

SUBSCRIPTION

Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2016

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Manpower authority official explains new rules, exemptions



Vatican to digitize manuscripts related to Arabian Gulf



Muguruza stuns Serena to win French Open



150 FILES
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MUHAMMAD ALI, WHO RIVETED WORLD AS 'THE GREATEST', DIES

'FLOAT LIKE A BUTTERFLY AND STING LIKE A BEE'



Min 28°
Max 43°
High Tide 09:01 & 22:03
Low Tide 02:48 & 15:48

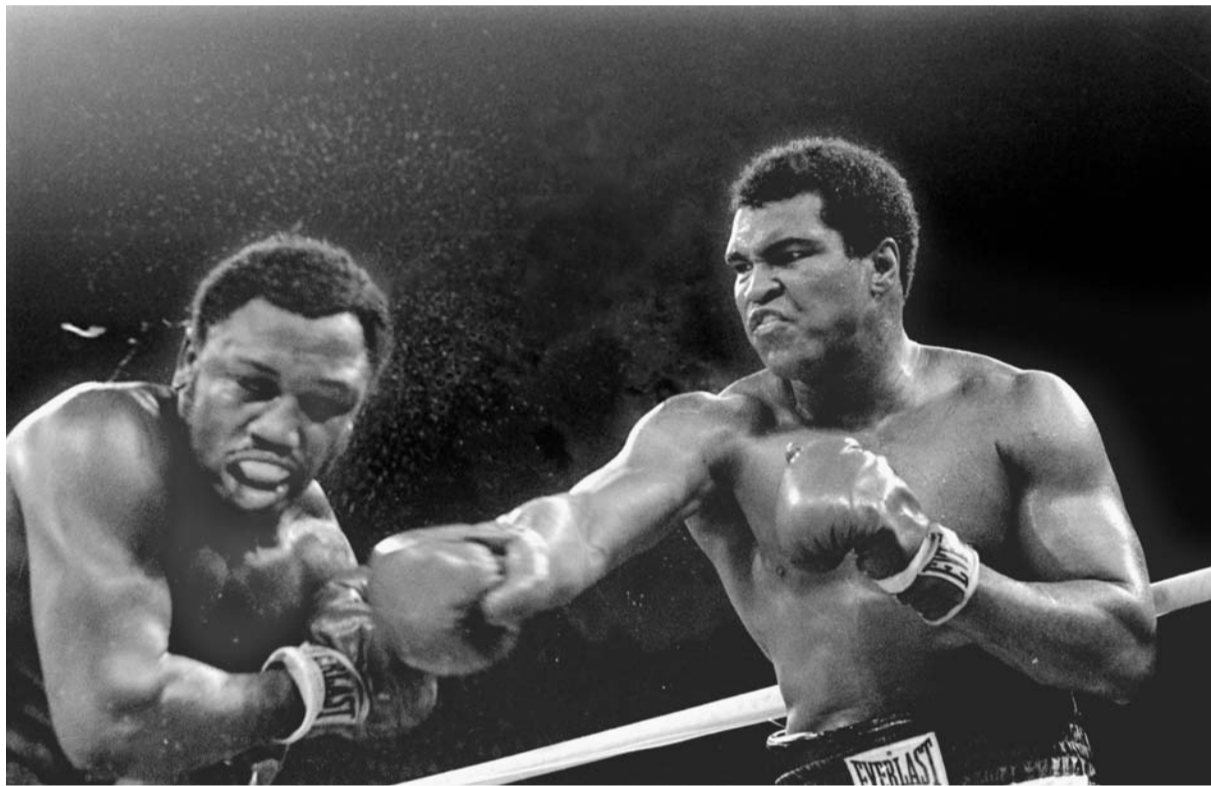
AMIR CONGRATULATES CITIZENS, EXPATS ON ADVENT OF RAMADAN

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah congratulated the Kuwaiti public and expatriates on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan. An Amiri Diwan statement said yesterday that HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Al-Sabah family will be receiving well-wishers on the first, second and third days of Ramadan between 9:00 pm and 10:00 pm at the Al-Sabah Diwan at Bayan Palace. It also expressed best wishes of more prosperity, safety and development for the Arab and Muslim worlds. — KUNA

MOI WARNS AGAINST RAMADAN BEGGING, EATING IN DAYTIME

KUWAIT: Any expat caught begging during Ramadan will be subjected to immediate deportation, said a press statement by the Ministry of Interior yesterday. The Ministry of Interior has set in place a plan, in conjunction with the Municipality and the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, to track down beggars in areas known for their congregation such as near mosques, shopping centers, malls and certain neighborhoods, to name a few, said the statement.

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MANILA: In this Oct 1, 1975 file photo, spray flies from the head of challenger Joe Frazier as heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali connects with a right in the ninth round of their title fight. Ali, the magnificent heavyweight champion whose fast fists and irrepressible personality transcended sports and captivated the world, has died, according to a statement released by his family on Friday. He was 74. —AP

PHOENIX: He was fast of fist and foot - lip, too - a heavyweight champion who promised to shock the world and did. He floated. He stung. Mostly he thrilled, even after the punches had taken their toll and his voice barely rose above a whisper. He was The Greatest. Muhammad Ali died Friday at age 74, according to a statement from the family. He was hospitalized in the Phoenix area with respiratory problems earlier this week, and his children had flown in from around the country.

One of Ali's daughters described her father's last moments in an Instagram post, saying his heart wouldn't stop beating for 30 minutes after all of his other organs failed. Hana Ali

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said the family was surrounding her father, hugging and kissing him, holding his hands and chanting an Islamic prayer, while his heart kept beating as his other organs gave out. "No one had even seen anything like it. A true testament to the strength of his Spirit and Will!" she wrote.

With a wit as sharp as the punches he used to "whup" opponents, Ali dominated sports for two decades before time and Parkinson's disease, triggered by thousands of blows to the head, ravaged his magnificent body, muted his majestic voice and ended his storied career in 1981. He won and defended the heavyweight championship in epic fights in exotic locations, spoke loudly on behalf of blacks, and famously refused to be drafted into the Army during the Vietnam War because of his Muslim beliefs.

Revered by millions worldwide and reviled by millions more, Ali cut quite a figure, 6-foot-3 and 210 pounds in his prime. "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee," his cornermen exhorted, and he did just that in a way no heavyweight had ever fought before. — AP



Kuwait Times
ESTABLISHED 1961
THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

See Page 4

Lulu HYPERMARKET

الإتقاد
ETIHAD
AIRWAYS
ABU DHABI

Ruby
Tuesday



KUWAITIS OF THE PAST OBSERVED NAFELA, THEIR SUCCESSORS LOST IT

'ABU ALHASANIYA PROJECT ONE OF BIGGEST IFTAR MEALS SERVED HOT'

The month of Ramadan in Kuwait has a distinctive flavor with its celebratory atmosphere where the Houses of Allah (mosques) welcome fasting people of the Quran and the prayers in a blessed race for doing good.

Ramadan in Kuwait has a magical peculiarity with mosques being full of worshippers and guests of the Gracious. They come to the meals of the generous in this blessed month, and when mosques witness the performance of prayers: Al-Feroudh, Al-Taraweeh and Al-Qiyam in splendid scenes day and night. Societies, charitable committees and institutions become active, offering all kinds of sadakas (handouts) and zakats (alms) and open their doors to receive the generous donors to be distributed on those who deserve it of the poor and the needy inside and outside the country. In an interview with Youssef Abdulrahman, writer, journalist and general supervisor of the Abu Alhasaniya charitable project, he said: "What we see today of faith, spiritual and volunteering manifestations are traditions of the inherited beautiful past of Kuwait's people. They are basically traditional families which undertook and became accustomed to these deeds especially in Ramadan. They are deeds of spending and trade with Allah. Those familiar with the people of Kuwait know that they are used since old times to offering 'Al-Nafilah' each Monday and Thursday for their dead. The old Awqaf testaments support these waqf projects concerning sadakats, zakawats, athlath and nouzour."

Reading the Quran

Abdulrahman added that the people of Kuwait have always prided themselves on completing the reading of the Quran in this blessed month and urge their sons and daughters to do this completion more than once. They perform Al-Taraweeh and Al-Qiyam prayers. Religious forums and lectures are held in the mosques after Al-Asr prayers, which hosts major scholars from other countries in addition to the Kuwaiti scholars who enliven these mosques with religious lessons and sermons.

Abdulrahman pointed out that "the Abu

Alhasaniyah charitable project began in 2000 with 250 fasters. Last year, the number of those offered iftar meals exceeded 6,000 of the guests of the Gracious from all Arab and Asian nationalities, spread over the projects mosques." These mosques are: Haya Alibrahim mosque in Abu Alhasaniya, Al-Romaih mosque in Al-Fintas, Maryam Al-Dokhan in Al-Mahboula, Al-Kindari mosque in Sabah Al-Salem, Khalid Al-Marzooq mosque in Souk Al-Salmiya, Sobhan mosque, Ibn Shitan mosque in Al-Farwaniya, Al-Khitabi mosque in Jaber Al-Ahmad, Walid Al-Marzooq mosque in Al-Khairan. The latter was donated by an honorable donor and allowed residents of the area to offer their contributions of materials and water, Abdulrahman said. "It offered donors the opportunity for active participation in a philanthropic projects," he added.

The general supervisor of the Abu Alhasaniya charitable project added that it has become one of the major charitable projects which serve hot food, with five fasters sitting to one table in an air-conditioned atmosphere. The main meal can contain meat or chicken, and other items are added to it including yogurt, juice, dates, salads and often sweets given by donors.

Ghabqa

Abdulrahman pointed out that Ramadan 'Ghabqa' is a deep-rooted traditional habit in Kuwait regarded by Kuwaiti families as a popular inheritance, and it is presented after Al-Taraweeh Prayers especially during the reception of well-wishers on the occasion of Ramadan. In fact, foods served during 'Ghabqa' consisted in the past of 'nakhi' (boiled chickpeas), 'pajella' (boiled broad beans), balalet (sweet vermicelli), muhalabia (pudding), custard, juice and 'shenialy' (fried dough with sugar). But with the advances of social media use, the concept of foods served during 'Ghabqa' changed and was replaced by orders for pastry, Kebab and confectionery, in addition to old original sweets such as 'allukaymat and alzalabia' (dumplings). "Of course we have now various kinds of Arabian and Western cuisines," he added.

Abdulrahman went on saying: "one of

the inherited habits still being celebrated is the habit of the last day of the month of Shaaban in preparation for the beginning of Ramadan, known as 'Gareesh'. There are now many companies, societies and associations that provide their public with 'Gareesh' preparations so that all will be gathered around this lavish Shaabanic and popular table."

Last ten days

Concerning the last ten days of Ramadan, Abdulrahman said: "Kuwaitis have always been keen to observe the last ten days of Ramadan since old times by dedicating their full time to worship, prayers, Quran reading, performing alqiyam and giving zakat. This time also witnesses great activity in exchanging foods between neighbors, especially the mosque neighbors and the mosque worshippers as well as the passersby."

And regarding the charity activity which Kuwait is characterized by, Abdulrahman said: "Kuwait has been known since old times as a generous country, and for this reason the ancestors were keen to make their Waqf as a place to give 'Al-Nafilat'. But the societies and charity committees stand up today as a good front and a good beacon in Kuwait, especially that His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has earned the title of the Humanitarian Leader, and Kuwait became a capital of human work."

This is not surprising for Kuwait, His Highness the Amir, the government and the people because Kuwait has always been a donor country since independence," Abdulrahman added. "Furthermore, Kuwait gives aid to all peoples of the world, not to mention that Kuwait has also financed hundreds of thousands of mosques, universities, and cultural centers, while it helped in the development process of the poor Arab and Islamic states."

Zakat Al-Fitr

Abdulrahman added: "Before Eid Al-Fitr, the people of Kuwait offer 'Zakat Al-Fitr' to purify their fasting. The donation is given in the form of rice or money. They are also



keen to give Eid clothes to orphans and the poor so that they can celebrate Eid in their best appearance."

"Finally, I would like to advise donors to be wary of those pretending to be doing good but who are in fact frauds and cons and who make false claims about belonging to well-known charitable societies and

committees," Abdulrahman said. "I pray to Allah Almighty to protect Kuwait, the Amir, the government, the people, the parliament, the army and the expatriates as well as all the lands of Islam from all misfortunes. Bless you in this month and best wishes for a year of goodness, prosperity, security and happiness."



INFO MINISTER HAILS OVERHAULING YOUTH AUTHORITY'S STRUCTURE

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah urged yesterday a revamping of the structure of the Public Authority for Youth (PAY). In a press statement, he praised PAY's executive board, led by its director general Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, for working out a new strategy to help the youth achieve their ambitions and goals in life.

The minister, who is PAY's chairman of the board of directors, further affirmed the care and importance the political leadership in the country gives to youth affairs, so much so that the government established the post of state minister for youth affairs. He also valued PAY's holding of numerous roundtable discussions and dialogues in all governorates of the country to address

their officials' concerns regarding issues of importance to the nation's youth.

In similar press remarks, Mutairi said it was timely that PAY's structure is being overhauled in order to keep up with the emerging interests of the youth in novel technologies of communication which have changed their behavior patterns and their pursuits of recreational activities.

He said PAY is currently focusing on building partnerships with various government work sectors, such as ministries of education, social affairs, Awqaf, and the public authority for sports, in addition to the private sector to come up with firm goals that deal with harnessing youth talents and helping them fill their spare time with useful and beneficial activities. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah chairs the meeting.—KUNA

KFH LAUNCHES NEW RAMADAN TV COMMERCIAL

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has revealed its exciting Ramadan program, 'You are at Home Amongst Family', which will kick off the first day of the holy month with a new inspiring TV commercial strongly reflecting KFH's Islamic identity, values and social role. It highlights KFH's presence, local roots and heritage with a joyful and happy Ramadan note.

The new Ramadan TV commercial, which will be extensively broadcasted on KTV1, Al-Rai TV and MBC channels, social media and other media channels, conveys a powerful social and human message embodying KFH's leading social role and its leadership in this field, while reiterating the strong bonds with various segments of the society.

The concept of the TV commercial emphasizes the Islamic human and social values of giving, love and tolerance in the society in general, particularly in communities. It takes viewers in a tour to a modern and simple Kuwaiti neighborhood through the eyes of a boy who loses his way between homes and all neighbors rush to make him feel at home.

KFH's TV commercial this Ramadan comprises creative artistic scenes, with a new bright, joyful and positive approach that reflects the spirit of kindness, hospitality, compassion and cheerful Ramadan moments in the community attuned with KFH's own values. The lyrics of the TV commercial magnificently interact with delicate themes expressing the strong bonds of a one-family spirit, while highlighting human values, neighborly warmth and kindness.

Renowned reciter of the Holy Quran and KFH's strategic partner Meshari Al-Baghli plays a main role in his first debut in the TV commer-

cial as the lead vocalist. Baghli, who is also popular in social media figure with a large number of followers and likes, says in his Facebook page he is not a scholar (Shaikh), rather he admires and recites the Holy Quran.

Together with Baghli, Ghala Al-Jasmi, who is one of the youngest most famous girl figures on social media with over 2 million followers

on Instagram only, performs the role of the boy's sister in the TV commercial in an exclusive appearance in KFH TV commercial - her first ever. Ghala is known with her likable personality and cute facial expressions, in addition to her love of makeup. KFH, wishing everyone a blessed Ramadan, has many other activities stored for the holy month.



بين أهلك...
تلقى بيتك
#هذا بيتك

PANEL DISCUSSES FIGHTER JETS DEAL

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The parliament's budgets and final statement committee is scheduled to discuss the defense ministry's budget today with the attendance of representatives from the defense and finance ministries, the State Audit Bureau and the auditors' apparatus. The meeting's agenda includes discussing a \$9 billion deal with Italy to purchase 28 fighter jets. The agenda also includes the measures taken by the ministry to undo remarks made earlier about purchasing military equipment.

Meanwhile, the parliament's legislative committee is scheduled to discuss lifting the immunity of MP Abdulhameed Dashti over two cases filed against him.

Major tenders

MP Ahmed Al-Qudhaibi stressed that the State Audit Bureau's remarks about

major tenders should be taken into consideration and not be ignored by the government. "The government has been ignoring the Audit Bureau's reports," he said, blaming both the legislative and the executive authorities for this.

Housing projects

The Public Authority for Housing Affairs (PAHW) plans to assess the experience of hiring a South Korean company to construct the new South Saad Al-Abdullah City, informed sources said. If things go right, the new South Sabah Al-Ahmad City will be built the same way without conditioning that the same company executes the project, they added. "It could be the same or other companies, like Chinese ones for instance," explained the sources, adding that the authority plans to build a solar power station in Saad Al-Abdullah City.

Property licenses

Minister of Commerce and Industry Yousef Al-Ali issued a decision banning the publication of any commercial ad on selling and promoting property inside or outside Kuwait without a license from the ministry's real estate department. He added that violators would be subject to 15 days closure, then for a month in case of repeating the violation. The decision was made upon Cabinet instructions to monitor real estate expos and regulate the real estate market. The decision also mandated showing accredited ownership documents, project blueprints, marketing plans and powers of attorney fully endorsed by relevant authorities and Kuwaiti embassies in concerned countries.

Municipality efforts

Minister of Communications and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Essa

Al-Kandari hailed Kuwait Municipality's Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi and heads of municipality sectors, thanking them for the efforts they exert in reforming and developing the municipality's executive body and fighting all violations. Kandari also stressed that the ministry's consumer protection sector was constantly working to prevent commercial fraud and control prices. He also urged consumers to report all violations to the ministry's hotline 135.

In a call he made during Manfouhi's meeting with senior municipality officials, Kandari stressed that through his tours, he sensed that the municipality's message was clearly conveyed to politicians, investors, merchants and citizens, that it was serious in law enforcement. Manfouhi expressed happiness with the municipality managers' efforts, noting that they proved very fruitful in a very short time and urged them to exert more efforts.

Local Spotlight

KOREA, THE FUTURE - PART I



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

A year ago, I received an invitation from the Korea Foundation to join an international media delegation to visit Korea on a weeklong trip. The visit aims to enhance goodwill and friendship between Korea and the global community. Time passed quickly and by the time I was due to leave Kuwait on May 22, I felt that all I had was my Samsung mobile and little info about the country. Now I am back with new ideas and perspectives of Korea as a nation and its history, culture, economy, population, hopes, food and habits. I want to share my unique trip with Kuwait Times' readers and all those who have not visited this beautiful land called South Korea.

South Korea, officially known as the Republic of Korea, is a sovereign state in East Asia, constituting the southern part of the Korean Peninsula. It has been long past half a century since Korea, a homogeneous nation with a 5,000-year-long history, was divided into two states by foreign forces. Korea was admired as "The Land of Morning Calm," and is addressed as "North Korea" and "South Korea" for the past 70 years.

It was a long flight from Kuwait, but it was well-organized. I was well-received by KF staff at the airport and I was handed the week's program, which seemed full and included everything I needed to know about Korea, its past, present and future.

The invitation included an important trip to Jeju Island to attend sessions held by the Jeju Forum and listen to remarks by international speakers like the UN Secretary-General and other elite guests. The Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity (Jeju Forum) was launched in 2001. The forum is an international comprehensive forum in East Asia by which officials aim to address stability and security issues within the region through international cooperation.

The media delegation was invited to a panel discussion about Korean unification and the international community, and the role of international media. The two-hour discussion raised some important points presented by Korean professors and two professional media colleagues from the US and France as well, with comments by other colleagues including myself. The session presented some views and ideas on how to support the unification of the two Koreas, with some conservative views on the best moves for the process.

National reunification seems top be a burning desire for the Koreans, who have lived with painful sorrow for such a long time of separation. Korean reunification refers to the potential future reunification of North Korea, South Korea and the Korean Demilitarized Zone under a single government. The process towards such a merger was started by the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration in June 2000, where the two countries agreed to work towards a peaceful reunification in the future. Nevertheless, the process of reunification has faced many difficulties due to the ongoing tension between the two states, which have become politically and economically different since their separation in the 1940s. But, it was clear to me that no one is expecting that reunification will take place any time soon.

Reunification for Koreans has a mythical quality as most Koreans dream of a time in the future when the North and the South will join together to recreate the Korea that existed before the division and Japanese colonialism. It's a nice idea indeed, but it was not clear what strategy can be formulated to achieve this goal and overcome obstacles.

President Park Geun-hye made an official visit to Germany on March 2014. She unveiled her government's vision of Korean unification at that time. This was the first official stage where she laid out a roadmap of her unification agenda, when she dubbed unification as an "economic bonanza" and expressed the readiness for unification as her administration's priority. In her landmark speech in the former East German city of Dresden, Park made a three-point proposal to North Korea for the "humanity, co-prosperity, and integration" of the two Koreas. The North Korean Defense Ministry described the unification of the two Koreas plan as "ridiculous and meaningless". Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, is concerned that this initiative aims to harm the doctrine of North Korea and its socialist system.

I made a comment at the panel discussion expressing my views as a Middle East journalist and observer, using the Iranian model and its nuclear activity in the region, and the Gulf countries' concerns of such a dangerous activity on their peace and security, including sanctions and US-Iran nuclear agreement. I believe imposing sanctions is a long-term process and may not achieve its goal in the short term. Nuclear power must not be used as a threat against neighbors. The unification of Korea will not be like the German model because of the different circumstances and the presence of China as a large power in Asia. The US is facing a new election and the new president may not support the South Korean plan. We need to slow down, considering all options.

To be continued...



PRE-RAMADAN FOOD SAFETY CAMPAIGNS CONTINUE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: In preparation for the upcoming month of Ramadan, Kuwait Municipality inspection teams launched several inspection campaigns on food outlets in Shuwaikh, Daiya, Qadsiya, Mansouriya, Mubarakiya, Saliya and Bneid Al-Gar. The campaigns resulted in destroying three tons of foul frozen mutton (317 sheep carcasses), filing 10 citations, destroying 22 kilos of sheep offal, destroying 12 kilos of fish and closing down nine stores.

Motorist hurt

An Arab man was injured in a collision involving four vehicles reported on King Fahd Expressway, said a security source,

noting that Qurain firemen were dispatched to deal with the accident.

Patrol car catches fire

A police patrol car caught fire in Qurain, said security sources, noting that Qurain firemen rushed to the scene and managed to control the blaze without any casualties. Separately, a vehicle caught fire in Salmiya, said security sources, noting that firemen from Salmiya rushed to the scene and managed to control the fire. No casualties were reported. Another vehicle caught fire while parked outside a house in Rawda, said security sources, noting that firemen controlled the fire without reporting any casualties.

Smuggling foiled

An Arab woman was arrested on arrival at Kuwait International Airport with 80 illicit pills and two bottles of whiskey that she tried to smuggle into Kuwait, said security sources.

Liquor factory busted

Narcotics detectives raided a home-brewed liquor factory in Wafra that was run by an Asian man who did not have any ID, said security sources. Detectives found 41 barrels of liquor, seven cartons of yeast, 32 sugar sacks, 20 cooking gas cylinders, 36 bottles full of liquor, eight large jerry cans of liquor, four evaporation barrels, four distillation barrels and four stoves, the sources noted. Another factory was raided in Kabd

by chance when a suspect seemed nervous on spotting a police patrol and ran into a farmhouse to hide. Pursuing him, the police found the factory with 55 liquor barrels.

Gas cylinder explodes

Firemen were dispatched to a house in Um Al-Haiman where a cooking gas cylinder exploded, destroying the kitchen roof and starting a fire. No casualties were reported.

Prostitutes arrested

Vice police raided eight brothels in Jleeb Al-Shuyukh where they arrested 25 African and Asian prostitutes. Security sources said that the suspects were referred to relevant authorities for further investigations.



A police patrol vehicle damaged by fire.



Firefighters tackle flames in a car in Salmiya.

2015-2020 DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT: SCPD

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Development Plan (2015-2020) includes some clear policies and goals based on the protection of environment, especially wild and marine ones, said Secretary General of Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD).

The SCPD drew up the strategic plan approved by the National Assembly and Cabinet, Dr Khaled Mahdi said in a statement issued on Saturday, on the occasion of World Environment Day (WED), which falls on June 5. There are clear goals related to the diversification of the marine and wild environment, as well as air pollution and means of improving air in Kuwait, he said.

He added that these goals were included clearly in the development plan with the aim of enhancing international standards on one hand, and local ones on the other hand. He said the environment axis covers all external and internal economic and social aspects, indicating that there is a project in the 2017-2018 plan aiming to improve marine and wild environment.

Meanwhile, UN Development Program Resident Representative Zainab Benjelloun referred to a discussion panel, concurrently with the WED, to focus on the issues of environment internationally and locally, and the role of civil society organizations so as to achieve the agenda of sustainable development.

Kuwait has been interested in environment protection, Sheikh Mubarak Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, an environment activist, was quoted by the statement as saying. He said that there were several bodies across the country paying attention to environment, pointing to many ways to preserve environment. —KUNA

KUWAIT'S DEFENSE ATTACHE TAKES OVER PRESIDENCY OF CORPS IN BRUSSELS

BRUSSELS: The outgoing President and Dean of CAMNA (Corps of Defense Attaches) in Brussels, Lieutenant Colonel Heino Matzken of Germany has handed over his responsibilities to Brigadier General Khaled Al-Ragem, Kuwait Defense Attache. "Today is the handover of the Presidency of Corps of defense Attaches in Brussels to my dear friend Brigadier General Khaled Al-Ragem of Kuwait," Matzken said during the handover ceremony held at the German Embassy late on Friday.

"The President is the key leader of the CAMNA here in Brussels and he has to foster community of the attaches, as well as their families," he said. "I am very happy and proud that I could convince my dear friend Khaled to take over this post. I of course wish him my best in the next years to come and I am sure that he can manage this task," he added.

Meanwhile, Ragem said, "we, as Defense Attaches, represent our countries with pride, ambition and hope for the future. We are here today to improve our Military relationships, through the Kingdom of Belgium, to help create a solid unity between us." Matzken, who held the post for two years, also clarified that seniority is not an absolute condition to take over the Presidency and he himself was not

the senior most when he took over as President of CAMNA.

Ragem has made history by becoming the first Attache from an Arab country to be elected as Dean of CAMNA in a European country

when he was elected on May 28. The duration of the post is four years. There are 67 Defense Attaches based in Belgium and they include Military, Naval and Air Attaches accredited to the Kingdom. — KUNA

SECURITY CHIEF HOLDS TALKS IN SINGAPORE ON JOINT TOPICS

SINGAPORE: Chief of the National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, currently on a visit to Singapore with other officials, discussed on Friday with Singaporean Minister of State for Defense and Foreign Affairs Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman issues of joint concern for the two friendly countries.

The bureau said in a statement, released in Kuwait, that Sheikh Thamer conveyed to Minister Dr Bin Osman, during the meeting, attended by the State of Kuwait Ambassador to Singapore Yaqoub Al-Sanad and other visiting Singaporean officials, greetings of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Sheikh Thamer and his delegation arrived in Singapore, on Thursday, to take part in the Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD), scheduled on June 3-5. It is organized by the

International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

The chief of the Kuwaiti security bureau will address various issues during his participation in the gathering; namely complex security challenges, revamping military capacities with latest technology, managing military competition in Asia, challenges pertaining to resolving strife, security challenges emanating from illegal immigration, cooperation against terrorism, determining common interests in the virtual world, electronic and cyber security. Kuwait, a key member of the international community, takes part in this convention the first time. It is participating in the event in response to an invitation from the IISS, which organized over the past 12 years the annual Manama Dialogue Summit. Kuwait is also a key participant in this top-level gathering. — KUNA



Ramadan



Quiz
2016



الإتجاه
ETIHAD
AIRWAYS
ABU DHABI

Lulu
HYPERMARKET

Ruby
Tuesday

Answer & Win

Fabulous Prizes

Kuwait Times annual Ramadan Competition returns with one YES or NO question published every day throughout the holy month of Ramadan. All thirty coupons with the correct answers must be sent to the newspaper to be eligible for the raffle draw. All coupons must be received by Friday 8th July 2016 at Kuwait Times Office.

1st Prize Two Business Class tickets Kuwait – London – Kuwait on Etihad Airways Not including taxes.

2nd Prize One Economy Class ticket Kuwait – Madrid – Kuwait on Etihad Airways Not including taxes
Orden men's watch | Orden women's watch | Gift vouchers Ruby Tuesday 40Kd | Gift voucher from Lolo Hypermarket 50KD

3rd Prize One Economy Class ticket Kuwait – Abu Dhabi – Kuwait on Etihad Airways
Orden men's watch | Orden women's watch | Gift vouchers from Ruby Tuesday lunch or dinner 20Kd | Gift voucher from Lolo Hypermarket 50KD

4th Prize Smart Viora mobile
Odien men's watch | Odien women's watch | Gift vouchers from Ruby Tuesday lunch or dinner 40Kd | Gift voucher from Lolo Hypermarket 50KD

5th Prize Canon camera 113
Oden men's watch | Alessy women's watch | Gift vouchers from Ruby Tuesday lunch or dinner 20Kd | Gift voucher from Lolo Hypermarket 50KD

6th Prize to ten Prize Tap lot 4.2.2.duel Skim
Fls353 Men's watch | Fls327 Women's watch | Two vouchers from Ruby Tuesday for lunch or dinner 20KD | Gift Voucher from Alsanabel Althabya 25KD. | Gift voucher from Lolo Hypermarket 25KD

MANPOWER AUTHORITY OFFICIAL EXPLAINS NEW RULES, EXCEPTIONS

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor has issued various new rules and regulations related to expatriate workers. But some employees and workers are not aware of the rights these rules entitle them to, especially non-Arabic speakers. In order to improve work conditions, the ministry established the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), which works under its umbrella and has many responsibilities.

Aseel Al-Mazyad, Director of the Public Relations and Information Department at the authority, shed light on the various ministry decrees that have removed many restrictions. Exceptions for transferring visas that were not allowed in the past are now possible. In October 2015, the ministry issued two decrees - 134/2015 and 135/2015 - regulating transferring residencies of expat employees after paying a fee of KD 300.

employee is obliged to give his employer the legal notice period according to article 44 of law No 6/2010," stressed Mazyad. If the employee cannot give the employer notice for the abovementioned period, he has to submit a complaint at the Labor Relations Department to inform the employer. The submission date of this complaint is considered the beginning of the notice period. The employer is not allowed to file an absconding report against the absent employee during this period.

According to Mazyad, government contracts will be excluded from the three-year period mentioned in this article, according to the following conditions: 1- If the government contract has expired. 2- If the employer does not have another government contract to which he can transfer the employee. 3- If the owner of the government contract sets a condition in advance for the employer whose contract has expired that his employees will be transferred after winning a government project bid. 4- Transfer of registered employ-



KUWAIT: Aseel Al-Mazyad, Director of the Public Relations and Information Department at the Public Authority for Manpower. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

- Contracted employee in public sector can transfer visa to same employer after paying KD 300 fee
- Private sector employee can transfer visa without employer's approval after three years
- Employer can file absconding case against an employee if he is absent for 7 days

Decree 134 is related to employees in the public sector. "According to this decree, an employer who brought an employee from abroad to work on a contract is allowed to transfer the visa of this employee to his main file by paying KD 300," Mazyad told Kuwait Times. Decree 135 is related to employees working in the private and oil sectors. "According to this decree, an employer can transfer the residency of an employee to work in his company after an exemption of the period condition by the Higher Committee for Work Conflicts by paying KD 300, she added.

Decree 378/2016

She also spoke about decree 378/2016, which amended article 6 of decree 842/2015 regarding transferring workers from one employer to another for those who can transfer their visas. "The employee can transfer his residency from his employer after three years of the date of issue of his work permit without the approval of his employer. But the

ees on government contracts is limited to technical professions only - for nontechnical professions, a fee according to ministry decree No 135/2015 should be paid.

Absconding cases

An employer is authorized to file an absconding case against an employee if he is absent from work for more than seven consecutive days at the work relations department. The employer should send an electronic version of the absconding report to the inspection department, which should check that the employee is actually not working at that company. After ensuring that he is not working there, it will send the report to the work relations department confirming this fact. After receiving this report and after 90 days have passed, the work relations department (the unit in charge) will issue an absconding case to the ministry of interior, which will cancel his residency and issue an arrest order for the absconding employee.

Canceling absconding cases

The joint committee of the PAM and Ministry of Interior, which is in charge of judging absconding cases, can cancel the absconding case. This committee is in charge of all cases issued before January 4, 2016, a total of 18,385 cases. An absconding case can be canceled in two situations: If the employer drops the case before the committee and agrees to renew or transfer the employee's visa to another sponsor. The second situation includes all the cases that are decided by the PAM. "For instance, duplicity of the sponsor - when the work permit is registered with one employer while the visa is with another sponsor. In this case, the employee will have two sponsors due to the negligence of the old employer in transferring the visa to the new employer, and this is not the mistake of the employee," said Mazyad.

Other cases include holders of Palestinian travel documents, spouses and relatives of Kuwaiti nationals, reports that were proved malicious, reports that include mistakes, if the employee has received an approval of transfer, and other cases. "Employees have to attend personal-

ly when resolving transfer conflicts due to the personal nature of these conflicts. The employee is allowed to be accompanied by a lawyer. For conflicts of indemnity, the attendance of the employee is not necessary, as it is a financial conflict and if it isn't resolved amicably, it would be transferred to the court, contrary to visa transfer cases that are out of the court's competency," she added.

New contract

The authority also issued a new employment contract for the private sector. This contract includes many benefits for the employees, the most significant of which is the obligation for the employer to pay health insurance fees, which many employees pay.

Statistics

During the first quarter of this year, the number of violations at the inspection department reached 538. "These violations were transferred for investigation after being reviewed by the violations committee. These include violations such as work safety, workers' accommodation and many others," concluded Mazyad.

REQUIRED

A LEADING MAINTENANCE COMPANY IN KUWAIT REQUIRED

CONTRACT MANAGING ENGINEER	Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering with min. 10 years' experience	
SENIOR FORMAN (MECHANICAL)	Diploma holder in Mechanical Engineering/or relevant Trade Certificate with min. 9 years' experience	
FOREMAN (MECHANICAL)	Diploma holder in Mechanical Engineering/or relevant Trade Certificate with min. 7 years' experience	
TECHNICIANS – MECHANICAL	Secondary education and formal Training from any recognized Technical Institute with min. 5 years' experience	
WELDER – FABRICATOR	Secondary Education and Diploma with min. 10 years' experience	
SENIOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANT	University degree or Secondary school + 2 years diploma or certified course in computer operation with min. 8 years' experience	
TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS	Secondary Education with min. 5 years' experience	
DATA ENTRY OPERATOR	Secondary Education with min. 10 years' experience	
DRIVER	Kuwaiti driving license with min. 10 years' experience	
RECEPTIONIST/CLERK	Secondary School education with Diploma in administration and with min. 7 years' experience	
SAFETY OFFICER	Secondary School Education with Diploma in Safety from PAATE or an equivalent institute with min. 10 years' experience	
STORE KEEPER	Secondary Education and have undergone a Training/Diploma in materials management with min. 10 years' experience	
SENIOR FORMAN (HVAC)	Secondary education with Diploma holder in Air- Conditioning & Refrigeration from a reputed institute with min. 9 years' experience	
FOREMAN (HVAC)	Secondary education with Diploma holder in Air- Conditioning & Refrigeration from a reputed institute with min. 7 years' experience	
MECHANIC (A/C & R) TECHNICIANS	secondary education and recognized Diploma in Refrigeration and Air-conditioning from a reputed institute with min. 5 years' experience	
HVAC CONTROL TECHNICIANS	Secondary education and Diploma in Refrigeration & Air conditioning from a recognized and reputed Institute with min. 8 years' experience	
DUCT FITTER	Secondary Education and recognized Diploma in sheet Metal works with min. 8 years' experience	
INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN	Secondary School Education with training and an Electrician Certificate from any Technical Training Institute with min. 8 years' experience	
HELPER - A/C & R & MECHANIC	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Attractive Package </div>	
QUALIFICATIONS		Transferable Visa is a MUST - English language is a must
BENEFITS		Furnished Accommodation - Company transportation

Interview will be on Wednesday, Thursday 8,9 June 2016

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الجريدة Al-Jarida

WHEN WAREHOUSES BURN

By Ghanim Al-Najjar

Throughout the corruption era that started in the 1950s, two main things happened together in concert, and we started using them in our sayings and included them in our customs and traditions. The first is turning a simple person into a legendary one while he is nothing but an office boy at the municipality. The second is the annual fire at the Ministry of Education's (MoE) warehouses.

Every year and a few days before the annual inventory, some hungry 'mouse' started moving around in the same location at MoE's warehouses and chewed an electric cable. It was then announced that the fire was the result of an electric short circuit. The case was closed, only to recur the following year, when the very same mouse moved again to bite the very same cable. Once more, investigation results were identical, before shelving the case, to the extent that shelving corruption cases and stating that the culprits are unidentified or just hungry mice or rats became an integral part of our traditions.

Long years have gone past since these accidents started happening and a lot of water has flowed under and above bridges. MoE warehouse fires started disappearing from our habits and traditions, not because corruption was over, but because it started changing forms and strategies. Corrupt people no longer set warehouses ablaze. Corruption has grown more complicated, but the only fixed thing is that corruption files get opened only to be closed again. This part of the tradition remains the same.

Naturally enough, what made me raise this issue is the recent fire at an MoE warehouse, but with one difference - the culprit this time is no longer a worn-out cable or a rat, but a human arsonist, according to KFSD reports, which were contradictory to the usual reasons we are accustomed to. What made things worse is that the minister of education referred to the issue to the public prosecution and said penal measures will be taken against whoever is proved guilty and involved.

Accordingly, I believe we have to hold both the minister and KFSD accountable for violating our habits and traditions, an accusation which is even more serious than corruption itself!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



NO MORE GRACE PERIODS FOR RESIDENCY VIOLATORS: MAARAFI

KUWAIT: Director of the Residency Affairs Department at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) Major General Talal Maarafi announced that the project of establishing a special company to hire domestic workers is almost complete and it is expected to become operational in six months. He also stressed that the project would put an end to domestic labor offices' monopoly in the local market and create competition that would eventually help control domestic labor prices.

On another concern, Maarafi strongly denied that MoI intends to grant any further grace periods for residency law violators. "That is something from the past," he underlined, noting that the recent security inspections in various areas made considerable numbers of residency law violators legalize their statuses and pay fines. "Violators will have to either legalize their statuses or leave," he underlined. Responding to a question about Syrian residents in Kuwait, Maarafi stressed that violators would be given a chance to legalize their stay in Kuwait and stressed that they would not be exempt from paying fines. "This only applies to Syrians, while other nationalities have to pay the fine and leave," he explained. Maarafi added that a new project was

being studied concerning issuing special residency IDs for expats and cancelling residency stickers in passports in a bid to prevent sponsors from withholding passports. "According to this project, a worker will only be allowed to leave the country after handing over his residency ID," he added.

Responding to a question about the new fees to be imposed on expats, Maarafi explained that expats would pay KD 20 instead of KD 10 for each residency year. He also explained that instead of paying KD 200 for a parent's residency, expats would pay KD 300 a year. Maarafi also explained that family visit visa validity was limited to one month except for wives and children, who get three-month visas. He added that in a bid to control the number of senior visitors who arrive to receive medical treatment in public hospitals, a new 'medical treatment visa' would be issued for people older than 50 after paying reasonable health insurance. — Al-Jarida



Major General Talal Al-Maarafi



KUWAIT: Assistant Undersecretary of the Traffic Affairs, Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna hands out a memorial shield to KFH Group Public Relations Executive Manager, Yousef Al-Ruwaieh.

KFH HONORED FOR SPONSORING UNIFIED GCC TRAFFIC WEEK

KUWAIT: General Directorate of Traffic at the Ministry of Interior honored Kuwait Finance House (KFH) in recognition of sponsoring the 32nd Unified GCC Traffic Week that had been convened this year under the theme "your decision identifies your destiny".

The Interior Assistant Undersecretary of the Traffic Affairs, Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna handed out a memorial shield to KFH Group Public Relations Executive Manager, Yousef Al-Ruwaieh in presence of a huge number of the Interior's officials and representatives of the GCC delegations.

Muhanna praised KFH efforts in supporting the security and awareness initiatives of

the Ministry of Interior, indicating that KFH expands its role in an attempt to offer all means of support to the official authorities, while bolstering the GCC cooperation.

Meanwhile, Ruwaieh hailed the efforts of the General Directorate of Traffic, affirming that KFH's collaboration with the Ministry of Interior reflects its keenness on increasing the awareness and achieving safety and security for the residents and citizens of the GCC countries. He indicated that safety and security are major factors in achieving development and prosperity in any country, underscoring KFH's endeavors in constantly participating in the society-oriented activities.

REGISTRATION STILL RUNNING FOR OOREDOO'S VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, continues to receive applicants for its volunteer program, conducted in collaboration with 'Spread the Passion' and 'ATAHUB', for the second consecutive year. Applicants can register through a link which is available on the company's various social media channels, until the beginning of the Holy Month.

Once registered, applicants will be called up for interviews, to make sure they are well prepared to take positive part of the volunteers groups. Interviews are conducted at Ooredoo's headquarters in Al-Soor Street.

The company has confirmed that doors are still open for those who are interested to take part of the second edition of its volunteer program, the opportunity will remain available till beginning of the Holy Month and applicants will be interviewed by professionals to well prepare them before the kick-off of the actual activities.

Ooredoo Volunteer Program was launched in collaboration with Spread the Passion, a local non-profit organization which aims at encouraging youth to be more engaged in voluntarily programs. Ooredoo will also be sponsoring ATAHUB initiative that aims to raise the community awareness, collaboration and engagement in initiatives that have a positive return on the society and its needs. In addition to Jaribha initiative, which is an online platform based on the concept of "reward crowdfunding", where business creators can achieve their project goals through the support of people in return for rewards.

Also, Ooredoo took the responsibility to conduct several charitable events, such as giving out meals daily throughout the month of Ramadan at Ooredoo's iftar tent located in Al-Soor street, Kuwait City, opposite to the company's headquarter. As well as organizing visits to nursing home, orphanages and patients at different hospitals across Kuwait.



CBK LAUNCHES SPECIAL RAMADAN SOCIAL PROGRAM

KUWAIT: Out of keenness to promote its social and charity activities for the holy month of Ramadan, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) prepared a special program full of social activities designed to communicate with all NGOs.

Commenting on the program, Amani Al-Wera, Assistant General Manager for Media and Public Relations Affairs, said that CBK has been preparing special social, humane and charity programs for Ramadan to emphasize its commitment to communicating with all social categories.

Wera added that CBK plans to distribute 'CBK's Ramadan Gift' to worshippers in various mosques, in addition to launching the

'Sahourek Alaina' campaign which provides free Suhour meals to cleaning and construction workers. "Moreover, CBK staff will celebrate and distribute Gerga'an to hospitalized kids, visit geriatric homes and disabled centers in addition to the annual Ramadan gift for the staff," she elaborated.

Moreover, Wera stressed that by the end of Ramadan, CBK's Public Relation Department staff and other volunteering CBK employees will distribute Eid Al-Fitr clothes to cleaning and construction workers as part of its 'Hawwin Alaihom' (Make it easier for them) campaign, which is being held for the fourth year. "Our team will also celebrate Eid with kids at special care houses," she concluded.



OOREDOO ANNOUNCES MONTHLY DRAW WINNER FOR PREPAID CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, announced the third and fourth weekly winners of its all new prepaid campaign 'Every Recharge Wins': fourteen of the winners were presented with the Samsung Galaxy mobile, two winners with the iPad Mini 3 and one winner with KD1,000.

Ooredoo's 'Every Recharge Wins' campaign is the first of its kind, providing customers with chances to enter daily, weekly, and monthly draws, in addition to a grand draw for each 1 KD recharge. Customers can win smart phones, tablets, cash prizes and a grand prize.

The winners for this weeks were:

Bejay Naghy	Samsung Galaxy
Javar Sadako Bataan	Samsung Galaxy
Ahmed Ahmed	Samsung Galaxy
Sahalla Muhammad	Samsung Galaxy
Hadi Fahd Mohsen Abdullah	Samsung Galaxy
Shikara Narayanan Maracala	Samsung Galaxy
JP PA	Samsung Galaxy
Sheikh Darbar Mahboub	iPad Mini 3
Santhosh Jacob Jacob	Samsung Galaxy
Raja Mohammed Al Gahoush	Samsung Galaxy
Asghar Ghaloum	Samsung Galaxy
Badr Shaker Faleh Ma'toug	Samsung Galaxy
Laila Mohammed Al Kandari	Samsung Galaxy
Gobala Kirshan Shetty Narayanan	Samsung Galaxy
Aiysha Saad	Samsung Galaxy
Abdulhaq Mejbel Ali	iPad Mini 3
Mo'temed Abdulmenem Mohammed Fadel	KD1000

which is the 2016 Toyota Prado V6. The more customers recharge their lines, the more chances they get to win. In addition to the draws, customers will also be entitled to get free SMSs, internet, Nojoom points or minutes, instantly upon every recharge.

To take part in these draws and win one of the great prizes, customers merely need to recharge their prepaid lines. The more the customers recharge, the more chances they have to win. All winners will be contacted directly and an announcement with the winners' names will be made.

Crime

Report

Child hospitalized with gun wound in her head

KUWAIT: A four-year-old Kuwaiti girl was rushed to Adan Hospital with a head injury, said security sources, noting that her parents initially claimed that she sustained the injury when she fell, then said that a piece of metal had penetrated in her head. However, x-rays showed there was a bullet in the child's head, and she was immediately rushed to Ibn Sina Hospital for surgery and the bullet was removed. The parents then confessed that her brother was toying with a loaded gun that accidentally fired, hitting the girl's head. The brother was arrested and referred to juvenile police for further investigations.

Drug dealer arrested

A citizen with a criminal record was arrested in Salmiya with a variety of drugs he had prepared and packed for sale. A security source noted on seeing the police, the suspect seemed nervous, and on searching him, policemen found the drugs. A case was filed and the suspect was referred to narcotics department for further investigations.

Liquor possession

Two citizens were arrested in Sharq with a whiskey bottle. Security sources noted that on checking on them, one of the suspects was found wanted for a KD 9,000 financial claim.

Physical assault

A Syrian interior designer filed a case against three citizens, who are brothers, accusing them of assault, said security sources. According to the man, who provided a medical report of his injuries, he was hired to do some decor work at the assailants' house, which they did not like and demanded that he redo the whole job. Refusing to do the work all over again, the three assaulted him. A case was filed and the alleged assailants are being summoned for further investigations. Separately, a Pakistani salesman filed a complaint against a citizen, accusing him of assault. The salesman said that the citizen's wife bought a bag from his store two days earlier and returned to the shop to return it, which he refused. He added that the woman then called her husband, who arrived and beat him up. The salesman added that he followed them and jotted down their vehicle's license plate number. A case was filed and the husband is being summoned.

Illegal fundraising

Following the arrest of a Jordanian man who had been allegedly collecting donations, a citizen and a bedoon were arrested for illegal charity collection, said security sources. Case papers indicate that detectives were tipped off concerning the suspects' activities, noting that the bedoon usually made women contact donors and convince them to donate money to build mosques and fund other charity projects. Arresting him, police found that he had collected up to KD 6,000 so far. The man confessed that he had been collecting money for a specific establishment and got a small commission. Raiding the place, policemen found that it was an export-import company, and arrested the owner. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress with the company's staff. — Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa

News

in brief

'Largest' anti-drug campaign planned

KUWAIT: Several state departments are coordinating to launch what sources described as 'the largest campaign against drugs' in Kuwait's history, which will be directly supervised by the cabinet. The sources did not give an exact date for when the campaign is expected to begin, adding that it comes in response to a notable increase in drug-related crimes lately, mainly a case in which a toddler was beaten to death by her drug addict father. — Al-Anbaa

South Korean teachers

KUWAIT: South Korea will send trained teachers to teach in Kuwaiti schools and educational institutes as per an agreement signed between the two countries during Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah's visit to the Asian country last month. The agreement also includes scholarships for Kuwaiti students to study medicine, electronic engineering and other subjects in South Korean universities, as well as scholarships for South Korean students to study Arabic language in Kuwait, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa said. — Al-Qabas

Price increases

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry received a total of 17,728 complaints about commercial fraud and fabricated price increase during the period from 2010 to 2016. They include 4,410 complaints pertaining with price increases which were referred to the public prosecution, with an average of two cases a day, sources said. — Al-Qabas

No alternative farms

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources is not legally bound to provide replacement land plots for owners of farms that are planned to be removed in Wafra and Abdali, Minister of Public Works Dr Ali Al-Omair said. Compensation will be paid to owners of 29 farms in Wafra to be removed to make way for the GCC railway project, and 62 in Abdali to be removed for oil excavation purposes, Omair added. — Al-Rai

Oil production

KUWAIT: Kuwait Oil Company seeks to reach an oil production capacity of 3.15 million barrels a day by March 2017, and one billion square feet of free gas by 2022, informed sources said. — Al-Rai



Clinton goes nuclear in bid to unpick 'Teflon Donald'

ERDOGAN: TURKEY WILL NEVER ACCEPT GENOCIDE 'BLACKMAIL'

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ALEPPO: Malek Barghout (left) mourns over his father's body, who was killed earlier in the day following an air strike by Syrian government forces on the rebel-held neighborhood of Al-Sakhour as he was volunteering with the Syrian civil defense members, known as the White Helmets, in this northern city yesterday. — AFP

SYRIA ARMY THRUSTS INTO IS BASTION

KURDS ADVANCE FROM NORTH

BEIRUT: Russian-backed Syrian troops pushed into the Islamic State group's bastion province Raqqa yesterday, threatening to catch the jihadists in a pincer movement as US-backed Kurdish-led fighters advance from the north. The lightning advance from the southwest with Russian air support brought the army to within dozens of kilometres of the Euphrates Valley town of Tabqa, site of the country's biggest dam, the Syrian Observatory of Human Rights said.

The dam, some 50 km upstream from the jihadists' de facto Syrian capital Raqqa city, is also the target of the Washington-backed offensive which Kurdish-led fighters launched late last month. It was the first time that government troops had entered Raqqa province since they were ousted by IS in August 2014. Regular army troops were backed by militia newly trained by the regime's ally Russia, Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP.

He said the twin offensives which threaten to cut off IS-held Raqqa from jihadist-held territory along the

Turkish border raised suspicions that Moscow and Washington were covertly coordinating operations by their respective Syrian allies. "It seems there has been an undeclared coordination between Washington and Moscow," he said. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov discussed Syria with US Secretary of State John Kerry in a telephone call on Saturday, the foreign ministry in Moscow said, without giving details.

The "main priority" for Moscow, Lavrov said in an interview this week, was "more direct, effective and forceful measures" against IS and Al-Nusra Front, whereas Western powers were opposed to the jihadist Nusra being targeted because of its alliances with "moderate" rebels. At least 26 jihadists and nine government troops and militia were killed in the army's advance, said the Britain-based Observatory, which relies on reports from medics and activists on the ground. Tabqa dam has a huge reservoir named Lake Assad after President Bashar Al-Assad's late father and predecessor Hafez. When IS overran the area with

its garrison and airbase in 2014, it summarily executed 160 captured regime troops.

IS under multiple attack

The jihadists are facing counter-attacks on multiple fronts. Arab and Kurdish fighters backed by Washington have launched an assault on the strategic Manbij pocket further up the Euphrates on the Turkish border, regarded as a key entry point for foreign jihadists. Hundreds of kilometres downstream in neighboring Iraq, elite troops have begun an assault on the emblematic IS bastion of Fallujah. Iraqi security sources said army, police and Shiite militia forces gained new ground from IS on Saturday in the Saqlawiya area west of Fallujah.

In Syria, Washington has deployed more than 200 special forces troops in support of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, which it regards as the most effective fighting force on the ground against IS in Syria. The SDF controls a large swathe of northeastern Syria along the Turkish border and another border enclave in the northwest. The SDF's offensive against the Manbij pocket is aimed at seizing the last stretch of border still under IS control and denying the jihadists any opportunity to smuggle in recruits and funds.

