria and Iraq. "We can't respond with car bombs, but (through tattoos) we can show our strength and

love for the prophet and his family," he said, referring to Islam's Prophet Muhammad, who was Ali's cousin and father-in-law. The Syrian conflict, which began with government forces crushing protests against President Bashar Assad, became a fight between predominantly Sunni rebels against Assad's minority Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiism. The Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah has sent thousands of its fighters to Syria to support Assad, alongside Iranian, Iraqi and other Shiite militias.

That is why one Lebanese man, Tayseer, got the face of the bespectacled Hezbollah leader, Hassan Nasrallah, tattooed on his chest, right above his heart.



Alodi Issa, 22, poses for a photo showing off his tattoos with Shiite Muslim religious slogans in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon.



Tattoo artist Hussein Al-Hussein inks the chest of client Alodi Issa, 22, with Shiite Muslim religious slogans at his tattoo shop.



Ali Hussein Nasreddine, 50, poses for a photo showing off his tattoos with Shiite Muslim religious slogans in the southern suburb of Beirut.



Zulfiqar, 30, poses for a photo showing his tattoo of Shiite Muslims' first Imam Ali, left, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon.



Alodi Issa, 22, poses for a photo showing off his tattoos with Shiite Muslim religious slogans in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon.



Ali Hussein Nasreddine, 50, poses for a photo showing off his tattoos of Shiite Muslim religious slogans and Shiite Muslims' first Imam Ali.



Farah Najm, 21, an aviation maintenance student, poses for a photo showing her tattoo of the sword of Shiite Muslims' first Imam Ali, in Beirut, Lebanon.



Ali, 22, poses for a photo showing off his tattoo of Shiite Muslims' first Imam Ali, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon.

He said it's a show of "deep love" for the man he says is protecting Lebanon from the Islamic State group and other Sunni extremists fighting in Syria and Iraq. "Everyone should get Nasrallah tattooed," said the 30-year-old civil servant, who asked not to be identified further so as not to jeopardize his job. Tattoos are forbidden by Sunni clerics but are generally accepted in Shiite circles. Among the most popular tattoos is "313," the number of commanders Shiites believe will accompany their last imam, Mahdi, when he returns to save the world from oppression. Tattoo artist Hussein

Mistrah, 24, says tattoos in general have become fashionable in Lebanon. His small tattoo parlor in Beirut's Shiite district of Dahiyeh is always busy.

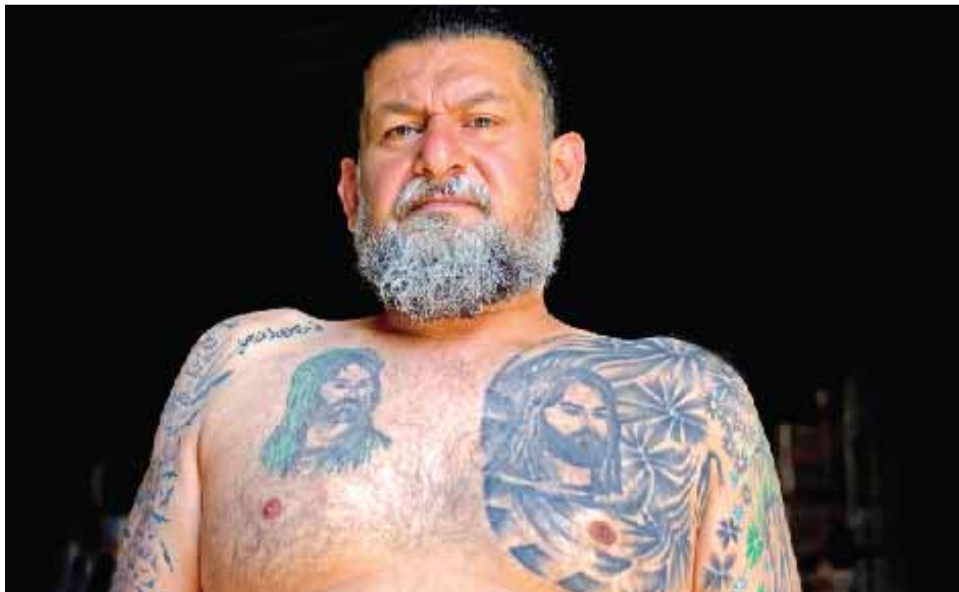
Expression of faith

He inks an average of three or four Shiite tattoos per week, and among his clients are Hezbollah supporters fighting in Syria. At least 25 of his clients have been killed. "These are the ones I know about," he said. While an Associated Press photographer visited recently, a 21-year-old fighter name Mohammad Talal came in to

get Nasrallah's portrait on his chest. He was told the first appointment would be in two months. "I could be dead in two months!" Talal shot back. Mistrah said he would try to fit him in sooner. Mohammad Mehdi Al-Ameli, a Lebanese-Australian Shiite cleric who teaches religion in south Lebanon, said tattoos are a visual expression of faith. "Shiites are under strain ... and have been alienated, and they use this to belong," he said. "The others do it like sheep that follow the flock." Farah Najm has a tattoo of Ali's sword on the back of her neck. The 21-year-old aviation maintenance student said she got it a few years

ago when she was "in a religious state, out of love for Ali." Although she's no longer observant, she kept the tattoo. She tries to hide it when she's out partying "out of respect."

For some, tattoos have extra benefits. Zulfiqar, 30, said his tattoos are a magnet for women, especially at the beach. On one pec he has Ali's face, and on the other the name "Zeinab," Ali's daughter and the granddaughter of the Prophet Muhammad. "Sometimes I get women's phone numbers because of the tattoo. Maybe they like it more than they like me," he laughed. — AP



Ali Hussein Nasreddine, 50, poses for a photo showing his tattoo of Shiite Muslims' first Imam Ali, and his son Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Mohammed.



Hamza, 25, poses for a photo showing off his tattoos of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and Shiite Muslim religious slogans.

Spa trends: Sound vibrations, warm seashells, digital detox

Sound vibrations, warm seashells and a “digital detox” that involves surrendering your cellphone were among the healing and de-stressing techniques on display at this year’s International Spa Association expo, held Wednesday in New York. Products large and small for home use were also a theme, from a disposable heated face mask to a lounge chair.

Lounge chair: The comfy, curvy Soltec Lounge wouldn’t look out of place in your living room but it’s not just for casually putting your feet up. It delivers soothing magnetic vibrations while you listen to a soundtrack of chants, drums and more. Lie back with headphones and an eye pillow and the world with all its troubles fades away. The item can be purchased for home use for \$3,200 but you can check it out at Spa Gregorie’s in Newport Beach, California, with additional installations at other spas expected in the near future.

Singing bowls: A different approach to using sound vibration - less high-tech and more about ancient rituals - is offered by Eastern Vibration. The Florida-based company imports singing bowls from Nepal that emit a humming tone when struck with a gong. The bowls have traditionally been used in Eastern meditation prac-



In this photo, Allieson Mirsberger, right, from Aspira The Spa, in Elkhart Lake, WI, demonstrates The Grandfathers, a native healing tradition to restore balance, at the annual International SPA Association event, in New York. — AP photos



Esthetician Carina Deppiese, of Kohler Waters Spa, in Kohler WI, uses a Lava Shell as she demonstrates the All Things Scotland Body Treatment.



Trinia Smith, from Bellus Academy, in San Diego, applies NovaLash Extensions.



Jamie Palazzolo, of Chaleur Beauty from Henderson, NV, applies one of their Self-Heating Facial Masks.



Jay Muller, from The Wellness Company of Fairfield, NJ, demonstrates the TechnoGym.



Jahmaal Hays, from Eastern Vibration in Palm Beach Gardens, FL, strikes Himalayan Singing Bowls as he demonstrates Sound Therapy.

including a reflexology foot massage where the stones are placed between the toes.

Tribal inspiration: The Spa Ssakwa’q’n is run by the Coeur d’Alene tribe in Worley, Idaho, as part of the tribe’s casino-resort, just south of the city of Coeur d’Alene. The spa’s signature treatment is the “Coeur d’Alene experience,” with treatments inspired by tribal culture. Instead of a sweat lodge, there’s a sauna; instead of red clay body paint, there are skin exfoliation treatments. A heady blend of aromatic indigenous plants like cedar, sweetgrass and huckleberry infuses various products. Self-heating mask: A new product from Chaleur Beauty will soon be available for retail purchase for home use, but it’s also being marketed to the spa world. It’s a disposable self-heating facial mask, \$8, designed for use with skin creams activated by the heat. You can use the mask for 10 to 40 minutes.

Warm seashells: Heated seashells are placed on your body as part of a skin moisture treatment from Kohler Waters Spa, which has locations in Kohler, Wisconsin; Burr Ridge, Illinois; and at the Old Course Hotel in St. Andrews, Scotland. Kohler specializes in water therapy, and the “All Things Scotland” experience, inspired by the North Sea, also includes a seaweed wrap, sea salt exfoliation and warm rinse under a custom shower.

Fitness in style: Here’s the thing about home fitness equipment: It’s ugly. But not Technogym equipment. The company’s elliptical-style Cross Personal trainer is sleek and stylish with a built-in screen console offering various digital and entertainment options. It’s designed by Antonio Citterio, an Italian designer whose resume includes work for Hermes. The company is sending 1,200 pieces of equipment to the Summer Olympic Games in Brazil. Technogym products are found in spas and gyms at places like the Four Seasons. Or if you have \$11,000 to spare, you can buy a Cross Personal for home. — AP

tices. The company sells its 7-inch bowls for \$105 for home use, but it’s also developed a one-hour treatment for spas that involves using the vibrating bowls over and on the body.

Digital detox: Posting, swiping, texting, tweeting - that’s no way to relax! So the folks at Mandarin Oriental hotels are going to politely request that you hand over your cellphone for its “Digital Detox,” rolling out to all Mandarin spas beginning Sept. 5.

Once you’re phone-less, you’ll decompress with quiet, mindful activities like journaling, coloring and yoga. You can also sign up for an 80-minute treatment that includes an aromatic bath and massage.

The grandfathers: Native Americans called them the “grandfathers”: smooth dark stones gathered from Elkhart Lake in Wisconsin. They’re used in hot stone massages at Aspira The Spa,



Skydiver Luke Aikins smiles as he jumps from a helicopter during his training in Simi Valley, Calif.

He's a skydiver working with a net-but no parachute

He's made 18,000 parachute jumps, helped train some of the world's most elite skydivers, done some of the stunts for "Ironman 3." But the plunge Luke Aikins knows he'll be remembered for is the one he's making without a parachute. Or a wingsuit. Or anything, really, other than the clothes he'll be wearing when he jumps out of an airplane at 25,000 feet this weekend, attempting to become the first person to land safely on the ground in a net.

The Fox network will broadcast the two-minute jump live at 8 pm EDT (5 pm PDT) Saturday as part of an hour-long TV special called "Heaven Sent." And, no, you don't have to tell Aikins it sounds crazy. He knows that. He said as much to his wife after a couple Hollywood guys looking to create the all-time-greatest reality TV stunt floated the idea by him a couple years ago. "I said, 'You won't believe these guys,'" the affable skydiver recalls with a robust laugh. "They want me to jump out without a parachute." She said, "Oh, with a wingsuit." I said, "No, they want me to do it with nothing." We both had a good laugh about that.

Drop zone

But in the weeks that followed he couldn't shake one persistent thought: Could anybody actually do this and live to tell the tale? Because if anyone could, Aikins wanted to be that guy. After all, the 42-year-old daredevil has practically lived his life in the sky. He made his first tandem jump when he was 12, following with his first solo leap four years later. He's been racking them up at about 800 a year ever since. He took his wife, Monica, on her first jump when they were dating and she's up to 2,000 now. The couple lives with a 4-year-old son, Logan, in Washington, where Aikins' family owns Skydive Kapowsin near Tacoma. Over the years Aikins has taught skydiving, taught others to teach skydiving, even participated in world-record stacking events, those exercises where skydivers line up atop one another as they fly their open chutes across the sky. He tells of having his chute tangle with others on a couple of those efforts and having to come down under his reserve parachute. In all, he's used his reserve 30 times, not a bad number for 18,000 jumps. This time, though, he won't have any parachute. "If I wasn't nervous I would be stupid," the compact, muscular athlete says with a grin as he sits under a



A production crew member looks up the sky to spot skydiver Luke Aikins as Aikins prepares for his skydiving attempt with a parachute.

canopy near Saturday's drop zone.

"We're talking about jumping without a parachute, and I take that very seriously. It's not a joke," he adds. Nearby, a pair of huge cranes defines the boundaries where the net in which Aikins expects to land is being erected. It will be about one-third the size of a football field and 20 stories high, providing enough space to cushion his fall, he says, without allowing him to bounce out of it. The landing target, which has been described as similar to a fishing trawler net, has been tested repeatedly using dummies. One of those 200-pound (91-kilogram) dummies didn't bounce out. It crashed right through.

Smart enough

"That was not a good thing to see," recalled Jimmy Smith, the veteran Hollywood public relations man who, with his partner Bobby Ware, came up with the idea of having someone skydive without a parachute. Chris Talley, who had worked with Aikins on other projects and helped train him for this one, recommended the skydiver to the two Amusement Park Entertainment executives. He told them Aikins was arguably the only guy not only good enough but also smart enough and careful enough to survive this.

Smith recalled how the three men gazed at each other with a look of foreboding after that dummy crashed through the net. Then they looked over at Aikins. "Luke just said, 'No biggie, that's why we test.'" Fox has had little to say about the stunt other than it will be broadcast on a tape delay, as is the case with all its live broadcasts, says



Photo shows skydiver Luke Aikins jumps from a helicopter during his training in Simi Valley, Calif. — AP photos

network spokesman Les Eisner. It contains a warning not to try this at home. That would seemingly be difficult, as Smith and Ware had to scour a good part of the world, from Arizona Indian land to Dubai real estate, before they found what everyone agreed was the best place for Aikins to land.

He'll come down in a dry, dusty, desolate-looking section of an old movie ranch north of Los Angeles where not that long ago Shia LaBeouf was battling "Transformers." The drop zone, surrounded by rolling hills, presents some chal-

lenges, Aikins said, noting he'll be constantly fighting shifting winds as he falls 120 mph (193 kph). Other skydivers have jumped from planes without parachutes and had someone hand them one in midair. But Aikins won't even have that. Why? "To me, I'm proving that we can do stuff that we don't think we can do if we approach it the right way," he answers. "I've got 18,000 jumps with a parachute, so why not wear one this time?" he muses almost to himself. "But I'm trying to show that it can be done." — AP



Cranes stand on the ground as production crew members set up a net about one-third the size of a football field and 20 stories high ahead of skydiver Luke Aikins' landing attempt without a parachute or wing suit in Simi Valley, Calif.

On the Harry Potter trail in Portugal - Rowling's inspiration



Tourist visit the Sao Bento railway station in Porto. — AFP photos

It feels as if time has stood still at Lello, a Gothic Revival style bookstore in the historic center of Porto, whose heady "olde worlde" ambiance inspired some of the scenes for Harry Potter. It was in Portugal's second city that Potter author J K Rowling let her imagination off the leash during two years spent teaching English in the northern town, spending her free time writing early drafts of the seven-volume global blockbuster that made her a literary household name. With its delicately sculpted wooden paneling, blue, red and golden stained glass and bookshelves piled high from floor to

ceiling—not forgetting its iconic and sweeping staircase—Lello conjures its own form of magic. The place draws in the beholder to set Potteresque pulses racing, so "familiar" does its setting appear to true fans.

"Wow! It's amazing—it's so like Harry Potter!" gushes Ines Pinto, a wide-eyed 11-year-old who makes a beeline for a stack of works on the young magician at the store's entrance. "For me it's the spitting image of Flourish and Blotts, where young sorcerers buy their magic manuals," adds Nerea Moyeno, a 24-year-old Spanish tourist. Moyeno hopes soon to get her hands on

"Harry Potter and the Cursed Child," a new play imagining the fictional boy wizard as a grown-up father of three, which has its official premiere in London on Saturday after winning rave reviews for press performances. "If the Spanish version doesn't come out soon I'll buy it in English," she said.

The story is set 19 years after the seventh and final book in the Potter series, which have collectively shifted more than 450 million copies since 1997 and been adapted into eight films. Thousands of fans will descend on Porto this weekend for a festival organized by Lello,

says Jose Manuel Lello, 59 and the great-grandson of one of the two brothers who founded the bookstore which has ordered 5,000 copies of the new story.

"We have done very good business out of Harry Potter," Lello tells AFP. Even though the bookstore started charging visitors three euros (\$3.50) last year—which they recoup if they make a purchase—sales have mushroomed 300 per cent. The idea behind the fee, Lello says, is to "manage the stream of tourists" who flock to the store at a rate of some 3,000 per day and "transform them into readers."



A tourist takes photos next to the Pitoes Tower.



A man walks past the Lion's Fountain in Porto.



Tourist visit the Lello bookstore in Porto.



Tourist visit the Lello bookstore in Porto.

