

FREE

Kuwait Times Friday Times



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**Africans in India
facing constant
battles with racism**



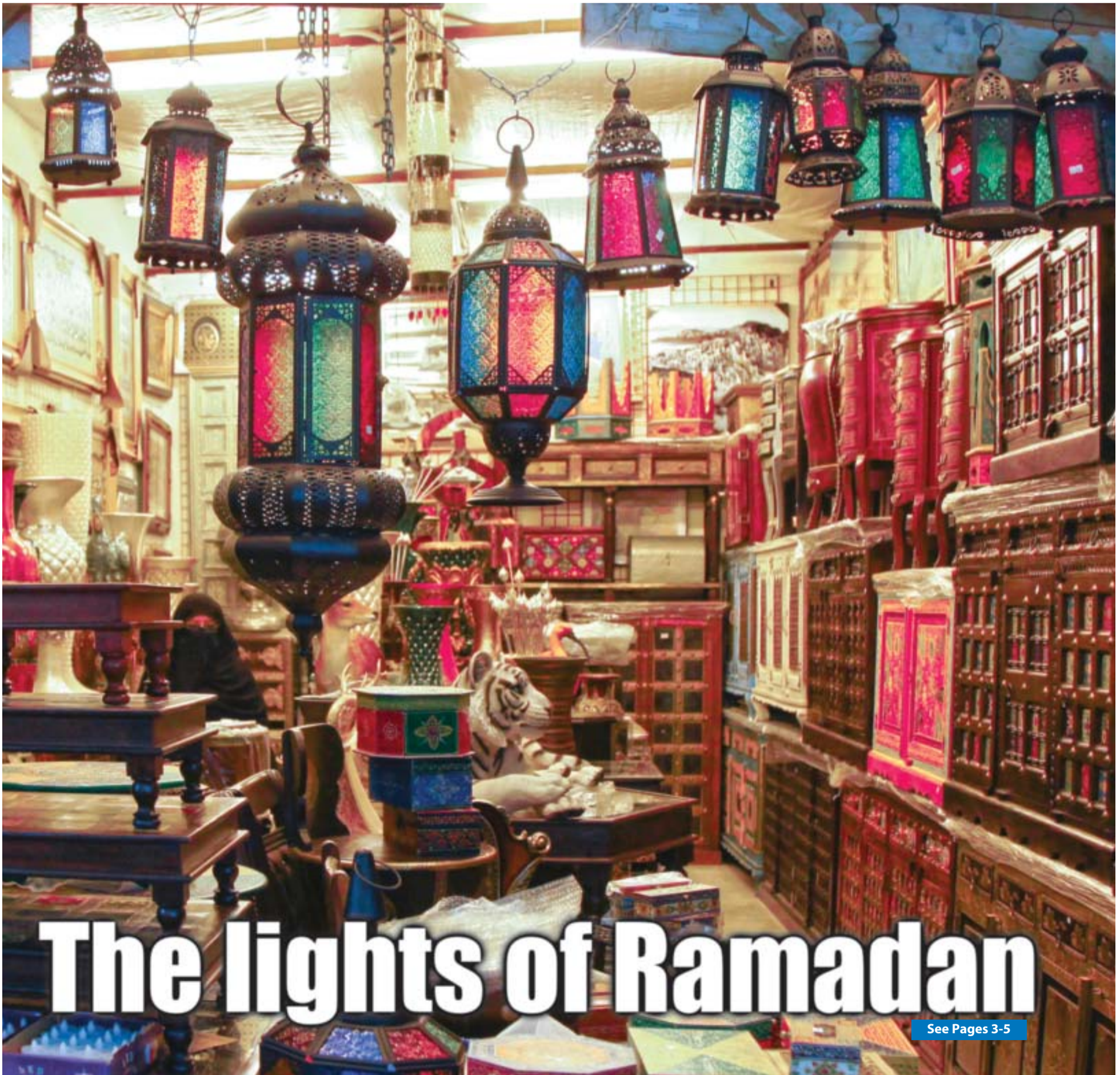
**Brazil crush Haiti;
Ecuador thwart
Peru in Copa**



**Israel clamps down
after deadly cafe
attack in Tel Aviv**

Ramadan Timings

Emsak:	03:03
Fajer:	03:13
Shrooq:	04:48
Dohr:	11:47
Asr:	15:21
Maghreb:	18:47
Eshaa:	20:19



The lights of Ramadan

See Pages 3-5

Photos of the day



KUWAIT: Photos show the intricate, creative work of the awarding-winning local artist and sculptor Bader Al-Mansour who creates art from recycled materials. His work has been showcased around Kuwait and the region including in the Yarmouk Recycled Art Park, Sadu House and elsewhere. — Photos from the Kuwait Times archive

Local Spotlight

STOP WASTING FOOD!



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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In a world full of hunger and corruption, food wastage has serious implications socially and economically, and in terms of the environment and health - not only in poor countries, but in rich countries as well. This issue was not on the table a few years ago, but today it is attracting a lot of attention by Western governments and even the United Nations. It is likely that this matter will soon turn into an urgent issue that will impose itself on decision makers to come up with new regulations with specific standards.

The subject of food wastage has not only economic, but also national, and serious environmental dimensions. France was one of the first Western countries that felt the importance of this issue and adopted a legislation mandating large food stores to give away unsold food items to the poor and the homeless, rather than discard them.

Food waste is a global problem. The EU Commission also sensed the importance of this issue and began serious talks at the international level. It aims to issue a European legislation to impose strict laws on supermarkets with regards to throwing away food and give it to the poor and homeless instead. With this European move, there is another move by the United Nations in the direction of reaching a global deal on food wastage in the world.

According to official studies and statistics, food wastage increases during certain events characterized by high spending on food, like the month of Ramadan. For example, the proportion of food wasted in Ramadan in Gulf countries ranges between 15 and 30 percent. At the community level, it does not seem that food wastage is a concern to many people here. I have seen little movement at the social level to provide food to the poor instead of throwing it in the garbage. Figures show that citizens and expatriates spend extravagantly on food during Ramadan. An official at K-Net company in Kuwait said citizens and expatriates spent nearly KD 67 million on food commodities on the first day of Ramadan, including KD 33 million in cash withdrawals and KD 34 million in sales. This is a large figure indeed!

In Kuwait, 45 percent of organic waste is from food. Hawally and Farwaniya governorates lead in the production of waste due to the high population density in these areas. But this is not the only reason, and often low environmental awareness and lack of consideration of the seriousness of the topic are behind this. These aren't the only two places where you can see large amounts of waste. Kuwait gets rid of organic waste through landfills, after the failure of an experience of turning it into fertilizer because of the high cost and lack of agricultural area.

Food wastage is a common bad behavior and needs media attention. The US wastes food worth approximately \$162 billion - or about 60 million tons of food per year. The cost of landfilling food costs the US government about \$1.5 billion a year. The UAE wastes about 3.27 million tons of food annually. These figures must be a warning call for decision-makers and activists, demanding an end to wastage.

It is unfortunate that the Muslim world is disregarding the fact that this wasteful spending does not serve any country or people. It means an increase in health problems such as obesity as well as deadly diseases and environmental and financial problems. Reality confirms that no country is innocent, as there is no government or competent authority that can distance itself from this issue.

In My View

INTOLERANCE AND COMPULSION

By Nejouad Al-Yagout

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One of the recurring arguments used by those who proselytize the faith is a quote from the Holy Quran: "You have your religion. I have mine" (109:6). And yet, it seems as though the ego has hijacked one of the five pillars of Islam - fasting - by turning Kuwait into a hub of intolerance and exclusivity during Ramadan.

It amazes me that everyone is forbidden to eat publicly from dawn to sunset in order to respect the laws of the country. My question is: From where did these stringent laws originate? For those who adhere to Islam, this is not a Divine decree. There is no Sharia law that stipulates this.

In fact, many Muslims you speak to here are not fond of this law, so it is not a law of the majority. Many Kuwaitis - who pride themselves on hospitality and acceptance - find it unfair, especially since Muslims who are exempt from fasting if they are traveling, sick or have not reached puberty are forced to stay indoors and eat like criminals.

Muslims know that patience in hardship is rewarded, and fasting is certainly no easy feat - especially in the summer months, so fasting while others are eating is another way to practice patience.

The majority of Muslims around the world live in countries where restaurants are open and we never hear them protesting or complaining. The way forward

is to expand consciousness; to live and let live.

Sometimes, the best way to transcend an outdated law is to imagine how it would be if the restrictions were reversed. How would the lawmakers feel if they had to publicly observe Lent in a Christian nation? No chocolate or no meat in public until Easter (unless in the privacy of your home)! I am sure a protest would be in order!

Certainly, laws are made to be obeyed, and there is no objection to that. But when it comes to religion, the laws should be personal. Even Islam stipulates that "[t]here should be no compulsion in religion" (2:256). So, again, where are these laws coming from, then?

Until we find the root of these laws that we sometimes cannot be bothered to question, I would like to apologize to both the non-Muslims living here and to all Muslims who are unable to fast as well - on behalf of the majority of Kuwaitis (and Muslims, for that matter).

With Ramadan being the holiest month in the Islamic calendar, it is obviously essential that core Islamic values be held mostly in place during this annual period of God-consciousness (taqwa). And there is nothing that speaks louder than tolerance and universality when it comes to taqwa, lest one forgets.

It's time to resuscitate the holy and leave the holier-than-thou back in the shelves of the ego-mind.

Have a blessed month all!

Adding light to local traditions



Story and images by
Athoob A Al-Shuaibi

A tradition is a social idea, circulating through generations with practice, because it signifies an identity, a sense of belonging and nostalgia. But not all customs in Kuwait are local in origin, many of our traditions have been adopted from other countries, as is the case in many cosmopolitan countries around the world. In Ramadan, most customs are centered on spirituality and food. Family gatherings always accompany sumptuous desserts and the latest food finds.

But the most colorful recently-adopted tradition of them all is the fanous Ramadan (plfawanees) - the Ramadan lantern. It's considered an acquisition from countries such as Egypt. It is something worth addressing, since the Kuwaiti people are known for being conservative in the forms of celebrations of religious events.

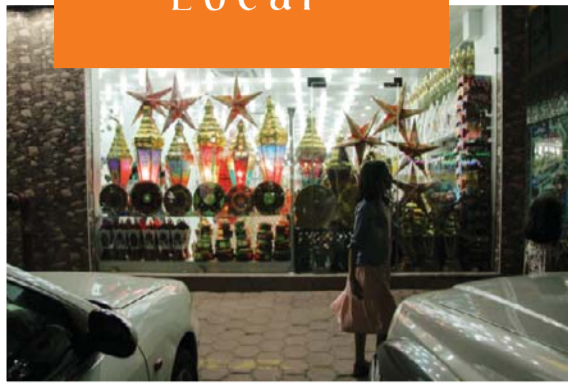
Lanterns are a long standing tradition in Ramadan, before electricity they would have been used to light up the night when many social activities take place as fasters met for meals and gatherings. Fanous, specifically, is thought to have originated with the Fatimid Caliphate, when Caliph Al-Muizz Lideenillah met with Egyptians at the start of the holy month to greet them for Ramadan and

they held up colorful lanterns to mark the occasion.

A Kuwaiti woman told me that she's buying them for the first time because she thought of adding a festive touch this year to welcome the holy month. Another customer purchased a dozen of the largest outdoor lanterns to decorate her home garden. Yet another customer bought tens of medium-sized lanterns to ship them to his friends in the United States.

One vendor said that the demand for fawanees Ramadan is increasing. "We import metal lanterns from Egypt, especially those that are handmade. Some are assembled in Kuwait," he said, adding, "As an Egyptian, I feel glad when I see the people of Kuwait celebrating Ramadan by lighting lanterns as people do in my country."

Kuwaitis who live abroad take their traditions with them. Drinking Vimto, making elgaimat (dough balls dipped in sugar syrup) and cooking and distributing harees (mashed barley with chicken or beef), along with the ghabqa (nightly dinner gatherings with family and friends) and Gergian, which is similar to the trick or treat ritual. Although the latter has been commercialized in the past few years, all these traditions have lasted decades and form the Kuwaiti face of Ramadan.



Ramadan Quiz 2016

الإتihad
ETIHAD
AIRWAYS
ABU DHABI

Lulu
HYPERMARKET

Ruby Tuesday
Gift Voucher

Ruby Tuesday
Gift Voucher

Answer & Win
Fabulous Prizes

2016/76 ع-ب

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.

Kuwait Times Ramadan Quiz Answer & Win

Kuwait Times Ramadan Quiz Answer & Win

5. What's the world's most luxurious three-room suite in the sky onboard Etihad Airways A380 called?
The Residence

YES NO

Date: _____
 Name: _____
 Civil ID.: _____
 Tel: _____
 Email: _____



The most colorful recently-adopted tradition of them all is the famous Ramadan (plfawanees) - the Ramadan lantern.





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THE PROBLEMS WITH KUWAIT'S STRUGGLING EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM



By Samer Yousef Abualrub

Teaching is noble but exhausting work. The criteria of the current teaching methods are totally different than those in the near past. People in the past would consider teaching an honorable and respectful job. Teachers were also highly respected by their students. Most old teachers speak about their teaching experience joyfully; even they have taught for many long years. In contrast, today we can rarely find happy teachers either in private or public schools. In this article, we are going to spot the light on the reasons that led to such a miserable teaching situation.

Students do not yearn to learn

Speaking from personal experience, I believe that most students do not take school seriously. They study because their parents send them to school but they are not convinced at all of its importance. I would say they are not psychologically prepared to be students. They do not have the desire to learn. I have directly asked many of my students whether they want really to go to school or not; not surprisingly a majority would stop coming to class if they could. I wouldn't specify anyone to be blamed for this calamity but we have to admit that this problem exists.

Poor quality teachers

Second of all, the sad truth is that there are a lot of really poor teachers in schools these days. With respect to all hard-working teachers but there are many unqualified ones who are assigned to teach important subjects. They are often incompetent in the subject matters they teach.

When it comes to the public school system, the Ministry of Education bears the full responsibility for hiring such teachers. These teachers are supposed to meet the Ministry's conditions and have to pass a job interview. Some critics say maybe some of these mentioned teachers are qualified enough to teach but they don't do their best inside the classrooms.

The scourge of 'tuitions'

Only then the third problem 'private lessons' comes to the scene. Unfortunately, secondary and university students depend on private lessons too much heavily to pass exams. Many teachers teach for money and do not make sure the students understand. On the other hand, the students just want to pass the finals and do not think about what could happen to them if they pass but still can't

speak or read English. The big question is: how would these students join credible, accredited universities in the future? How would they benefit their community if they are not well educated? Of course, when such students pass and are later hired in local community organizations, ministries and private companies, we don't expect them to bring high standards such as a great customer care service.

Lacking motivation

Above all, teachers are not motivated enough to enjoy their work. Students generally do not respect their teachers and might shout or hit them. I have heard many stories about things like that; a student is mocking his teacher in front of everyone in the classroom. Another student intentionally makes trouble inside the classroom because he knows the teacher can't punish him or even shout at him due to the ministry laws. In addition, some teachers think they are not paid well.

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I have taught many people who hold high positions in well known companies and leading businesses and sometimes work for the government, but they barely know how to speak English, do not have good hand writing in Arabic, and can't even convince you in their points of view when they talk. I would say, if they are really very well educated, they wouldn't behave like this and for sure they can be better. When the community has a strong educational system, all community aspects will be improved. The solutions to end this problem are easy but the question is: Who will take the lead and do it?

Kuwait is a country of rich resources including the human resources. If the Ministry of Education hires the suitable people, works on the students to be motivated, issues strict rules against the students who disrespect the teachers and updates its educational system, then everything would be fine again. The future is promising and we are optimistic to have brilliant teachers and students in Kuwait.



DESSERT SHOPS FLOURISH

KUWAITIS ENJOY 'AL-GUBBAIT', COTTON CANDY

KUWAIT: Dominating the table during the Holy Month of Ramadan, traditional sweets such as 'Al-Gubbait', Cotton Candy, and others become the most common desserts enjoyed by Kuwaitis of all ages. Shops selling these desserts flourish during Ramadan with many customers buying loads of these items to satisfy their 'sweet tooth'. "There are certain kinds of traditional sweet prepared for the Holy Month of Ramadan and our shop takes care of attending

to the needs of the masses," Abdullah Ahmad Buftain, owner of Al-Kawakeb (planets) shop said. Carrying on a legacy which began in the mid-1940s, Buftain said that the shop, established by Rashed bin Jum'a Buftain, continued to serve Kuwaitis with the most delicious sweets since opening.

He added that different sweets were made to accommodate the needs of clients each season. Sweets are made 100 percent locally with very few

materials being imported from abroad, he noted. Buftain said that each type of sweet was carefully prepared to make sure that the final product was topnotch. According to him, many of the local sweets shared a common heritage amongst the countries in the region; however, Kuwait did excel in producing 'Rahash', a thick paste dessert with a strong sugary flavor definitely not suitable for those with diabetes. —KUNA



BEGGARS ARRESTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Police arrested the following while begging in various residential and commercial areas.

- Iman Yahya Ersan Al-Zulaikhat (Jordanian) - Family visa sponsored by Yahya Habis Kareem.
- Majida Yahya Habis (Jordanian) - Family visa, sponsored by her father Yahya Habis Kareem. They were arrested while begging in Shuwaikh.
- Shah Murad Mousa (Pakistani - working in a farm) - Visa sponsored by Mohammad Hamyan Nafel Al-

- Arada. He was arrested near Yarmuk co-op.
- Thajliya Mismel Khalaf (Bedoon). She was arrested in Sabah Al-Nasser area and had KD 27 on her.
- Hamda Ouda Hazzaa (Bedoon). She had KD 102 with her.
- Yasmeen Hassan Ibrahim (Lebanese) - She was sponsored by Hassan Anwar Ibrahim. She was begging in old Salmiya area market. She had KD 33 with her.
- Yanthaya (Indian) - She was begging in front of Al Khurainej mosque and her visa was sponsored by Hanan Abdelhussein Karam.