The US military said the assault had captured more than 100 sq km of territory from IS this week. IS has hit back with an offensive against two towns held by non-jihadist rebels further west in a bid to enlarge the territory it holds on the border. Washington has dropped ammunition to the rebels defending the town of Marea in a bid to stop jihadists overrunning it, a US official confirmed.

The supply lines from neighboring Turkey have made the northern border region one of the most contested battlegrounds of Syria's five-year civil war. The region is now controlled by a myriad of rival armed groups, although IS and the SDF have put other rebel groups on the back foot. Washington's support for the SDF has strained relations with NATO ally Ankara as its largest component is the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG).

Ankara regards the YPG as an arm of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) which has fought a three-decade insurgency against the Turkish state. The increasingly complex frontlines have left hundreds of thousands of civilians trapped by fighting or living under siege. Damascus said on Friday that it was ready to allow desperately needed relief convoys into 12 besieged areas, but the United Nations said it was preparing to seek the government's permission to organize air drops. — AFP



After being honoured with the 'Pravasi Ratna' award by Anand TV, the first independent Malayalam channel in Manchester, UK, Dr. K.T. Rabeulla, Chairman of Royal Shifa Hospital, Shifa Al Jazeera and Naseem Al Rabeeh medical groups shared his joy with leading businessman Sheikh Hussain bin Abdullah Ahmed Haddad from the Sultanate of Oman, prominent Indian businessman in UAE Dr. Anil Pillai along with Royal Shifa & Shifa Al Jazeera team members in Manchester, United Kingdom after the award ceremony.

VATICAN TO DIGITIZE GULF MANUSCRIPTS

VATICAN: The Vatican has signed an agreement with Qatar to digitalize Vatican manuscripts relating to the Arabian Gulf and other Islamic regions. The agreement was signed yesterday following a private papal audience with Sheikhha Mozah bint Nasser, the president of the Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. The documents are among 8,000 manuscripts in the Vatican Library that are part of a digitalization project.

The Vatican said the sheikha met with Pope Francis for 30 minutes, informing him of "the grave situation of schools in the various areas of conflict" She gave the pope a decorated Arabic manuscript of the Gospels produced in 18th Century Ottoman Turkey, while the pope gave her a medallion depicting the olive tree of peace and an Arabic edition of his encyclical on the environment. — AP



VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis and Qatar's Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser exchange gifts during a private audience at the Vatican yesterday. — AP

OPENING SHORTLY

Shifa Al Jazeera Access hospital, Ruwi & Premium hospital, Al Khoud

Shifa Al Jazeera premium polyclinic will be inaugurated at Al Khuwair in July first week

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<p style="font-size: 12px; margin: 0;">Mr. SiddeeqeValiyakath svaliyakath@shifaaljazeera.com.kw siddiqv@yahoo.com, 00968 96346301</p>	<p style="font-size: 12px; margin: 0;">Mr. Aslam Backer aslambacker@gmail.com 00968 98627005, 00968 92641169</p>
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TURK GETS 108 YEARS FOR ABUSING SYRIA CHILDREN

ISTANBUL: A court in Turkey has sentenced a Turkish man to 108 years in jail for sexually assaulting at least eight Syrian children at a flagship refugee camp, reports said yesterday. The 29-year-old man, identified only as Erdal E, worked as a cleaner at the tented refugee camp in Nizip in the southern Gaziantep province near the Syrian border. He was found guilty of sexually abusing eight children in the camp's toilets in exchange for payments of between 1.5 and five Turkish lira (\$0.50-\$1.70), the Dogan news agency said.

His defense had asked for his acquittal, saying an earlier confession to police had been made under duress. But the judges at the court in the southern city of

Nizip rejected the arguments, sentencing him late Friday to 108 years in jail. Prosecutors had asked for a sentence of 289 years. The camp, which is home to some 10,800 refugees, has been visited by international dignitaries and is adjacent to the Nizip container camp for Syrian refugees which was visited by German Chancellor Angela Merkel in April.

During the trial, the accused claimed he had been made a "scapegoat" to cover up the crimes of others and prevent a wider scandal. "I know very well the names of many managers and camp workers guilty of abuse... but I will not say them so as not to hurt my own family," the Hurriyet daily quoted him as saying.

Sexually-Transmitted Disease Risk

Aid groups have warned that Syrian refugee children living in any host country are hugely vulnerable to sexual predators, with discussion of the issue largely taboo. A team from the Gaziantep chamber of doctors visited the Nizip camp in the wake of the scandal, drawing up a report which sounded the alarm over sexual abuse and the risk of sexually-transmitted diseases at the camp. Chairman Hamza Agca said there were problems with abuse of women and children, as well as early marriage and polygamy.

"We are worried about the risk of sexually-transmitted diseases due to the high rate of polygamy and early marriage at the camp as well as abuse of children," he said

last month, according to the chamber's website. Following the report, local opposition politician Mahmut Togrul of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) filed a series of parliamentary questions for Health Minister Recep Akdag, the MP said in a statement.

He requested information about the prevalence of sexually-transmitted diseases at the camp and what action was being taken to stop child abuse and child marriage. "Do you think that marrying at between 7 and 15 years has a negative effect on a child's health?" he asked.

Afraid to Complain

In another sign of concern, a cross-party delegation from parliament's human

rights committee also visited both the tent and container camps in Nizip on May 25. Turkey is hosting over 2.7 million refugees from the conflict in neighboring Syria. Only a quarter of a million live in refugee camps, with the rest living in Turkish towns and cities. The leftwing Birgun newspaper said the accused was suspected of assaulting 30 children but only went on trial over the abuse of eight as the other families were afraid of being sent back to Syria if they filed complaints. It said all the victims were boys aged between 8-12. Turkey's emergency agency AFAD, which is responsible for the camp and has won international plaudits for its hosting of refugees, has said it has taken measures to ensure such an incident never happens again. —AFP

US FALTERS IN CAMPAIGN TO REVIVE IRAQI REGULAR ARMY

SECTARIAN MILITIAS GROWING IN POWER

BAGHDAD: A 17-month US effort to retrain and reunify Iraq's regular army has failed to create a large number of effective Iraqi combat units or limit the power of sectarian militias, according to current and former US military and civilian officials. Concern about the shortcomings of the American attempt to strengthen the Iraqi military comes as Iraqi government forces and Shiite militias have launched an offensive to retake the city of Fallujah from Islamic State. Aid groups fear the campaign could spark a humanitarian catastrophe, as an estimated 50,000 Sunni civilians remain trapped in the besieged town.

has failed to change the underlying Iraqi political dynamics that fuel the rise and growing power of sectarian militias.

Retired US Lieutenant General Mick Bednarek, who commanded the US military training effort in Iraq from 2013 to 2015, said the Iraqi army has not improved dramatically in the past eight months. He blamed a variety of problems, from a lack of Iraqis wanting to join the military to the resistance of some lower-level Iraqi officers to sending units to American training. "The Iraqi military's capacity hasn't improved that much - part of that is the continuing challenge of recruitment and retention,"

have largely watched from the sidelines as Iraqi Special Forces and Shiite militias have reclaimed land from Islamic State, current and former US military officials said. Militias have repeatedly taken advantage of the power vacuums that have emerged after Islamic State defeats. The Iraqi military operations command of Salahuddin province, north of Baghdad, is dominated by a Shiite militia leader, Abu Mehdi Mohandis, according to a current US military officer, an Iraqi security official and three Iraqi officials who monitor the province.

Mohandis serves as the chief state

mate that 10 percent to 20 percent of the 300 officers who run the Iraqi military's Operations Command have an affinity or association with either the Badr militia or the Shiite religious leader Muqtada Al-Sadr. And after Iraqi Special Forces, aided by US air strikes, captured a strategic oil refinery in the town of Baiji in October, Shiite militias looted all of its salvageable equipment, according to a senior US military official and three Iraqi government officials.

Over the past year, US military officers have struggled to ensure that militias do not seize American weaponry delivered to the main Iraqi army supply depot in Taji and to a brigade in the Saqlawiya region. "We would transfer arms to units in those areas - and either because of corrupt commanders or outright robbery - they would end up in the hands of the militia groups," said one US officer. The officer noted, however, that controls have been tightened and the number of cases was small. "You can't eliminate it entirely. It's just not realistic."

'An Official Body'

Iraqi government and senior paramilitary leaders said the reports of poor training and Shiite militia dominance in the military are false. They said the militias follow the orders of the prime minister and his military commanders. Iraqi defense ministry spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Rasool called the militias "an official body connected with the office of the commander-in-chief of the armed forces." He said they take their orders only from government officials and "have a great role in supporting the army forces and the federal police."

Mohammed Bayati, a former human rights minister and senior Badr group leader, now commands forces in northern Salahuddin Province. He said the Shiite paramilitaries fall under the army, police and regular military chain-of-command. Bayati told Reuters that any reports of militias operating on their own were false. "Yesterday, I was in the Salahuddin Operations Command," he said. "All orders are coming from the police and army leadership." The Shiite militias "are supporting the army and police."

The spokesman for the government umbrella body that oversees the militias, Ahmed Al-Asadi, said the Shiite forces did not loot the Baiji refinery. "I deny totally such allegations," he said. Islamic State, he said, stole and destroyed equipment. The office of Prime Minister Abadi and the Iraqi Embassy in Washington didn't respond to requests for comment. —Reuters



FALLUJAH: Fighters take a selfie while firing artillery against Islamic State militants in this May 29, 2016 photo. —AP

The continued weakness of regular Iraqi army units and reliance on Shiite militias, current and former US military officials said, could impede Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi's broader effort to defeat Islamic State and win the long-term support of Iraqi Sunnis. The sectarian divide between the majority Shiite and minority Sunni communities threatens to split the country for good.

Critics agree that there have been some military successes, citing the continued victories of American-trained Iraqi Special Forces, who have been fighting Islamic State for two years. But the presence of 4,000 American troops

said Bednarek. "Our (officers) train who shows up, and the issue is we are not sure who is going to show up."

Two senior US military officers and Bednarek said that with few exceptions, the most effective and only truly non-sectarian Iraqi government fighting force is the Iraqi Special Forces, sometimes called the Counter-Terrorism Service. American officials expressed worry that the Special Forces units may burn out after nearly two years of continuous combat.

Militia Influence

Across Iraq, regular Iraqi army units

administrator for Shiite paramilitary forces. The US Treasury sanctioned him in 2009 for allegedly attacking US forces in Iraq. He was also convicted in absentia by Kuwaiti courts for the 1983 bombings of the US and French embassies in Kuwait. The Fifth Iraqi Army Division in eastern Diyala province is considered to be under the command of the Badr group, a powerful Shiite militia and political party with strong ties to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, according to four current and former US military officers.

In Baghdad, US military officers esti-



ISTANBUL: People shout slogans against Germany yesterday as they hold the Turkish national flag in front of the German consulate after the German parliament recognized as genocide the massacres of Armenians under the Ottoman Empire. —AFP

ERDOGAN: TURKEY WILL NEVER ACCEPT GENOCIDE 'BLACKMAIL'

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned yesterday Turkey would never accept charges the Ottoman Empire committed genocide against Armenians in World War I, saying the accusations were being used as "blackmail" against Ankara. In his most bitter reaction yet to the vote by the German parliament Thursday to recognise the killings from 1915 as genocide, Erdogan threatened to leave Europe "to its own worries" if such disputes were not resolved.

"The issue here is not the Armenians... The Armenian issue is used all over the world as a convenient blackmail against Turkey and has even started to be used as a stick," he said in a televised speech. "I am addressing the whole world. You may like it, you may not. Our attitude on the Armenian issue is clear from the beginning. We will never accept the accusations of genocide."

He said that during World War I, what remained of the Ottoman Empire was "under siege from all sides" and "of course a number of measures were taken to restore order in Anatolia". Referring to Germany's guilt over the Holocaust, Erdogan scoffed that it was the "last country" to make such accusations. He added Germany would also be better advised to re-examine the slaughter of indigenous Namibians under the German Empire over a century ago, which Berlin has yet to officially term a genocide.

'Leave to Your Worries'

The vote in the German parliament added yet another bone of contention to Turkey's troubled relationship with the European Union, which it has sought to join since 1987. "Either

we find solutions to our problems in a fair way. Or Turkey will stop being a barrier in front of the problems of Europe. We will leave you to your own worries," Erdogan added to cheers, without specifying further. The dispute sparked alarm over the potential damage to relations between Turkey and Germany at a sensitive time when the two sides are working together to implement a deal seeking to halt illegal migration to the EU.

The concerns have been amplified after the departure earlier this month of prime minister Ahmet Davutoglu, who was seen as more pro-EU than Erdogan, and his replacement by the president's close ally, Binali Yildirim. Erdogan warned the EU against "hypocrisy" and using "your propaganda machines, Armenians or terror groups." "Don't deliver blows below the belt in the media or the economy," he added.

'Look Me in the Face'

Armenians say some 1.5 million of their people were killed in a genocidal campaign by Ottoman forces - ordered by Minister of War Enver Pasha and other top officials - to wipe them from Anatolia. But Turkey insists similar numbers of Muslims and Armenians were killed during wartime conflict sparked when Armenians joined forces with invading Russian troops in the hope of carving out their own state. Erdogan said in comments published in Turkish newspapers earlier that he wondered how German officials could look Turkey's leaders in the face after the vote in the Bundestag, which prompted Ankara to withdraw its ambassador and warn of further consequences. —AP



CAIRO: Egyptian Journalists Syndicate president Yahya Kallash (center), secretary general Gamal Abd El-Rahim (second right) and freedoms committee chief Khaled El-Balshy (right) march and shout slogans after leaving the courthouse yesterday. —AFP

TRIAL OPENS OF EGYPTIAN JOURNALIST UNION LEADERS

CAIRO: The trial of three top members of Egypt's journalists' union accused of allegedly harboring two fugitive colleagues opened yesterday with one defendant calling it an attack on public freedoms. Egyptian Journalists Syndicate president Yahya Kallash, secretary general Gamal Abd el-Rahim and freedoms committee chief Khaled El-Balshy have been charged with aiding fugitives after two reporters sought by police staged a sit-in at the union's offices.

Their arrest following a May 1 police raid on the union building to detain two reporters from an opposition website accused of inciting demonstrations drew condemnation from rights groups. Yesterday's hearing lasted just a few minutes and the trial was adjourned to June 18 at the request of defense lawyers who asked for more time to review the case, an AFP reporter and one of the lawyers said. The three are currently free on bail. "This trial is a new attack against public freedoms," El-Balshy told AFP. "We should

not let this pass," he added. His lawyer Ahmed Abdelnaby said the defense team asked for an adjournment in order to review the prosecution file against their clients. "The accusations are not serious and there is no evidence" against them, Abdelnaby said. He said the trio risk a two-year jail sentence if convicted of harboring fugitives and on charges of "publishing false news". Around 50 supporters demonstrated outside the court brandishing pens and signs that read: "Journalism is not a crime," the AFP reporter said.

Earlier this week, the European Union said the indictment of the journalists' syndicate members was "a worrying development". "It reflects broader limitations on freedom of expression and press freedom in Egypt," an EU spokesperson said in a statement. Rights activists accuse President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi of running an ultra-authoritarian regime that has violently suppressed all opposition since toppling Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013. —AFP

W SAHARA INDEPENDENCE LEADER ABDELAZIZ BURIED

BIR-LAHLLOU, Western Sahara: Mohamed Abdelaziz, leader of the Western Sahara independence movement Polisario Front who died of lung cancer this week, was buried on Saturday in the disputed territory. The 68-year-

old Abdelaziz, who died on Tuesday, spent more than 40 years fighting for independence for the territory, and was buried in part of the Western Sahara not controlled by Morocco. A detachment of Polisario fighters presented

arms to their former leader whose coffin was draped with the flag of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, which the movement proclaimed in 1976.

Abdelaziz had been secretary general of the group for most of its decades-long struggle to win independence for the former Spanish colony, but succumbed to a "long illness" on Tuesday. On Friday, his body was displayed in a camp for Sahrawi refugees in Tindouf, 1,800 km southwest of the Algerian capital Algiers, to allow delegations and dignitaries to pay homage.

Algeria is the Polisario Front's main backer, and Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal was among those who paid tribute to Abdelaziz in Tindouf. Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika decreed eight days of mourning after the independence leader's death. Abdelaziz had led the Polisario since 1976, three years after the group was founded to struggle for independence for the territory, which Morocco annexed in 1975.

Local Sahrawi people are campaigning for the right to self-determination, but Morocco considers the territory to be part of the kingdom and insists its sovereignty cannot be challenged. Abdelaziz's successor will be selected at an extraordinary conference within 40 days. The president of the Sahrawi National Council, Khatri Addouh, will lead the group in the interim, according to Polisario sources. —AFP



BIR LAHLLOU: Mourners and members of the Sahrawi People's Liberation Army pray next to the coffin of Polisario Front's secretary general Mohamed Abdelaziz during his funeral yesterday in the disputed territory of Western Sahara. —AFP



REDDING, California: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally at the Redding Municipal Airport on Friday. —AP

TRUMP CAMPAIGNS IN CALIF, SLAMS PROTESTERS AS 'THUGS'

REDDING, California: Presumptive Republican US presidential nominee Donald Trump on Friday denounced protesters in California as "thugs" a day after another demonstration outside one of his political rallies turned violent ahead of the state's presidential primary. Demonstrators traded blows on Thursday evening in the street outside the San Jose Convention Center, videos posted to Twitter and online by media showed. Hundreds of protesters waved Mexican flags, chanted anti-Trump slogans and burned Trump hats and at least one US flag.

Speaking before a packed crowd in the northern California city of Redding on Friday, Trump described the previous night's rally as "a love fest inside. No problems whatsoever." But then his supporters "walked out and they got accosted by a bunch of thugs," he said. The protesters, many angry over Trump's rhetoric against illegal immigration, have gathered at Trump rallies for months. Trump, now the Republican Party's likely presidential nominee

for the Nov. 8 election, canceled a rally in Chicago in March after clashes broke out between his supporters and protesters.

The San Jose Police Department reported 300 to 400 protesters had gathered outside the Trump rally on Thursday, where police formed lines to protect attendees exiting the convention center. A number of the skirmishes occurred beyond police lines on nearby streets and at a parking garage, a Reuters photographer said. One sergeant suffered minor injuries after a protester struck him with a metal object. Police reported four arrests.

Over 250 officers staffed the "all-hands on deck event," said San Jose Police Chief Eddie Garcia. "In hindsight, we'd say that wasn't enough," said Garcia. For future events of that scope, "we would need more officers with an absolute, number one goal of keeping both parties separate as much as we can." San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, a Democrat, told the Associated Press that Trump needs to take responsibility for his supporters' conduct at the rallies. —Reuters

CLINTON GOES NUCLEAR IN BID TO UNPICK 'TEFLON DONALD'

WASHINGTON: Hillary Clinton last week revealed a formula she hopes will help beat presidential rival Donald Trump in November: A not-so-subtle suggestion he is unhinged. A string of 2016 presidential hopefuls have tried to land a punch on "The Donald" with little effect. Trump has brushed off earnest-sounding accusations that he is not presidential, largely because many Americans seem to be clamoring for an unconventional leader. Democratic strategists privately admit that casting Trump as a "loose cannon" similarly misfired - that tack, they say, only played to the Republican's tough man brand.

So in San Diego on Thursday Clinton tried a new formula. Trump, she argued, is not just unpredictable and unpredictable, he's too unhinged to be in power, or as she put it - "temperamentally unfit" to be commander-in-chief. "This is not someone who should ever have the nuclear codes - because it's not hard to imagine Donald Trump leading us into a war just because somebody got under his very thin skin." She even suggested psychiatrists explain his "affection for tyrants." You could call this Clinton's "Daisy strategy".

Echoes of '64

In 1964, incumbent president Lyndon B Johnson faced a challenge from a tough-talking Republican nominee. Barry Goldwater was a US Senator and friend to Democrat John F Kennedy, but he was also from the right fringe of the political mainstream. Goldwater was endorsed by the white supremacist Ku Klux Klan, campaigned on a platform of withdrawing from the United Nations, and advocated the use of tactical nuclear weapons against north Vietnam. His nuclear position prompted Johnson's campaign to build and unleash "Daisy".

A minute long, and only broadcast by Johnson's campaign once, the attack ad would become one of the most famous in US political lore. It starts with an angelic young girl counting as she picks petals of a flower. Then, suddenly, an ominous sounding voice from mission control begins a countdown to zero - which brings a boom, blinding light and a mush-

room cloud that would be unmistakable to voters so soon after the Cuban missile crisis.

"These are the stakes" says Johnson, playing narrator. "To make a world in which all of God's children can live, or to go into the dark. We must either love each other. Or we must die." A caption fills the screen:

Trump's response so far has been to suggest Clinton should go to jail over an email scandal and asserting he has a "good temperament." "I don't have thin skin," Trump told CNN. "I have very strong and thick skin."

Some believe that won't wash. "He has obviously shown himself to be a non-traditional candidate, but



CULVER CITY, California: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton attends a Women for Hillary organizing event on Friday at West Los Angeles College. —AFP

"Vote for President Johnson on Nov 3. The stakes are too high for you to stay home." The message was unmistakable: Vote for crazy Barry Goldwater and the little girl gets it. Johnson was criticized for the ad, but he nevertheless won by a landslide.

This line of attack, particularly when linked to security, is one that Trump may find difficult to parry.

this is an area where ad hominem attacks aren't going to work," said Geoffrey Skelley of the University of Virginia Center for Politics. Trump's personal attacks on Clinton "may work with his base, but they will hurt him in the long run," Skelley said. "He can't just resort to that. You need to put on a real presidential posture." —AFP



LOS ANGELES: A Los Angeles police bomb squad member investigates a car matching the license plate of UCLA gunman Mainak Sarkar's car on Friday. —AP

INVESTIGATORS FIND UCLA GUNMAN'S CAR

LOS ANGELES: A car found near Los Angeles on Friday belonged to a former graduate student who shot dead his estranged wife at her Minnesota home before driving halfway across the country and killing a professor and himself at the University of California, Los Angeles, a police spokeswoman said. Mainak Sarkar's 2003 gray Nissan Sentra was found in Culver City, a suburb just outside Los Angeles, and a bomb squad has been sent to examine the vehicle, said Los Angeles police spokeswoman Liliana Preciado. The car was found blocks from an apartment where Sarkar once lived.

Police do not know yet how Sarkar traveled to UCLA after he left his car in Culver City, about 10 km away from UCLA, said Los Angeles police spokesman Drake Madison. Investigators have been looking for the car since Wednesday, when Sarkar shot to death 39-year-old engineering professor William Klug at UCLA. The shooting drew a massive response of heavily armed police and sparked a two-hour lockdown of UCLA's sprawling urban campus. Students said they hid in classrooms behind doors, some of which did not lock.

Sarkar had intended to also kill a second professor at UCLA, police said. The native of India was convinced that Klug had stolen software he had developed, according to police, who called Sarkar's claim unfounded. Earlier, Sarkar had killed his estranged wife Ashley Hasti, at her home in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, police said. Hasti's sister, Alex Hasti, described her in a statement on Facebook as a 31-year-old medical school student with a love of acting and stand-up comedy.

So far no motive has emerged to explain why he killed Hasti in the home they had shared in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, some 3,200 km from Los Angeles. Hasti was found dead early on Thursday morning of multiple gunshot wounds, the Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office said in a statement on Friday. "Because this was an unwitnessed death, a more accurate date and time of death cannot be determined," the statement said.

Sarkar is believed to have forced his way into Hasti's home through a window, which was found broken, Brooklyn Park police said in a statement. Police only decided to check on Hasti after finding a note at the Los Angeles crime scene written by Sarkar, 38, asking authorities to check on his cat at his home in St Paul. The bizarre hint led to the discovery of a "kill list" that included Klug, Hasti and the second professor, Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck told reporters on Thursday.

Alex Hasti on her Facebook post offered no indication of what might have provoked Sarkar. "My sister, Ashley Hasti, was the smartest, coolest, and funniest person I knew. She could do anything she dreamed of," the sister said. "Unfortunately, she won't get to see that last dream come true as her life was cut short much too soon by her estranged husband ... I'm still in a state of shock right now."

Sarkar was armed with twin 9mm semiautomatic handguns and multiple extra clips of ammunition, authorities said. The two guns were legally bought in Minnesota, according to Meredith Davis, a spokeswoman for the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. She declined to say who bought the weapons. Wednesday's attack was the latest in a long string of deadly shootings at US schools, including an October attack at an Oregon community college that killed nine and a 2007 massacre at Virginia Tech, in which a gunman killed 32 people, was the deadliest mass shooting in US history. —Reuters

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CRUCIAL TEST FOR ITALY'S RENZI IN LOCAL VOTE

ROME: Italians go to the polls today for municipal elections that represent tests for both Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and the country's divided right, with both fearing a chastening defeat in Rome. More than 1,300 municipal councils will be elected in a two-round ballot to be completed on June 19, with the primary focus on the major cities of Bologna, Milan, Naples, Turin, and especially the capital, where the populist, anti-establishment Five Star is heading the race for the mayor's seat.

Rome has been without an elected leader since last October, when Ignazio Marino, a member of Renzi's centre-left Democratic Party, was forced to quit over an expenses scandal. That episode and a much bigger, unrelated scandal over organized crime's infiltration of City Hall have bolstered Five Star's Virginia Raggi.

She goes into Sunday's vote with polls indicating she could secure around 30 percent of first round votes. The PD's Roberto Giachetti was trailing on around 24 percent. Losing Rome would not augur well for Renzi

four months before he puts his position on the line in a referendum on constitutional reforms designed to end decades of gridlock in parliament. And the setback would be even greater if, as looks possible, the PD candidate in Milan is also defeated. Five Star meanwhile are hoping that success in Rome will give them the platform they need to transform themselves into Italy's principal opposition in the run-up to national elections due by June 2018 at the latest.

'Glorious defeat'

"I think for Five Star the best outcome in Rome would be to lose narrowly in the runoff, they could talk that up as a glorious defeat and continue to be in opposition," said Piergiorgio Corbetta, an academic specialist on the movement. "If they win they have to make the move from being a protest party to proposing things and it will only take six months for them to show they are genetically no different from the other parties they accuse of corruption and dishonesty," he said. With former premier Silvio

Berlusconi now a fading figure on the national stage, Italy's right is being reshaped and the battle for leadership is being played out in Rome.

Giorgia Meloni, a candidate put up by one of several grouplets that emerged from Italy's neo-fascist movement, is being backed by the anti-immigrant Northern League, whose leader Matteo Salvini wants to united all the right behind himself. But Berlusconi has backed another candidate, Alfio Marchini, having told the pregnant Meloni that the role of mayor was not compatible with motherhood. PD candidates are comfortably ahead in the polls in Turin and leftist bastion Bologna while the outgoing mayor of Naples, an independent who has been a vocal critic of the government, is also expected to be returned to power.

Perhaps concerned about the impact of losing both Rome and Milan for the momentum of his reform program, Renzi has played down the significance of the local elections. "The municipals are about mayors, the people whose job it is to repair



ROME: Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi (right) attends a campaign meeting of Roberto Giachetti, Democratic Party (PD) candidate for the mayoral election in Rome upon the first round of the election that will be held today. — AFP

the streets, not the government of the country," he said recently. Some 16,000 polling stations open at 7.00 am (0500 GMT) and close at 11.00 pm. There are con-

cerns the turnout could be low with millions of Italians enjoying a long holiday weekend as a result of Republic Day falling on Thursday. — AFP

32 SOLDIERS DIE AS BOKO HARAM ATTACK IN SOUTHEASTERN NIGER

NIGERIA RECOVERS \$9.1 BILLION IN STOLEN MONEY, ASSETS

NIAMEY: Thirty two Nigerian soldiers were killed in a Boko Haram attack on Friday night against the southeastern town of Bosso, close to the border with Nigeria, Niger's defense ministry said yesterday. "On Friday, hundreds of assailants of Boko Haram attacked" the position of the army of Bosso, the ministry said in a statement. "The counter-offensive conducted early this morning helped to retake control of all the positions in the city of Bosso. The situation is under control," it added.

19 militants killed

Meanwhile, Nigerian troops killed 19 Boko Haram militants during clashes in northeast Borno state, while two soldiers suffered gunshot wounds, the army said yesterday. Acting upon an intelligence report on the presence of Boko Haram fighters in the militants' Chukungudu camp, troops and civilian JTF (joint task force) members, launched the attack on Friday.

"During the encounter at the camp, the troops killed 19 Boko Haram terrorists including their notorious leader in the area, called Ameer Abubakar Gana," the statement said. There was no independent confirmation of the army statement. The two soldiers who suffered gunshot wounds were said to be responding to treatment. The troops destroyed an improvised explosive devices (IED) making factory, detonated four primed IEDs, recovered two anti-air-



OGONI, Nigeria: A soldier helps a fellow soldier adjust his ammunition belt during the launching of a cleanup operation of Ogoniland in the Niger Delta region. Nigeria's vice-president Yemi Osinbajo launched a \$1 billion oil pollution cleanup program in the Niger delta, after President Muhammadu Buhari pulled out of visiting the restive region. Yemi Osinbajo stood in for Buhari, who had been due to attend the ceremony in the Ogoniland area of Rivers state in what would have been his first visit to the delta as president. — AFP

craft guns and other weapons and vehicles. Boko Haram's seven-year insurgency has devastated infrastructure in the impoverished northeast region and forced some 2.1 million people in Nigeria to flee their homes, according to the UN's refugee agency.

Stolen money, assets

In another development, Nigeria's government has recovered \$9.1 billion in stolen money and assets, its information and culture minister said yesterday, as its corruption crackdown continues against the backdrop of the country's worst economic crisis in years. President Muhammadu Buhari, elected last year largely on his vow to fight corruption, has vowed to recover "mind-boggling" sums of money stolen from the oil sector and said public coffers were "virtually empty" when he took office last May.

Since then the country has endured an economic crisis caused by the sharp fall in global oil prices, making the need to recoup lost money more acute. Crude sales account for around 70 percent of national income. In a statement, Information Minister Lai Mohammed said cash and assets recovered between May 29 last year, when Buhari took office, and May 25 this year totaled \$9.1 billion. The government has said it plans to generate 3.38 trillion naira (\$17 billion) this year from non-oil sources to help fund the \$30.6 billion budget signed into law by Buhari last month. It was not immediately clear how

much outstanding money in total is still being sought by the government. "All these are monies recovered from individuals and entities who had either hidden, stolen, diverted or were in possession of monies belonging to the nation," the minister's special adviser, Segun Adeyemi said. "These recovered funds include monies withheld by past government officials, monies kept in private accounts, monies diverted to private pockets and monies in possession of government officials not disclosed after leaving government."

The information minister said he could not name any individuals from whom money had been recovered for legal reasons. He said some of the money came after companies that had failed to pay taxes were forced to do so retrospectively. The ministry also said a total of \$321 million was yet to be recovered from Nigerians in Switzerland, the Britain, the United States and the United Arab Emirates or their assets held in those countries. Last month Buhari urged other countries and the United Nations to speed up the process of repatriating stolen money held abroad, which he said was becoming "tedious". — Agencies

BISHOPS COULD BE FIRED OVER 'NEGLIGENCE' ON CHILD ABUSE

VATICAN CITY: Catholic bishops guilty of negligence in respect to child abuse cases can now be dismissed from office, Pope Francis said yesterday in a move hiking pressure on the Church's hierarchy. The move was announced just two weeks after the pope came under fire for meeting a top French cardinal accused of covering up for a pedophile priest in a scandal that has shaken France's Catholic Church.

The decision, which will also apply to other senior Church officials, was unveiled in a papal decree which said such cases would now fall under existing canon law allowing for prelates to be sacked for "serious reasons". "The Church, like a loving mother, loves all her children, but treats and protects with special affection the smallest and most helpless," the papal decree said. Pope Francis came to power promising a crackdown on cover-ups and a zero tolerance approach to abuse itself, but victims' groups have expressed discontent with his record on ridding the Church of the taint of pedophilia.

Known as an Apostolic letter, the text stresses the need for "special diligence" in caring for minors and vulnerable adults, with those who demonstrate negligence in tackling cases of abuse facing the threat of dismissal. That diligence is required even "without grave moral culpability" on the part of the bishop involved, Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi said in an

explanatory statement. "For removal from office, in the case of abuse of minors, it is 'sufficient for the lack of diligence to be grave' while in other cases a 'very grave' lack of diligence must be demonstrated," he added. A "college of legal experts"—cardinals and bishops—has been set up to assist the pope reach a decision arriving at a definitive decision in a particular case.

The Barbarin case

A string of historic pedophilia cases in North America and Europe has unleashed widespread criticism of the Catholic hierarchy, including allegations that in some cases bishops were aware of sexual predators among the priesthood but failed to curb them. Last month, Francis held a surprise meeting with French Cardinal Philippe Barbarin, the under-fire Archbishop of Lyon who is suspected of covering up for a pedophile priest. The meeting came just days after the pope was quoted as saying it would be "nonsensical and imprudent" to seek Barbarin's resignation at this stage. It was not immediately clear whether the papal decree would impact on the Barbarin case. French examining magistrates are currently carrying out two preliminary investigations to decide whether to pursue charges against the archbishop for his handling of the allegations against Bernard Preynat, a priest in his diocese who has been charged with sex abuse. — AFP

BRITON JAILED 15 YEARS IN US OVER N KOREA DRUGS

NEW YORK: A British man was sentenced to 15 years in a US prison on Friday for conspiring to import 100 kilos (220 pounds) of North Korean methamphetamine into the United States. Scott Stammers, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy in August 2015, will be deported after serving his 181-month sentence. Dressed in khaki pants and an olive top, Stammers declined an opportunity to address the New York court. "No, I'm fine, thank you very much sir," he told US Federal Judge Andrew Carter. Stammers had faced a sentence of up to 30 years, but the judge cited mitigating factors that included the fact that he has two children and was held in harsh conditions in Thailand before being extradited.

He said the defendant's "somewhat difficult upbringing" was another reason, as was his past use of alcohol, cocaine and methamphetamine, which "may have contributed to his involvement in this offense." "Mr Stammers I wish you the best of luck. I hope you can get your life back on track," said

Carter, expressing hope that the defendant can be the father that "your children need you to be." He was one of five defendants arrested in Thailand in September 2013 on suspicion of preparing to ship the drugs by boat.

Two of his co-defendants belonged to a criminal gang, which claimed to have stockpiled a ton of North Korean methamphetamines in the Philippines for storage, according to US court documents. Stammers lived in the Philippines prior to his arrest and was involved in operational details of criminal activity in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas, US prosecutors said. Court documents described him as a poor student and said he got first job in private security at 18. Within a year he was stabbed on the job, but went onto make "a good living" handling security matters across Southeast Asia, according to court filings. Despite difficulties at school, he developed a working knowledge of Tagalog, spoken in the Philippines, Thai and Cantonese, they added. — AFP



ABUJA: Nigeria's former national security adviser Sambo Dasuki attends a hearing to face charges of possessing weapons illegally, at the Federal High Court in Abuja, Nigeria. Dasuki is accused of diverting \$2.1 billion meant to fight the Boko Haram Islamic insurgency. — AP

FRANCE FLOODS EASE AS SWOLLEN SEINE RECEDE

PARIS: The rain-swollen River Seine in Paris began receding yesterday after reaching its highest level in three decades, easing fears after devastating floods sent the Louvre and other riverside museums scrambling to protect their treasures. From a peak of 6.10 meters in the early hours of yesterday, the river began to subside, falling to 6.04 meters at 10:00 am, the environment ministry's Vigicrues flood watch website said.

The record for the Seine is 8.62 meters, reached in 1910. "We're now in the stabilization phase, even if we could still get one or two centimeters more," said Bruno Janet, head of modeling at Vigicrues. The city remained on orange flood alert but the threat appeared to have shifted to northeastern France, where threatened storms could cause other rivers to burst their banks, as well as around the northern port of Le Havre where the Seine flows into the sea. The Louvre and Orsay museums, which sit on opposite banks of the Seine, remained closed Saturday, a day after shutting their doors in a race to move art treasures from their basements to higher ground.

Yesterday, pieces of driftwood, plastic bags and other detritus swept past in the muddy waters which engulfed the city's famous riverside walkways, a popular haunt of strolling couples. Two metro stations remained closed and services on a train line that hugs the Seine was

still suspended in places. Boat traffic was also suspended. The City of Paris said it had opened two gyms to shelter the homeless. Across Europe, at least 17 people have been killed in floods caused by pounding rains that have trapped people in their homes and forced rescuers to navigate swamped streets in lifeboats.

Four of them have died in France, Prime Minister Manuel Valls said Saturday. More than 20,000 people have been evacuated over the past week from the Loire Valley and the greater Paris area. Over 17,110 homes remained without power Saturday, electricity supplier Enedis said. Paris firefighters warned people to keep away from dangerous parts of the river, but crowds gathered undeterred on bridges to snap pictures of the fast-flowing waters. "It is a reminder that nature is more powerful than man and we cannot do anything, only wait," said Gabriel Riboulet, a 26-year-old entrepreneur, as he took in the scene.

'Catastrophic' damage

French President Francois Hollande said a state of "natural catastrophe" would be declared when the cabinet meets on Wednesday, a necessary step to trigger compensation payments. Nationwide losses could reach more than 600 million euros (\$680 million), said Bernard Spitz of France's association of insurers. The head of national railways opera-

tor SNCF, Guillaume Pepy, said the rail network had suffered "catastrophic" damage which would run to tens of millions of euros.

Persistently heavy rainfall across western and central Europe has claimed victims from at least four countries. Eleven people have been killed in the German states of Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg, and two in Romania, while a beekeeper died in Belgium while trying to save his hives. In France, the victims included a man on horseback who drowned after being swept away by a swollen river in Evry-Gregy-sur-Yerres, southeast of Paris. Environment Minister Segolene Royal said she feared more bodies would be found as waters receded in villages in the centre of the country, some of which have suffered their worst floods in a century.

Seine star power

The closure of the Louvre and Orsay museums, which receive a combined total of 12.5 million visitors a year, highlighted the flood threat to key cultural sites. Eva Palomares, a holidaymaker from the Italian city of Milan, said she was disappointed to be unable to visit the Louvre but added: "The star today is the Seine. You have to feel its angry rumble." On Friday evening, Hollande visited the museum, where dozens of volunteers toiled through the night to bring some of the 38,000 artworks

thought to be at risk to safety. The Louvre will remain closed until Wednesday while the Orsay said it would reopen Tuesday. The Grand Palais exhibition centre was also shut, as were two of the National Library's sites. The down-

pours have added to the gloom caused by months of protests and strikes over a labor reform bill that has continued in the run-up to the June 10 kick-off of the Euro 2016 football championships. — AFP



Picture shows a flooded bank of the Seine River. — AFP

MYSTERY INDIAN CULT 'HAD OWN GOVERNMENT, ARMY'

NEW DELHI: A mysterious cult at the centre of deadly clashes in India was running its own pseudo-government, army, court and a prison where torture was the norm, a senior police officer told yesterday. Some 3,000 followers of the sect clashed with police in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh during an eviction operation, leaving 24 people dead, including two senior officers. The secretive sect had occupied a 270-acre stretch of parkland since late 2014, with the site almost entirely closed off to the outside world, the top police inspector general of the region said. "They set up a township of sorts with

all kinds of people. Gradually, they started running a self-government," DC Mishra said, after officers seized documents and other evidence from the camp. "They set up a court which pronounced punishments and jail barracks where inmates were tortured." Children as young as eight years old were being given training in arms.

Police in the city of Mathura came under fire overnight Thursday from members of the sect, who were armed with automatic weapons and hurled crude explosive devices during the violence. Mishra said the cult was being run by self-

styled Hindu godmen whose aim was to drive followers towards a kind of "religious terrorism". "They were also planning to come out with their own currency soon and they did not believe in the Indian constitution," he said. The Swadhin Bharat Vidhik Satyagrah sect is led by a man called Ram Vraksha Yadav, whom police say was at the park when the violence broke out but has so far eluded arrest.

In postings on social media, the sect's followers describe themselves as political and social revolutionaries. Their demands include the abolition of elections and cheaper fuel for everyone. In several

videos posted on YouTube, Yadav can be seen pledging allegiance to Indian independence hero Subhash Chandra Bose and the Azad Hind Foj (Indian National Army), a rebel movement founded by Bose to combat British colonial rule. "The leaders duped their followers into believing that they will attain nirvana and get to meet an incarnation of Bose," Mishra said. Bose disappeared in mysterious circumstances in 1945.

Police have arrested more than 300 people following the bloody raid, although the sect's four main leaders are still believed to be on the run. The state's

Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav announced compensation of two million rupees (\$30,000) each for the families of the slain policemen. The government will ensure speedy prosecution of all those accused in the violence, his office posted on Twitter. India is home to hundreds of semi-religious sects which are often led by charismatic self-styled "godmen". In 2014, hundreds of armed supporters from another sect clashed with police in the northern state of Haryana during a raid to arrest their leader who faced murder allegations. At least six people died in the violence. —AFP



HERAT: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (left) and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani attend the inauguration of a new dam backed by Indian investment in Herat. —AFP

INDIAN PM INAUGURATES \$290 MILLION DAM IN AFGHANISTAN

HERAT: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Afghanistan yesterday to inaugurate a \$290 million hydroelectric dam with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, the latest Indian investment which highlights strengthening ties between the two countries. The 42 megawatt Salma dam in western Herat province, bordering Iran, is the second major Indian project after a new parliament complex built under New Delhi's robust development partnership with Afghanistan.

Modi and Ghani jointly pressed the button on a remote-controlled console, sending torrents of water gushing down the dam as celebrations erupted with balloons released in the colors of the Indian flag. "I want to give the good news to my people that 'Afghanistan-India Friendship Dam' is the prologue to construction of a series of dams that we have undertaken so that our provinces have access to electricity, water, food and work," Ghani said at the ceremony.

Construction on Salma dam, which will boost Afghanistan's power capacity and help irrigate thousands of hectares of farmland in a parched landscape, had been stalled by decades of conflict. "Afghans and Indians dreamt of this project in the 1970s," Modi said. "Today the brave Afghan people are sending a message that the forces of destruction, death, denial and domination shall not prevail. It is a historic moment of emotion and pride in the relations between Afghanistan and India." India, the fifth largest bilateral donor in Afghanistan, has been a key supporter of Kabul's government and has poured more than \$2 billion into the country since the Taliban was toppled from power in 2001.

'Building prosperity'

New Delhi's active engagement has led analysts to point to the threat of a "proxy war" in Afghanistan between India and its nuclear-armed arch-rival Pakistan. Pakistan's historic backer of the Taliban has long been accused of supporting the insurgents in Afghanistan, especially with attacks on Indian targets in the country. In December, Modi inaugurated Afghanistan's new parliament complex in Kabul, built by India at an estimated cost of \$90 million.

A few days after his visit militants launched a 25-hour gun and bomb siege near the Indian consulate in Afghanistan's Mazar-i-Sharif city. And in March, Taliban militants fired a barrage of rockets at the parliament complex. "Destroying is easy and building is difficult. Contrary to those whose main art is destroying and sending messages of destruction, we have taken the difficult responsibility of building prosperity," Ghani said in a veiled reference to the Taliban.

"We resolutely believe that... prosperity triumphs over destruction. Hope is right and hopelessness is wrong; seeking peace is right and seeking war is wrong." Diplomatic relations between New Delhi and Kabul have grown despite a series of attacks on Indian installations in Afghanistan. The two countries recently signed a three-way transit agreement with Iran to develop its southern port of Chabahar, as Modi visited Tehran last month. The deal, bypassing Pakistan to connect Iran, India, and Afghanistan to central Asia, would boost economic growth in the region, Modi said at the time. —AFP

INDIAN PM, ONCE A PARIIAH TO US, SET TO ADDRESS CONGRESS

MODI FORGING A SURPRISING BOND WITH OBAMA

WASHINGTON: After years of being denied entry to the US, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become a welcome guest in Washington, forging a surprising bond with President Barack Obama and deepening ties with America. A new defense agreement and a possible announcement on US investment in nuclear power in India could be in the cards on his latest visit. He will meet with Obama on Tuesday and have the honor of addressing a joint meeting of Congress on Wednesday.

Modi has shaken off allegations that he was complicit in anti-Muslim violence when he served as a top state official before becoming prime minister two years ago, but he could face pointed questions from lawmakers about India's human rights record. It will be his fourth visit to the US since his Hindu nationalist party swept elections in May 2014. Between 2005 and late 2013, during his tenure as chief minister of Gujarat, the US government avoided official contact with Modi over suspicions about his possible role in communal rioting that killed hundreds.

"He's gone from someone who was basically a pariah to someone who is going to be celebrated by official Washington," said Milan Vaishnav, an expert on South Asia at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Modi will become the fifth Indian prime minister to address both houses of Congress. He'll also have lunch with congressional leaders and attend a reception hosted by the House and Senate foreign relations committees, where there's strong support for closer ties, but also some disappointment over what's been achieved on Modi's watch.

On the plus side of the ledger, defense ties have gotten closer. The US and India share concern about the rise of China, and while New Delhi steers clear of a formal alliance with Washington - in fact, with any country - the two militaries conduct more drills together than with any other nation. The US has become a key supplier of defense equipment to India - with about \$14 billion in sales con-

tracted in the past five years - and the two nations are looking at joint development of technologies for jet engines and aircraft carriers. A defense logistics agreement is likely to be finalized when Modi visits.

Progress has been more elusive on opening the way for the US nuclear industry to invest in India, eight years after the George W. Bush administration reached a landmark civil nuclear agreement with India, rolling back export

restrictions that negotiations between Westinghouse and the Indian nuclear operator were at a "very detailed and advanced" stage. He said the main issues to be resolved concern cost and financing, not insurance. He did not say if a contract announcement was imminent. Westinghouse declined to comment Friday. Another US player, GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy, said it is still concerned about the Indian law, which could make nuclear

Corker, chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told a hearing last month. Lawmakers of both parties also criticized India's failure to curb growing religious intolerance and human trafficking, and are likely to raise those issues with Modi. An Australia-based activist group estimates that India has around 18 million modern slaves, or 40 percent of the global total.

The world's two largest democracies have a surprisingly acrimo-



WASHINGTON: In this file photo, President Barack Obama talks with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a working dinner with heads of delegations of the Nuclear Security Summit in the East Room of the White House, in Washington. —AP

restrictions in place since India's first nuclear test explosion in 1974. The prime obstacle has been a 2010 Indian law on liability in case of accidents at nuclear power plants, but a workaround solution involving an Indian-supported insurance scheme means Westinghouse Electric Co. is closing in on a contract to build reactors in Andhra Pradesh state - a deal potentially worth tens of billions of dollars.

Arun Singh, India's ambassador in Washington, told reporters

suppliers, not just operators of nuclear plants, liable for accidents. While US lawmakers praise the progress in defense ties, they grumble about continuing restrictions on American investment in India, notwithstanding some liberalization on Modi's watch.

Bilateral trade in goods and services has expanded from \$60 billion in 2009 to \$107 billion in 2015. "In the case of US-India relations, the hopeful rhetoric has far exceeded actual tangible achievements," Republican Sen Bob

nious relationship when it comes to human rights, and what India views as overbearing US scrutiny. India has refused visits by a US commission on religious freedom and by an envoy on LGBT rights. It also objects to a House commission holding a hearing on human rights in India on the same day Modi meets Obama. "Normally in India we would not want to embarrass somebody when they are our guest. But I guess each society is different," Singh, the ambassador, said. —AP

INDIA HOSPITAL DUPED IN KIDNEY SALE RACKET

NEW DELHI: One of India's top hospitals unwittingly removed the kidneys of organ-trafficking victims believing they were donating them to relatives, a hospital spokesman said yesterday, after police arrested five over the racket. A criminal gang including two workers at the upscale Apollo Hospital in New Delhi allegedly lured poor people to sell their kidneys for 300,000 rupees (\$4,500) before selling the organs on for huge profits, police said.

The gang used forged documents to pretend the victims were relatives of needy transplant recipients, fooling staff at the hospital, where two of the suspects worked as assistants to a senior nephrologist. "The hospital has been a victim of a well-orchestrated operation to cheat patients and the hospital," an Apollo spokesman said in a statement, adding that the assistants were not on the employee payroll. "We urge the police to take the strictest of

action against all those involved." Commercial trade in organs is illegal in India and transplant donations to non-relatives must be approved by a special committee.

The victims came from across India, including Tamil Nadu state in the south and West Bengal in the east, to have their kidneys removed. "We detected five cases of organ sale (by this criminal ring) this year. We have arrested five men and seized fake ID proofs, CDs, files and documents," a Delhi police officer said on condition of anonymity. Police initially raided the hospital on Thursday, making three arrests, he said. A chronic shortage of organs available for transplant fuels a booming black market trade in the body parts in India. Millions of Indians suffer from kidney disease, mostly because of high rates of diabetes, hiking demand for transplants annually. —AFP



KASHMIR: Kashmir protesters clash with Indian police during a protest against plans to establish separate colonies for displaced Kashmiri Hindu Pandits and Sainik neighborhoods for retired soldiers of the state, in Srinagar. Kashmiri separatists have opposed the establishment of separate townships for the rehabilitation of the Hindu pandits, and allege the efforts are an attempt to alter the demographics of Indian Kashmir. —AFP

SRINAGAR: Five Indian security personnel have been shot dead by suspected rebels in rebel Indian-administered Kashmir in the past two days, police said yesterday. Two police officers were on a routine patrol Saturday when rebels fired automatic weapons from a moving vehicle in southern Anantnag town, killing them on the spot. "The attackers fled the area after the firing," Javid Gillani, inspector general of police said. On Friday, three paramilitary soldiers from India's Border Security Force were killed when militants fired bullets from automatic assault rifles at their moving convoy.

Friday's attack was claimed by Hizbul Mujahideen, one of the region's several rebel groups who have been fighting Indian forces for decades, seeking independence or a merger with Pakistan. Kashmir has been divided between rivals India and Pakistan since 1947. Both claim the disputed territory in its entirety. Overall violence in the region has declined during the last decade, but armed encounters between rebels and government forces occur regularly. In recent months the region has witnessed an uptick in rebel attacks on security forces with many dying on both sides. Tens of thousands, mostly civilians, have died in the conflict so far. —AFP



HONG KONG: Albert Ho (centre right) and other lawmakers and activists bow in silence at a vigil in Hong Kong yesterday, during the commemoration of the bloody Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989. —AFP

CHINA POLICE DETAIN ACTIVISTS ON TIANANMEN ANNIVERSARY

YOUNG HONGKONGERS BOYCOTT TIANANMEN VIGIL

BEIJING: Chinese police have detained several activists while others were placed under surveillance for the anniversary of the bloody 1989 crackdown in Tiananmen Square, which was heavily policed yesterday. On June 4 1989 military tanks rolled into the square in the centre of Beijing to crush pro-democracy protests, killing hundreds of unarmed civilians by some estimates thousands.

Nearly three decades after the crackdown, the communist regime continues to forbid any debate on the subject, mention of which is banned from textbooks and the media, and censored on the Internet. Six human rights activists, including the poet Liang Taiping, have been held by Beijing police since Thursday after holding a private ceremony commemorating June 4, the Chinese NGO Weiquanwang said.

The detained activists were suspected of "provoking quarrels and fomenting unrest", the group said, adding another activist had "disappeared" in recent days in the capital. As in previous years, the "Tiananmen Mothers", an association of parents who lost children during the violence, were placed under heavy surveillance in the lead up to the anniversary. Tiananmen square in the centre of Beijing was also under tight security yesterday, with guards at the entry points into the iconic tourist spot checking the IDs and passports of visitors more closely than usual, an AFP photographer at the scene said.

Around a dozen parents from the Tiananmen Mothers visited a Beijing cemetery yesterday where many of those killed in the

crackdown are buried. They said they were outnumbered by security forces as they paid their respects at the graves of their children. "We have been under surveillance since last week... 30 (plainclothes policemen) were at the cemetery," said Zhang Xianling, whose 19-year-old son was killed in 1989. A resident of Sichuan was also arrested this week for selling alcohol with labels that read "89-4 June" and images of tanks, according to Hong Kong-based media.