Magic staircase

The customer cash boon has also enabled the store, which opened in 1906, to undertake extensive repairs in time for Saturday's celebration. "We shall rediscover the atmosphere of 110 years ago," when the store opened its doors, by recreating the decor of the era, says Lello. The fine staircase will emerge once again after being clad in scaffolding since April. Although it does not move-unlike the Grand Staircase at Hogwarts school of wizardry, there is a definite resemblance. Rowling was a loyal customer when she lived in Porto between 1991 and 1993 and likewise was frequently to be found at the nearby Cafe Majestic, a famed belle epoque cultural haunt for the city's intelligentsia. It was at one of the cafe's white marble low tables that Rowling penned an early draft for what would become "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone".

Back then she was just another customer sipping a cup. It would be some years later, from 1997, when her books had already made her reputation worldwide, that Lello booksellers and Majestic's waiters would highlight their link to the author. "Tourists have suggested putting up a plaque to mark the writer's passage, but we don't know yet where to put it," says Fernando Barrias, son of the legendary Majestic's owner whose customers have included actress Romy Schneider.

Rushed departure

"Yes, we used to frequent the Majestic," Rowling's former husband, Portuguese journalist Jorge Arantes, told AFP in a rare interview. He still lives in the brown and green-house the former couple lived in after marrying in 1992. They split up after a nocturnal argument in November 1993. Two weeks later, Rowling, then 28, left Portugal for good,



Tourist visit the Lello bookstore in Porto.

taking her four-month-old daughter with her. "In those first weeks in Portugal I wrote what has become my favorite chapter in the Philosopher's Stone, 'The Mirror of Erised'-and had hoped that, when I returned from Portugal I would have a finished book under my arm. In fact, I had something even better:

my daughter, Jessica," Rowling explains on her official website.

Two decades on, guide Bruno Correia shows off some of Porto's haunts which inspired the author. Those include a tower looking rather like the Astronomy Tower where Hogwarts headmaster Albus

Dumbledore meets his end and the Crystal Palace Gardens which bring to mind the Forbidden Forest, as well as the university, home to black-caped students. "Their uniforms look very much like those of young sorcerers. Tourists even call them Harry Potters," says Correia, 33, a fan since his teens. — AFP



Clients sit at the Majestic Cafe in Porto.



A waiter carries some drinks at the Majestic Cafe in Porto.

ORGANIZATION DATA LOSS COSTS \$914,000: EMC

DUBAI: New findings from the EMC Global Data Protection Index 2016, an independent study by Vanson Bourne of enterprise backup in 18 countries around the world, revealed that, while businesses have been successful in reducing the impact of the four biggest traditional data loss risks, they are unprepared for new, emerging threats, which are taking their toll instead. When compared to the EMC Global Data Protection Index 2014, 13% more businesses experienced data loss or disruption in the last 12 months, costing them an average of US\$914,000. EMC commissioned the updated research to help organizations recognize and prepare for the rapidly changing landscape of threats to enterprise data. Survey results from the EMC Global Data Protection Index 2016 identified the following three major challenges to modern data protection:

Threats to Protection Data

Nearly a quarter (23%) of businesses

surveyed had experienced data loss or unplanned systems disruption due to an external security breach and that number increased to over one third (36%) when taking internal breaches into account. Businesses are increasingly facing threats not just to their primary data, but also to their backup and protection data. Whether combating cyber extortionists demanding cash to unlock data encrypted by ransomware, or other risks posed to backup and protection data, businesses need to find solutions that put their 'data of last resort' beyond harm's reach.

Threats to Data in Cloud

More than 80% of survey respondents indicated that their organizations will run at least part of eight key business applications in the public cloud in the next two years; yet less than half said they protect cloud data against corruption and less than half against deletion. More than half said they already run their email solution in the public

cloud. And, overall, respondents already had, on average 30% of their IT environments based in the public cloud. Because SaaS application providers often won't protect against accidental loss or deletion by an employee, EMC believes it is critical for organizations to include cloud applications in their overall data protection strategies.

Evolving Protection Needs

More than 70% of organizations surveyed are not very confident they could fully recover their systems or data in the event of data loss or unexpected systems downtime. And confidence also suffers when it comes to data center performance, with 73% declaring they are not very confident their solutions will be able to keep pace with the faster performance and new capabilities of flash storage. EMC has a comprehensive portfolio of data protection solutions that it constantly evolves to deliver greater benefits to its customers. Over the past year, EMC significantly

enhanced its portfolio with new solutions, including:

EMC ProtectPoint: Enables businesses to manage the growing challenge of protecting flash environments by protecting directly from primary to protection storage with no traditional backup infrastructure, cutting backup times by 10x and restore times by 20x.

EMC zDP: The first-to-market scale-out automated snapshot solution for mainframe storage that slashes mainframe Recovery Point Objectives by up to 144x. **EMC Enterprise Copy Data Management (eCDM):** A modern management platform that discovers, automates, and optimizes organizations' copy data. **DataDomain Virtual Edition:** A software-defined version of EMC's trusted protection storage which can reduce storage requirements by 10-30x and includes DD Boost, to speed backups by up to 50%. **VCE Data Protection Appliances-Built with Data Domain and EMC data protection software - designed to cut deployment time by 75%.**

FACEBOOK PUSHING MORE PEOPLE TO AN APP THEY DIDN'T CHOOSE

MOBILE BROWSER ACCESS TO FB MESSAGES BEING BLOCKED

SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook is once again getting pushy about how people message one another. Two years ago, the social-media giant forced its users to adopt its Messenger app for direct communication, a change it enforced by deactivating messages in the main Facebook app and steering users to the app. There was an uproar; some users thought Messenger violated their privacy, while others just resented having to add yet another app. Still, the plan worked; more than 900 million people use the app, roughly four times the number in 2014. But some continued to resist, exploiting a loophole to avoid Messenger. All they had to do was log into Facebook's mobile website using a smartphone browser like Safari or Chrome.

Now Facebook is coming after those holdouts. In some markets, the company has already blocked mobile browser access to messages on Android phones. In others, opening messages on Facebook's mobile website gets you a warning that "your conversations are moving to

Messenger" and a link to download the app. The company will extend the ban to all markets and to iPhone users in the upcoming months, it says. Facebook insists it only wants "to bring the best experiences we can" to users. The Messenger app provides more reliable notifications about incoming messages and runs more quickly, the company says.

More free stuff, less control

This might not seem like a big deal to many users, particularly anyone who's long since made their peace with Messenger. But it's emblematic of a central dilemma in the modern age: We have free - as in unpaid - access to an ever-expanding array of software and services, but less and less control over how we use them. That rankles people who have no interest in Messenger. Michael Kampfer, a St. Paul, Minnesota, construction contractor, says he doesn't have enough storage space on either of his Android phones to install Messenger alongside the other apps

that he needs for his job while traveling. "I have a problem with the company telling me what's the best experience is for me," Kampfer, 65, says. "I have a browser on my phone, so why should I be forced to get Messenger?" Kampfer is far from alone. In the US alone, nearly 149 million people visited Facebook's website on a smartphone or tablet during April, according to the research firm comScore. The firm doesn't compile worldwide data for mobile browser traffic.

Business considerations

From a business standpoint, Facebook's move makes great sense. Planting Messenger on more phones corrals a bigger audience for advertising and other moneymaking opportunities. The company doesn't comment on such plans, and Messenger is currently ad-free. But analysts think the app could generate billions of dollars in advertising revenue within just a few years. The Menlo Park, California company is thriving, mostly from ads on its main Facebook app. Its second-quarter revenue soared 59 percent from the same time last year to \$6.4 billion, resulting in a \$2.06 billion profit, the company announced Wednesday.

Facebook wants more of its users on Messenger because it can gather more personal data and introduce new features that could yield even more revenue, says eMarketer analyst Debra Aho Williamson. She expects ads to start appearing before the end of this year. Even if some users don't like that, "Facebook has a way of changing things to make people interact with Facebook the way Facebook wants," Williamson says. Facebook executives say Messenger is now moving into "phase two" of its evolution, although they still aren't



SAN FRANCISCO: In this Tuesday, April 12, 2016 file photo, David Marcus, Facebook Vice President of Messaging Products, watches a display showing new features of Messenger during the keynote address at the F8 Facebook Developer Conference. — AP

ready to say how the company intends to profit from it.

Remote control

Facebook has a long history of pushiness. A decade ago, it began circulating the status updates that users posted on their personal pages throughout the social network. The concept, known as a "news feed," is now the foundation of modern Facebook, even though it initially triggered protests about exposing too much personal information. Kevina Cromwell of Philadelphia already tried the Messenger app and didn't like it. So she uninstalled it and the Facebook app a couple of years ago, and read her private messages on her phone's mobile web browser until the company started blocking her recently. "It's really annoying," Cromwell, 22, says. "I see what they are trying to do, but I still don't understand why they are tying your hands and not giving you any options at all."

Future of Messenger

Messaging is huge in the tech industry now; Google and Apple are pouring resources into their own apps to ensure their services remain a vital

part of people's lives. A few years ago, Facebook also paid \$21.8 billion for the WhatsApp messaging service, which has more than a billion users. So far, it remains entirely separate from Messenger.

Facebook keeps spiffing up the Messenger app. Its latest look, which is still rolling out to users, now shows friends' birthdays, lists of favorite people and a thumbnail of who's online at any given moment. Facebook is also promoting the app as a way for merchants to interact with their customers, which could transform the service into a sort of digital call center.

Some Android phone owners say Facebook has gotten so aggressive about Messenger that visiting the mobile website for their texts now takes them directly to an app-download page, with no explanation why they were sent there.

"It's almost like they're trying to trick you," says Jeni Tehan, who lives in Brighton, England. People who still want to shun Messenger can still send and receive messages via the Facebook site, though only if they're on a full-fledged computer, not a phone or tablet. It's small consolation for some. — AP

MICROSOFT MAKING JOB CUTS IN PHONE BUSINESS

SAN FRANCISCO: Microsoft says it is cutting 2,850 jobs, about 2.5 percent of its workforce, as it further scales back its troubled smartphone business. A spokeswoman says the layoffs will mostly affect workers in the company's smartphone hardware operation and related sales teams. She declined to say which geographic locations would be affected but said many of the laid off workers had already been notified.

Microsoft Corp disclosed the planned job cuts in a regulatory filing, which said they're in addition to 9,250 previous layoffs, primarily affecting the company's phone business, over the last 12 months. The giant tech company reported earlier this month that its revenue fell 9 percent in the previous 12 months, but its net income grew 38 percent as it shed unprofitable operations like the phone business. — AP

US SCIENTIST LAUNCHES EFFORT TO DIGITIZE FISH

SEATTLE: University of Washington biology professor Adam Summers no longer has to coax hospital staff to use their CT scanners so he can visualize the inner structures of stingray and other fish. Last fall, he installed a small computed tomography, or CT, scanner at the UW's Friday Harbor Laboratories on San Juan Island in Washington state and launched an ambitious project to scan and digitize all of more than 25,000 species in the world. The idea is to have one clearinghouse of CT scan data freely available to researchers anywhere to analyze the morphology, or structure, of particular species.

So far, he and others have digitized images of more than 500 species, from poachers to sculpins, from museum collections around the globe. He plans to add thousands more and has invited other scientists to use the CT scanner, or add their own scans to the open-access database. "We have folks coming from all over the world to use this machine," said Summers, who advised Pixar on how fish move for its hit animated films "Finding Nemo" and "Finding Dory" and is dubbed "fabulous fish guy" on the credits for "Nemo."

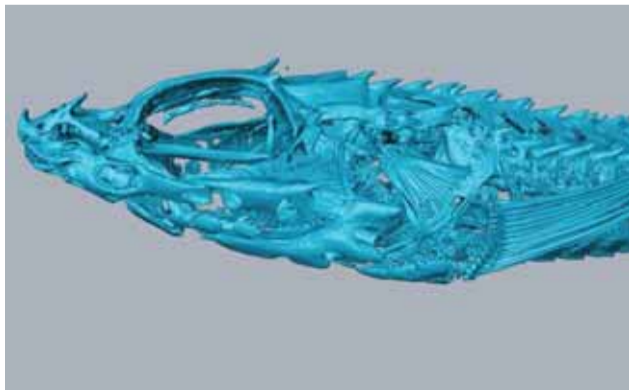
He raised \$340,000 to buy the CT scanner in November. Like those used in hospitals, the CT scanner takes X-ray images from various angles and combines them to create three-dimensional images of the fish. With each CT scan he posted to the Open Science Framework, a sharing website, people would ask him, "What are you going to scan next?" He would respond: "I want to scan them all. I want to scan all fish." Then he developed techniques, such as scanning multiple specimens, that made the goal within reach, he said, and suddenly a project that easily could have taken 50 years boiled down to just a few years. "It wasn't just a joke anymore. We could actually say it and have a hope of actually getting every fish scanned," he said.

'A crazy thing'

Scans typically cost \$500 to \$2,000 each, but Summers' project provides free access to scans. Summers recalled how as a graduate student 17 years ago he bribed a hospital technician with Snickers bars to scan large stingrays in its CT scanner. At the time, he wanted to know how an animal with a skeleton composed of cartilage could do such "a crazy thing" as crush hard prey, such as snails and mussels. The medical CT scan helped offer an answer: the sting ray had mineralized tissue in its cartilage.

So began his fascination with CT scans as a way to uncover other puzzles: What's the structure of a sting ray's wing? How does one scale in armored fish overlap with another and what are the implications for movement? "It's been a long road from getting them for free, paying some money for them, using hospital facilities in the middle of the night," Summers said. The scanner, about the size of two dorm refrigerators, is housed at the UW's marine lab on Friday Harbor, 80 miles north of Seattle. He is also known for his fish photographs - stunning images of fish that have been stained with red and blue dyes to highlight cartilage and bone - which were shown at the Seattle Aquarium.

The scanner can handle smaller fish; about two grapefruits stacked on top of each other. The average fish is about a foot long, so he said he can cover half the world's fish. He's hoping to scan large fish using industrial scanners elsewhere, including at the University of Washington. — AP



In this undated image provided by Adam Summers, a University of Washington professor in the department of Biology and the School of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences, a scan of the *Xeneretmus Triacanthus* species of fish, also known as the Bluespotted Poacher is shown, with color added by computer to enhance the rendering of the structure of the bones. — AP



NEW YORK: In this Tuesday, Dec 22, 2015, file photo, bags are loaded for delivery at Amazon's urban fulfillment facility. — AP

AMAZON'S BIG DISTRIBUTION EMPIRE KEEPS EXPANDING

NEW YORK: Online shoppers want their packages - now. And Amazon is spending heavily to make sure that happens. Amazon's Prime service has, at heart, always been about free two-day shipping. The \$99 annual subscription includes a variety of other goodies, but the near-instant gratification of fast, no-extra-cost delivery was the program's original draw, and remains central to its appeal for its estimated 60 million subscribers.

But fast delivery - everything from Prime's two-day service to one-day or one-hour options, grocery delivery and delivery for third party sellers - doesn't come cheap. In the April-June quarter, for instance, Amazon spent \$3.88 billion on its distribution network, or what it calls "fulfillment," up 35 percent from the prior year.

The company spent \$13.41 billion on fulfillment in all of 2015, up 25 percent from the prior year - and fully 13 percent of its \$104.8 billion in total operating expenses. "Costs to 'fulfill' products is one of their largest expenses, and they're always trying how to figure out how to manage it better," said RW Baird analyst Colin Sebastian. "In the long term, creating more infrastructure for transportation and delivery will help drive more efficiency, but it adds to costs in the near term."

Big spender

Such heavy investment is a big part of what keeps Amazon's profit margins low relative to other big retailers. That's intentional; the reinvestment has let Amazon open up new business lines such as its Amazon Web Services cloud-computing business, production of original TV shows and movies, and smart-home products such as its Amazon Echo device.

Still, distribution spending remains a priority. Amazon's parcel volume was an estimated 1 billion packages in 2015 - the same number that FedEx delivered three years earlier for hundreds of thousands of customers, according to Satish Jindel, president of shipping consultant ShipMatrix. With volume growing yearly in the high teens or 20-plus percent, Amazon "cannot rely upon third parties entirely to handle that large volume," he said.

So the company has been furiously building out both distribution centers, where workers and robots pull products off shelves and package them for delivery, and smaller sorting plants, which sort the package flow by ZIP code for faster delivery. Although Amazon briefly slowed its pace of distribution-center construction over the 2015 holidays and into 2016, it has announced 17 new fulfillment centers in the US alone since March, notes ChannelAdvisor executive chairman Scott Wingo. The company says it has 123 distribution centers globally and more than 23 sorting centers. Amazon is building more infrastructure in the third quarter ahead of the busy holiday season. By the end of September, it plans to have added 21 new global fulfillment centers in 2016; at the same point in 2015, it had added only 10.

Droning on

Amazon has also increasingly focused on more futuristic methods of delivery. On Tuesday, the Seattle company said it will work with the UK government to test using drones for delivery. The goal is to eventually deliver packages by drones in less than 30 minutes.

The company has also leased 40 cargo planes from Boeing and Atlas Air to create an air cargo network. Amazon says it doesn't plan to build its own delivery service, and is just looking to work more closely with package-delivery services such as the US Postal Service, FedEx and UPS. Still, the cargo fleet and drone experimentation are clear steps in taking more control in the delivery process. "If they're building out infrastructure that could ultimately be a third party (delivery) service, that's potentially interesting," Sebastian said. "We're still trying to understand what their ultimate goals are."