- Hiwata Natriji Lilian (Sri Lankan) - She was arrested while begging in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh malls.
- Nuaimat Faisal (Jordanian) - Arrested while begging with KD 35 in her possession.
- Najah Nour-eddein Al-Sayed Abdallah (Egyptian) - Sponsored by Jaber Farghaly Suleiman Ramadan, with her children Alhassan Jaber, Alhussein Jaber and Mustafa Jaber. They were caught begging in front of Al-Tarkeet mosque in Khaldiya. Some of the suspects have been deported. Juveniles were sent to juveniles care.



GCC NATIONS MAKE 'SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS' ON OIL PRICES DECLINE

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that Gulf Cooperation Council states have made "substantial progress" in facing the impacts of the drop in oil prices, particularly on "fiscal consolidation." Lower oil prices have pushed up borrowing costs, reduced bank liquidity, dampened credit growth and poses financial stability risks, while the conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region continue to cause severe economic damage, read an IMF report.

The 51-page report mentioned that a sizable "fiscal, external, financial, and structural" policy adjustment is needed to face the "serious and persistent impacts" of the drop in oil prices. "Most GCC oil exporters enter this challenging period from a position of strength, having built up large financial buffers during the years of high oil prices. "These resources can be drawn down in the coming years to smooth out - but not avoid - the adjustment to lower oil revenues," it added.

However, the fiscal outlook remains "challenging despite the consolidation measures adopted so far, and additional sustained policy effort will be needed over a number of years," it said. "Policymakers will need to be proactive in addressing the challenges posed by lower oil prices for the financial system, and should step up structural reforms to boost medium-term growth prospects." It said that deep structural reforms are necessary to improve medium-term prospects and facilitate much-needed diversification in order to create jobs for the growing labor force. Outside the hydrocarbon sector, GCC countries have a number of key enterprises that might gain from privatization, like utilities, it mentioned. —KUNA

Crime

Report

FIRES, FALLS, CAR ACCIDENTS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Fire broke out in a flat in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. Five ambulances were dispatched as a precautionary measure. Firemen told paramedics there may be three children trapped inside. Farwaniya hospital was told to be on the ready. The children were rescued by firemen, meanwhile a fireman was taken to hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation.

Other accidents in Kuwait this week

A car accident took place on Sixth Ring Road near Saad Al-Abdallah area. A 30 year old Kuwaiti suffered a shoulder injury. Another car accident took place on Kabd road injuring a 22 year old Kuwaiti in the head. In another vehicle accident, a 48 year old Indian complained of pain in the chest and leg, as his car flipped over on King Faisal road. A car accident on King Fahad Road resulted in a 50 year old Egyptian sustaining head and pelvis injuries.

Accidental falls

A 19 year old bedoon suffered a compound fracture in his left leg after falling from a high place in industrial Ardhia. An Egyptian sustained a right thigh injury after falling in Jabriya. He is 56 years old. A 58 year old Indian sustained a wound in the head, pain in the back and bruised legs following a fall in Jaber Al-Ahmad city. A 30 year old Thai died of injuries he sustained from a fall. He had fractured skull and severe bleeding. A 30 year old Indian sustained a deep wound in the head after falling in Wafra farms.

Pay their fines online

Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Major General Adballah Al-Muhanna said that starting Sunday (and for one month), the traffic department will open all locked traffic violations - except for violations of driving without a license for non-Kuwaitis, high speed and 2016 violations. He said violators can pay their fines via Interior Ministry's website, or traffic departments, in addition to service centers in the governorates.

MINISTER AL-ESSA PROMOTES E-LEARNING METHODOLOGY

AL-GHUNAIM NOMINATED SHARJAH FOUNDATION'S BOARD MEMBER

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Badr Al-Essa yesterday expressed his ministry's keenness to use all technological means and e-learning methodology at schools in order to raise the educational system in the country. Al-Essa said in a statement to reporters on the sidelines of a Farwaniya educational directorate forum to display achievements of its strategy for the academic year (2015 -2016) that developed countries use technology due to the importance of keeping pace with global developments in the education domain. He said the Farwaniya educational directorate's strategy is consistent with the Ministry's educational development vision, reflecting educational directorates' commitment to the ministry's relevant policies. He explained that the use of tablets and iPads at schools came to develop and update the means of education in the country.

Sharjah Foundation

In another development, Sharjah International Foundation for the History of Arab and Muslim Sciences has nominated President of the Kuwait Research and Studies Center Dr Abdullah Al-Ghunaim as a member of the foundation's Board of Trustees, which is headed by the emirate's ruler, Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi. Al-Ghunaim told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) on Thursday that the foundation, whose membership includes a number of Arab and Muslim scientists and researchers, contributes to the promotion of the efforts and contributions of Arabs and Muslims to contemporary science and humanity.

He added that the foundation, which is tasked with reviving the scientific and Islamic heritage, acts as a bridge for dialogue and communication and an arena for interaction between different cultures through confer-



Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Badr Al-Essa seen at the Farwaniya educational directorate forum. —KUNA

ences, seminars, workshops and exhibitions. He stated that the foundation promotes interest in researchers in the field of Arab and Islamic scientific heritage and care for those interested in doing research and publicize their activities, in addition to supporting them regionally and globally. He added that his nomination goes in line with his interests in the history of science at the Arabs which forms part of his scientific career. —Agencies

HUMAN TRAFFICKING RACKET BUSTED, WOMEN RESCUED

KUWAIT: A Zimbabwean woman and a female citizen who runs a domestic help office in Hawally were sent to criminal detectives before being sent to the public prosecution in charge of human trafficking. The charges were brought against them after the domestic help administration completed a full report about the Zimbabwean woman and the office owner's involvement in huge human trafficking racket.

They allegedly lured scores of Zimbabwean women into Kuwait to work in good jobs for salaries ranging between \$750 - \$1000. But when they arrive, their passports would be taken away and they would be forced to work as maids for salaries as low as KD 70, though many of them have good qualifications.

A security source said that the arrest of the Zimbabwean woman came following serious efforts by domestic help administration and after receiving instructions to find facts about international complaints regarding workers being brought from Zimbabwe and involving them in jobs including prostitution. The department rescued all Zimbabwean women and found out that their number is 350. The source said 180 of them were summoned for questioning and allowed them to leave the country without any hassles.

The source said that Director of the Domestic Help Administration suspect-

ed a Zimbabwean woman of being member of the human trafficking network. He said the administration noticed that the Zimbabwean embassy was insisting on deporting the woman quickly. However, the repatriation process was stopped and she was questioned. She reportedly confessed to being one of the network members. She said that she used to go to her country to convince women to come to Kuwait for salaries of \$750 - \$1000, and that they would work in hospitals. But when they arrive, their passports would be forfeited and that would be forced to work as domestic helpers in cooperation with the office owner. She said that she receives money in exchange of bringing women to the country.

Expat questioned

Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for General Security Affairs Maj Gen Ibrahim Al-Tarrah sent a Frenchman of a north African origin to state security for questioning. However, he will be allowed to go to Saudi Arabia for Umra.

A security source said police that they received a call from worshippers from a mosque in Daiya area about a person who was found in suspicious behavior and was noticed praying in a strange manner. He was wearing a short dishdasha and a beard. So they suspected him of some Daesh connec-

tion. The source said preliminary interrogations revealed that the Frenchman came to Kuwait two days ago on his way to perform Umra.

Bedoon girl in hospital

A bedoon girl was admitted to the ICU after she ingested six vials into her body in an attempt to reduce her weight. A gastric lavage was performed on her to clear her stomach. A security source said that Jahra hospital investigator told the security directorate that a girl was brought by her brother thinking she attempted suicide. But following questioning of her family members, it was found out that she attempted to reduce her weight so that she would get a good-looking body before her graduation. However, but she suffered a sharp drop in her blood pressure and collapsed.

KD 12,000 stolen

A citizen told Sharq police that KD 12,000 disappeared from his car at a car wash station. He said the money, which he just withdrew from a bank was in the car. But the money disappeared when the workers finished the wash. In another case, criminal evidence experts went to Salmiya fire center to investigate the theft of KD 800 following a complaint from the head of the center Major Yousuf Al-Qallaf.

News

in brief

The Amiri Diwan thanks Ramadan well-wishers

KUWAIT: The Amiri Diwan expressed yesterday gratitude to citizens and residents who congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Al-Sabah Family on the occasion of the Holy Month Ramadan. The Diwan expressed congratulations to citizens and residents on the blessed occasion, wishing them all the best and more prosperity for Kuwait under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince.

US ambassador to Qatar apologizes over flag video

DUBAI: The US ambassador to Qatar is apologizing online to those offended by a video of American troops in front of a Qatari flag. Ambassador Dana Shell Smith wrote yesterday on Twitter to a series of users that she "apologized to the government of Qatar" and asked the US military to investigate the incident. The US Embassy in Doha confirmed the tweets sent on the ambassador's account were genuine, but declined to immediately discuss the video. Qatar's Foreign Ministry said it summoned Smith over the video. The video online showed two US soldiers in fatigues standing in front of a US and a Qatari flag. One soldier appears to jokingly act like he can't say the name Qatar, likely due to security reasons.



EPA, PAAET sign MoU in environment research

KUWAIT: The Environment Public Authority (EPA) and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) signed a memorandum of understanding to boost cooperation in environmental scientific research. The agreement involves sharing experience, organizing events to bring awareness towards environment protection and providing technical consultation in the field, EPA Director General Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said in a statement while signing the memorandum yesterday. He noted that the authority is eager to fully implement the new environment law and set a number of scientific programs aiming to achieve sustainable development. On his part, PAAET Director General Ahmad Al-Athari said the five-year-long memorandum will give graduates of the health science department the opportunity to work and train at EPA.

Kuwait leaders send cable of condolences to Saudi royalty

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable yesterday to Saudi Monarch King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, expressing his sorrow over the death of Princess Luluwa bint Saud bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

Friday Times

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NEW YORK: President Barack Obama, left, laughs while listening to host Jimmy Fallon on the set of the "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," at NBC Studios on Wednesday.—AP

CLINTON ENDORSEMENT IMMINENT, OBAMA TO SIT DOWN WITH SANDERS

UNIFYING THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY FOR A GENERAL ELECTION BRAWL

WASHINGTON: On the verge of endorsing Hillary Clinton, President Barack Obama will pay tribute to Bernie Sanders' historic candidacy for presidency with an Oval Office meeting aimed at unifying the Democratic Party for a general election brawl with Donald Trump.

Sanders, the runner-up for the Democratic nomination, was heading Thursday to the White House under intense pressure to drop out and clear the way for Clinton. Though he showed signs he understood the end was near - he was laying off about half his team - he vowed to keep fighting for his movement, which Democratic leaders hope will evolve into a new base of support for Clinton.

Obama, who was expected to formally endorse Clinton following his midday meeting with Sanders, has sought to give the Vermont senator the courtesy of exiting the race on his own terms. On "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" on Wednesday night, he praised the Sanders campaign.

"It was a healthy thing for the Democratic Party to have a contested primary. I thought that Bernie Sanders brought enormous energy and new ideas," Obama said during a taped appearance on "The

Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon". "And he pushed the party and challenged them. I thought it made Hillary a better candidate."

Obama planned to use the meeting, requested by Sanders, to discuss how to build on the enthusiasm Sanders brought to the primary and advance issues like income inequality and campaign finance reform that Sanders championed, the White House said. That's a diplomatic way of saying it's time for Sanders to pass the baton to Clinton, who declared victory over Sanders on Tuesday.

Now head to head in the presidential race, Clinton and Trump have one thing in common: Both are working to woo Sanders supporters once his campaign fully sputters. Trump has said he welcomes Sanders' voters "with open arms" while Clinton vowed to reach out proactively to voters who backed her opponent in the Democratic primary. "He has said that he's certainly going to do everything he can to defeat Trump," Clinton said of Sanders in an Associated Press interview. "I'm very much looking forward to working with him to do that."

Trump, despite a string of victories this week that reaffirmed his place as the GOP nominee, was still

working to convince wary Republicans that he's presidential material. Looking ahead to an upcoming speech attacking Clinton and her husband, Trump tried to turn the page following a dust-up over his comments about a Hispanic judge's ethnicity.

That controversy and others before it have led prominent Republicans, including House Speaker Paul Ryan, to open chastise their party's nominee. Yet Trump's dominance in the GOP race was hard to overstate: He now has 1,542 delegates, including 1,447 required by party rules to vote for him at the convention. It takes just 1,237 delegates to win the Republican nomination.

For Sanders, any rationale for staying in the race grew murkier as even some of his staunchest supporters started looking to Clinton. Sen. Jeff Merkley of Oregon, the one Senate Democrat to endorse Sanders, said Clinton was the nominee and offered his congratulations. And Rep. Raul Grijalva, a Sanders backer from Arizona, suggested the time to rally behind Clinton would come next week when the primary season concludes with the final contest in the District of Columbia.

"Bernie's going to do the right thing," Grijalva said

Wednesday on the sidelines of discussions about the official Democratic Party platform.

Sanders, who also planned to meet Thursday with Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid, promised to continue his campaign through Tuesday's contest. But about half his campaign staff was being laid off, two people familiar with the plans said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly about the layoffs.

The task of persuading Sanders' supporters to fall in line falls largely to Obama, still one of the Democratic Party's most popular figures. Obama's aides have said he's itching to get off the sidelines and take on Trump, but the key question was whether voters who helped elected him twice would follow his lead now that he's not on the ballot.

There was little reason for overconfidence among Democrats, who've never seen that powerful coalition of minorities, young people and women reliably show up for candidates not named Obama. "It's going to be hard to get African-American turnout as high as Obama got it, and to get youth turnout as high as Obama got it," said Celinda Lake, a Democratic pollster. "We have to work really hard." —AP

HOSPITAL WORKERS RUSHED TO SAVE NEWBORNS AFTER ALEPPO ATTACKS

BEIRUT: Terrified medical staff rushed to rescue nine newborns after heavy bombing near a children's hospital in Syria's divided Aleppo city, according to the leading paediatrician there. In a statement published by The Syria Campaign advocacy group, Dr Hatem, the chief of the Al-Hakim children's hospital, described the aftermath of a raid that struck just outside the facility on Wednesday.

"It was a horrible moment. The nurses were trampling each other to rush the babies to the basement, while many of them started to cry," said Dr Hatem, whose full name was not disclosed.

Government bombardment of rebel-

held eastern Aleppo hit within a few hundred metres (yards) of three medical facilities on Wednesday, including near Al-Hakim and near the Al-Bayan hospital, leaving at least 15 civilians dead. At Al-Hakim, nurses were worried the newborns would breathe in the dust and debris in the wake of the raid, Dr Hatem said. "As my staff moved the incubators, I went to tell the people in the waiting room to leave the hospital. I ordered them to 'Leave now! There might be a second attack,'" Dr Hatem said. "We expected that it would happen one day, and today is that day. There are now only 18 incubators left in eastern Aleppo."

The newborns all survived but the hospital was left inoperable. Founded in mid-2012, the hospital has been forced to relocate multiple times in fear of government raids, said its funder, the Independent Doctors Association. Syria's brutal conflict has killed more than 280,000 people and has seen hospitals destroyed across the country. In April, Dr Hatem mourned the death of his colleague Mohammad Wassim Maaz, killed in an air strike at Aleppo's Al-Quds hospital. Dr Hatem pledged to repair and reopen the Al-Hakim hospital, which served roughly 3,800 patients each month.

"I want every president to imagine that

one of these newborns were his own son or daughter. Whatever they would do for their sons if they were bombed, they must do for these newborns." Doctors in opposition-controlled parts of Aleppo city have raised alarm over medical conditions there, particularly as the last route out into the rest of the province is under near-daily bombardment. "Aleppans' options are running out," said Dr Samah Bassas of the Syria Relief Network, an umbrella organization of 60 humanitarian groups in Syria. "The bombs we are used to. But if we are to be held under siege, hunger and disease will quickly take hold. Even more death is inevitable," she said. — AFP

YEARS AFTER FALL OF MOSUL, IRAQIS STRUGGLE TO ACCEPT EXILED LIVES

ERBIL: Under a scorching sun, men in northern Iraq work to replace dirt roads with asphalt as a mechanical paver rumbles nearby. The laborers are from Harsham camp, which is sheltering 1,500 people who fled their homes when Islamic State seized Iraq's second biggest city, Mosul, in June 2014. There are some 3.4 million Iraqis like them, people uprooted in their own country.

Aid workers fear a planned offensive to retake Mosul, Islamic State's de facto capital in Iraq, later this year will result in fresh displacement and a deeper humanitarian crisis. "We hope that they will be able to go back home, but how and when, no one knows," Harsham camp manager Ahmad Abdo told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Roads are being paved and people are realizing that (living in a camp) is more long-term." Ahead of the two-year anniversary of Mosul's capture by the group also known as ISIS, the Thomson Reuters Foundation interviewed several displaced Iraqis about their experience:

Omar Mohammad, 35, Sunni Arab:

On the day Islamic State seized Mosul, Omar Mohammad, then a policeman, received orders from his superiors to leave the city. "When the army pulled back, we did too because we had no weapons," the father of three recalled. Unlike many men who fled, Mohammad was able to find a job as a cleaner in an exclusive gated residential compound in Erbil, the capital of Iraq's Kurdish region.

However, he said he never received his full salary and quit after two months. "We were begging them to give us money, they only gave us part of it," he said. Over the past two years Mohammad has taken to selling food and other items he receives from aid organizations to make up for the lack of income. But still, he says, the money is never enough for his family. The young father is sheepish about inviting guests inside his prefabricated shelter. He would rather chat outside - the family cannot afford a cooling system and their living room is dark and stifling.