'27 years of white terror'

The Tiananmen Mothers penned an open letter slamming the "27 years of white terror and suffocation" they have been subjected to by the authorities. "We the victims' families are eavesdropped upon and surveilled by the police; we are followed or even detained, and our computers searched and confiscated," read the letter signed by the group's members and released the NGO Human Rights in China. The letter also said they had been warned that all visits to the home of the group's founder Ding Zilin, who is now 79-years-old and in poor health, would be restricted from April 22 to June 4.

Ding was under increased surveillance at her home and the police had cut the household telephone line, Hong Kong-based media reported. Calls to Ding's telephone number yesterday were met with a recorded message: "The user you have contacted does not have the right to receive calls." Meanwhile, the state-run Global Times newspaper ran an editorial in its print edition describing June 4 as "a normal day". "This does not mean Chinese people have

all forgotten about the turmoil. It is simply that most Chinese people tend to agree that no more debate is necessary over that incident," the editorial read.

The piece pointed to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the unrest in the Middle East that followed the Arab Spring as evidence that China is "lucky that the rioters did not succeed at that time". In Hong Kong, a planned vigil for those killed in the 1989 crackdown-which is held annually and usually draws tens of thousands of people-has exposed a rift within the city's own pro-democracy camp. Young activists from the new "localist" movement, which grew out of failed pro-democracy rallies in 2014, boycotted the vigil, saying Hong Kong should push for its own autonomy, even independence, rather than the democratization of the mainland, which is part of the event's main message.

The Hong Kong Federation of Students-a founding member of the alliance that organizes the vigil-also stayed away this year, saying the event had "lost touch" with Hong Kongers. Taiwan's new Beijing-sceptic president Tsai Ing-wen used the anniversary to urge China to "heal the past wounds and pain of the Chinese people". "Do not let June 4 forever be unspoken between the two sides," Tsai said on her Facebook page, in her first public comments on Tiananmen as Taiwan's leader. There were mass rallies in Taiwan in 1989 to support the pro-democracy movement in China, and Taiwanese civil groups will commemorate the 27th anniversary with a candlelight vigil in downtown Taipei later. —AFP

US FLEXES MUSCLES; ASIA WORRIES ABOUT SEA ROW

SINGAPORE: The United States stepped up pressure on China yesterday to rein in its actions in the South China Sea, with top defense officials underlining Washington's military superiority and vowing to remain the main guarantor of Asian security for decades to come. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said the US approach to the Asia-Pacific remained "one of commitment, strength and inclusion", but he also warned China against provocative behavior in the South China Sea. Any action by China to reclaim land in the Scarborough Shoal, an outcrop in the disputed sea, would have consequences, Carter said.

"I hope that this development doesn't occur, because it will result in actions being taken by the both United States and ... by others in the region which would have the effect of not only increasing tensions but isolating China," Carter told the Shangri-La Dialogue, a regional security forum in Singapore. "The United States will remain the most powerful military and main underwriter of security in the region for decades to come - and there should be no doubt about that." The South China Sea has become a flashpoint between the United States, which increased its focus on the Asia-Pacific under President Barack Obama's "pivot", and China, which is projecting ever greater economic, political and military power in the region.

Carter however said he would welcome China's participation in a "principled security network" for Asia. "Forward thinking statesmen and leaders must ... come together to ensure a positive principled future," he said, adding that the network he envisaged could also help protect against "Russia's worrying actions" and the growing strategic impact of climate change. The deputy head of China's delegation to the forum said the United States should reduce its provocative exercises and patrols in the region and said any attempts to isolate China would fail. "This is a time of cooperation and common security," Rear Admiral Guan Youfei told reporters. "The US action to take sides is not agreed by many countries. We hope the US will also listen to the other countries."

Regional worries

Other Asian leaders said the situation in the South China Sea was viewed with concern across the region. "All countries in the region need to recognize that our shared prosperities and the enviable rate of growth that this region enjoys over past decades will be put at risk by aggressive behavior or actions by any one of us," Indian Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar told the forum.

Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani said his country would help Southeast Asian nations build their security capabilities to deal with what he called unilateral, dangerous and coercive actions in the South China Sea. "In the South China Sea, we have been witnessing large-scale and rapid land reclamation, building of outposts and utilization of them for military purposes," Nakatani said. "No country can be an outsider of this issue."

A Chinese official responded by saying Japan should be careful "not to interfere and stir up problems" in the waterway, while China's foreign ministry also weighed in regarding the US and Japanese comments. "Countries outside the region should stick to their promises and not make thoughtless remarks about issues of territorial sovereignty," the ministry said in a statement. Trillions of dollars of trade a year passes through the South China Sea, which is home to rich oil, gas and fishing resources. Besides China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have claims in the area, and rising tensions have been fuelling increasing security spending in the region.

"The uncertainty of China's future trajectory is arguably the main driving concern about possible military competition now and in the future," Malaysian Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said. Carter said that for decades some critics had been predicting an impending US withdrawal from the region, but this would not happen. "That's because this region, which is home to nearly half the world's population and nearly half the global economy, remains the most consequential for America's own security and prosperity."

Trump counter

In an apparent counter to "America-first" policies expounded by prospective Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, including suggestions that US troops should be withdrawn from Asia, Carter stressed bipartisan support for continued engagement. The Shangri-La Dialogue is being held ahead of a significant ruling expected in coming weeks on a case filed by the Philippines in the International Court of Arbitration challenging China's South China Sea claims, which Beijing has vowed to ignore. The United States has been lobbying Asian and other countries to back the judges' statement that their ruling must be binding, a call echoed by Japan yesterday. China has lobbied on the other side for support for its position that the court lacks jurisdiction in the case. —Reuters



SINGAPORE: Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani (left), US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter (center) and South Korean Defense Minister Han Min-koo shake hands during a trilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 15th International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore yesterday. —AFP

MYANMAR'S HARDLINE BUDDHISTS REGROUP AFTER POLITICAL CHANGE

YANGON: Over a thousand hardline Buddhists gathered on the outskirts of Yangon for the annual summit of their ultra-nationalist group yesterday, as the anti-Muslim network looks to stay relevant under Myanmar's new civilian leadership. Maroon-robed monks, nuns and other followers filled the monastery in northern Yangon to mark the third anniversary of the founding of Ma Ba Tha,

which has been at the forefront of anti-Muslim sentiment in Myanmar in recent years.

The group proved a potent political force under the former military-backed government, who they successfully lobbied to pass a series of controversial laws that rights groups say discriminate against women and religious minorities. But the organization ultimately lost out

in November elections that saw their allies in the incumbent party trounced by Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD), which is now leading the former junta-run country's first civilian administration in half a century.

Ma Ba Tha representatives from around the country took the microphone at the start of the two-day conference to

review their achievements over the past year and outline plans for the future.

"Our principles are very simple: to protect our people and our religion," U Ottama, a monk attending the conference said. Much of the anti-Muslim rhetoric espoused by group's leaders has targeted the Rohingya-a ethnic minority denied citizenship in Myanmar and relegated to apartheid-like conditions ever since deadly riots tore through western Rakhine state in 2012. One of Suu Kyi's biggest challenges will be carving out a solution for the Rohingya-who Buddhist nationalists have branded illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, despite the fact that many have lived in Myanmar for generations.

The Nobel peace prize winner has faced international criticism for not taking a stronger stance on the Rohingya, and for failing to field any Muslim candidates in November's polls-a move observers say was a concession to groups like Ma Ba Tha. While hosting US Secretary of State John Kerry last month, Suu Kyi asked for "space" as her administration seeks to build trust and ease sectarian tensions. Some Buddhists' strident rejection of the term Rohingya has made simply uttering the word an act fraught with controversy. In recent weeks Ma Ba Tha and other nationalist groups have held a series of demonstrations to protest the US Embassy's reference to Rohingya in a press release. —AFP



YANGON: Buddhists gather at a monastery on the outskirts of Yangon yesterday, for the annual summit of their ultra-nationalist group, as the anti-Muslim network looks to bounce back from a fallout in November's polls. —AFP

PHILIPPINE TROOPS SEIZE ISLAMIC MILITANT CAMP

BUTIG: Philippine troops captured an Islamic militant training camp after a 10-day battle, officials said, as part of operations to clear insurgents from a remote jungle region. The offensive against the Maute group, one of several Filipino Muslim armed organizations which have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State, left four soldiers dead and 15 others wounded, a Philippine military commander told an AFP photographer at the scene.

Surrounded by swamps and a low-land tropical rainforest in the small, Muslim-populated farming town of Butig, more than 800 kilometers (500 miles) south of Manila, the camp's structures were riddled with large bullet holes that soldiers said were caused by machine gun fire used to flush out the militants. Soldiers said they killed dozens of militants, but there was no sign of dead bodies when the military allowed journalists into the area on Friday.

Unexploded improvised explosive devices, a grenade launcher, a rebel uniform and a black Islamic State flag were all that were left in the wooden

huts and concrete-reinforced trenches, which were used by the gunmen, army Colonel Roseller Murillo said. "The Maute group is believed to be on the run and in hiding, (but) the military will fully enforce the law if they initiate other terrorist activities in the area," he said. The offensive was launched after the militants moved back into territory that the military secured during clashes in February, they said.

Once described by the military as a small-time extortion gang, the Maute group attacked a remote army outpost in Butig in February, triggering a week of fighting that the military said left six soldiers and at least 12 militants dead. The group, believed to have fewer than 100 fighters, blew up power transmission towers and abducted and beheaded two employees of a local sawmill in April. Murillo said the latest military offensive began on May 24. The fighting displaced about 2,000 residents, according to the military. The southern Philippines has been plagued by a Muslim separatist insurgency for over four decades, with the conflict leaving more than 120,000 dead. —AFP



Pakistani women light candles as they pay respects to boxing legend Muhammad Ali in Multan yesterday. — AFP

TALE OF TRUMP AND AZERBAIJAN PARTNER

WASHINGTON: Six months before he entered the presidential race, Donald Trump announced a new real estate project in Baku, Azerbaijan. His partner was the son of a government minister suspected by US diplomats of laundering money for Iran's military and described as "notoriously corrupt". Eighteen months later, and only weeks after daughter Ivanka Trump released a publicity video of the nearly finished project, references to the Baku project have disappeared from Trump's website. Trump's general counsel, Alan Garten, told AP that it was on hold for economic reasons.

Trump often talks of hiring the best people and surrounding himself with people he can trust. In practice, however, he and his executives have at times appeared to overlook details about the background of people he has chosen as business partners, such as whether they had dubious associations, had been convicted of crimes, faced extradition or inflated their resumes.

The Trump camp's screening skills are important as the presumptive Republican presidential nominee turns to selecting a running mate. They would only become more crucial if he won the White House. Then, Trump would have to name more than 3,600 political appointees to senior government positions, including critical jobs overseeing national security and the economy.

In the Azerbaijani case, Garten said the Trump Organization had performed meticulous due diligence on

the company's partners, but hadn't researched the allegations against the Baku partner's father because he wasn't a party to the deal. "I've never heard that before," Garten said, when first asked about allegations of Iranian money laundering by the partner's father, which appeared in US diplomatic cables widely available since they were leaked in 2010.

Garten subsequently said he was confident the minister alleged to be laundering Iranian funds, Ziya Mammadov, had no involvement in his son's holding company, even though some of the son's major businesses regularly partnered with the transportation ministry and were founded while the son was in college overseas. Ziya Mammadov did not respond to a telephone message the AP left with his ministry in Baku or to emails to the Azerbaijan Embassy in Washington.

Garten told the AP that Trump's company uses a third-party investigative firm, which he did not identify, that specializes in background intelligence gathering and searches global watch lists, warrant lists and sanctions lists maintained by the United Nations, Interpol and others. Trump has described his background research as presidential in quality. Asked in a 2013 deposition why he had not performed formal records of due diligence on a business partner - a man Trump later deemed "a dud" - Trump said he considered word-of-mouth inquiries to be adequate.

"We heard good things about him from a couple of different people," he said of his partner in the deposition. "That's

true with the president of the United States. You get references and sometimes it's good and sometimes it's not so good." Trump's lawyer, Garten, who was in the room at the time of Trump's statement, told the AP that it was unreasonable to expect Trump to know the full range of the company's diligence efforts.

Any American contemplating a business venture in Azerbaijan faces a risk: "endemic public corruption," as the State Department puts it. Much of that money flows from the oil and gas industries, but the State Department also considers the country to be a waypoint for terrorist financiers, Iranian sanctions-busters and Afghan drug lords. The environment is a risky one for any business venture seeking to avoid violating US penalties imposed against Iran or anti-bribery laws under the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

Background Screening

Trump's choice of partners in Baku was Anar Mammadov, the son of the country's transportation minister. Anar Mammadov did not respond to AP's emails or messages sent to his social media accounts or messages left with his company. Garten said the Trump Organization had performed background screening on all those involved in the deal and was confident Mammadov's father played no role in the project.

Experts on Azerbaijan were mystified that Trump or anyone else could reach that conclusion. Anar Mammadov is widely viewed by diplomats and nongovernmental organizations as a transparent stand-in for the business interests of his father. Anar's business has boomed with regular help from his father's ministry, receiving exclusive government contracts, a near monopoly on Baku's taxi business and even a free fleet of autobuses.

"These are not business people acting on their own - you're dealing with daddy," said Richard Kauzlarich, a US ambassador to Azerbaijan under President Bill Clinton in the 1990s who went on to work under the Director of National Intelligence during the George W Bush administration. "Whatever the Trump people thought they were doing, that

wasn't reality," Kauzlarich said.

Anar Mammadov, who is believed to be 35, has said in a series of interviews that he founded Garant Holdings' predecessor - which has arms in transportation, construction, banking, telecommunications and manufacturing - in 2000, when he would have been 19. Anar received his bachelor's degree in 2003 and a master's in business administration in 2005 - both from a university in London.

Mammadov's statement that he founded the business in 2000 appeared in a magazine produced by a research firm in partnership with the Azerbaijani government. In other forums, he has said he started the business in 2005, though several of its key subsidiaries predate that period. Garten declined to discuss specific background research on Anar but said such checks were "comprehensive." The file for the Baku project would not have included anything on Ziya Mammadov, Garten said, because the Trump Organization concluded that he would play no role in the project.

"The younger Mammadov did not build his business empire simply by delivering newspapers," said Matt Bryza, a former US ambassador to Azerbaijan. He served on the National Security Council in George W Bush's administration and was appointed ambassador from 2010 to 2012 under President Barack Obama. Ziya Mammadov was described in March 2009 in leaked US diplomatic cables as "notoriously corrupt, even for Azerbaijan" and accused of working closely on government highway construction contracts awarded to a former senior Iranian military official in the Republican Guard, Kamal Darvishi. "We assume Mammadov is a silent partner in these contracts," the State Department cable said.

Though the Baku hotel project has not been completed, it has earned Trump a significant payday. He earned between \$2.5 million and \$2.8 million in hotel management fees from a hotel that has never opened, according to the financial disclosures filed by his campaign. Trump licensing details generally involve the receipt of a significant minority stake in the property, too. The Azerbaijani case is not the only one involving partners with unusual pasts. — AP

MOI WARNS AGAINST RAMADAN BEGGING...

Continued from Page 1

It added that the Ministry of Interior is launching a public awareness campaign through the media and social networks to encourage people to turn in any beggar they may accost by calling the emergency hotline 112 or contacting

the nearest police station or police officer. Moreover, the statement cautioned those who may be tempted to eat food in public during the hours of fasting in Ramadan. Such an act would be in violation of the law, necessitating the offender to be jailed for a month or pay a fine of KD 100, or serve the jail term and pay the fine. — KUNA

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P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
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Issues

WINNER TAKES ALL IN MEGA SOCCER SHIRT DEALS

By Emma Thomasson

A battle between Adidas and Nike for dominance of the global soccer gear market is driving a steep rise in sponsorship payments to elite clubs - and cutting into the two manufacturers' profits. Shirt deal inflation is reinforcing the advantage of about a dozen clubs with a global fan base - among them Barcelona and Real Madrid, the two Manchester clubs and Paris Saint Germain. These same clubs benefit from bigger revenues from broadcast rights, helping them pay for the best players. The clubs' gain comes at Adidas and Nike's expense.

Nike stock dropped this week after Morgan Stanley downgraded it to "equal weight", primarily on concerns the firm is losing US market share to Adidas and Under Armour, but also citing a profit squeeze from the rising cost of sponsorships. "At the top, it is a pure power struggle between Nike and Adidas," said Peter Rohlmann, a marketing consultant who advises clubs and federations on such deals. "The costs don't play a role. They want to keep their competitor out."

Under the terms of sponsorship deals, the brand pays the clubs for the license to sell replica jerseys and other merchandise. The clubs usually receive a fixed fee, kit for the team, plus royalties of some 10-15 percent of the merchandise sold and performance bonuses if the team wins major trophies. Only the highest-profile clubs, and a few national sides like Brazil and Germany, can shift the millions of shirts that justify deals now worth as much as \$100 million (\$111.58 million) a year.

Spanish champions Barcelona are market leaders, selling 3.6 million shirts last season, according to Euromerica agency, followed by Bayern Munich, Chelsea and Manchester United. This top four has negotiated new kit deals with Nike or Adidas in the last two years worth double or triple what they were previously receiving. Champions League winners Real Madrid are demanding a big hike from Adidas.

Power Struggle Escalates

Competition has intensified since Nike took the lead in the market for football shoes in 2014, prompting Adidas - long the world's top soccer brand - to shift strategy to focus its spending on fewer top teams and players. Its biggest win was to oust Nike at Manchester United in a deal worth £75 million (\$110 million) a year over a decade. Nike, slipping in the US market after it lost singer Kanye West to Adidas and basketball star Steph Curry to Under Armour, is now retaliating. Its new deal with Barcelona last month hit a new record of up to \$155 million (\$173.66 million).

Nike declined to comment for this article. Brand president Trevor Edwards has justified the Barcelona deal by saying the club has millions of fans worldwide, adding that the relationship "extends Nike's leadership position in football". Nike has also trumped Adidas at Chelsea, more than doubling the value of the contract. "We think Nike... is willing to sacrifice margin to keep its stars and sign new ones," Morgan Stanley analysts wrote, noting that deals for Nike and Under Armour are up about 70 percent since 2013.

Half a Billion on Five Deals?

Adidas could be forced to stump up almost half a billion euros a year for its top five soccer deals - almost a quarter of its marketing budget - if it yields to demands from Germany and Real Madrid for more. "Clubs are becoming increasingly sophisticated," said Glenn Lovett, head of global strategy at sports data firm Repucom. "Football is the most global sport and this is where you need to be if you want to be a global brand."

Adidas says the high media profile of top teams and players shifts merchandise - particularly in Asia - and also indirectly helps sales of training and running gear. "The top clubs will get more expensive while those that are not so good will have problems," Chief Executive Herbert Hainer said. He sees a limit of not much above 100 million euros a year for the most expensive contracts.

The next tier of clubs are having to make do with much less, opening up opportunities for firms like Puma, Under Armour and New Balance. Fans at Bayer Leverkusen complained after the Bundesliga's third ranked club only managed to secure around \$2 million a year with local brand Jako after being dropped by Adidas. Under Armour, which sponsored its first English side in Tottenham Hotspur in 2011, recently took over from Adidas at Southampton for £8 million a year.

Puma faces demands for a hike from Leicester City after a fifteen-fold jump in demand for its shirts due to its surprise victory in the Premier League, although the contract - worth just £1 million a year - runs until 2018. With the European championships and Copa America about to start, Nike and Adidas are also competing for national sides. World Cup winners Germany are pushing Adidas to leapfrog Nike's record contract with Euro 2016 hosts France worth \$43 million a year. —Reuters

THE END OF THAILAND'S TIGER TEMPLE



Washington Watch

MY ROLE WITH DEMOCRATIC DRAFTING COMMITTEE

By Dr James J Zogby

I wasn't going to write about this subject, but something happened yesterday over lunch that prompted me to reconsider. I was having a peaceful meal with my wife when two men sat down in the next booth. In loud voices they began to discuss the state of the presidential contest. At one point, the gentleman directly behind me said, "and Sanders picked that Cornel West and that guy who's the head of the Arab League who has it in for Israel..."

That did it. I spun around and said, in a polite but firm voice, "I'm that guy. I'm not the head of the Arab League and I'm asking you to change the subject now." Shocked, the man responded "you're him!" and began asking me questions. I cut him off making it clear that I was having lunch and wasn't interested in pursuing the matter. They promptly changed the subject, as I had requested. After we finished eating, I turned to the two men and explained who I was and why I found the crude description of me to be so aggravating.

In some ways I fault The Washington Post and other mainstream news outlets for having unleashed the mini-frenzy that followed my recent appointment to the Democratic Party's platform drafting committee. When I first heard from DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman-Schultz that I was to be named to the committee, I held my breath, fully expecting an attack from the usual collection of far-right, anti-Arab, and hardline pro-Israel groups. Sure enough, they didn't disappoint. I was called "a professional Israel-hater", "a defender of terrorism", "Bernie's Svengali", and it was claimed (falsely) that I had "accused Israel of committing a Holocaust".

Hatchet Man

This, unfortunately, is what I have learned to expect from that crowd. What, however, I found most troubling was the first headline that appeared in The Washington Post announcing "Sanders wins greater say in Democratic platform; names pro-Palestinian activist". With this, the die was cast. Other major newspapers and media outlets followed suit framing the entire discussion of the platform and my appointment around Israel/Palestine - culminating in a call I received yesterday, right after lunch, from a journalist who asked if he was right in assuming that Bernie had appointed me as his hatchet man on this Israel.

I am, of course, a strong supporter of Palestinian rights, so is Bernie Sanders, and so, according to a recent Gallup poll, are a majority of Democrats. But the crude effort to reduce Sanders' entire campaign and my entire life's work to an effort to "get Israel" betrays an unsettling anti-Arab bias and a bizarre obsession to which I must respond. It does damage to Sanders, to me, and to our nation's ability to have an honest conversation about a critical issue of importance.

By focusing exclusively on Israel and ignoring all of the other concerns that Sanders has brought to this year's presidential campaign, the press does a grave disservice to his efforts to elevate the issues of universal health care, free college tuition, raising the minimum wage, investing in clean energy, rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, and making Wall Street pay its fair share in taxes. This is a not so subtle attempt to demean the man and dismiss his candidacy as marginal.

The same is true for me. In response to the question from the editorial writer as to why Bernie may have appointed me, I recited a bit of my resume. To be sure, I am the proud founder of a number Arab American organizations, but I have also served on the DNC for 23 years. I have been on the DNC Executive Committee for the past 15 years; co-Chaired the DNC Resolutions Committee for the past 10; and have chaired the party's Ethnic Council since 2009. I served as Ethnic Outreach Advisor to both the Gore 2000 and the Obama 2008 Campaigns. And President Obama has twice appointed me to two-year terms on the US Commission on International Religious Freedom.

One-Dimensional

When the mainstream media and the far-right groups converge in turning my entire life's work into a one-dimensional caricature - "pro-Palestinian activist" - they are not complimenting me. They are setting me up. Make no mistake, I am proud of my advocacy for Palestinian rights, but given the political climate in which we live, such crude reductionism lays the predicate for political exclusion, violence, and threats of violence. Over the years, Arab Americans have suffered from all of these challenges to our rights. I know. I've been there.

When I spoke in favor of a two-state solution in 1988, before this position became fashionable, I was told by Democratic Party leaders "you'll never have a place in

this party again". Following that year's convention, Michael Dukakis rejected the endorsement of our Arab American Democratic Federation saying "it was too controversial". When, in 1990, Ron Brown, then Chair of the DNC, came to speak at an Arab American event I was hosting (becoming the first party chair to attend an Arab American event), he told me that he was threatened with a loss of financial support "if you even go into the room with those people".

Violence

And then there is the violence. The first time I received a death threat was 1970. My office was firebombed in 1980 and after 9/11 three men went to jail for threatening my life and the lives of my children. In every instance, the perpetrators claimed to be striking out for reasons to do with my ethnicity and/or Israel. Now, in the wake of the announcement of my platform committee assignment, the hate mail (but, thank God, no threats) has started up again.

Even beyond this danger, by silencing my community and marginalizing us because we might dare to advocate for Palestinians, there is the damage that this hysteria does to our national discourse. For example, I have been denounced for criticizing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but my writings on this subject are not unlike those written by Israelis and some in the American Jewish community. At issue, it appears, is not what we are saying, but that we are the ones saying it. We are accused of "singling Israel out", while in reality it is our critics who are singling out this issue as the only one we cannot discuss.

In addition to all of the other critical issues Bernie Sanders has raised, he has done our nation and the cause of peace a service by bringing the matter of Israel/Palestine into the national debate. It belongs there and deserves to be discussed on its merits, without rancor and without fear. I am proud that Sanders has demonstrated the courage to do this and I am confident that if we work together on the platform committee with openness and mutual respect we can forge a new consensus that reflects the will of the majority of Democrats on all of the critical issues facing our country - including the way forward to articulating the principles that would help us achieve a just and lasting solution to Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

IN TRUMP TAKEDOWN, CLINTON FINDS MESSAGE

By Julie Pace

Hillary Clinton may have found her message. Wrapped in the guise of a foreign policy speech, Clinton delivered a political thrashing of Donald Trump on Thursday that was unquestionably a standout moment for a candidate who has often struggled to focus her White House campaign. Clinton's sharply targeted remarks served notice on the presumptive Republican nominee that she's prepared for a bruising general election fight, one that's centered squarely on his competency to serve as commander in chief.

"He is not just unprepared - he is temperamentally unfit to hold an office that requires knowledge, stability and immense responsibility," Clinton said. She cast Trump as dangerously thin-skinned, someone who might plunge the nation into war over a perceived slight. She repeatedly referred to her White House rival by his first name only - a knowing dig at a billionaire businessman whose closest advisers reverentially call him "Mr Trump".

For Clinton, who has acknowledged her weakness as a campaigner, it was a confident and well-timed performance. Though she has struggled for months to shake Democratic primary rival Bernie Sanders, Clinton is poised to clinch the nomination in the coming days and secure her place in history as the first woman ever put forward by a major US political party.

Cost

But the long primary season has come at a cost. Sanders has been unrelenting in his criticism of Clinton's judgment and transparency, evaporating much of the

goodwill she accrued with Americans during the four years she spent outside the political arena as secretary of state. Some of Clinton's own supporters also worry that she's failed to articulate a clear rationale for her own candidacy and will struggle to counteract Trump's ability to command the spotlight.

Clinton's takedown of Trump on Thursday should quiet those critics, at least for now. Gone was the wonky, meandering policy speech Clinton has delivered to lukewarm reviews in primary campaign appearances. Instead, she was focused and direct, lacing her remarks on the Islamic State group and Iranian nuclear accord with bumper sticker-worthy slogans about Trump. "This isn't reality television. This is actual reality," Clinton said as she chided the real estate mogul and political novice for his lack of experience on the world stage.

And in a line likely to be repeated by Clinton and Democrats between now and November, she warned that electing Trump would be a "historic mistake" for the nation. To be sure, Clinton will face tough questions in the months ahead about her own foreign policy record. She was a leading proponent of US military engagement in Libya, which succeeded in ousting a brutal dictator but left the country vulnerable to extremist groups. And she'll continue to have to answer for her vote in support of the Iraq war, which Sanders has repeatedly held up as a sign of poor judgment. He did so again on Thursday.

But the speech suggested Clinton will be far more at ease responding to a Republican challenger than she has been at confronting Sanders in the Democratic primary, where she's had to avoid turning off his young, liberal supporters. On Thursday, she made no attempt to appeal to

Trump's backers or even show the slightest sign of respect for the Republican nominee.

Attention

The result? Clinton succeeded in generating the same kind of attention Trump receives for his frequent rallies and news conferences: Her remarks were widely carried on the television news networks. Despite Clinton's standing as the Democratic frontrunner, that is a basic benchmark she has struggled to reach. Trump has no such problem. Trump himself appeared to be watching Clinton, too. He took to Twitter midway through the speech to remark that his likely Democratic opponent "doesn't even look presidential".

There was notable silence from many other Republicans, some of whom made similar arguments about Trump's temperament and inexperience during the GOP primary. A handful of Republicans even praised the likely Democratic nominee. "I have to say, Hillary is giving a hell of a good speech on national security - taking down the Donald while making a convincing case," Eliot Cohen, a foreign policy official for Presidents George H W Bush and George W Bush, wrote on Twitter.

For Clinton's strong showing to have lasting impact, it will need to be more than just a one-off moment. Some of Trump's primary rivals had fleeting success in rattling the supremely confident businessman and in raising issues that appeared to give voters momentary pause. But those arguments were rarely made in a sustained fashion and in some cases came too late to change the trajectory of the Republican race. If Clinton plans to avoid those same mistakes, she now has the message she needs in hand. —AP

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SCHUMACHER JNR ENJOYS SECOND FORMULA 4 WIN

BERLIN: Mick Schumacher, the 17-year-old son of stricken Formula One legend Michael Schumacher, picked up his second German Formula 4 win of the season yesterday. "The speed was there, the car was good, everything is okay," the teenager told broadcaster Sport1 at the Lausitzring track, near Dresden. Having started in pole position, Schumacher Jr completed the 10 laps in 31 mins 06.332 seconds after the race was shortened due to a mass pile-up, involving 11 cars, in the first lap. "The race was a bit short, but of course it was great to have started with a win from pole position," he added. "The win is good motivation for the next race this afternoon." This was the first of three races this weekend with the second yesterday evening 1740 local time (1540 GMT) and third at 1755 (1555) today. His win put him second in the drivers' championship behind Australia's Joey Mawson, who finished sixth, and was 5.311 secs behind Schumacher. Mick Schumacher also won one of the three German F4 races at Oschersleben on the opening weekend of the season in April. He had to settle for two fourths and a second at Sachsenring last month in the second of the nine meetings.—AFP



'RACIST' DAUBED ON DESCHAMPS HOUSE

RENNES: The word "racist" was daubed on the wall of a house owned by Didier Deschamps days after the France manager was accused by Karim Benzema of bowing to "pressure from a racist part of France". The Real Madrid striker made the accusation after being left out of Deschamps' squad for the European championships starting in France next Friday. Police confirmed to AFP on Saturday that the Deschamps' property in the Brittany town of Concarneau had been tagged with the word "racist". It was quickly wiped off again. Deschamps' lawyer Carlo Alberto Brusa later announced his client was suing for "trespassing and damage to private property". Benzema was excluded from France's squad after being charged with complicity in an attempt to blackmail France team-mate Mathieu Valbuena over a sextape. The 28-year-old was widely condemned for suggesting it was his Algerian roots rather than the Valbuena scandal that had triggered his omission. France Prime Minister Manuel Valls was among those to take the Real Madrid star to task, saying he was "shocked" by the outburst.—AFP

INDIA BUSINESSWOMAN NITA AMBANI NOMINATED TO IOC

NEW DELHI: Nita Ambani has become the first Indian woman to be nominated as a member of the International Olympic Committee, following the introduction of a new selection process. The IOC confirmed Ambani's nomination along with seven others on its website Friday, saying it was a part of its strategic roadmap for the future of the Olympic movement. Ambani, 52, will formally become an IOC member in elections slated for August 2-4 just before the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. A founder and chairperson at the Reliance Foundation, the philanthropic arm of conglomerate Reliance Industries, she is married to Mukesh Ambani, the country's richest man. She is also the principal owner of the Mumbai Indians franchise in the Indian Premier League cricket tournament. The Indian Olympic Association said Ambani's presence on the IOC would give a big boost to sports in the country. "We welcome Nita Ambani's nomination. It is great for India and we hope... Indian sports will benefit from it," IOA secretary general Rajeev Mehta said. Despite being the world's second-most populous nation, India has a poor Olympic record, in part because of squabbling federations and mostly inept officials.—AFP



ORIOLES OVERCOME YANKEES 6-5

BALTIMORE: South Korea's Hyun Soo Kim and team-mate Mark Trumbo had three hits apiece and Chris Davis homered to lift the Baltimore Orioles to a 6-5 win over the New York Yankees on Friday night. After the Yankees used three home runs to build a 5-2 lead, Baltimore turned it around against Nathan Eovaldi and the New York bullpen. The Orioles scored three runs in the sixth inning to pull even, then used two singles and a run-scoring groundout by Manny Machado to go ahead in the seventh. Mychal Givens (5-0) pitched 1 1/3 innings of relief and Zach Britton worked the ninth for his 16th save. Carlos Beltran, Alex Rodriguez and Austin Romine homered for the Yankees, who have lost seven of 10. Dellin Betances (2-3) took the loss in relief.

Cubs pulled away late to beat the Arizona Diamondbacks for their ninth win in 10 games. Lackey (6-2) combined with three relievers on Chicago's sixth shutout, scattering five hits over 6 2/3 innings. Anthony Rizzo drove in the game's first run with a two-out double in the sixth off Archie Bradley (2-1) that center fielder Chris Owings misjudged. The Cubs then scored five times with two outs in the eighth. Addison Russell and Javier Baez each hit two-run doubles against Silvano Bracho. Chicago improved to 7-1 on its 10-game homestand and 38-15 overall, the best record in the majors. The Diamondbacks lost for the eighth time in 11 games.

REDS 7, NATIONALS 2

Eugenio Suarez got his third homer in two games with the help of a replay overturn as the Cincinnati Reds spoiled manager Dusty Baker's homecoming by overpowering the Washington Nationals. The Reds matched their season high with their third straight win - only the third time they've put together a streak that long. Zack Cozart and Adam Duvall hit solo shots for Cincinnati. Suarez's RBI single started Cincinnati's four-run second inning off left-hander Gio Gonzalez (3-4), who has lost his last three starts. Brandon Finnegan (2-4) gave up five hits, including Jayson Werth's solo homer, in 6 1/3 innings.

METS 6, MARLINS 2

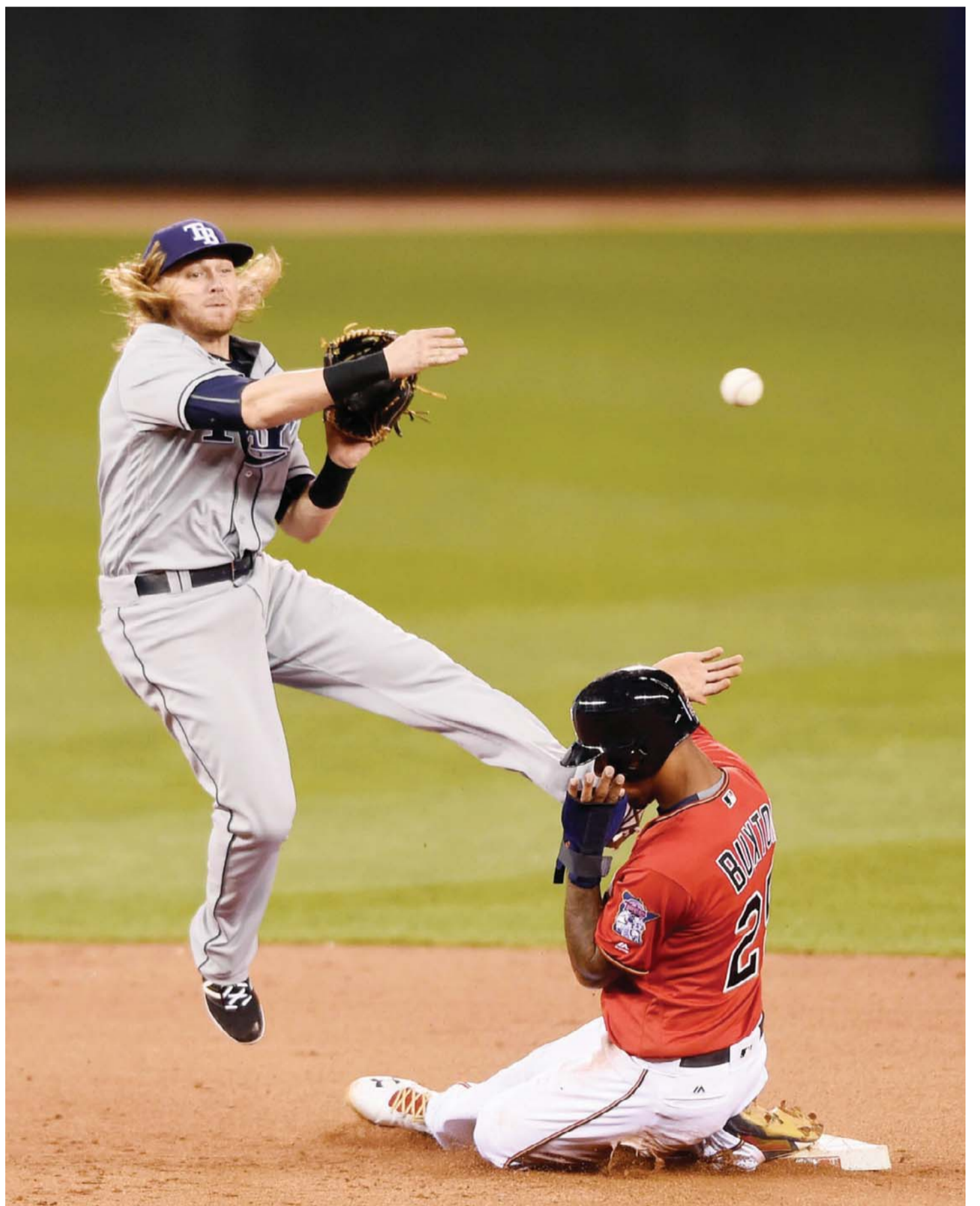
Noah Syndergaard gave up a homer to Marcell Ozuna on a 100-mph fastball, but struck out nine in seven innings to help the New York Mets beat the Miami Marlins. Syndergaard (6-2) allowed two runs, which increased his ERA to 1.91, third-best in the majors. James Loney, acquired last week in a trade with San Diego, broke a 2-all tie in the seventh with a two-run homer, one of three for the Mets. Ozuna pulled a Syndergaard fastball for his 11th homer in the second inning and drove in both of Miami's runs. Asdrubal Cabrera hit his fifth homer for New York, and backup catcher Rene Rivera hit his second. Tom Koehler (3-6) took the loss for the Marlins.

INDIANS 6, ROYALS 1

Danny Salazar allowed one run and struck out nine in eight innings to help the Cleveland Indians defeat the Kansas City Royals. Yan Gomes homered in the second and Tyler Naquin hit his first major league home run in the seventh for the Indians. Salazar (6-3) held Kansas City to three hits and was in command, other than giving up Drew Butera's leadoff homer in the third. The Indians have won four of five over the defending World Series champions and trail the AL Central-leading Royals by a half-game. Francisco Lindor's RBI single in the third off Edinson Volquez (5-5) broke a 1-all tie and sparked a three-run rally.

RANGERS 7, MARINERS 3

Adrian Beltre homered, doubled and drove in five runs, leading Yu Darvish and the Texas Rangers over the Seattle Mariners in a matchup of AL West leaders. Texas and Seattle, who play six times in 10 days, went into the game tied for the division lead. The Rangers have won five of six overall. Beltre hit a three-run homer in the first inning and a two-run double in the third. Darvish (2-0) gave up three runs and six hits in 5 2/3 innings, striking out five and walking one while throwing 88 pitches. Last week, the



MINNEAPOLIS: Byron Buxton #25 of the Minnesota Twins is out at second base as Taylor Motter #38 of the Tampa Bay Rays turns a double play during the seventh inning of the game on June 3, 2016.—AFP

All-Star ace made his first start since August 2014 and Tommy John surgery, allowing one run and three hits over five innings to beat Pittsburgh. Taijuan Walker (2-6) allowed six runs and nine hits, including a homer by Jurickson Profar, in five innings.

PADRES 4, ROCKIES 0

Matt Kemp hit a three-run homer estimated at 458 feet, matching the longest at Petco Park, and Drew Pomeranz pitched seven innings of two-hit ball as the San Diego Padres bounced back from Thursday night's meltdown to beat the Colorado Rockies. The Padres won a night after a bullpen meltdown so big that manager Andy Green called it "borderline inexplicable." The Padres blew a 12-2 lead to the Seattle Mariners, who scored 14 times in two innings to win 16-13. It was the biggest comeback in Mariners history and the biggest collapse in Padres history. This time, Pomeranz (5-5) shut down the Rockies through seven, striking out eight and walking two. Melvin Upton Jr scored on a straight steal of home in the fourth. Chris Rinis (1-4) took the loss.

PHILLIES 6, BREWERS 3

Cameron Rupp homered and doubled and Andres Blanco also went deep to help the Philadelphia Phillies snap their season-worst seven-game losing streak with a victory over the Milwaukee Brewers. Andrew Bailey (3-0) pitched 1 2/3 hitless innings of relief to earn the victory and help Philadelphia end an eight-game skid to the Brewers at home that spanned three sea-

sons. Jeanmar Gomez pitched a scoreless ninth for his 18th save in 19 chances. Jonathan Villar homered for the second straight night for Milwaukee, which lost for just the fourth time in 11 games. The Brewers had won four in a row on the road. Milwaukee's Jimmy Nelson (5-4) had his shortest outing of the season, allowing six runs on seven hits in four innings.

TIGERS 10, WHITE SOX 3

James McCann had three hits, including a triple and a homer, and the Detroit Tigers went on to beat the Chicago White Sox. The Tigers, who won for the second time in seven games, lost Miguel Cabrera in the seventh inning to lower-back tightness. The team listed him as day-to-day. Jordan Zimmermann (8-2), who hadn't pitched in 12 days due to a groin strain, lasted 5 2/3 innings, allowing two runs and five hits. He walked two and struck out three. Carlos Rodon (2-5) allowed four runs, seven hits and three walks in six innings.

ASTROS 12, ATHLETICS 2

Evan Gattis tied a career high with four hits, including a homer, and had four RBIs on Friday night as the Houston Astros took seven runs from Oakland starter Jesse Hahn in the first inning and cruised past the Athletics. The Astros were up 2-0 with two outs in the first when Tyler White drove in a run with a single. The inning looked to be over after that, but a fly ball hit by Tony Kemp to the warning track in right field bounced in and out of the glove of Chris Coghlan for a two-run triple. Jake Marisnick's RBI single made it

6-0 and Hahn (2-3) was chased when George Springer, the 10th batter of the inning, drove home another run with a single. Houston starter Doug Fister (5-3) yielded four hits and struck out three in six scoreless innings for his fourth straight win.

GIANTS 5, CARDINALS 1

Johnny Cueto worked around a season-worst five walks to post his ninth win, tying for the major league lead, as the San Francisco Giants beat the St. Louis Cardinals. Cueto (9-1) allowed a run on four hits in six innings with one strikeout. He hadn't walked more than two in any of his first 11 starts for his new team. Cueto is among four nine-game winners, joining Stephen Strasburg, Jake Arrieta and Chris Sale. Six of Cueto's victories have come on the road. Adam Wainwright (5-4) allowed two runs in seven innings. The Cardinals were held to one run for the second straight game.

RAYS 4, TWINS 2

Brad Miller hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning as the Tampa Bay Rays ended a five-game losing streak with a 4-2 win over the Minnesota Twins. Evan Longoria hit his second homer in as many games for the Rays, who won for just the third time in 14 games. Logan Morrison also homered. Erasmo Ramirez (7-4) and Xavier Cedeno combined for 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief for Tampa Bay, and Alex Colome got five outs for his 13th save in as many tries. Ricky Nolasco (2-4) allowed three runs - two earned - while throwing a season-high 7 2/3 innings for the Twins.—AP

MLB Results/Standings

Chicago Cubs 6, Arizona 0; LA Angels 9, Pittsburgh 2; Philadelphia 6, Milwaukee 3; Baltimore 6, NY Yankees 5; Detroit 10, Chicago White Sox 3; Cleveland 6, Kansas City 1; NY Mets 6, Miami 2; Toronto 5, Boston 2; Cincinnati 7, Washington 2; Texas 7, Seattle 3; Houston 12, Oakland 2; Tampa Bay 4, Minnesota 2; San Francisco 5, St. Louis 1; LA Dodgers 4, Atlanta 2; San Diego 4, Colorado 0.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	33	22	.600
Baltimore	31	22	.585	NY Mets	30	23	.566
Boston	32	23	.582	Miami	29	26	.527
Toronto	30	26	.536	Philadelphia	27	28	.491
NY Yankees	25	29	.463	Atlanta	16	38	.296
Tampa Bay	23	30	.434				16.5
Central Division				Central Division			
Kansas City	30	24	.556	Chicago Cubs	38	15	.717
Cleveland	29	24	.547	Pittsburgh	29	25	.537
Chicago White Sox	29	26	.527	St. Louis	28	27	.509
Detroit	26	28	.481	Milwaukee	25	30	.455
Minnesota	16	38	.296	Cincinnati	20	35	.364
Western Division				Western Division			
Texas	32	22	.593	San Francisco	35	22	.614
Seattle	31	23	.574	LA Dodgers	29	27	.518
Houston	26	30	.464	Colorado	24	30	.444
LA Angels	25	29	.463	Arizona	24	33	.421
Oakland	25	30	.455	San Diego	22	34	.393

CAVALIERS BOOST BENCH EFFORT AGAINST WARRIORS

OAKLAND: Attacking earlier, quickening the tempo and improving bench play were the biggest needs the Cleveland Cavaliers saw Friday in video reviews to decide changes for today's second game of the NBA Finals. Defending champion Golden State defeated the visiting Cavaliers 104-89 in Thursday's opener of the best-of-seven series, using defense and stellar reserve efforts to frustrate LeBron James and his teammates. "We're in a good place psychologically and mentally," Cavaliers forward Kevin Love said. "We remain calm, but also know this next game is huge for us. We remain having a sense of urgency and we're going to continue to fight."

Cavs coach Tyrone Lue made his instructions clear. "I just told LeBron I need him to play faster, to pick up the pace for us offensively," Lue said. "We can definitely get out and run and attack this team. We missed nine point-blank layups when no one was around. We've got to be able to finish those shots." The Cavaliers hit a woeful 38.1 percent from the floor, hurrying rather

than imposing a pace. "It has to be more of a fast-paced controlled tempo. Our missed opportunities—we were just really rushing," Cavs guard Kyrie Irving said. "Everything is happening so quick. A couple times I got indecisive and it put my teammates in a bad way."

'Throw the first punch'

Think fast and attack first was the message. "We've just got to come out right away and throw the first punch," Cleveland's Tristan Thompson said. "We've got to set the tone early. I think that's the key." "We need to do a better job of being in attack mode," Love agreed. "We felt like we could play with a better pace. We need to find a way to really slow down their bench." Golden State reserves outscored Cleveland's bench 45-10, with James warning that Shaun Livingston, Leandro Barbosa and Andre Iguodala must be better contained when they enter to rest sharpshooters Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson.

"No other team has the two best shooters in the league and that many playmakers," James said. "We cannot

relax when those guys make their subs. Those guys come into the game and change tempo and play with confidence. We have to understand. We have to treat those guys like All-Stars. "It's not that we relax. It's just that when... they come out, your defense doesn't have to be so extended. Your defense is picked up a little bit lower so those guys get to their sweet spots. We may have to change that approach a little bit." And the Cavaliers bench needs to score more as well. "Our bench has been productive for us," James said. "They are going to have to have a great series in order for us to win it. We have a lot of pride from our bench. They are going to take that even better in game two."

Aimed for arm, not groin

Cavs reserve guard Matthew Dellavedova faced accusations of dirty play for the second NBA Finals in a row after hitting Iguodala in the groin. The Australian said he was trying to foul Iguodala on the arm to halt a fast break. "I was trying to stop the break," Dellavedova said. "I definitely didn't



LeBron James

intend to hit him anywhere near that region. I was trying to get his arm and then he brought his arm in, and that's why I just grazed his arm." The Aussie admitted being "a little bit" bothered by the dirty player talk, but added, "You just don't pay any attention to it." What

he will focus on is trying to avoid another 15-0 run by Golden State reserves. "We need to perform a lot better as a group," Dellavedova said. "Their bench came in, did a really good job changing the tempo of the game. We need to do a few different things." — AFP

WORRIES OVER CYCLING ARENA READINESS FOR RIO OLYMPICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: The Rio Olympics are just two months away and as preparations head into their furious final straight, worries are mounting that delays to the cycling stadium have spun out of control. The building in the nerve center of the Olympic Park was supposed to have ended in late 2015. Not only did that not happen, but a test event scheduled for late April and early May was cancelled because of construction delays. Organizers of the Games running from August 5-21 have replaced these full-blown dress rehearsals with "training days" at the end of June. That means cycling competitors will not be able to test the track in real conditions, a failure which has angered the already nervous UCI, cycling's world governing body.

"The UCI remains extremely concerned by the repeated delays to the construction of the velodrome, and recently informed the Rio 2016 organizing committee and the International Olympic Committee of its concerns," UCI president Brian Cookson said in a statement to AFP. "It has been a very difficult project and the fact that these delays have repeatedly pushed back any kind of trial contest is very worrying," he added. "There is still a lot to do to ensure cyclists can compete in the best possible conditions," he said. "Time is really running out." Christophe Dubi, Olympic Games executive director at the International Olympic Committee said last week that "the timetable is very narrow." That's a diplomatic way of saying that IOC is very worried.

Late June

But organizers—who say that the rest of the Olympic infrastructure is virtually ready—downplay the construction problems at the velodrome. "The track is already there. It was installed more than a month ago. What remains to be done are the finishing touches to the facilities," Rio organizing committee chairman Carlos Nuzman said in an interview.

He spoke in Lausanne, Switzerland as he prepared to present a report to the IOC on the state of readiness for the games. "City Hall is responsible for monitoring the construction, but I think it will be completed in late June. I do not know exactly which day," he added. "The workers are going at it intensely. A late June delivery is what we want and what we had spoken of with Cookson," Nuzman added. The cycling arena construction suffered a setback in March because of what were described as logistical problems in bringing in the pine wood from Siberia used to build the track. Organizers said it was 12 days late.

Design flaws?

But there are other problems, too. The Rio City Hall recently decided to sever the contract it had with Tecnosolo, the contractor in charge of the project and reportedly on the verge of bankruptcy, and give it solely to a subcontractor, Engetecnica, which had been involved in the project for months. City Hall said the goal was to wind up a project that it said was 88 percent completed. — AFP



GEORGETOWN, Guyana: Sunil Narine celebrates dismissing South Africa's Farhaan Behardien by a leg before wicket (LBW) during the first One-Day International (ODI) cricket match between the West Indies and South Africa in the Tri-Nation Series in Georgetown, Guyana on June 3, 2016. — AFP

BIG NAMES STALK STEELE, KUCHAR AT MEMORIAL

WASHINGTON: Brendan Steele and Matt Kuchar made the most of calm conditions on Friday to share the halfway lead at the Memorial, where Jason Day, Rory McIlroy and Jordan Spieth remained in the hunt heading into the weekend. Steele backed up a first-round 65 with a five-under-par 67 at Muirfield Village in Dublin, Ohio. Kuchar carded a second straight 66 to share the lead on 12-under 132. They were one stroke in front of Argentina's Emiliano Grillo, who posted a 66, and American Gary Woodland, whose 65 was the low round of the day and included six birdies and an eagle. "A lot of things are going right," Steele said. "Obviously, conditions are really good. So there are a lot of good scores out there." A wet weekend forecast—the norm at the rain-plagued Memorial—could keep scores low on a receptive course.

"The conditions are still there for the taking," said Kuchar, who won the tournament hosted by Jack Nicklaus in 2013. "It's as easy as I remember this place playing, even though greens still fast. "You can get in the wrong spot, but you don't have to worry too much about the wind. It's fun to be out there playing and making some birdies around this place." In a marquee duel, McIlroy and Spieth elicited roars throughout the afternoon, combining for 14 birdies. Northern Ireland's

McIlroy carded a 66 to finish five shots behind the leaders in a tie for 12th, while Spieth had a 68 and was another stroke back in a tie for 22nd.