On Thursday, Amazon reported second quarter net income of \$857 million, or \$1.78 per share, substantially beating analyst expectations of \$1.11 per share.

Revenue rose 31 percent to \$30.4 billion, also beating analyst expectations of \$29.55 billion. The company expects third quarter revenue of \$31 billion to \$33.5 billion, ahead of analyst expectations of \$29.55 billion. Shares rose 1.3 percent to \$762.60 in after-hours trading. — AP



03:25 River Monsters
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 River Monsters
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Treehouse Masters
11:00 Dog TV
11:55 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven
12:50 Mutant Planet
15:35 Ten Deadliest Snakes
16:30 River Monsters
17:25 Mutant Planet
18:20 Penguins On A Plane: Great Animal Moves
19:15 Treehouse Masters
20:10 Bondi Vet
21:05 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
21:30 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
22:00 Penguins On A Plane: Great Animal Moves
22:55 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven
23:50 Gator Boys
00:45 Gator Boys
01:40 Mutant Planet
02:35 Mutant Planet

18:30 Eastenders
19:05 New Tricks
22:55 Undercover
23:55 Doctors
00:25 Eastenders
00:55 New Tricks



03:40 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
10:10 Gold Divers
11:00 Yukon Men
11:50 Outback Truckers
12:40 Auction Hunters
14:45 Dallas Car Sharks
16:50 Alaskan Bush People
17:40 The Last Alaskans
18:30 Mythbusters
19:20 Man vs Expert
20:10 Incredible Engineering Blunders: Fixed
21:00 Alaskan Bush People
21:50 The Last Alaskans Look Back
23:30 Worst-Case Scenario
00:45 Gold Divers



03:00 What Happened Next?
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How It's Made
05:30 Dirty Jobs
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
07:50 Doki
08:40 My Cat From Hell
12:50 Mythbusters
17:00 Ultimate Survival
18:40 Race To Escape
19:30 Troy
20:20 Pawn Queens

21:10 Deadliest Space Weather
21:35 Deadliest Space Weather
22:00 What Happened Next?
23:40 Mermaids: The New Evidence
00:30 Ultimate Survival
02:10 Dirty Jobs



03:00 Vanity Fair Confidential
03:48 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
04:36 True Crime With Aphrodite
10:20 Web Of Lies
11:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
12:00 The Perfect Murder
15:20 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
17:00 California Investigator
17:50 Heartbreakers
18:40 Murder Comes To Town
19:30 A Crime To Remember
20:20 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
21:10 Web Of Lies
22:00 House Of Horrors: Kidnapped
22:50 A Haunting
23:40 The Haunted
00:30 Scored: Crimes Of Passion



03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse

06:55 Gravity Falls
07:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:45 Shake It Up
08:10 Bunk'd
08:35 Backstage
09:00 Alex & Co.
09:25 Girl Meets World
09:50 Liv And Maddie
10:15 Binny And The Ghost
10:40 Go Figure
12:10 The 7D
12:20 Alex & Co.
14:25 Austin & Ally
15:15 Descendants Wicked World
15:20 Liv And Maddie
16:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
17:00 Gravity Falls
17:25 Lemonade Mouth
19:05 Dog With A Blog
19:30 Bunk'd
19:55 Jessie
20:20 Mako Mermaids
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive



03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopdidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopdidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopdidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopdidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:45 PJ Masks
09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
09:35 Doc McStuffins
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Goldie & Bear
10:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:25 The Lion Guard
11:50 Miles From Tomorrow
12:15 Henry Hugglemonster
12:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
13:00 Jake And The Never Land 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 Loopdidoo
00:05 Art Attack



06:00 Booster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak
07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 Annedroids
08:40 Mighty Med
09:10 Marvel Avengers: Ultron Revolution
09:35 Lab Rats
10:00 Supa Strikas

10:25 K.C. Undercover
10:50 Annedroids
11:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
11:45 Kirby Buckets
12:10 Mighty Med
12:35 K.C. Undercover
13:00 Motocrossed
14:30 Phineas And Ferb
14:45 Kickin' It
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Mighty Med
15:40 The 7D
15:50 The 7D
16:05 Lab Rats
16:30 Pickle And Peanut
16:40 Pickle And Peanut
16:55 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 Supa Strikas
18:15 Lab Rats
18:40 K.C. Undercover
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Annedroids
19:35 Marvel Avengers: Ultron Revolution
20:00 Kirby Buckets
20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
20:55 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Supa Strikas
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Mighty Med
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:00 Man Fire Food
05:00 Chopped
06:00 Guy's Grocery Games
07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 Siba's Table
11:30 Siba's Table
12:00 The Pioneer Woman
13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 Man Fire Food
17:00 Guy's Big Bite
18:00 Siba's Table
19:00 Ace Of Cakes
20:00 Chopped
21:00 Kitchen Inferno
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Ace Of Cakes
00:00 Chopped
01:00 Kitchen Inferno
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives



03:05 Emmerdale
03:25 Coronation Street
05:45 The Chase
06:40 Don't Tell The Bride
07:35 Don't Tell The Bride
08:30 Chopping Block
11:50 Grantchester
12:40 Midsomer Murders
14:20 The Syndicate
15:15 It's Not Rocket Science
16:10 Together
16:40 Tracey Ullman's Show
17:10 Don't Tell The Bride
18:05 Don't Tell The Bride
19:00 The Syndicate
19:55 Together
20:25 Tracey Ullman's Show
20:50 It's Not Rocket Science
21:45 Grantchester
22:40 Coronation Street
01:00 Eggheads
02:00 Coronation Street



03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:48 Henry Danger
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
05:00 Max & Shred
05:24 Henry Danger
05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

07:48 Winx Club
08:12 The Loud House
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:36 Breadwinners
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Game Shakers
15:24 The Loud House
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 Harvey Beaks
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 Breadwinners
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24 Breadwinners
21:48 Breadwinners
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
22:36 Sanjay And Craig
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Henry Danger
00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
00:36 Max & Shred
01:00 The Haunted Hathaways
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants



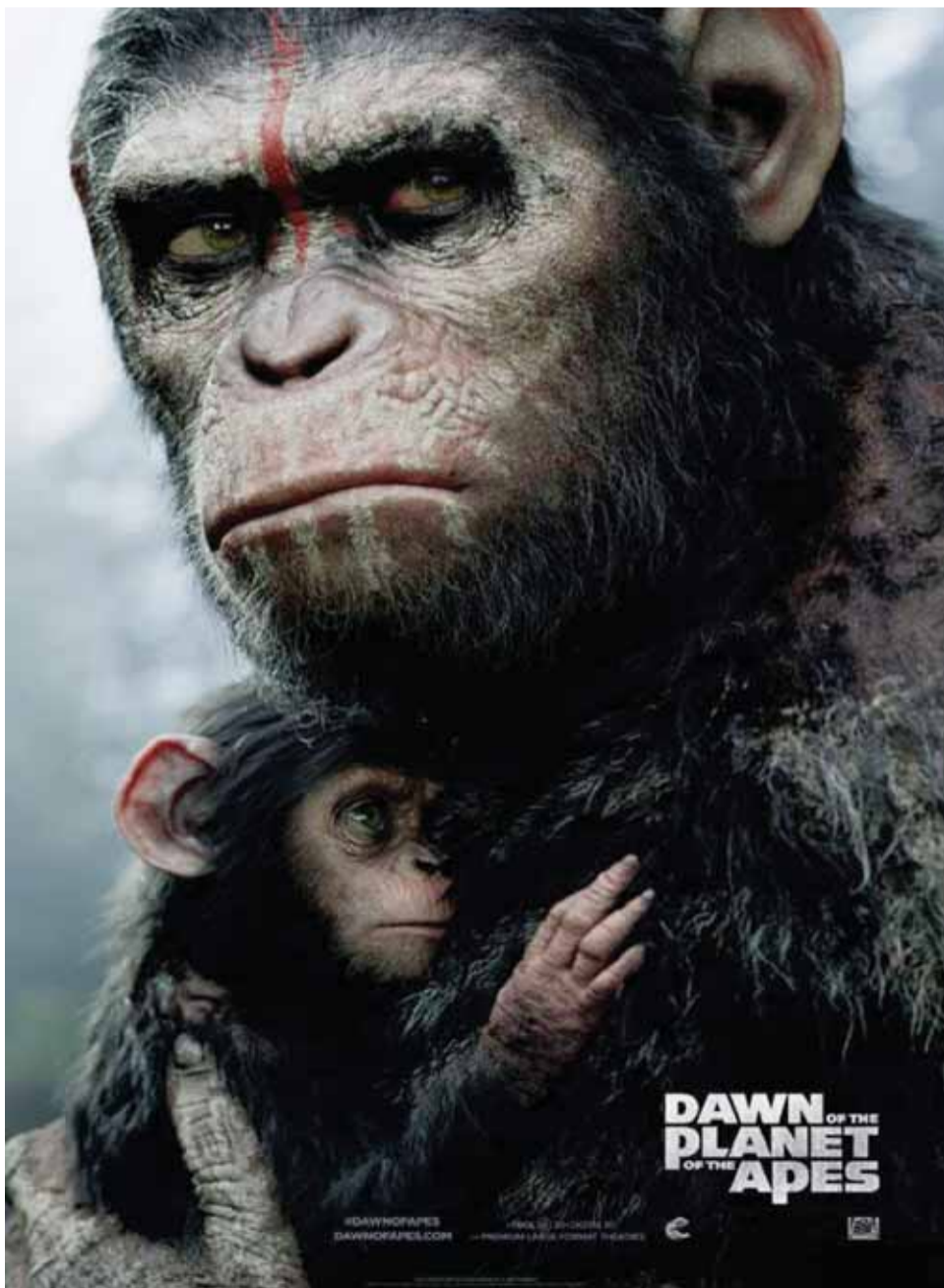
OSN First Comedy HD
04:00 The Goldbergs
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 The Goldbergs
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:30 The Goldbergs
16:00 Last Man Standing
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:30 Uncle Buck
19:00 Baby Daddy
19:30 Crowded
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:30 Last Man Standing
22:00 Saturday Night Live
23:00 Web Therapy
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
01:00 Last Man Standing



OSN First HBO HD
03:00 Vinyl
04:00 Tell Me You Love Me
05:00 Conspiracy
07:00 Always Outnumbered
09:00 The Pentagon Wars
11:00 Lackawanna Blues
13:00 Sugar
15:00 The Laramie Project
17:00 Lackawanna Blues
19:00 Legends
20:00 Six Feet Under
21:00 The Bastard Executioner
22:00 Ja'mie: Private School Girl
22:30 The Brink
23:00 HBO Comedy Half-Hour
23:30 Def Poetry Jam
00:00 Legends
01:00 Six Feet Under
02:00 The Bastard Executioner



03:00 Outlander
04:00 Good Morning America
06:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
07:00 Devious Maids
08:00 The Blacklist
09:00 The Flash
10:00 Shark Tank
11:00 Devious Maids
12:00 The Blacklist



DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES ON OSN MOVIES HD

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2016

- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Shark Tank
- 15:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 Suits
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 The Blacklist
- 19:00 Downton Abbey
- 20:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
- 21:00 Suits
- 22:00 Graceland
- 23:00 Mad Dogs
- 00:00 Devious Maids
- 01:00 Suits
- 02:00 Graceland

OSN MOVIES HD
ACTION

- 03:30 Hercules Reborn
- 05:30 Hours
- 07:15 The Fugitive
- 09:30 Pearl Harbor
- 12:45 Batman vs. Robin
- 14:15 Hours
- 16:00 The Fugitive
- 18:15 Faster
- 20:00 I, Robot
- 22:00 X-Men: The Last Stand
- 00:00 The Exorcism Of Emily Rose
- 01:54 Faster

OSN MOVIES HD
COMEDY

- 04:00 Sleepless In Seattle
- 06:00 Romy And Michelle's High School Reunion
- 08:00 Sister Act
- 10:00 Sleepless In Seattle
- 12:00 Sweet Home Alabama
- 14:00 Bad Parents
- 16:00 Sister Act
- 18:00 Nitro Circus: The Movie
- 20:00 What We Do In The Shadows
- 22:00 Let's Be Cops
- 00:00 The Hooligan Factory
- 02:00 Nitro Circus: The Movie

OSN MOVIES
DRAMA

- 03:00 Foxcatcher
- 05:30 The Love Guide
- 07:00 A Valentine's Date
- 09:00 Foreverland
- 11:00 The Love Guide
- 12:30 Foxcatcher
- 15:00 Grand Central
- 17:00 Foreverland
- 19:00 Calvary
- 21:00 We Gotta Get Out Of This Place
- 23:00 Only God Forgives
- 01:00 Fading Gigolo

OSN MOVIES HD
FAMILY

- 03:00 Dinosaur Island
- 05:00 Treasure Planet
- 07:00 Snow Dogs
- 09:00 Up
- 11:00 Wreck-It Ralph
- 12:45 Into The Woods
- 15:00 Inside Out
- 17:00 The Book Of Life
- 19:00 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement
- 21:00 Honey, I Shrank The Kids
- 23:00 The Book Of Life
- 01:00 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement

OSN MOVIES HD
FESTIVAL

- 04:30 The Guardian
- 07:00 A Civil Action
- 09:00 Won't Back Down
- 11:00 Belle
- 12:45 Breathe In
- 14:30 Get On Up
- 17:00 Won't Back Down
- 19:00 Out Of The Furnace
- 21:00 Begin Again
- 23:00 Breaking And Entering
- 01:00 Get On Up

OSN MOVIES HD

- 03:00 Hot Pursuit
- 05:00 The Maze Runner



X-MEN-THE LAST STAND ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 07:00 Barely Lethal
- 09:00 Hot Pursuit
- 10:45 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes
- 13:00 Believe
- 14:45 The Best Of Me
- 16:45 Ant-Man
- 18:45 Tomorrowland
- 21:00 How To Make Love Like An Englishman
- 23:00 Child 44
- 01:15 Burying The Ex

OSN MOVIES HD
KIDS

- 04:30 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 06:00 Justice League: Attack Of The Legion Of Doom
- 07:45 Goat Story 2
- 09:30 The Dragon Pearl
- 11:15 Kikoriki: Team Invincible
- 13:00 Earth To Echo
- 14:30 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
- 16:00 Looney Tunes Rabbit's Run
- 18:00 The Dragon Pearl
- 20:00 Vampire Dog
- 22:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
- 23:30 Looney Tunes Rabbit's Run
- 01:00 Goat Story 2
- 02:45 Vampire Dog

OSN MOVIES HD
PREMIERE

- 04:00 Step Up Revolution
- 06:00 Shadow Witness
- 08:00 The Rewrite
- 10:00 Persecuted
- 12:00 Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This
- 14:00 So Undercover
- 15:45 The Rewrite
- 17:45 Snow White And The Huntsman
- 20:00 The Last Of Robin Hood
- 22:00 The Zero Theorem
- 00:00 Little Accidents
- 02:00 Snow White And The Huntsman

- STAR MOVIES**
- 04:15 The King's Speech
 - 06:15 Rob Zombie's Halloween
 - 08:00 Planes
 - 09:30 Captain America: The Winter Soldier
 - 11:45 Hidalgo
 - 14:00 Con Air
 - 16:00 Face Off
 - 18:15 10 Things I Hate About You
 - 20:00 Maleficent
 - 21:45 Jack
 - 23:45 The Lone Ranger
 - 02:15 Surrogates

STAR WORLD HD

- 03:00 Desperate Housewives
- 04:00 The Secret Life Of The American Teenager
- 05:00 Cougar Town
- 05:30 Cougar Town
- 06:00 Cougar Town
- 06:30 Cougar Town
- 07:00 3 (Three)
- 08:00 Grey's Anatomy
- 09:00 Grey's Anatomy
- 10:00 Desperate Housewives
- 11:00 Desperate Housewives
- 12:00 The Secret Life Of The American Teenager
- 13:00 Cougar Town
- 13:30 Cougar Town
- 14:00 Da Vinci's Demons
- 15:00 The Bridge
- 16:00 American Idol
- 17:00 Fit For Fashion
- 18:00 The Listener
- 19:00 The Listener
- 20:00 The Listener
- 21:00 Fit For Fashion
- 22:00 Private Practice
- 23:00 Switched At Birth
- 00:00 3 (Three)
- 01:00 American Idol
- 02:00 The Listener

- sundance CHANNEL**
- 03:45 Letter's From The South
 - 05:30 Glassland
 - 07:00 All On The Line
 - 08:00 Medicine For Melancholy
 - 09:30 Mary Is Happy, Mary Is Happy
 - 11:35 Welcome To Pine Hill
 - 13:00 Mi Amiga Del Parque
 - 14:25 Kumiko, The Treasure Hunter
 - 16:10 Quiet City
 - 17:35 Medicine For Melancholy
 - 19:05 Mi Amiga Del Parque
 - 20:30 Detroit Unleaded
 - 22:00 Monty Python Live(Mostly) 1 Down, 5 To Go
 - 23:30 Drunk Stoned Brilliant Dead
 - 01:05 Teddy Bear
 - 02:40 In The Bathtub Of The World

- TLC HD**
- 03:35 Are You Fitter Than A Pensioner?
 - 04:20 Your Style In His Hands
 - 05:10 Ultimate Shopper
 - 06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
 - 06:25 Designer Darlings
 - 07:15 The Undateables
 - 08:05 The Face Australia
 - 08:55 The Face Australia
 - 09:45 Are You Fitter Than A Pensioner?
 - 10:35 My Giant Life
 - 11:25 Jon & Kate Plus 8
 - 11:50 Jon & Kate Plus 8
 - 12:15 Jon & Kate Plus 8
 - 12:40 Jon & Kate Plus 8
 - 13:30 Nida'a
 - 14:20 Oprah's Master Class
 - 15:10 Cake Boss
 - 15:35 Cake Boss
 - 16:00 Cake Boss
 - 16:25 Cake Boss
 - 16:50 Cake Boss
 - 17:15 Are You Fitter Than A Pensioner?
 - 18:05 Oprah's Master Class
 - 18:55 Cake Boss
 - 19:20 My Giant Life

- 20:10 Nida'a
- 21:00 Oprah's Master Class
- 21:50 Iyanla: Fix My Life
- 22:40 Monsters Inside Me
- 23:30 My Weight Is Killing Me
- 00:20 Born Schizophrenic: Jani & Bodhi's Journey
- 01:10 90 Days To Wed
- 02:00 Extreme Couponing
- 02:25 Extreme Couponing
- 02:50 Extreme Couponing

nick jr.