But perhaps Mohammad's biggest worry is the family's mental health which he says is deteriorating. His wife and children left Mosul after him. "My oldest child has become paranoid because when they left Mosul they saw a lot of beheaded bodies and heard gunshots," Mohammad said, lighting a cigarette. "At night he's afraid of the dark and he loses his temper quickly." For Mohammad life inside the camp is often suffocating. With too much time on his hands he often reminisces about the days he used to patrol Mosul and blames the Iraqi government for the city falling into Islamic State hands. "I don't think Mosul will be liberated for another one or two years. If I have the money maybe I will emigrate to Sweden," he said.

Aziza, 32, Kurdish

Aziza hands her iPhone to her daughter in an effort to distract the squirming toddler. "She has asthma and needs medical help," said Aziza, who requested anonymity. With her husband and four children, Aziza fled their hometown, just 15 km (10 miles) from Mosul, as the battle for control of the area drew near. Since moving to Erbil Aziza's husband has been unable to find a job, forcing the family to borrow money to buy medication for their young daughter. — Reuters



BAGHDAD: An Iraqi fireman sits after fire was extinguished at the site of car bomb attack in the mostly Shiite neighborhood of Jadida in the Iraqi capital yesterday. — AFP

BAGHDAD BOMBINGS KILL 25 AS FALLUJA SIEGE CONTINUES

BAGHDAD: Two suicide bombings that killed about 25 people in Baghdad yesterday were claimed by Islamic State, whose stronghold of Falluja near the capital is surrounded by Iraqi forces which are now advancing on the city. The ultra-hardline Sunni insurgents said one attack was carried out with a car laden with explosives and the second with an explosive vest.

Iraqi forces began an offensive against Falluja, 50 km west of Baghdad, on May 23 after a series of deadly bombings hit Shiite districts of the capital. The troops yesterday began advancing against the militants inside the city, after completing its encirclement last week. A police officer said a suicide car bomb had targeted a commercial street of Baghdad Al-Jadeeda (New Baghdad), in the east of the capital, killing 17 people and wounding over 50.

A man wearing an explosive belt blew himself up at checkpoint near the barracks of Taji, just north of Baghdad,

killing seven soldiers and wounding more than 20, he said.

Islamic State "has a long experience in establishing small multiple networks that have the ability to operate independently from each other," said Baghdad-based analyst and former army general Jasim Al-Bahadli. Falluja is a historic bastion of the Sunni insurgency,

first against the US occupation of Iraq, in 2003, and then against the Shiite-led authorities that took over the country. Finance Minister Hoshiyar Zebari last week he expected that the recovery of Falluja would take time as the militants had dug tunnels and planted explosive devices in roads and houses to impede the military advance. — Reuters

ALGERIA TROOPS KILL 4 MILITANTS

ALGIERS: Algerian troops have killed four suspected jihadists in an ambush south of the capital Algiers, the defense ministry said yesterday.

A ministry statement said soldiers late Wednesday swooped on militants in the mountainous Medea region, 80 kilometers from Algiers, adding that firearms and ammunition were seized. Last year, the army killed or arrested 157

"terrorists"—the term Algeria's authorities use for Islamist militants—according to ministry figures. A brutal civil war in the 1990s between the government and Islamists claimed around 200,000 lives. Despite adopting a peace and reconciliation charter in 2005 aimed at turning the page on the conflict, armed groups remain active in central and eastern Algeria. — AFP

SUDANESE PLAY SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON MIGRANT CRISIS

KHARTOUM: As the small fishing boat is tossed around by a stormy Mediterranean, fear grips the African migrants crammed inside when they realize their flimsy vessel has begun to sink. The scene is all too real for the thousands attempting the treacherous sea voyage to Europe each year in search of a better life. It has been recreated in "Boat of Death", a play performed by Sudanese artists to highlight the perils of the wave of migrant sea crossings. "The main theme of the play is to deliver a message to the youth, to stop illegal migration and human trafficking," director Maher Saad told AFP after a performance at the Ethiopian embassy in Khartoum last weekend.

Dozens of spectators, including many Ethiopians, attended the show. "I believe that theatre can deliver such a message because it has a direct and immediate impact," Saad said. The play comes as the UN's refugee agency UNHCR accused Sudan, a key transit route for migrants, of forcibly deporting more than 400 Eritreans last month. Many of those sent back were allegedly arrested as they tried to enter Libya from Sudan, which the European Union is working with in a bid to manage the flow of people hoping to cross the Mediterranean.

Human Rights Watch also criticized Khartoum, saying that those sent back to Eritrea were likely to face abuse from authorities there. The United Nations says that around 5,000 Eritreans risk their lives each month to flee their country. "Many of those travelling through Libya or perishing along the way have transited through Sudan," said Dalia El-Roubi, a spokeswoman for the International Organization for Migration, which funded "Boat of Death". The 45-minute play, already performed three times in Khartoum, is expected to be staged in other cities as well.

Sophisticated network

"Boat of Death", with its haunting background score, ends in tragedy when migrants perish after their boat sinks. Before setting sail, the characters negotiate with a smuggler, who subjects them to abuse and beats them. "I wrote this play so that we reflect on these tragedies," said its author Rabia Youssef. "We have tried to keep the play simple, so that it can be performed on a small stage." Roubi said people smugglers were to blame for tragedies such as that depicted during the performance. "A sophisticated network of smugglers and traffickers enable movement of people from and through Sudan towards other countries," she said. As Europe struggles with its worst migration crisis since World War II, UNHCR said last month that some 204,000 migrants and refugees had crossed the Mediterranean to Europe since January. — AFP

'RAMADAN ROW' BEHIND FIRE AT GERMAN REFUGEE SHELTER

BERLIN: A quarrel over meal times during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan likely sparked an arson attack that destroyed a German refugee shelter, said a report yesterday quoting prosecutors. The huge blaze in the western city of Duesseldorf on Tuesday completely leveled a hall that housed 282 male asylum seekers mostly from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and North African countries, with 28 people suffering from smoke inhalation. Police have detained eight men allegedly involved in the dispute, including two men suspected of arson, both Moroccans aged 26, one of whom allegedly poured a flammable liquid onto a mattress and set it alight. Witnesses reported that there had been recurring tensions between followers of different religions in the Red Cross-run facility.

"During this time of Ramadan, there was one group that wanted to strictly observe the fast, and another that insisted on the usual timetables and usual servings," said Ralf Herrenbrueck, spokesman for the prosecutors service. "This had led on several occasions to disputes and altercations with officials of the German Red Cross," he said in an interview with public broadcaster WDR. "It got to the point where threats were made over what would happen if things didn't change, and that one threat was obviously implemented." Since the start of the year, police had been called 89 times to the 6,000-square-metre (65,000 square feet) hall, which was formerly part of the city's congress centre, reports said. — AFP



TEL AVIV: Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman (4th L) is surrounded by security forces as he visits the site of a shooting attack the previous night at a shopping complex yesterday. — AFP

HAMAS CALLS THE ATTACK A 'HEROIC OPERATION'

ISRAEL CLAMPS DOWN AFTER DEADLY CAFE ATTACK

TEL AVIV: Israel clamped down on Palestinian movements and boosted security yesterday after Palestinian gunmen shot dead four people at a popular Tel Aviv nightspot, the deadliest attack in a months-long wave of violence. Surveillance video seemingly from the moment of the attack that spread online showed the two assailants, dressed in black suits and ties, calmly walking into a cafe before pulling out guns and opening fire on its terrace.

Most patrons fled in panic, though some fought back at the cafe at Sarona Market in Israel's commercial capital. At one point, one of the attackers violently threw a handgun to the ground as two victims lay motionless on the terrace. Five people were wounded in addition to the four killed. The cafe remained open yesterday and was about half full in the afternoon, despite widespread shock among Israelis over the attack. On the grass nearby, dozens of teenagers sat in a circle playing guitars and singing: "Don't be afraid, if you are alone, be strong."

Officials said they were suspending entry permits for more than 80,000 Palestinians during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan in a move that was likely to further stoke tensions. Israel was also sending two additional battalions—hundreds more troops into the occupied West Bank. Those killed were all Israelis, identified as Ido Ben Aryeh, 42, Ilana Nave, 39, Michael Feige, 58, and Mila Mishayev, 32, police said. They said one of the attackers was arrested, while the other was wounded by gunfire and had undergone surgery.

They were identified as Khaled Mohammad Makhamrah, 22, and his cousin Mohammad Ahmad Makhamrah, 21, both from the Hebron area in the West Bank. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the scene after what he called the "cold-blooded terrorist murder". "We discussed a range of offensive and defensive steps which we shall take in order to act against this phenomenon," Netanyahu's office quoted him as saying. "There will be intensive action by the police, the army and other security services, not just to catch every accomplice to this murder but also to prevent further incidents."

The shooting serves as a first major test for new hardline Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman, sworn in on May 30 and who has in the past threatened severe action against Palestinian "terrorists." He also visited the scene yesterday and ordered lunch at the cafe where the attack occurred, promising action but without giving details. Israel's security cabinet met later the same day. A spokesman for Hamas, the Palestinian Islamist movement that runs the Gaza Strip and which is also present in the West Bank,

called the attack a "heroic operation". It was not yet clear if the attackers were acting alone or as part of a larger plot.

Ramadan measures

One of Israel's first responses was to revoke tens of thousands of Palestinian entry permits. COGAT, the defense ministry unit which manages civilian affairs in the West Bank, said that 83,000 Palestinians would be affected. The measures included freezing permits for 204 relatives of one of the alleged attackers. Israel's army locked down the Palestinian town of Yatta, where the attackers were from, with soldiers patrolling and stopping cars as they entered and exited. The shooting drew international condemnation, including from the United States and European Union. The UN special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, Nickolay Mladenov, said "all must reject violence and say no to terror". "I am also shocked to see Hamas welcome the terror attack," he said in a statement.

Stalled peace efforts

Violence since October has killed at least 207 Palestinians, 32 Israelis, two Americans, an Eritrean and a Sudanese. Most of the Palestinians killed were carrying out knife, gun or car-ramming attacks, according to Israeli authorities. Others were killed in clashes with security forces or by Israeli air strikes in the Gaza Strip. The violence has steadily declined in recent weeks, though attacks have continued.

Shooting attacks have been rare, though Tel Aviv has seen two other major incidents this year. In March, as US Vice President Joe Biden visited, a Palestinian went on a stabbing spree along the Tel Aviv waterfront, killing an American tourist and wounding 12 people. On January 1, an Arab Israeli killed three people in a rampage in Tel Aviv. Many analysts say Palestinian frustration with Israeli occupation and settlement-building in the West Bank, the complete lack of progress in peace efforts and their own fractured leadership have fed the unrest. Israel says incitement by Palestinian leaders and media is a leading cause of the violence.

Last week in Paris, representatives from 28 countries, the Arab League, European Union and United Nations met to discuss ways of restarting Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts. Negotiations have been at a complete standstill since a US-led initiative collapsed in April 2014. At the Tel Aviv cafe yesterday, Simon and Keren Bar said they considered themselves lucky to be alive. "We were supposed to be here last night," Simon Bar said. — AFP

ELECTION CAMPAIGN BEGINS IN SPAIN FOR JUNE 26 NATIONAL VOTE

BREAKING SIX MONTHS OF POLITICAL PARALYSIS

MADRID: Spain's political parties are launching a two-week campaign leading up to a June 26 election aimed at breaking six months of political paralysis after a December vote shattered the nation's traditional two-party system and politicians failed to create a governing coalition.

Campaigning begins at midnight with rallies led by acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy of the conservative Popular Party, Pedro Sanchez of the Socialists, Pablo

Iglesias of the far-left Podemos party and Albert Rivera of the business-friendly Ciudadanos party.

Polls suggest the Popular Party will win the most votes as it did on Dec. 20 but again fall far short of the parliamentary majority it held from 2011-2015. The surveys have indicated the Socialists and Podemos will vie for 2nd place and Ciudadanos will come in fourth.

The Popular Party and the Socialists

alternated running Spain for decades after the country returned to democracy following the long dictatorship of Francisco Franco. But voters angry with high unemployment, unpopular austerity measures and corruption scandals gave strong support to upstart newcomers Podemos and Ciudadanos in December and appear poised to do so again on June 26.

Analysts predict the result will again yield a political stalemate forcing the parties to negotiate to try to form a coalition government. Spain would face a third election in the fall if they fail.

"This will likely be a drawn-out process and the outcome cannot be taken for granted, even if the parliamentary math supports it," said Federico Santi, a London-based analyst with the Eurasia Group political risk consultancy.

Possible coalitions include the Popular Party with Ciudadanos, the Socialists with Podemos or a so-called grand alliance of the Popular and Socialist parties that has never happened before in Spain but has elsewhere in Europe.

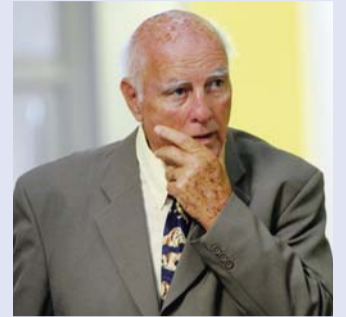
"Any deal will be very challenging to negotiate," Santi said in a note to clients. "Indeed, a repeat of events earlier in the year, with interlocking vetoes preventing any agreement, cannot be ruled out. This would likely leave the country without a functioning government for over a year." — AP



MADRID: A man holds a photo of Ciudadanos party leader Albert Rivera before the closing campaign rally. — AP

SOUTH AFRICA: BOB HEWITT APPEAL REJECTED, MUST GO TO JAIL

SOMERSET WEST: South Africa's Supreme Court rejected an appeal by former Grand Slam tennis champion Bob Hewitt on Thursday and ruled he must serve a six-year jail sentence for the rapes and sexual assaults of young girls he coached decades ago. A panel of three judges at the Supreme Court of Appeal said in a written judgment that the prison sentence given to Hewitt at the end of his trial was appropriate and fits "the criminal and the crime."



JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA: Former grand slam tennis doubles champion Bob Hewitt is shown outside of court. — AP

Hewitt, now 76, was convicted and sentenced last year. The Supreme Court judges said he "showed no remorse for his vile deeds." He was found guilty of raping two girls and sexually assaulting a third in the 1980s and 1990s. The victims were minors at the time of the assaults. They are now grown women who had to wait more than two decades for justice. Hewitt "exploited the complainants' innocence and youth and forced them to submit to his wicked desires. He abused his position of authority and responsibility towards them," the Supreme Court judges wrote.

His standing as a "tennis icon" had no bearing on the case, the appeal court said, and his "celebrated status does not therefore earn him a special sentence." The Australia-born Hewitt won 15 Grand Slam titles in doubles and mixed doubles, and played occasionally with greats Billie Jean King and Arthur Ashe. He also won the Davis Cup with South Africa in 1974 after moving to the country and taking on citizenship. — AP

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SENATOR WARREN LASHES OUT AT GOP, TRUMP OVER JUDGES

LAUNCHES A BROADSIDE AGAINST CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICAN LEADERS

WASHINGTON: Sen Elizabeth Warren is using Donald Trump's criticism of a federal judge to launch a broadside against congressional Republican leaders and Trump himself, in her latest stinging attack on the presumptive GOP presidential nominee. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky, and House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis, have condemned Trump's claims that US District Judge Gonzalo Curiel can't preside fairly over a case involving Trump University because the US-born Curiel is of Mexican descent and Trump wants to build a wall with Mexico.

"Judge Curiel is one of countless American patriots who has spent decades quietly serving his country, sometimes at great risk to his own life. Donald Trump is a loud, nasty, thin-skinned fraud who has never risked anything for anyone and serves nobody but himself. And that is just one of the many reasons why he will never be president," Warren says.

But Warren, D-Mass., says McConnell and Ryan are really no better than Trump on the issue of judges. She cites what she contends is McConnell's blockade of President Barack Obama's judicial nominees including Supreme Court pick Merrick Garland, and Ryan's acquiescence in the strategy. "Paul Ryan and Mitch McConnell want Donald Trump to appoint the next generation of judges. They want those judges to tilt the law to favor big business and billionaires like Trump. They just want Donald to quit being so vulgar and obvious about it," Warren says.

"Donald Trump chose racism as his weapon, but his aim is exactly the same as the rest of the Republicans. Pound the courts into submission to the rich and powerful." Warren made the comments in a speech she planned to give to the American Constitution Society. Her office released excerpts in advance. The liberal lawmaker increasingly has tangled with Trump, taking on a role that she seems able to execute more effectively than other Democrats,



WASHINGTON: Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass. speaks on Capitol Hill on Oct. 6, 2015. — AP

including presumptive presidential nominee Hillary Clinton.

Warren is the only female Democratic senator yet to officially back Clinton, but intends to make a formal endorsement in coming days, two sources with knowledge of her plans told The Associated Press late Wednesday. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the matter. Warren's ardent base of liberal supporters includes many who also backed Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the 2016 race and may follow her lead more than that of any other leading Democrat, except perhaps for Obama.

"Trump isn't a different kind of candidate. He's a Mitch McConnell kind of candidate," Warren said in her prepared remarks. "Exactly the kind of candidate you'd expect from a Republican Party whose 'script' for several years has been to execute a full-scale assault on the integrity

of our courts." Democrats and Republicans are in a seemingly endless dispute on judicial nominations, with each side claiming the other has been more obstructionist on the issue. Garland's nomination has languished since March while the Supreme Court, with eight justices instead of nine following Antonin Scalia's death, has issued a number of 4-4 rulings.