"I felt like I putted nicely," said McIlroy, who tied for the second-lowest round of the day. "I feel like my pace has been a little bit better, which was something I wanted to work on. That's an improvement, and I'm happy with that." World number one Day of Australia, a Muirfield Village member, was in the group with McIlroy on 137 after a 71 that included five birdies and four bogeys. "If I didn't have a short game, I probably would have shot high 70s. It would have been close to 80," said Day, who is seven-for-seven in sand saves this week and hit four fewer fairways and five fewer greens compared to Thursday. Phil Mickelson was also on 137 after a 69 that included seven birdies. "I feel like I'm playing better than I'm scoring, but I had a lot of fun today and I was able to finish up with three birdies, which kept me within striking distance," said Mickelson, a five-time major winner who has not won since the 2013 Open Championship. "I feel like there's a hot round out there, and I hit a lot of good iron shots these past two days, and I hit a lot of good iron shots this past week. I feel like I'm going to give myself a lot more birdie opportunities on the weekend." — AFP



OHIO: Matt Kuchar hits his tee shot on the 14th hole during the second round of the Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club on June 3, 2016 in Dublin, Ohio. — AFP

NARINE SINKS PROTEAS IN WEST INDIES ROMP

PROVIDENCE: Sunil Narine snared career-best figures of six for 27 on his return to West Indies colors as the hosts defeated South Africa by four wickets in the opening match of the Tri-Nation One-Day International series at the Guyana National Stadium on Friday. Forced to remodel his action after it was deemed illegal during the Caribbean side's last ODI campaign in Sri Lanka last November, the 28-year-old mystery spinner was at his mesmerizing best on a turpid surface where the South Africans were dismissed for 188 off 46.5 overs. They found it difficult to establish any sort of momentum despite two useful partnerships at the top of the order.

Narine's returns were not only a personal milestone but also the best-ever by any opponents in one-day cricket against South Africa. "I've had to change my bowling action almost 80 percent and it's great to see how it has worked out," said Man of the Match Narine. "I really hope I can keep on playing for the West Indies for the rest of my career." Kieron Pollard, back in the good graces of West Indies selectors after 20 months in the ODI wilderness following the shock abandonment of the tour of India in October of 2014, then lifted his team to the target with a robust unbeaten 67 that included six sixes.

"I had my plans going out to bat and it came off tonight," he said. "I really missed being part of that successful World T20 squad but I have recovered from injury faster than I thought and it's great to be back in the West Indies team." It was the first time in 15 years that the Caribbean side had defeated the South Africans in a one-day on home soil. Rilee Rossouw top scored with 61 and featured in a 78-run third-wicket partnership with skipper AB de Villiers. That effort followed an opening stand of 52 between Quinton de Kock and Hashim Amla. However the Proteas collapsed from the comparative comfort of 160 for three, their last seven wickets falling for just 28 runs.

Rossouw was one of the spinner's scalps, falling to a good low catch by Carlos Brathwaite at first slip. Brathwaite had earlier broken the opening stand of de Kock and Amla, de Kock attempting an injudicious heave to be comprehensively bowled. Narine then made his first strike by trapping Amla leg-before in the very next over. Yet it was the demise of de Villiers that proved to be the most crucial. Playing well within himself and mindful of the challenging batting conditions, he compiled 31 off 49 deliveries without a single boundary but fell to a good catch off his own bowling by pacer Jerome Taylor at the start of the 31st over.

South Africa had just ended a period of 23 overs without finding the boundary rope and it appeared de Villiers and Rossouw were on the cusp of acceleration before the captain's departure. From then on it was the Narine show as he

scythed through the rest of the visitors' batting. "It's the slowest pitch I have come across for some," de Villiers said. But we've got no excuses." Set a relatively modest target, the West Indies opening pair of Johnson Charles and Andre Fletcher rode their luck in a 37-run stand before the introduction of the spinners changed the complexion of the chase.

Imran Tahir bowled both with googlies while Aaron Phangiso and part-timer J.P. Duminy removed Marlon Samuels and Denesh Ramdin respectively to have the hosts wobbling at 76 for

four. But Pollard, whose first three scoring shots were towering sixes, dominated a 74-run fourth-wicket stand with Darren Bravo to take the West Indies closer to the target. Bravo fell to Phangiso for 30 and Carlos Brathwaite perished attempting a bit hit of Phangiso. But captain Jason Holder joined Pollard to ensure there were no more alarms on the way to a morale-boosting victory for a team classified as underdogs alongside the South Africans and ahead of Sunday's meeting with World Cup holders Australia at the same venue. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

PROVIDENCE, Guyana: Scoreboard from opening match of the Tri-Nation One-Day International series between the West Indies and South Africa at the Guyana National Stadium on Friday:

South Africa Innings		West Indies Innings	
Q. de Kock b Brathwaite	30	J. Charles b Tahir	31
H. Amla lbw Narine	20	A. Fletcher b Tahir	11
R. Rossouw c Brathwaite b Narine	61	D. Bravo lbw Phangiso	30
A.B. de Villiers c and b Taylor	31	M. Samuels lbw Phangiso	1
J.P. Duminy b Holder	23	D. Ramdin c de Villiers b Duminy	10
F. Behardien lbw Narine	0	K. Pollard not out	67
C. Morris lbw Narine	9	C. Brathwaite c Behardien b Phangiso	8
K. Abbott b Brathwaite	5	J. Holder not out	10
A. Phangiso c Holder b Narine	3	Extras (lb-13, nb-1, w-9)	23
K. Rabada not out	1	Total (48.1 overs, 6 wickets)	191
I. Tahir lbw Narine	0	Fall of wickets: 1-37 (Fletcher), 2-52 (Charles), 3-53 (Samuels), 4-76 (Ramdin), 5-150 (Bravo), 6-174 (Brathwaite).	
Extras (lb-1, w-4)	5	Did not bat: S. Benn, S. Narine, J. Taylor.	
Total (46.5 overs, all out)	188	Bowling: K. Abbott 10-1-26-0, K. Rabada 9-1-34-0 (1nb, 2w), C. Morris 7-0-22-0 (2w), I. Tahir 10-0-41-2 (3w), A. Phangiso 10-1-40-3 (2w), J.P. Duminy 1.1-0-12-1, F. Behardien 1-0-3-0.	
Fall of wickets: 1-52 (de Kock), 2-52 (Amla), 3-130 (de Villiers), 4-160 (Rossouw), 5-160 (Behardien), 6-172 (Duminy), 7-181 (Morris), 8-181 (Abbott), 9-185 (Phangiso), 10-188 (Tahir).		Result: West Indies won by 4 wickets.	

GULF BANK SPONSORS THE 33RD JASSIM AL-SHARHAN RAMADAN TOURNAMENT

KUWAIT: In line with its strategy to develop youth skills and as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives during the month of Ramadan, Gulf Bank has announced its sponsorship of the 33rd late Jassim Al-Sharhan Ramadan Football tournament. The late Jassim Al-Sharhan Ramadan Football tournament, which is traditionally run throughout the month of Ramadan, is one of the most prominent sports activities that take place in Kuwait during the Holy Month. The tournament is played each year in the memory of the late Jassim Al-Sharhan, and it has become very popular among foot-

ball fans and players in Kuwait, providing a vibrant and competitive atmosphere enjoyed by the teams and the fans. Gulf Bank is firmly committed to supporting all segments of Kuwait society and it is particularly focused on youth programs, giving young people the best possible start and as many opportunities as possible to help them achieve their full potential.



BARTHELEMY OUTPOINTS BEY TO RETAIN IBF TITLE

MIAMI: Cuban boxer Rances Barthelemy overcame a controversial knockdown to retain his IBF world lightweight title with a split-decision victory over former champ Mickey Bey on Friday. The 29-year-old Barthelemy improved to 25-0 in his first defense of the title he won in December when he defeated Denis Shafikov. Barthelemy fell to the canvas late in the second round in what the referee ruled was a knockdown for Bey. But television replays showed that Bey headbutted Barthelemy and then tried to sell the move by raising both his arms in the air as if he landed a solid punch. "Once I got dropped, I knew I had to put the pressure on him and that is exactly what I did," Barthelemy said. Barthelemy bounced

back from the knockdown to win handily 117-110 on two of the judges' scorecards and record the first split decision victory of his career. The other judge scored it 116-111 in favor of Bey, who fights as a member of Floyd Mayweather's Money Team. The victory sets the stage for Barthelemy to attract bigger purses and top level opponents going forward. He is considered one of the best lightweight boxers in the world along with Terry Flanagan, Anthony Crolla, and Jorge Linares. Former title holder Bey lost the crown when he refused to defend it against the mandatory challenger and had it taken away. Bey's career has also marred by missteps, including February 2013 when he tested positive for testosterone.—AFP

PHELPS WINS 100M FREE, FALTERS IN FLY IN AUSTIN

LOS ANGELES: Michael Phelps won one and lost one Friday in a tuneup meet in Austin, Texas, where he was competing with an eye on this month's US Olympic trials and a berth at the Rio Games. Joseph Schooling, a 20-year-old from Singapore who swims for the University of Texas in Austin, clocked 51.58sec to edge 18-time Olympic gold medalist Phelps (51.65) in the 100m butterfly—an event in which Phelps holds the world record. Schooling admitted it "felt great" to get his first win over Phelps but he noted that the US great was still in hard training before the US trials and not in peak racing form as he will be in Omaha this month and Rio de Janeiro in August.

"I've got to be even better in two months," Schooling said. Phelps was swimming in his second final of the night, having won the 100m freestyle in 49.49sec, one one-hundredth of a second in front of Jack Conger. The Austin meeting was one of three this week giving US and overseas swimmers a chance to hone their skills before Rio. China's Sun Yang swam the year's fastest 200 freestyle time at 1:44.82

to triumph at the Pro Swim meeting in Santa Clara, California. American Conor Dwyer was second in 1:45.41, third-fastest in the world this year, behind the 1:45.19 of James Guy.

Dwyer, who will be looking to secure his berth for Rio at the US trials in Omaha, Nebraska, said the "good battle" with Sun was perfect preparation. "Obviously, it's not fun to lose and go the third-fastest time in the world," Dwyer said. "But it was a good preview for racing in Rio. I know he'll be a good contender, and I am glad he came, so we can kind of go battle it out and get me ready for trials and hopefully the big show." Australian Emma McKeon won the women's 200m free in Santa Clara in 1:56.36. At the Indianapolis Pro Swim, American Leah Smith posted a pair of career bests en route to victory in the women's 200m freestyle, winning the final in 1:56.64 after clocking 1:56.66 in the heats. Compatriot Jay Litherland opened the Indy meeting with two victories, capturing the 200m free 1:48.41 and the 400m individual medley in 4:13.93.—AFP



TOKYO: Milad Ebadipour (bottom), Mahdi Marandi (#19) and Saeid Marouflakrani (top/#4) of Iran try to receive the ball from Poland during their men's volleyball world final qualification match for the Rio Olympics in Tokyo yesterday.—AFP

VOLLEYBALL: FRANCE, IRAN BOOK RIO OLYMPIC SPOTS

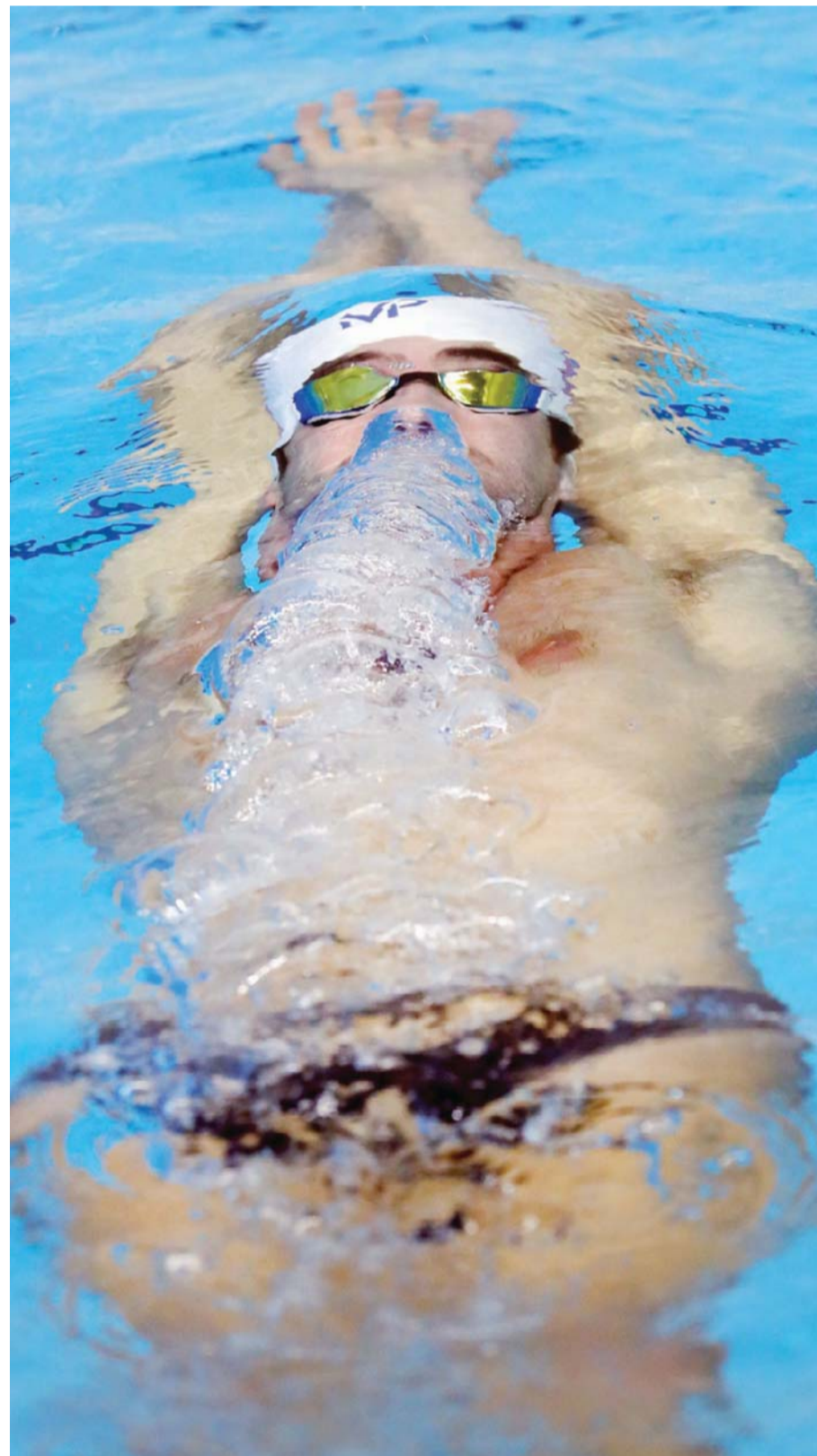
TOKYO: European champions France booked their place in this summer's Rio Olympic volleyball competition after beating Venezuela yesterday at a men's qualifying tournament in Tokyo. Asia's top team Iran joined them, reaching their first-ever Olympics with an impressive defeat of Poland, who had already qualified. Wing spiker Antonin Rouzier led the way with 17 points for the French—who have shot to prominence in recent years after taking the European and World League titles—as they won 25-21, 23-25, 25-11, 20-25, 15-9.

"We're happy to book our ticket to the

Olympics," France coach Laurent Tillie told reporters. "We only needed two sets but it was still stressful. We didn't have a good rhythm but we've qualified and it's been a dream for us to get there." The French needed just two sets to reach Rio. After taking the first, they dropped the second set but achieved their first Olympic qualification since 2004 on the third, powering through 25-11. "I've been waiting for this day for a long time," said captain Benjamin Toniutti.

"Four years ago we didn't make it to the Olympics. It's tough because Europe has so

many good teams but hopefully we can show our strength in Rio." Iran's danger man Shahram Mahmoudi top-scored with 24 points in a 25-20, 25-18, 20-25, 34-32 win over world champions Poland. "It's time to celebrate," said Iran captain Mir Saied Marouflakrani. "We've made history. We lost out by one set to Australia four years ago, which was a terrible memory for us and this could have been the last chance for some of these players to play at the Olympics." Poland qualified on Thursday after winning five of five matches until their unblemished record was ended by Iran.—AFP



AUSTIN: Michael Phelps warms up in the practice pool before swimming in the Men's 200 meter freestyle heat race during the 2016 Austin Elite Invite in Austin, Texas.—AFP

PAGENAUD 'ON POLE' FOR INDYCAR DETROIT OPENER

LOS ANGELES: France's Simon Pagenaud resumed his assault on the IndyCar Series championship on Friday, capturing pole position for the first race in this weekend's double-header in Detroit. Pagenaud's fast lap in the Fast Six, the last of three rounds of knockout qualifying on the 2.35-mile (3.78 Km) temporary street course, was 1min 14.9166sec. He edged Penske team-mate Helio Castroneves of Brazil by 0.0119 of a second and led a Penske sweep of the first three qualifying positions. "I knew the car would be good here because of the way it was in Long Beach (where he qualified third and won the April 17 race)," said Pagenaud, whose first of seven career IndyCar wins

came at Detroit's Belle Isle in 2013. "Just great that we could extract the lap time out of it. Obviously there was a bit of strategy on our side with the Firestone tires," he added. "We chose to go on the black Firestone tires (in the Firestone Fast Six). They're working really well for us and it paid off, so I'm really, really delighted." Pagenaud had a three-race winning streak snapped when he finished 19th in the 100th Running of the Indianapolis 500 on May 29. The 32-year-old Frenchman hasn't started worse than third on any road or street course in 2016. He brought a 57-point championship lead into this weekend, which features the only doubleheader on the 2016 schedule.—AFP

STAMINA 'KEY' AS MURRAY, DJOKOVIC HEAD FOR FRENCH OPEN SHOWDOWN

DJOKOVIC BIDDING FOR HISTORIC CAREER GRAND SLAM

PARIS: The reputations of Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray as the fittest men in tennis will be rigorously tested when they slug it out today for the French Open title, at the end of a tournament in which endurance has been a prime asset. With both men hitting peak form in emphatic semi-final wins, mental strength looks likely to decide a final given added spice by an array of historic landmarks that will fall by the wayside irrespective of who wins.

Over two weeks of often attritional tennis invariably played in damp, cold conditions and with heavy balls, Murray-bidding to become the first British man to win in Paris since 1935 - has put his body through close to 18 hours on court over 24 sets. Djokovic, also seeking his first title in Paris to become the first man in almost 50 years to hold all four majors at once, has played five hours and five sets fewer.

But the rain delays that have ravaged the tournament meant the Serbian played four days in succession up to Friday and denied him the usual rest days associated with grand slams. "When I get on the court with (Murray) it's going to be a very physical battle," Djokovic said after Friday's three-set demolition of Austrian tyro Dominic Thiem. "That's why the day off (on Saturday) will definitely serve me well."

Time ticking

If the pressure mounts today, Djokovic may however want to resist reflecting on his three previous defeats in French Open finals, including last year's four-set reverse against Stan Wawrinka—a match the world number one was expected to win. No player in the professional era has ever lost more finals at any one of the four grand slams and gone on to win that event. And at 29, time is ticking for both of them. "Neither of us know how many more chances we'll have to win here. It took obviously Roger (Federer) a long time to win this one (in 2009)," second seed Murray said on Friday after a superb display in beating Wawrinka.

It is in the head that Djokovic believes he may have the advantage over his Scottish opponent, a man just seven days his senior who he has beaten in four out of six major finals, and whose game he has been trying to pick apart since the first time he recalls facing him as an 11-year-old. "It's pretty nice that our rivalry has evolved over the years," he said. "...I think mentally when we step on the court, sure, maybe to some extent, (I have) some small percentage (of advantage), but he's playing in great form."

Murray, who rated Friday's four-set win as one of his best matches on clay, is meanwhile hoping the conditions on the day may provide him with an edge. After 12 defeats in 13 matches against the Serbian, including a loss at altitude in the final of the Madrid Open in early May, Murray turned the tables a week later in their most recent encounter, a rain-affected Italian Open final in Rome. "(Rome) was maybe a bit more similar to here, because it was raining quite a lot of the match when we played," Murray said. "I got off to a good start (in Rome). Novak got off to a good start in Madrid. That helped both of us in respective matches." — Reuters

MUGURUZA STUNS SERENA TO WIN FRENCH OPEN

PARIS: Garbine Muguruza won her first Grand Slam title at the French Open yesterday defeating top seed and defending champion Serena Williams in the final. Twelve years younger than the American at 22, and playing in the first claycourt final of her career, the Venezuelan-born Spaniard upset the odds to win 7-5, 6-4. She is the first Spanish woman to win a Grand Slam title since Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in Paris in 1998 and she is the third straight first time Grand Slam winner after Flavia Pennetta at last year's US Open and Angelique Kerber at the Australian Open. "I am so excited to play the final of a Grand Slam against one of the best ever players. It's the perfect final and I am so happy," she said.

"I grew up on clay so for Spain and me this is just amazing. Serena is a very powerful player and I just tried to fight as hard as I can." For Williams it was a second straight loss in a Grand Slam final and it wrecked her hopes once again of winning a 22nd Grand Slam title to draw level with Steffi Graf for most wins in the Open era, since 1968. She will now turn her focus on Wimbledon where she will be the defending champion and a six-time former winner. "Congratulations to Garbine, she played really well today," said Williams, who confirmed that she had been slightly troubled by an adductor problem.

"I could have served better, made a lot of errors on return, but I did try hard out there." The players took contrasting routes to get to the final. Fourth seed Muguruza breezed through, losing just the one set, in her opening match, while Williams struggled past the quarter- and semi-finals amid talk of an injury or illness. But with weather conditions improving after one of the rainiest Roland Garros tournaments on record, it was a different, more focused Williams that got the final underway with a love service game. Muguruza replied in kind as two of the biggest and best servers in the women's game went head to head.

The 22-year-old Spaniard had to battle

hard to level at 2-2, saving two break points along the way, but she then grabbed the first break of the final thanks to a loose game from the American culminating in a double fault. Muguruza, who lost to Williams in the Wimbledon final last year, moved 4-2 ahead, but she lost her range two games later to allow the American to level the score. The tall Spaniard was matching Williams for power and when the title-holder opened the 11th game with a double fault she seized the opportunity to apply some added pressure on her opponent.

Her tactics paid off with Williams failing to cope with a series of explosive baseline groundstrokes. Muguruza's second break of the final allowed her to serve for the set and she duly managed that staving off two break-back points along the way. A top quality first set had taken 56 minutes with Muguruza winning 41 points to 40 for Williams underlining the closeness of the contest. Muguruza maintained her level of play and composure to start the second set with a third break of serve, but she then struggled on her own serve, coughing up a seventh double fault to hand back the advantage.

Scream of defiance

Williams though was struggling and this time it was the quality of her opponent's play rather than her own misgivings that were responsible for her struggles. Muguruza made it three straight breaks of serve in the next game and moved out into a 3-1 lead. Williams dug deep to get back to 3-2 sparking a scream of defiance from a player who had been in 26 Grand Slam finals dating back to 1999 and lost just five of them. But Muguruza was solid on her serve despite the occasional double fault and the Spaniard went 4-2 and then 5-3 up. Williams saved four match points in the next game to stay alive, but Muguruza stayed calm to serve out for the biggest win of her fledgling career, clinching it with a lob that landed smack on the baseline.—AFP



PARIS: Spain's Garbine Muguruza poses with her trophy in the locker room after winning the women's final match against the US's Serena Williams yesterday.—AFP

COLOMBIA SHATTER AMERICAN DREAM IN COPA OPENER

SANTA CLARA: Colombia wrecked the United States' hopes of a winning start to the Copa America Centenario as goals from James Rodriguez and Cristian Zapata gave the South Americans a comfortable 2-0 victory here Friday. AC Milan's Zapata and Real Madrid star Rodriguez struck in the first half before a sell-out 67,439 crowd at the Levi's Stadium in northern California to puncture American hopes of emerging from a difficult Group A. US coach Jurgen Klinsmann's side had hoped to score an upset victory to emulate the Americans' famous defeat of Colombia at the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

But for long periods here Friday Klinsmann's men were chasing shadows as the skilful 2014 World Cup quarter-finalists delivered a stinging reality check. Klinsmann sought to put a positive spin on the game, insisting his team had competed as equals. "For our players it's really important that they can see we can beat them," Klinsmann said. "The end result is 2-0. But the players will take a lot out of this game." Klinsmann admitted the defeat left his team with little margin for error in their remaining group games against Costa Rica and Paraguay. "Obviously we have even more hunger in

our second game now," Klinsmann said. "We have our backs against the wall and we need three points against Costa Rica. But there's a lot of positives."

First half woe

A disastrous first half for the host nation saw Colombia take a vice-like grip on the contest. The Colombians took the lead after only eight minutes, when poor marking at a set-piece gifted a chance to the Italy-based Zapata. Stoke City defender Geoff Cameron was caught ball-watching as Edwin Cardona's corner was curled in, and Zapata stole in front of his man to thunder home the finish. The USA struggled to build any sort of momentum after that, with Colombia flooding midfield and pressing the Americans relentlessly.

Colombia dominated territory and possession and carved out the better chances with Sebastian Perez forcing a diving save from Aston Villa's Brad Guzan in the 16th minute with a rasping drive. Monterrey's Cardona proved to be a menace to the USA back four throughout, tormenting Cameron and DeAndre Yedlin in quick succession midway through the half before shooting on goal. The only USA chance of note was a 36th-minute run and shot from Clint Dempsey, whose curl-

ing effort whistled just past Arsenal goalkeeper David Ospina's upright. But within minutes of that fleeting US opportunity, the hosts were dealt a killer blow when Yedlin was adjudged to have flicked a hand out to block Farid Diaz's cross.

America's players protested but Mexican referee Roberto Garcia was in no doubt and pointed to the spot. Rodriguez duly stepped up to stroke home the spot-kick and Colombia were in total control. Colombia threatened again early in the first half, with Cardona testing Guzan once more with a fierce shot on 50 minutes. It started to look ominous for the hosts soon after, with Colombia passing the ball between themselves to draw cheers of "Ole" from their large contingent of noisy fans. But home hopes were raised when Dempsey saw his header from a Michael Bradley corner cleared off the line by Perez.

Dempsey went close again on 64 minutes, his curling free-kick parried clear by Ospina diving to his left. Yet the American fightback was shortlived and it was Colombia who came closest to scoring next when AC Milan's Carlos Bacca broke clear and crashed a shot against the underside of the crossbar with Guzan beaten. The introduction of rising teenage



SANTA CLARA: Sebastian Perez #13 of Colombia controls the ball in front of Geoff Cameron #20 of United States during the 2016 Copa America Centenario Group match between the United States and Colombia at Levi's Stadium on June 3, 2016. — AFP

star Christian Pulisic and Darlington Nagbe was unable to turn the tide for Klinsmann's men as Colombia coasted home to victory. The United States must

now regroup in time for their second match against World Cup quarter-finalists Costa Rica on Tuesday. Colombia will play Paraguay in their next match. — AFP



SAN JOSE: Lionel Messi practices during a training session of Argentina's National football team at San Jose State University in preparation for the Copa America 2016 in San Jose, California. — AFP

MESSI IN US FOR COPA

SAN JOSE: Lionel Messi touched down in California on Friday as Argentina prepared for the possibility that the injured Barcelona superstar may not be fit for next week's Copa America Centenario showdown with Chile. Messi arrived in the early hours from Barcelona, where on Thursday he had appeared in court to give evidence in his tax fraud trial which has also embroiled his father. Messi, who suffered a back injury in a friendly victory against Honduras last week, is uncertain to be fit for Monday's crucial Group D game against Chile at the Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara. The 28-year-old playmaker later took to the field during training near Argentina's San Jose base. Messi trained separately from the rest of the squad along with another injured player Lucas Biglia.

Meanwhile team-mates Augusto Fernandez and Nahuel Guzman admitted Friday that Argentina were facing up to the possibility of Messi's absence against the Chileans. "It is logical that being the best player in the world it is clear that we all

want him to be fit," Atletico Madrid midfielder Fernandez said, adding that he was confident the squad would cope against the Chileans if Messi was ruled out. "When you have moments of adversity that's when the team has to step up," Fernandez told a press conference.

Guzman said he hoped Messi could recover, but admitted he had been surprised by the Argentina captain's decision to make a gruelling round trip from Spain just to appear in the Honduras friendly. "It is shocking at some point because it is the captain, it's Leo. He came to play this game, perhaps without much obligation or necessity, and he ends up getting injured," the Mexico-based reserve goalkeeper said. Tomorrow's game is likely to determine the winner of Group D, with Argentina facing further games against Panama and Bolivia. Messi is bidding to end Argentina's 23-year trophy drought after a series of agonizing near-misses in recent years which saw the Albiceleste beaten in both the 2014 World Cup final and 2015 Copa America final. — AFP

WOMEN FOOTBALLERS CANNOT GO ON STRIKE, US JUDGE RULES

CHICAGO: USA Soccer welcomed a court ruling on Friday that women's national team members cannot go on strike over a pay dispute that had top players saying they would consider boycotting the Rio de Janeiro Olympics. Friday's decision from Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman in federal court in Chicago found that the players, represented by the Women's National Team Players Association, remained bound by a collective bargaining agreement that includes a no-strike clause, even though the deal had expired in 2012.

The federation had argued that the terms of the agreement remained effective under a memorandum of understanding signed by both parties in 2013. The decision comes two months before the US women are to defend their Olympic title in Rio. "Today, Judge Coleman ruled in favor of US Soccer and affirmed that the existing CBA with the US Women's National Team Players Association is valid through the end of 2016, including the no-strike, no lockout

provision," USA Soccer said in a statement. "We are pleased with the Court's decision and remain committed to negotiating a new CBA to take effect at the beginning of next year." Friday's decision doesn't affect a separate federal wage discrimination complaint filed by five top players earlier this year with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, arguing they are unfairly compensated compared to men's national team players. The complaint notes that the women earned \$2 million for winning the 2015 World Cup, while the men shared \$9 million after they were eliminated from the 2014 World Cup. "The US men's national team get paid more just to show up than we get paid to win major championships," goalkeeper Hope Solo said in March. The women players have also complained about other conditions, such as having to play on artificial turf. In April, national team member Becky Sauerbrunn told ESPN that players hadn't ruled out boycotting Rio over the matter. — AFP

WARTS AND ALL, FRANCE WILL BE TESTED BY THE EURO 2016

PARIS: As with all modern sporting mega-events and their hosts, Euro 2016 will be a mirror for contemporary France: The reflection could be beautiful, ugly, or - most likely - a mix of both. Befitting the world's sixth-largest economy, the bricks and mortar for a successful tournament have been ready for months. New, refurbished or already magnificent stadiums in 10 host cities stand as advertisements for French engineering and savoir faire.

The same is true of the high-speed rail network and cross-country web of "autoroute" highways that should make it a breeze for fans to travel to the 51 matches, soaking up the country's natural beauty in between. No more sleeping rough on airport floors for overpriced red-eye flights like in World Cup hosts Brazil in 2014 and South Africa in 2010, and Euro 2012 co-hosts Poland and Ukraine. Indeed, these relatively compact Euros will be the last fan-friendly soccer tournament for a while.

The 2018 World Cup, spread across Russia's vast expanses, and Euro 2020, dispersed confetti like across 12 countries from Azerbaijan to Ireland, will be made for television (and, by extension, advertisers), with too many geographic and bureaucratic obstacles to enable herds of fans to easily migrate from one match to another, as they will in France, wining and dining as they go. "Un autre verre, si'il vous plait?" - another glass, please? - should be the only French phrase many of them need from June 10-July 10, if all goes well.

Because in France, there is almost always a but, a "oui, mais" - complications that derive from the fact that despite its generous love of simple pleasures, France is also a complex and quarrelsome place, with social, economic and racial fault lines that often spill into the streets. As ill-luck would have it, the 552 players on 24 teams and their supporters are walking into the latest French fisticuffs. This one, like many before it, is essentially a dispute over the French way of life. It again pits the government - socialist, this time - against unions opposed to efforts to weaken them and liberalize workplaces.

Like their parents and grandparents before them, a new generation of malcontents is using the opportunity to cut its teeth in the art of protest, talking politics through the night, hurling paving stones and inhaling first whiffs of police tear gas. So far, transport strikes and gas shortages over the government's labor reforms have been disruptive rather than crippling. Their impact on Euro 2016 will only become clear as the tournament unfolds and could depend on whether the opposing sides compromise or harden their positions.

Despite their centuries of interaction with the world and long colonial history, their pioneering role in the construction of the European Union and the millions of immigrants from Africa and elsewhere who have put down deep and fruitful roots in France, the French can also be distrustful of outsiders. Not all of them, of course, but enough that 6.8 million voted for the extreme-right, anti-European and anti-immigration National Front when France last went to the polls, in December for regional administrators. The loved-up outpouring of national unity behind France's multi-colored team of "blacks, blancs, beurs" - blacks, whites and Arabs - that won the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000 proved short-lived, exposed as veneer by rioting in immigrant neighborhoods in 2005 and the war now being waged on France by homegrown Islamic terrorists.

For spectators, the biggest headache could be unprecedented security. Patience, good humor and common sense will be necessary when navigating multiple rings of body, bag and ticket checks at stadiums. No-fly zones will be in force above venues. Detectors will sniff the air to sound the alarm in case of attack with chemical weapons. Anti-drone technology is available to disable airborne intruders. "Nothing has been left to chance," the tournament's security director, Ziad Khoury, says.

Seemingly, the only thing organizers haven't seriously considered since the Nov 13 terror attacks in Paris that killed 130 people is calling the whole thing off. They argue that heightened security is something we all must become accustomed to: the unfortunate new normal in a dangerous world. "There was never any question of cancelling the Euros," Khoury said in an Associated Press interview. "Canceling big events doesn't cancel the risk of terrorism ... It's more of a signal of defeat if you do that." He added: "It's the whole of democratic society, not



PARIS: Italy's player Simone Zaza warms up during a training session of the Italian national soccer team at the Coverciano training center, near Florence, Italy. Italy is in one of the toughest groups at Euro 2016. — AP

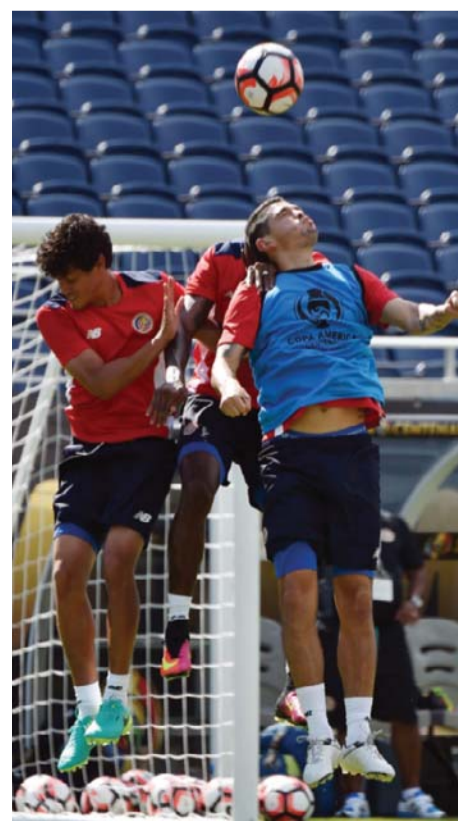
just French society, that must learn to live with the threat of terrorism and limit it as much as possible."

Ultimately, whether France puts on a memorable party or poops on it might depend on its team. Packed with talent in attack and midfield, Les Bleus could go deep into the tournament, despite their shaky-looking defense. France isn't a football-mad country like England or Italy, especially down south in rugby territory, but

people will rally behind players if they don't misbehave and do something ridiculous like go on strike, as they did in South Africa. A thrilling run by the host nation can be a key ingredient for a memorable tournament: Remember the frenzy generated by South Korea's push to the semifinals at the 2002 World Cup it co-hosted with Japan. At the end, all everyone will want is to get home safe, on transport that works, and with a head full of pleasant memories. — AP

PARAGUAY READY TO DEFY FIFA RANKINGS

ORLANDO: Paraguay's veteran goalkeeper Justo Villar says FIFA's rankings undervalue his team and believes they can defy expectations and once again make a real impact in the Copa America Centenario tournament. Paraguay have the lowest FIFA ranking of the four teams in Group A, sitting behind third-ranked Colombia, Costa Rica and the United States. But Villar, about to play in his seventh Copa America tournament, believes that the rankings don't give an accurate reflection of his team's ability. "If we are the worst ranked ... well, we have to show that the rankings are wrong," said the Paraguay keeper, who made his debut for his country in 1999.



ORLANDO: Members of the Costa Rican soccer team train at the Camping World Stadium in Orlando, Florida. — AFP

"In the Copa, the favorites are always Brazil and Argentina but we have shown we can get in there as well. It is a short tournament, resting and good planning, can help us to get through to the next phase - we have really good players," he added. In the 2015 Copa America, Paraguay beat Brazil on penalties in the quarter-final before being crushed 6-1 by Argentina in the semi-final. Four years earlier La Albirroja finished runners-up after losing to Uruguay in the final. Paraguay's Argentine coach Ramon Diaz has brought a squad with plenty of young players and a smattering of experienced campaigners and he also reads little into the rankings.

"Argentina and Brazil are seen as the best teams with the best players, but from our side we see ourselves as a good team who are growing. The last Copa we weren't considered as a factor but we get to the semis and were super-competitive," he said. "Colombia is a great team, USA has grown a great deal, Mexico look good too, it's a pretty open tournament. It's all about getting off to a good start," he said. Paraguay won the tournament in 1953 and 1979 and while that looks a remote prospect this time, Diaz is happy to have the chance of working with his young squad in a tournament setting.

"We hope the team keeps growing, developing our ideas and mindset. This gives me a chance to work with a team that is growing, I love the players we have and how they are working," he said. But the intense schedule, including long distances between venues, offers a particular challenge says the 56-year-old Diaz. After the game Paraguay will fly to the West Coast to prepare for Tuesday's game with Colombia in Pasadena, California. Four days later they are back in action against the USA in Philadelphia. "It's a very difficult tournament - the trips are really long, we play three games in a week and it will be difficult for trainers and players. The plan is in place, but it will tiring and there will be wear and tear," he said. — AFP

'HE WILL NEVER DIE': WORLD MOURNS ALI

SAN FRANCISCO: Tributes to Muhammad Ali poured in from across the sporting, cultural and political world after his death at age 74 with many saying there would never be another one like "The Greatest." Ali was fondly remembered not just as a heavyweight boxing icon but also for his fight for social justice, while others recalled his warmth and generosity, how he was equally at home with presidents and people on the streets. George Foreman, Ali's most famous knockout victim from the Rumble in the Jungle, noted Ali's other main rival, Joe Frazier, in tweeting: "Ali, Frazier and Foreman... we were one guy. A part of me slipped away, the greatest piece."

The front page headline on Ali's hometown newspaper, the Courier-Journal of Louisville, Kentucky, simply said, "The Greatest," with a legendary 1965 photo of Ali standing over a flattened Sonny Liston. "We lost a legend, a hero and a great man," said Floyd Mayweather, who retired last year as an unbeaten welterweight champion. "He's one of the guys who paved the way for me to be where I'm at. Words can't explain what Muhammad Ali did for the sport." Another former world heavyweight champion, Mike Tyson, tweeted: "God came for his champion. So long great one. The Greatest. RIP!"

Don King, who promoted the Rumble in the Jungle, said Ali will live on forever alongside other US civil rights heroes. "He was tremendous, not just a boxer, a great human being, an icon," King said. "Muhammad Ali's spirit, like Martin Luther King Jr., will live on. That's why Muhammad Ali will never die." Ali spoke out for African-American civil rights in the 1960s, carrying on his fight against injustice and sacrificing the prime years of his own career in the process. "When people saw what he had done for what he believed in, threw away three-and-a-half years of his career and he remained steadfast, he came through all of that bigger and more important than ever before," boxing promoter Bob Arum said.

Transcending sport

Reflecting Ali's reach far beyond boxing, many of the biggest names in world politics also remembered a man who stuck up for his beliefs—and for those less influential than himself. The Nelson Mandela Foundation said Ali had been Mandela's hero. "Nelson Mandela, a boxing enthusiast most of his life, acknowledged Ali as his boxing hero. Madiba had great respect for his legacy and spoke with admiration of Ali's achievements," said Sello Hatang, chief executive of the foundation. Mandela's favorite book at his office—where there was a photo of the two men together—was an autographed copy of an Ali biography, the organization said.

Former US president Bill Clinton said he had been "honored" to award Ali the Presidential Citizens Medal at the White House in January 2001, just before leaving office. "Through triumph and trials," Clinton said, Ali "became even greater than his legend." "We watched him grow from the brash self-confidence of youth and success into a manhood full of religious and political convictions that led him to make tough choices and live with the consequences." Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called Ali "an extraordinary athlete and a remarkable man of good deeds who conquered the hearts of millions." "Boxing legend Muhammad Ali's life-long struggle against racism and discrimination will never be forgotten," he wrote on Twitter.

'Touched hearts'

The sporting world also united to remember one of its biggest names. Retired NBA all-time scoring leader Kareem Abdul-Jabbar praised Ali's courage in fighting discrimination. "At a time when blacks who spoke up about injustice were labeled uppity and often arrested, Muhammad willingly sacrificed the best years of his career to stand tall and fight for what he believed was right," said Abdul-Jabbar. "In doing so, he made all Americans, black and white, stand taller. I may be 7-foot-2 but I never felt taller than when standing in his shadow."

Ali won an Olympic gold medal in 1960 and lit the torch at the 1996 Olympic opening ceremony. Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee, said Ali—who had been battling Parkinson's disease for decades—was an athlete who touched the hearts of people across the globe, an athlete who was engaged beyond sport, an athlete who had the courage to give hope to so many suffering illness by lighting the Olympic cauldron and not hiding his own affliction. "Former England football captain David Beckham called Ali "the greatest there will ever be." "The biggest and the best," Beckham said on Instagram. — AFP

INDIA'S KOM TEARFULLY RECALLS 'INSPIRATION' ALI

NEW DELHI: Indian boxing star Mary Kom mourned her "inspiration" Muhammad Ali in a tearful interview yesterday, after news of the legendary boxer's death was confirmed by his family. The 74-year-old sports hero, who had battled Parkinson's disease for decades, died Friday in a hospital in Phoenix, Arizona. "Most of the boxers are inspired by him," Kom told television network NDTV by telephone. "Me also, I was inspired by him to take up boxing, his struggles and the hard work he took in his boxing career," she said, her voice breaking audibly. Kom, 33, is a former five-time world champion and one of India's most successful sports stars.

She is reportedly seeking wildcard entry to the Rio Olympics after devastating fans by losing a crucial qualifying bout in Kazakhstan last month. "We feel very, very sad that he is no more. We will always remember his contribution to boxing... I will always remember him and keep him in my heart," she said. A boxing official told AFP this week that India has asked the sport's world association for a wildcard spot at the Olympics after Kom lost in the second round at the Women's World Boxing Championships. A mother of three, she hails from a poor family in the long-neglected and remote northeastern state of Manipur. Her life inspired a Bollywood biopic in 2014 called "Mary Kom". — AFP

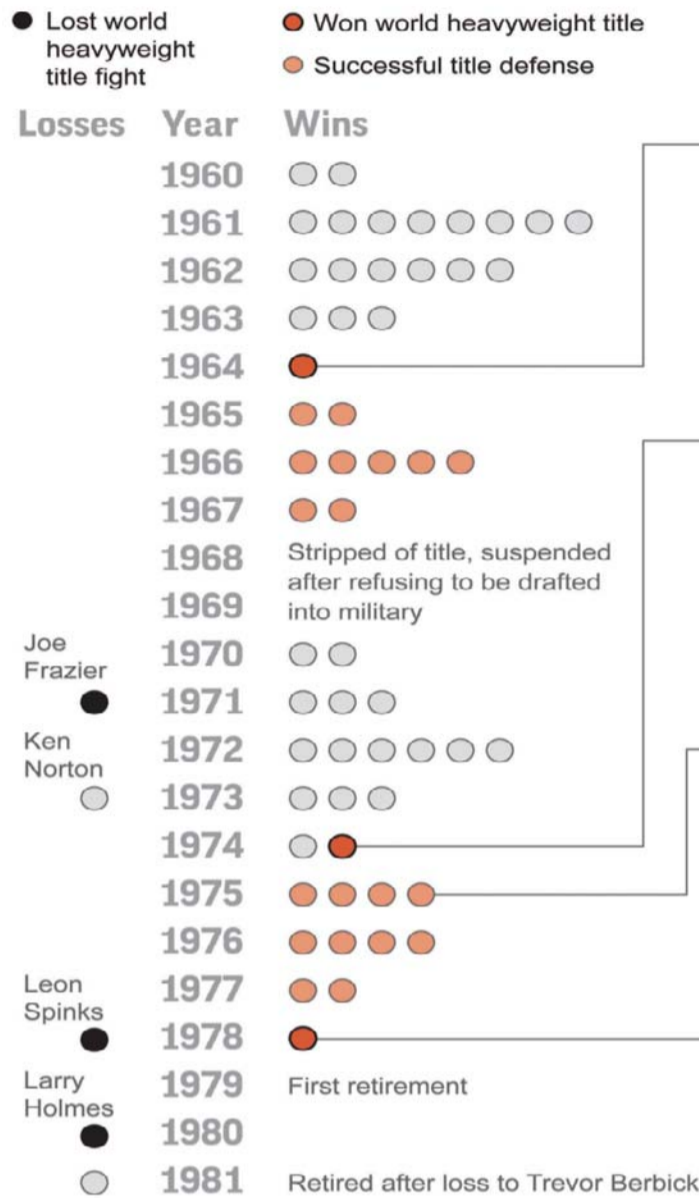


Muhammad Ali looks at his daughter Laila after she won a non-title fight against Asa Maria Sandell from Sweden, in Berlin, Germany in this file photo. — AP

The greatest of 'The Greatest'

Boxing legend Muhammad Ali was the first man to win the world heavyweight championship three times. He redefined the sport with his blend of power, grace and quickness.

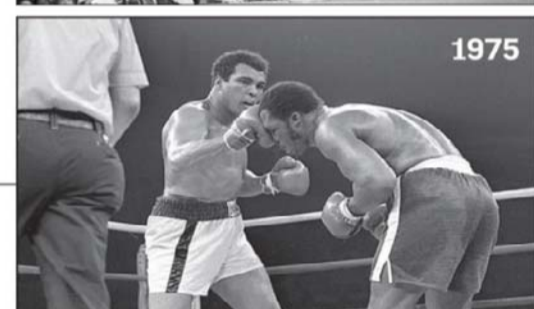
Professional record: 56 wins, 5 losses



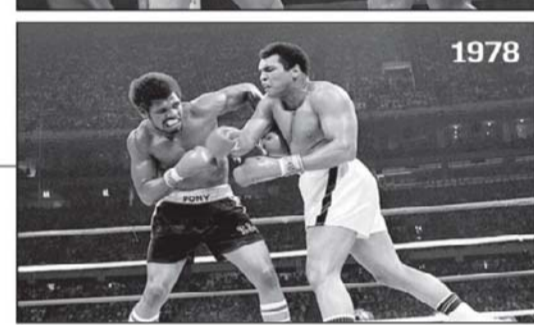
First world heavyweight title
Bobbing and weaving, Ali defeats Sonny Liston in Miami, winning the world heavyweight title at age 22. (AP Photo)



"The Rumble in the Jungle"
Uses "rope-a-dope" to knock out George Foreman in Zaire, recapturing the heavyweight championship. (AP Photo)



"Thrilla in Manila"
Defeats Joe Frazier in the Philippines in a brutal fight Ali later described as "the closest thing to dying" he had experienced. (AP Photo/Kenichi Mori)



Third title
Wins a rematch with Leon Spinks in New Orleans, becoming the first man to win world heavyweight title three times. (AP Photo)

SOURCES: BoxRec, AP reports

A data visualization and timeline of the boxing career of Muhammad Ali.

ALI MADE JUNGLE RUMBLE BY FLATTENING FOREMAN

LOS ANGELES: Boxing icon Muhammad Ali, known simply as "The Greatest," captured the greatest victory of his career in 1974 by knocking out George Foreman to win the "Rumble in the Jungle." Ali flattened the previously undefeated champion at 2:58 of the eighth round at Kinshasa in what was then Zaire but is now the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In addition to an epic effort that displayed his boxing gifts, the triumph touched upon the role of Ali—who died on Friday at age 74—as a cultural hero. He reclaimed the world heavyweight crown he had not held since being banned from boxing in 1967 for refusing to fight in the Vietnam War, a conviction overturned by the US Supreme Court in 1971. Using his now-legendary "Rope-A-Dope" strategy, Ali played upon fears that at 32 he might be seriously overmatched by the larger, more intimidating and younger Foreman, the 25-year-old who entered the ring at 40-0 with 37 knockouts.

Ali leaned on the ropes and covered up while Foreman pounded away at him, his deflected blows doing minimal damage while spending precious energy. Ali taunted the champion into swinging away as the rounds wore on that October night while the crowd chanted "Ali boma ye" (Kill him, Ali). Foreman began to tire while Ali started landing fast jabs and hard punches. In the eighth round, Ali

connected with a lightning-bolt right hand and Foreman stumbled to the canvas, beaten for the first time. "Muhammad amazed me," Foreman said. "I'll admit it. He out-thought me. He out-fought me. That night, he was just the better man in the ring."

Poetry in motion

In the run-up to the fight, Ali uttered some of the most magical of his rhyming quips. Among them: "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee - his hands can't hit what his eyes can't see." "I'm so fast that last night I turned off the light switch in my hotel room and got into bed before the room was dark." "I done something new for this fight. I done rassled with an alligator. I done tussled with a whale. I handcuffed lightning, I thrown thunder in jail." "Only last week I murdered a rock, injured a stone, hospitalized a brick. I'm so mean I make medicine sick."

'Bigger than boxing'

Ali was diagnosed in 1984 with Parkinson's disease, which ended the snappy banter that had been his trademark. Foreman, who needed 20 years to regain the crown, could not deny Ali's greatness. "Muhammad Ali has always been bigger than boxing," Foreman said in a 2014 essay on his website. "I



In this Nov 9, 2005 file photo, President Bush presents the Presidential Medal of Freedom to boxer Muhammad Ali in the East Room of the White House. — AP

say Ali was the greatest man because there has never been a man so young and so good at what he did, give up so much," he added. "I say boxing is too small for Muhammad Ali. He changes the very world. No other boxer could do that." — AFP

MUHAMMAD ALI KNOCKED OUT BY PARKINSON'S DISEASE

PARIS: One of Muhammad Ali's greatest battles was not in the ring but against Parkinson's disease, which severely hampered his speech and motor skills in the last three decades of his life. For many specialists, the crippling neurological disorder was no accident, but the tragic result of Ali's years as a boxer.

Ali was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 1984 at the age of 42, three years after he retired with 61 professional bouts under his belt. At the time, experts spoke of "dementia pugilistica" or "punch-drunk syndrome" to describe brain damage seen in sportspeople who sustain multiple concussions over the course of their careers. "We cannot say anything decisively but there are strong suspicions," Andre Monroche, head of the medical commission of the French contact sports federation said. "We know now that repeated blows alter the nerve cells, especially in a brain that has not been rested," he said.

Jean-François Chermann, a neurologist at Leopold Bellan Hospital in Paris, is categorical. In a 2010 book on the impact of knockouts, Chermann wrote that Ali "at the end of his training sessions let down his guard and asked his sparring partner to give him blows to the head to show he was the strongest." "There is a link between his current illness and that kind of practice," Chermann wrote. Medical studies have long warned about the consequences from boxing and other sports where the head receives frequent impacts.