- Nick Jr.
- 03:23 Paw Patrol
- 03:46 Paw Patrol
- 04:10 Wanda And The Alien
- 04:19 Wanda And The Alien
- 04:30 Dora And Friends
- 04:53 Dora And Friends
- 05:16 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 06:00 Paw Patrol
- 06:13 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 06:36 Dora The Explorer
- 07:00 Wanda And The Alien
- 07:11 Zack & Quack
- 07:22 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 07:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 08:10 Paw Patrol
- 08:35 Shimmer And Shine
- 08:58 Dora The Explorer
- 09:22 Little Charmers
- 09:32 Paw Patrol
- 09:57 Bubble Guppies
- 10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 10:40 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
- 14:42 Louie
- 14:48 Paw Patrol
- 14:58 Paw Patrol
- 15:23 Paw Patrol
- 15:46 Paw Patrol
- 16:10 Wanda And The Alien
- 16:19 Wanda And The Alien
- 16:30 Dora And Friends
- 16:53 Dora And Friends
- 17:16 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 18:00 Paw Patrol
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- 23:53 Olive The Ostrich
- 23:58 Olive The Ostrich
- 00:03 Max & Ruby
- 00:26 Wanda And The Alien
- 00:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 00:48 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 01:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 01:22 Blaze And The Monster



The Interior Ministry's retirees' diwaniya hosted its weekly meeting this week, with attendance of Major General Eid Abu Sulaib, Assistant Undersecretary for Supportive Services Affairs, Major General Adeeb Al-Suwaidan, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Citizenship and Passports Affairs and Colonel Saif Al-Mutairi, Director of the Retirees Care Department. Sulaib honored Suwaidan and Mutairi during the meeting in recognition of their efforts in establishing the Retirees Care Department and managing the retirees' diwaniya.





The Rescue Police recently welcomed a team from Loyac, which visited the emergency operator's department and listened to a demonstration on the work mechanism there.





Jaco, Costa Rica: View of road signs with surfing stickers in Jaco Beach in Puntarenas, Costa Rica. —AFP photos



Jaco, Costa Rica: Young men receive surfing lessons in Jaco Beach in Puntarenas, Costa Rica.

WORLD SURF CONTEST COMING TO COSTA RICA'S ZIKA HOTSPOT

'I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND PREGNANT WOMEN COMING'

JACO, Costa Rica: Next month, international surfers converging on a popular Costa Rican beach for the World Surfing Games will be facing more than big waves and tough competition—the zone is also a Zika hotspot. But promoters of the August 6-14 event in the Pacific coastal town of Jaco, which is organized by the International Surfing Association, insist there's little to worry about, except for pregnant women. "We have Zika cases, as the whole country does. People can come to Jaco without any fear," Tobias Murillo, the mayor of the Garabito region that includes Jaco, told AFP.

However health ministry figures show that, of the 238 cases of Zika infection in Costa Rica, 106 of them are in Garabito, making it the worst-hit area of the country. Local authorities have bought equipment to fumigate spots where mosquitoes the main vector for transmission of the virus could accumulate. They plan to use them just before the surf tournament. Zika can also be transmitted by sex, and has been found to live on in sperm for as long as 93 days, according

to a case reported last week in the British medical journal *The Lancet*. The virus, which has spread through much of tropical Latin America and the Caribbean, generally provokes few or no symptoms. But it is linked to microcephaly—a shrinking of the brain and skull in babies born to mothers infected with the virus, and to rare, potentially-fatal adult-onset neurological problems. An outbreak in Brazil, where 1,600 babies with Zika-linked microcephaly have been born, has created concern for some people wanting to attend the Olympic Games in Rio next month.

Surfing destination

The World Surfing Games in Costa Rica are expected to attract thousands of people to Jaco, which is just over an hour's drive from the inland capital San Jose. The International Surfing Association hopes to see surfing enter the next Olympics in 2020 in Tokyo as one of the disciplines. The choice of Costa Rica for this year's surfing Games follows the national team winning the

championship last year when it was held in Nicaragua. It also plays to Costa Rica's reputation as a top surfing destination. Around 10 percent of tourists who go to the country go surfing, according to tourism officials. "You're going to see people from all over coming to be close to the best surfers in the world," said Celine Mounier, a Frenchwoman who runs a surf school in Jaco.

She said Zika had had an impact on tourists visiting Jaco, but believed the statistics on the virus were overblown. "There are Zika cases in all the coastal zones, as well as in Jaco," she said. "I wouldn't recommend a pregnant woman coming to Jaco or to any other beach. But for everybody else there's no big risk." Another instructor, Calixto "Tiger" Garcia, acknowledged that worries over Zika were keeping some tourists away.

"There are almost no domestic tourists (Costa Ricans) coming," he said. But he added that in his 20 years in the area, "I've never seen anyone with Zika." —AFP

FLORIDA OFFICIALS SAY LOCAL ZIKA TRANSMISSION 'LIKELY'

MIAMI: Florida health officials said yesterday they believe that four people have been infected locally with Zika, in what would be the first evidence that mosquitoes carrying the virus are present in the continental United States. Officials have been investigating four cases of Zika in southern Florida that were not thought to be linked to travel to affected regions outside the country. "The Florida Department of Health has gathered enough information as part of its ongoing investigation into non-travel related cases of Zika in Miami-Dade and Broward counties to conclude that a high likelihood exists that four cases are the result of local transmission," the department said in a statement.

"At this time, the department believes that active transmission of the Zika virus is occurring in one small area in Miami-Dade County, just north of downtown," it added. Governor Rick Scott told a news conference that one of the cases involved a woman, and the other three men. "They are all active Zika cases, and have not exhibited symptoms to be admitted to the hospital," he said. Officials had been testing mosquitoes in the small area of southern Florida where the cases are located "for about two weeks," he added.

"While no mosquito traps have tested positive for the Zika virus, the Department of Health is aggressively testing people in the affected area to ensure there are no other cases of this virus," he said. The health department had urged residents and visitors to participate if asked for urine samples in the areas being investigated, to help determine the number of people affected. Zika is spread via mosquitoes and by sexual contact. Pregnant women who are infected face a higher risk of bearing an infant with microcephaly, a birth defect that causes an abnormally small head.

Florida has already seen almost 400 cases of Zika, all involving people who were infected while traveling to parts of the world where the virus is circulating. For Zika to become a homegrown virus in the mainland United States, a mosquito would have to bite a Zika-infected person and then bite another person, passing on the virus.

Health officials have warned of possible localized Zika outbreaks in the United States, particularly since the virus has spread quickly throughout Central and South America and the Caribbean in the past two years. However, mosquito control measures such as air conditioning, use of window and door screens and bug repellent are likely to prevent Zika from becoming established in the United States. —AFP

MYSTERY OF MISSING JAI, INDIA'S MOST BELOVED TIGER

MUMBAI: A massive search operation is underway in India for the country's most famous tiger, with millions of adoring fans worried sick

about the big cat known as Jai who went missing three months ago. Named after Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan's character in

the hit 1975 film "Sholay", the tiger shot to nationwide fame three years ago after embarking on an epic hike through villages, rivers and perilously dangerous highways in successful pursuit of a mate. A firm favorite with tourists and conservationists alike, the seven-year-old, 250-kilogram big cat was last seen at the Umred Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary, where he usually lives, on April 18.

Wildlife officials in the western Indian state of Maharashtra launched a massive search operation, hoping to find the beloved animal by today—International Tiger Day—but admit they are clueless as to his fate. "Whether he has moved to forest interiors or is with a new mate, no information is available as of yet," M.S Reddy, a tiger expert helping the search, told AFP. Forestry rangers said they first become worried about Jai's fate after his electronic collar stopped transmitting his location three months ago, while tourist sightings of the striped cat have dried up.

The state government has offered a reward of 50,000 rupees (\$745) for information on Jai's location, a small fortune for the hundreds of local villagers engaged in the hunt. Indian newspapers are carrying daily reports on the latest speculation about where Jai may be or what fate might have befallen him with some claiming reported, but unconfirmed, sightings. In the eastern district of Nagpur this week, home to the Umred Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary, where Jai lives, worried locals held a pooja, or ceremony, praying that he would be found safe. Some devotees threw religious offerings onto a fire while others held up posters of the missing beast. A small boy was seen stroking a tiger soft toy in local online news clips of the event.

'Majestic Tiger'

Jai has been credited with both boosting tourism and helping to repopulate India's tiger population. "He's successfully fathered more than 20 cubs and has boosted the

local economy by attracting wildlife enthusiasts," said Rohit Karoo, a conservationist helping co-ordinate the hunt. "Losing such a majestic tiger would be a great loss for India." Karoo said no stone was being left unturned in the bid to track Jai down in a search extending over several hundred kilometers. "Around ten non-governmental organizations, locals from nearly four hundred villages and forest officials are patrolling the forests in Maharashtra to locate Jai," he told AFP on Thursday.

India is home to around 2,200 tigers, representing 70 percent of the world's endangered tiger population. Some reports have speculated that Jai may have been wounded in a fight with another tiger, poached by hunters involved in the illegal trade of endangered wildlife or merely fallen sick. However, Karoo was quick to quash such rumors. "I don't think anything bad has befallen him as he is a dominant male tiger with the capacity to travel large distances," he said. —AFP



UMRED, India: In this photograph Indian tiger 'Jai' walks through woods at The Umred Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary some 80kms south-east of Nagpur in the western Indian state of Maharashtra. —AFP

EDIBLE BALLOONS, FROZEN TREATS: ICE CREAM MUSEUM IS COOLEST

‘MAKE A WISH,’ ‘DIP AT YOUR OWN RISK’

NEW YORK: Move over Willy Wonka. A temporary museum dedicated to all things ice cream is treating visitors to edible balloons, a Chocolate Chamber, a “swim” in a pool of faux rainbow sprinkles and, of course, scoops of heavenly ice cream. New York’s Museum of Ice Cream is the lifelong fantasy of 24-year-old, co-founder Maryellis Bunn. The six-room tour begins with a free scoop of ice cream. At a press preview Thursday, the treat was topped with fruity cereal, marshmallows and a guava-lime zest. In the next room, helium-filled, edible balloons produce giggles as visitors’ voices are transformed into high-pitched squeaks.

The museum opened to the public yesterday. Admission is free from 11 am to 3 pm. After that, it costs \$18 per person or \$30 for two. The museum closes Aug 31. The biggest attraction is a large pool filled with 11,000 pounds of confetti-colored sprinkles. Visitors can immerse themselves in the fake candy. Posted rules say: “make a wish,” “dip at your own risk” and “Caution: May cause spontaneous happiness.” Happiness was on the minds of Bunn and her co-creator Manish Vora who frequently asked “Are you having fun?”

The two launched the project to fulfill Bunn’s childhood dream of swimming through a pool of sprinkles. They also enlisted over 30 artists to create - what else? - ice cream-themed works of art. Each artist “brings a unique voice” to his or her creation, said Bunn. In a nod to Willy Wonka, the Chocolate Chamber is entered through a satiny brown curtain to a musical remix of “Pure Imagination.” A chocolate fountain, free



NEW YORK: An installation called “Sundae Stag” by PJ Linden is among ice cream-themed works of art previewed at the Museum of Ice Cream. —AP photos

chocolates, cocoa-bean shards on the floor and an immersive chocolate video can be viewed from the comfort of a large bean bag.

Elsewhere, visitors can suck on a dehydrated Miracle Berry that can alter the sourness of lemon slices atop an ice cream cone into a sweet delight. The tour ends in TinderLand, a playground featuring an ice cream scoop seesaw and an ice cream sandwich swing for two. Visitors also can discover “who they are as a flavor” through an app created with Tinder, said Vora. In addition to specially created ice cream by food scientist Irwin Adam, of Future Food Network, the museum each week will offer custom frozen treats from one of the city’s favorite ice cream shops including Black Tap and Oddfellows. “It’s a lick-able, likable ice cream-centric experience,” said Bunn.

And if you aren’t completely satiated by the



NEW YORK: Visitors can suck on dehydrated African Miracle Berry that alters sour taste into sweet when they indulge in an ice cream topped with slices of lemon.



NEW YORK: Visitors walk into a large pool filled with faux confetti-colored sprinkles.

end of the tour, you can savor a different kind of experience across the street at the Whitney Museum of American Art or the nearby High Line. —AP



NEW YORK: A waffle light wall featuring a series of hanging ice cream cones light bulbs is among ice cream-themed works of art previewed at the Museum of Ice Cream.