On Wednesday, Warren stood up on the Senate floor to challenge McConnell over the issue and try to move nomination votes by unanimous consent, but he denied her request and disputed her arguments. "President Obama has had many more judicial nominees confirmed than President Bush did at the same point in his presidency," McConnell said. "And we'll continue to process his judicial nominations, but the minority is not going to dictate to the majority when and how we will do so." — AP

'WRONG MAN' EXTRADITED FOR TRAFFICKING, ITALY INVESTIGATES

REPORTS SUGGEST A MISTAKEN IDENTITY CASE

ROME: Italian prosecutors are investigating whether the wrong man was extradited to Italy on charges of controlling a migrant trafficking network after reports suggested it may be a mistaken identity case. Eritrean Medhanie Yehdego Mered, 35, dubbed "the general" and described as "cynical and unscrupulous", is accused of shipping thousands of people to Europe and sending some to a watery grave.

Italian police announced Wednesday that Mered, arrested in Sudan with the help of Britain's National Crime Agency, had been extradited to Italy, releasing video and photograph images of him being brought off a plane in Rome. But Palermo prosecutor Francesco Lo Voi was forced to admit Thursday his team was "carrying out the necessary checks" after the BBC spoke to friends and family of the arrested man who said it was a case of mis-

taken identity. AFP also interviewed people in Sudan who said the detainee was not Medhanie Yehdego Mered.

"The identification of the suspect, his arrest, his handing over and his extradition to Italy were communicated to us in an official manner by the NCA and the Sudanese authorities through Interpol," Italian media quoted Lo Voi as saying. An NCA spokeswoman said "we're aware of the media reports. It's a bit too soon to speculate at the moment". Friends of the arrested man told AFP his name was Mered Tesfamariam, and he was a 27-year-old migrant. "I know this man since he arrived in Sudan in 2014, his name is Mered Tesfamariam. The person who has been taken to Rome is not the general. The man taken to Rome doesn't even speak Arabic," Eritrean Tasfie Haggose, 38, said in Khartoum.

Secret mover

"The general is well known among Eritreans, especially among those who have tried to cross the Mediterranean. The general moves secretly. He does not deal directly with people who want to migrate. He deals through mediators or brokers," he said. Fellow Eritrean Barhi Kobron, 28, said he too knew the detainee. "This man used to move freely among people, which is not how the general behaves. The general has no house in Khartoum. He moves between Sudan, Ethiopia, Libya, and between Khartoum and eastern Sudan." Medhanie Yehdego Mered, on a wanted list since 2015 for people smuggling, is accused of packing migrants onto a boat that sank in 2013 off the island of Lampedusa, claiming at least 360 lives in one of the worst disasters in the Mediterranean. — AP

HOME BECKONS FOR AMERICA'S FLOATING FORTRESS

ABOARD THE USS HARRY S TRUMAN: Waffles and pancakes are being doused with maple syrup. A baseball game bubbles unwatched from the flatscreen television on the wall. Wardroom 3 on the Harry S Truman aircraft carrier could be anywhere in Middle America. But this is no ordinary diner. A few hours from now, some of the pilot officers dampening their luxuriant moustaches in big mugs of coffee will be flying over Syria in F18 fighter jets.

Their mission: to take opportunities to add to the nearly 700 tons of deadly explosives the giant, nuclear-powered carrier's air wing has dropped on targets linked to Islamic State (IS) jihadists in just over six months. The Truman was supposed to be on its way home to Norfolk, Virginia by now. Instead it is in the Eastern Mediterranean, its mission having been extended by Barack Obama for an extra month as part of efforts to intensify a campaign which, commanders say, is gradually degrading IS with a view to neutralising the self-styled caliphate altogether.

It is not hard to identify weariness and a longing for home among the 5,500-strong crew of a boat that began combat operations in the Persian Gulf on December 29. Deep in the labyrinthian bowels of the Truman, some of the senior members of the crew preparing the unprecedented volume of laser and GPS-guided missiles the carrier's planes have unleashed have been working 16-hour days, seven days a week.

'Give 'em Hell'

With much of the key preparation done overnight for daylight raids, some of them have barely seen sunshine in six months. But grumbling is not part of the Truman credo. Even the nightly prayer that is broadcast into every nook and cranny of the giant floating fortress ends with an emphatic restatement of the carrier's motto: "Give 'em Hell!". "There is always that punch in the stomach when the crew are told they are not going home as expected, but after a day or two they accepted it because they can see we are making a difference," says the ship's "Gun Boss", Weapons Officer Jim McDonald. "We are victims of our own success and it is hard to argue against success."

A few decks above, Lt Tom Flynn, 28, is relaxing between pre-flight briefings in Ready Room 8. A pilot with a squadron known as the 'Pukin Dogs', the Indiana native says morale has been bolstered by last week's relocation of the Truman from the sweltering Gulf to cooler waters and temperatures off the west coast of Syria. "It makes an incredible difference up on the flight deck. You get in your jet and you are not all sweaty. In the Gulf it could be quite disgusting."

Pilots typically have two pre-flight briefings. After the second they take 15 minutes to relax, eat and go to the bathroom before getting to the flight deck an hour before taking off for missions currently running at 6-8 hours. The deployment with the Truman has been Flynn's first combat experience and he reveals no signs of qualms when asked to reflect on it. "I wouldn't say elation but it is definitely satisfying to be able to put the years of training to use," he said. "You train pretty hard to ensure (the experience) does not surprise you."

'Huntin and Fishin'

Once Flynn climbs into his F18 fighter, the man responsible for steering him into position to be catapulted off the boat is Flight Deck Controller Chad Clark. "It's a kind of coordinated chaos. We are like the quarter-back calling the play for our team-mates," says Clark, 43, as he explains the ballet-like dance of multi-million-dollar aircraft and arm-waving color-coded sailors being played out beneath him. — AFP

BUS ACCIDENT IN SOUTH BRAZIL LEAVES 16 DEAD

SAO PAULO: A bus in southern Brazil has veered off the side a highway and crashed, leaving 16 dead and 30 injured. Firefighters say the accident happened around midnight on the outskirts of Mogi das Cruzes, a city about 38 miles east of Sao Paulo. In a series of tweets, Sao Paulo firefighters say the driver lost control of the vehicle for unknown reasons and the bus veered and crashed. Fifteen people were found dead at the scene, and another died en route to the hospital. Thirty others have been taken to local hospitals. Daily newspaper Folha de S Paulo reports that the passengers were university students. Images in local media show that much of the top half of the bus had been smashed. — AP

GHANA CHEF WORKS AGAINST WASTE TO FEED THE HUNGRY

ACCRA: Excess and waste are usually considered symptomatic of the affluent West but trained chef Elijah Amoo Addo knows these are problems too in his home country, Ghana. One day he saw a homeless man collecting food scraps to feed others in the capital, Accra. Watching someone pick up food no-one else would eat for people no-one was helping, got him thinking.

Amoo Addo believed there was enough food in the west African nation to feed all of its nearly 27 million people, but more had to be done to educate and inspire people to help those in need. The result was a charity, now called Food For All Ghana. The process is simple and not unlike recent French legislation that forces supermarkets to donate unsold food to charities and food banks, which campaigners want to see spread across Europe.

Food manufacturers and suppliers are asked for unused and excess food or products approaching their best-before dates. Every weekend volunteers visit orphanages, hospitals, schools and communities using donated goods to cook for those in need and hand over ingredients for future use. "We have kids who are out of school just because they can't get food to eat," Amoo Addo, 25 said. "We have families who sometimes in the day can't even afford a plate of food. —AFP



IONIA, MICHIGAN: Davontae Sanford, 23, second from left, smiles as he walks out of the Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility with his brother Deshon, left, and two of his lawyers on Wednesday. — AP

OVER 130 IS FIGHTERS KILLED IN BATTLE FOR SYRIA'S MANBIJ

BEIRUT: More than 130 Islamic State group fighters have been killed in a US-backed offensive on the key jihadist-held city of Manbij in northern Syria, a monitoring group said yesterday. US-led coalition air strikes supporting the assault by Kurdish and Arab fighters, launched on May 31, have also left 30 civilians dead, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. US-backed forces said they had reached the militants' last main route in and out of their stronghold in the area, the city of Manbij.

Monitors confirmed that the Syria Democratic Forces - an alliance which includes the powerful Kurdish YPG militia and Arab allies - had advanced to within firing distance of the road, one week into a campaign to push the militants out of their foothold along the frontier. Washington hopes the operation will choke off Islamic State's last major link to the outside world - the militants have used the border for years to receive supplies and manpower, and more recently to send back fighters for attacks in Europe. "We have reached the road that links Manbij and Aleppo, from the west," Sharfan Darwish, spokesman for the Syria Democratic Forces-allied Manbij Military Council, told Reuters.

Darwish appeared to be referring to the highway between Manbij and Islamic State-held al-Bab, further west. That highway also leads onto Aleppo. A statement from the Manbij Military Council said its forces had already cut Islamic State supply lines leading north, east and south from the city, and were now close enough to Manbij itself to be able to fire on Islamic State militants. Darwish would not comment on whether the SDF was planning an assault on the city itself. He told Reuters on Wednesday forces were poised to enter, but were being cautious due to the civilian presence there.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said the SDF were in firing range of the main road leading west, positioned less than a kilometre away from it. They were effectively in control of all highways into Manbij, it said. Civilians in the city and surrounding countryside were fleeing the fighting, the Observatory added. It said more than 130 Islamic State militants had died since the Manbij offensive was launched, as well as more than 20 SDF fighters. The US military said on Wednesday the SDF had suffered about a dozen killed and more than 100 wounded. The SDF, which is also fighting against Islamic State in neighbouring Raqqa province, is backed by US-led air strikes and assisted by US Special Forces. YPG fighters have already captured much of northeast Syria near the Turkish border, but their advance west of the Euphrates river to close off the frontier once and for all was limited by strong opposition from Turkey, which considers the YPG its enemies. US officials said last week the Manbij operation would be overwhelmingly comprised of Syrian Arab fighters. Washington's assurances appeared to assuage ally Ankara. — Agencies

YOUNG MAN FREED EIGHT YEARS AFTER PLEA; PROSECUTOR TO TALK

PROFESSIONAL HIT MAN TOOK BLAME

IONIA: A man who entered prison as a teenager in 2008 stepped out into sunshine and freedom Wednesday, eight years after a professional hit man told authorities he was responsible for the slayings. The hit man's first acknowledgement that he was involved came only about two weeks after Davontae Sanford was sent away. But prosecutors repeatedly refused to reopen the case, believing they had already put the right killer behind bars.

Sanford, 23, emerged from a prison in Ionia in western Michigan. He declined to speak to reporters in Ionia and quickly drove off with a brother and two lawyers for the 130-mile trip back to Detroit. After returning to the city, he told reporters Wednesday evening that he wants to try to "put this behind me and move on with my life" and take "one day at a time, one step at a time." A day earlier, Sanford's guilty pleas were erased by a judge at the request of prosecutors who conceded the case was compromised by flawed police work. "I feel blessed," said Sanford's mother, Taminko Sanford, who stayed behind to greet her son at home.

Sanford was 14 - blind in one eye and barely able to read or write - when he was charged with killing four people at a drug den in his neighborhood in 2007. At 15, he pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in

the midst of trial and was sentenced to a minimum of 39 years in prison. The case appeared closed and unremarkable until lawyers discovered the hit man's confession to the same so-called Runyon Street murders, along with eight other killings, just 15 days after Sanford was sent to prison. That touched off years of efforts to get the guilty pleas set aside, but prosecutors resisted at every turn until state police were asked last year to take a fresh look.

The agreement to throw out the convictions doesn't mention the hit man, Vincent Smothers. Instead, prosecutor Kym Worthy said Detroit police - not Sanford - had drawn a diagram of the murder scene. She said that "seriously undermines" the entire case. Worthy refused to take questions from reporters until a news conference Thursday. For years, her aggressive defense of the case angered Sanford's family and supporters, especially after Smothers offered extensive details about the murders and repeatedly pledged to testify on the young man's behalf.

One of Sanford's lawyers, David Moran of the Innocence Clinic at University of Michigan law school, said it can be difficult for police and prosecutors to accept that a conviction that once appeared airtight is just the opposite. "It's a human thing," he said. "There's a tremendous cost when an

investigation shuts down and minds close," said Moran, whose staff and students have a long list of victories. "We do encounter tremendous resistance when we present new evidence in actual innocence cases." At the same time, he praised Worthy for finally recognizing that an "injustice had been done" in Sanford's case. Margaret Raben, former head of a Michigan association of defense lawyers, said Worthy deserves credit for asking state police to investigate, even after many years.

It's "startling," she said, that Smothers confessed immediately after his arrest but police ignored the admissions. "They already had this kid," said Raben, who's not involved in the case.

"I think they were afraid to ask Smothers more. ... In order for them to do the right thing, they would have had to step up and say, 'We screwed this up the first time.'" Michigan offers no financial remedy to people wrongly convicted of a crime. But Sanford can sue police over civil rights violations, which is a common practice in these types of cases, Raben said. Smothers, 35, is in prison for 52 years after pleading guilty in 2010 to eight killings. He said he was regularly hired by drug dealers to kill others in the trade but would never take on someone like Sanford as a sidekick. — AP



GAUHATI, INDIA: A wild elephant from a nearby hill of India's northeastern Meghalaya state, sprays water on itself as it stands and eats grass in the wetlands of Telalia. — AP

INDIA EYES EXPANDED MISSILE EXPORT DRIVE

INDIA SEEKING TO JOIN GLOBAL NUKE GROUPS

NEW DELHI: India has stepped up efforts to sell an advanced cruise missile system to Vietnam and has at least 15 more markets in its sights, a push experts say reflects concerns in New Delhi about China's growing military assertiveness. Selling the super-sonic BrahMos missile, made by an Indo-Russian joint venture, would mark a shift for the world's biggest arms importer, as India seeks to send weapons the other way in order to shore up partners' defenses and boost revenues.

The government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ordered BrahMos Aerospace, which produces the missiles, to accelerate sales to a list of five countries topped by Vietnam, according to a government note viewed by Reuters and previously unreported. The others are Indonesia, South Africa, Chile and Brazil. The Philippines is at the top of a second list of 11 nations including Malaysia, Thailand and United Arab Emirates, countries which had "expressed interest but need further discussions and analysis", the undated note added.

A source familiar with the matter would only say the note was issued earlier this year. New Delhi had been sitting on a 2011 request from Hanoi for the BrahMos for fear of angering China, which sees the weapon, reputed to be the world's fastest cruise missile with a top speed of up to three times the speed of sound, as destabilizing. Indonesia and the Philippines had also asked for the BrahMos, which has a range of 290 km and can be fired from land, sea and submarine. An air-launched version is under testing.

Wary eye on China

Unlike Vietnam, the Philippines and Malaysia, India is not a party to territorial disputes in the South China Sea, a vital

global trade route which China claims most of. But India has an unsettled land border with China and in recent years has grown concerned over its powerful neighbor's expanding maritime presence in the Indian Ocean. It has railed against China's military assistance to arch-rival Pakistan and privately fumed over Chinese submarines docking in Sri Lanka, just off the toe of India. "Policymakers in Delhi were long constrained by the belief that advanced defense cooperation with Washington or Hanoi could provoke aggressive and undesirable responses from Beijing," said Jeff M. Smith, Director of Asian Security Programs at the American Foreign Policy Council in Washington.

"Prime Minister Modi and his team of advisers have essentially turned that thinking on its head, concluding that stronger defense relationships with the US, Japan, and Vietnam actually put India on stronger footing in its dealings with China." India's export push comes as it emerges from decades of isolation over its nuclear arms program. It is poised to join the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) after talks between Modi and US President Barack Obama in Washington this week. BrahMos' range means it falls short of the 300 km limit set by the voluntary organization.

India's accession to the MTCR may also strengthen its case for joining another non-proliferation body, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, a move China has effectively blocked. Both groups would give India greater access to research and technology. BrahMos Aerospace, co-owned by the Indian and Russian governments, said discussions were underway with several countries on missile exports, but it was too early

to be more specific. "Talks are going on, there will be a deal," said spokesman Praveen Pathak. India is still a marginal player in global arms exports. The unit cost of the missile, fitted on Indian naval ships, is estimated at around \$3 million.

Getting closer to Vietnam

India has been steadily building military ties with Vietnam and is supplying offshore patrol boats under a \$100 million credit line, its biggest overseas military aid. This week Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar held talks with his Vietnamese counterpart General Ngo Xuan Lich in Hanoi and both sides agreed to exchange information on commercial shipping as well as expand hydrographic cooperation, the Indian defense ministry said in a statement on Monday. A source at the defense ministry said India was hoping to conclude negotiations on the supply of BrahMos to Vietnam by the end of the year. The Indian government is also considering a proposal to offer Vietnam a battleship armed with the BrahMos missiles instead of just the missile battery, the source said.

"A frigate integrated with the BrahMos can play a decisive role, it can be a real deterrent in the South China Sea," the source said, adding New Delhi would have to expand the line of credit to cover the cost of the ship. Indian warships are armed with configurations of eight or 16 BrahMos missiles each, while sets of two or four would go on smaller vessels. A Russian official said exports of BrahMos to third countries was part of the founding agreement of the India-Russia joint venture. Only now India had armed its own military with the BrahMos was there capacity to consider exporting, he added. — Reuters

MEXICO SUPPORTS INDIA'S BID TO JOIN NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP

MEXICO CITY: Mexico supports India in efforts to join non-proliferation body the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), President Enrique Pena Nieto said on Wednesday, and was thanked by visiting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. India is emerging from decades of isolation over its nuclear arms program, and is poised to join the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) after talks this week between Modi and US President Barack Obama in Washington. Both groups would give India greater access to research and technology, but China has so far blocked India's accession to the NSG. "Mexico recognizes India's interest in joining the Nuclear Suppliers Group," Pena Nieto said at his Los Pinos residence. "As a country we have a positive and constructive backing for this."