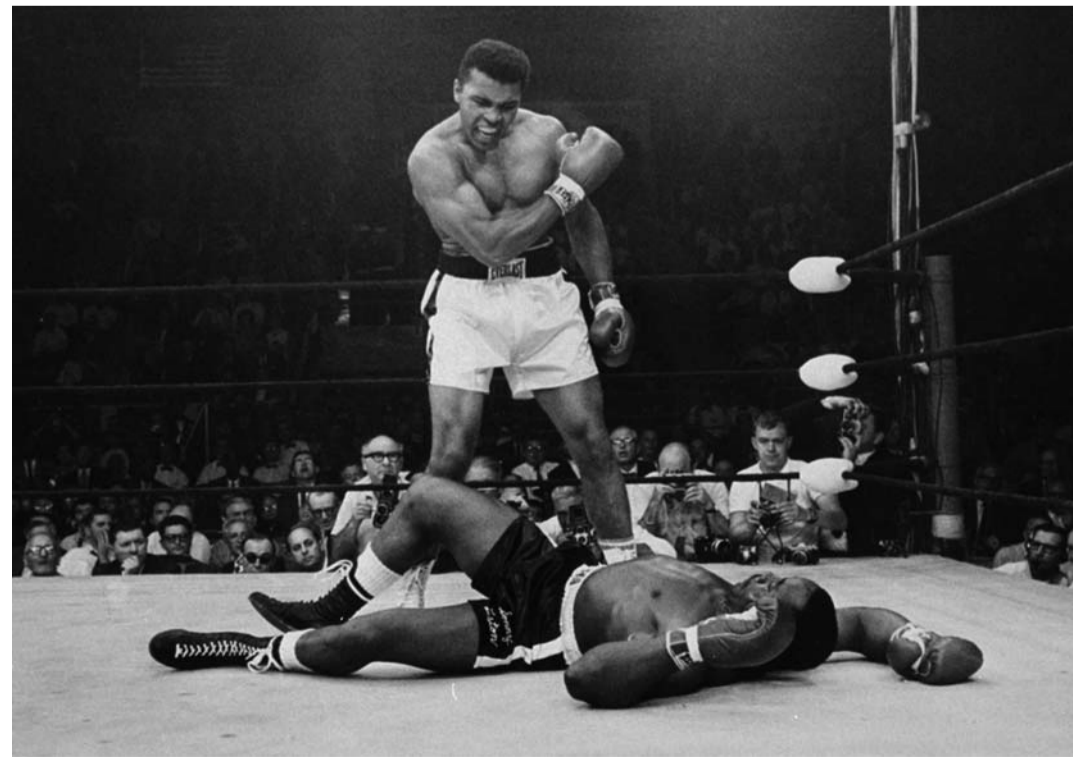
A 2008 study by the University of Heidelberg in Germany scanned the brains of 42 boxers and 37 non-boxers. In three of the boxers, they found "microhaemorrhages" in the brain—the likely result of the sharp impact of blows in the ring that damage soft, swirling cerebral tissue. "These changes are most likely precursors for later severe brain damage such as Parkinson's disease or dementia," the authors said. In 2013, a probe published in the journal Scientific Reports found "profound abnormalities" in the brain activity of retired American football players. Unusual activity in the frontal lobe, observed in former National Football League (NFL) players as they carried out a cognitive test, matched records for heavy blows they had received to the head while on the field. Around 30 percent of boxers develop neurological difficulties after

their career, according to Chermann. "The more knockouts you suffer, the greater the risks." Amateur boxers are even more at threat, he said. "They have more fights, are monitored less and spend less time working on their defense compared to the pros," Chermann said.

Second impact syndrome

Knockouts are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to head injuries sustained in a range of sports, from rugby and ice hockey, to skiing, judo and horse-riding, to name but a few. While in boxing, you see the blows being landed, in other sports

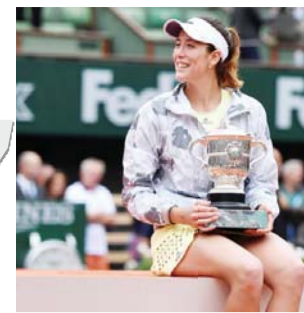
the injury may go unnoticed, Monroche said. "It could also be a footballer who heads the ball a lot. In boxing there's a referee. In other sports, no-one intervenes." Since Ali hung up his gloves, research has shown the importance of at least five days' rest for athletes who suffer a concussion, to avoid "second impact syndrome"—a condition blamed for dozens of fatalities among sportsmen and women every year. French rugby has taken the matter in hand, introducing neurological monitoring for professional players in 2013. In the US, American football and ice hockey players are also closely watched for head injuries. — AFP



In this May 25, 1965 file photo, Heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali stands over fallen challenger Sonny Liston, shouting and gesturing shortly after dropping Liston with a short hard right to the jaw in Lewiston, Maine. — AP

Sports

Muguruza stuns
Serena to win the
French Open title

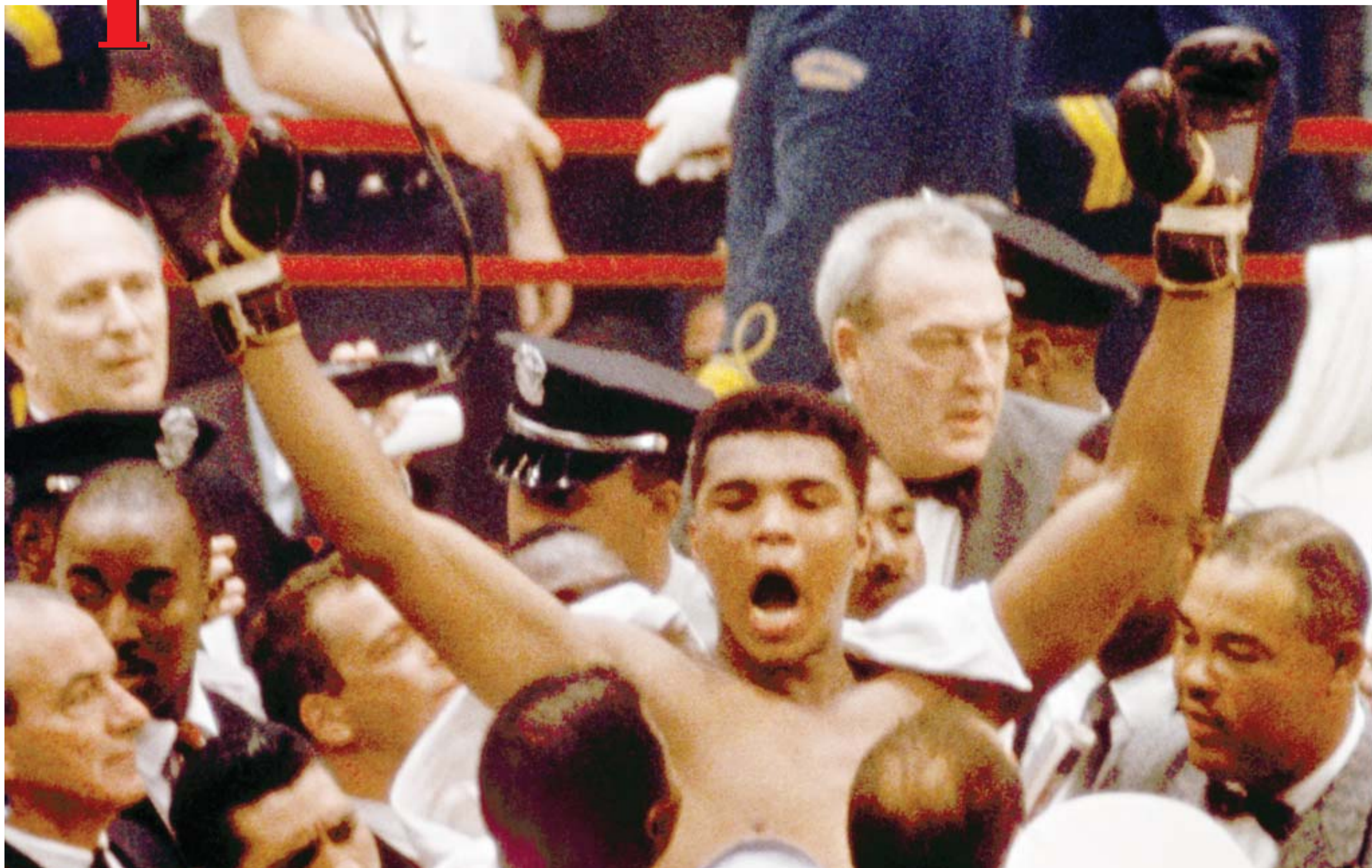


Colombia shatter
American dream
in Copa opener



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MIAMI BEACH: In this Feb 25, 1964 file photo, Muhammad Ali, or Cassius Clay at the time, strikes a familiar pose as he shouts 'I am the greatest', as he leaves the ring, arms raised, following his defeat of former heavyweight boxing champion Sonny Liston. — AP

BOXING LEGEND ALI 'THE GREATEST', DIES AT 74

PHOENIX: Heavyweight boxing legend Muhammad Ali, a 20th Century icon whose fame transcended sport during a remarkable career that spanned three decades, died Friday, his family said. The 74-year-old sports hero, who had been battling Parkinson's disease for decades, passed away in a hospital here where he had been admitted earlier this week suffering from respiratory problems. "After a 32-year battle with Parkinson's disease, Muhammad Ali has passed away at the age of 74," spokesman Bob Gunnell said. "The three-time World Heavyweight Champion boxer died this evening."

Funeral arrangements for Ali were to be announced later, he added, with the champion to be buried in his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. Ali had been living in the Phoenix area with his fourth wife, Lonnie, whom he married in 1986. He was survived by nine children, seven daughters and two sons. As the family gathered at his bedside on Friday, concern for Ali had grown.

Upon his death tributes immediately poured in for "The Greatest," who was known globally not only for his storied ring career but also for his humanitarian activism. US President Barack Obama, who said he keeps a pair of Ali's boxing gloves and a photo in his private study, hailed the late boxer for his civil rights work. "His fight outside the ring would cost him his title and his public standing. It would earn him enemies on the left and the right, make him reviled, and nearly send him to jail. But Ali stood his ground. And his victory helped us get used to the America we recognize today." He was, Obama said, "not just as skilled a poet on the mic as he was a fighter in the ring, but a man who fought for what was right. A man who fought for us."

Longtime boxing promoter Bob Arum said "Ali transformed this country and impacted the world with his spirit. His legacy will be part of our history for all time." "He is, without a question in my mind, the most transformative person of our time," Arum said.

Ali had been hospitalized multiple times in recent years. In 2014 he was treated for a mild case of pneumonia and again in 2015 for a urinary tract infection. His Parkinson's, thought to be linked to the thousands of punches he took during a career studded

by bruising battles inside the ropes, had limited his public speaking. But he continued to make appearances and offer opinions through his family members and spokespeople. In April, he attended a Celebrity Fight Night Dinner in Phoenix that raised funds for treatment of Parkinson's. In December, he issued a statement rebuking US presidential hopeful Donald Trump's call for a ban on Muslims entering the United States.

'The Greatest'

Ali's 30-year career, which stretched from 1960 to 1981 and saw him retire with a record of 56-5, included such historic bouts as the Rumble in the Jungle against George Foreman. Don King promoted that watershed bout in Kinshasa, Zaire, in 1974, in which Ali used his "Rope a Dope" strategy to best Foreman and become just the second fighter ever to regain the heavyweight world title. "His spirit

will go on forever," King said of Ali. "He represents what every athlete and sports person tries to do, an attitude of getting it done, success, he was fabulous. A great human being, and a champion of the people. The greatest of all times."

Other defining moments of Ali's career included two knockouts of Sonny Liston and his thrilling rivalry with Joe Frazier - which saw the two men slug it out in the ring and verbally spar out of it. "Ali, Frazier & Foreman, we were 1 guy. A part of me slipped away - the greatest piece" Foreman wrote on Twitter shortly after Ali's death was announced. Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson added: "God came for his champion. So long great one. @MuhammadAli #TheGreatest #RIP"

Ali, born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr in Louisville, Kentucky, dazzled fans with slick moves in the ring, and with his wit and engaging persona outside it. His refusal to serve in the Vietnam War saw him banned from the sport for years, but the US Supreme Court overturned his conviction for draft

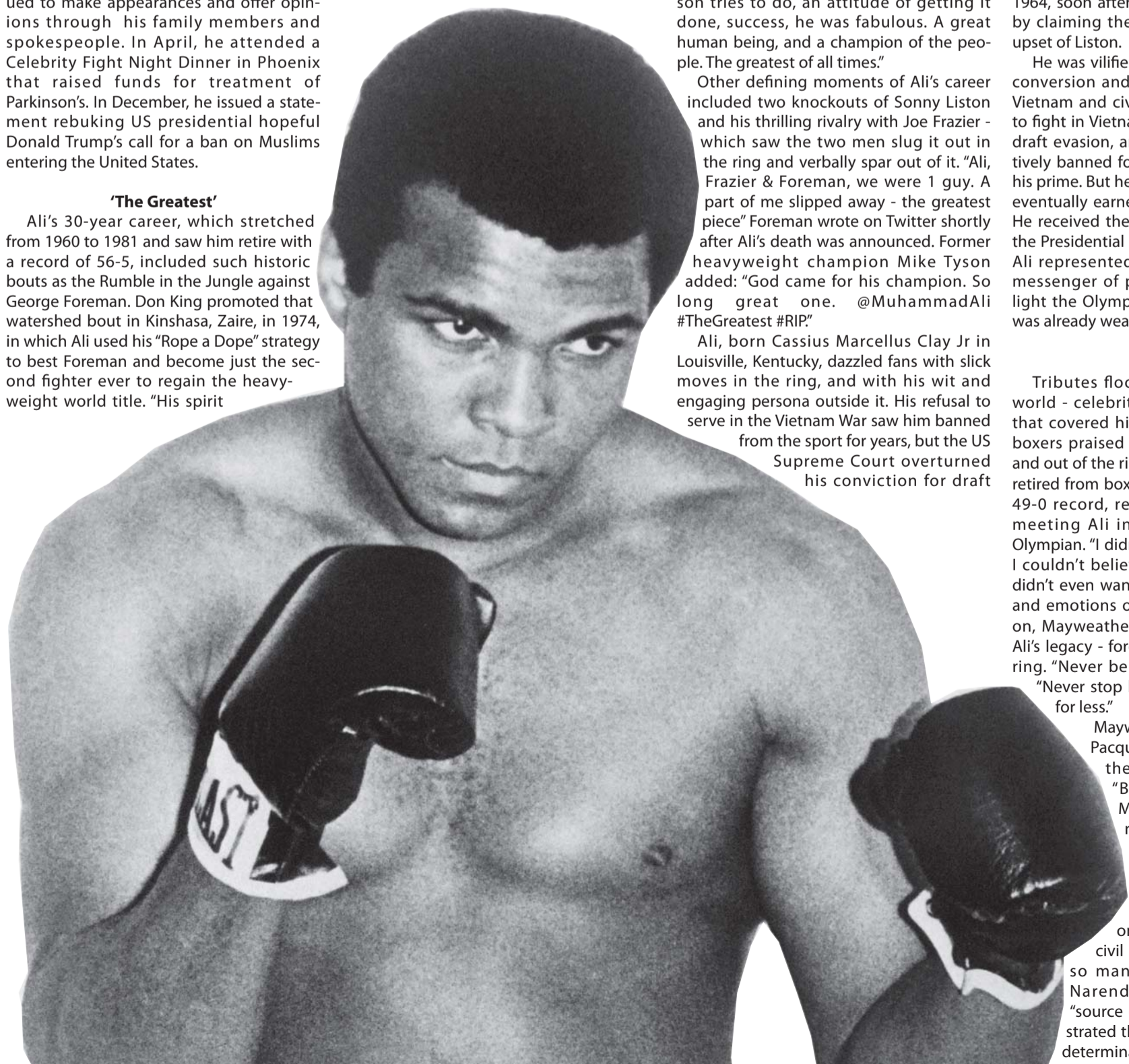
dodging in 1971. He took the name of Muhammad Ali after converting to Islam in 1964, soon after he had stunned the sport by claiming the title with a monumental upset of Liston.

He was vilified in some quarters for that conversion and his outspoken stance on Vietnam and civil rights issues. His refusal to fight in Vietnam saw him prosecuted for draft evasion, and led to him being effectively banned for boxing for three years of his prime. But he held firm to his beliefs and eventually earned accolades as an activist. He received the highest US civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, in 2005. Ali represented the United Nations as a messenger of peace and was chosen to light the Olympic torch in 1996, when he was already weakened by Parkinson's.

'A Giant'

Tributes flooded in from around the world - celebrities, politicians, reporters that covered him, athletes and of course boxers praised Ali for his superb work in and out of the ring. Floyd Mayweather, who retired from boxing last year with a perfect 49-0 record, recalled the awe he felt in meeting Ali in '96, when he was a US Olympian. "I didn't really know what to say. I couldn't believe it," Mayweather said. "I didn't even want to show my true feelings and emotions of how I felt." Twenty years on, Mayweather was clear on his view of Ali's legacy - forged inside and outside the ring. "Never be afraid," Mayweather said. "Never stop believing. And never settle for less."

Mayweather's great rival Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines said the world had lost "a giant." "Boxing benefitted from Muhammad Ali's talents, but not as much as mankind benefitted from his humanity," Pacquiao said. British Prime Minister David Cameron praised Ali on Twitter as "a champion of civil rights, and a role model for so many people," while India's Narendra Modi said he was a "source of inspiration who demonstrated the power of human spirit & determination". — AFP



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Toyota's latest Prius wins many new admirers

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NY FED REJECTED CYBER-HEIST TRANSFERS, THEN MOVED \$81M

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ALBERTA: A view of Syncrude's mine site north of Fort McMurray, Alberta on June 3, 2016. Production at the plant continues after being briefly suspended during last month's raging forest fires threatened to burn through to the plant. —AFP

ROYAL WARRANTS THE JACKPOT FOR BRITISH BUSINESSES

OFFICIAL SUPPLIER TO ROYAL FAMILY IS MARK OF QUALITY

LONDON: From a butcher in northern Scotland to a tailor in central London, becoming an official supplier to Britain's royal family is a mark of quality as well as a commercial jackpot, particularly for exports. The seal opens doors, according to Robert McFarlane, sales director of Donald Russell, the butcher near Aberdeen whose meats have graced Queen Elizabeth II's table for 30 years.

"It's an endorsement of our business," he said. Gaining the right to display a royal coat of arms from the queen, her husband Prince Philip or heir to the throne Prince Charles on a product or premises is not easy. The business must have supplied them with goods or services on a regular basis for five years. It must symbolize British excellence, be seen as responsible, particularly from an environmental perspective, and should also treat its staff well.

The "by appointment to Her Majesty the Queen" seal of approval-or to "HRH The Duke of Edinburgh" or "HRH The Prince of Wales" in the cases of Philip and Charles-can also be withdrawn at any time. "It's a gift from them to you, not a guarantee, so there is always a nervousness that it's going to be OK," McFarlane told AFP.

Mark of Britishness

The anxiety pays off, however, both in Britain-where the monarch remains popular and respected in the year of her 90th birthday-and abroad in markets like Asia. "It's a huge honor to have a royal warrant," said Edward Bodenham of perfumers Floris, established in 1730 in the central London district of St James's.

Floris has a presence in 26 countries,

notably Japan, where shoppers are particularly keen on products associated with the royal family, said exports director Sylvie Imbert. "It's a guarantee of quality and also proof that the products are English," Imbert added. Only around 800 companies have the right to use royal coats of arms on their products and business cards.

These include Fulton, the queen's favourite umbrella maker, leather goods maker Ettinger and tailor Henry Poole. "We are one of the last bastions of pure bespoke," said Anthony Rowland, sales manager of Henry Poole, referring to the practice of measuring men for suits tailored to fit their body shapes perfectly. The tradition of royal warrants dates back to the Middle Ages but gained particular significance during the 19th-century reign of queen Victoria, the current queen's great-great grandmother.

"The number of royal warrants increased dramatically under queen Victoria, encouraged by her husband, prince Albert, who recognised the importance of royal endorsement to help to promote trade," said Russell Tanguay of the Royal Warrant Holders' Association. Venerable department store Fortnum and Mason-a must-visit for the tea and biscuit-loving London tourist-is among those to make the most of their royal connections in recent years.

The shop on Piccadilly has offered a string of different tea blends for royal weddings, birthdays and jubilees over the years. However, it keeps a dignified silence when it comes to the recipes for the queen's favorite treats. One thing we do know, though, is that Prince Philip has a guilty pleasure ginger cream chocolates. — AFP



LONDON: This file photo taken on January 6, 2014 shows a jacket by Saville Row tailor Henry Poole and Co. — AFP

GULF INVESTORS HOLD BACK FROM UK PROPERTY ON BREXIT FEARS

DUBAI/LONDON: Gulf Arab investors, some of the biggest buyers of British real estate, are holding back from new deals because they fear a property price slump if Britain leaves the European Union, according to legal and investment sources. Sovereign and private investors from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates have been prolific buyers of British assets in the past decade, snapping up billions of dollars worth of property, mostly in London.

"Sovereign wealth funds are concerned that Brexit is taking its toll on the property market in London," said a London-based lawyer who works with some of the largest Gulf funds. He declined to be named, citing the confidential nature of his work. "The situation will further deteriorate if there's a Brexit vote."

The value of residential property in up market areas popular among Gulf investors - including Chelsea, South Kensington and Knightsbridge - fell between 3.5 and 7.5 percent on the year in May, according to estate agent Knight Frank. Gulf family businesses and private investors are heavily involved in London real estate. Investors from the UAE accounted for more than 20 percent of buy-to-let property sales in the UK in 2015, said Amit Seth, the Middle East and North Africa head of international residential developments at London-focused real estate agency Chestertons.

"At the moment it seems clear people are little bit more skeptical on making an investment today because of Brexit," said Seth, who is based in Dubai, referring to private Gulf investors in residential real estate. He said investors were still researching opportunities and discussing them with his company, but not finalizing deals. While the precise impact on Gulf investments is unclear, overall flows of foreign capital into commercial real estate in Britain stopped in the first three months of 2016, Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said in April. Business investment in the country also fell in early 2016, statistics showed this week.

London landmarks

Gulf investors also have broader worries about their investments in other sectors and how a possible Brexit in a June 23 EU referendum could affect the British economy, the sources said. A YouGov poll for the Times newspaper showed an even split between "Remain" and "Leave" voters on Wednesday.

There is no suggestion long-term investors from the Gulf will exit assets en

masse if Britain votes out, but many are worried about the impact on portfolios and wider economic effects, a senior Gulf government official said.

"Of course we are worried about what will come next if the British decide to leave the EU," the official said. "We think that there will be a negative impact on our investments in the UK because the selling (prices) will go down and the banks in England will face some difficulties."

Asked to comment on Gulf investor concerns, Tobias Ellwood, a British Foreign Office minister, said the EU referendum was a significant event that had been discussed as part of regular bi-lateral engagements covering a wide variety of areas. "But (it) has not been raised in any form in relation to impact on investment opportunities, which go from strength to strength," he told Reuters in Qatar's capital Doha on May 21. Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jaber Al-Thani, a former Qatari prime minister and investment chief who oversaw much of the Gulf state's UK acquisitions, has spoken out against a "leave" vote. "In the Middle East we all want to see a strong Europe, and believe that economic integration is key to making it stronger. In fact, we believe the UK should not only be part of the EU but should lead it," he told Reuters, describing the City of London as the "financial capital of the world."

Qatar is one of the most high-profile investors in London, owning landmarks such as the Shard skyscraper, Harrods

department store and Olympic Village, as well as luxury hotels. It also leads a consortium that bought the owner of the Canary Wharf financial district last year. While the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) wealth fund has been diversifying its portfolio away from Europe towards more investments in the United States and Asia in the last couple of years, it is still heavily invested in Britain and holds stakes in Barclays, Royal Dutch Shell and Sainsbury's.

If Britain votes to leave "then you are going to see a big hit to investments," said a senior Qatari banker who does business with sovereign and private investors. He said investors were still working on deals without finalizing them until the picture becomes clear. "They are watching to see what happens, but people are continuing to work on new things as they take months to get done."

Canary wharf

The QIA has \$256 billion of assets under management globally, according to the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute (SWFI). It has at least \$7 billion directly invested in equities traded on the London Stock Exchange, in which it also holds a 10.3 percent stake, according to Thomson Reuters data. Sheikh Hamad said in April that Qatar's total investments in Britain were around 30 billion pounds (\$44 billion), according to comments in a Financial Times interview. — Reuters



LONDON: UK Independence Party (UKIP) party leader Nigel Farage poses as he arrives to speak in central London on June 3, 2016. UKIP leader Nigel Farage said he would head a flotilla up the Thames to campaign for Brexit after an audience put David Cameron on the spot in the referendum campaign's first television event. —AFP

5 WAYS TO WORK BETTER AND FASTER THIS RAMADAN

BAYT.COM WEEKLY REPORT

We know how hard Ramadan can be while you're at work. But because Ramadan is a month of giving and good deeds, we want you to be as productive and motivated as possible, at all times. Here, the career experts at Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site, give you some tips for a stress-free, productive Ramadan:

1. Get organized: Use apps

As repeated as this may sound, organizing your tasks can be the most time-consuming task. In fact, according to the Bayt.com 'Distractions at Work in the MENA' poll, December 2013, 94% of professionals in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region use to-do lists to organize their day. As you handle more and more responsibilities, it is very likely that you start feeling lost in your job! We all experienced a time where we absolutely had no idea where to begin when assigned new projects, and then so suddenly there is this monthly performance review you have to submit, or an impor-

tant survey that needs to be turned in ASAP.

If you're looking to boost your workday productivity during Ramadan, that smartphone in your pocket can help. The mobile app revolution has produced hundreds of apps to help ease the stress of everyday life. These applications perform both simple tasks, such as managing your to-do list, and complex ones, such as allowing you remote access to your computer. If you're looking for a job, the Bayt.com app will help you apply to thousands of jobs and get instant notifications when jobs that match your preferences are posted on the Bayt.com website.

2. Exercise and stay healthy

If you do an online search for the most successful and influential people, you will surely notice that these people give their bodies as much attention as they do their job. Being healthy and taking care of your body does not only make you look nice, but also boosts your alertness and energy at work. More exercise means

more blood flow to your brain, which reflects on your work performance. When you improve your alertness and awareness, you are likely to be more ready to tackle your next big project. According to the Bayt.com 'MENA Professionals' Health and Eating Habits' poll, March 2012, almost four in 10 respondents exercise frequently.

3. Strengthen your relationship with your boss

The exchange of feedback with your boss should not only be during the yearly performance review. On the contrary, a department is best productive when there is an open line of communication, and readiness to accept ideas and feedback. Always push for weekly or bi-monthly meetings with your manager to discuss progress, address issues, and acknowledge accomplishments. A feedback culture is the best culture for growth.

4. Take on new challenges

During Ramadan, make sure to seize new opportu-

nities and take on tasks that are not usual for you. This will tremendously improve your capacity, your knowledge, and will help you expand your network in the office through dealing with different functional departments. Also, being courageous and proactively taking on new challenges will put you in a favorable and more trustworthy place with your superiors, and everyone will look at you as a valuable asset.

5. Get enough rest

Overworking yourself and sleep deprivation will not help you be better at your job. In fact, they can make you less focused and generally fatigued, which will ultimately affect your work performance. Always prioritize your day to make sure all the urgent tasks are being handled before 5pm - or whenever you are supposed to leave. Do not make it a habit to take your work home, this can work out for a few times when you have very important deadlines, but doing this frequently will ultimately drain your energy.



FAYETTEVILLE: Doug McMillon, chief executive officer and president, talks on stage during the annual Wal-Mart Shareholders Meeting. — AP

WAL-MART'S CEO URGES EMPLOYEES TO RE-IMAGINE COMPANY'S FUTURE

COMPANY AT CROSSROADS IN FAST-SHIFTING LANDSCAPE

FAYETTEVILLE: Wal-Mart's CEO urged employees on Friday to re-imagine its future in a fast-shifting retail landscape. The company is at a crossroads, as its long-held dominance in pricing and convenience has been chipped away at by Amazon and dollar stores. But it's fighting back on multiple fronts, growing more aggressive with prices and going after Amazon, both online and on the doorstep, by expanding delivery services to cater to shoppers who want to buy anywhere, anytime.

"We want to make every day easier for busy families. We're connecting all the parts of Wal-Mart into one seamless shopping experience with great stores, easy pickup, fast delivery and apps and websites that are simple to use," Chief Executive Doug McMillon said at the annual shareholders' meeting.

The event was packed with 14,000 people including nearly 6,000 Wal-Mart workers as well as shareholders, analysts and several Walton family members. The legacy of the company's late founder Sam Walton still resonates, with executives paying homage to his philosophy of low prices and customer service. Part business meeting, part pep rally, the meeting was hosted by comedian James Corden and featured musicians Katy Perry, Nick Jonas, Maxwell and Andy Grammer.

More nimble

Entertainment aside, Wal-Mart emphasized ways in which it's working to be more nimble. The company is spending money on its stores and its staff. It's in the second year of a \$2.7 billion investment in training and higher wages, with the goal of making Wal-Mart a place people want to be.

Changes have been painful at times. The company announced this year it would shutter 269 stores worldwide, about half of them in the US. That's a tiny fraction of its locations worldwide, but was a rare

pruning for Wal-Mart, particularly on its home turf.

Yet those maneuvers to spruce up stores and increase wages appear to be paying off. The company posted its seventh consecutive quarter of rising comparable-store sales at US Wal-Mart locations, which account for 62 percent of annual revenue. It expects sales to grow again this quarter.

Traffic counts are up for the sixth straight quarter. Amid a disastrous quarter for many retailers as a whole, Wal-Mart excelled. But red flags have appeared as Wal-Mart digs in to fend off Amazon.com. Overall revenue in the fiscal year ended in January declined slightly to \$478.6 billion, excluding revenue from membership fees and other income. That's the first annual drop since the company went public 45 years ago.

Wal-Mart's e-commerce growth has slowed dramatically even as it escalates investment there. Global e-commerce sales growth slowed to 7 percent during the first quarter, a notable downturn from nearly 30 percent two years ago. "Domestically, Wal-Mart's challenge remains unchanged as it attempts to adapt to a changing retail environment in which stores are only 'part' of the environment and not 'only' the environment," wrote Credit Suisse analyst Michael Exstein.

Still, Wall Street appears optimistic. Wal-Mart shares are up 16 percent this year, while the Standard & Poor's index for multiline retail is up only 2.5 percent. McMillon said afterward that Wal-Mart has past practice on its side. "We've got the history of studying competition," he said. "We can see what's happening with customers." He added that Wal-Mart is picking up the pace of change and doing plenty of experimentation.

Details on steps

REPRIORITIZING PRICES: Wal-Mart is cutting prices on an array of products over the next few years,

though it's not releasing specifics. Executives said that in the past few years, it hadn't been as aggressive on prices as it should have been. The company is also bringing back the smiley face in stores and TV ads after a decade, saying nearly 70 percent of customers still equate the image with savings.

EXPANDING ONLINE: Wal-Mart is increasing its online options, including groceries. It's rapidly expanding into new markets for its online grocery pickup; it will be in over 200 stores in about 55 markets by the end of the month. It also plans to test grocery deliveries in Denver and Phoenix using ride-hailing companies Uber and Lyft. That joins a pilot program making the online delivery service Deliv available to Sam's Club customers in Miami.

Wal-Mart trimmed the delivery time for its free-shipping pilot program to two days from three, and it's cutting a dollar off the membership price to \$49 a year. Amazon membership costs \$99, but it comes with many other perks. Wal-Mart is also rolling out its own mobile payment system at every store nationwide by the end of this month.

SPRUCING UP STORES: Wal-Mart is focusing on improving its fresh produce offerings at its US name-sake stores, which drives frequent traffic. It's also refining its baked goods area and lowering store sight lines to help shoppers navigate. Wal-Mart has said customer scores on satisfaction have improved.

IMPROVING DISTRIBUTION: Wal-Mart ships goods directly to customers from 80 stores and uses 4,500 stores as pickup points. But it's also trying to fulfill orders more quickly at distribution centers. It offered a peek at a drone it's testing that skitters around, taking 30 pictures per second and flagging misplaced items. Wal-Mart says drones let it confirm inventory in about a day or less, rather than taking a month. The technology could be rolled out in the next six to nine months. — AP

BIG BANKS, WAITED YEARS FOR A RATE HIKE, GET PUMMELED

NEW YORK: With oddsmakers all but pulling a summer rate hike off the table after a terrible US jobs report and a wash of other disheartening economic data, the nation's biggest banks took pummeling from investors Friday. The financial sector has been waiting seven years for the Federal Reserve to increase the short-term interest rates substantially, which allows banks to follow with higher rates for borrowing. The Fed raised rates at the end of last year, but just barely.

The report from the Labor Department on Friday, showing that there was a drastic slowdown in hiring by US employers in May, rewrote the story many had expected to unfold later this month and in July when the Fed meets. Financials were the biggest decliner by far of the 10 Standard & Poor's sectors

Friday, with the biggest banks leading the way down. Bank of America Corp took the biggest tumble in midday trading, down 4.2 percent. Shares of Citigroup Inc. also traded down more than 4 percent as CEO Mike Corbat suggested second-quarter earnings would drop 25 percent from the same period last year. JPMorgan Chase & Co and Wells Fargo & Co both tumbled more than 2 percent on the heels of the dismal jobs report.

Just a couple of weeks ago, bank stocks surged as Fed officials hinted that an increase in June was likely. However, the US added just 38,000 jobs in May, the fewest in more than 5 years. The Institute for Supply Management followed with a report showing that US services firms grew at the slowest pace in more than two years last month. — AP



NEW YORK: American flags fly in front of the New York Stock Exchange. — AP

ITALIAN OIL COMPANY ENI'S CEO MEETS WITH LIBYAN PREMIER

MILAN: The CEO of Italian oil giant Eni has traveled to Tripoli for the first time since July 2014 to meet with the new head of Libya's UN-backed government. Eni said in a statement that the meeting yesterday between CEO Claudio Descalzi and Libya's new prime minister, Fayez Serraj, underlines Eni's commitment to continuing operations in Libya and to support the National Oil Corporation's

efforts to increase production. Eni was the first international oil company to resume operations in Libya in 2011 after months of civil war and currently produces 300,000 barrels of oil equivalent a day. Eni has maintained operations in the country, continuing both its exploration activities offshore as well as helping supply gas for local power plants for domestic consumption. — AP



TRIPOLI: Italian oil giant Eni CEO Claudio Descalzi, left, and Libya's new prime minister, Fayez Al-Serraj shake hands. — AP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.843
Indian Rupees	4.501
Pakistani Rupees	2.890
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.055
Nepali Rupees	2.818
Singapore Dollar	224.840
Hongkong Dollar	38.978
Bangladesh Taka	3.860
Philippine Peso	6.518
Thai Baht	8.534

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.776
Qatari Riyal	83.207
ani Riyal	786.772
Bahraini Dinar	804.440
UAE Dirham	82.471

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	32.600
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.484
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	142.670
Jordanian Dinar	426.740
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	2.159
Morocco Dirham	31.868

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.750
Euro	345.890
Sterling Pound	442.770

Canadian dollar	235.970
Turkish lira	104.940
Swiss Franc	313.570
Australian Dollar	225.850
US Dollar Buying	301.550

GOLD

20 Gram	251.850
10 Gram	128.850
5 Gram	65.270

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.000
Canadian Dollar	234.405
Sterling Pound	440.385
Euro	345.255
Swiss Frank	296.765
Bahrain Dinar	801.595
UAE Dirhams	82.735
Qatari Riyals	83.950
Saudi Riyals	81.480
Jordanian Dinar	426.835
Egyptian Pound	34.024
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.057
Indian Rupees	4.498
Pakistani Rupees	2.889
Bangladesh Taka	3.855
Philippines Peso	6.508
Cyprus pound	577.120
Japanese Yen	3.835
Syrian Pound	2.375
Nepalese Rupees	3.805

Malaysian Ringgit	75.020
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.470
Thai Bhat	9.540
Turkish Lira	104.640

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.433936	0.443936
Czech Korune	0.004723	0.016723
Danish Krone	0.042177	0.047177
Euro	0.0338552	0.0347552
Norwegian Krone	0.033018	0.038218
Romanian Leu	0.086846	0.086846
Slovakia	0.009023	0.019023
Swedish Krona	0.033146	0.038146
Swiss Franc	0.304272	0.315272
Turkish Lira	0.098716	0.109016
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.215366	0.227366
New Zealand Dollar	0.204982	0.214482
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.228966	0.237966
US Dollars	0.298650	0.303350
US Dollars Mint	0.299150	0.303350
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003412	0.003996
Chinese Yuan	0.044544	0.048044
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036962	0.039712

Indian Rupee	0.004185	0.004595
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002757	0.002937
Kenyan Shilling	0.003114	0.003114
Korean Won	0.000250	0.000265
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069491	0.075491
Nepalese Rupee	0.002885	0.003055
Pakistan Rupee	0.002692	0.002982
Philippine Peso	0.006377	0.006677
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.217833	0.227833
South African Rand	0.014074	0.022574
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001673	0.002253
Taiwan	0.009223	0.009403
Thai Baht	0.008224	0.008774

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.796481	0.804981
Egyptian Pound	0.027985	0.033103
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.423005	0.432005
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020832	0.044832
Nigerian Naira	0.001249	0.001884
Omani Riyal	0.779944	0.785624
Qatar Riyal	0.082347	0.083797
Saudi Riyal	0.079647	0.080947
Syrian Pound	0.001283	0.001503
Tunisian Dinar	0.139868	0.147868
Turkish Lira	0.098716	0.109016
UAE Dirhams	0.081002	0.082702
Yemeni Riyal	0.001368	0.001448

NY FED REJECTED CYBER-HEIST TRANSFERS, THEN MOVED \$81M

DHAKA/NEW YORK: Hours before the Federal Reserve Bank of New York approved four fraudulent requests to send \$81 million from a Bangladesh Bank account to cyber thieves, the Fed branch blocked those same requests because they lacked information required to transfer money, according to two people with direct knowledge of the matter.

On the day of the theft in February, the New York Fed initially rejected 35 requests to transfer funds to various overseas accounts, a New York Fed official and a senior Bangladesh Bank official told Reuters. The Fed's decision to later fulfill a handful of resubmitted requests raises questions about whether it missed red flags.

The New York arm of the US central bank initially denied the transfer requests because they lacked proper formatting for the SWIFT messaging system, the network banks use for international financial transfers, the two officials said. The Bangladesh Bank official said they lacked the names of correspondent banks, which typically receive wired funds. The Fed rejected the requests, which came from hackers who had broken into the SWIFT network through Bangladesh Bank systems.

Technical compliance

Later in the day, however, the cyber thieves resubmitted those 35 requests. On the second try, the messages had the proper formatting, the New York Fed

official said. The requests had been authenticated by SWIFT, the first line of defense against fraudulent wire transfers. Despite the technical compliance, the New York Fed rejected 30 of the requests a second time. But the Fed did approve five requests - for a total of \$101 million. Later, one of those five transfers - a \$20 million request - was reversed because of a misspelling. The New York Fed has said it blocked the 30 resubmitted requests because they were flagged for economic sanctions review. Only afterward were they deemed potentially fraudulent.

The Bangladesh Bank official and another source close to the bank said the New York Fed should have rejected all the requests on both the first and second attempts. The source close to the bank, who also had direct knowledge of the matter, said anomalies in the four transfers that ultimately went through should have raised questions at the New York Fed. They were paid to individual recipients, a rarity for Bangladesh's central bank, and the false names on the four approved withdrawals also appeared on some of the 30 resubmitted requests rejected by the bank, said the source close to the Bangladesh Bank.

"Of course, we asked the Fed why the repetition of the names did not create red flags," the source said. "They are saying they rejected 35 badly submitted ones," the source said. But when the requests were resubmitted, they "paid 5 of them and stopped 30. Why?

They can give no answer," Bangladesh Bank and SWIFT declined to comment. The New York Fed has said there were no problems with its procedures for approving SWIFT fund transfers, and declined to comment on whether it missed any warning signs. The cyber theft from Bangladesh's central bank - and recent disclosures of other similar fraud attempts - have brought scrutiny on the SWIFT messaging system. SWIFT is a cooperative of global banks formally known as the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, and its transaction system was used as a conduit for one of the largest cyber bank heists in history.

In the United States, a congressional committee has launched a probe into the New York Fed's role in the bank heist. The Bangladesh central bank might seek compensation for the funds from the Federal Reserve, and Bangladesh Bank police have said that recent installation of a new SWIFT settlement system at the bank last fall may have provided thieves an opportunity to gain access to the bank's SWIFT servers.

Red flags

The New York Fed's reviews of payment requests that come over the SWIFT system are focused chiefly on guarding against money laundering and transfers to people and entities that are under U.S. government sanctions, Fed officials have said. But requests often also are temporarily halted to fix typos and other for-

matting problems. The Fed branch has said its clients, including Bangladesh Bank, and SWIFT have primary responsibility for preventing unauthorized transfers.

Fed employees queried Bangladesh Bank about the purpose of the payments requested on Feb. 4 and again on Feb 5, according to a letter to congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) by New York Fed General Counsel Thomas Baxter. The four transfers totaling \$81 million went to accounts in the Philippines. The money wound up with casinos and casino agents and remains missing. An attempt to transfer \$20 million to a foundation in Sri Lanka was reversed because the word "foundation" was misspelled.

The source close to Bangladesh Bank said questions about the anomalies in the approved requests were discussed at a meeting in Basel last month between New York Fed President William Dudley, Bangladesh Bank Governor Fazle Kabir and representatives from SWIFT. Rep Maloney and Tom Carper, the top Democrat on the Senate Homeland Security Committee, both have made inquiries to the New York Fed.

The House Science Committee informed the New York Fed in a letter this week that it is launching a probe into its handling of the transfer requests. The committee plans to examine the New York Fed's response to the heist, the oversight of SWIFT, and whether additional measures are needed to address vulnerabilities to cyber attacks. — Reuters

BOTTLED WATER SELLING QUICKLY AFTER ALABAMA WATER WARNING

COURTLAND: Lisa Davis, a cashier at a Foodvalu grocery store in rural north Alabama, spent Friday ringing up bottled water sales after a local utility declared its tap water unfit to drink because of chemical contamination. Some customers got a six-pack; others bought jugs or a whole case. The scene was the same across the street at a Dollar General store, where a big metal cart once full of bottled water stood empty.

The run on water began Thursday afternoon, when officials with the West Morgan-East Limestone Water and Sewer Authority held a news conference to warn the utility's 10,000 residential and business customers in parts of two counties to not drink or cook with tap water because of chemical contamination. Davis, 41, said she and her two children will be fine during a dry spell that officials said could last until fall. But she's worried about the less fortunate and elderly who may not have extra money to spend on bottled water.

"These older people who are on a fixed income can't just go out and buy water," she said. "They are paying water bills." The scare comes as other states are dealing with serious water-contamination issues: In Flint, Michigan, where tests found lead in tap water earlier this year, officials are still distributing bottled water to residents. In West Virginia, lawsuits and an investigation are ongoing over the release of toxic chemicals into the Elk River in 2014.

Health risks

The West Morgan-East Limestone utility has long been aware of the presence of perfluorooctanoic acid and perfluorooctane sulfonate in its water system, but the levels of the chemicals were within acceptable levels defined by former Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. Last month, however, the EPA lowered its recommended levels for the chemicals. It said water systems with combined levels of 70 parts per trillion of the chemicals in drinking water should advise customers of the potential health risks and take steps to reduce the chemicals.

The chemicals, commonly called PFOA and PFOS, have been used to make fabrics, packaging and coatings for cookware, according to an EPA fact sheet. Studies indicate that exposure to PFOA and PFOS above certain levels may result in problems including low birth weight, accelerated puberty, cancer, liver damage and immune-system effects, according to the EPA. Under its new guidelines, the EPA says pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers should not drink the water and that it should not be used in baby formula. West Morgan-East Lawrence's general manager, Don Sims, went further after recent tests of the local water found levels almost 60 percent higher than the new EPA limit. "I would rather be overcautious than under-cautious," Sims said during a news conference. "I'm not a doctor; I'm not a chemist. But when they tell one class of people the water is not safe, I don't want to be the one to say, 'You drink it and you don't.' So I said, 'Nobody drink it.'"

Filtration system

A temporary filtration system to purify the water won't be ready before September, officials said, and a permanent solution could be three years away. Dr Jim McVay, a spokesman with the Alabama Department of Public Health, said the authority made the announcement without consulting health or environmental officials. The Health Department is sticking with EPA guidance that warns only some to avoid the water, he said. "That's the best science we have," McVay said.

Gov Robert Bentley said in a statement that the local decision "effectively turned an advisory into a regulation." "Based on my current understanding, I am confident that there is no health-related crisis based on the water quality of the West Morgan East Lawrence Water Authority," Bentley said. The utility's latest warning comes amid an ongoing lawsuit that it filed against 3M and other manufacturing companies along the Tennessee River last year, blaming them for polluting the river with industrial chemicals. — AP



CARACAS: View of an empty refrigerator at the house of Liliana Rojas (out frame) in the poor neighbourhood of Catia. — AFP

OIL DEPENDANT VENEZUELA'S BARE FRIDGES A SIGN OF FAILING ECONOMY

CASH RUNNING OUT TO IMPORT THE FOOD, OTHER BASIC GOODS

CARACAS: Mayra de Ramos stood in line all day to buy two packs of corn flour and pasta, but the Venezuelan grandmother says it won't be enough. She lives with her three children and three young grandchildren in Catia, a downtrodden neighborhood in Caracas. "My refrigerator is bare," the 64-year-old pensioner says, showing its empty shelves. "We don't eat three meals a day. We have breakfast late and lunch late and that's it. There's not enough milk. We give the kids 'fororo' (an inexpensive flour-based cereal) to get them to sleep."

Her daughter was the one standing in line at the supermarket that day because the last number on her ID card was selected under the government's rationing program. Ramos went the day before. "It was incredible," she says. "I had to wait in line all day. Sometimes we came away empty-handed." Home to the world's largest oil reserves, Venezuela has skidded into an economic catastrophe as global crude prices have collapsed.

The country that depends on oil for 96 percent of its trade revenues is running out of cash to import the food, medicine and other basic goods it buys abroad. The crisis has caused severe shortages and hyperinflation forecast to hit 700 percent this year, threatening President Nicolas Maduro and the socialist economic model he inherited from his late

predecessor Hugo Chavez. Venezuelans line up at dawn or even overnight outside the nation's supermarkets, guarded by heavily armed police to battle the growing problem of looting. "My day-to-day is going out to stand in line, to see what I can find," says Liliana Rojas, 44, a neighbor of Ramos's whose family of eight includes four children. "We eat breakfast and skip lunch. If we have lunch, we don't eat dinner so the flour lasts two days."

Black market

Rosa Gomez, a 38-year-old housewife, makes her way home in the densely packed Petare neighborhood with two packs of corn flour, two chickens and three sticks of butter. It's getting dark, it's raining and she's visibly tired. "I left home at 5 am," she says. "I spent the whole day in line just to get this. We have to do it. If not, we don't eat. I don't have the money to buy on the black market."

Maduro's government has launched a crackdown on black-market sellers who buy up subsidized products and sell them at a mark-up. They are called "bachaqueros," for a species of large ant. A pack of black-market flour costs more than 10 times the regulation price, Gomez says. "Your salary's just not enough," she says. "If you buy on the black market, it disappears like water."

To fight corruption at state-run supermarkets and hoarding by shoppers, the government has launched a distribution plan to pass out bags of subsidized food through so-called Supply and Production Committees headed by community leaders. The acronym in Spanish is CLAP.

"First come the CLAPs and then everyone else," Maduro said Thursday. "That's the order in line. All power to the CLAPs." Several protests have erupted in recent days when trucks loaded with food arrived at supermarkets only for police guarding the lines outside to commandeer the delivery for the CLAPs, according to witnesses.

And many Venezuelans complain those subsidized bags of rice, sugar, butter, oil and corn flour arrive only for a small portion of the population. Even those who get the subsidized bags aren't happy, saying they don't last long. "They give me this pathetic little bag from month to month," Ramos says. "There are four or five products, and less every time."

As she scrapes together the family's meal, she ties a cloth around the mouth of her faucet and turns it on, filtering dirty water into a bottle. She fills a few and puts them in the near-empty fridge. "Water. That's all there is," she says, a resigned smile flickering across her lips. — AFP



COURTLAND: An employee stocks bottled water at a Foodvalu store. — AP

FINNISH EMPLOYEES TO WORK MORE DAYS FOR SAME PAY

HELSINKI: Finnish labor unions representing around 85 percent of the workforce have accepted the government's bid to increase working hours without a pay rise, officials said Friday. Once one of the top performers in the Eurozone, Finland has been struggling for nine years to put its economy back on track.

The deal, drafted by Finland's pro-austerity government to cut the cost of labour, means that around 85 percent of Finnish employees will work 24 hours, three additional days, a year without extra compensation. Employees will also pay a greater portion of social insurance contributions and holiday pay will be reduced in the public sector.

Finland's economic woes first began in 2007 with the global economic slowdown and eventually led to a three-year recession between 2011 and 2014. Finland's centrist Prime Minister Juha Sipila, who had spent his first year in office pushing for the deal, celebrated it as "historic." "With this agreement we seek a major leap in competitiveness to make our country

thrive. We will catch up significantly with (our competitors) Sweden and Germany," Sipila wrote in a blog post.

The country's powerful labor unions had never before in their history accepted any wage cut, but their leaders said it was necessary now to create new jobs. In 2015, Finland emerged from the recession, with tepid growth of 0.5 percent, but the dark clouds over the economy have still not dispersed.

Last week Microsoft added to the agony with its announcement that it would need to get rid of the last 1,350 handset designers in Finland, whom it had acquired in 2014 from the Finnish telecom giant Nokia, the world's former number one in handsets. Finland's economic woes are blamed on falling competitiveness, an ageing population and the economic problems of its major trading partners, Russia and the European Union.

Moody's cuts Finland's AAA rating

Moody's became the third rating agency to remove Finland's top-flight AAA credit rating Friday, saying it sees

no improvement in the country's debt challenge over the coming five years. Moody's cut the Nordic country's rating by one notch to Aa1 following similar moves by rival rating agencies Fitch and S&P in 2014 and 2015.

The Finnish economy faces weak growth over the coming years that will reduce its resilience to potential shocks, Moody's said. Without economic improvement, the agency added, it foresees a deteriorating fiscal position "with no material reversal in the upward trend in the public sector debt burden likely in the next five years."

Although Finland's economy resumed growing slowly last year after three years of recession, Moody's said it expects the country to expand only 1 percent per year over 2016-2017. The country's debt burden will continue rising from 60 percent of GDP last year to 67 percent by 2018, it said. "The rise in Finland's debt load has been material and the measures planned to reverse it are not without challenges, particularly in a low-growth environment," Moody's said. — AFP



COLUMBO: A Sri Lankan fruit vendor selling king coconuts pushes his bicycle through traffic in Colombo yesterday. The IMF yesterday released the first tranche of a \$1.5 billion bailout for Sri Lanka, which is reeling after a government spending spree and facing a balance of payments crisis. — AFP

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY					SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %	Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	18,206,295	2.34%	2,316,195	3.89%	OIL & GAS	768.18	781.25	-1.67%	-6.18%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,418,518	0.18%	565,182	0.95%	BASIC MATERIALS	917.99	970.57	-5.42%	-6.93%
INDUSTRIALS	92,506,724	11.87%	8,228,221	13.83%	INDUSTRIALS	1,051.05	1,055.77	-0.45%	0.77%
CONSUMER GOODS	48,443,998	6.21%	6,922,746	11.64%	CONSUMER GOODS	1,122.30	1,118.55	0.34%	2.50%
HEALTH CARE	54,695	0.01%	16,657	0.03%	HEALTH CARE	990.98	990.98	0.00%	7.09%
CONSUMER SERVICES	24,803,903	3.18%	2,387,795	4.01%	CONSUMER SERVICES	986.87	935.42	5.50%	-2.16%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	142,962,220	18.34%	7,685,649	12.92%	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	609.16	608.35	0.13%	1.76%
BANKS	45,405,790	5.82%	12,562,886	21.12%	BANKS	813.75	817.01	-0.40%	-10.29%
INSURANCE	324,542	0.04%	54,688	0.09%	INSURANCE	1,021.43	1,023.69	-0.22%	-9.37%
REAL ESTATE	187,084,131	24.00%	8,043,435	13.52%	REAL ESTATE	853.15	854.12	-0.11%	-9.31%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	216,907,947	27.83%	10,564,940	17.76%	FINANCIAL SERVICES	559.55	571.78	-2.14%	-6.02%
TECHNOLOGY	1,423,945	0.18%	139,663	0.23%	TECHNOLOGY	972.55	982.75	-1.04%	18.58%

KSE ENDS WEEK IN THE RED ZONE

BAYAN INVESTMENT WEEKLY REPORT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week in the red zone. The Price Index closed at 5,377.05 points, down by 0.36% from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.64% after closing at 355.37 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 818.10 points down by 1.61%. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 2.96%, compared to the preceding week, reaching K.D 11.90 million, whereas trading volume average was 155.91 million shares, recording a decrease of 6.38%.