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem

 د. فهد علي المخيزيم
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Kuwait CINEMA				KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (28/07/2016 TO 03/08/2016)	
SHARQIA-1		MARINA-1		THE CONJURING 2	12:15 AM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	11:45 AM	JASON BOURNE	12:30 PM	AL-KOUT.2	
THE CONJURING 2	2:00 PM	JASON BOURNE	3:00 PM	JASON BOURNE	12:15 PM
KANGAR HOBINA	4:45 PM	FINDING DORY	5:30 PM	JASON BOURNE	2:45 PM
KANGAR HOBINA	7:00 PM	JASON BOURNE	7:45 PM	JASON BOURNE	5:15 PM
THE CONJURING 2	9:15 PM	JASON BOURNE	10:15 PM	JASON BOURNE	7:45 PM
THE CONJURING 2	12:05 AM	JASON BOURNE	12:45 AM	ABU SHANAB	10:15 PM
				JASON BOURNE	12:30 AM
SHARQIA-2		MARINA-2		AL-KOUT.3	
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	1:00 PM	THE CONJURING 2	11:30 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:45 PM
KANGAR HOBINA	1:30 PM	FINDING DORY	2:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	3:00 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	3:30 PM	THE CONJURING 2	4:30 PM	FINDING DORY -3D	5:15 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	5:45 PM	ABU SHANAB	7:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	7:30 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	8:00 PM	THE CONJURING 2	9:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	9:45 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	10:15 PM	THE CONJURING 2	12:15 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:05 AM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:30 AM				
SHARQIA-3		MARINA-3		AL-KOUT.4	
JASON BOURNE	12:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:45 PM	SUBMERGED	12:15 PM
JASON BOURNE	2:45 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	3:00 PM	SUBMERGED	2:15 PM
FINDING DORY	5:15 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	5:15 PM	SUBMERGED	4:15 PM
JASON BOURNE	7:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	7:30 PM	KANGAR HOBINA	6:15 PM
ABU SHANAB	10:00 PM	NO FRI		KANGAR HOBINA	8:15 PM
JASON BOURNE	12:15 AM	Special Show "THE LEGEND OF TARZAN"	7:30 PM	SUBMERGED	10:45 PM
		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	10:00 PM	SUBMERGED	12:45 AM
		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:30 AM		
MUHALAB-1		AVENUES-1		BAIRAQ-1	
JASON BOURNE	12:15 PM	FINDING DORY	11:45 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	12:00 PM
JASON BOURNE	3:00 PM	KANGAR HOBINA	2:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	2:15 PM
JASON BOURNE	5:30 PM	DISHOOM -HINDI	4:15 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D	4:30 PM
ABU SHANAB	8:00 PM	KANGAR HOBINA	7:00 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D	6:45 PM
JASON BOURNE	10:15 PM	KANGAR HOBINA	9:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	9:00 PM
JASON BOURNE	12:45 AM	KANGAR HOBINA	11:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	11:30 PM
MUHALAB-2		AVENUES-2		BAIRAQ-2	
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	11:30 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX	12:30 PM	KANGAR HOBINA	12:30 PM
FINDING DORY	2:00 PM	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES:	3:00 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	2:45 PM
FINDING DORY	4:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX	5:30 PM	FINDING DORY	5:00 PM
THE CONJURING 2	6:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX	10:30 PM	KANGAR HOBINA	7:15 PM
THE CONJURING 2	9:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX	1:00 AM	ABU SHANAB	9:30 PM
THE CONJURING 2	12:30 AM			ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	11:45 PM
MUHALAB-3		AVENUES-3		BAIRAQ-3	
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	12:30 PM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	11:45 AM	JASON BOURNE	1:00 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	2:45 PM	THE CONJURING 2	2:00 PM	KANGAR HOBINA	1:30 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	5:15 PM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	4:45 PM	FRI	
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	7:30 PM	THE CONJURING 2	7:00 PM	JASON BOURNE	3:30 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	9:45 PM	THE CONJURING 2	9:45 PM	SULTAN- HINDI	6:00 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:05 AM	THE CONJURING 2	12:30 AM	JASON BOURNE	9:15 PM
				JASON BOURNE	12:05 AM
FANAR-1		AVENUES-4		PLAZA	
THE CONJURING 2	12:15 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	11:30 AM	JASON BOURNE	3:30 PM
KANGAR HOBINA	3:00 PM	JASON BOURNE	1:45 PM	THE CONJURING 2	6:00 PM
KANGAR HOBINA	5:00 PM	FINDING DORY	4:30 PM	NO THU+FRI	
ABU SHANAB	7:15 PM	ABU SHANAB	6:45 PM	ANURAGA KARIKKIN VELLAM -Malayalam	6:00 PM
KANGAR HOBINA	9:30 PM	ABU SHANAB	9:15 PM	THU+FRI	
ABU SHANAB	11:45 PM	NO MON		ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	8:45 PM
		Special Show "THE CONJURING 2"	9:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	11:00 PM
FANAR-2		MON			
SUBMERGED	11:30 AM	JASON BOURNE	11:45 PM		
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	1:30 PM			LAILA	
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	3:45 PM	360°- 1		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	4:00 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	6:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	12:30 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	6:15 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D	8:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	3:00 PM	NO SUN	
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	10:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	5:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	8:30 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:45 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	8:00 PM	NO SUN	
		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN-3D	10:30 PM	JASON BOURNE	10:45 PM
		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	1:00 AM		
FANAR-3		360°- 2		AJIAL.1	
FINDING DORY	12:15 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	11:45 AM	ANURAGA KARIKKIN VELLAM -Malayalam	4:30 PM
SUBMERGED	2:30 PM	NOW YOU SEE ME 2	2:15 PM	ANURAGA KARIKKIN VELLAM -Malayalam	7:00 PM
SUBMERGED	4:30 PM	SULTAN- HINDI	5:00 PM	ANURAGA KARIKKIN VELLAM -Malayalam	9:30 PM
FINDING DORY	6:45 PM	SULTAN- HINDI	8:15 PM		
SULTAN- HINDI	9:00 PM	NOW YOU SEE ME 2	11:30 PM	AJIAL.2	
SUBMERGED	12:15 AM			DISHOOM -HINDI	4:00 PM
				DISHOOM -HINDI	6:30 PM
FANAR-4		360°- 3		DISHOOM -HINDI	9:00 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	12:00 PM	FINDING DORY	12:45 PM		
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	2:15 PM	FINDING DORY	3:00 PM	AJIAL.3	
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	4:45 PM	FINDING DORY	5:15 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	3:15 PM
THE CONJURING 2	7:00 PM	FINDING DORY	7:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	5:30 PM
THE CONJURING 2	9:45 PM	LAMMA SHOFTAK (When I Saw You)	10:00 PM	SULTAN- HINDI	7:45 PM
THE CONJURING 2	12:30 AM	THE CONJURING 2	12:15 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	11:00 PM
FANAR-5		AL-KOUT.1		AJIAL.4	
JASON BOURNE	11:30 AM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	12:30 PM	KABALI - Tamil	3:45 PM
JASON BOURNE	2:00 PM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	2:45 PM	KABALI - Tamil	6:45 PM
JASON BOURNE	4:30 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	5:00 PM	KABALI - Tamil	9:45 PM
JASON BOURNE	7:00 PM	ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	7:15 PM		
JASON BOURNE	9:30 PM	THE CONJURING 2	9:30 PM		
JASON BOURNE	12:05 AM				

Kuwait Times

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Prayer timings

Fajr:	03:37
Shorook	05:07
Duhr:	11:54
Asr:	15:30
Maghrib:	18:42
Isha:	20:08



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



Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers use seats

Arrival Flights on Saturday 30/7/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	792	Madinah	17:45
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	SVA	500	Jeddah	17:55
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	QTR	1080	Doha	17:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	IRM	1180	Mashhad	18:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC	742	Dammam	18:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	CLX	856	Luxembourg	18:50
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	618	Doha	18:55
MSC	501	Alexandria	02:00	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	KAC	104	London	19:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	JAV	621	Amman	19:25
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	ABY	121	Sharjah	20:10
KAC	514	Tehran	03:50	KNE	381	Taif	20:10
THY	1416	Bursa	04:05	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55
SYR	341	Damascus	06:00	KAC	174	Munich	20:55
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
BAW	157	London	06:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	FDB	8053	Dubai	21:40
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	QTR	1082	Doha	21:55
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	KAC	564	Amman	22:05
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	NIA	151	Cairo	22:10
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	KNE	533	Jeddah	22:45
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	JZR	185	Dubai	22:55
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	JAD	301	Amman	23:45
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20				
RJA	648	Amman	09:30				
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40				
SAW	703	Damascus	09:45				
CCE	345	Sohag	10:00				
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40				
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40				
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:10				
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30				
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50				
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:55				
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25				
JZR	241	Amman	12:30				
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30				
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45				
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55				
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00				
RJD	132	Abu Dhabi	13:05				
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10				
BON	101	Sarajevo	13:55				
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00				
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00				
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05				
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15				
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20				
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20				
JZR	779	Jeddah	14:25				
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:30				
MSC	507	HRG	14:45				
FBA	831	Al Najaf	14:50				
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50				
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00				
KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05				
KNE	683	Madinah	15:05				
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10				
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10				
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35				
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45				
NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50				
RJA	640	Amman	16:00				
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10				
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15				
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20				
JZR	257	Beirut	16:25				
KNE	531	Jeddah	16:35				
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45				
KAC	562	Amman	16:55				
KAC	680	Muscat	16:55				
KAC	118	New York	17:00				
SAW	707	Latakia	17:05				
IRA	669	Mashhad	17:10				
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15				
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30				
JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30				

Arrival Flights on Saturday 30/7/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05
KAC	792	Madinah	17:45	RJA	649	Amman	10:15
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
SVA	500	Jeddah	17:55	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
QTR	1080	Doha	17:55	SAW	708	Latakia	10:45
KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	CCE	346	Sohag	11:10
KAC	502	Beirut	18:35	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35	KAC	679	Muscat	11:25
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
IRM	1180	Mashhad	18:45	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
KAC	742	Dammam	18:50	JZR	356	Mashhad	11:40
CLX	856	Luxembourg	18:50	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
KAC	618	Doha	18:55	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
KAC	542	Cairo	18:55	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
KAC	104	London	19:00	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	IRM	1189	Mashhad	12:20
UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	IAW	158	Al Najaf	12:55
FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	KAC	791	Madinah	13:00
KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
JAV	621	Amman	19:25	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:20
KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
FDB	059	Dubai	19:50	RJD	133	Abu Dhabi	13:50
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
ABY	121	Sharjah	20:10	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
KNE	381	Taif	20:10	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
JZR	189	Dubai	20:25	KNE	382	Taif	14:55
MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
KAC	174	Munich	20:55	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
ALK	229	Colombo	21:20	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25	KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
THY	764	Istanbul	21:30	MSC	508	HRG	15:45
KAC	676	Dubai	21:35	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
FDB	8053	Dubai	21:40	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
QTR	1082	Doha	21:55	KNE	684	Madinah	16:00
GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
KAC	564	Amman	22:05	FBA	832	Al Najaf	16:05
NIA	151	Cairo	22:10	BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KNE	533	Jeddah	22:45	KAC	563	Amman	16:30
JZR	185	Dubai	22:55	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
MSR	614	Cairo	23:30	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
JAD	301	Amman	23:45	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
				QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
				KNE	532	Jeddah	17:25
				UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
				IRA	666	Esfahan	18:10
				SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
				SAW	706	Damascus	18:20
				GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
				JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
				JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
				KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
				QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
				JZR	238	Amman	19:15
				JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
				SVA	505	Jeddah	19:25
				MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
				KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
				GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
				FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
				ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
				KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
				IRM	1181	Mashhad	20:00
				CLX	856	Hong Kong	20:20
				JAV	622	Amman	20:25
				FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
				UAE	876	D	

Word Search Puzzles

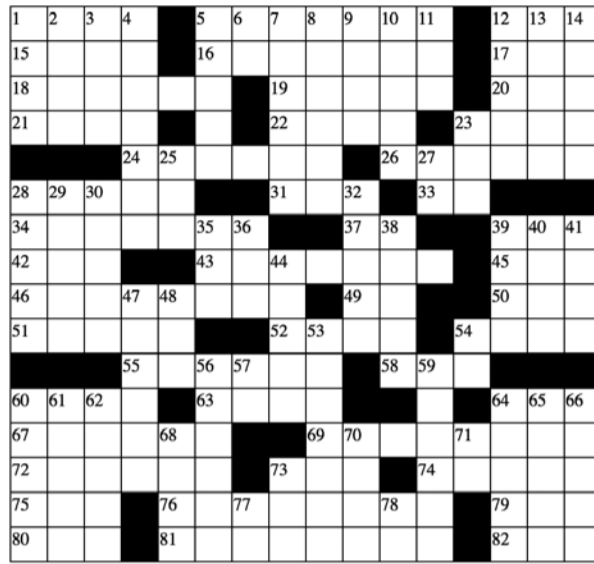
Animals 2 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| BABOON | HERON | RACCOON |
| CAMEL | LION | RAVEN |
| CHIMPANZEE | MACAW | ROADRUNNER |
| COBRA | NIGHTINGALE | SWAN |
| CROW | PANTHER | TIGER |
| DOVE | PEACOCK | WOLVERINE |
| GOPHER | PIG | WREN |
| HAWK | PORCUPINE | |

CROSSWORD 1327



ACROSS

- (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
- Saw used with one hand for cutting metal.
- An accountant certified by the state.
- Chevrotain somewhat larger than the kanchil.
- An area of ground used for some particular purpose (such as building or farming).
- The syllable naming the sixth (submediant) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
- Of uncertain outcome.
- The cardinal number that is the sum of seven and one.
- A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
- United States playwright who collaborated with George S. Kaufman (1904-1961).
- At a specific prior time.
- The state capital of Alaska.
- The cardinal number that is the sum of eight and one.
- State in northeastern India.
- A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.
- A bachelor's degree in religion.
- A cry expressing disapproval.
- A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
- The former capital and 2nd largest city of Brazil.
- A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
- An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
- An intense and irresistible love for yourself and concern for your own needs.
- Being one hundred more than three hundred.
- Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
- Small evergreen shrub of Pacific coast of North America having edible dark purple grape-size berries.
- Of or relating to or characteristic of the Republic of Chad or its people or language.
- A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
- A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
- An area within a building enclosed by walls and floor and ceiling.
- An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- Be imminent or about to happen.
- Of or relating to or in the manner of the playwright Henrik Ibsen.
- Italian painter and art historian (1511-1574).

- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation.
- Black tropical American cuckoo.
- Beat with a cane.
- A recurring sleep state during which dreaming occurs.
- United States sculptor and architect whose public works include the memorial to veterans of the Vietnam War in Washington (born in 1959).
- A mass of undifferentiated cells from with an organ or body part develops.
- A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.

DOWN

- A unit of length (in United States and Britain) equal to one twelfth of a foot.
- A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
- South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
- Small Asian deer with small antlers and a cry like a bark.
- Austrian composer who influenced the classical form of the symphony (1732-1809).
- A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- Any of several lichens of the genus Parmelia from which reddish brown or purple dyes are made.
- A member of a South American Indian people in Peru who were formerly the ruling class of the Inca empire.
- Fill to satisfaction.
- A yellow pungent volatile oil (trade name Agene) formerly used for bleaching and aging flour.
- Covered or soaked with a liquid such as water.
- A group of biological taxa or species that share features inherited from a common ancestor.
- A genus of Ploceidae.
- Having the leading position or higher score in a contest.
- Either extremity of something that has length.
- A benevolent aspect of Devi.
- A soft gray ductile metallic element used in alloys.
- Goat-like antelope of central Eurasia having a stubby nose like a proboscis.
- A simple seat without a back or arms.
- An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
- A nurse who has enough training to be licensed by a state to provide routine care for the sick.
- Flower arrangement consisting of a circular band of foliage or flowers for ornamental purposes.
- A cushion on a throne for a prince in India.
- African tree with edible yellow fruit resembling mangos.
- The content of cognition.
- An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
- The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
- American and Asiatic trees having edible one-seeded fruit.
- A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- The type of environment in which an organism or group normally lives or occurs.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- Relating to or near the radius.
- A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- South American cavy.
- Of or relating to Oman or its people.
- Retinal protein formed by the action of light on rhodopsin.
- A slender and greatly elongated solid substance.
- German chemist noted for the synthetic production of ammonia (1868-1934).
- (Jungian psychology) The inner self (not the external persona) that is in touch with the unconscious.
- Agency of the United States government charged with mediating disputes between management and labor.
- Serving as or forming a base.
- A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
- The compass point that is one point south of due east.
- Informal terms for a mother.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the rare earth group.

Yesterday's Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles

Animals 1 - Solution

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 O 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
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 T O R R A P M S H B D C O U G A R

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

Daily SuDoku

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	8			6		5		
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very hard

Yesterday's Solution

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

medium

Yesterday's Solution

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

SALE LEADS CUBS TO VICTORY OVER WHITE SOX

CHICAGO: Chris Sale returned from his jersey-trashing suspension and threw six effective innings, but John Lackey out-pitched him and Aroldis Chapman got the final four outs to save the Cubs' 3-1 victory over the White Sox in Chicago's rivalry series Thursday night. Sale (14-4) was greeted with smiles and hugs from his teammates following a five-day ban for tearing up 1976-style uniforms he didn't want to wear before his previous scheduled start. He had command issues, but worked out of trouble while allowing two runs and six hits.

Lackey (8-7) allowed one run in six innings for his first win since June 8. Chapman, in his second appearance since being acquired from the Yankees, struck out two and consistently hit 102 mph in his first save for his new team. Kris Bryant, who homered against Sale in the All-Star Game, hit an RBI double off the center field wall in the first inning. Ben Zobrist added an RBI single in the third and doubled and scored in the eighth as the Cubs earned a split of the four-game series and spoiled Sale's night. The lefty was scratched from his start Saturday, sent home and then suspended five days for cutting up a number of colored throwback jerseys the team was supposed to wear for the game. Sale said they were uncomfortable and became enraged when the team wouldn't switch them out.

ANGELS 2, RED SOX 1

Hanley Ramirez's throwing error to the plate on Daniel Nava's bases-loaded grounder allowed two runs to score, and Los Angeles walked off with a stunning victory over Boston. The Angels rallied in the ninth against Boston closer Brad Ziegler (2-5), loading the bases with one out on singles by Mike Trout, Albert Pujols and Andrelton Simmons. Pinch-hitter Nava then poked a potential game-ending grounder to first, but Ramirez put his throw past catcher Sandy Leon, allowing Trout and pinch-runner Ji-Man Choi to end it. Ziegler, who also lost Wednesday when he gave up a ninth-inning homer by Detroit's Miguel Cabrera, blew his third save of the season. Cam Bedrosian (2-0) pitched the ninth for Los Angeles. Ziegler and Ramirez wasted eight innings of seven-hit ball from David Price. The \$217 million left-hander outdueling Jered Weaver, who pitched six-hit ball into the sixth inning.

NATIONALS 4, GIANTS 2

Ryan Zimmerman had two hits and scored a run, Trea Turner added two hits and an RBI and Washington beat San Francisco in the opener of a key four-game series between division leaders. Bryce Harper doubled in a run while Anthony Rendon had two hits to help the Nationals beat All-Star Game starter Johnny Cueto (13-3) in manager Dusty Baker's return to AT&T Park. Baker won 840 games as the Giants manager from 1993-2002. San Francisco scored a run in the ninth to pull within 4-2 before Shawn Kelley struck out Angel Pagan with the bases loaded to end it and get his fifth save. The two teams went into the game with identical 59-42 records before Washington won to join the Chicago Cubs (61-40) as the only teams in the majors with at least 60 wins. Nationals starter Tanner Roark (10-6) allowed one



CHICAGO: Chicago Cubs relief pitcher Aroldis Chapman delivers in this multiple exposure photo during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox. —AP

run over seven innings, striking out three and walking three.

CARDINALS 5, MARLINS 4

Aledmys Diaz homered, doubled and drove in three runs against childhood pal Jose Fernandez, helping St. Louis beat Miami. Fernandez gave up five runs in five innings and fell to 26-2 at Marlins Park. Miami's Dee Gordon, the 2015 NL batting and stolen bases champion, returned from an 80-game suspension for failing a drug test and went 0 for 4. Ichiro Suzuki doubled as a pinch hitter in the seventh for Miami and needs two hits for 3,000.