Mexico supported India's membership because of Modi's "commitment to the agenda of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation," he added. New Delhi's bid for full membership of the 48-nation club, if granted, would tip the balance of power in South Asia against its arch-rival Pakistan, whose own application has been backed by China, despite questions over its proliferation record. Pena Nieto's support is a boost for Modi, but he must still win China's support to seal India's membership of the non-proliferation body at the group's annual meeting in South Korea this month. "I thank President Pena Nieto for his positive and constructive support for India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group," Modi said.

The backing represents a historic policy shift for Mexico, which has held a firm position on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation for decades. One of Mexico's crowning diplomatic achievements was the 1967 Treaty of Tlatelolco, which declared Latin America and the Caribbean a zone free of nuclear weapons. Switzerland this week agreed to support India's bid for membership made last month, after winning a waiver in 2008 allowing it to trade in commercial nuclear technology. Modi tacked on Switzerland and Mexico as extra stops on a five-country tour to seek their support on joining the NSG. — Reuters

17 PEOPLE 'AN HOUR' DIE IN INDIA ROAD ACCIDENTS

NEW DELHI: India's transport ministry admitted yesterday it has so far failed to improve road safety but said it was pushing for stricter laws, as new figures revealed 17 people die in traffic accidents every hour. Transport minister Nitin Gadkari acknowledged an urgent need to improve road infrastructure as the numbers showed traffic accidents were one of the single biggest causes of death in India.

The report found 146,133 people died in 501,423 road accidents in 2015, an increase of almost five percent from 2014, while half a million more were injured. Nearly eight in ten accidents were caused by drivers, with 62 percent of those blamed on speeding. "Accidents are killing more people in India than terrorism or natural disasters and yet we never talk about them," Gadkari said at a press conference to mark the release of the report. "It saddens me that there has been a negligible impact on reducing the number of deaths despite our best efforts in the past two years," he said.

Gadkari said the ministry was working to expand the country's highway network from 96,000 to 200,000 kilometers to ease the burden on crumbling roads. Road accidents shave three percent off the country's GDP every year, the minister said. The ministry said it is focusing on improving poorly designed roads and identifying black spots, and plans to deploy electronic surveillance to deter traffic offences. It is consulting state governments over a new road safety bill, which will be tabled in the next parliament session.

The proposed law would crack down on traffic offences and suggests steep penalties for offenders, including minimum seven-year jail terms in accidents that result in deaths. Transport analysts blame India's high numbers of road accidents on poor roads, badly maintained vehicles and reckless driving, as well as inadequate road safety laws. Some 30 percent of Indian driving licences are believed to be fake, the government has said. India owns just one percent of the world's vehicles but accounts for 15 percent of global traffic deaths, according to the World Bank. — AFP

MUMS COMFORT SCARED DAUGHTERS AFTER THE PAKISTAN 'HONOR KILLING'

LAHORE: Two young girls stand inches away from charred bricks and ash, staring at the detritus of a "kind and gentle" teenager who taught them the Quran but was savagely burned by her mother for marrying the man of her choice. Maham and Muskan were pictured Wednesday with their eyes riveted to the spot where, just hours before, 16-year-old Zeenat Bibi was doused in kerosene and set alight. That night, Maham's mother told AFP, she had to reassure her tearful and confused daughter that she loved her. "She cried a lot and wept a lot, she did not eat anything," Rani Bibi, who shared the common last name with Zeenat's family, said yesterday. "She slept with me. Before sleeping she asked many questions: 'Why was my teacher killed? Why did her mum kill her?'"

"I said, 'Don't worry. You are my beloved daughter.'" Maham, pictured in pink and black and frowning as she looked at the burn marks, told AFP she had seen her teacher's feet beneath the shroud covering her body. "When I saw that I started weeping because my teacher was dead," the 10-year-old said. "I was so afraid." Muskan, also 10, lived opposite Zeenat in Pakistan's teeming cultural capital of Lahore, and had been taught the Koran by her too, the child's grandmother Nasreen Bibi said. "Her face was very pale when she returned from the house," she said of her granddaughter. "She was looking very afraid."

Zeenat, both the women added, was "so kind and gentle". Police have said the teenager was killed Wednesday by her mother after marrying Hasan Khan, her long-term boyfriend. Burns covered 90 percent of her body. A post-mortem to determine whether she was still alive when she was set on fire was being conducted. None of her relatives sought to claim her body, police said Thursday, leaving her new husband's family to bury her charred remains before dawn in a graveyard near the city. — AFP

WITH MEN GONE, NEPALESE WOMEN SHAKE UP FARMING IN RURAL AREAS

PHULBARI: Ratna Chaudhary delicately lifts the hem of her pink and green dress with one hand, while using the other to scoop up a batch of cabbages in her garden in the village of Phulbari, a dozen kilometers from the Nepal-India border. She calls three women to help, who join the dance-like movement, bending and swaying as they pick up vegetables and lay them in a basket. "Since my husband works in India now, I'm responsible for harvesting all our crops," said Chaudhary, holding two cabbages to her face before throwing the yellower one to the ground. Her husband, Chatkauna, is one of at least 2.2 million Nepalis - nearly 10 percent of the population - who work abroad, according to the Nepal Institute of Development Studies.

For the past three years, Chatkauna has taken on seasonal work for most of the year as a miner in the Indian city of Haldwani. It pays more than the daily jobs he used to do in his hometown, and he returns to Phulbari every four months to see his family and hand over his earnings. Migration of mainly low-skilled workers is a key source of income for Nepal, where remittances account for around a quarter of gross domestic product. The outflow of male workers - in particular from rural areas faced with worsening climate conditions - has major implications for the country's agricultural sector, believes Madan Pariyar, project director at International Development Enterprises (IDE), a non-profit group that helps poor farmers with work and income opportunities.

"Men going to find jobs in India and the Middle East leaves few to manage agricultural activities that were traditionally men's preserve," he said. "As a result, more women are taking charge of farming work." Chaudhary used to work on a sugarcane farm in India herself. "We just couldn't earn enough in our village," she said. For the past six months, however, she has cultivated her own patch of land and leases the remainder of it - 1,700 square meters (18,299 square feet) - to other poor, low-caste farmers from the "tharu" ethnic minority group, one of Nepal's largest. — Reuters



NEW DELHI, INDIA: An African man waits to hire a vehicle. — AP

AFRICANS IN INDIA FACE CONSTANT BATTLES WITH RACISM

FEAR AND ANGER COMMON EMOTIONS

NEW DELHI: Fear and anger. Those are the emotions that shadow Odole Emmanuel Opeyemi every time the Nigerian man steps out of his New Delhi apartment. Every encounter with Indians is fraught with those feelings, whether he's taking an autorickshaw or the Metro, buying vegetables or trying to find a spot to park his car. "When I sit down in the Metro, people sit away from me. Even old men and women will stand up as if any contact with me will give them a disease," he said, describing the mixture of fear and revulsion with which most Indians treat Africans.

Opeyemi is among hundreds of thousands of Africans in India, drawn by better education and work opportunities. For them rampant racism is a daily battle in a country where their dark skin places them at the lower end of a series of strictly observed social hierarchies. Indians routinely perceive Africans as either prostitutes or drug dealers. The daily indignities Africans suffer usually go undocumented both by the police and local media.

That changed on May 20, when Congolese student Masunda Kitada Oliver was fatally attacked in a dispute over hiring an autorickshaw in New Delhi. Three men who insisted they had hired the vehicle beat him up and hit him on the head with a rock, killing him, according to police. The death made the city's African students, diplomats and business owners rally together demanding quick justice. The African Heads of Mission in New Delhi issued a statement asking the government to address "racism and Afro-phobia" in the country.

"Given the pervading climate of fear and insecurity in Delhi, the African Heads of Mission are left with little option than to consider recommending to their governments not to send new students to India, unless and until their safety can be guaranteed," the statement said. The killing and the outrage it sparked drew an unusually prompt reaction from local police and India's foreign ministry. Two men suspected

in the attack were arrested within a day, while a third remains at large.

Minister Sushma Swaraj tweeted that her ministry asked for "stringent action against the culprits." But the ministry also said all criminal acts involving Africans should not be seen as racial in nature. The bad press the country got as a result of the killing prompted India's glacial government machinery to move quickly to try to address the issue. An India-Africa art exhibition was cobbled together at government expense and on short notice. A protest planned by African students in the Indian capital was put off after government officials reached out to African student groups.

The police and government began holding workshops in neighborhoods across the city to try to sensitize local residents about their African neighbors. There were other well publicized examples of anti-African prejudice in India before Oliver's death. In February, a Tanzanian woman was beaten and stripped naked by a mob in the southern city of Bangalore after a Sudanese student's car hit an Indian woman. In September 2014, a video of three African men being beaten inside a security booth at a New Delhi Metro station went viral. For several minutes a large mob beat the men with bare hands and sticks and shoes as they climbed up the walls of the glass booth in terror. The police were absent.

These incidents made it to the local newspapers. Hundreds more do not. Prejudice is open in India. The matrimonial columns of the newspaper are strictly segregated along caste lines. Landlords in cities including New Delhi and Mumbai deny homes to people based on race and religion. Indians from northeastern India, who look different because of their Asian features, are routinely harassed and have to endure being called names on the streets.

But the worst kind of discrimination is reserved for the Africans. In a country obsessed with fair skin and skin lightening beauty treatments, their dark skin draws a mixture of fear and ridicule. Landlords shun

Africans in all but the poorest neighborhoods, and in those they are charged unusually high rent. African students in the New Delhi neighborhood of Chhatrapur reported paying 15,000 rupees (\$225) a month for a single room and bathroom that would normally rent for 6,000 to 7,000 rupees.

Strangers point at them and laugh - or gang up and assault them. At a recent racial sensitization session in Chhatrapur, the mutual distrust between the Indian landlords and their African tenants was glaring. "I'm scared," said Nancy Joseph, a 23-year-old law student from South Sudan. That fear keeps her from visiting friends at night. The autorickshaw driver may refuse to take her. Groups of Indian men could gather and call her vile names just for fun.

"Delhi is the worst city I've ever lived in," said Eddie King, a student from Nigeria. He hasn't made a single friend in the year that he has spent in the country. "I can't talk to my classmates. They won't even answer me. They pretend they don't understand." The landlords say African tenants drink all day and play loud music all night, characterizations that Africans dismiss as unfair. "They stand drinking beer on the road. We feel scared crossing the area," landlord Umed Singh said. Whether this session succeeded in sensitizing anyone was unclear. Police simply told both sides to try to understand each other.

King said he'll leave India as soon as he finishes his studies next year. "The African man cannot work with Indians. That's just the truth," he said. Opeyemi, a 34-year-old soccer coach, said he will stay. It's easier for him to earn a living here than in Nigeria, so he will endure the indignities. Those include hearing someone call out "Habshi!" - the Hindi word for a black person - as he tries to get on a bus. Recently, as he tried to park his car, someone called him "bandar" - a monkey. "The security was looking but they said nothing," Opeyemi said. "We are scared. We don't fight back because we know what will happen," he said. "They will break your head with a brick." — AP



DISPUTED ISLANDS: Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force P-3C Orion surveillance plane flies over the disputed islands, called the Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China, in the East China Sea. —AP

CHINA WARSHIP OFF DISPUTED ISLANDS, JAPAN PROTESTS TO CHINA HAS SINCE LEFT THE AREA

TOKYO: Japan summoned China's ambassador to deliver a protest yesterday after spotting a Chinese warship for the first time near disputed islands in the East China Sea.

Japanese officials said a Chinese navy frigate was seen off the Japanese controlled Senkaku islands, also claimed by China, which calls them the Diaoyu islands. The ship did not violate Japan's territorial waters, and has since left the area.

While Chinese coast guard vessels routinely patrol the area, it was the first time a Chinese warship was spotted, officials said. Deputy Foreign Minister Akitaka Saiki summoned Chinese Ambassador Cheng Yonghua to the ministry to deliver the protest.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga also criticized Beijing for escalating regional tensions. "Japan is extremely concerned about the action that unilaterally escalates tension in the area," Suga said.

The territorial dispute often harms bilateral relations,

already troubled by the two countries' wartime history. Japan's Foreign Ministry and coast guard say Chinese coast guard ships have been in and out of a narrow strip just outside Japanese waters almost every day since Japan nationalized the islands in 2012, and have violated Japan's territorial waters a few times every month. In December, an armed Chinese coast guard vessel was spotted for the first time in the area.

Japan is also investigating the presence of three Russian warships in the area at about the same time. Suga said officials are analyzing whether the two incidents were coordinated.

Defense Minister Gen Nakatani, in Singapore to attend an annual international security conference, told public NHK television that Beijing's dispatch of a naval ship may just be its way of stressing its resolve over its territorial claims amid widening international concern over its activities in the South China Sea. —AP

EX-US MARINE IS PRIME SUSPECT IN MURDER OF OKINAWA WOMAN

TOKYO: Japanese police said yesterday that a US military contractor arrested on suspicion of abandoning the body of a young woman on Okinawa is now officially the prime suspect in her murder and rape, in a high-profile case that has sparked outrage on the southern island.

Anti-US military sentiment runs deep on Okinawa, where residents have long complained about the heavy presence of US military bases and crime linked to them. The arrest took up a significant part of a Japan-US summit that was held a week later, causing President Barack Obama to apologize. The US Marines on Okinawa issued an order two days later restricting celebrations and off-base drinking.

The arrest last weekend of a US sailor for alleged drunken driving has added to the anger. Following that arrest, the US Navy also banned all drinking of alcohol by its personnel in Japan, on and off base, and restricted off-base activities.

Police said yesterday that Kenneth Shinzato, who is also a former Marine, is now the prime suspect in the murder and rape of the 20-year-old woman whose body was found last month, three weeks after she disappeared after messaging her boyfriend that she was going for a walk in Uruma City on Okinawa's eastern coast. An autopsy on the decomposed body could not determine the cause of death.

Okinawa police said the suspect hit the woman on the head with a club, dragged her into the weeds and raped her, while strangling her and stabbing her with a knife. Kyodo News reported Shinzato had told police that he drove around for a few hours to find an assault target.

Police arrested 32-year-old Shinzato on May 19 after he told investigators where they could find the woman's body in a forest. He was expected to be formally charged with abandonment later yesterday.

Born Kenneth Gadson, reportedly from New York City, he is married to a Japanese woman and used her family name Shinzato instead of his own. He worked on Kadena Air Base as an employee for a contractor that provided services to US bases on Okinawa.

"It was an extremely brutal case that shook the sense of safety in the community," said Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters. "I expect police are doing utmost to fully uncover the case."

Tensions are already high over a plan to relocate a Marine Corps air station to a less-populated part of Okinawa. About half of about 50,000 US troops stationed in Japan are on the island, and many residents resent the burden they bear for the defense of Japan and the region. They want the air station to be moved off Okinawa all together. —AP

AILING THAI KING MARKS 70 YEARS SINCE ACCESSION TO THRONE

BANGKOK: Hundreds of orange-robed monks led ceremonies Thursday marking 70 years since Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej ascended to the throne following the mysterious death of his brother, as anxiety grows over the health of the ailing octogenarian.

The 88-year-old king is the world's longest serving monarch and is seen as a unifying force in a nation bitterly divided along political lines. But he is hospital-bound and underwent a heart operation on Tuesday, following months of treatment for various health problems-including water on the brain.

His health is of grave concern to Thais, who revere the king and see him as a constant in a turbulent country that has seen numerous coups and repeated rounds of deadly political violence. Bhumibol's image has been burnished by ritual and a publicity machine that sees giant portraits placed on streets and cinema-goers asked to stand for the royal anthem.

The leading royals are also shielded from criticism by a harsh royal defamation law that carries

up to 15 years in jail for each charge. The crown is also one of the world's richest, with a multi-billion-dollar property and investment portfolio. Hundreds of well-wishers gathered outside the Grand Palace in Bangkok early Thursday as a line of 770 monks began a day of celebration with an alms-giving ceremony.

"I want to make merit for the king to encourage him to have good health. That's how I can show loyalty to him even though he can't see it, that's fine," said 68-year-old Bangkok resident Chonmanee Smativat. "I want him to know that we all love him."

Bangkok residents of all ages donned yellow polo shirts, the king's official color, many emblazoned with slogans saying "We Love the King", while banks saw queues of people eager to buy commemorative 70 baht notes.

Thais are taught from a young age about his well-publicized development schemes and economic strategies credited with lifting the kingdom out of poverty as many of its neighbors fell to communism. —AFP



BANGKOK: Women look up and pray hoping for a glimpse of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej at Siriraj Hospital on the 70th anniversary of his reign yesterday. —AFP

Lifestyle

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2016

Afghan girls study the Quran at a Madrassa during the month of Ramadan in Kandahar yesterday. Throughout the month, devout Muslims must abstain from food and drink from dawn until sunset when they break the fast with the Iftar meal. — AFP

McGraw, Underwood win big at CMT Awards; Pharrell performs



Tim McGraw accepts the award for video of the year for "Humble and Kind". — AP/AF photos



Thomas Rhett accepts the award for male video of the year for "Die A Happy Man".



Carrie Underwood accepts the award for female video of the year for "Smoke Break".



Blake Shelton accepts the award for CMT social superstar.

McGraw, Underwood win big at CMT Awards: Pharrell performs



Thomas Rhett performs on an outdoor stage.

Tim McGraw ended Carrie Underwood's four-year-winning streak for the top prize at the 2016 CMT Music Awards with his

music video for "Humble and Kind" - which features footage provided by Oprah Winfrey - while stars from outside the country music world performed onstage, including Pharrell, Cheap Trick and Pitbull. McGraw thanked Winfrey, Tyler Perry, video director Wes Edwards and others onstage Wednesday night at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee.