The stock market witnessed a new chapter of the weekly losses series, as it ended the last week's trading activity with a decrease of the three indices, in light of the overwhelming of the selling pressures and the profit collection operations over the purchasing power that was limitedly present in few daily sessions of the week. The selling operations concentrated on the leading stocks in the market, which were able to record increases in the previous sessions, which negatively affected the Weighted and KSX-15 indices, the most losing indices compared to the Price Index.

As per the daily trading activity, Sunday's session witnessed a limited decline for the three stock indices, in light of the quick profit collection operations executed on many stocks of different weights, among a noticeable decline in the trading activity, especially the value, which dropped by 37%. On Monday's session, the market continued its downward direction for the second consecutive session amid a continued decline in the trading indicators, however slower than the previous session, while the market was able of realizing good gains in the mid-week session, for the three indices, especially the Price Index which was able to compensate all of its previous losses and break the previous week's closing in an upward direction, benefiting from the random purchasing operations that concentrated on the small-cap stocks in particular.

The market returned to the red zone on Wednesday once again, affected by the return of the profit collection operations, which pushed all its indices to close with grouped losses, while the end of week session witnessed a

mixed closing for the three indices, as the Price Index was able to realize some increase, however the Price Index and KSX-15 Index continued its decrease, adding up to its weekly losses.

By the end of the week, the market capitalization reached K.D. 23.16 billion, down by 0.89% compared to its level in a week earlier, where it was K.D. 23.37 billion. On an annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in KSE declined by 8.32% from its value at end of 2015, where it reached then K.D. 25.27 billion.

As far as KSE annual performance, the price index ended last week recording 4.24% annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the weighted index decreased by 6.90%, and the KSX-15 recorded 9.14% loss.

Sectors' Indices

Eight of KSE's sectors ended last week in the red zone, three recorded increases, whereas the Health Care sector's index closed with no change from the week before. The Basic Materials sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 5.42% to end the week's activity at 917.99 points. The Financial Services sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 2.14%, closing at 559.55 points, followed by the Oil & Gas sector, as its index closed at 768.18 points at a loss of 1.67%. The Real Estate sector was the least declining as its index closed at 853.15 points with a 0.11% decrease.

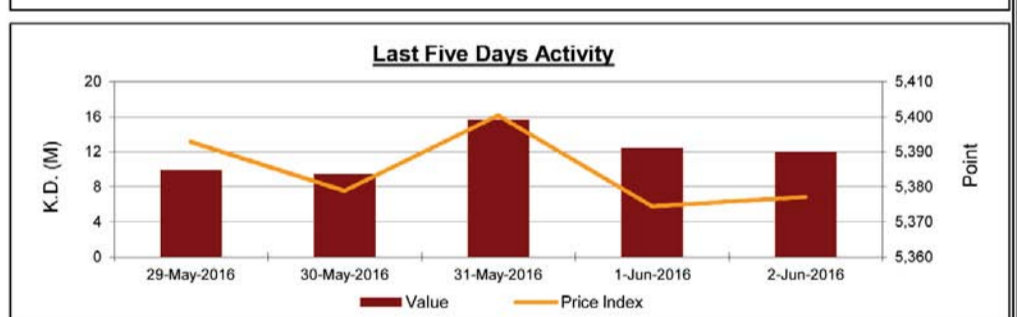
On the other hand, last week's highest gainer was the Consumer Services sector, achieving 5.50% growth rate as its index closed at 986.87 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Consumer Goods sector's index closed at 1,122.30 points recording 0.34% increase. The Telecommunications sector came in third as its index achieved 0.13% growth, ending the week at 609.16 points.

Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 216.91 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 27.83% of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 24% of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around

187.08 million shares. On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around K.D 12.56 million or 21.12% of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. K.D 10.56 million representing 17.76% of the total market trading value.

KSE INDICES				
		Price Index	Weighted index	KSX 15
Weekly	Last week	5,377.05	355.37	818.10
	Previous week	5,396.67	357.67	831.50
	Change (Point)	-19.62	-2.30	-13.40
	Change (%)	-0.36%	-0.64%	-1.61%
Annual	Last year	5,615.12	381.70	900.43
	Change (Point)	-238.07	-26.33	-82.33
	Change (%)	-4.24%	-6.90%	-9.14%



MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	779,542,708	832,697,094	-6.38%
Value (K.D)	59,488,057	57,779,551	2.96%
Deals	16,649	17,619	-5.51%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)				
	Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
	23,163,000,000	23,369,700,000	-0.88%	-8.32%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
KCIN	1,580.00	1,200.00	380.0	31.67%
MUNTAZAHAT	91.00	77.00	14.0	18.18%
CATTL	176.00	156.00	20.0	12.82%
OOREDOO	1,200.00	1,100.00	100.0	9.09%
NAFAIS	174.00	162.00	12.0	7.41%

TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
NINV	88.00	112.00	-24.0	-21.43%
GGMC	265.00	325.00	-60.0	-18.46%
ALKOUT	550.00	650.00	-100.0	-15.38%
ENERGYH	43.00	50.00	-7.0	-14.00%
GNAHC	31.50	36.50	-5.0	-13.70%

SECTORS' ACTIVITY
The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 216.91 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 27.83% of the total market trading volume. On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around K.D 12.56 million or 21.12% of last week's total market trading value.

US JOBS DATA SINK STOCK RALLY, DOLLAR

NEW YORK: A dismal US jobs report sank the dollar and Wall Street stocks and cut short a rally on European bourses on Friday as it heightened worries about weak international growth. The smallest monthly job creation tally in nearly six years took a looming rate hike by the Federal Reserve off the table, probably until September or later, according to analysts.

The US added only 38,000 net new positions in May, a quarter of the amount expected, clearly catching the Fed off guard after top officials had repeatedly said a June or July rate increase was in the cards. While continued low rates is good news to many, it hit hard the shares of banks amid expectations their lending margins will be narrowed. Citigroup lost 3.4 percent and Bank of America 3.5 percent.

Even so, overall losses on the US markets were small. The S&P 500 ended 0.3 percent lower and the Dow fell 0.2 percent. The US report reversed a rally in Europe that followed firm gains in Asian markets. Frankfurt and Paris both fell 1.0 percent. But London managed a rise of 0.4 percent, helped by gains in commodities and energy stocks thanks to the weaker dollar.

"Just as US investors were getting used to the idea that we were going to see some form of rate rise in the next two months, this jobs number has thrown that into serious doubt," said analyst Michael Hewson at CMC Markets. "If this slowdown continues it raises the question as to whether we'll see a rate rise at all this year."

Dollar loses 2%

But some saw the slowdown as likely temporary, reflecting caution after the slowness of the US economy and stock markets at the beginning of the year. "This report is a temporary rate-hike killer, but we believe strongly that it will prove to be a blip rather than a change in the trend," said Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics.

The jobs report hit the US dollar hard. The greenback lost 2.0 percent to \$1.1364 per euro and 2.1 percent at 106.63 yen. Gold added 2.8 percent at \$1,246.50 an ounce, while oil prices, which had held up despite the inaction of OPEC in its meeting Thursday, fell modestly, with Brent crude losing 40 cents to close at \$49.64.

The pound, which fell sharply earlier in the week on uncertainty over the coming Brexit vote, clawed back some ground against the dollar on Friday. Prime Minister David Cameron on Thursday urged Britons not to "roll a dice" by voting to leave the European Union on June 23 in his first television grilling of the referendum campaign. —AP

Financial Markets Daily Report

At 02:00 PM Previous Day

Global Stock Indices						
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %	
Dow Jones	17,838.56	17,807.06	-31.50	▼	-0.18	
NASDAQ	4,971.36	4,942.52	-28.84	▼	-0.58	
SPB 500	2,105.26	2,099.13	-6.13	▼	-0.29	
Financial Times	6,185.61	6,209.63	24.02	▲	0.39	
DAX	10,208.00	10,103.26	-104.74	▼	-1.03	
CAC 40	4,466.00	4,421.78	-44.22	▼	-0.99	
Swiss	8,205.82	8,148.40	-57.42	▼	-0.70	
Nikkei 225	16,562.55	16,642.23	79.68	▲	0.48	
Topix	1,331.81	1,337.23	5.42	▲	0.41	
Hang Seng	20,859.22	20,947.24	88.02	▲	0.42	
Straits Times	2,795.09	2,809.23	14.14	▲	0.51	

MENA Stock Indices						
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %	
Kuwait	5,374.47	5,377.05	2.58	▲	0.05	
Saudi Arabia	6,457.95	6,488.79	30.84	▲	0.48	
Dubai	3,315.36	3,262.97	-52.39	▼	-1.58	
Abu Dhabi	4,284.92	4,254.76	-30.16	▼	-0.70	
Bahrain	1,105.29	1,116.25	10.96	▲	0.99	
Qatar	9,572.32	9,532.60	-39.72	▼	-0.41	
Oman	5,820.26	5,819.81	-0.45	▼	-0.01	
Lebanon	1,154.18	1,155.17	0.99	▲	0.09	
Jordan	2,118.44	2,119.14	0.70	▲	0.03	
Egypt	7,572.39	7,617.88	45.49	▲	0.60	
Morocco	9,821.23	9,832.64	11.41	▲	0.12	
Tunisia	5,530.46	5,551.23	20.77	▲	0.38	

Global Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.3071	3.2954	2.8971	2.2691	3.2147	351.00	4.4702
Saudi Riyal	0.08125		0.2678	0.2354	0.1844	0.2612	28.52	0.3632
US Dollar	0.30345	3.7346		0.8791	0.6886	0.9755	106.51	1.3565
Euro	0.34517	4.2481	1.1375		0.7835	1.1091	121.12	1.5445
Sterling Pound	0.44070	5.4238	1.4523	1.2763		1.4177	154.70	1.9709
Swiss Franc	0.31107	3.8284	1.0251	0.9016	0.7054		109.18	1.3906
Japanese Yen	0.00285	0.0351	0.0094	0.0083	0.0065	0.0092		0.0127
Australian Dollar	0.22370	2.7531	0.7372	0.6475	0.5074	0.7191	78.52	

MENA Currencies Exchange Rate							
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham
US Dollar		0.30345	3.7346	0.3742	3.6253	0.3836	3.6576
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2954		12.3071	1.2330	11.9469	1.2642	12.0534
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08125		0.1002	0.9707	0.1027	0.9794
Bahraini Dinar	2.6727	0.81104	9.9816		9.6894	1.0253	9.7758
Qatari Riyal	0.2758	0.08370	1.0301	0.1032		0.1058	1.0089
Omani Riyal	2.6067	0.79100	9.7349	0.9753	9.4500		9.5342
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08296	1.0211	0.1023	0.9912	0.1049	
Egyptian Pound	0.1140	0.03460	0.4258	0.0427	0.4134	0.0437	0.4171

Global Interest Rates					
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.00	1.19	1.44	1.63	1.94
US Dollar	0.40	0.46	0.68	0.98	1.33
Euro	-0.38	-0.35	-0.27	-0.16	-0.02
Sterling Pound	0.48	0.51	0.58	0.72	0.98
Swiss Franc	-0.78	-0.77	-0.73	-0.64	-0.51
Australian Dollar	1.81	1.86	1.77	1.76	1.71
Canadian Dollar	0.00	0.89	0.89	1.03	1.11

Global Bond Yields				
Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	0.77	1.23	1.70	2.51
Europe	-0.54	-0.42	0.06	0.74
United Kingdom	0.33	0.74	1.27	2.09

Commodities					
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait Oil	44.79	44.47	-0.32	▼	-0.71
Brent	48.21	48.19	-0.02	▼	-0.04
West Texas	48.74	48.64	-0.10	▼	-0.21
Gold	1244.09	1244.09	0.00	-	0.00
Silver	16.40	16.40	0.00	-	0.00

Source: National Bank of Kuwait



Toyota's latest Prius wins many new admirers

KUWAIT: The amazing New Prius has finally arrived. The world is heavily praising Toyota's latest release, which is more advanced than anyone could have imagined. Here in the Middle East, the introduction of the Prius is likely to change perceptions about environmentally friendly vehicles while adding a new look to the city streets.

Stunning Hybrid Performance

The latest Prius model finally made its Middle East debut in February 2016, and doubtless the conversation will immediately turn to the hybrid system at its heart. The Toyota Hybrid System combines a gasoline engine and electric motor to create an unparalleled environmental performance as well as an impressive driving experience.

The new Prius is about far more than the exceptional fuel efficiency that comes with hybrid technology. The ample torque also delivers exhilarating acceleration that belies the engine's 1.8-litre displacement. Without a doubt, the Prius represents the pinnacle of hybrid technology and a showcase for new, relevant technologies from Toyota that raise levels of driving performance, convenience and comfort.

Praise for Performance Evolution

The design of the Prius isn't the only thing turning heads. The latest model was developed to represent the first wave of Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA)-the company's latest auto-making innovation that makes a fresh start by putting the joy of driving above all else.

Just imagine pressing the accelerator and silently gaining speed with just the motor. Before you know it, the engine and motor are working together in a way that is almost eerily smooth. The steering wheel responds with precision in the hands as the Prius goes exactly where you want it to go, rounding the turns with delightful handling accuracy. With its maiden entry into the Middle East, drivers here are sure to be pleasantly surprised and overwhelmingly satisfied by the entire driving experience.

Revolutionary Design

The prototype for the Prius was unveiled in September 2015 in Las Vegas. Murmurs of wonder and amazement at its revolutionary new design could be heard bubbling through

the media crowds that gathered to see it suspended from wires as it literally descended onto the stage. Media reports in the Middle East have also commented on the dramatic makeover of the Prius which has resulted in an edgy, emotional styling that completely overturns people's established notions. Toyota's commitment to such a memorable, cutting-edge design and the impetus for moving forward with it came from none other than the pioneering hybrid vehicle itself. In fact, the name Prius means "to go before," and it is in the DNA of the Prius to constantly push the limits of the human imagination.

'Beautiful Hybrid'

It is no surprise that the hybrid technology in the Prius delivers outstanding environmen-

tal performance, but the 'Beautiful Hybrid' development concept takes it to the next level in terms of design and driving performance as well-drawing praise from around the globe.

The development team wanted to give the world fresh value built on cutting-edge hybrid technology, with a design that speaks to the heart, fun-to-drive handling, and a socially responsible presence. A beautiful car for a more beautiful earth-the Prius once again ushers us into the future. What fresh revolution will the new Prius bring? It starts with the voices of individuals who experience the vehicle for the first time. And now it's your turn to join in. Go see a Prius up close, test drive it, and experience its true value for yourself. The car that has charmed people all over the world is sure to capture the hearts of those in the Middle East as well.



KAMCO ADOPTS CFA INSTITUTE ASSET MANAGER CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

KUWAIT CITY: CFA Institute, the global association of investment professionals that sets the standard for professional excellence, has added KAMCO Investment Company KSC (Public) to the growing list of investment firms that claim compliance with its Asset Manager Code of Professional Conduct. KAMCO is one of more than 1,000 firms worldwide to claim compliance with the code.

The Asset Manager Code of Professional Conduct clearly outlines the ethical and professional responsibilities of firms that manage assets on behalf of clients. For investors, the code provides a benchmark of ethical conduct they should expect from asset managers and offers a higher level of confidence in firms that adopt the code.

"Over the past years, we have gained investor confidence by implementing stern criteria and professional ethics towards our clients and their assets. Our level of expertise has allowed us to position ourselves as one of the top leaders in Kuwait and the region in terms of the noticeable size of our AUM, which is more than USD 11 billion," said Faisal Sarkhou, Chief Executive Officer at KAMCO.

Sarkhou added: "Our clients entrust KAMCO to manage their assets and abide by all rules and regulations particularly in regards to the asset management sector; they are our number one priority. Adopting the Asset Manager Code of Professional Conduct is one more demonstration of our commitment to placing the needs and interests of our clients above all else."

The Asset Manager Code of Professional Conduct is grounded in the ethical principles of CFA Institute and the CFA Program, and requires that managers commit to the following professional standards. The set standards help ensure that representatives are



KAMCO's CEO Faisal Sarkhou

acting in a professional and ethical manner at all times, while addressing the client's best interest. Representatives also need to act independently and objectively while timely and accurately communicating to clients in a skillful, competent and diligent manner that upholds the rules governing the capital markets.

"Trust in the investment profession remains at risk, and it's a critical moment for investors and the future of the financial system," said Jonathan Boersma, CFA, head of professional standards at CFA Institute. "We applaud KAMCO, and all firms that have adopted the code, for displaying a steadfast and tangible commitment to professional ethics and putting investors first." There are more than 1,000 firms claiming compliance with the Code including BlackRock, Ariel Investments, Janus Capital Management, JP Morgan Asset Management, Loomis Sayles, Morgan Stanley Investment Management, Inc., TD Asset Management, and US Bancorp Asset Management.

KSE WITNESSES NEGATIVE WEEK AS PRICE INDEX FALLS

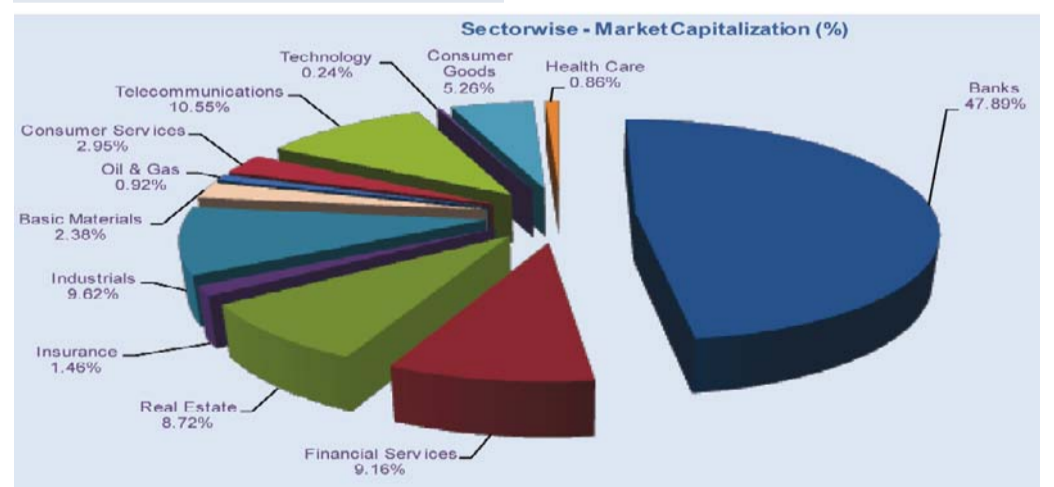
KUWAIT: The KSE Indices witnessed a negative week as the KSE price index closed with 5,377.05a decrease of 0.36% down 19.62 points compared to the previous week. As the MUDX also witnessed a decrease of 0.52% to close at 512.74 for the week. While the market blue-chip index the KSX15 closed at 818.10 points down 1.61% during the week. Gulf stock witnessed a mixed week ahead of an OPEC meeting that will discuss the possibility of coordinated action among oil producers to support prices. Brent crude oil fell from the \$50 mark, closing at \$49.77 per barrel.

The reported weekly volumes were 779.24 million shares compared to 832.68 million shares in previous. Among the major contributors, the Financial Services Sector (contributing 27.77%) witnessed 216.42 million shares of trading compared to 294.94 million shares in the previous week, while Real Estate Sector (contributing 24.01%) witnessed 187.08 million shares of trading compared to 182.15 million shares in the previous week.

Sectors with noticeable weekly volumes included the Consumer Goods sector, the sector saw 48.44 million shares traded compared to 24.78 million the previous week, and counters like Danah AlSafat Foodstuff Co. (Mcap - KD 35.85 million) witnessed 47.07 million shares compared to 23.58 million shares the week before.

The overall Market Cap witnessed a negative week as it stood at KWD 24.52 billion down 0.6%

KFH WEEKLY REPORT



on weekly basis. As for the blue chips, National Bank of Kuwait - NBK (Mcap - KWD 3.49 billion) saw its market cap drop 1.59% during the week. Moreover; Kuwait Food Co. - Americana (Mcap - KWD 860.28 million) saw its market cap plunge 8.55%, after media reports denying the sale of Al Khair National for stocks and real estate Company stake in the company. While Kuwait Projects Co-KIPCO (Mcap - KWD 751.52 million) saw a drop of 1.92% during the week.

On the total market breadth, Of the 56 Islamic

Companies, 6 advanced while 24 declined during the week. The Islamic universe market cap witnessed a decrease of 0.61% in its market cap to close at KWD 6.26 billion. The universe heavyweights like Kuwait Finance House - KFH (Mcap - KWD 2.32 billion) saw its market cap remain unchanged during the week. While Boubyan Bank (Mcap - KWD 866.57 million) saw a decrease of 1.23% in its market cap. Kuwait Telecommunications Co. (Mcap - KWD 459.45 million) was down 1.08% during the week.



Note: Indices are re-based on 1,000 as of last week's closing.

Weekly KSE Statistics				
Key Parameters	Current	Previous	Chg.	%
Volume (Million Share)	779.54	832.70	(53.15)	-6.4%
Value (KD Million)	59.49	57.78	1.71	3.0%
Deals ('000)	16.65	17.62	(0.97)	-5.5%
Market Cap (KD Bln)	24.52	24.68	(0.16)	-0.6%

Market Movers			
Advance	Decline	Unchanged	Not Traded
33	62	50	41

ETIHAD AIRWAYS SIGN DECLARATION TO PREVENT ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

DUBLIN: Five Etihad Airways equity partner airlines signed up to the Buckingham Palace Declaration, committing to major steps to fight illegal wildlife trafficking and efforts to help protect many of the world's iconic wildlife species. The Declaration of the United for Wildlife International Taskforce on the Transportation of Illegal Wildlife Products was signed at the IATA Annual General Meeting in Dublin. Alitalia, Airberlin, Air Serbia, Air Seychelles and Virgin Australia signed the Declaration following the lead of Etihad Airways which became a signatory in March this year.

United for Wildlife is an alliance of conservation organizations and The Royal Foundation of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry. The initiative aims to address current conservation issues with an initial focus on supporting efforts to prevent the growing trade in illegal wildlife and products around the world. The Transport Taskforce, launched at the World Bank in December 2014, has identified specific actions that the transport industry can take in supporting what HRH the Duke of Cambridge refers to as 'the race against extinction'. Jet Airways signed the Declaration in April to coincide with the visit to India by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

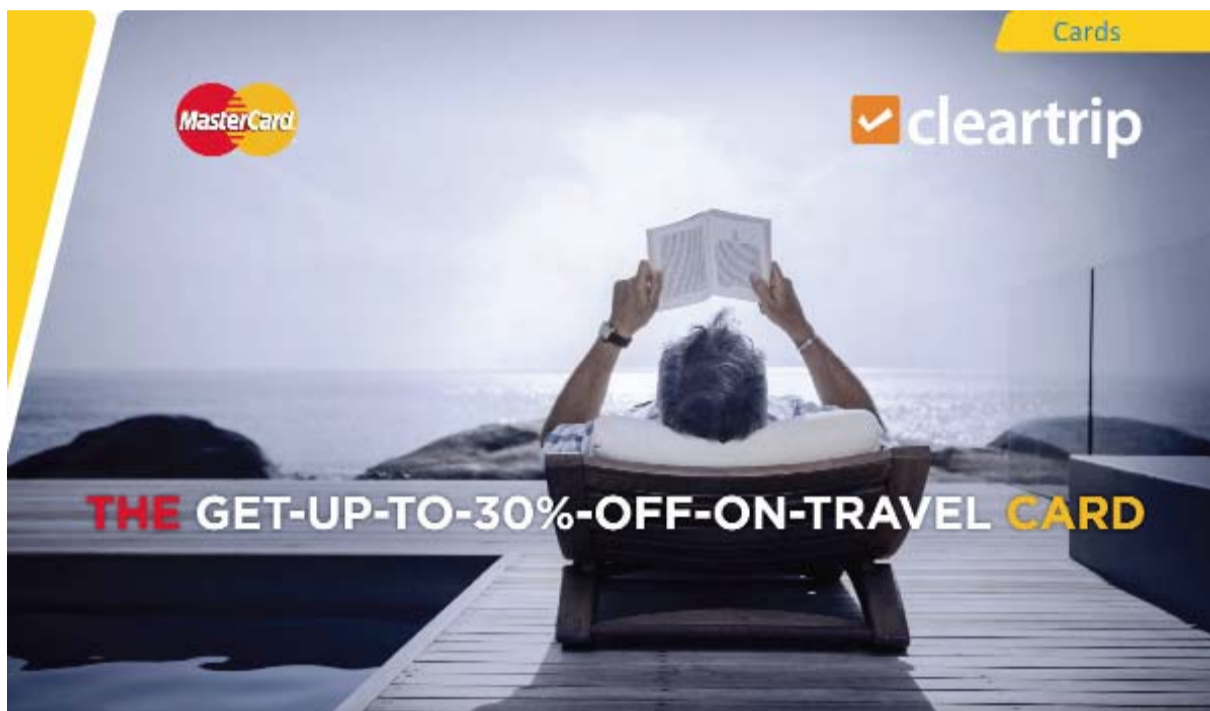
Etihad Aviation Group President and Chief Executive Officer, James Hogan said: "Having six of the Etihad equity partner airlines as signatories ensures a more extensive and impactful result over 348 destinations. Led by our Head of Sustainability we are developing a group wide action plan to help prevent this abhorrent practice."

The Rt Hon Lord Hague of Richmond, Chair of the United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce welcomed the commitment of Etihad Airways and its partner airlines saying: "Combating the Illegal wildlife trade through all modes of transport is essential to tackling the problem. I commend Etihad Airways and its partner airlines for signing this declaration and taking an active step in supporting this initiative."

The Declaration includes eleven commitments developed to support global efforts to prevent illegal wildlife smuggling, which encourage the transport industry to specifically help shut down the routes exploited by wildlife traffickers. Airlines are able to support in a number of ways including increasing passenger awareness, providing capacity building at airports and working closely to support the efforts of customs and law enforcement authorities.



Pictured from left to right (front row, seated) are Peter Baumgartner, Chief Executive Officer of Etihad Airways, and Stefan Pichler, Chief Executive Officer of airberlin and left to right, top row, are Cramer Ball, Chief Executive Officer of Alitalia, Dane Kondi, Chief Executive Officer of Air Serbia, Tony Tyler, Director General IATA, Jane McKeon, Group Executive Government Relations Virgin Australia, Roy Kinnear, Chief Executive Officer of Air Seychelles, and Naomi Doak, United for Wildlife representative, at Ballsbridge, Dublin after the five Etihad Airways equity partners - Alitalia, airberlin, Air Serbia, Air Seychelles and Virgin Australia - signed the Declaration of the United for Wildlife International Taskforce on the Transportation of Illegal Wildlife Products at the 2016 IATA Annual General Meeting.



ABK ANNOUNCES SPECIAL TRAVEL OFFER FOR ABK MASTERCARD CARDHOLDERS

KUWAIT: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced an exclusive offer for their MasterCard cardholder which gives a discount of up to 30% on hotel and flight bookings from kw.cleartrip.com until 30th June, 2016.

ABK MasterCard customers who book on cleartrip.com are eligible to receive a variety of flight discounts based on the number of travelers, with higher discounts presented to larger groups. The discounts are 10% for a single traveler, 15% for two travelers, 20% for three travelers, 25% for four travelers and 30% for a group of up to five travelers.

Additionally, through this offer ABK MasterCard cus-

tomers can enjoy hotel discounts based on the number of nights booked with higher discounts offered for longer stays. The discounts are 10% for a single night, 15% for two nights, 20% for three nights, 25% for four nights and 30% for up to five nights.

The offer is available to ABK MasterCard Classic, MasterCard Gold, MasterCard Titanium, MasterCard World and MasterCard Freedom Prepaid Cards. ABK continuously seeks to engage in partnerships that bring more value and benefits to its customers, to create a more enjoyable experience when banking with ABK.

ANGOLA PRESIDENT APPOINTS DAUGHTER BOSS OF OIL FIRM

LUANDA: Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has named his billionaire daughter Isabel to head the state oil firm Sonangol, according to a government statement published late Thursday. He appointed the 43-year-old Isabel dos Santos chairwoman of a new board of directors of Sonangol, after sacking the previous board last month.

Isabel dos Santos has been ranked by Forbes magazine as the richest woman on the continent. Critics say she amassed her vast fortunes thanks to the backing of her father who has ruled Angola for 35 years. In a statement Friday Isabel dos Santos vowed that the new Sonangol board "will work to decrease production costs and optimize resources in order to increase the international competitiveness of the Angolan oil sector". The eldest daughter of the Angolan leader, she is nicknamed the "Princess" and is ranked Africa's eighth wealthiest by Forbes magazine after building a vast business empire. She grew up in London, where she studied mechanical and electrical engineering at King's College. Her first business venture was a restaurant, Miami Beach, which she opened as a 24-year-old in Luanda. Her wealth is estimated at \$3.3 billion.

The mother of three holds a quarter of the shares in Angola's mobile phone company Unitel and a significant stake of Angola's Banco BIC. She also controls 19 percent of Portugal's fourth-biggest bank BPI and has bought shares in several Portuguese companies in recent years, including a cable television firm. Isabel dos Santos has recently spread her banking empire into neighboring Namibia, after a banking



PORTO: This file photo taken on March 5, 2015 shows Angolan businesswoman Isabel dos Santos arriving at the opening of an art exhibition. — AFP

license was approved by the country's central bank. Angola is sub-Saharan Africa's second largest oil producer after Nigeria. But a global decline in the price of oil has deprived Angola of vital resources, prompting the regime of longtime ruler President Jose Eduardo dos Santos in April to ask for financial help from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). — AFP

PERU: A CHAMPION OF GROWTH IN S AMERICA

LIMA: Peru elects a new president on Sunday, with Keiko Fujimori tipped by polls to become its first woman leader. It has been 16 years since her father, who is now in jail for crimes against humanity, resigned from the job. Here are key points about the South American country of 31 million people.

Silver and gold
Peru has one of the strongest economies in the region. Annual growth averaged more than six percent between 2006 and 2013. It slowed in 2014 due to a drop in mineral and fish production. The International Monetary Fund forecasts it will grow by 3.7 per-

cent this year. The country is rich in minerals, ranking among the world's five biggest producers of gold, silver, copper, zinc, tin and lead. Despite its growth record, Peru had a poverty rate of nearly 23 percent in 2014, down from 59 percent in 2004.

Incas

Once ruled by the Inca empire, Peru was conquered by Spain in the 16th century. It gained independence in 1821. It has seen a string of military dictatorships and coups. It is bordered by Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Ecuador, with the South Pacific Ocean to the west. Crossed by the Andes mountains and the Amazon river, it has a total area two and a half times the size of France.

Between 1980 and 2000 a conflict between the state, the Shining Path communist guerrilla group, and the Tupac Amaru revolutionary movement left 70,000 people dead and missing. Keiko's father Alberto Fujimori, son of Japanese immigrants, ruled the country from 1990 to 2000. He was jailed for corruption and crimes against humanity for authorizing death squads. — AP



PARIS: Ollanta Humala, President of Peru, delivers a speech during the launch of the Latin America program, at the OECD headquarters. — AP

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THE AL DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al Danah daily draws on 29 May 2016 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 22 May - 26 May 2016. The Al Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD 1,000 per winner.

The winners were:

(Sunday 22/5): Hanadi Zaid Ali Al-Khabbaz, Belal Abad Rabah Husain Abu Omar

(Monday 23/5): Fatimah Salem Mohammad Hamad, Ali Abdulrazaq Abdullatif Al-Nesef

(Tuesday 24/5): Ahmad Abdulwahab Taher Al-Herz, Jassem Mohammad Mubarak Al-Mezaal

(Wednesday 25/5): Badriya Solaiman Al-Qattan, Mohammad Mahmoud Anis Zaid Al-Kilani

(Thursday 26/5): Nourah Hussain Zayed Al-Weaili, Abdulredha Abdullah Hashem Al-Ali

Gulf Bank's Al Danah 2016 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day each receive KD1000). Al Danah's 2nd Quarterly draw for the prize of KD250,000 will be held on the 30th of June and the 3rd Quarterly Draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on September 29th. The final Al Danah draw for 1 Million Kuwaiti Dinars will be held on 5 January, 2017 whereby the Al Danah Millionaire

will be announced. Open an Al Danah account now or deposit more to increase your chances of winning the KD500,000 or Millionaire Draw!

Al Danah offers a number of unique services including: the Al Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the draw within two days. To take part in the Al Danah 2016 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must have an Al Danah account containing at least KD 200; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance. Customers can also log on to www.e-gulf-bank.com/alldanahwinners, to find out more about Al Danah and its winners.



KFH OFFERS WIDE RANGE OF BANKING, FINANCIAL SERVICES

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) offers a wide range of innovative products ranging from various types of accounts, financing services, banking cards, deposits, and comprehensive investment plans, emanating from its endeavors to optimally meet customer's banking needs and keep pace with their future aspirations, whilst reflecting the bank's prestigious status and pioneering position in rendering high-end services as per the international standards of quality.

Furthermore, KFH offers personal and consumer financing services that include a comprehensive variety of financial options to suit all customers' needs and expectations with easy installments. The personal financing includes the financing of construction materials and works and Real estate financing, while the consumer financing includes the financing of cars, boats, furniture, electronics, education, and health care.

Also, the bank offers various services in the field of cars as it grants customers the chance to select their cars from a variety of car brands from all categories of new cars, used cars, leasing with maintenance and lease to own.

The bank renders comprehensive bouquet of banking cards that satisfy customers' various needs. It offers Al-Tayseer credit cards package which is perfect for paying the customers purchases in an easy, affordable and secured way, with flexible monthly installments. This includes Classic, Gold, Platinum Standard, Platinum Premium and Diamond cards.

In addition, KFH offers Charge cards which have a range of credit cards that deduct purchases monthly within pre-set credit limit. This includes Visa Tamweel Net, Visa/MasterCard Classic, Visa/MasterCard Gold, Visa/MasterCard Platinum, Visa MasterCard Diamond and Dollar Card. With regards to prepaid cards, customers can easily load balance on them, yet use them for secure and streamlined purchases, cash withdrawal and online shopping.

Numerous benefits

KFH offers a wide range of prepaid cards with numerous benefits and discounts such as Al-Khair, Nojoom (KFH&Ooredoo co-brand prepaid card), Oasis Club (KFH&Kuwait Airways co-brand prepaid card), and Al-Osra Card that has up to 7 prepaid cards issued for the cardholder, his family and other dependents.

KFH provides a comprehensive and diversified range of investment deposits in Kuwaiti Dinar. This includes the deposits of Continuous, Al-Dimah, Al-Nuwair, Al-Khumasiya, Al-Kawthar, Al-Sedra in addition to the investment deposit in foreign currencies. These deposits meet customers' aspirations in terms of investment period and rate as well as profit distribution periods.

KFH offers the savings and investment account to different age groups with different features and advantages. The account can be opened in Kuwaiti Dinar and other foreign currencies. Profits are credited to the account quarterly.

Also, KFH offers the Gold account which is the first of its kind in Kuwait. This account enables customers to buy and sell Gold biscuits issued and certified by KFH easily and securely. The account can be opened for ownership, savings or investment purposes.

Furthermore, the bank is distinguished by its long term investment plans that provide KFH customers with the opportunity to monthly save and invest for future needs. These plans give a competitive investment returns while protect the customers by a "Takaful" insurance coverage. Long term Investment plans include "Jameati" for higher education, "Injaz" for achievement, "Rafaa" for marriage and "Thimar" for retirement. It is worth noting that KFH offers high-end e-services, in addition to KFH online that offers over 140 e-services including the newly launched service to open Gold account, buy and sell Gold biscuits in an easy and secure manner.



VIRTUAL ASSISTANT ALEXA BOASTS 1,000 'SKILLS': AMAZON

SAN FRANCISCO: Amazon on yesterday boasted that its virtual assistant Alexa is capable of 1,000 "skills," as the online retail giant bolsters defenses against rivals such as Google and Apple.

The Seattle-based company said in a blog post that the programs were developed specifically for the voice-commanded Alexa software used in Amazon devices such as Echo and Fire TV.

Amazon released voice-enabled wireless speaker Echo in late 2014, infusing it with virtual assistant smarts that enable it to answer questions or control linked devices upon command.

A kit lets outside software developers create "experiences," similar in concept to apps, for Alexa. Alexa director Rob Pulcini said tens of thousands of developers are learning about and crafting programs that introduce users "to the magic and simplicity of hands-free, voice-driven interactions."

Amazon is out to put Echo and Alexa at the heart of the connected home. Alexa's skills include selecting music, appointment reminders, checking bank balances, ordering food, summoning Uber



rides and more. Amazon has not disclosed sales figures for Echo, but the device appears to be having success in the market due, in part, to beating rivals out of the starting gate.

Google Home coming

Google last month unveiled a virtual home assistant device that will challenge Amazon Echo as the Internet giant laid out a future rich with arti-

cial intelligence. Google Home, about the size of a stout vase, will hit the market later this year, vice president of product management Mario Queiroz said at the opening of the Internet giant's annual developers conference.

Home devices will incorporate new Google virtual assistant software introduced by chief executive Sundar Pichai. "Our ability to do conversational understanding is far ahead of what other virtual

assistants can do," Pichai told a packed audience at the conference.

"We are an order of magnitude ahead of everyone else." Home devices combine machine learning, online search, voice recognition and more to allow people to get answers to questions, manage tasks, or control devices by speaking naturally, demonstrations showed.

Home will sync with Chromecast devices that allow remote control of televisions or stereo systems, and with "smart" devices made by Google-owned Nest and other companies. Google did not disclose pricing on Home devices. "Google Home could be a major force and could also dramatically decrease the sales potential of Amazon Echo," said analyst Patrick Moorhead of Moor Insights and Strategy.

Apple is expected to enter the market with a home assistant device of its own, perhaps unveiled at its annual developers conference taking place later this month in San Francisco, according to rumors swirling ahead of the event. — AFP

NEST CO-FOUNDER FADELL FLIES THE COOP

SAN FRANCISCO: Nest co-founder Tony Fadell said yesterday he was stepping out as head of the Alphabet-owned company to become an advisor to chief executive Larry Page.

Former Apple engineers Fadell and Matt Rogers founded Nest six years ago, launching with a thermostat that syncs to the Internet and learns from use patterns. Google acquired Nest in early 2014 in a deal valued at \$3.2 billion, and it later became a unit of a freshly-formed parent company called Alphabet.

Nest offerings have expanded to include smart home security cameras along with smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Nest has also become part of Alphabet's strategy to be a platform for devices to be connected and controlled in smart homes.

"Under Tony's leadership, Nest has catapulted the connected home into the main-

stream, secured leadership positions for each of its products, and grown its revenue in excess of 50 percent year-over-year since they began shipping products," Alphabet chief Page said in a statement.

Page hailed Fadell as a "visionary." The new boss of Nest will be Marwan Fawaz, an industry veteran who has done stints as an executive at Motorola Mobility and Charter Communications.

Fadell said that discussions about him stepping down as Nest chief began last year, and that he felt the company was being put into strong hands with Fawaz at the helm. "I have decided that the time is right to 'leave the Nest,'" Fadell said in an online post. He added that his new role as an Alphabet advisor should provide "more time and flexibility to pursue new opportunities to create and disrupt other industries." — AFP



LISTENING TO CUSTOMERS' REQUESTS, FANTASY WORLD UNVEILS 'THE EDGE' DEPARTMENT IN ITS AL RAI STORE

Kuwait: Fantasy World announced the launch of The Edge Department at its Al Rai store. The Edge stands for Eclectic Designer Gifting Excitements, it is the hub for the most innovative and unique gifting items targeted for adults. Fantasy World is known to be a trendsetter and market leader due to the international product range it offers.

Fakhri Al Balki, Fantasy World's Retail Manager, commented, "We have observed that as children run around looking for their favorite toys and trying out new ones, while parents and their adult siblings wait for the kid of their family. Initially they are excited to enter the store but it starts draining them down as time passes by. The Edge was developed to maintain the excitement of these adult siblings and parents by giving them an experience of the most unique gifting ideas, and offering them product ranges hand-picked from around the world which is not easily accessible in the local market. Initially, The Edge was only available at The Avenues. After customers' constant requests, Fantasy World now opened the division in its Al Rai store. This verifies our continuous efforts to listen and cater to our customers' wants."

The Al Rai store has a sentimental value to many customers, upon entering the store customers will experience a feeling of nostalgia, through the past 20 years the children that had been shopping as kids for their favorite toys, can come now to the very same store and shop as adults in Fantasy World's The Edge department and still experiencing the same excitement while shopping around for the most unique gifting ideas available at The Edge department.

Yousif Anabtawi, Fantasy World's Social Media Specialist, commented, "Products offered in this division are very unique, some are design-

er-made products, some technological-wonders, and some state of the art, they allow the gift giver to be remembered by the uniqueness of the product they have chosen as a gift. The Edge products are hand-picked from around the world keeping in mind the tastes of Kuwait."

Talking about products The Edge has some distinctive products like the CTX Virtual Keyboard and the FoneBud. CTX Virtual Keyboard is one of the most innovative products available. It projects a laser beam keyboard on any flat surface to transform it into an instant work station for your mobile. The laser keyboard can be easily connected to any smartphone, enabling the user to text at a faster rate on

WhatsApp, blogs, email and social media channels. The FoneBud is a Bluetooth device that aims to prevent individuals from placing their phones directly against their head. This product has a multi-functional purpose as it incorporates a power bank, remote for the mobile device camera, LED-light and an audible range detector in case an individual loses his/her phone.

Customers are invited to visit Fantasy World's Al Rai store to know more about new product releases featured in The Edge Department. Customers may also visit any of Fantasy World's social media platforms, Facebook (fantasyworld-toyskuwait), Instagram (fantasyworldtoys) and YouTube (fantasyworldkuwait).



KEY PLAYER IN SILK ROAD SUCCESSOR SITE GETS 8 YEARS IN US PRISON

SEATTLE: A Washington state man was sentenced Friday to eight years in prison for his role in helping the management of the successor website to Silk Road, an online black market where illegal drugs and other goods were sold.

Brian Farrell, who prosecutors say was a staff member for Silk Road 2.0, was sentenced by US District Judge Richard Jones in Seattle after pleading guilty in March to a charge of conspiracy to distribute heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine.

Farrell, 27, was arrested in January 2015 as trial was under way in the case of Ross Ulbricht, the creator of the original Silk Road, which authorities say Ulbricht ran under the alias "Dread Pirate Roberts." Ulbricht, 32, was sentenced in May 2015 to life in prison after a federal jury in Manhattan found him guilty on charges including distributing narcotics. Silk Road 2.0 was launched late in 2013, weeks after

authorities had shuttered the original Silk Road website and arrested Ulbricht.

Like the original website, Silk Road 2.0 allowed users to anonymously buy and sell drugs, computer hacking tools and other illicit items, using the digital currency bitcoin, authorities said. In November 2014, federal authorities in Manhattan announced they had shut down Silk Road 2.0 and arrested its alleged operator, Blake Benthall, who prosecutors say operated the website under the name "Defcon."

Prosecutors say Farrell was a key assistant to Benthall and was part of a small staff of online administrators and forum moderators, using the moniker "DoctorClu." In court papers, prosecutors said that during a search of his residence in Bellevue, Washington, in January 2015, Farrell said he worked as Defcon's righthand man. — Reuters

ANTI-ISRAEL BOYCOTT MOVEMENT SUFFERS A SLEW OF CYBERATTACKS

JERUSALEM: The international movement calling for a boycott against Israel on Thursday said its website was repeatedly attacked earlier this year and raised suspicions that Israel was behind the attacks.

The BDS movement released a report Thursday showing that its main website suffered six attacks in February and March. The denial of service attacks, which work by flooding a target website with bogus traffic, knocked out the BDS website for several hours at a time.

The report, compiled by nonprofit online security service eQualit.ie, said the attacks had a level of "sophistication and commitment" it normally does not see. It also noted that an unidentified Israeli human rights group had been attacked at the same time, indicating there was a "common adversary."

Assigning responsibility for cyberattacks is notoriously difficult and the report didn't

speculate on who might be behind the rogue traffic. In a statement, the BDS movement said the "advanced technology used in the attacks and the size of the botnets involved may show that Israel was directly involved" but it offered no hard evidence. Israeli cybersecurity expert Gilad Yoshi said such attacks do not cause serious damage, adding it was unlikely a government was behind them. "These are not high-level attacks," said Yoshi, an expert at the electronic defense training company CyberGym.

BDS calls for boycotts, sanctions and divestment from Israel in what it calls a nonviolent struggle against occupation. Israel says BDS' goal is to destroy the country, and it has identified the movement as a serious threat.

The Israeli government has earmarked funds for Israeli tech companies for digital initiatives aimed at gathering intelligence on activist groups and countering their efforts. — AP

GROUNDBREAKING TELESURGERY HOSTED BY GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

KUWAIT: Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children (GOSH) in London, one of the world's leading paediatric hospitals, recently hosted groundbreaking telesurgery performed by Mr Chien Wong.

When the Armenian EyeCare Project, a Californian NGO that has transformed ophthalmic care in Armenia since 1992, recently contacted Mr Wong about an urgent case of retinal detachment in a premature baby, Mr Wong was faced with a dilemma. "There was a baby that had a rapidly progressive retinal detachment and I couldn't fly out on such short notice. If the child had waited for me to go to Armenia, the opportunity to salvage vision would have been missed and the baby would have had irreversible blindness," Mr Wong explained. Instead, working with the ICT team at GOSH, Mr Wong was able to supervise the surgeons in Armenia using telesurgery.

"It is really quite remarkable that we are able to support a program like that from afar." Mr Wong commented on the telesurgery where he supervised surgery in real-time taking place over 3,500km away in Armenia. As part of the Armenian EyeCare Project, Mr Chien Wong, in collaboration with his colleague Dr Thomas Lee from the Children's Hospital in Los Angeles, has been training two highly experienced Armenian retina specialist consultants to perform complex vitreoretinal surgery on babies with retinopathy

of prematurity (ROP) and other potentially blinding retinal diseases. Since the launch of this national ophthalmic treatment centre in Armenia in 2014, Mr Wong has led and been training the surgical team on-the-ground, travelling to Armenia every three months.

Through the teleconference system at GOSH, Mr Wong was able to remotely supervise the surgeons via telesurgery. Mr Wong was given a

bird's eye view of the operating theatre, as well as seeing a live instantaneous video feed that mirrored the Armenian surgeons' view of the operation. At the same time, the surgeons in Armenia were able to see a live image of Mr Wong and talk to him as they went through the surgery. The surgery took three hours and Mr Wong was able to oversee the entire surgery in actual time. "It went very well indeed. It was a

highly complex operation, which has given the child the possibility of regaining useful sight, whereas without surgery visual loss was certain," Mr Wong explained.

The telesurgery was a ground-breaking moment for the EyeCare Project, as the Armenian surgeons had never performed surgery without an expert assisting them on-site. "It was a critical landmark moment in the history of the project and it was paramount for the child that they were able to receive essentially first-world cutting-edge surgical treatment for a rare condition in Armenia." The telesurgery was also a first for GOSH and was made possible by both hospital's ICT teams and the state-of-the-art technology available. Mr Wong praised the hard work of the ICT team for helping to set up the telesurgical link-up. "The set up worked very well with zero time lag and high definition resolution. ICT were fantastic at helping coordinate the entire set up within a very narrow time frame. A world class UK hospital truly at its best."

Mr Wong is a consultant at Great Ormond Street Hospital, Moorfields Eye Hospital and the Royal Free Hospital and is a world expert in paediatric vitreoretinal surgery, endoscopic vitrectomy in babies and young children, and paediatric retinovascular diseases. He also manages adults with vitreoretinal diseases. He is one of only two surgeons in the world with significant expertise in a new surgical technique for the treatment of

ROP, called endoscopic vitrectomy, and introduced this technique to GOSH in 2014, making GOSH one of only two hospitals in the world that can perform this sight-saving technique.

GOSH was the first hospital in the UK to establish paediatric ophthalmology as a subspecialty, recognizing that disorders affecting children's eyes are frequently very different to those affecting adults. The ophthalmology department at GOSH treats a wide range of ophthalmic problems including glaucoma, cataracts and neuro-ophthalmologic problems and is one of the only hospitals in the country that can perform corneal graft surgery.

Great Ormond Street Hospital in London is recognized as one of the few truly world-class hospitals for children. As a global leader, GOSH has top clinical and research experts working every day to find new and better ways to treat children. While breakthroughs and medical expertise are essential to the treatment of patients, GOSH also places great emphasis on the support and care provided for children by nurturing an open and supportive atmosphere, ensuring that parents and patients are well informed and closely involved in the treatment process. Children receive the highest standards of care and attention from the expert team of medical and support staff during their stay at GOSH, and are always treated with respect, trust, concern and openness.



Mr Chien Wong.

SPACEX'S RECOVERED ROCKET ARRIVES LEANING ON BARGE

CAPE CANAVERAL: Call it the Leaning Tower of SpaceX. SpaceX's fourth recovered rocket returned to shore Thursday, leaning to one side but still standing tall on its ocean-landing platform. The first-stage booster pushed the limits during the landing last Friday. Its speed was close to the design maximum for the rocket and the support system for its legs.

Although the 15-story rocket was in danger of tipping over, it remained upright as it pulled into Port Canaveral, smudged black in places. Friday's touchdown followed the rocket's launch of a satellite. SpaceX is working to recycle its rockets; the first one may again fly in two to three months.

Chief executive Elon Musk said the booster represents 70 percent of the cost of a Falcon rocket, on the order of \$30 million to \$35 million. So it makes sense, he said, to reuse the pieces. In fact, he said at Code Conference 2016 in Southern California on Wednesday, it's "tragic" to discard them in the ocean, as has been the case throughout history.

Musk said he tells his team, "Imagine there was a pallet of cash that was plummeting through the atmosphere and it was going to burn up and smash into tiny pieces. Would you try to save it? Probably yes. Yeah, that sounds like a good idea. "So we want to get it back, and that way we don't have to make

another one. I think it's quite tragic if rockets like get smashed into tiny pieces."

The Hawthorne, California-based SpaceX is the first and only rocket-maker to land boosters used in orbital missions. Blue Origin's touchdowns in Texas have occurred following suborbital flights. SpaceX's first successful landing occurred in December at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Three sea landings have followed off Florida's east coast, first in April, then two more in May. The stages look "quite good," according to Musk. For the landing, the rocket flips around, uses its engines to slow down and sets down on pop-out legs.

Musk said the company is working hard to whittle down a six-month backlog in Falcon 9 launches, following last summer's launch accident that destroyed cargo for the International Space Station. NASA represents about a quarter of this business, with commercial satellite operators and science payloads making up the rest.

SpaceX hopes to launch astronauts to the space station by the end of next year in beefed-up Dragon capsules, and in 2018 send an unmanned Dragon to Mars. He foresees sending humans to Mars via SpaceX rockets and spacecraft in 2024, if things go according to plan. — AP



CAPE CANAVERAL: This photo provided by SpaceX shows the first stage of the company's Falcon rocket after it landed on a platform in the Atlantic Ocean just off the Florida coast on Friday, May 6, 2016, after launching a Japanese communications satellite. — AP



HAVANA: A lionfish is seen in a fish tank in Havana, on May 2, 2016. Cuba includes in its menu lionfish to combat this invasive and predatory species that threatens the balance of the Caribbean Sea. — AFP

TO FIGHT LIONFISH INVASION, CUBA LEARNS TO COOK THEM

HAVANA: If you can't beat your enemies, eat them. That's the strategy Cuba has adopted to respond to an invasion of lionfish, a poisonous predator that has strayed far from its home waters in the South Pacific and Indian Oceans.