Diaz and Matt Holliday homered in the third inning against Fernandez (12-5), who had never previously given up more than one homer in a home game. His only other loss at Marlins Park came on opening day this year against Detroit. Michael Wacha (6-7) allowed three runs in six innings, and three relievers completed an eight-hitter. Seung Hwan Oh pitched around a one-out single in the ninth for his seventh save. Diaz and Fernandez were neighbors growing up in Santa Clara, Cuba, and the Cardinals enjoyed their reunion. Fernandez walked Jeremy Hazelbaker to start the third inning, and Diaz followed with his 14th homer. Two batters later, Holliday hit his 18th homer just inside the right-field foul pole, prompting a rueful grin from Fernandez. The outing was his shortest since May 4.

ROKIES 2, METS 1

New York closer Jeurys Familia stumbled for a second straight game, allowing two runs in the ninth inning in a loss that handed Colorado its seventh victory in eight games. Less than 24 hours after Familia's streak of 52 consecutive regular-season

saves was snapped, the right-hander entered in the top of the ninth with a 1-0 lead, and couldn't hold it. Trevor Story had a leadoff single and stole second. After fellow rookie David Dahl walked, Daniel Descalso bunted up the first base line. Mets catcher Rene Rivera watched as the ball spun toward foul territory but it stopped fair, loading the bases with no out.

With one out, Familia (2-3) got pinch-hitter Cristhian Adames to hit a slow grounder to the right side. First baseman James Loney booted the ball and Story scored to make it 1-all. Familia then threw a wild pitch, allowing Dahl to cross the plate with the go-ahead run. Jordan Lyles (3-3) pitched a scoreless eighth for the Rockies, and closer Carlos Estevez had a perfect ninth for his 11th save.

RANGERS 3, ROYALS 2

Mitch Moreland's second homer of the game broke a tie in the eighth inning and Cole Hamels earned his 12th win of the season in Texas' victory over Kansas City. Hamels (12-2) allowed two runs and six hits in eight innings, matching his longest start of the season. Sam Dyson earned his 21st save in 23 chances, stranding the tying run at third base. Both homers by the left-handed hitting Moreland were to the opposite field and came off Yordano Ventura (6-9). It was Moreland's 10th career multi-homer game and second of the season. He has five homers in his last 11 hits.

TWINS 6, ORIOLES 2

Rookie Max Kepler continued his mid-season surge with a tying home run and finished with two RBIs to help Minnesota beat Baltimore. The teams were squeezing in a make-up game from a May 9 postpone-

ment with Minnesota in the middle of a homestand and Baltimore heading for a weekend series at Toronto. Kepler hit his 11th home run off reliever Odrisamer Despaigne (0-2) leading off the sixth inning to tie it at 2 after Baltimore starter Ubaldo Jimenez lasted five innings in his first start since July 8. Kepler had an RBI double in four-run seventh. Ryan Pressly (5-5) combined with two other relievers to allow just two hits the final three innings.

PHILLIES 7, BRAVES 5

Aaron Altherr and Maikel Franco homered, Aaron Nola won for the first time in eight starts and Philadelphia beat Atlanta. Altherr returned to the lineup after missing the first 103 games of the season with a broken left wrist. He went 3 for 4 with two RBIs. Nola (6-9) gave up eight hits, three runs, three walks and struck out five in five innings. Jeanmar Gomez earned his 27th save. Braves starter Matt Wisler (4-11) gave up three homers and has allowed eight homers in his past four starts, a span of 20 1/3 innings.

BREWERS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 4

Hernan Perez hit a two-run homer, singled and scored the go-ahead run in the sixth, Zach Davies pitched 6 1/3 innings and the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 6-4 on Thursday. Perez, who started at shortstop for benched Jonathan Villar, crushed the first pitch from Robbie Ray (5-10) 458 feet off the facing of the scoreboard in deep center for the two-run homer in the third. Davies (8-4) allowed three runs -two earned- on six hits. Jeremy Jeffress pitched the ninth for his 24th save. Milwaukee added a run when Kirk Nieuwenhuis homered off Tyler Clippard leading off the eighth.— AP

DJOKOVIC JOINS TOP SEEDS IN TORONTO

TORONTO: Top seed Novak Djokovic breezed into the quarter-finals as the Rogers Cup continued pretty much according to script at the Aviva Centre on Thursday. Djokovic beat Czech qualifier Radek Stepanek 6-2 6-4 in a friendly encounter, during which both players repeatedly hammed it up for the crowd. Stepanek, at 37 the oldest player in the field, broke serve in the first game of the second set but it was merely a stay of execution against the world number one from Serbia. Djokovic is the only member of the so-called "big four" competing in Toronto, with last year's champion Andy Murray, Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal all absent from the \$4.7 million event. In a tournament so far devoid of major upsets, the top five seeds advanced to the quarters, with Swiss Stan Wawrinka, Japanese Kei Nishikori, Canadian Milos Raonic and Czech Tomas Berdych booking last eight berths.

Only Berdych needed three sets to progress and the fifth seed's reward is a showdown against Djokovic, who leads their head-to-head by a staggering 24-2 margin. Wawrinka won a hard-hitting battle with American Jack Sock, 7-6(3) 6-2. Next up for the two-times grand slam champion is unseeded South African Kevin Anderson, who rallied for a 4-6 6-3 6-4 victory over the 12th seeded Australian Bernard Tomic. Nishikori had little trouble getting by American Rajeev Ram, requiring just 68 minutes to register a convincing 6-3 6-4 win. "The first set I played really good tennis. I had some tough times, but this score shows I was dominating a little bit," Nishikori, who next plays Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov, told reporters. "I'm still not 100 percent yet, but feeling pretty strong. We'll have to see after a couple of more matches, but right now I feel good." A confident Gael Monfils extended his recent run of form with a 7-6(5) 2-6 6-4 minor upset of Belgian seventh seed David Goffin to book his spot in the quarter-finals. The 10th-seeded Frenchman, who arrived in Toronto fresh off earning his first tournament win in two-and-a-half years, will play Raonic in the quarters, after the local favorite dusted off American qualifier Jared Donaldson 6-2 6-3. "I'm going for the shots," Wimbledon runner-up Raonic said. —Reuters



OAKLAND: United States' Carmelo Anthony, right, celebrates after scoring, alongside teammate Jimmy Butler during the second half of an exhibition basketball game against China. — AP

VENUS TUMBLES AS KEYS ADVANCES IN MONTREAL

MONTREAL: Venus Williams tumbled out in the third round of the Rogers Cup in Montreal on Thursday, suffering an upset loss to Madison Keys in her final tournament before the Olympics. The sixth-seeded Williams was beaten 6-1, 6-7 (2/7), 6-3 by 10th seed Keys, who will now face Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in the quarter-finals. Williams, 36, looked well below her best as Keys raced away with the first set before forging a 3-1 lead in the second.

However Williams, who reached the final of last week's tournament in Stanford, rallied to level with victory in the second set tiebreak. Keys raised her game in the decisive third set however and quickly broke Williams to gain the advantage before converting match point with an ace to seal the win. Pavlyuchenkova earlier scored the biggest upset of the day with a three-set victory over 2014 champion and fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, winning 6-4, 6-7 (4/7), 6-1.

The win comes hard on the heels of her impressive showing at Wimbledon where she reached the quarter-finals for the first time. "I'm really happy and I knew it'd be a tough match. Every time I play against Agnieszka it's 7-6 in the third, or something," the in-form Russian said. "She's a really tough opponent, and so I'm really pleased with the win." Elsewhere Thursday, fifth seed Simona Halep breezed into the last eight, needing just 68 minutes to claim a 6-3, 6-3 win over 14th-ranked Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic. "I'm happy that I won today. It's nice to be in the quarterfinals again, a second year in a row," the 24-year-old Romanian said. Halep will face ninth-ranked Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia in the next round. Kuznetsova defeated 12th seed Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic 7-6 (7/2) 6-3. In another Russian victory on Thursday, Daria Kasatkina knocked out seventh-ranked Italian Roberta Vinci, 7-5, 6-3. — AFP

BUTLER IS ENJOYING TIME WITH US NATIONAL TEAM

CHICAGO: Jimmy Butler spun a basketball on his finger. He joked around with Cleveland Cavaliers guard Kyrie Irving during a brief 1-on-1 exchange. He smiled as some of the NBA's biggest stars lobbed some playful barbs in his direction. Back in Chicago on the eve of the Olympics, Butler is fitting in quite nicely with the US national team. "There are a lot of great players on this roster, but more than just basketball players, I get to learn a lot more about them off the court," Butler said, "who they are as people and their families, and how they act, their personalities. I think that's been my favorite part of this whole journey, just getting to know the guys that I go up against every year."

It's good practice for the fall, when Butler returns to a new-look Bulls team that suddenly includes a pair of long-time opponents for the versatile swingman. Derrick Rose is gone, traded to the New York Knicks. All-Star center Pau Gasol landed in San Antonio. But Dwyane Wade and Rajon Rondo decided to join Butler in Chicago, providing championship experience, but also two more players on the wrong side of 30 who like to have the ball in their hands. "I'm excited. I know they are as well," Butler said before Thursday's Team USA practice at the United Center. "It's a new start for a lot of us."

Overzealous defender

Butler's reputation also took a hit in

the wake of Chicago's 42-40 finish in April, ending the franchise's string of seven consecutive playoff appearances. The two-time All-Star was openly critical of new coach Fred Hoiberg and did not click with Rose last season. Asked about speculation he had a hand in Chicago's offseason activity, Butler brushed the notion away like he would an overzealous defender.

"That has nothing to do with me. I don't move guys," he said. "It's like I always say, people are going to think what they want to think." "That doesn't bother me," he continued. "I know where I stand. I know who I am." Butler's inclusion on the national team establishes the 6-foot-7 Marquette product as one of the best players in the world, part of a steady rise for the No. 30 selection in the 2011 draft. On the 12-player roster for Team USA, only Draymond Green and DeAndre Jordan are lower draft picks.

Butler, 26, averaged 20.9 points, 5.3 rebounds and 4.8 assists last season. He has increased his averages for scoring and assists in each of the last four years. "I knew he was a workhorse, but that man really never stops working," Golden State guard Klay Thompson said, "and I give Jimmy a lot of credit because he came into this league and obviously he didn't have the hype he (would) if he was like a top-five pick, but he's worked himself into an All-

Star and one of the best wings in the game." Before this Olympic run, US coach Mike Krzyzewski had only seen Butler on TV. "The very first thing is just how strong and what a great athlete he is," Krzyzewski said. "Then what a good guy he is, and then what an outstanding competitor. You felt he was going to check every box, but you put two checks in each of these boxes. He's terrific, and he's a really good guy." Krzyzewski said Butler and Paul George are the most versatile players on the team, capable of guarding any position. Butler had four points and three rebounds while playing 14 1/2 minutes in the United States' 107-57 exhibition victory over China on Tuesday night.

Next up is a matchup with Venezuela on Friday night at Butler's home with the Bulls, and then a trip to Houston for one more game against Nigeria before departing for Brazil. When it comes to the Olympics, Butler said he just wants to win. It's a very familiar response for US assistant Tom Thibodeau, who coached Butler with the Bulls before he was fired in May 2015. "To see how much he's grown from his first year in the league to what he's become, it's a testament to how hard he's worked, his intelligence, his drive," Thibodeau said. "Each year he's gotten better, and I think his makeup will allow him to continue to improve each year." — AP

FEW GOLFERS LEFT TO SHINE IN RIO

SAN FRANCISCO: Sweden's Henrik Stenson and the United States' Bubba Watson will be vying for a gold medal in golf's return to the Olympics after 112 years, an event with less buzz than many in the sport had hoped for due to some high-profile no-shows. Watson and Stenson, ranked No 1 and No 2 respectively in the Olympics field of 60 players, will be missing some familiar foes, since the top four men in the world—Jason Day, Dustin Johnson, Jordan Spieth and Rory McIlroy—have controversially decided not to play in the competition, which takes place between Aug. 11 and 14.

Olympic qualifying regulations have allowed the US to send four players, more than any other country. Twice major winner Watson, the world number six, may be the one to beat in Rio. Another American Rickie Fowler, one of the highest-ranked golfers never to have won a major, will also be in the medal hunt. Nobody will have an advantage of knowing the newly-built Reserva de Marapendi course and it remains to be seen whether it will favor power or precision.

Stenson, ranked second in the Olympics and fifth in the world, is on the hottest streak, having set scoring records at Royal Troon at the British Open in July. All three are featuring in the current PGA Championship in New Jersey, the final golf major before the Games. Britain's Olympic team is also strong, featuring this year's Masters winner, Danny Willett, and world No. 11 Justin Rose. Spain may be a dark horse. Sergio Garcia, who has never won a major but often does well in international tournaments, and fellow countryman Rafa Cabrera Bello are both in the top 10 in the Olympic rankings. From the lesser known players in the field, the golf world is hoping a breakout star will emerge from a country where the sport needs to grow. Anirban Lahiri, of India, or China's Hao Tong Li, who won the Volvo China Open in May, could fit the bill. Canadian golfers David Hearn and Graham DeLaet have the task of defending their country's gold medal from 1904, the last time the sport featured in the Olympics. On that occasion George Lyon beat American H Chandler Egan in a 36-hole final. Lyon was also awarded the 1908 gold medal in London but declined it because no other players showed up. —Reuters



SPRINGFIELD: Bubba Watson waits on the tenth tee after play was suspended during the second round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at Baltusrol Golf Club. —AP



SPRINGFIELD: Henrik Stenson of Sweden plays his shot from the tenth tee during the second round of the 2016 PGA Championship at Baltusrol Golf Club. — AFP

KAYMER, STENSON SET CHARGE AT RAINY PGA

SPRINGFIELD: British Open champion Henrik Stenson and two-time major winner Martin Kaymer were set to make early second-round charges at leader Jimmy Walker under rainy skies yesterday at the PGA Championship. Play resumed at the 7,428-yard Baltusrol layout under rain and overcast skies, overnight downpours softening a course already hit with more than two inches of rain on Monday, and storms were predicted to dampen the event through the weekend. Walker, a 37-year-old American, fired a five-under par 65 Thursday to grab a one-stroke lead over Germany's Kaymer, England's Ross Fisher and Argentina's Emiliano Grillo at the year's last major tournament. Top-ranked stars faltered on day one as fourth-ranked Rory McIlroy fired a birdie-less 74, his first over-par start at a PGA, and US Open champion Dustin Johnson soared to a 77, only five players faring worse from the field of 156 than

the second-ranked American. British Open runner-up Phil Mickelson, a five-time major champion who won the last PGA at Baltusrol in 2005, rallied for a 71 to match Masters champion Danny Willett, Spain's Sergio Garcia and two-time Masters winner Bubba Watson. Top-ranked defending champion Jason Day, battling fatigue and illness, was in a pack on 68 while third-ranked American Jordan Spieth opened on 70, birdies on two of the last three holes offsetting a double bogey.

Stenson, who outlasted Mickelson in a dramatic duel two weeks ago at Royal Troon to capture his first major crown, shared fifth on 67 alongside England's Andy Sullivan and Americans Harris English and James Hahn. Most of the leaders were set for an afternoon tee time. Walker, off to his best major start by two shots, had only led once before after 18 holes, that in 2011 at the US PGA Houston Open where he settled for

a share of 30th. The Texan won the most recent of his five PGA titles at last year's Texas Open.

"On Sunday with a chance to win, it will feel a little bigger, so I look forward to having that chance. It will be fun," Walker said. "We all want that win. That's what we all play for. Hopefully it will still happen." Grillo, a rookie, won the US PGA 2015-16 season opener at Napa Valley and shared 17th this year in his first Masters and 12th at the British Open. Fisher missed only two fairways and two greens in regulation in round one, which he capped with birdies at the par-5 17th and 18th to jump into the hunt. —AFP

AUSTRALIA THE TEAM TO BEAT AT RIO GAMES

MUMBAI: Germany might be the twice Olympic champions defending their title in men's field hockey but top-ranked Australia will be the team to beat at next month's Rio Games. Since 1992 Australia have won a medal at every Olympic tournament and the World Cup winners will be the favorites to clinch what would be only their second gold medal. The Kookaburras, who recently beat India in a penalty shootout in the Champions Trophy final, only managed a bronze four years ago in London despite being overwhelming favorites. Their London heartbreak triggered a lot of soul searching from the men in gold and green.

"Yeah, we had to do a lot of long hard looking at ourselves, but it paid off ultimately," 32-year-old Glenn Turner, a member of the Australia squad, said. "Leading up to London we had trained really hard but there was a very different feel to the squad compared to this time around. "After London we got a psychologist in and we started to get to know each other a lot better." Mark Knowles and Jamie Dwyer, a five-time International Hockey Federation player of the year, provide Australia with a wealth of experience since Rio will be their fourth Games. Knowles said the team, who face New Zealand in their first match, would set-

tle for nothing but gold in Brazil. "When we go to the Olympic Games as the Australian men's hockey team we want to win, we don't want to get bronze, just make the semis or play off for fifth," he said.