"When we make a footprint as an artist, there's a lot of people involved in making that footprint. And we do it because we hope to move you, we hope that we make a little bit of an impact in your life, and you care a little bit about what we do," McGraw said onstage. "Thank y'all for caring a little bit about what

we do, because we care a whole lot about y'all."

"Humble and Kind" was inspired by McGraw's daughter's leaving for college and the touching video features people of all backgrounds and ethnicities. It includes footage from the OWN TV series, "Belief." At the fan-voted show, he beat out Underwood, who has won video of the year consecutively since 2012 and also won the honor in 2010 and 2007.

Underwood still walked away as the night's big winner with two awards: She took home female video of the year and CMT performance of the year. The singer also performed while others brought pop, rock and rap stars to help onstage.

Pharrell joined Little Big Town for a fun and funky performance that featured a number of background dancers. The hit-making "Happy" performer produced Little Big Town's eight-song

CMT Music Awards Winners:
Video of the Year
 Tim McGraw, "Humble and Kind"
Male Video of the Year
 Thomas Rhett, "Die a Happy Man"
Female Video of the Year
 Carrie Underwood, "Smoke Break"
Group/Duo Video of the Year
 Little Big Town, "Girl Crush"
Breakthrough Video of the Year
 Chris Stapleton, "Fire Away"
CMT Performance of the Year
 Carrie Underwood, "Smoke Break". — Reuters



(From left) Phillip Sweet, Kimberly Roads Schlapman, Karen Fairchild and Jimi Westbrook accept the award for group/duo video of the year for "Girl Crush".



Chris Stapleton performs "Parachute".



Carrie Underwood accepts the award for CMT performance of the year for "Smoke Break".



Jason Aldean performs on an outdoor stage.



Chris Stapleton accepts the award for breakthrough video of the year for "Fire Away".

album, "Wanderlust," to be released Friday.

Little Big Town won group/duo video of the year for their Grammy-winning smash, "Girl Crush." It was their first-ever CMT win. "This is a real surprise," Kimberly Schlapman said onstage, standing next to Karen Fairchild, Jimi Westbrook and Phillip Sweet. Recent Rock and Roll Hall of Famers Cheap Trick performed with Billy Ray Cyrus outdoors; Pitbull hit the stage with singers Cassadee Pope and Leona Lewis; Grammy-nominated pop-rock singer Elle King sang with Dierks Bentley; and girl group Fifth Harmony sang their pop hit "Work from Home" alongside breakthrough singer Cam.

'Daddy Lessons'

The country world has recently been welcoming of pop stars, and not just onstage: On her popular album "Lemonade," Beyoncé performs a country original called "Daddy Lessons," which the Dixie Chicks covered in concert and others in the genre praised. And last year, Justin Timberlake was the highlight of the Country Music Association Awards when he performed alongside Chris Stapleton. Timberlake's song "Drink You Away" hit the country charts after the performance.

Other performers Wednesday included some of the country genre's biggest acts: Luke Bryan,

Blake Shelton, Florida Georgia Line, Jason Aldean and Keith Urban. Thomas Rhett, who also performed, beat out Bryan, Shelton, Urban, Eric Church and Sam Hunt for male video of the year. "This is incredible. I got to thank the Lord first and foremost for giving me a lovely wife named Lauren," Rhett said of his wife, who appeared in the music video for "Die a Happy Man." Shelton didn't walk away empty-handed though: "The Voice" coach took home the prize for CMT social superstar of the year and joked about drunken tweeting.

"CMT's social superstar? That's not what I was going for, but what the hell? I mean I like to have a few drinks and get on Twitter every now and then. But I didn't know you could get paid for that," he said. "See kids, there's something for y'all to strive for."

Stapleton, who won a pair of Grammys earlier this year and launched to superstar status after his performance with Timberlake, won breakthrough video of the year for "Fire Away." "It means so much. All the fans, I appreciate everything you've done for me and my family," the singer and songwriter behind hits for George Strait and Kenny Chesney said onstage. Erin Andrews and J.J. Watt hosted the two-and-a-half-hour show, which aired live on CMT. — AP



Robin Zander, Rick Nielsen, Tom Petersson and Daxx Nielsen from musical group Cheap Trick and singer-songwriter Billy Ray Cyrus perform onstage.



Pharrell Williams, center, and Little Big Town, from left, Jimi Westbrook, Kimberly Roads Schlapman, Karen Fairchild and Phillip Sweet, perform "One Dance".



Blake Shelton, center, and The Oak Ridge Boys perform at the CMT Music Awards.



'Saq Al Bamboo' and 'Been Galbin': Episode 3

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Kuwait Times is publishing a daily review of two of the most popular Kuwaiti soap operas showing on Al Rai TV and MBC Drama TV. Here is the review of the third episode:

'Saq Al Bamboo' (Bamboo stalk)

Hind told her brother Rashid that she knew about Josephine's pregnancy as she noticed the way he defends and care about her. Hind doesn't want the baby to be aborted, but was still afraid of the mom's reaction. Rashid's mother noticed that Josephine is pregnant and demanded to know who the father is - suspecting the driver. When Rashid accepted the responsibility, the mother suggested abortion, but he refused. She kicked him out of the house along with Josephine - saying this baby will never be her grandson because he is the son of a maid.

Rashid later called his family, demanding to speak with his mother. The mother answered the phone and told him to forget all about her. While waiting for Josephine to deliver the baby in

the hospital, he heard (the news on TV) about the kidnapping of Kuwait Airways plane (Jabriya) flying from Thailand. (This is real) - They announced the name of the victim who died onboard. The victim was his friend Waleed. At the same time his son was born. Rashid named his son Eisa - after his father.

Rashid brought his baby to his mother thinking she will sympathize with him and change her mind, but she kicked him out again telling him that she doesn't want to see him or the baby - who looks like his Filipino mom. So Rashid sent Josephine and the baby to Philippines - promising to convince his mother to bring them back. Eisa remained in Philippines, and after more than 20 years he came back to Kuwait. Rashid's friend Ghasan welcomed him at the airport. He arrived on the same day the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed died. Ghasan took Eisa to his house and suggested that he postpones a proposed visit to his grandmother's house for now.

Been Galbin (between two hearts)

When Aryam refused to travel with Marzouq, he thought she

doesn't love him and they had a fight. He complained to Aryam's father, who told her that this decision is not hers alone, as he has a business relation with his brother (Marzouq's father).

In another development, Mohsen went with his mother to propose to Yasmin, Bashar's sister. They got married and went home together. She was behaving abnormal with symptoms of mental related problem which was triggered by her mother's death. Aryam was confused and felt she made a mistake by getting married to Marzouq. When she came to the office, Bashar changed his behavior and she told him she feels her engagement was a mistake.

Bashar's sister Noora suggested he gets married with Dana rather - because she is her friend and her neighbor. Aryam was absent from work for few days - thinking about her feeling towards Bashar. She then went back to work and told Bashar she is in love with him and that she doesn't want to get married to her cousin.

Review

The hocus pocus of 'Now You See Me 2' wears thin

The magician heist movie "Now You See Me 2" disappears with not a poof, but in a hyper-kinetic blur of hectic plot mechanics, ceaselessly nattering characters and so many ploys of misdirection that the film's own direction got lost up someone's sleeve long ago. Now you see it, now you don't. Did you care that you saw it? Why did you see it, anyway? Is that why you look like you need a nap? Yet the cast is one reason to catch Jon M. Chu's sequel to the surprise 2013 hit. It's an odd assortment but a talented one that includes Woody Harrelson, Mark Ruffalo, Morgan Freeman and Michael Caine. They don't get the chance to sink their teeth into anything much but in the summertime, you usually need to buy a ticket to a superhero movie for such an ensemble.

And there's something almost quaint about the two "Now You See Me" films. They are diverting and harmless and the fate of the world, pleasantly, does not hang in the balance. They're perfect for fans of "Ocean's Eleven" that are looking for weaker filmmaking, a little less star power and a whole lot more playing cards. In "Now You See Me 2," the Four Horsemen, having gone into hiding following their Las Vegas exploits of the first film, return. They're a group of magicians led - curiously, given the alternatives - by Jesse Eisenberg's slight-of-hand artist. The others are Harrelson's hypnotist, Dave Franco's street magician and a new addition played by Lizzy Caplan

(replacing Isla Fisher) whose sarcastic flare steals the movie.

The Horsemen are like a fantasy dreamed by David Copperfield, a co-producer whose show inspired the films. When not trying to one-up each other's tricks, the Horsemen perform feats of illusion that unmask real corruption. In the world of "Now You See Me," they are extravagantly (and bizarrely) famous, cheered by mobs on the streets and pursued in vain by the feds (Ruffalo plays the lead agent). In "Now You See

Me 2," their flashy return is spoiled by a wealthy tech whiz in hiding (Daniel Radcliffe), who constructs an elaborate revenge against the magicians that transports them around the globe to Macau, presumably for the purpose of drawing in Chinese moviegoers.

Rabbits out of hats

The movie, scripted by Ed Solomon, is such a constant barrage of absurdly implausible tricks, followed by explanations of how they were

done, that "Now You See Me 2" feels like the work of a feverish, manic magician who can't stop pulling rabbits out of hats. Chu, a veteran of multiple Justin Bieber documentaries and several "Step Up" films, cracks up the pace and never holds a shot much longer than a second. And when everything is a manipulation - one illusion after another - nothing comes as a surprise.

It feels like a lost opportunity because both "Now You See Me" films have a pleasant enough preposterousness. It's hard to dislike a movie that adds a curly-haired evil twin brother for Woody Harrelson. But magic always feels a little redundant in the movies. By itself, cinema is a grand magic act that never gives away its tricks (well, except for director commentaries on DVDs). Maybe that's why "Now You See Me 2" can't slow down. It knows it's always being upstaged by the hocus pocus of its own medium. "Now You See Me 2," a Summit Entertainment release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "violence and some language." Running time: 126 minutes. Two stars out of four. — AP



In this image released by Summit Entertainment, Dave Franco, Jesse Eisenberg, Lizzy Caplan and Henry Lloyd-Hughes appear in a scene from, "Now You See Me 2."—AP



People dressed in white gather for the iDiner en Blanc (Dinner in White) event at the place Vendome in Paris on June 8, 2016. — AFP photos

Thousands flock to posh Paris flash mob picnic

It's the world's classiest flash mob, when a highly selective group of guerrilla gourmets armed with picnic baskets and linen napkins take over a famous landmark. The latest "Diner en Blanc" (Dinner in White) took place in Paris Wednesday when some 7,000 people dressed in white from head to toe descended on the swanky Place Vendome to dine al fresco on fine food and wine in the heart of the capital's luxury district.

The venue of the annual event—which has now spread across the globe from Stockholm to Mumbai and Shanghai—was kept tightly under wraps until the last minute. Last year 13,000 took over the court of honor of the 17th-century Palais

Royal in the French capital, sitting down to eat at rows of tables laid along the length of the square. In previous years the secretive uppercrust club has taken over the Champs-Élysées, the Chateau de Versailles and the gardens under the Eiffel Tower for its impromptu soirees.

Having dined and then danced their fill, members of the group—which attempts to recreate the glamour and elegance of bygone French high society—go home on the stroke of midnight. The organizers demand that guests "conduct themselves with the greatest decorum, elegance, and etiquette". And they pride themselves on tidying up afterwards, leaving the venue just as they found it.

The phenomenon began in the French capital nearly three decades ago long before social media kickstarted the trend for flash mobs, and it has since spread to 70 cities worldwide. Only people invited by Diner en Blanc members can attend the gatherings, which are run with almost military precision, with the guests as well as the authorities only alerted to the precise venue at the last minute. The movement was founded by the French businessman Francois Pasquier in 1988 who dreamt of eating in the open air in unusual places. The first dinner was held in the city's Bois de Boulogne park.—AFP

Court gives go-ahead for Prince estate to seek business

A judge Wednesday gave the go-ahead for an administrator in charge of Prince's estate to pursue business deals, rejecting objections from a prisoner who says he is the pop star's son. The judge in the Minneapolis-St Paul suburbs said that the outside administrator needed to "take all prudent steps to monetize" work of the legendary artist. "The court recognizes that the estate will likely not be able to pay the entire tax obligation when it becomes due and some interest and, perhaps, some penalties, are likely before the entire tax obligation is paid," Carver County Judge Kevin Eide wrote.

Eide said that, while the administrator's tenure was limited, it was unlikely that all legal questions on Prince's heirs would be settled in the next two months. Bremer Trust—whose parent, Minnesota-based Bremer Bank, had long helped Prince handle its finances—was put in charge of Prince's affairs days

after his April 21 death for a six-month period on advice of the singer's sister and five half-siblings.

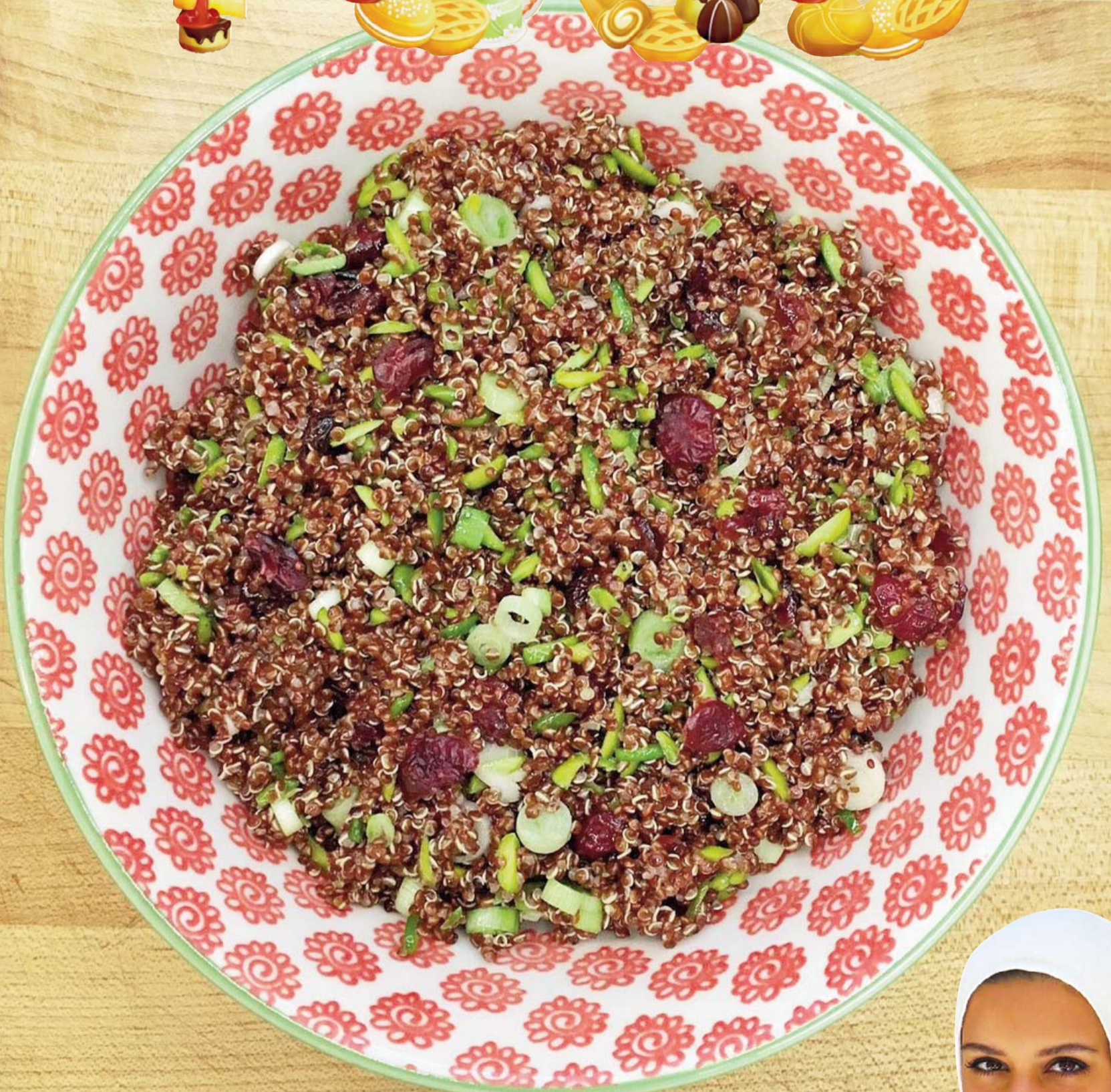
Prince, who died of an accidental overdose of painkillers, left no will or recognized children. Bremer Trust had told the court that it hoped to hire outside experts on the entertainment industry as it struggles to balance the books on Prince's sprawling estate, independently estimated to be worth anywhere from \$100 to \$300 million. Doug Peterson, a lawyer for Bremer Trust, told the court that the administrator did not intend to reach long-term contracts but said an exception may be in hiring an expert to make profit out of Prince's Paisley Park complex.

Paisley Park, a mythic site for Prince fans on the outskirts of Minneapolis-St Paul that has a state-of-the-art studio and vaults of unreleased material, has only been open to visitors when Prince threw parties, often at the last minute. A lawyer for Carlin

Williams, who says he is Prince's son, had filed an objection, saying it was premature to focus on business development and the first priority should be to determine the singer's rightful heirs. Williams, a little-known rapper in Kansas City who has performed songs disparaging Prince, could potentially be the sole heir to the fortune if he is determined to be his son. Williams is serving a sentence in a high-security federal prison in Florence, Colorado for gun possession in a stolen car. He is not scheduled for release until late 2020. His mother said under oath that she had sex with the then rising star in 1976 in a Kansas City hotel. — AFP

File photo shows Prince presents the award for favorite album - soul/R&B at the American Music Awards in Los Angeles. — AP





Quinoa Cranberry Salad

This salad was actually made for me by a good friend, and I became addicted ever since! I love the textures and burst of flavors in this salad! The crunchy pistachios, the chewy tartness of the cranberries, and the heartiness of the quinoa. To me it's the perfect meal in itself. Quinoa is high in essential amino acids which help build protein. The pistachios provide a dose of heart healthy fat as well as B Complex vitamins. And the cranberries are a great source of Vitamin C, good for boosting immunity and also skin health. Trust me, once you try this salad, there's no going back.