A favorite in aquariums for its flamboyant spines and vibrant orange and red stripes, the lionfish is wreaking havoc on ecosystems in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico, where it showed up about a decade ago. The fish is hanging out around the region's coral reefs, living large as it feasts on smaller species and scares off its own potential predators with its venomous spines. Except for humans, that is.

Defying the invasion and fear of those intimidating spines, Cubans have begun serving up lionfish for dinner—a tasty meal and act of ecosystem conservation all in one. Delmis Cabrera, a marine biologist at the National Aquarium in Havana, said lionfish were first recorded in Cuba in 2007, apparently after being introduced to Caribbean waters accidentally. Within two years, the fish surrounded the island. Even sharks won't go near them, giving them

free rein to feed and spread. The problem has gotten so bad that combating the lionfish is the top item on the agenda at a summit of the Association of Caribbean States in Havana.

Bad reputation

But Cuba isn't waiting for regional governments to come up with a plan. It is catching lionfish and putting them on the menu. "We know it's a poisonous species that has its risks... but it's also delicious," said Cabrera. Lionfish has been eaten in Japan for years. And, like Cuba, a number of countries on the other side of the world are starting to experiment with it in the kitchen, including Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico and the southern United States.

Cuba now holds an annual fishing tournament for the species. "It has practically been decimated," Cabrera told AFP. Professional diver Enrique Valdes backed that up. "Now you usually only see little ones," said the 55-year-old SCUBA pro.

Restaurants are trying to create a buzz around the new protein-rich fish, even if some

customers are reluctant at first. Besides scaring off predators with its spines, the lionfish is also known for stinging bathers and fishermen who come into contact with them, with symptoms that include pain, swelling or an allergic reaction. "We are trying to introduce it on the menu, but since it's a fish everyone knows as venomous," it is difficult, said Santy Pescador restaurant manager Carlos Fonseca.

Possible cancer drug?

Preparing lionfish requires just a little caution. "The spines have venomous glands that can cause respiratory paralysis, muscle pain and fever for up to three days if you prick yourself," said Noriesky Gao, 30, a chef at Santy Pescador. Since it is an invasive species that only recently arrived, he and his colleagues are still figuring out what to do with it. He has been experimenting with lionfish sushi. "Customers really enjoy it. It has white, juicy flesh. Here, people usually eat it raw," he said. Cuban biologists are also studying the lionfish's venom as a possible cancer-fighting agent, said Cabrera. — AFP

TWO-DRUG CHEMOTHERAPY SHOWING PROMISE AGAINST PANCREATIC CANCER

CHICAGO: A combination of two chemotherapy drugs has shown promising results in fighting pancreatic cancer, significantly improving five-year survival rates, according to a European study presented Friday.

The trial showed that patients who take the oral drug capecitabine in addition to treatment with the commonly-used intravenous drug gemcitabine after surgical removal of pancreatic cancer survived longer without significant increase in negative side effects. It was one of the largest trials ever conducted in pancreatic cancer, involving 732 patients. The study was presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology's annual meeting, the world's largest conference on cancer, currently being held in Chicago.

"Pancreatic cancer remains one of the most hard-to-treat cancers. It is a major win to find that adding a generic chemotherapy not only improves survival for these patients, but does so with little effect on patients' quality of life," said Smitha Krishnamurthy of Case Western Reserve University, who was not a part of the study.

Although most people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer are not candidates for surgery, the findings show that those who can

have surgery "have a fighting chance of surviving this cancer with the combination of two commonly used chemotherapies," said John Neoptolemos, the study's lead author of the University of Liverpool in Britain.

The study showed a five-year survival rate of 28.8 percent among the group treated with both capecitabine and gemcitabine for six months, compared with 16.3 percent for the group that received gemcitabine alone during that time. The median overall survival rate was 28 months with the combination of drugs, compared to 25.5 months with gemcitabine alone.

"The difference in median survival may seem modest, but the improvement in long-term survival is substantial for this cancer," Neoptolemos said in a statement. The study's determination that the gemcitabine-capecitabine treatment is safe allows researchers to consider what other treatments could be added effectively.

According to the World Health Organization, 338,000 people in the world were diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2012, with the highest number of cases in North America and Europe. Pancreatic cancer is the fourth-leading cause of cancer death in the United States, with 41,780 deaths expected in 2016. — AFP

EXTINCT OTTER SPECIES NAMED AFTER GRATEFUL DEAD GUITARIST

BOISE: A US National Park Service paleontologist and Grateful Dead fan credited with identifying an extinct species of otter found in south-central Idaho has named it after the band's guitarist. Self-described Deadhead Kari Prassack says traveling the country to see Bob Weir and the band gave her the sense of adventure and confidence to pursue her career.

So when fellow scientists earlier this year credited her with properly identifying the new species from a mislabeled jawbone found in the late 1980s at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, she named it *Lontra weiri*. Lontra is the genus and weiri the species. "It was a really important part of my life," said Prassack on Thursday about the 100-plus Grateful Dead concerts she saw starting in 1990 at age 15, when her mother first gave her permission, to 1995 when the band's run ended with the death of frontman Jerry Garcia. "I really became an adventurous person, much more so than ever before," she said, noting she visited multiple fossil sites during her travels following the band. "I decided if I wanted to do something, I could go and do it."

Childhood dream

During those five years, Prassack had made an attempt at art school, but she dropped out

and spent more time following the band. After Garcia's death, she decided to pursue her childhood dream of becoming a paleontologist. She earned a doctorate and in 2012 landed at the national monument famous for its wide variety of fossils that span from 3 million to 4.2 million years ago.

In 2014 she stopped at the Idaho Museum of Natural History in Pocatello to examine fossils collected at the national monument decades earlier and found the jawbone of the otter that had been wrongly identified as another species. She submitted a paper and other scientists confirmed her work, with the paper appearing in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology* in April.

"This one is the biggest find, especially recently," said JoAnn Blalack, integrated resource manager at the monument. Blalack noted that she also is a Grateful Dead fan. "But not as much as Kari." Scientists say the otter lived 3.8 million years ago and is the earliest known example of modern North American river otters, but about half their size and weighing about 10 pounds. Prassack said she never expected to have the opportunity to name a new species, and the Grateful Dead's Weir was an easy choice. "It was a great opportunity to say 'Thank you,' for such a great experience," she said. — AP

DOUBLE TROUBLE FOR PRIZED POLISH FOREST

BIALOWIEZA, Poland: The roar of a chainsaw and staccato blows of an axe break the silence deep in Poland's majestic Bialowieza forest as loggers swiftly fell a 90-year-old tree. Teeming with wildlife, Bialowieza, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, includes one of the largest surviving parts of the primeval forest that covered the European plain ten thousand years ago.

But today, this peaceful haven is the scene of a bitter battle between environmentalists and officials over a spruce bark beetle infestation that rangers say is damaging healthy trees. There is no denying spruce bark beetles are having a field day in the forest, also home to the continent's largest mammal, the European bison, as well as elk, wolves and lynx. The wood of a logged spruce reveals a spectacular network of tunnels created by the insects.

"When their population gets as huge as it is now, the beetles are no longer content just to finish off diseased spruce. They also attack healthy trees," Andrzej Antczak, a local forest ranger told AFP. Authorities insist the goal of the tree felling is to stop the degradation of the treasured woodland. But environmentalists and many scientists argue the beetle poses no threat and that officials are more interested in selling wood than protecting the forest.

Spruce trees make up around 30 percent of Bialowieza and rangers say that beetles have attacked about a fifth of them, translating into

about a million cubic meters of lumber. Each infested tree threatens up to 30 of its neighbors. And warmer weather means that up to five generations of beetles can reproduce over a year. Cutting a single infested tree and removing it, can "save one to two hectares of forest per year," Grzegorz Bielecki, head forest ranger at Bialowieza, told AFP.

Over the centuries, Bialowieza has been spared the loggers by Polish kings and Russian czars who treasured it as the perfect hunting ground brimming with large game. The forest also survived massive clear-cut logging-when all is felled down to the stem-in the 20th-century by Russian and German occupiers, British industrialists and communist authorities.

Sprawling over 150,000 hectares, Bialowieza reaches across the Polish border with Belarus, where it is entirely protected as a nature park, compared to only around 16 percent of the Polish part of the forest. Green activists argue that the entire Polish part of the forest should be designated as a nature park, meaning logging would be forbidden. But since it was elected in October 2015, the controversial Law and Justice (PiS) government has said it plans to harvest more than 180,000 cubic meters of wood over a decade-triple the amount approved by the previous liberal government. The PiS insist new trees outnumber ones that are being chopped down and that protected virgin woodlands will not be logged.

'Huge' infestation

The governing conservatives claim logging will protect the forest from beetles and people from being hit by weakened, falling spruce. Environmentalists, however, accuse rangers of altering the forest's unique ecosystem which is described by UNESCO as "an irreplaceable area for biodiversity conservation."

A coalition of environmental organizations, including Greenpeace and the Polish branch of the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), has lodged a complaint with the European Commission over the logging. The EU has also said it is "concerned" by Warsaw's decisions to log in Bialowieza and a UNESCO delegation is due to visit Poland from June 4 to 8.

Science professor Rafal Kowalczyk told AFP he opposes the felling, believing the beetle-ravaged trees should be allowed to die naturally and become a habitat for new flora and fauna. "The trees around me look dead, but in reality they're brimming with life, even more so than when they were growing, because now they're home to hundreds of insect species," Kowalczyk said, standing in part of the forest where trees fell victim to beetles. "A dead tree is a wealth of biodiversity," added the director of an outpost of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Bialowieza. "To cut down trees in this forest is comparable to what the Taliban does when it destroys works of art!" — AFP



BIALOWIEZA: Rafal Kowalczyk, Director of Mammal Research Institute of Polish Academy of Sciences shows dead spruces tree after they were attacked by woodwarms in primeval parts of Bialowieza Forest. — AFP

CANCER DRUGS MAY WORK IN RANGE OF TUMOR TYPES

CHICAGO: Early results from a clinical trial of Roche Holding AG cancer drugs released yesterday suggest some promise in matching treatments based on abnormalities found in a patient's tumor rather than the organ in which the cancer was originally detected. The findings, presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Chicago, showed that 29 out of 129 patients with 12 different types of advanced cancers responded to drugs targeting genetically driven abnormalities.

The drugs were administered outside of indications currently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which generally reviews drugs using

studies based on the type of organ where the cancer was found. The trial, which received funding from Roche's Genentech unit, is designed to eventually enroll up to 500 patients. The most promising results to date were seen in patients with tumor abnormalities linked to a protein called HER2.

Seven of 20 patients with colorectal cancer, three of eight with bladder cancer, and three of six with biliary cancer saw tumor shrinkage of 30 percent or more after treatment with a combination of Roche drugs Herceptin and Perjeta, which target HER2 and are typically used to treat breast cancer. The researchers said the trial will expand those groups of

patients, as well as a separate group with BRAF mutations in lung cancer who were treated with Zelboraf, which is approved for melanoma.

"With genomic testing of tumors becoming increasingly available, studies such as ours will help more patients benefit from precision medicine approaches," lead study author Dr John Hainsworth, senior investigator at Sarah Cannon Research Institute in Nashville, Tennessee, said in a statement. The study also included Roche's Everidge, a basal cell carcinoma drug that targets the a cancer-related signaling pathway known as Hedgehog and Tarceva, a lung cancer drug that targets a cell-surface recep-

tor known as epidermal growth factor, or EGFR. Such targeted drugs are seen as a type of personalized medical therapy designed to treat cancer by interrupting unique molecular abnormalities that drive cancer growth. The targeted drugs are designed to interfere with a specific biochemical pathway central to the development, growth, and spread of that particular cancer. During the trial, 14 patients who initially responded to treatment saw their cancer eventually worsen. The researchers said they plan to study other drugs, including Roche's Cotellic, an MEK inhibitor, currently approved for advanced melanoma. — Reuters

JAPANESE MAN, 96, BECOMES OLDEST EVER COLLEGE GRADUATE

TOKYO: A 96-year-old Japanese man is potty at the prospect of breaking more records after being recognized as the world's oldest university graduate with his degree in ceramic arts. Spritely senior Shigemi Hirata received his Guinness World Records certificate on Friday after earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from Kyoto University of Art and Design earlier this year, local media reported Saturday.

Born on a Hiroshima farm in 1919 — the year the Allies and Germany signed the Treaty of Versailles-Hirata is something of a celebrity on campus. "Students whose name I don't even know call out to greet me," he told Japan's Yomiuri newspaper. "That gives me a lot of energy."

Hirata, who took 11 years to complete his ceramic arts course after taking up pottery as a pensioner, insisted he was not done setting records. "My goal is to live until I'm 100," he said. "If I'm fit enough it might be rather fun to go to graduate school." Hirata, who served in

the navy during World War II and has four great-grandchildren, added: "I'm so happy. At my age it's fun to be able to learn new things."

Japan's perky pensioners regularly set eye-popping records as the silver-haired generation enjoy longer and healthier lives. Last year, 100-year-old Mieko Nagaoka became the world's first centenarian to complete a 1,500-metre freestyle swim, 20 years after she took up the sport. Many elderly Japanese remain physically active long after other people have given up the ghost.

Twinkle-toed sprinter Hidekichi Miyazaki, dubbed "Golden Bolt" after Jamaican superstar Usain Bolt, also set a world record last year, clocking 42.22 seconds for the 100 meters in the over-105 category a day after reaching the milestone age. There were nearly 59,000 centenarians in Japan in 2015, according to government figures-which means 46 out of every 100,000 people is 100 or over. — AFP

MAGMA BUILDUP DISCOVERED UNDER NEW ZEALAND TOWN

WELLINGTON: Scientists say they've discovered a magma buildup near a New Zealand town that explains a spate of recent earthquakes and could signal the beginnings of a new volcano - although they're not expecting an eruption anytime soon. Geophysicist Ian Hamling said that since 1950, enough magma to fill 80,000 Olympic-size swimming pools has squeezed up beneath the surface near the coastal town of Matata, about 200 kilometers south-east of Auckland.

A paper published yesterday in the online journal Science Advances outlines the findings. Hamling, the paper's lead author, said that while other parts of New Zealand have active volcanoes, there have been none near Matata for at least 400,000 years. "It was quite a big surprise," he said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Using GPS data and satellite images, the scientists say they discovered an area of land about 400 square kilometers has risen by 40 centimeters since 1950. Hamling said a period of quick uplift between 2004 and 2011 likely triggered thousands of small earthquakes. Scientists had previously thought tectonic shifts caused the quakes.

Hamling said the magma remained

about 10 kilometers below the surface, deep enough that he didn't expect a volcano to develop within his lifetime. He said a volcano could develop over hundreds or thousands of years, or the magma could eventually cool and harden.

Matata is home to about 650 people. Hamling said he hoped further study would allow scientists to develop a warning system for earthquakes in the area. He said the quakes are likely triggered by magma stressing and breaking rock. Hamling said it was unusual worldwide to discover magma buildup in an area with no volcanoes. He said modern equipment allowed them to accurately measure tiny horizontal and vertical changes in the coastal land.

Just over half of the area studied is offshore, however, and Hamling said the scientists needed to rely on inferences from what happened on the land to gauge the changes underwater. Victoria Miller, a volcanologist with Geoscience Australia who was not involved in the research, said the location was of interest because it was outside of an active volcanic area. "The scientific analysis seems robust and notes the limitations of modeling an offshore source," Miller wrote in an email. — AP



This image provided by NASA shows a barred spiral galaxy 130 million light-years away and is one of the measurements that astronomers used to come up with a faster rate of expansion of the universe. And if that new rate is correct, then scientists have to refigure some basic assumptions about the cosmos. — AP

A COSMIC CURVEBALL: IS THE UNIVERSE EXPANDING FASTER?

"AN END-TO-END TEST THE UNIVERSE GIVES US"

WASHINGTON: Astronomers thought they had a handle on how the universe ticks, but the cosmos may be toying with them. A team of astronomers has calculated that the universe seems to be expanding faster than what scientists previously figured. If the new research is right, then science's basic understanding of what's been happening to the universe in the past 13.8 billion years after the Big Bang could be just a bit off kilter.

"This is really an end-to-end test the universe gives us; it's sort of our final exam," said Nobel laureate and study lead author Adam Riess of the Space Telescope Science Institute. "We get a D-plus probably because things don't match up."

Astronomers used the Hubble Space Telescope to measure the distance of 2,400 stars to calculate the rate the universe is expanding. The number they came up with is 5 to 9 percent faster than other scientifically accepted measurements that calculate the expansion rate based on cosmic background radiation from

380,000 years after the Big Bang. The new study was released Thursday by NASA and is to be published in The Astrophysical Journal.

Many explanations

Either one set of calculations is wrong - which outside scientists say is the most likely possibility, though they can't find something wrong yet - or the expansion rate has speeded up since 13.8 billion years ago. And if that's the case, as Riess advocates, then our understanding of the universe is not quite right.

It's as if we're looking for someone and we're in the right room, but looking at the wrong wall, said Riess, who won the 2011 Nobel in physics for proving in 1998 that the universe is accelerating. So now Riess and many of the same scientists are trying to figure just where astronomy made a wrong turn.

Riess and co-author Alex Filippenko of Berkeley said there are many possible explanations for why the universe is expanding faster now: It could be that there's a mystery particle,

what scientists call a sterile neutrino, which hasn't been seen but could change calculations to make the cosmic calculations balance out. It could be that dark energy is increasing. It could be the universe is more curved than theorized. And it could be that Einstein's General Relativity just isn't quite right when we look at the whole universe. Or it could be the measurements are off.

"There's potentially something very exciting, very interesting that the data are trying to tell us about the universe," Filippenko said. NASA astrophysicist John Mather, Princeton astrophysicist David Spergel and California Institute of Technology physicist Sean Carroll say while it's possible that we have to go back to the cosmological drawing board, it's far more likely that one of the two expansion rate measurements was calculated wrong somehow. "It's far too early to jump up and down to say the universe is messing with us," Carroll said, but then he added that both measurements were by solid and careful scientists. — AP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
 د. فهد علي المخيزيم
 Consultant Pediatrician إستشاري أطفال
 M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

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

HOLIDAY INN SALMIYA PRESENTS UNIQUE RAMADAN EXPERIENCE



As the Holy month of Ramadan approaches, Holiday Inn Salmiya has arranged an exceptional Ramadan experience for all guests to enjoy with their family and friends a great atmosphere that reflects the spirit of the holy month through its mouthwatering iftar special menus and buffets, drinks and desserts.

For those who are planning to host a private or corporate iftar or Ghabqa, Holiday Inn Salmiya is offering a special packages at a very competitive prices inside the hotel's state of the art ballrooms complemented with special menus and setups inspired by Ramadan spirit. As for our Outside Catering services, Our team of experts works hard to put together an excellent, successful event with the support of Executive Chef and his team who will design a creative menu options that suits all tastes and our professional Banquet team who will look after your guests to ensure they have a truly special experience, all in the comfort of your own Place.

Holiday Inn Kuwait Salmiya is considered one of the most preferred destinations for travelers and families who are looking for a getaway as for its location which is in the heart of Salmiya where most shopping malls, and entertainment parks are nearby also for the services that the hotel team strives to provide a memorable experience for its guests.



LULU HYPERMARKET ANNOUNCES IFTAR PROJECT DURING RAMADAN



Lulu Hypermarket, the leading retailer in the region, announced its 'Iftar Project' in partnership with Namaa for Zakat and Benevolences, a social reformation society, to deliver food coupons to needy families during

the holy month of Ramadan. In the spirit of charity and benevolence shared by Muslims during the holy month, the iftar project will ensure beneficiary families receive coupons valued at KD 5 and KD 10 that

would allow them to purchase food items such as chicken, rice, oil, lentils, sugar, tomato paste, beans, dried dates, milk and flour from any LuLu Hypermarket outlet in Kuwait. The iftar Project's mission aims to support

the spiritual and humanitarian facets of the Holy Month by emphasizing charity and compassion. This initiative underlines the importance that LuLu Hypermarket places on the concept of social responsibility and giving back to society.

LuLu Hypermarket has consistently provided unparalleled service to the community, not only through affordable shopping and great promotions, but by lending its support to charitable activities that benefit the most needy in society.



LunchBoxer team, by Nouf Al-Rammah and Latifa Al-Shallal



Arena team, by Hussein Al-Hunaidi



BabyGaurds team, by Nabeelah Al-Sabah and Feddah Al-Sager



One of the GUST teams' booths

GUST TEAMS WIN IN THREE OF TOP FIVE POSITIONS AT STARTUP KUWAIT

Three teams from Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) won top spots at the 2016 Startup Kuwait National Innovation and Entrepreneurship Challenge. The Challenge took place at the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel on the 29th and 30th of May under the patronage of the Minister of Commerce, Yousef Al-Ali. The event was also attended by the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. Startup Kuwait is an initiative launched by the Global Centre of Kuwait University to encourage students to understand the challenges and opportunities of entrepreneurship, and be able to work on and launch their own business ideas. As a part of this initiative, students were encouraged to work on innovative ideas that can be realistically and successfully turned into real businesses. More than 600 students forming over 100 teams, including 73 from GUST, presented their ideas and went through several rounds of filtering before getting to the final round. Only 12 teams were able to make it to the final round, 5 of which were from GUST. Other participating universities in the final round included AUK, ACK, Box Hill College, and

Kuwait University. During the final round 5 winners were selected out of the 12 after participants presented their ideas to a judging panel consisting of famous Kuwaiti entrepreneurs, Dr Saad Al-Barrak, Dr Naif Al-Mutawa and John Preston who supervised research commercialization efforts at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The three winning teams from GUST were: - LunchBoxer, by Nouf Al-Rammah and Latifa Al-Shallal - Arena, by Hussein Al-Hunaidi - BabyGaurds, by Nabeelah Al-Sabah and Feddah Al-Sager The winners were then announced in a special ceremony held on 30th of May under the patronage of Minister of Commerce, Yousef Al Ali, which was also attended by the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and students, were able to solicit support and feedback from the audience. GUST had 9 teams exhibiting on this day.

GUST President Prof. Donald Bates said, "GUST ranking within this competition is proof that we as an institution are equipping our students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in life after graduation. Congratulations to all and we are very proud of your accomplishments." Other teams participating from GUST were "Hire Me", by Khaled Al-Mutairi, Yousef Al-Rashed, and "965 Decks" by Amal Al-Ali, Deema Al-Najjar, and Lolwa Al-Shatti. Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, said, "I am very proud to attend this competition which seeks to encourage our youth to pursue entrepreneurship, foster innovation, and to inform people on the virtues of an entrepreneurial mentality. Such initiatives create a more diverse economy which will support Kuwait's future and its standing." Startup Kuwait was formally launched in November 2015 and is backed up by a Government allocation of KD 2 billion to fund and support businesses. This is the first Startup Kuwait challenge competition. The Global Center plans to hold similar versions of this competition every semester from here onwards.

BUWAIR HOSTS CEREMONY TO HONOR MARTYRS

Kuwaiti author and historical researcher Abdullah Abbas Buwair invites the public to attend a grand celebration to be organized during the holy month of Ramadan in the honor of martyrs' families as well as officials and staff of the Martyrs' Bureau. A number of statesmen, sheikhs and diplomats will also be honored during the event, which Buwair is holding on the occasion of issuing his newest publication titled 'Speeches of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah'.



BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES RAMADAN BRANCH TIMINGS

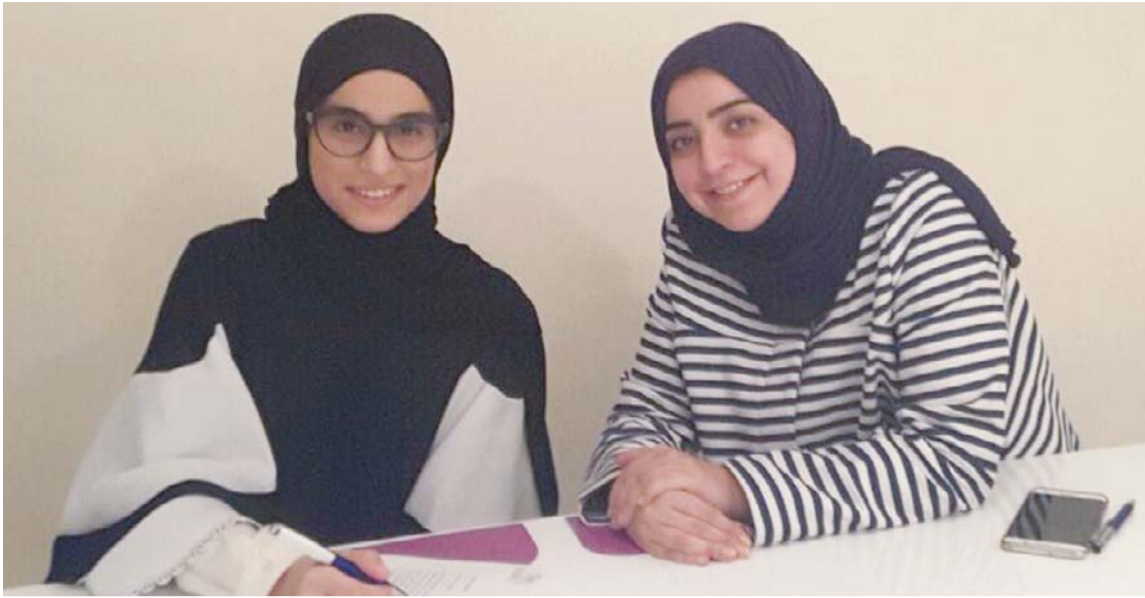
Burgan Bank announced yesterday its new branch timings which will be applicable all throughout the holy month of Ramadan. All Burgan Bank branches will commence work in one shift from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm. additionally; the Airport branch will be open in the mornings from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm and in the evenings from 9:30 pm to 12:00am. For more information on any products or services, customers are required to contact Burgan Bank's call center 1804080 during the holiday. On this occasion, Burgan Bank extends its best wishes to everyone during the Holy month of Ramadan.

BANGLADESHI EMBASSY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Kuwait will follow the following office hours during the holy month of Ramadan. Sunday to Thursday: 09:00 am - 3:00 pm. Friday and Saturday: Weekly holidays.

● Kozhikode District NRI Association (KDNA) is organizing a grand iftar meet on Thursday 9th June 2016 at Indian Community School, Salmiya Senior Branch starting from 5:00 pm. For more details please contact 99117694.

IBTIKAR, MOE DISCUSS COOPERATION



Ibtikar Al-Kuwait Initiative of the Saad Charity for knowledge and scientific research recently hosted officials from the Ministry of Education's (MOE) activities sector, where both sides held a meeting to discuss means of cooperation. The meeting was presided by Ibtikar Director Dr Fatima Al-Hashim, and attended by MOE's Activities Director Musaed Oqab and Ibtikar's Executive Director Hessa Al-Ali.



GULF INSURANCE, RE INSURANCE COMPANY HOLDS CPR AND FIRST AID TRAINING

'20 MINUTES. LET'S SAVE A LIFE'

Gulf Insurance and Re Insurance, a company of Gulf Insurance Group and a leader in providing insurance services in Kuwait, announced that a training session on first aid '20 minutes. Let's save a life' was held in collaboration with the US Heroes for Hearts initiative, known to be a nonprofit US Organization based in Washington, that aims at administering the CPR. The training session also targeted on how to deal with the heart attacks and CPR particularly within the vital first three minutes of a heart attack. We strongly believe in the power of community and that by empowering others to invest themselves and those around them, lives can

be saved and a positive impact can be exponentially spread around the world.

Gulf Insurance and Reinsurance Company appreciated the efforts of "Heroes for Hearts" who provided a detailed explanation on the CPR and first aid to the Company staff who carried out a simulation for the cardiopulmonary resuscitation process.

Noteworthy to mention that Gulf Insurance and Reinsurance Company pays attention to such important initiatives given its role of social responsibility and due to its belief in the importance of such training courses.

INJAZ-KUWAIT HONORS WINNING STUDENTS OF ITS ANNUAL COMPANY PROGRAM COMPETITION

INJAZ-KUWAIT'S ANNUAL RECOGNITION CEREMONY

INJAZ-Kuwait held its annual recognition ceremony for INJAZ Stars' high school students, which announced winners of the Company Program Competition (CPC). The ceremony was also celebrating volunteers and guests that supported INJAZ-Kuwait during the academic year. The ceremony was held on Friday, June 3, 2016 at the JW Marriott Hotel, in the presence of INJAZ Kuwait's representatives, students, volunteers, CPC Judges, parents, teachers, partners, sponsors and supporters, along with representatives from the local media. This year's Company Program Competition witnessed 10 Student Companies, with the participation of approximately 120 high school students from private and public schools.

During the ceremony, winners of the Company Program Competition were announced where the student 'Company of the Year 2016' award sponsored by Gulf Bank, went to "Cloudzzz" from Universal American School; The 'Most Innovative Product' award was presented to "Unique Style" from Abdullah Al-Asaosi High School, which was sponsored by Zain and last but not least, the student compa-

ny with the 'Best Social Impact' award went to "Croot Cute" from Maria Al Qobtiya High School which was sponsored by Alghanim Industries.

INJAZ-Kuwait CEO, Rana Al-Nibari, also expressed her happiness as she congratulated the winners of the competition. She said "Our Company Program Competition aims to recognize our youth that have an ambition to create their own future companies. The Company Program is one of INJAZ-Kuwait's flagship programs and the most popular among students. It allows our youth to experience the work environment first hand and on a more realistic level, while building their pioneering, leadership and management abilities through the practical experience, and equips them to become entrepreneurs and leaders of the future. That said; I would like to congratulate all of INJAZ-Kuwait's stars, their volunteers and parents, for their enthusiasm and their keenness to learn, commit and lead. I would also like to congratulate the winning teams for their hard work and I hope they continue to pursue their dreams

and achieve great success in the future.

I would also like to give a special thanks to all the those who supported the program, namely our partners Alghanim Industries, Gulf Bank, Zain, and, in addition to our dear partners, Ali Abdulwahab Al-Mutawa, IKEA, K4 Company for Trading and Contracting, ALARGAN, Quality Stream, Al Mal Investment Company, Agility, City Foundation, Impact and Echo, H-K Strategies, Habchi and Chalhou, Al-Babtain Group, Kuwait Airways, KFAS, and Kout Food Group that have been longstanding supporters of INJAZ-Kuwait's 2015 - 2016 school year, and contributed in every way possible to help INJAZ-Kuwait achieve its main objectives."

INJAZ-Kuwait has contributed to the education of 9000 students for the academic year 2015-2016. This was made possible with the contributions over 800 volunteers from the Kuwait private sector, where 413 students in schools and universities have successfully completed the Company Program in 2015-2016. INJAZ-Kuwait will continue to empower youth through different means and channels, fulfilling its pledge to this ambitious segment of society.



Fahed Abushaar, the General Manager of the Sheraton Kuwait Hotel receives the 'Privileged Lifetime Achievement Award.'

SHERATON'S FAHED ABUSHAAR RECEIVES 'PRIVILEGED LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD'

In recognition of his great accomplishments over more than 35 years of success working with the Sheraton Hotels and Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide and during the EAME conference 2016 which was held in Doha, Qatar for leaders and senior managers for the regions of Europe, Africa and the Middle East, the company has honored the most prominent pioneers, notably Fahed Abushaar, the General Manager of the Sheraton Kuwait Hotel the 'Privileged Lifetime Achievement Award' for the Middle East which is the highest award granted by the company in recognition of the great contributions for his leadership in the management of the Sheraton Kuwait Hotel.

Fahed Abushaar is known for his distinctive and strong relations with all local, regional and international circles; he added value to Sheraton Kuwait Hotel which was one of the first five-star hotels in the region where it opened in 1966 and this year 2016 marks a milestone with 50 years of outstanding excellence, a wholehearted commitment to perfection and constant development from a deeply rooted past to become a part of Kuwait's authentic heritage and a backbone to its bright future.

Fahed Abushaar expressed deep gratitude and appreciation to all those who contributed to his success over many challenging years, since he began his journey with Starwood company 35 years ago, starting from the Jasmine Damascus that embraced his childhood and the first steps of his career, passing

through Germany which have shaped his personality, affected and enriched the experience and ended in Kuwait which is the most precious and cherished country which culminated his successes.

Abushaar added: "This appreciation and success was not possible without the great support of the honored people of Kuwait and all those who loved and trusted the Sheraton Kuwait Hotel, guests and friends, companies and government institutions, in addition to the great role of cooperation of all Sheraton heads and associates and all those who accompanied him on this success".

He conveyed his special thanks and appreciation to Guido de Wilde, the Vice President of Starwood Hotels in the Middle East which began the honor and the award to Fahed by presenting a wonderful speech about his successful achievements.

Fahed Abushaar also thanked everyone who was credited with his life since he began his career with the Sheraton and Starwood Hotels and Resorts, especially the Chairman and members of the Oriental Hotels Company, the owning company of Sheraton Kuwait Hotel and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait represented by the honorable, respectable and the great man, Abdulaziz Alshaya and he expressed his love, many thanks and appreciation for the great support of his family and their understanding of his whole circumstances over the years. Once more, he ended his speech by thanking all the people of Kuwait and its residents for this precious Award.



"Cloudzzz" team the winner of 'Company of Year 2016' award sponsored by Gulf Bank



"Croot Cute" team the winner of the student company of the 'Best Social Impact' award sponsored by Alghanim Industries

AMC

- 04:20 One More Kiss
- 06:00 The Wilby Conspiracy
- 07:45 Clifford
- 09:15 Charge Of The Light Brigade
- 11:20 Captain Jack
- 13:00 Movers And Shakers
- 14:20 Empire Of The Ants
- 15:50 Everybody's Fine
- 17:30 Follow That Dream
- 19:20 Funny Thing Happened...Forum
- 21:00 Phantoms
- 22:35 Winterhawk
- 00:15 Bio-Dome
- 01:50 Southie

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 03:25 Natural World
- 04:15 Animal Cops South Africa
- 05:02 Lion Man: One World African Safari
- 05:25 Lion Man: One World African Safari
- 05:49 Gangland Killers
- 06:36 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:00 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:25 Dog TV
- 08:15 Giant Pandas Go Wild
- 09:10 Rugged Justice
- 10:05 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 11:00 Dog TV
- 11:55 Snake Crusader With Bruce George
- 12:20 Snake Crusader With Bruce George
- 12:50 Bahama Blue
- 13:45 Wildest Islands
- 14:40 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
- 15:35 Biggest And Baddest
- 16:30 Killer Iq: Lion vs Hyena
- 17:25 Wildest Islands
- 18:20 Restoration Wild
- 19:15 Rugged Justice
- 20:10 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 21:05 Village Vets
- 21:35 Village Vets
- 22:00 Restoration Wild
- 22:55 Snake Crusader With Bruce George
- 23:20 Snake Crusader With Bruce George

Discovery Channel HD

- 03:15 For The Love Of Cars
- 04:05 For The Love Of Cars
- 05:00 For The Love Of Cars
- 06:00 Yukon Men
- 06:50 Wheeler Dealers
- 07:40 Fast N Loud
- 08:30 Dukes Of Hazzard
- 08:55 Storage Wars Canada
- 09:20 Property Wars
- 09:45 How Do They Do It?
- 10:10 How Do They Do It?
- 10:35 Alaskan Bush People
- 11:25 The Last Alaskans
- 12:15 Hell Roads
- 13:05 Dukes Of Hazzard
- 13:30 Storage Wars Canada
- 13:55 Property Wars
- 14:20 Yukon Men
- 15:10 Wheeler Dealers
- 16:00 Fast N Loud
- 16:50 How Do They Do It?
- 17:15 How Do They Do It?
- 17:40 Diesel Brothers
- 18:30 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
- 19:20 The Island With Bear Grylls: Women
- 20:10 Storage Wars Canada
- 20:35 Property Wars
- 21:00 Dual Survival
- 21:50 Dual Survival
- 22:40 Fire In The Hole
- 23:30 Fast N Loud
- 00:20 Wheeler Dealers
- 01:10 Dual Survival
- 02:00 Dual Survival
- 02:50 Fire In The Hole

Discovery Family

- 03:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 03:50 You Have Been Warned
- 04:40 You Have Been Warned
- 05:30 You Have Been Warned
- 06:20 How It's Made
- 06:40 How It's Made
- 07:00 Doki
- 07:25 Doki
- 07:50 Kids vs Film
- 08:15 Kids vs Film
- 08:40 You Have Been Warned
- 12:00 How It's Made
- 13:40 Mythbusters
- 17:00 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
- 18:40 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
- 19:30 Prehistoric
- 20:20 How The Earth Works
- 21:10 Curiosity: Megastorm
- 22:00 Untamed & Uncut
- 00:30 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 02:10 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman

ID. INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

- 03:00 Surviving Evil
- 03:48 Murder Among Friends
- 04:36 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 05:24 California Investigator
- 05:49 California Investigator
- 06:12 Southern Fried Homicide
- 07:00 Dr G: Medical Examiner
- 07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 12:00 California Investigator
- 16:10 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad
- 21:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
- 22:00 Disappeared
- 22:50 Double Cross
- 23:40 Obsession: Dark Desires
- 00:30 Paranormal Lockdown
- 01:20 The Haunted
- 02:10 Double Cross

Discovery Science

- 03:29 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 04:16 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 05:03 Food Factory
- 05:50 Food Factory USA
- 08:08 Food Factory
- 10:23 Food Factory USA
- 11:08 How It's Made
- 14:57 The World's Strangest UFO Stories
- 17:18 Alien Encounters
- 18:05 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman

Disney Channel

- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

- 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:00 Violetta
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 Mouk
- 06:00 Lolirock
- 06:25 Sofia The First
- 06:50 Gravity Falls
- 07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 07:40 Hank Zipzer
- 08:05 Shake It Up
- 08:30 Shake It Up
- 08:55 Hannah Montana
- 09:20 Hannah Montana
- 09:45 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 10:10 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 10:35 Cadet Kelly
- 12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 12:20 Jessie
- 12:45 Girl Meets World
- 13:10 Best Friends Whenever
- 13:35 Jessie
- 14:00 Jessie
- 14:25 Descendants Wicked World
- 14:30 Jessie
- 14:55 Jessie
- 15:20 Jessie
- 15:45 Jessie
- 16:10 Jessie
- 16:35 Jessie
- 17:00 Jessie
- 17:25 Jessie
- 21:00 The 7D
- 18:00 Cloud 9
- 19:30 Evermoor Chronicles
- 19:55 Evermoor Chronicles
- 20:20 Evermoor Chronicles
- 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:10 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 22:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:10 Hank Zipzer
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 00:00 Violetta
- 00:05 The Hive
- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:40 Hank Zipzer
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:30 Violetta

Disney Junior

- 03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:20 Calimero
- 03:35 Zou
- 03:45 Loopedidoo
- 04:00 Art Attack
- 04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:35 Calimero
- 04:50 Zou
- 05:00 Loopedidoo
- 05:15 Art Attack
- 05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:50 Calimero
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:20 Loopedidoo
- 06:35 Art Attack
- 07:00 The Hive
- 07:10 Zou
- 07:25 Loopedidoo
- 07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 08:05 Sofia The First
- 08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 08:45 PJ Masks
- 09:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 09:25 Doc McStuffins
- 10:00 Sofia The First
- 10:30 Goldie & Bear
- 11:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 11:25 The Lion Guard
- 11:50 Miles From Tomorrow
- 12:15 Henry Hugglemonster
- 12:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 12:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 13:00 Sofia The First
- 13:25 Goldie & Bear
- 13:50 Miles From Tomorrow
- 14:15 The Lion Guard
- 14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 15:10 Doc McStuffins
- 15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 16:00 Sofia The First
- 16:25 Jungle Cubs
- 16:50 Aladdin
- 17:15 The Lion Guard
- 17:40 Goldie & Bear
- 18:05 Miles From Tomorrow
- 18:30 Sofia The First
- 19:00 PJ Masks
- 19:30 The Lion Guard
- 20:00 Goldie & Bear
- 20:30 Sofia The First
- 21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 21:25 PJ Masks
- 21:50 Jungle Cubs
- 22:20 Aladdin
- 22:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 22:50 Zou
- 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:20 Calimero
- 23:35 Zou
- 23:50 Loopedidoo
- 00:05 Art Attack
- 00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:45 Calimero
- 01:00 Zou
- 01:15 Loopedidoo
- 01:30 Art Attack
- 02:05 Calimero
- 02:20 Zou
- 02:30 Loopedidoo
- 02:45 Art Attack

Disney XD

- 06:00 Boyster
- 06:10 Super Matrak
- 06:35 Super Matrak
- 07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 07:25 K.C. Undercover
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 Supa Strikas
- 08:40 Lab Rats
- 09:10 Kirby Buckets
- 09:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 10:00 Supa Strikas
- 10:25 K.C. Undercover
- 10:50 Annedroids
- 11:20 Lab Rats
- 11:45 K.C. Undercover
- 12:10 K.C. Undercover
- 12:35 K.C. Undercover
- 13:00 K.C. Undercover
- 13:30 Rhinex And Ferb: Star Wars
- 14:20 Kickin' It
- 14:45 Kickin' It
- 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 15:15 Rocket Monkeys
- 15:40 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 16:05 Mighty Med
- 16:30 Star Wars Rebels: Twilight Of A Jedi
- 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 Star Wars Rebels: Twilight Of A Jedi
- 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

food network

- 03:00 Private Chef
- 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 05:00 Chopped
- 06:00 Man Fire Food
- 07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 07:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
- 10:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 10:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 11:00 Sibab's Table
- 11:30 Sibab's Table
- 12:00 Ching's Amazing Asia
- 12:30 Ching's Amazing Asia
- 13:00 Man Finds Food
- 15:00 Chopped
- 16:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 17:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
- 18:00 Sibab's Table
- 18:30 Sibab's Table
- 19:00 Valerie's Home Cooking
- 19:30 Valerie's Home Cooking
- 20:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 21:00 Chopped South Africa
- 22:00 Man v Food
- 22:30 Man v Food
- 23:00 Mystery Diners
- 23:30 Mystery Diners
- 00:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 01:00 Chopped South Africa
- 02:00 Man v Food

History HD

- 03:40 Shipping Wars
- 04:05 Shipping Wars
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Lost Worlds
- 06:00 Ax Men
- 06:50 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 07:40 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 08:30 Shipping Wars
- 08:55 American Restoration
- 09:20 American Restoration
- 09:45 Counting Cars
- 11:25 Grave Trade
- 12:15 American Pickers
- 13:05 Barry'd Treasure
- 13:30 Barry'd Treasure
- 13:55 Sean Bean On Waterloo
- 14:45 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 15:35 Shipping Wars
- 16:00 Ax Men
- 16:50 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 17:40 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 18:30 Grave Trade
- 19:20 American Pickers
- 20:10 Pawn Stars
- 21:50 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 22:40 Battle 360
- 23:30 Pawn Stars
- 23:55 Pawn Stars
- 00:20 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 00:45 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 01:10 American Restoration
- 02:00 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 02:50 The Curse Of Oak Island

itv choice

- 03:00 Coronation Street
- 04:40 Endeavour
- 06:20 Midsomer Murders
- 08:00 Pick Me!
- 08:50 Catchphrase
- 11:25 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman
- 12:05 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 12:15 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 12:50 James Nesbitt's Ireland
- 13:15 Endeavour
- 13:50 Sunday Night At The Palladium
- 15:55 Catchphrase
- 16:45 Agatha Christie's Partners In Crime
- 17:40 Doc Martin
- 18:30 Catchphrase
- 19:00 Sunday Night At The Palladium
- 19:50 The Widower
- 20:40 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 21:30 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 22:20 Catchphrase
- 23:15 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
- 00:10 Catchphrase
- 00:40 James Nesbitt's Ireland
- 01:05 Emmerdale
- 01:30 Coach Trip
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 The Jonathan Ross Show

NAT GEO people HD

- 03:05 Places We Go
- 03:30 Miguel's Feasts
- 03:55 East Bites West

- 04:20 Access 360 World Heritage
- 05:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 05:35 The Food Files
- 06:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 06:25 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 06:50 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
- 07:15 Maverick Chef
- 07:40 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 08:05 Miguel's Feasts
- 08:30 One Man & His Campervan
- 08:55 One Man & His Campervan
- 09:20 My Dubai
- 09:45 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 10:10 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 10:35 World's Best Chefs
- 11:00 Maximum Foodie
- 11:25 This Is Brazil
- 12:15 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia
- 12:40 A Marriage Of Flavours
- 13:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 13:35 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
- 14:00 Meat v Veg
- 14:30 American Food Battle
- 14:55 Places We Go
- 15:25 Cesar Millan: Viva Las Vegas!
- 16:20 Access 360 World Heritage
- 17:15 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 17:40 The Food Files
- 18:10 City Chase Marrakech
- 19:05 Places We Go
- 19:30 Cesar Millan: Viva Las Vegas!
- 20:25 Access 360 World Heritage
- 21:15 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 21:40 The Food Files
- 22:05 City Chase Marrakech
- 22:55 A Marriage Of Flavours
- 23:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 23:45 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
- 00:10 Meat v Veg
- 00:35 American Food Battle
- 01:00 East Bites West
- 01:25 Poh & Co.
- 01:50 Grandpa's Boy
- 02:15 World's Best Chefs
- 02:40 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 03:45 Europe's Great Wilderness
- 04:40 Fish Tank Kings
- 05:35 Prehistoric Predators
- 06:30 Hooked
- 07:25 Monster Fish
- 08:20 1000 Days For The Planet
- 09:15 Animals Gone Wild
- 10:10 My Dog Ate What?
- 11:05 Big Baboon House
- 12:00 World's Deadliest: Jaws & Sins
- 12:55 Animals Gone Wild
- 13:50 Croc Labyrinth
- 14:45 China's Golden Monkeys
- 15:40 Legends Of Lemur Island
- 16:35 Revenge Of The Lioness
- 17:30 Blood Rivals: Hippo V. Lion
- 18:25 Swamp Men
- 19:20 China's Golden Monkeys
- 20:10 Legends Of Lemur Island
- 21:00 Revenge Of The Lioness
- 21:50 Blood Rivals: Hippo V. Lion
- 22:40 Swamp Men
- 23:30 World's Deadliest: Jaws & Sins
- 00:20 Animals Gone Wild
- 01:10 Croc Labyrinth
- 02:00 Africa's Deadliest
- 02:50 Dr Oakley: Yukon Vet

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 03:50 Lockdown Compilation
- 04:45 Megastructures
- 05:40 X: The Generation That Changed The World
- 06:35 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman
- 07:30 Explorer
- 08:25 Wicked Tuna
- 09:20 Megastructures
- 11:10 Building Wild
- 12:05 Cesar To The Rescue
- 14:00 Mine Kings
- 15:00 Dirty Rotten Survival
- 16:00 Wicked Tuna
- 17:00 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman
- 18:00 Nazi Megastructures
- 19:00 Nazi Underworld
- 20:00 Wicked Tuna
- 20:50 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman
- 21:40 Nazi Megastructures
- 22:30 Nazi Underworld
- 23:20 Building Wild
- 00:10 Wicked Tuna
- 01:00 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman
- 02:00 Nazi Megastructures
- 02:55 Nazi Underworld
- 03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:48 Henry Danger
- 04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 04:36 The Haunted Hathaways

nickelodeon HD

- 03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:48 Henry Danger
- 04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 04:36 The Haunted Hathaways



LAST KNIGHTS ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 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
- 08:36 Get Blake
- 09:24 Rabbid's Invasion
- 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
- 13:00 Harvey Beaks
- 13:24 The Loud House
- 13:48 Get Blake
- 14:12 Rabbid's Invasion
- 14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
- 15:00 Game Shakers
- 15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 17:00 Get Blake
- 17:24 Harvey Beaks
- 17:48 The Loud House
- 18:12 Henry Danger
- 18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
- 19:24 Game Shakers
- 19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 21:24 Breadwinners
- 22:12 Sanjay And Craig
- 23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 23:48 Henry Danger
- 00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 00:36 Max & Shred
- 01:00 The Haunted Hathaways
- 01:24 Sanjay And Craig
- 01:48 Sanjay And Craig
- 02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Prison Break
- 19:00 Bones
- 20:00 Complications
- 21:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
- 22:00 House Of Cards
- 23:00 Satisfaction
- 00:00 Defiance
- 01:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
- 02:00 House Of Cards
- 03:30 Hook
- 06:00 Mr. Destiny
- 08:00 The Bounty Hunter
- 10:00 Hook
- 12:30 Mr. Destiny
- 14:30 Indian Summer
- 16:15 The Bounty Hunter
- 18:15 Spy Hard
- 20:00 Identity Thief
- 22:00 A Night At The Roxbury
- 00:00 The Bounty Hunter
- 02:00 Identity Thief
- 03:00 High School Musical 3: Senior Year
- 05:00 Up
- 07:00 Brave
- 09:00 The Lizzie McGuire Movie
- 11:00 The Mighty Ducks
- 13:00 Tangled
- 15:00 Wreck-It Ralph
- 17:00 Mars Needs Moms
- 19:00 Snow Dogs
- 21:00 Beverly Hills Chihuahua
- 23:00 Wreck-It Ralph
- 01:00 Snow Dogs
- 04:30 Legends Of The Fall
- 07:00 Two Men In Town
- 09:00 Where Angels Fear To Tread
- 11:00 Legends Of The Fall
- 13:15 Beyond The Edge
- 15:00 We Are Family
- 17:00 Where Angels Fear To Tread
- 19:00 Out Of The Furnace
- 21:00 What Maisie Knew
- 23:00 Thank You For Smoking
- 01:00 S.O.S. Mulheres Ao Mar
- 03:00 The Rewrite
- 05:00 Believe
- 07:00 The Single Moms Club
- 09:00 The Rewrite
- 11:00 Jupiter Ascending
- 13:15 The Mark
- 15:00 Make Your Move
- 17:00 Stonehearst Asylum
- 19:00 Tracers
- 21:00 Last Knights
- 23:00 What If
- 01:00 Lullaby
- 03:00 Snow Queen
- 04:30 Christmas Is Here Again
- 06:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power
- 08:00 Cher Ami
- 10:00 Barse And The City Of Thieves
- 11:30 The Unbeatable
- 13:15 Snow Queen
- 14:45 Memory Loss
- 16:15 Hatching
- 18:00 Barse And The City Of Thieves
- 20:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
- 22:00 Memory Loss
- 23:30 Hatching
- 01:00 Cher Ami
- 02:45 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
- 04:00 Some Girls
- 06:00 Metallica: Through The Never
- 08:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power
- 10:00 The Book Of Life
- 12:00 The Cobbler
- 14:00 Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This
- 16:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power
- 18:00 Imogene
- 20:00 Accidental Love
- 22:00 The Forger
- 00:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power
- 02:00 The Book Of Life
- 03:30 The Listener
- 04:00 The Listener
- 05:30 How I Met Your Mother
- 06:30 How I Met Your Mother
- 06:30 Happy Endings
- 06:30 Happy Endings
- 07:00 Castle
- 08:00 Bones



THE SCORPION KING 4: QUEST FOR POWER ON OSN MOVIES PREMIERE HD

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 04:30 Legends Of The Fall
- 07:00 Two Men In Town
- 09:00 Where Angels Fear To Tread
- 11:00 Legends Of The Fall
- 13:15 Beyond The Edge
- 15:00 We Are Family
- 17:00 Where Angels Fear To Tread
- 19:00 Out Of The Furnace
- 21:00 What Maisie Knew
- 23:00 Thank You For Smoking
- 01:00 S.O.S. Mulheres Ao Mar

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 03:30 Hook
- 06:00 Mr. Destiny
- 08:00 The Bounty Hunter
- 10:00 Hook
- 12:30 Mr. Destiny
- 14:30 Indian Summer
- 16:15 The Bounty Hunter
- 18:15 Spy Hard
- 20:00 Identity Thief
- 22:00 A Night At The Roxbury
- 00:00 The Bounty Hunter
- 02:00 Identity Thief

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 03:00 Agent X
- 04:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 05:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 Unforgettable
- 07:00 Chicago Fire
- 08:00 Prison Break
- 09:00 Agent X
- 10:00 Criminal Minds
- 11:00 Chicago Fire
- 12:00 Prison Break
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Graceland
- 15:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 Unforgettable

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 03:00 Snow Queen
 - 04:30 Christmas Is Here Again
 - 06:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power
 - 08:00 Cher Ami
 - 10:00 Barse And The City Of Thieves
 - 11:30 The Unbeatable
 - 13:15 Snow Queen
 - 14:45 Memory Loss
 - 16:15 Hatching
 - 18:00 Barse And The City Of Thieves
 - 20:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
 - 22:00 Memory Loss
 - 23:30 Hatching
 - 01:00 Cher Ami
 - 02:45 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
- </

Customer Service Supervisor
Dar Al-Shifa Hospital
Kuwait

You will be responsible for supervising the patient appointment for all clinics services in accordance with the established clinic policy and procedures, as well as, checking the clinic assignments and the completion of preliminary paperwork for patients entering the hospital.