Also in Australia's group are Great Britain, Belgium, Spain and the host nation. Germany, who triumphed in Beijing and London, are ranked third in the world. The squad chosen by head coach Valentin Altenburg contains five Olympic gold medalists from London. The champions have been pooled with the Netherlands, Argentina, India, Ireland and Canada, with the top four teams from each group advancing to the

quarter-finals. Once-mighty India are the most decorated nation in the sport's Olympic history but the South Asians won the last of their eight gold medals way back at the Moscow Games in 1980. Their strong build-up, claiming silver at the Champions Trophy, has again boosted optimism among fans in the nation of 1.25 billion people. On the women's side, the Netherlands have captured seven world titles and been to every Olympic Games since 1984, winning three gold, one silver and three bronze medals. The world's top-ranked side will be the heavy favorites to add to their gold medal tally in Rio. — Reuters

DRUG-TAINTED US SPRINTERS SPEARHEAD RIO CHALLENGE

LOS ANGELES: Justin Gatlin will spearhead a trio of drug-tainted US sprinters aiming to spoil Usain Bolt's Olympic swansong as athletics stumbles through the moral maze created by the Russia doping scandal. The 34-year-old Gatlin is the most obvious symbol of the logical confusion gripping this year's Olympics, where some athletes convicted of doping offences will be free to compete while others are banned.

Gatlin, twice suspended for failing drugs tests, heads to Rio as the biggest threat to Jamaican rival Bolt's hopes of retaining his 100 meters crown. LaShawn Merritt—who served a 21-month ban for testing positive for a banned steroid in 2010—could threaten Bolt over 200m. Merritt, 30, is the fastest man in the world over the distance this year. Tyson Gay, meanwhile, returns as a member of the US 4x100m relay squad after completing a one-year suspension for testing positive for a banned steroid. Yet the presence of Gatlin, Merritt and Gay in Rio has been seized upon by critics in Moscow who have cried double standards over the International Olympic Committee's policy of banning all Russian athletes who have previously served doping bans.

Pantomime villain

The controversy makes it inevitable that Gatlin is likely to be cast as track and field's pantomime villain once more when the action gets under way in Brazil. The 2004 100m champion's duel with Bolt at the World Championships in Beijing last year was framed as a battle for the soul of athletics, with the Jamaican prevailing to general relief across the sport. A year later, Gatlin is still wearily rejecting a narrative he sees as unfair.

"I understand the media. They want to be more creative and be able to make storylines more sensationalised," Gatlin told reporters in June. "I'm just a runner like everybody else. I get up and train every day, like everybody else. It's hurtful, it's hurtful to be looked at as a villain because that's not how I portray myself, that's not how my son portrays me or my family." Gatlin insists that his backstory is far more nuanced than the blunt, oft-applied label—"two-time doping cheat"—implies.

His first doping suspension in 2001 arose from the use of Adderall, which contains amphetamine. Gatlin had been using the drug since childhood to treat attention deficit disorder. The US arbitration panel that heard his case ruled Gatlin was "certainly not a doper." A second positive test in 2006 found excessive levels of testosterone in his system. Gatlin blamed the results on sabotage by a therapist with whom he was locked in a financial dispute. Gatlin was banned for eight years for that offence, later reduced to four years on appeal.

Penis enlargement mistake

Merritt, who is also hoping to reclaim the 400m crown he last won in Beijing, heads to Rio after seeing his career disrupted in 2010 for three positive drugs tests which he blamed on an over-the-counter penis enlargement product. Merritt, 30, confessed to a "foolish, immature and egotistical mistake" for his drugs case, speaking of a deep-seated "embarrassment and humiliation".

Gay, one of the few men to have beaten Bolt over 100m, tested positive in 2013 and was suspended for only one year by the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) after cooperating with authorities. Bolt suggested Gay should have been banned for life instead. "The message should be: 'If you cheat, you're going to be kicked out of the sport,'" he said. Gay insists he does not deserve to be described as a drugs cheat, blaming instead manipulation by his former coach Jon Drummond, who was banned for eight years. "The true fans are understanding of what I've been through," Gay said in a 2015 interview. "For them to look up to me still, that means a lot." —AFP



BEIJING: In this Aug 20, 2008 file photo, Jamaica's Usain Bolt crosses the finish line to win the gold in the men's 200-meter final during the athletics competitions in the National Stadium at the Beijing 2008 Olympics. — AP

BOLT READY TO STRIKE AFTER FITNESS SCARE

KINGSTON: By his own charismatic admission, Usain Bolt is a living legend. But if the Jamaican sprint king pulls off only part of his stated goals in Rio de Janeiro, a whole new vocabulary of superlatives will be required. Arguably the greatest sprinter in history, Bolt already owns the world records for the 100 meters and 200m. In London four years ago, he completed an unprecedented "Double Triple" by retaining the 100m, 200m and 4x100m crowns won four years earlier in Beijing.

"I am now a living legend," Bolt informed reporters imperiously. "Bask in my glory." In Rio, Bolt is targeting all three titles once again—a "Triple Triple" as well as a new 200m record of under 19 seconds which he insists is achievable. "My biggest dream at the Olympics is to win three gold medals again. That's my focus, that's what I want," Bolt said in an interview earlier this year. "That's the main aim. Everyone wants me to win again, but what they really want to see is records. One of the big records I want is the 200. What I want is sub-19 — the first man to ever have done it, it would be a game-changer."

Superhuman feat

It would take an almost superhuman performance from Bolt to become the first man to break the 19-second barrier and it

remains the longest of long shots for a man whose fastest time this year is the 19.89 seconds he ran during the London Diamond League meeting on July 22. Bolt's assured victory in that race prompted a collective sigh of relief across the athletics world as he demonstrated his fitness after limping out of Jamaica's Olympic trials weeks earlier with a hamstring injury.

For his many fans, Bolt is a beacon of integrity in a sport scarred by doping scandals. At the World Championships in Beijing last year, his 100m showdown with Justin Gatlin—twice convicted of doping offences—was framed as a battle of "good versus evil." Bolt won that race but will face a renewed challenge in Rio from Gatlin, the fastest man in the world over 100m this year. His rivalry with Gatlin has been given an added edge following remarks by the American relating to Bolt's withdrawal from the Olympic trials. "I laughed when I heard it, I was disappointed, especially in Justin Gatlin," Bolt said. In the 200m another threat is likely to emanate from LaShawn Merritt, the season's fastest man with a time of 19.74sec.

Ready for challenge

Bolt however is never more dangerous than when he is challenged. He has been wearing the bulls eye on his broad back

for the last 14 years since he became the youngest IAAF champion at the world junior championships in Kingston in 2002. It was his first world record, 9.72 seconds in the 100m in New York in June 2008 that was to change the life of the shy young man from rural Jamaica—who had cried and begged not to go to Kingston for the junior worlds six years earlier.

Bolt was long seen as a 200m specialist who many thought would eventually run the 400m but that never panned out as his lightning speed has kept him at or near the top of the 100m & 200m lists for eight years. His world records for the 100m and 200m — 9.58sec and 19.19sec respectively—have stood since 2009. His reign has encompassed six Olympic gold medals, 11 world titles and a long list of accolades. He has shown signs of fallibility however, with his hamstring requiring several trips each year to renowned German sports medicine doctor Hans-Wilhelm M, Iler-Wohlfahrt. More than anything else it could be the toll on his body that has Bolt vowing to leave the sport after the 2017 World Championships in London. Before drawing a line under his career in London however, there is next month's Olympic swansong—and the prospect of a history-making finale in Rio. — AFP

DOMINANT JAPAN DUO PUT WOMEN IN SPOTLIGHT

SYDNEY: With Japanese grapplers Saori Yoshida and Kaori Icho on course for fourth successive gold medals in their respective classes, it is perhaps appropriate that women wrestlers will have more chance to shine on the mat at the Rio Olympics. One of the few sports still extant with their roots in the Ancient Olympics, wrestling has included women only since the return to Athens in 2004, when they competed in four freestyle classes.

Yoshida won gold in the 55kg class and Icho the 63kg, both retained the titles in Beijing and

London and are favorites to join discus thrower Al Oerter and long jumper Carl Lewis as the only Olympians to win four consecutive individual titles in the same event. Their dominance of their respective events has been almost absolute. Ten-times world champion Icho was undefeated between 2003 and January this year, while Yoshida has won 13 world titles. Yoshida, who carried her country's flag at the London Games, will also become the first woman to captain the Japanese team at an Olympics.

In 2013, United World Wrestling (UWW), after

rallying to save the sport from Olympic exclusion from Tokyo 2020, took two classes out of the men's competitions to expand the number of women's gold medals to six. UWW's main concern this week, though, has been the doping scandal that has engulfed sport in Russia, which under its various guises has dominated wrestling at the modern Olympics. The cloud of the scandal was finally lifted from the competition, officially at least, when UWW announced on Thursday that 16 of 17 Russians would be allowed to compete from Aug. 14-21 at the

Olympic Training Center.

The Russian grip on the sport has in any case been slipping at the last few Games in the face of the challenge from Iran and Cuba in the Greco-Roman discipline and a string of former Soviet Republics and the United States in freestyle. American Jordan Burroughs is strongly favored to retain his freestyle welterweight (74kg) title but the 20-year-old "Russian Tank" Abdulrashid Sadulaev will be also looking to add the middleweight (86kg) gold to his two world titles.—Reuters

ENNIS-HILL EYES HISTORY IN RIO

LONDON: Jessica Ennis-Hill has history in her sights as the Olympic heptathlon champion heads to the Rio Games unburdened by stress after the pressure of carrying the hopes of a nation four years ago. Ennis-Hill will attempt to become just the third athlete to win Olympic gold, have a baby and then return to successfully defend their crown. If the 30-year-old triumphs in the heptathlon she will also be the first British female athlete ever to retain an Olympic title.

At the 2012 Games in London, Ennis-Hill knew the success-starved British sporting public were counting on her to win gold on home soil and she responded in spectacular fashion with a British record score of 6,955 points. Having survived that emotional rollercoaster, Ennis-Hill knows nothing else in her career can match the pressure and expectation of her two days of competition at London's Olympic Stadium. "It feels completely different this year. I don't feel that stress and pressure I had in 2012 and last year as well when I decided to go to Beijing," she said. "I kind of feel I've come back from injuries and having my son and got back to the top of my sport.

"I felt more stressed in 2012 than any year I've experienced. Last year was a really unknown year. I didn't plan to go to the Beijing World Championships, it was kind of a last-minute thing. "I always had it in my mind that I wanted to come back and get back to my best. I always thought that would be this year and not last year." After giving birth to son Reggie, Ennis-Hill won the world title in Beijing and has battled back from an Achilles injury to head to Brazil as one of the favorites for gold.

Statement of intent

She racked up 6,733 points, her best score since London 2012 and only 32 off Canadian Brienne Theisen-Eaton's world-leading score, in the heptathlon in Ratingen recently. It was a significant statement of intent, but Ennis-Hill insists she doesn't feel under pressure to retain the Olympic title. "I don't feel I'm a strong favorite," she said. "I'm really happy with the way Ratingen went. I'm feeling good and training's going well. "I'm feeling positive and hoping I can maintain that over the next few weeks and push on."

Ennis-Hill readily admits her priorities as a mother are vastly different to what they were four years ago. She is treading a path unfamiliar to most as Australian sprint hurdler Shirley Strickland in 1956 and Cameroon triple-jumper Françoise Mbango Etone in 2008 are the only two athletes who have won consecutive Olympic titles and had a baby in between. It is for that reason Ennis-Hill has opted to skip the Team GB holding camp in Belo Horizonte and will instead head to a 10-day training camp in Europe with husband Andy and Reggie before flying on to Rio just before the Games get underway.

"Where in previous years I'd always go to the holding camp, this year that's not going to work for me," she said. "I have Reggie, I'm a mum and my priorities are totally different now. "To be confident going out and performing I need to be with my son for as long as possible, then I know I'm happy and he's happy and I can go out and put all my energy into performing." — AFP



ROME: This file photo taken on September 10, 1960 shows Ethiopian athlete Abebe Bikila running barefoot for victory during the Rome 1960 Olympic Games marathon, after passing Moroccan Abdeslam Radi. — AFP

TRAILBLAZER BIKILA OPENS WAY FOR AFRICAN MARATHON STARS

NAIROBI: Long before Haile Gebrselassie and Kenenisa Bekele ascended to the top of world distance running, there was another great Ethiopian athlete. Abebe Bikila, a wily 5'9" runner weighing just 55 kilos, was the first black African to win Olympic gold and in doing so opened the way for others to take their place on the world stage. Bikila's now-iconic, barefoot victory in the 1960 games in Rome is part of Olympic folklore. The runner died in 1973 — aged just 41 — as a result of injuries sustained in an earlier car accident, but his legend lives on.

Bikila was born in 1932 in the northern Ethiopian village of Jato, known for its teff wheat used to make the popular Ethiopian dish, injera. As a shepherd's son he grew up herding cattle and sheep, and did not begin running until he was 24. He is said to have walked the 130 kilometers from his village to the capital Addis Ababa to look for work and was subsequently given a job in the Ethiopian imperial guard.

Bikila was inspired to start running by Finnish-born Swedish coach Onni Niskanen, who spotted the young man's

natural talent. "When I started training him, he ran like a drilling soldier," said Niskanen. Bikila was sent to a high altitude government training camp 6,000 feet above sea level where he ran a mix of cross-country and road races of up to 32 kilometers. Bikila prepared for the Rome Olympics by outclassing Ethiopia's best, Wami Biratu, to win the Addis Ababa marathon.

'Heroism'

His winning time of 2:21.23 impressed Niskanen who picked him as one of two Ethiopians to run in the Rome Olympics. Running barefoot and in the near-total darkness of the final kilometres of the cobblestoned Appian Way, Bikila set a world record of 2:15.16. "I wanted the world to know that my country, Ethiopia, has always won with determination and heroism," Bikila told reporters who asked why he had run without shoes. That determined display was repeated four years later in Tokyo when Bikila, recovering from an appendix operation and this time wearing shoes, set another world record of 2:12:11. Bikila became the first man to

win an Olympic marathon twice.

A stress fracture prevented him from an attempt at a third marathon title at the 1968 Mexico Olympics which was won by his compatriot Mamo Wolde. Wolde said Bikila would have won the race were it not for his injury. Hailed a national hero, Bikila was promoted to captain by Emperor Haile Selassie and given a Volkswagen car as a gift. But in 1969, while driving the car, Bikila was involved in a collision with another vehicle that left him paralysed from the waist down. Bikila never walked again and switched to paraplegic sports, focusing on archery.

"Men of success meet with tragedy. It was the will of God that I won the Olympics, and it was the will of God that I met with my accident. I accepted those victories as I accept this tragedy. I have to accept both circumstances as facts of life and live happily," said Bikila. He went on to participate in the International Paraplegic Games in Norway in September 1971. His victory in the dog sled race was seen as further proof of the strength of his competitive spirit and determination. —AFP

INSIDE JOB THREATENS EU'S HANDBALL REIGN

MELBOURNE: European nations have long cleaned up at Olympic handball but at the Rio de Janeiro Games, their dominance may be ended by their home-grown players competing for Qatar. Since the 2012 London Olympics, the oil-rich Gulf nation has assembled a formidable roster of naturalised Europeans who helped sweep the last two men's Asian championships and took a stunning silver at last year's world championship on home soil.

European nations have grumbled that

Qatar has become a 'world all-stars' team rather than a true national outfit but the Qataris retort that they are just playing by the rules. The International Handball Federation allows players to switch allegiance if they have not competed for their home nations for three years and handball-mad Europe offers a wellspring of surplus talent. A Qatari triumph at Rio could prove controversial, given 24 years and five Olympics have passed since a team outside Europe has won gold in the sport in either the men's or women's events.

Olympic champions France, who became the first men's team to win back-to-back golds at London, defied Qatar in the final at the world championships and will hope to repel them again at Rio in their bid for a hat-trick of titles. France have not had it all their way since, however, finishing a disappointing fifth at the European championships in January where Germany defeated Spain in the final.

Norway will also aim for a hat-trick of Olympic titles in the women's event to match

Denmark's triple from 1996-2004. Apart from Brazil, who earned an automatic berth as hosts, only Argentina, South Korea and Angola stand in the way of European domination in the women's event. The tournament will be held in the main Olympic Park's aptly-named Future Arena, a visually striking building that was completed well ahead of schedule. The Arena will be dismantled after the Games and its materials recycled for the construction of a number of schools as part of organizers' legacy pledge. — Reuters

ROONEY HAILS MOURINHO'S 'WINNING MENTALITY'

LONDON: Manchester United Captain Wayne Rooney believes new manager Jose Mourinho has restored a "winning mentality" at Old Trafford. Mourinho was brought in after the end of last season following the sacking of Louis van Gaal. United have failed to win the league since legendary manager Alex Ferguson retired in 2013, with David Moyes and Van Gaal, who oversaw an FA Cup final victory last season, failing to live up to the exacting standards set by the Scot.

But Rooney believes the arrival of Portuguese manager Mourinho, who has 17 major trophies to his name, including eight league titles in four countries and two Champions League successes with different clubs, will help propel United back towards the summit of the Premier League. "It's always great to get a new manager but when you get someone in the stature of Jose Mourinho he's great to work under and he's brought a winning mentality back to the club," Rooney told Manchester radio station Key 103 on Friday.