Ingredients

- 2 cups cooked red quinoa
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1/2 cup sliced pistachios
- 1/2 cup chopped spring onions (whites only)

Dressing

- 2 tsp sugar (preferably coconut or date sugar)
- 2 tbsp white vinegar
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1/2 tsp salt
- Pinch of black pepper

Preparation

- Cook the quinoa in boiling salted water, then fluff with a fork and set aside to cool.
- Whisk the dressing ingredients together and set aside.
- Combine the quinoa, cranberries, pistachios and spring onions in a bowl.
- Pour over the dressing and mix well.
- You can enjoy it straight away or store it in the fridge until you are ready to eat it. The longer it sits in the fridge the more the flavors will marry and the better it will taste.

By Aisha Al Zabin





Khoshaf

This Ramadan classic is both light and delicious. It is also packed full of nutrition! The dried fruit in this dessert contain high amounts of beta carotene, vitamin E, niacin, iron, magnesium, potassium and iron. And the nuts provide a dose of healthy fats. This means that this dessert right here gives you healthy glowing skin. The high fiber content means that it will do wonders for your bowels. I'd say this is a winner guilt-free dessert!

Ingredients

Dried prunes
Dried apricots
Golden raisins
Pinenuts
Pistachios
Blanched almonds
Apricot leather (Qamar Deen)
Hot Water
Mango Juice

Preparation

- Soak the dried fruit and nuts in hot water for at least 5 hours or overnight.
- Dissolve the qamar deen in boiling water. It should have a soupy consistency.
- Add the mango juice to the qamar deen until you're happy with the sweetness.
- Drain all your dried fruit and nuts and add them to the liquid. Mix well.
- Chill completely in the refrigerator before serving.



Waitomo Glowworm Caves



The Waitomo Glowworm Caves attraction is a cave at Waitomo on the North Island of New Zealand, known for its population of glowworms, *Arachnocampa luminosa*. This species is found exclusively in New Zealand. They are around the size of an average mosquito. This cave is part of the Waitomo Caves system that includes the Ruakuri Cave and the Aranui Cave.

The attraction has a modern visitor centre at the entrance, largely designed in wood. There are organized tours that include a boat ride under the glowworms.

Geology:

Geological and volcanic activity has created around 300 known limestone caves in the Waitomo region over the last 30 million years. The limestone formation in the Waitomo Glowworm Caves occurred when the region was still under the ocean about 30 million years ago. The limestone is composed of fossilized corals, seashells, fish skeletons, and many small marine organisms on the sea beds. Over millions of years, these fossilized rocks have been layered upon each other

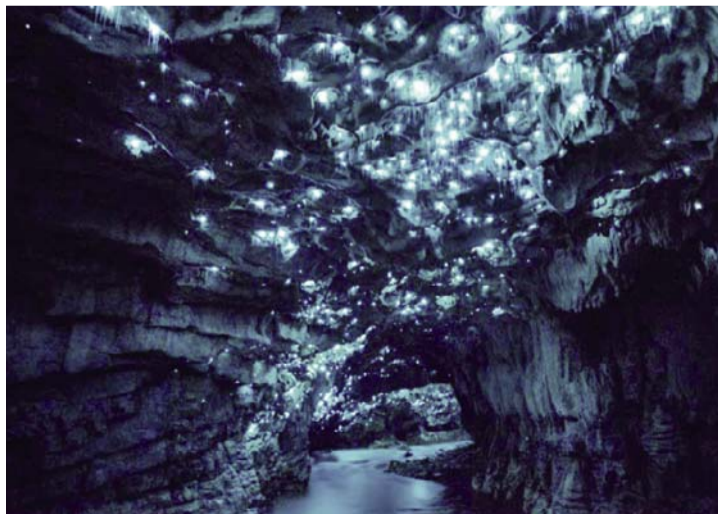
and compressed to create limestone and within the Waitomo region the limestone can be over 200 m thick.

The caves began to form when earth movement caused the hard limestone to bend and buckle under the ocean and rise above the sea floor. As the rock was exposed to air, it separated and created cracks and weaknesses that allowed for water to flow through them dissolving the limestone and over millions of years large caves were formed.

Biology:

The most renowned animal in the cave is the glowworm *Arachnocampa luminosa*. There are several small underground lakes that were created by freshwater creeks or brooks, which are home to New Zealand longfin eels.

The walls of the caves are covered with a variety of fungi including the cave flower (a distant relation to the genus *Pleurotus* that is actually a mushroom-like fungus). The most common animals in the caves are insects. This includes albino cave ants, giant crickets, and of course the glowworms.



Color me!

DID YOU KNOW?



- Lions are the second largest big cat species in the world (behind tigers).
- The average male lion weighs around 180 kg while the average female lion weighs around 130 kg.
- The heaviest lion on record weighed an amazing 375 kg.
- Lions can reach speeds of up to 81 kph but only in short bursts because of a lack of stamina.
- The roar of a lion can be heard from 8 kilometers away.
- Most lions found in the wild live in southern and eastern parts of Africa.
- Lions are very social compared to other cat species, often living in prides that feature females, offspring and a few adult males.
- Male lions are easy to recognize thanks to their distinctive manes. Males with darker manes are more likely to attract female lions (lionesses).
- Lions are the national animal of Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, England, Ethiopia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Singapore.
- Lions in the wild live for around 12 years.
- When lions breed with tigers the resulting hybrids are known as ligers and tigons. There are also lion and leopard hybrids known as leopons and lion and jaguar hybrids known as jaglions.

SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION

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





KIDS RECIPES



Super Strawberry Bars

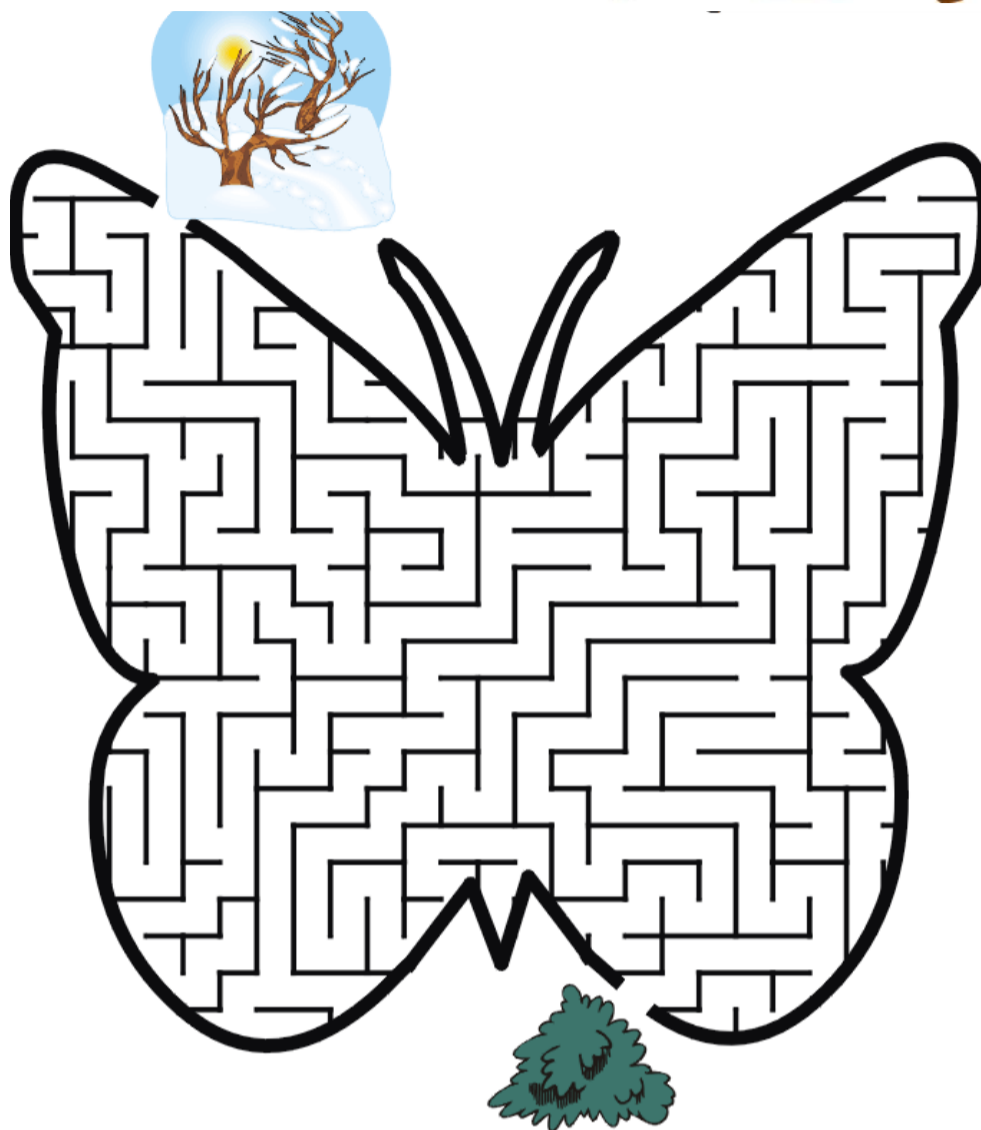
Ingredients:

- * 1 c. flour
- * 1 c. rolled oats
- * 1/2 c. butter or margarine, softened
- * 1/3 c. light brown sugar
- * 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- * 1/8 tsp. salt
- * 3/4 c. strawberry jam

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350° Fahrenheit (180° Celsius).
2. In a large bowl, mix everything together except the strawberry jam.
3. Measure out 2 cups of this mixture. Leave the rest in the bowl, and set it aside.
4. Take the 2 cups of the mixture and press it into the bottom of the pan. You can use your hands or a spoon. Make sure you cover the entire bottom of the pan!
5. Using a large spoon, spread the strawberry jam on top of the mixture in the pan. Spread it evenly all over.
6. Take the mixture that was left in the bowl, and spread it over the strawberry jam. Press it down lightly.
7. Bake for 25 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven, and allow it to cool for at least 15 minutes.
8. Cut the bars into 12 squares to eat and share!

MAZE



WORD SEARCH



HOT SUMMER DAYS

Use the word list to find and circle all of the words in the puzzle that have a 'Hot Summer Days' theme.

Word List

- BARE FEET
- BEACH
- BOAT
- FLIP FLOPS
- FLOWERS
- ICE CREAM
- LEMONADE
- POOL
- STRAWBERRIES
- SUMMER
- SUNSCREEN
- SUNSHINE
- SWIMMING
- UMBRELLA
- WATERMELON

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

Jokes for Kids



Q: Why did the teacher wear sunglasses?

A: Because his class was so bright!

Q: Why were the teacher's eyes crossed?

A: She couldn't control her pupils!

Q: Teacher: Didn't I tell you to stand at the end of the line?

A: Student: I tried but there was someone already there!

Q: How is an English teacher like a judge?

A: They both give out sentences.

Q: Teacher: You missed school yesterday, didn't you?

A: Student: Not really.

Q: Why did the teacher go to the beach?

A: To test the water.



Paper Butterflies

What you need:

colored paper (square), scissors

Activity:

First you need to create a number of folds across the centre of the square.

Fold the square diagonally one way, open it out and then fold it diagonally the other way.

Now fold it in half one way, fold it out and fold it in half the other way.

Open out the paper, you should have folds criss-crossing the square in a star.

Now fold it in half (to form a rectangle) and using the diagonal folds as a guide, you will need to push each side inwards where the diagonal fold is to create a triangle shape.

Fold that triangle in half again.

Cut a curved tip along the open tip of the triangle.

Open it out so that you have two curved tip points on either side and one pointy tip facing downwards.

Now take half of each curved tip side and fold it toward the middle crease.

Fold the pointy tip behind and bring it up to peek about 5mm over the top edge. Fold that 5mm tip down to overlap the main part.

Now bring the two curved points back down to the front. The last step is to make a crease in the centre, to keep everything in place and finish off the butterfly shape.





Friday Times Travel

Top 5 Holiday Island Destinations



1. SEYCHELLES

Spread across 175 square miles of the Indian Ocean, this chain of 115 islands has become (slightly) more accessible with the introduction of Crystal Cruises' first small-capacity yacht, Crystal Esprit. The 62-guest, all-suite ship will spend its maiden season sailing into some of the smaller ports of call in the Seychelles, departing from Dubai. If you prefer to remain on land,

The H Resort Beau Vallon Beach debuted this past August as the only five-star beachfront hotel in Mahé, the archipelago's largest island. When to go: Year-round; the islands sit outside the cyclone belt.



2. COZUMEL

In 2016, travel to this Mexican isle will be easier — and less expensive. A new ferry company, Cozumel, will shuttle travelers from Playa del Carmen, raising the total number of boat companies serving the island to three. Once on Cozumel, wander through the revamped gardens and fountains at Parque Benito Juarez, which offers free Wi-Fi, and breathe deeply at the world's first underwater oxygen bar, Clear Lounge Cozumel. Also underwater: new exploratory dives to sites with pristine reefs are being led just north of the island. After dark, stargaze from the astrological observatory at the new Cha'an Ka'an Cozumel Planetarium. When to go: January through July, but avoid spring break.

3. ARUBA

Aruba is the quintessential Caribbean island, all sun and sea and stretches of powdery white sand. Time will slow to a pleasant crawl as you linger over a tropical cocktail or flutter serenely underwater, where only the parrotfish are in a hurry. The pastel façades of Oranjestad landmarks and shops lend an inviting and playful vibe to the capital city. Enjoy the shade of an Eagle Beach divi tree while the crashing waves of turquoise water create a soothing soundtrack just for you. With a geographic position just north of Venezuela and just south of the hurricane belt, Aruba boasts nearly perfect weather, making it an ideal year-round locale. The all-inclusive Riu Palace Antillas opened late last year. On the food scene, Aruba is getting a taste of the farm-to-table movement. Its first ever Eat Local Aruba Restaurant Week, during which some 55 eateries created special wallet-friendly locavore menus, debuted last fall and will return in late September. But the island celebrates great local food any time of year. When to go: June through November, when most of the region's weather is unpredictable.



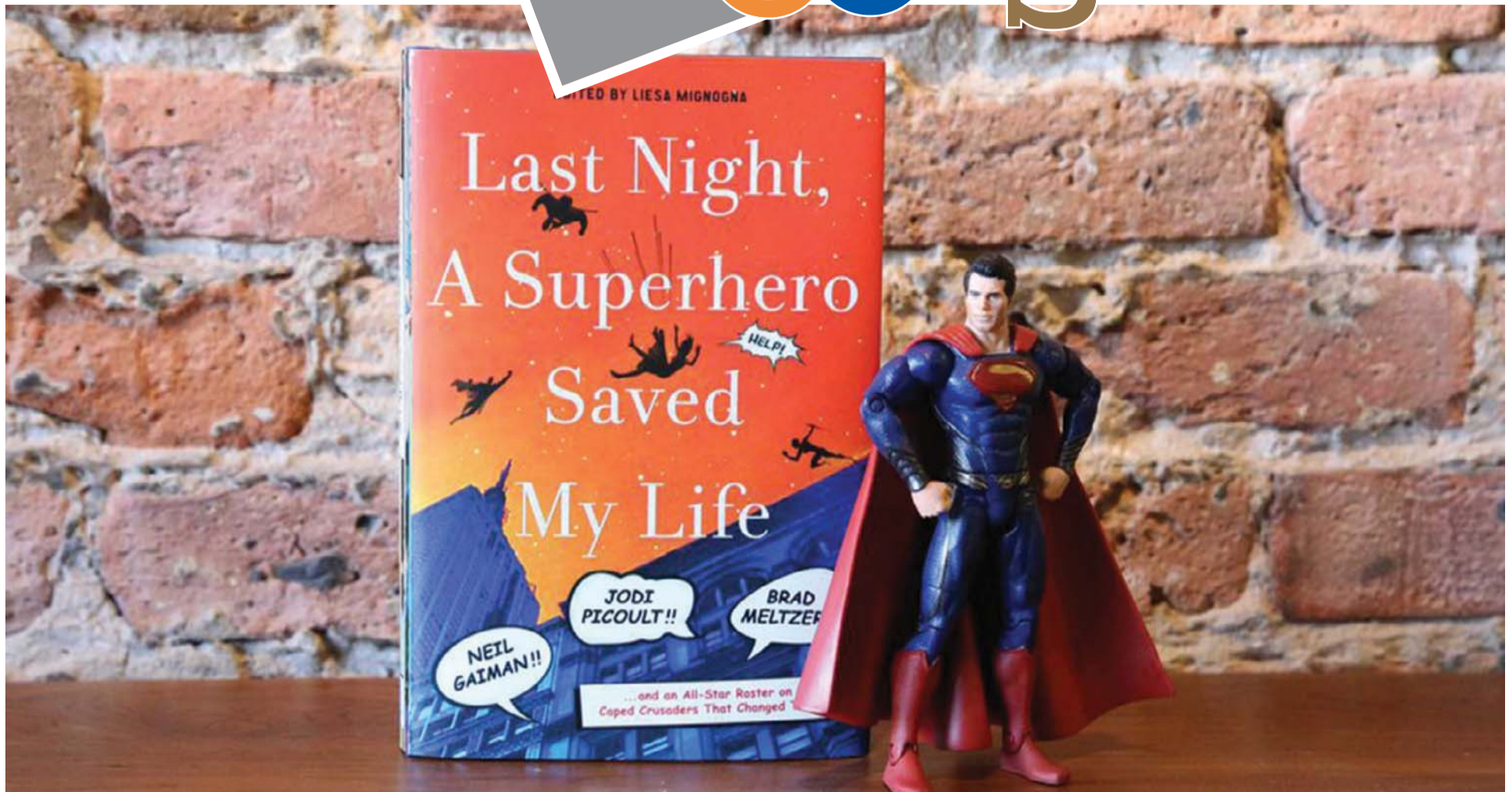
4. MERGUI ARCHIPELAGO, MYANMAR

Up until a few years ago, it was almost impossible to travel to this out-there set of 800 islands spread across 10,000 square miles in the Andaman Sea off Myanmar's southern coast. Even as the political situation improved in the country, the only way to experience this pristine, practically empty archipelago was by wooden boat. Now, smartly appointed, state-of-the-art yachts are sailing here from ports in Phuket, Thailand, letting sophisticated travelers tour these jungles, mountainous sand- and coral-ringed atolls without sacrificing modern comforts and conveniences. Top Asia-travel expert Remote Lands has begun five-day cruises around many of the islands, giving guests access to exclusive dive sites teeming with turtles, stingrays, sharks and seahorses. Beyond diving, travelers can explore villages of the local Moken population, otherwise known as "sea gypsies," a hunter-gatherer maritime tribe who have called these waters home for millennia. When to go: November to March, outside of monsoon season.