Apply Now [JB3480412](#)

Brand Manager
Trafalgar
Kuwait

You will be responsible for the entire brand and as such requiring a great deal of initiative and the ability to work within tight deadlines, developing and delivering an annual operating plan, purchasing and sales forecasting, budget planning and implementation, inventory management, monitoring competition, as well as, product launches and promotions.

Apply Now [JB3480129](#)

Senior Market Research Associate - Alghanim Industries - Kuwait

You will be responsible for communicating with internal clients to understand and document the business objectives, recommending the most appropriate research methodology and techniques, as well as, designing qualitative and quantitative research plans for products in all stages of the Product Life Cycle or the Customer Journey.

Apply Now [JB3480122](#)

Executive Sales / Sales Manager - Afaq Future Real Estate - Kuwait

You will be responsible for identification, qualification, pursuit and capturing all sales opportunities with the objective of maximizing sales, meeting and greeting visitors and setting up appointments with the basis of converting meetings into sales, actively engaging in New Product Initiatives and relating this to sales, preparing for meetings, and writing minutes of meetings.

Apply Now [JB3480077](#)

Call Center Representative
Gulf Contact Center
Kuwait

You will be responsible for effectively manipulating customer issues, complaints and inquiries keeping customer satisfaction at the core of every decision and behavior, dealing with customers via telephone, internet, e-mail and instant messaging, as well as, working in telephone call centers or multimedia contact centers.

Apply Now [JB3479489](#)

Planning Manager
Randstad Middle East
Kuwait

You will be responsible for drawing up a detailed plan and monitoring the activities based on contract / client requirement, understanding client requirement/priorities, as well as, preparing the macro & micro schedule (weekly & daily) of the activities to be performed considering present condition.

Apply Now [JB3479391](#)

Documentation Controller - National only Kirby - Kuwait

You will be responsible for preparing Commercial Invoice in Arabic (typing in MS-Word and Excel), preparing Certificate of Origin in Arabic, generating Packing List in SAP, visiting Kuwait Chamber & Ministry and Kuwait - KSA borders when required and coordinating with our agent for resolving border issues.

Apply Now [JB3479378](#)

Digital Content Specialist
E-commerce
Kuwait

You will be responsible for managing digital content development, digital asset catalogs and deployment for all aspects of eCommerce partner sites, inclusive of item level detail, enhanced item pages, brand pages, category pages etc., as well as, serving as the liaison between sales/retailers and Brand Marketing to align product content updates.

Apply Now [JB3479106](#)

Financial Analyst - Saudi Female
Al Khorayef Group - KSA

You will be responsible for directing the development and overseeing the implementation of Finance's policies, systems, processes, procedures and controls so that all relevant procedural/legislative requirements are fulfilled while delivering high quality and cost-effective results.

Apply Now [JB3479462](#)

General Manager Assistant
ABCO
KSA

You will be responsible for developing, implementing, and maintaining filing archiving system, reading and routing incoming mail, answering and screening G.M telephone calls, and arranging conference calls, as well as, scheduling and organizing meetings involving top management.

Apply Now [JB3476424](#)

Female Technical Support Engineer
Hilti Saudi Arabia - KSA

You will be responsible for attaining specifications and approvals through submittals, design proposals, and seminars, on-site seminars, training, conveying technical knowledge to sales team, as well as, supporting sales team in consulting customers with regards to design solutions, bill of materials, estimations and submittals.

Apply Now [JB3479068](#)

Secretary
Ahaji Media Services
KSA

You will be responsible for answering telephones and giving information to callers, taking messages, or transferring calls to appropriate individuals, arranging conferences, meetings, composing, typing and distributing meeting notes, routine correspondence, and reports, as well as, locating and attaching appropriate files to incoming correspondence requiring replies.

Apply Now [JB34792997](#)

Adobe Multi Solution Architect - Cognizant Technology Solutions - UAE

You will be responsible for handling large systems, its interconnections, typical IT challenges in the enterprise and the capability to influence, as well as, defending and developing modernized web architecture solutions and omn-channel technologies.

Apply Now [JB3479545](#)

Head of Governance (Internal Audit)
Robert Walters - UAE

You will be responsible for establishing the governance, compliance & risk (GCR) framework with guidelines, and continuously monitoring and ensuring organizational wide implementation, developing, initiating, maintaining, and reviewing on a periodic basis, policies & procedures for operation of GCR programs and associated activities.

Apply Now [JB3479540](#)

Senior Manager Consulting, Oil & Gas - Cognizant Technology Solutions - UAE

You will be responsible for budget planning & forecasting, Digital Oil Field, Hydrocarbon accounting, petro technical services on the upstream side and supply, trading, refining & distribution/retail operations on the downstream side, as well as, working in an onsite-offshore operating model in an outsourced service environment.

Apply Now [JB3479522](#)

Section Engineer
Arabian Construction Company (ACC) - UAE

You will be responsible for supervising of site preparation during mobilization period in accordance with mobilization programme, reviewing requirements of the specification and relevant standards and ensuring understandings and compliance of work done with the specified requirements of the specification and drawings.

Apply Now [JB3479521](#)

Infrastructure Facility Manager
SNC LAVALIN O&M - Qatar

You will be responsible for preparing security plans, tenant handbooks and operations plans, preparing monthly and weekly reporting to client and residents of community, adhering with all SNC and the client HSE policies and procedures, coordinating and supporting residents' events, as well as, monitoring contractor's performance, budget, quality control and key performance indicators.

Apply Now [JB3480128](#)

Senior Mechanical Engineer
EGIS
Qatar

You will be responsible for developing mechanical specifications, design basis, scope of work, etc. and participating in design reviews, risk assessments, and vendor bid evaluations, as well as, participating in construction support activities including responses to requests for information (RFIs), submittal reviews, construction site visits, and design revisions/management of change.

Apply Now [JB3480410](#)

Operation Executive
Amco Group
Qatar

You will be responsible for routing order follow ups, monitoring of pick up, status of order, movement of shipment, arrival, clearance, delivery, constantly be in touch with the customers and their broker to provide regular and timely updates, as well as, handling of shipments as per the customers/ general SOP (pre-arrival & post arrival).

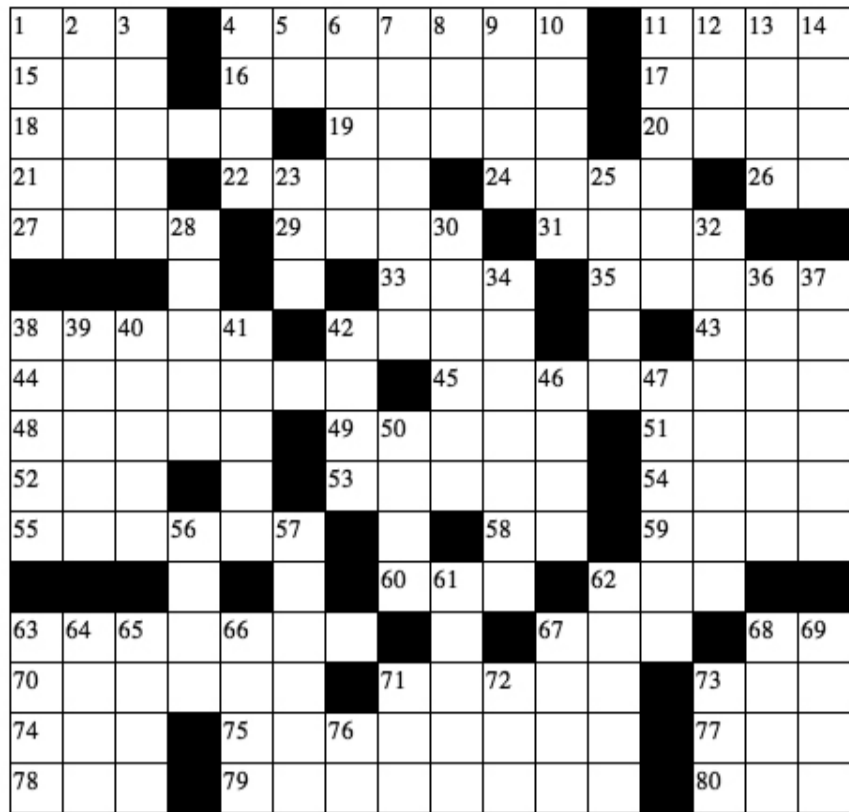
Apply Now [JB3479274](#)

Hygiene Officer - Central Kitchen
UCC Sister Co. - Qatar

You will be responsible for facilitating the monitoring of temperatures, consistencies, counts, weights, compliance with food quality control and sanitation standards and coordinating with the chefs and the heads for the correct procedures and timings, as well as, monitoring all food production and service areas to ensure compliance with established policies and procedures of the company and law regulations.

Apply Now [JB3480217](#)

CROSSWORD 1275



ACROSS

- 4. The doctrine or belief that there is no God.
- 11. In bed.
- 15. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- 16. Tropical American shrub bearing edible acid red fruit resembling cherries.
- 17. Avatar of Vishnu.
- 18. British physicist (born in Hungary) noted for his work on holography (1900-1979).
- 19. Ions are accelerated along a linear path by voltage differences on electrodes along the path.
- 20. A female domestic.
- 21. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
- 22. The dressed hairy coat of a mammal.
- 24. Common Indian weaverbird.
- 26. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
- 27. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- 29. (Greek mythology) Daughter of Zeus and Demeter.
- 31. A large number or amount.
- 33. An inflammatory complication of leprosy that results in painful skin lesions on the arms and legs and face.
- 35. Flesh of a castrated male chicken.
- 38. Scandinavian punch made of claret and aquavit with spices and raisins and orange peel and sugar.
- 43. Used of a single unit or thing.
- 44. Curve or bend (something) back or down.
- 45. Political propaganda (especially Communist propaganda) communicated via art and literature and cinema.
- 48. The Uralic language spoken by the Yeniseian people.
- 49. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
- 51. A Russian river.
- 52. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- 53. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
- 54. Fleshy and usually brightly colored cover of some seeds that develops from the ovule stalk and partially or entirely envelopes the seed.
- 55. A member of an aboriginal people living in the hills in southeastern India.
- 58. An uproarious party.
- 59. Not final or absolute.
- 60. A master's degree in fine arts.
- 63. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
- 70. A port city in southwestern Iran.
- 74. A former monetary unit in Great Britain.
- 75. Aromatic gum resin.
- 77. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- 78. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- 79. Leopard lizards.
- 80. A light touch or stroke.

DOWN

- 1. (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann.
- 2. Large long-armed ape of Borneo and

- Sumatra having arboreal habits.
- 3. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
- 4. An association of people to promote the welfare of senior citizens.
- 5. A crystalline metallic element not found in nature.
- 6. An expression of greeting.
- 7. A country north of Ethiopia on the Red Sea.
- 8. An electrically charged particle.
- 9. Block consisting of a thick piece of something.
- 10. Long-tailed brilliantly colored parrot of Central and South America.
- 11. A large fleet.
- 12. The cry made by sheep.
- 13. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
- 14. An informal term for a father.
- 23. Liquid containing proteins and electrolytes including the liquid in blood plasma and interstitial fluid.
- 25. An expensive vessel propelled by sail or power and used for cruising or racing.
- 28. (Irish) God of love and beauty.
- 30. The capital of Turkey.
- 32. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
- 34. The Bantu language of the Buganda people.
- 36. Genus of European shrubs or herbs having pink or purple or yellow solitary or clustered flowers.
- 37. Of or pertaining to or characteristic of Nepal or its people or language or culture.
- 39. (of tempo) Slow adv.
- 40. The cardinal number that is the sum of seven and one.
- 41. Norwegian composer whose work was often inspired by Norwegian folk music (1843-1907).
- 42. English monk and scholar (672-735).
- 46. The United Nations agency concerned with civil aviation.
- 47. Involving two dimensions.
- 50. Severe diabetes mellitus with an early onset.
- 56. Harsh or corrosive in tone.
- 57. A landlocked republic in eastern Africa.
- 61. A young woman.
- 62. The 3rd letter of the Greek alphabet.
- 64. Very dark black.
- 65. A Chadid language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 66. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
- 67. Wild sheep of northern Africa.
- 68. A small cake leavened with yeast.
- 69. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
- 71. A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
- 72. Aromatic bulb used as seasoning.
- 73. An informal term for a father.
- 76. The square of a body of any size of type.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Although Sundays may be a day of rest for some, you might have a difficult time finding the off switch today. Nevertheless, you believe that you have earned a quick escape as a reward for all that you've been through recently. Unfortunately, the universe isn't giving out free passes just because you think you deserve one. Accepting your busy schedule isn't as bad as it sounds at first; your productivity will soar once you get into the flow.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are tired of juggling so many separate parts of your life. You long for quieter days when there was sufficient time to relax. A short coffee break, a quick run to the store or even a walk in the park is not enough now to satisfy your needs. You crave a longer period of time to fully restore your energy. But don't give up; a dream vacation might still be in the picture sooner than you think. In the meantime, steal a few moments for revitalization whenever you get the chance and don't skimp on your sleep.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your feelings are all over the map today, challenging others to keep up with your mood changes. However, you're busy trying to maintain balance while your inner world is bending you out of shape. You might not have a lot of sympathy for those whose emotional stability seems to require more reassurance than you can muster. You can't fix anyone else's problems, especially when yours need attention. You may not be prepared to be a therapist for your friend, but a hug could be enough to do the trick.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your mind may be racing as you worry about all you must do today while you're still operating on weekend time. You wish you could spend the day doing as little as possible since you need the rest. It seems unfair that you can't just let everything slide for a bit longer. Unfortunately, instant karma is lurking nearby, ready to teach you a lesson if you don't hunker down and deliver on your promises. Channeling your angst into your work earns you a break without guilt.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Although your list of new things to do may be shorter today, you could be overwhelmed with cleaning up from yesterday's change of direction. Accept the fact that a recent event is like water under a bridge. There's no going back to redo a critical interaction; instead you must take this moment as a starting point and move toward the future. Fortunately, you don't have to let someone's negativity rain on your parade of creativity. It may be slower going than you prefer, but your persistence will lead to measurable progress.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You want to be in charge of the action today but you could be short on confidence even if you're long on ideas. In fact, you might envision so many wonderful things to do that you can't pick just one. Ironically, your inability to commit to a single path is likely the source of your self-doubt. Fortunately, rectifying the situation is pretty straightforward; make a choice and live with it. Once you're on track, you'll be surprised at how quickly others follow.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your struggles are finally winding down and you can see the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel today. Your recent uncertainty might vanish so quickly that you don't even notice it's departure. It's as if someone flipped the switch and now you know the truth. Oddly enough, your little epiphany might pull you in a totally unexpected direction. But don't worry about what others think; what's important is that you're finally off and running.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your desires run deeper than most people realize, and bringing them up to the surface requires a significant amount of energy today. Thankfully, your closest friends appreciate your willingness to share your inner process with them. However, it's nearly impossible to make sense out of your own feelings when they defy your ability to express them verbally. The more words you use now, the less true they are to your heart. Your eyes are the windows to your soul; meaningful silence is better than meaningless chatter.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You might not accomplish your goals today because you're so easily distracted by everyone's dramas. Naturally, your friends are appreciative of your undivided attention as they unfold their stories. But your avid curiosity is not just about your concern for others. As long as you're listening to someone else's narrative, you don't have to face your own dilemmas. Actually, balancing your social participation with your personal agenda creates the satisfaction you seek.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are done with always being the responsible one. In fact, you might turn your day upside down now by suddenly changing your plans and leaving others in the lurch. It's not that your new agenda is more awesome than your old one; it's just that you feel the need to shake up your Sunday routine so you can take control of your own destiny. Unfortunately, you may end up cutting off your nose to spite your face. Check your motives; what you do today is ultimately less important than why you're doing it.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Gonzo journalist, Hunter S. Thompson must have been thinking about you when he wrote, "When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro." You may naturally excel at eccentricity, but today you might even surprise yourself with your outlandish fantasies. You're obsessed with escaping from the status quo and the more radical your plan now, the better it sounds. Unfortunately, it's possible to take a brilliant idea so far out that it loses its value. Nevertheless, real genius consciously acknowledges the limits before stepping beyond them.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Everybody else's ideas sound so creative today that you might think yours are not worth mentioning at all. But comparing your thoughts to someone else's is not an all-or-nothing situation; you can follow your own bliss while still being enamored with someone else's scheme. However, you'll never know what's possible unless you take a chance and put your plan into motion. For now, life is not an either/or choice, for you can have it both ways if you're willing to keep an open mind.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

70's Songs 2 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

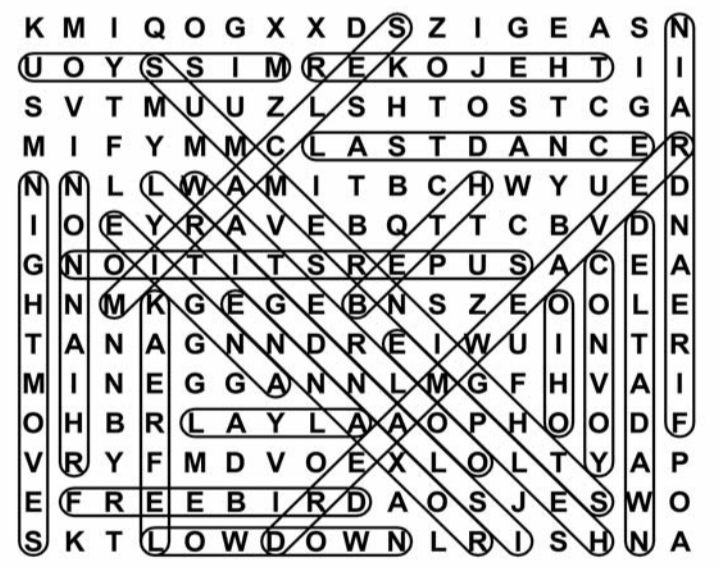


- AMERICAN PIE
- BAD GIRLS
- BROWN SUGAR
- DREAM ON
- DREAMS
- DRIFT AWAY
- EBONY EYES
- FEELINGS
- IMAGINE
- LAST DANCE
- LOLA
- LOVE HURTS
- LOW RIDER
- MAGIC MAN
- MY LOVE
- NIGHT FEVER
- PIANO MAN
- REUNITED
- SIGNS
- SUNDOWN
- SUPERSTAR
- THE GAMBLER
- WITHOUT YOU
- WOODSTOCK

Yesterday's Solution

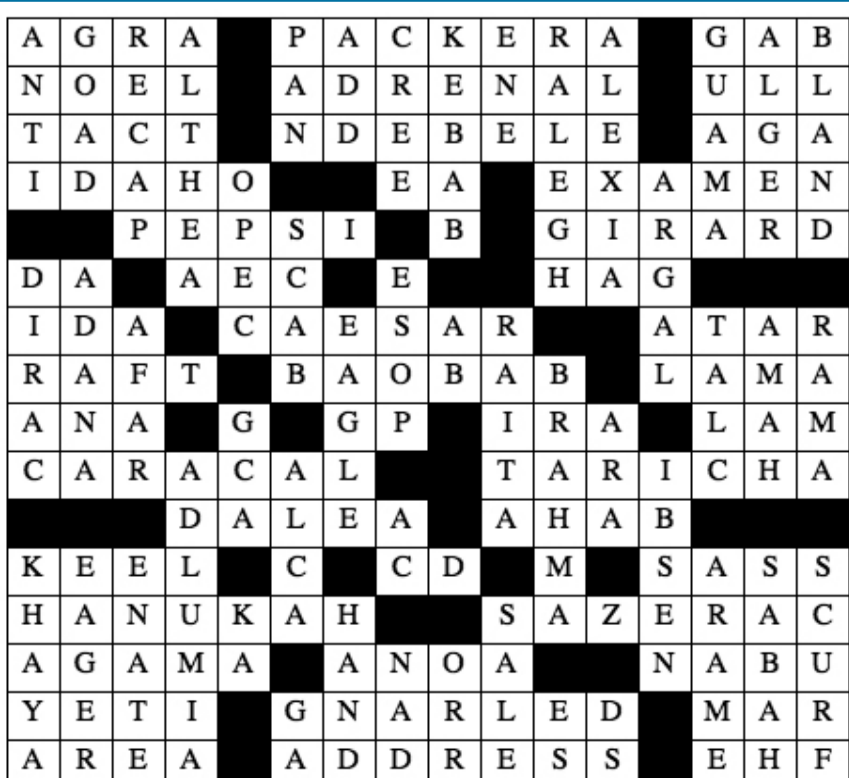
Large Print Word Search Puzzles

70's Songs 1 - Solution

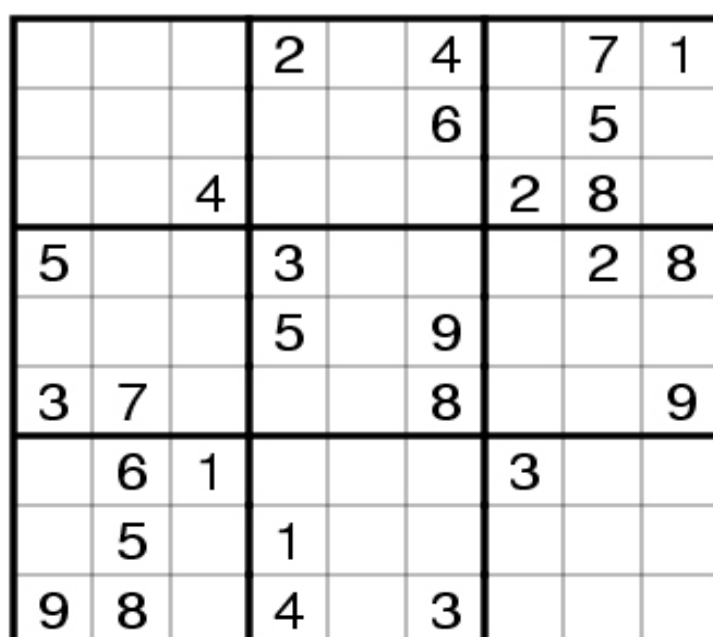


- ANGIE
- BETH
- CONVOY
- DELTA DAWN
- DREAM WEAVER
- FIRE AND RAIN
- FREE BIRD
- HELP ME
- ISLAND GIRL
- LAST DANCE
- LAYLA
- LE FREAK
- MIRACLES
- MISS YOU
- NIGHT MOVES
- OHIO
- RHIANNON
- ROXANNE
- SUMMER NIGHTS
- SUPERSTITION
- THE JOKER
- WATERLOO

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



very hard

Yesterday's Solution



medium



Maldives

Maldives officially the Republic of Maldives, is an island country and archipelago in the Indian Ocean. It lies southwest of India and Sri Lanka. The capital is Malé, traditionally called the "King's Island".

Historically linked with the Indian subcontinent, Maldives is a Muslim-majority country. From the mid-sixteenth century colonial powers dominated the islands: Portugal, the Netherlands and Britain. The islands gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1965, becoming a republic in 1968. The country is ruled by a president and its government is authoritarian. The Maldivian economy is dominated by tourism and fishing.

Encompassing a territory spread over roughly 90,000 square kilometers, Maldives is one of the world's most geographically dispersed countries. It is the smallest Asian country in both land area and in population. The archipelago is located atop the Chagos-Maldives-Laccadive Ridge, a vast submarine mountain range in the Indian Ocean, which also forms a terrestrial eco region, together with the Chagos and the Lakshadweep. With an average ground-level elevation of 1.5 meters above sea level, it is the planet's lowest country. It is also the country with the lowest natural highest point in the world, at 2.4 meters. The government has pledged to make Maldives a carbon-neutral country by 2019 amid concerns about rising sea-levels.

Ancient history and settlement

A strong underlying layer of Dravidian population and culture survives in Maldivian society, with a clear Dravidian-Malayalam substratum in the language, which also appears in place names, kinship terms, poetry, dance, and religious beliefs. Malabari seafaring culture led to Malayali settling of the Laccadives, and the Maldives were evidently viewed as an extension of that archipelago. Some argue (from the presence of Jat, Gujjar Titles and Gotra names) that

Sindhis also accounted for an early layer of migration. Seafaring from Debal began during the Indus valley civilization. The Jatakas and Puranas show abundant evidence of this maritime trade; the use of similar traditional boat building techniques in Northwestern South Asia and the Maldives, and the presence of silver punch mark coins from both regions, gives additional weight to this. There are minor signs of Southeast Asian settlers, probably some adrift from the main group of Austronesian reed boat migrants that settled Madagascar.

Philostorgius, a Greek historian of Late Antiquity, wrote of a hostage among the Romans, from the island called Diva, which is presumed to be the Maldives, who was baptized Theophilus. Theophilus was sent in the 350s to convert the Himyarites to Christianity, and went to his homeland from Arabia; he returned to Arabia, visited Axum, and settled in Antioch.

Geography

The Maldives consists of 1,192 coral islands grouped in a double chain of 26 atolls, along the north-south direction, spread over roughly 90,000 square kilometers, making this one of the world's most dispersed countries. It lies between latitudes 1°S and 8°N, and longitudes 72° and 74°E. The atolls are composed of live coral reefs and sand bars, situated atop a submarine ridge 960 kilometers long that rises abruptly from the depths of the Indian Ocean and runs north to south. Maldives is the lowest country in the world, with maximum and average natural ground levels of only 2.4 meters and 1.5 meters above sea level, respectively. In areas where construction exists, however, this has been increased to several meters. More than 80 per cent of the country's land is composed of coral islands which rise less than one meter above sea level. As a result, the Maldives are at high risk of being submerged due to rising sea levels. The UN's environmental panel has warned that, at current

rates, sea level rise would be high enough to make the Maldives uninhabitable by 2100.

Climate

The Maldives has a tropical-monsoon climate, which is affected by the large landmass of South Asia to the north. The presence of this landmass causes differential heating of land and water. These factors set off a rush of moisture-rich air from the Indian Ocean over South Asia, resulting in the southwest monsoon. Two seasons dominate Maldives' weather: the dry season associated with the winter northeastern monsoon and the rainy season which brings strong winds and storms.

Fishing industry

For many centuries the Maldivian economy was entirely dependent on fishing and other marine products. Fishing remains the main occupation of the people and the government gives priority to the fisheries sector.

The mechanization of the traditional fishing boat called dhoni in 1974 was a major milestone in the development of the fisheries industry. A fish canning plant was installed on Felivaru in 1977, as a joint venture with a Japanese firm. In 1979, a Fisheries Advisory Board was set up with the mandate of advising the government on policy guidelines for the overall development of the fisheries sector. Manpower development programs began in the early 1980s, and fisheries education was incorporated into the school curriculum. Fish aggregating devices and navigational aids were located at various strategic points. Moreover, the opening up of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Maldives for fisheries has further enhanced the growth of the fisheries sector.

As of 2010, fisheries contributed over 15% of the country's GDP and engaged about 30% of the country's work force. Fisheries were also the second-largest foreign exchange earner after tourism.

DID YOU KNOW..?



Enjoy these fun dog facts that deliver a variety of information about interesting breeds, puppies, guide dogs such as Labradors and much more. As the famous saying goes, dogs are man's best friend. Whether it's as reliable workers, family pets or loyal companions, dogs are wonderful domestic animals that offer a number of qualities that are put to good use by humans.

- In total there is said to be around 400 million dogs in the world.
- The domestic dog has been one of the most popular working and companion animals throughout human history.
- Dogs perform many useful tasks for humans including hunting, farm work and security as well as assisting those with disabilities such as the blind.
- Although experts often disagree, there is scientific evidence which shows that the domestication of dogs could have occurred more than 15,000 years ago.
- There are hundreds of different breeds of dogs.
- Examples of these breeds include: Bulldog, German Shepherd, Collie, Golden Retriever, St Bernard, Greyhound, Bloodhound, Chihuahua, Labrador, Great Dane, Rottweiler, Boxer and Cocker Spaniel.
- The most popular breed of dog in the

world by registered ownership is the Labrador. With their gentle nature, obedience, intelligence and near limitless energy, Labradors make for excellent family pets and reliable workers. They often assist police and are a common choice as guide dogs.

- Dogs have formed such a strong bond as pets, workers and companions to humans that they have earned the nickname "man's best friend".
- Humans help train various dog breeds to enter in competitions such as breed shows, agility and obedience contests, racing and sled pulling.
- Dog have superior hearing than humans, capable of hearing sounds at four times the distance.
- Dogs have a remarkable sense of smell, they are capable of differentiating odors in concentrations nearly 100 million times lower than humans can.
- The average life span for a dog is around 10 to 14 years.
- Those involved in dog breeding refer to males as 'dogs', females as 'bitches', dogs younger than a year old as 'puppies' and a group of offspring as a 'litter'.
- Domestic dogs are omnivores, they feed on a variety of foods including grains, vegetables and meats.

Banana Bread

Recipes for Kids

What you need

- 2 eggs
- 1½ c. sifted flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1/3 c. vegetable oil
- 2/3 c. sugar
- 1 c. mashed bananas (about 3 bananas)

What to do

- Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). (Ask your parents' help)
- Beat eggs well in a small bowl.
- In a medium-size bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt.
- In a large bowl, add the

vegetable oil. Add the sugar a little bit at a time, and continue beating until the mixture is fluffy.

Add the eggs to the mixture in the large bowl and beat well.

Add some of the flour mixture to the large bowl and beat well. Then add some of the mashed bananas and beat some more. Continue adding flour, then bananas, then flour, then bananas, until everything is mixed in.

Pour mixture into the baking pan. Bake for 70 minutes.

Flip your banana bread out of the pan, let it cool for a bit, and cut it into slices to eat and share!

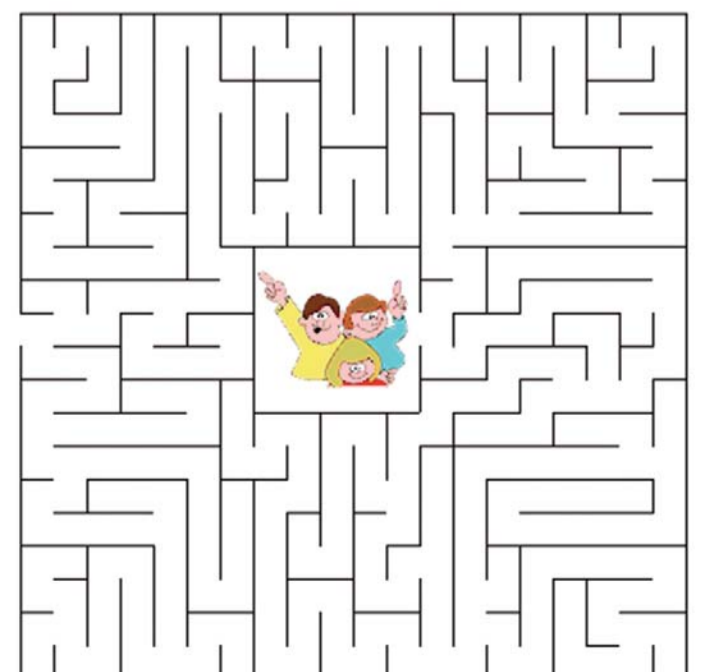


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9	8	5	5	8	2	4	1	1
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Spot 5 differences





Salma Hayek was anxious about meeting the Pope

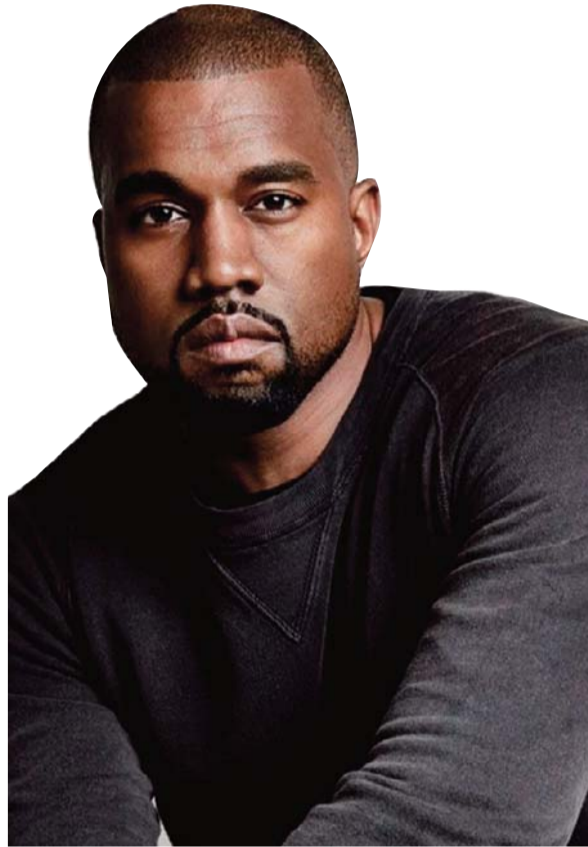
The 49-year-old actress was recently honored by Pope Francis at a ceremony in the Vatican City, but has revealed she feared His Holiness would withdraw her medal after she had posted a picture of herself staring at Susan Sarandon's chest on the photo-sharing website. The famously curvaceous star said: "I was very honored and excited to be receiving a medal from him. "But I was really nervous because I had just posted an Instagram of me staring at Susan Sarandon's boobs and I was so afraid he would see that picture and take away my medal!" Salma was handed the prestigious honour after she agreed to become an ambassador of a education-focused foundation called Scholas Occurrentes, alongside fellow Hollywood heavyweights Richard Gere and George Clooney. The 'From Dusk till Dawn' actress attended the prestigious ceremony hosted by the Pope with her husband Francois-Henri Pinault and daughter

Valentina. Meanwhile, the brunette beauty - who was raised as a Catholic - also revealed she struggled with facial hair when she portrayed the surrealist Mexican painter Frida Kahlo in the Oscar-nominated movie 'Frida', which was released in 2002. In the critically-acclaimed film, Salma had to recreate the artist's famous mono-brow, which proved to be harder than she had initially imagined. She told 'The Graham Norton Show': "I shaved it to make it grow more but it came out all pointy and not in the right direction. "I went a bit crazy in the moment and even did the moustache but luckily that is still soft!"

Ashley Graham thinks America needs to embrace 'different types of beauty'

The stunning plus-size lingerie model will be a backstage host at the 2016 Miss USA competition on Sunday (05.06.16), and she thinks her presence at the event marks a major step forward for curvaceous women. The 28-year-old star said: "The fact that they've asked me to come and speak backstage means that there is more feeling of diversity of beauty. "I'm really excited about the fact that they're so open to the inclusion of so many different types of beauty, because for so long [America] has been going one way - America has finally caught on." The model, who has previously featured in Sports Illustrated, thinks curvy women ought to be embraced more by popular culture. She told People: "I would like to see diversity of body shape, sizes, ethnicities and ages in every realm. "I think by having me host

backstage it's opened up this door and this question of 'well, why haven't we had anybody? What is stopping us from having a very curvaceous woman come in and win Miss USA or even be a contestant?" Ashley said she can see that the public's attitude towards bigger women is starting to change. She explained: "I really do hope that the people at Miss USA are considering it and talking about it, but I think clearly they are by having me host." Ashley also revealed she would relish the opportunity to participate in the Miss USA competition. She added: "I've never been a pageant girl. I don't think that [the contestants are] just walking up there in a pretty dress. So for me, I'm like, 'oh my God, what would I have to do? What would I have to prepare?"



Michael Sheen is a 'trophy boyfriend' for Hollywood A-listers

The 47-year-old actor, who has dated Kate Beckinsale and Rachel McAdams, in addition to his current girlfriend Sarah Silverman, has joked that people are only interested in him because of the beautiful women who have surrounded him. Asked how he has remained so low-key despite his career success, the 'Midnight in Paris' star quipped: "It is mainly because people are not interested in me. It is not through any great decision of mine. People tend to only really be interested in me because of who I am with." The British actor added, self-deprecatingly: "I've been with Kate or Rachel [McAdams, the actress who he dated for two years] or Sarah - that's when [I get attention]. I'm not getting papped constantly. No one really gives much of a s*** about me." Michael said it is easy for him to maintain a low profile when so much attention is centered on his more glamorous-looking girl-

friends. He told the Daily Telegraph newspaper: "I am the trophy boyfriend. It is depressingly easy for me to have a low profile life." Meanwhile, Michael is currently preparing to play in an annual soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, England, in aid of Unicef, the world's leading organization for children. The game will feature the likes of Niall Horan and Louis Tomlinson from One Direction, as well as a host of current and retired soccer stars. Michael admitted he is totally unprepared to play against professionals at one of the biggest stadiums in Europe. He shared: "I haven't even tried putting on a football boot. I'm leaving it until the last minute to see if I can do it. I don't even know if I can run, let alone anything else."

Kanye West has no regrets about his social media posts

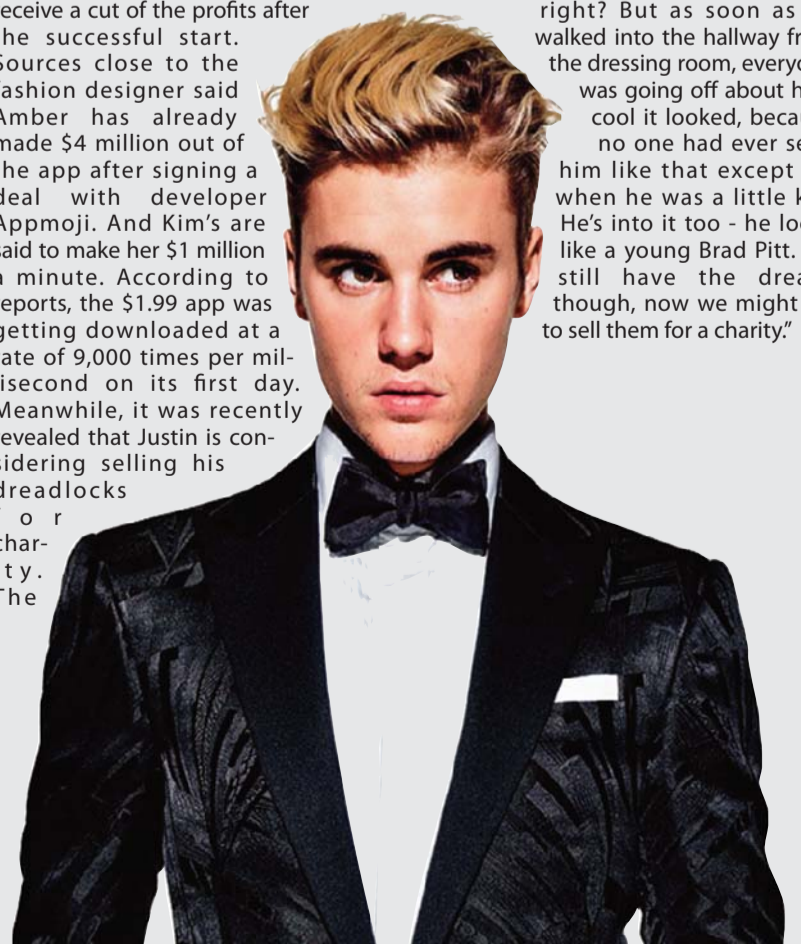
The outspoken hip-hop star has attracted worldwide attention for his legendary Twitter rants, but Kanye has insisted he does not lose sleep thinking about the public's reaction to his comments because he will be "gone in 100 years". Asked if he regrets the things he posts online, the 'Power' rapper said: "We're going to be gone in 100 years. I can't say enough." Kanye admitted he occasionally has to explain his tweets to his wife Kim Kardashian West, and also revealed he is relishing the experience of fatherhood. The celebrity duo have two children together - two-year-old daughter North and six-month-old son Saint - and Kanye is embracing being a dad. He told the hip-hop radio station Real 92.3: "I'm so happy to be a father. I want to learn what my daughter has to say. What she learns. I just want to learn how she learns in this world. I'm extremely protective." The controversial star, who claimed to be \$53 million in debt during a bizarre Twitter rant earlier this year, also said his children have become the motivating factor behind many of his life choices. In reference to his Yeezy shoe design, Kanye shared: "When I left Nike for Adidas I did it for my daughter. "There was an opportunity to grow. There was love and admiration at Adidas, this was to make a better life for my daughter." What's more, Kanye revealed he is currently working on new music and compared himself to Michael Jackson. He added: "I'm a champion. I'm a winner. I came to innovate. I came to change. This is like Michael Jackson level. "You need a guy like me in the game. I only know how to give 1,000 percent."



Justin Bieber is releasing his own emoji app

The 22-year-old singer followed in the footsteps of stars including Kim Kardashian West and Amber Rose when he launched a range of the messaging graphic symbols on Friday. Justin teased fans by posting a sneak peek on Instagram with the caption: "Friday @AppStore (sic)." Emojis have proved to be extremely successful for celebrities and Amber reportedly made \$2 million on the opening day of her range. The 32-year-old star debuted her MuvaMojis, a set of 900 symbols available from Apple and Android app stores in March and is said to be set to receive a cut of the profits after the successful start. Sources close to the fashion designer said Amber has already made \$4 million out of the app after signing a deal with developer Appmoji. And Kim's are said to make her \$1 million a minute. According to reports, the \$1.99 app was getting downloaded at a rate of 9,000 times per millisecond on its first day. Meanwhile, it was recently revealed that Justin is considering selling his dreadlocks for charity. The

singer recently shaved his head and his hairdresser Florido revealed that the 'Sorry' hit maker is hoping to put his locks to good use by raising money for a worthy cause. He told US Cosmopolitan magazine: "He wore them for maybe a month and then wanted to change up his look. Not to mention his hair was bleached and was already fragile, plus it was knotted and teased from the dreads. "The haircut was his idea. He's always very adamant about doing things differently than what everyone else is doing. "It's always shocking to come from long hair to short hair, right? But as soon as he walked into the hallway from the dressing room, everyone was going off about how cool it looked, because no one had ever seen him like that except for when he was a little kid. He's into it too - he looks like a young Brad Pitt. We still have the dreads though, now we might try to sell them for a charity."



Calvin Harris and Taylor Swift will always 'love and respect' each other



The pair recently ended their 15-month relationship and Calvin, 32, took to Twitter to insist that they were still on good terms, with Taylor, 26, retweeting his message. He wrote: "The only truth here is that a relationship came to an end & what remains is a huge amount of love and respect (sic)." The tweets came after it was revealed that Calvin - whose real name is Adam Wiles - ended the romance last week. A source told E! News: "This all happened last week. "Taylor and Adam had no big blowout fight, but the romance just was not there anymore for them. Adam is the one that ended it. It was all done in a very mature fashion. Taylor is pretty upset but they are still in communication. Taylor was there for Adam with his accident and supportive." And Calvin - who recently had to cancel a number of shows after being involved in a car accident - had reportedly been "losing interest" in the 'Bad Blood' hit maker for some time before they split. A source said: "Adam really liked Taylor, she was not the type of girl he ever dates and he liked that. He liked how innocent Taylor was and

that she had a good caring heart. Taylor's heart was more in it then he was. He started to lose interest over the past few months, but really tried to not just break up." The couple's respective working schedules also didn't help their romance. The source added: "They were just not very compatible in different areas in their relationship. The touring and traveling didn't help. It seemed like they were more friends than lovers. "Taylor and Adam had very different group of friends." And while Calvin may have been the one to end the relationship, the 'We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together' singer isn't hoping for a reconciliation. A source said: "She was in Nashville with her family and they have been helping her through the break up. "Taylor was really disappointed in Calvin and felt like he wasn't there for her. The relationship wasn't progressing the way she wanted it to. She felt like he wasn't taking it seriously enough and wouldn't come through for her when she needed him most. She felt down and like her needs weren't being met. She doesn't want to get back together."

Police are investigating how Prince got the drug that killed him

The Midwest Medical Examiner's Office has revealed that the 57-year-old singer died from a self-administered fentanyl overdose and a criminal investigation has been launched into who supplied Prince with the opioid, which has a high risk for addiction and dependence. Law enforcement sources have told TMZ that the "illicit" possession of the drug is the focus of the investigation and both state and federal prosecutors are involved. The website reports: "If someone illegally prescribed or filled a prescription for a patient who dies as a result of the drug, they could face third degree murder

charges and up to 25 years in prison." Prince, whose full name was Prince Rogers Nelson, was found unresponsive in an elevator at his Paisley Park home in Chanhassen, Minnesota on April 21 from a "self-administered fentanyl overdose". It was previously claimed that Prince had been addicted to the painkiller Percocet for years because of problems with his hips and that he had to be given a "save shot" almost a week before his passing after he overdosed on the highly-addictive drug, which contains acetaminophen and oxycodone Prince - who had used a cane to help him get around for many years -

had long needed a double hip replacement but reportedly turned it down on numerous occasions but he was worried it would require a blood transfusion, which would have conflicted with his beliefs as a Jehovah's Witness. The singer was rushed to hospital in Moline, Illinois on April 15 for the shot, which is administered to counteract the effects of opiates, after being taken ill on his private jet on the way back from a gig in Atlanta.



PARIS: A replica of the Statue of Liberty stands tall over the flooded River Seine yesterday.

Paris museums to be shut for days

The Seine River peaked yesterday around Paris, hitting its highest level in nearly 35 years - almost 4.5 meters above average - and authorities warned it could take up to ten days for the river to return to normal.

And it will take at least four days before tourists in the French capital once again get a chance to view art at the world-class Louvre museum, where curators were scrambling to move 250,000 artworks upstairs, away from basement storage areas at risk of flooding.

The Louvre, home to Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa," said it won't reopen until Wednesday, while the Orsay Museum, known for its impressionist art, was closed at least through the weekend. Other Paris landmarks shut down due to flooding include the national library and

the Grand Palais, Paris' striking glass-and-steel topped exhibition center.

Nearly a week of heavy rain has led to serious flooding across parts of France, Germany, Romania and Belgium. The death toll from French flooding rose to four, with 24 others injured, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said Saturday after a government crisis center meeting. He didn't elaborate, but that brings the total death toll across Europe from two weeks of flooding to 18.

Valls said the water level of the Seine is now decreasing "slowly but steadily" in Paris and said several ministerial meetings next week will make sure quick financial help is provided to those affected. He also urged Paris visitors and residents alike to "to observe safety precau-

tions" since many have been walking along the Seine's overflowing banks to observe the rare phenomena.

Even as the waters start to recede in Paris, transportation problems remain. Several train and subway stations were shut down in the city center due to the flooding and Paris drivers still faced major problems due to flooded roads. The French energy company Enedis said over 17,000 homes were still without electricity Saturday in the Paris region and central France.

One of the Seine's tributaries had not seen water levels this high since 1910, when the Great Flood of Paris swamped the capital. France's meteorological service said Saturday that high flood alerts remained in effect in 14 regions, mostly in central and western France, including Paris. Although the rain has tapered off in some

areas, possible floods were expected over the weekend downstream along the Seine in the region of Normandy.

Boats and barges docked in Paris were being carefully watched to ensure none would cast off their moorings. Nicolas Hainsohn, a boathouse resident on the Seine, said the situation was usual but added "it's just water."

"We are used to this. We've seen it once or twice," he told The Associated Press. "It's tricky to dock, because you need to follow the water flow, you have to be careful, otherwise you can hit the river bank." — AP



PARIS: People looking at the floods stand on the Alma bridge by the Zouave statue which is used as a measuring instrument during floods yesterday.



PARIS: People walk on a bridge past the flooded banks of the river Seine near the Eiffel Tower on Friday. — AP photos

Miami Fashion Week



Custo Barcelona



Fisico by Cristina Ferrari



Claudia Bertolero



Dominican Republic Fashion Week



Devota & Lomba

Justin Bieber is releasing his own emoji app

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In this image released by Sony Pictures (from left) Leslie Jones, Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig and Kate McKinnon are seen from the film 'Ghostbusters', opening nationwide on July 15. — AP

'Ghostbusters' courts male moviegoers



(From left) Melissa McCarthy, Kate McKinnon, Kristen Wiig and Leslie Jones are seen in another scene from 'Ghostbusters'.

To sell "Ghostbusters", who are you going to call? In the film's initial nationwide TV spots, not its female stars. Sony Pictures trotted out commercials Thursday night that promoted the female-led reboot not with cast members Melissa McCarthy or Kristen Wiig, but basketball stars Kobe Bryant and Carmelo Anthony. The ads ran on ABC during game one of the NBA Finals, which is watched by a largely male audience.

Targeting different demographics through varied marketing strategies is commonplace for Hollywood films. Rarer are ads that replace a movie's actual cast wholesale. The ads, which drew mixed reactions from viewers Thursday night, exhibited the anxiety Sony may have in getting enough male moviegoers to buy tickets for the big-budget comedy. A lot is riding on the film, due out July 15, which cost more than \$150 million to make.

Since its inception, Paul Feig's "Ghostbusters" - which also stars Kate McKinnon and Leslie Jones - has proven unexpectedly divisive online. Some have objected to the 1984 original being

remade at all, while others have voiced criticisms of the female-led cast that have been called sexist. Much attention has centered on the high number of "dislikes" the film's trailer received on YouTube.

The spots Thursday featured one New York Knicks-centric ad with Anthony, Spike Lee, Kristaps Porzingis and Clyde Frazier strapping on proton packs. In the other, the newly retired Bryant wages war in a "Ghostbusters" jumpsuit. The East Coast-West Coast ads were made jointly by Sony Pictures and ESPN. The promotional push for "Ghostbusters" is going into hyperdrive. Sony also announced that Wednesday will be "Ghostbusters Day".

At least then the "Ghostbusters" cast will get part of the marketing spotlight. Jimmy Kimmel will host the stars, along with appearances of original cast members Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Ernie Hudson and Annie Potts on Wednesday. — AP

Damon tells MIT graduates to face world's problems

Matt Damon spoke to Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduates Friday and passed on a little advice he got from former President Bill Clinton. The actor, who grew up near the MIT campus and played a mathematically gifted MIT janitor in "Good Will Hunting," listed what he described as some of the world's greatest problems, including income inequality, a corrupt banking system and a broken political system. Then he told graduates: "Turn toward the problems you see. You have to engage."

More than 1,000 undergraduates and almost 1,800 graduate students received their degrees at Friday's ceremony. Damon, who dropped out of Harvard to pursue his acting

career, said being keynote speaker was an honor he didn't deserve. He questioned why he was selected when previous commencement speakers have included Nobel prize winners and presidents. "And who did you get? The guy who did the voice for a cartoon horse," referring to the 2002 animated movie "Stallion of the Cimarron."

He even let his politics shine through, taking a swipe at presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump while discussing simulation theory - the notion that the world is part of an advanced alien species computer simulation. "If there are multiple simulations, how come we have to be in the one where Donald Trump becomes the Republican nominee

for president? Can we transfer to a different one?" he asked.

The actor and filmmaker best known for his roles as Jason Bourne also borrowed a line from his latest movie, "The Martian," to caution graduates: "Not every problem has a high-tech solution. We can't science the you-know-what out of every problem." He added: "You've got to go out and do really interesting things, important things, inventive things, because this world has problems that we need you to drop everything and solve." — AP



Actor Matt Damon gestures during his address at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's commencement in Cambridge, Massachusetts on Friday. — AP