"Manchester United as a football club we have to win and we have to deliver for him," the England captain added. "There's pressure on the players but we're ready and I think this season we'll give a real challenge on all fronts. "He's come in, he's been great with the players. The training has been hard but enjoyable. "We're ready, we're working hard. We know it's a big season for us. "He's made, in my opinion, some great signings who have gelled in really well with the squad so it's exciting times," the 30-year-old striker added.

Rooney needs just five more goals to break United's all-time scoring record held by England great and 1966 World Cup-winner Bobby Charlton. He, is however, already planning for life after his playing days are over. "I've started taking my coaching badges now so that will probably take about four or five years to complete," Rooney said. "Of course I've got a lot of experience playing football so I think it would be criminal if I didn't try and pass that knowledge on, so hopefully when I finish playing I can get some role as a manager or coach and try and use the experience I've built up over the years." Mourinho has already brought in several players to United, including defender Eric Bailly, midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan and striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic. The Old Trafford club is also understood to be pursuing a potentially record-breaking deal for Juventus's France midfielder Paul Pogba. — AFP

CECH TRUSTING WENGER TO BUY RIGHT PLAYERS

LONDON: Goalkeeper Petr Cech expects manager Arsene Wenger to bring in the right players necessary to improve Arsenal's bid to win a first Premier League title since 2004 without wasting money on panic buys. Wenger has made three additions to his squad so far in the close season, bringing in midfielder Granit Xhaka, defender Rob Holding and striker Takuma Asano, and, according to media reports, is actively looking for another forward.

"I think you need to buy players you need, you need to buy players that will improve the team and not to buy players just for buying. That's the philosophy of the club," Cech told British media. "I've been here since last season and you can see that every time we bring in a player, it's a player we need, and the manager believes he improves the team. "There is a core of the players who have been at Arsenal for years, and they know that is an advantage as well. People get to know each other, how to play together."

Leicester's Jamie Vardy has already spurned the advances of the north London club in favor of extending his stay at the King Power Stadium, while Olympique Lyonnais said they rejected a 29 million pound (\$38.27 million) bid for Alexandre Lacazette. However, Per Mertesacker's injury, which will see the centre back miss several months, is likely to force Wenger to begin the search for another defender, with media reports touting Valencia's Shkodran Mustafi as a possible target. Arsenal begin their new campaign on Aug. 14, when they host Liverpool at the Emirates Stadium. — Reuters



PALLEKELE: Sri Lanka's Kaushal Silva (L) attempts to field a ball hit by Australia's captain Steven Smith (R) as wicket-keeper Dinesh Chandimal (C) looks on during the fourth day of their opening Test match between Sri Lanka and Australia at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium. —AFP

LANKA SPINNERS CORNER AUSSIES IN TRICKY CHASE

PALLEKELE: Australia faced an uphill struggle to save the first Test against Sri Lanka's rampant spinners after losing three early second innings wickets yesterday while trying to chase down a formidable target of 268. The tourists were precariously placed at 83 for three, with skipper Steve Smith unbeaten on 26, when bad light forced an early end to play for the fourth day running in Pallekele. The world number one Test team still need another 185 runs for victory on the final day on Saturday, when Sri Lanka's trio of spinners will expect to capitalize on their early inroads against the tourists.

The hosts' leading left-arm spinner Rangana Herath struck in only the second over of the Australian innings when he bowled vice-captain David Warner for one. Usman Khawaja started positively with three fours but he was ruled leg before wicket to off-spinner Dilruwan Perera when he attempted a sweep shot after making 18, leaving Australia reeling at 33/2.

Then the debutant Lakshan Sandakan joined the party with a ball that turned sharply and bowled opener Joe Burns who had looked well set on 29. One run later, first innings top scorer Adam Voges was ruled lbw to Perera for no score, but the batsman reviewed the decision successfully. With the ball turning alarmingly, Smith and Voges then suppressed their urge to play attacking shots while keeping the scoreboard ticking over with some sharply-run singles.

Aussie rearguard

Smith's 54-ball innings has not featured any boundaries so far, while his partner Voges was batting in a similarly steadfast mood, reaching nine at the

close of play off 25 deliveries. Australia's struggles against the Sri Lankan bowlers further underlined the importance of Kusal Mendis' superb maiden Test century in what has been a low-scoring Test. No other player on either side has passed 50.

After starting the day unbeaten on 169, Mendis only managed another seven runs before he played away from his body to a full length delivery from Mitchell Starc to be caught behind by wicketkeeper Peter Nevill. Starc was the pick of the Australian bowlers, finishing the innings with figures of four for 84. Herath and Nuwan Pradeep added 30 runs for the last wicket off 29 deliveries before the Sri Lanka innings ended after

substitute fielder Moises Henriques took a spectacular catch at extra cover.

Sri Lanka, who were 282 for six overnight, eventually managed to reach a total of 353, 267 runs ahead of the Australians. It was a remarkable turnaround after they conceded a first innings lead of 86 to the tourists who were presented with the mace as the world's number one team on the eve of the match. Much of their hopes of victory will rest on the shoulders of the 38-year-old Herath, who took four wickets in the first innings and has a reputation of cleaning up on the last day in home Tests. The second Test will be held in Galle from August 4-8 and the third in Colombo from August 13-17. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

PALLEKELE, Sri Lanka: Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth 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 282 for six)	
K. Perera lbw b Starc	4
K. Silva lbw b O'Keefe	7
D. Karunaratne lbw b Starc	0
K. Mendis c Nevill b Starc	176
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	12
R. Herath c Henriques b Hazlewood	35
L. Sandakan b Starc	9
N. Pradeep not out	10
Extras (b 1, lb 11)	13
Total: (all out, 93.4 overs)	353
Fall of wicket: 1-6 (Perera), 2-6 (Karunaratne), 3-45 (Silva), 4-86 (Mathews), 5-203 (Chandimal), 6-274 (de Silva), 7-290 (Mendis), 8-314 (Dilruwan Perera), 9-323 (Sandakan), 10-353 (Herath)	

Bowling: Starc 19-4-84-4, Hazlewood 18.4-3-59-2, O'Keefe 16.2-3-42-1, Lyon 27-2-108-2, Warner 1-0-10-0, Voges 1.4-0-3-0, Marsh 9-1-33-1, Smith 1-0-1-0	
Australia 2nd innings	
J. Burns b Sandakan	29
D. Warner b Herath	1
U. Khawaja lbw b Dilruwan Perera	18
S. Smith not out	26
A. Voges not out	9
Extras	0
Total (3 wickets; 27 overs)	83
To bat: M. Marsh, P. Nevill, S. O'Keefe, M. Starc, J. Hazlewood, N. Lyon	
Fall of wicket: 1-2 (Warner), 2-33 (Khawaja), 3-63 (Burns)	
Bowling: Pradeep 3-0-16-0, Herath 10-1-35-1, Perera 9-1-19-1, Sandakan 5-1-13-1.	

ALLEGRI CAN'T WAIT TO WORK WITH HIGUAIN

HONG KONG: Juventus manager Massimiliano Allegri says he can't wait to start working with his 90 million euro man Gonzalo Higuain but warned the striker not to come to Turin expecting his place in the side is assured. "It will not be easy for us to win the championship again," said Allegri, who's team are going for a sixth straight Serie A title. "Of course I am looking forward to having Gonzalo Higuain as part of the squad. He is an important signing but he is one of a number of them who will all be fighting for positions."

It's been a frantic week for the Serie A champions with a young squad touring on one side of the world, while serious business deals are going on in the other. With Higuain coming in as a club record signing, the word on the street has been that Juve's much in-demand Paul Pogba is on his way out to Manchester United for an estimated 100 million Euros. Allegri has remained tight-lipped on that particular transfer but said he was happy with the five signings the Bianconeri had so far made during the off-season, among them the former Roma midfielder Miralem Pjanic, who joined for 32 million euros.

"Every season is a new beginning," said Allegri, who has brought his squad to Hong Kong for an exhibition match. "We will all meet up on Monday in Turin and get to work with the new players and with the players we have had on this tour. We have a lot of work to do." The amount Juve paid for Higuain puts him behind only Real Madrid's Gareth Bale (100 million Euros) and Cristiano Ronaldo (94 million Euros) on the all-time transfer list-pending of course any movement with Pogba.

Higuain was Thursday rolled out in front of the Juventus faithful for the first time since news of his 90 million euro move from Serie A rivals Napoli broke earlier in the week, a transfer that has the Turin club in raptures but was branded by his former boss as a "betrayal". "I hope to repay the faith of the club's directors and of course to demonstrate my value in the coming season with Juventus," Higuain told a press conference at Juventus Stadium. "The efforts to bring me here were truly humbling and it is up to me to show my worth to my new fans." Higuain was the top scorer in Italy last season with 36 goals, enough to lift Napoli to second behind Juventus, who secured their fifth straight Serie A crown. Allegri and his young squad are in Hong Kong to play local side South China, the final leg of a pre-season tour that has included games in Australia against Melbourne Victory and Tottenham Hotspur. —AFP



TURIN: Juventus' forward Gonzalo Higuain from Argentina holds his jersey at the Juventus' headquarter. —AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: In this July 13, 2014 file photo Germany's Bastian Schweinsteiger looks at the trophy after the World Cup final soccer match between Germany and Argentina at the Maracana Stadium. —AP

WC 2016 MARACANA FINAL WAS SCHWEINSTEIGER'S FINEST HOUR

BERLIN: Having announced his international retirement yesterday, Germany's midfield general Bastian Schweinsteiger walks away from Die Mannschaft two years after his crowning moment in helping win the 2014 World Cup. Bloodied, but unbowed, Schweinsteiger was magnificent at Rio de Janeiro's iconic Maracana stadium in the final, ensuring Germany controlled the midfield before Mario Goetze's extra-time winning goal.

After 12 years and 24 goals in 120 international appearances, 'Schweini' leaves having been a key factor in Germany reaching at least the semi-final stage of the last six major tournaments. The last two injury-hit years have been unkind to the 31-year-old, who opted to quit Bayern Munich, the club he joined as a teenager in 1998, for a high-profile switch to Manchester United in 2015. A knee injury in January was aggravated while on Germany duty in March, restricting him to a handful of games, before coming off the bench in their opening Euro 2016 group game to score with his third touch of the ball in a 2-0 win over Ukraine.

The March injury to the medial ligament in his right knee meant he played in only five of Germany's six Euro 2016 games-sitting out the goalless draw against Poland-and started only the semi-final defeat to France. On his return to Old

Trafford, after marrying tennis star Ana Ivanovic, new United boss Jose Mourinho has reportedly told the Germany star he is free to find a new club with two years left on his contract. With his club future open, now is the right time for Schweinsteiger to quit international football with Germany to play their opening 2018 World Cup qualifier in September.

Bright star from debut

As a 19-year-old, he made his senior international debut in 2004. Plucked from the Under-21 team, he played at Euro 2004 where Germany crashed out in the group phases-the only time Schweinsteiger went home before the knock-out stage of either a World Cup or European Championships. Schweinsteiger scored the first of his 24 goals in a friendly win over Russia in 2005. By the age of 22, he had already made more than 40 appearances for Germany. He cemented his defensive midfield place as the hosts finished third at the 2006 World Cup. His red card in the group stages of Euro 2008 saw him serve his suspension watching the next game alongside German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who ticked him off for being sent off for reacting to a challenge in the shock 2-1 defeat to Croatia. Germany reached the Euro 2008 final with Schweinsteiger scoring a superb goal in their 3-2 quarter-final

win over Portugal. By the 2010 World Cup, Schweinsteiger was in charge of Germany's midfield general when Michael Ballack was ruled out by injury. With Philipp Lahm captaining at right-back, Schweinsteiger led in the middle. But question marks rose over his leadership skills when Germany exited the semi-finals of Euro 2012 after a 2-1 defeat to Italy. The Champions League title followed in 2013 as his Bayern team became the first German club to win the treble of European, Bundesliga and German Cup titles under Jupp Heynckes. Victory in the Wembley final meant Schweinsteiger won every club title on offer as Bayern went onto win the Club World Cup and UEFA Super Cup trophies in the second half of 2013 in Pep Guardiola's first year in charge. Schweinsteiger silenced his critics with a commanding display in Brazil - the 2014 World Cup was his finest hour for Germany. An ankle injury saw him sit out the opening 4-0 drubbing of Portugal, but he featured in the 2-2 draw with Ghana and 1-0 win over the USA. Solid displays in the last 16 and quarter-final wins saw him come into his own in the 7-1 rout of hosts Brazil in the semi-final as the Selecao's defence shipped five goals in the opening 30 minutes. But it was the final where Schweinsteiger came into his own, standing up to repeated poundings, to keep Argentina at bay. —AFP

CONTE WANTS MORE CHELSEA AGGRESSION

LONDON: New Chelsea manager Antonio Conte has urged his players to retain the aggressiveness they have shown during the pre-season, saying that the combative nature of the game was essential to the style of play he is looking to impose at the club.

Six players were booked, while midfielder Cesc Fabregas was shown a red card, in

Chelsea's feisty 1-0 victory over Liverpool on Thursday after Gary Cahill's early header condemned the Merseyside club to their first pre-season defeat. Fabregas will now be suspended for Chelsea's friendly clash against Champions League winners Real Madrid on Saturday but Conte was not ready to criticize the Spaniard. "I like my teams to be aggressive and I like if my

team plays with great aggression and high intensity. We train to prepare for that because I want that my team has an identity," Conte told British media. "I always gave an identity to my teams. I am searching to transfer this to my players. I am pleased because I see a great attitude. I want to continue in this way because this is the only way to come back very soon for the title.

"Not to speak, but actions. Now is not the moment to talk." Conte has already strengthened his squad with two major signings in striker Michy Batshuayi and midfielder N'Golo Kante. The former Italy and Juventus coach will begin his tenure in England with a London derby against West Ham United at Stamford Bridge on Aug 15. —Reuters

Sports



Bolt ready to strike after fitness score

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LILLE: This file photo taken on June 12, 2016 shows Germany's midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger celebrating after scoring a goal during the Euro 2016 group C football match between Germany and Ukraine at the Stade Pierre Mauroy. — AFP

SCHWEINSTEIGER RETIRES FROM GERMANY DUTY

GERMAN LEGEND SAYING GOODBYE TO INTERNATIONAL CAREER

BERLIN: Germany captain Bastian Schweinsteiger yesterday announced his retirement from international duty with immediate effect. The 31-year-old Manchester United midfielder, who won his 120th and final cap in Germany's 2-0 defeat to France in the semi-finals of Euro 2016, revealed the news on his official Twitter account. "With Bastian Schweinsteiger, we are saying goodbye to a big name from the national team," said German Football Association president Reinhard Grindel.

Schweinsteiger retires from die Mannschaft with his Old Trafford future in the balance having reportedly been told by United's new coach Jose Mourinho that he is one of nine players free to leave the club. He still has two years left to run on his United contract. A knee injury in January flared up again in March, restricting him to just a handful of matches before he played at the European Championship, netting a goal on his return against Ukraine in Germany's opening pool game.

The defensive midfielder said now is the right time to retire from the national team ahead of Germany's first qualifier for the 2018 World Cup against Norway on September 9, four days after a home friendly against Finland. "I have just told the national head coach (Joachim Loew) to no longer consider me

for selection in the future as I would like to retire," wrote Schweinsteiger. "I would like to thank the fans, the team, the German Football Association and the coaches. "In 120 internationals, I have been allowed to run out for my country and experience moments which were indescribably beautiful and successful."

World Cup joy

Schweinsteiger's finest moment in the famous white shirt was his battling performance in the 2014 World Cup final in Rio. He absorbed everything the Argentina midfield threw at him to help Germany secure a 1-0 extra-time victory as Mario Goetze's winning goal gave die Mannschaft a fourth title. "Winning the 2014 World Cup was an historic and emotional moment for us, which will not be repeated again in my career," said Schweinsteiger. "Therefore, it is the right time and sensible to finish now and to wish the national team all the best for the qualifying stage and the 2018 World Cup.

"Finally, I just want to say to our fans: 'It was an honor to have been able to play for you, many thanks for everything that I was able to experience with you.'" Thomas Mueller, a

potential Germany captain of the future, paid tribute to his national team-mate. "Thanks for 120 internationals and many awesome moments, hours for the national team," said his ex-Bayern team-mate. Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer is the favorite to replace Schweinsteiger as Germany's captain as Loew heaped praise on his midfield marshal.

"On a personal and sporting level, I want to say thanks for 12 trust-filled years," said Loew. "On each occasion, I had the feeling he gave everything for the national team and strongly identified with our values and goals. "As a coach, I benefited a lot from him and can only thank him for everything he has done for me." Schweinsteiger says one of his few regrets while playing for his country is Germany's Euro 2016 semi-final exit. "Jogi Loew knew what the Euro 2016 in France meant to me, the title I absolutely wanted to win, which hadn't been brought to Germany since 1996," he said. "It wasn't to be and I have to accept that." Germany's most capped player, Lothar Matthaeus, who made 150 appearances, added his praise. "Congratulations on a big career with the Germany team. What a fantastic player," added the 55-year-old, who captained the 1990 World Cup-winning team. — AFP