5. NEW PLYMOUTH, NEW ZEALAND

This port city on the west coast of the North Island offers an intriguing mix of culture, architecture and contemporary art, including the Len Lye Museum, named for and devoted to one of NZ's most famous artists. But outside city limits, it's all about adventure. There's the reopened 11-mile Pouakai Crossing, which traverses mountains high above New Plymouth. Cyclists can sign up for Ventouro's Forgotten Highway Cycling Tour, a 350-mile, six-day ride across some of North Island's most rugged and remote terrain, led by two-time Olympian Tim Gudsell. An easier-option is Forgotten World Adventures' new Rail Bike Tours, where riders gently pedal through the countryside on nearly 90 miles of unused train tracks, riding in converted rail carts. When to go: Spring or fall in the Southern Hemisphere.




 Friday Times
Books


Authors find their inner Batmen in 'Last Night, A Superhero Saved My Life'

Before there were instruction manuals, self-help books, and televangelists, there was mythology. Expansive stories of fantastical feats passed down through generations, these parables were meant both to entertain and to expound wisdom. Whether one's holy scripture is the Bible, Irish folk music, or the primetime programming block of Shonda Rhimes, the stories expressed therein capture our imaginations and linger with us, guiding our decisions and actions as we go on with our lives.

One need look no further than the box office to see that the most popular form of mythology today is the superhero. Why is that? Sure, it's fun to watch Batman and Superman punch one another, but there must be more than super-powered violence that has kept audiences glued to these costumed adventures for the past 70 years. Underneath the flash and gusto, these stories connect with us on a deeper level. They help us touch upon something within ourselves, something we might not otherwise be able to find.

This much is evidenced in *Last Night, A Superhero Saved My Life*, a collection of essays by popular genre authors about times when the courses of their lives were directly affected by the actions of fictional costumed vigilantes. None of these authors claim to have been rescued from muggers by Spider-Man or freed from a burning building by Wonder Woman. Rather, the lessons learned from comic books, summer blockbusters, and Saturday morning cartoons allowed them to save themselves. Jamie Ford summons memories of Daredevil and Elektra to get over a lover who repeatedly tears him to shreds. Ron Currie Jr finds within Wolverine the platonic ideal of masculinity in balance with a strong sense of feminism.

These connections are unexpected, certainly, but reading personal accounts of parallels between fiction and reality—of recognizing patterns and learning from them, and following the examples of heroes without repeating their mistakes—demonstrates why the spandex-clad heroes continue to endure to this day.

Hard hitting stories

The nature of anthologies, though, is a mixed bag—many authors working independently toward the same ends will produce inconsistent results. Some stories hit harder than others. Anthony Breznican talks about his wife's family, with a history of congenital heart problems and early deaths, and the healthy brother they called Iron Man, a magnetic force of positive energy separating the shrapnel from their hearts just as the arc reactor does for Tony Stark. Delilah S Dawson recalls summoning the indefatigable resilience of the Incredible Hulk as she survived an abusive household, a rape, and an attempted suicide. Alethea Kontis recounts a year in her life shaken by seven deaths and a nasty breakup, recognizing new post-traumatic behaviors of hers reflected in John Byrne's *Next Men* and struggling to maintain her sense of self in a way those heroes could not.

The deeply intimate nature of these stories—the ones of personal trauma and finding within fictional heroes the strength to carry on and overcome hardships—make the essays that surround them weaker by association. Four of the essays are about Batman and, with the exception of editor Liesa Mignogna's own penetrating contribution, they all amount to a grade schooler's logic of "Batman is cool because he doesn't have powers but he's rich and he fights wacky criminals anyway and isn't that neat?"

Scott Westerfeld's essay is more of a love letter to New York City than to Spider-Man. The contributions from Brad Meltzer, Jodi Picoult, and Neil Gaiman—the three named on the front cover—are republished from years ago and, as such, don't speak as directly to the theme as the original contributions. The lesser contributions aren't so much bad as they are comparatively unemotional. If there was any lesson to be learned from the recent *Batman V Superman and Captain America: Civil War*, it should be that a little bit of heart goes a long way in making a compelling story. The tales within *Last Night, A Superhero Saved My Life* that share that extra bit of heart stand out all the brighter, leaving the rest to fade into the background.— (www.avclub.com)

Word Search Puzzles

80's Songs 4 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------|
| BATDANCE | FAST CAR | NASTY |
| AMANDA | FUNKY TOWN | NIGHTSHIFT |
| BILLIE JEAN | HEARTLIGHT | ROCK ON |
| COME DANCING | HOLD ME | SLEDGEHAMMER |
| CONTROL | HUMAN | SMALL TOWN |
| DANGER ZONE | JESSE | VOICES CARRY |
| DESIRE | KISS | YOU ARE |
| FAITH | LUKA | |

Yesterday's Solution

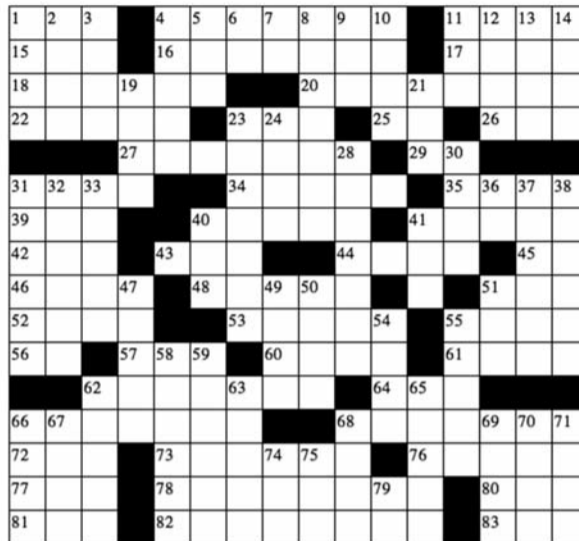
Large Print Word Search Puzzles

80's Songs 3 - Solution

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

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| AFRICA | HEAVEN | THE ROSE |
| AMERICA | INFATUATION | TIME |
| CALL ME | MANIC MONDAY | TRULY |
| DOWN UNDER | OUR HOUSE | TWO HEARTS |
| ENDLESS LOVE | PINK HOUSES | VACATION |
| FAME | SUKIYAKI | VALERIE |
| FREEDOM | SUSSUDIO | WHIP IT |
| GLORIA | THE LOOK | |

CROSSWORD 1280



ACROSS

- An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
- Seeming unaffected by pleasure or pain.
- Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
- Support resembling the rib of an animal.
- An ambitious and aspiring young person.
- An amino acid that is found in the central nervous system.
- Pertaining to or resembling amoebae.
- German publisher of a series of travel guidebooks (1801-1859).
- A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
- Unknown god.
- A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
- Type genus of the Lepismatidae.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- No longer having or seeming to have or expecting to have life.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- Distinctive and stylish elegance.
- (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
- A unit of force equal to the force that imparts an acceleration of 1 foot/sec/sec to a mass of 1 pound.
- A young woman making her debut into society.
- A small ball with a hole through the middle.
- (Greek mythology) A maiden seduced by Zeus.
- A collection of objects laid on top of each other.
- An extensive grassy and nearly treeless plain (especially in Latin America).
- An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and spaceflight.
- Put to use.
- A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
- A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
- The villain in William Shakespeare's tragedy who tricked Othello into murdering his wife.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- A loud harsh or strident noise.
- Leave someone who needs or counts on you.
- American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
- A public building for gambling and entertainment.
- A river in southeastern France.

- Adult female chicken.
- Not friendly.
- A resource.
- Mature female of mammals of which the male is called 'buck'.
- Meteorology of the total extent of the atmosphere.
- A zodiacal constellation in northern hemisphere between Cancer and Virgo.

DOWN

- (informal) Exceptionally good.
- Tall New Zealand timber tree.
- Norwegian mathematician (1802-1829).
- Form metals with a swage.
- Of a light yellowish-brown color n 1.
- In operation or operational.
- Not out.
- Alternatively, a member of the family Nymphaeaceae.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- Plant having a large slender white bulb and flat overlapping dark green leaves.
- How long something has existed.
- The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
- In bed.
- Not widely known.
- With no effort to conceal.
- A light touch or stroke.
- (of characters in literature or drama) Evoking empathic or sympathetic feelings.
- Employed in accomplishing something.
- A city and port in northern Jutland.
- (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- Make attractive or lovable.
- (Greek mythology) A Titan who was forced by Zeus to bear the sky on his shoulders.
- A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- (Judaism) A period of seven days of mourning after the death of close relative.
- Blatant or sensational promotion.
- Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
- (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
- An effortful attempt to attain a goal.
- A straight line through a body or figure that satisfies certain conditions.
- A less than average tide occurring at the first and third quarters of the moon.
- A periodic paperback publication.
- A member of a pastoral people living in the Nilgiri hills of southern India.
- English botanist who accompanied Captain Cook on his first voyage to the Pacific Ocean (1743-1820).
- Any of various spiny trees or shrubs of the genus Acacia.
- A non-aromatic saturated hydrocarbon with the general formula C_nH_(2n+2).
- Liquid excretory product.
- (Norse mythology) The chief race of gods living at Asgard.
- In a cold and icy manner.
- A spread made chiefly from vegetable oils and used as a substitute for butter.
- Tall palm tree bearing coconuts as fruits.
- (archaic or Scottish) Faithful and true.
- A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
- Make anew.
- The United Nations agency concerned with international maritime activities.
- A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

Yesterday's Solution

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



04:10 Guns Of The Magnificent Seven
05:55 Big Screen
06:10 The Hills Run Red
07:40 Billy Two Hats
09:20 The Great Escape
12:10 The Real Howard Spitz
13:55 Guns Of The Magnificent Seven
15:40 The Bank Shot
17:05 Impromptu
18:50 Hoosiers
20:45 Big Screen
21:00 Hair
23:00 The Manhattan Project
00:55 Intacto
02:45 Hair



03:25 Animal Cops South Africa
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
06:36 Call Of The Wildman
07:00 Call Of The Wildman
07:25 Cats 101
08:15 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Cats 101
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
13:45 Gator Boys
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Animal Cops South Africa
17:25 River Monsters
18:20 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Lion Man: One World African Safari
20:40 Lion Man: One World African Safari
21:05 Treehouse Masters
22:00 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 River Monsters
00:45 I'm Alive
01:40 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
02:35 Tanked



03:40 Dukes Of Hazzard
04:05 Storage Wars Canada
04:30 Property Wars
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:00 You Have Been Warned
06:50 The Carbonaro Effect
07:15 The Carbonaro Effect
07:40 What Happened Next?
08:05 What Happened Next?
08:30 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
09:20 Deadliest Job Interview
10:10 Dive Wars Australia
11:00 Free Ride
11:50 Marooned With Ed Stafford
12:40 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
13:30 Driving Wild
14:20 Diesel Brothers
15:10 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
16:00 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
16:50 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
17:40 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
18:30 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
19:20 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
20:10 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
21:00 Driving Wild
21:50 Diesel Brothers
22:40 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
23:30 Fire In The Hole
00:20 Inside The Gangsters' Code
01:10 Driving Wild
02:00 Diesel Brothers
02:50 Street Outlaws: New Orleans



03:00 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
08:05 Hungry Investors
08:55 Hungry Investors

09:45 Hungry Investors
12:15 Catch A Contractor
12:40 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
13:30 Catch A Contractor
13:55 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
14:45 Catch A Contractor
15:10 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
16:00 Catch A Contractor
16:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
17:25 Catch A Contractor
17:50 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
18:40 Catch A Contractor
19:03 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
19:27 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
19:50 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
20:13 Frankenfood
20:37 Frankenfood
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Hungry Investors
22:30 Catch A Contractor
23:00 Catch A Contractor
23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
00:00 Catch A Contractor
00:50 Hungry Investors
01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
02:05 Catch A Contractor
02:30 Catch A Contractor



03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Gravity Falls
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:40 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
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 Good Luck Charlie
11:00 Good Luck Charlie
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Jessie
12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Hank Zipzer
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 Liv And Maddie
14:50 Dog With A Blog
15:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:20 Gravity Falls
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:10 Violetta
17:00 Backstage
17:25 Cars
19:20 The 7D
19:30 Liv And Maddie
19:55 Liv And Maddie
20:20 Backstage
20:45 The Rescuers Down Under
22:05 Mouk

22:15 Mouk
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta



03:00 Untamed & Uncut
03:50 Ed Stafford: Naked And Marooned
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Morgan Freeman's Through The Wormhole
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Kids vs Film
07:25 Doki
07:50 Too Cute!
08:40 You Have Been Warned
09:30 How It's Made
09:55 How It's Made
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bondi Vet
12:00 Too Cute!
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Ed Stafford: Naked And Marooned
14:30 Dirty Jobs
15:20 Mythbusters

16:10 Kids vs Film
16:35 Doki
17:00 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
17:50 Superhuman Showdown
18:40 You Have Been Warned
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 How It's Made
20:45 How It's Made
21:10 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
22:00 Superhuman Showdown
22:50 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Morgan Freeman's Through The Wormhole
00:30 Mythbusters
01:20 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
02:10 Superhuman Showdown



03:00 Discovery ID
09:00 Discovery ID
15:00 Discovery ID
21:00 Discovery ID
Discovery ID Xtra
03:00 Murder Among Friends
03:48 Breaking Point
04:36 Deadly Affairs
05:24 California Investigator
05:49 California Investigator
06:12 Tabloid
07:00 Deadly Affairs
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
08:40 California Investigator
09:05 California Investigator
09:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
10:20 Tabloid
11:10 Southern Fried Homicide
12:00 Deadly Affairs
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:40 California Investigator
14:05 California Investigator
14:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
15:20 Tabloid
16:10 Murder Comes To Town
17:00 Deadly Affairs
17:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn
18:40 California Investigator
19:05 California Investigator
19:30 I Almost Got Away With It
20:20 Tabloid
21:10 Deadly Devotion
22:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
22:50 Forbidden: Dying For Love
23:40 Shadow Of Doubt
00:30 Breaking Point
01:20 Obsession: Dark Desires
02:10 Forbidden: Dying For Love



03:00 Mighty Ships
03:48 How The Universe Works
04:36 Mythbusters
05:24 Uncovering Aliens
06:12 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
07:00 Mythbusters
07:50 Food Factory USA
08:15 How It's Made
08:40 Mighty Ships
09:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
10:20 Uncovering Aliens
11:10 How The Universe Works
12:00 Mighty Ships
12:50 Mythbusters
13:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
14:30 Food Factory USA
14:55 How It's Made
15:20 Uncovering Aliens
16:10 Mighty Ships
17:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
17:50 How The Universe Works
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
21:10 How The Universe Works
22:00 How It's Made
22:25 How It's Made
22:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
23:40 Food Factory USA
00:05 Mythbusters
00:55 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
01:45 How It's Made
02:10 How It's Made
02:35 How It's Made
Discovery World
03:00 Discovery World
09:00 Discovery World
15:00 Discovery World
21:00 Discovery World



03:00 Discovery World
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Lolorock
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 H2O: Just Add Water
10:10 H2O: Just Add Water
10:35 I Didn't Do It
11:00 I Didn't Do It
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Jessie
12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Hank Zipzer
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:30 Liv And Maddie
14:55 Dog With A Blog
15:20 Dog With A Blog
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:10 Violetta
17:00 Backstage
17:25 Toy Story
18:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:55 The 7D
19:05 Evermoor Chronicles
19:30 Liv And Maddie
19:55 Liv And Maddie
20:20 Backstage
20:45 Cadet Kelly
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta



03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopdidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopdidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopdidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopdidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:45 PJ Masks
09:10 The Lion Guard
09:35 Doc McStuffins
10:00 Sofia The First
10:25 Unbungalievable
10:30 Goldie & Bear
11:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:25 The Lion Guard
11:50 Doc McStuffins
12:15 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
12:45 The Hive
12:55 Unbungalievable
13:00 Sofia The First
13:25 Doc McStuffins
13:50 Miles From Tomorrow
14:15 The Lion Guard
14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:10 Doc McStuffins



THE TRIP TO ITALY ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2016

- 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
- 19:25 Unbungalievable
- 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 Loopdidoo
- 00:05 Art Attack
- 00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:45 Calimero
- 01:00 Zou
- 01:15 Loopdidoo
- 01:30 Art Attack
- 02:05 Calimero
- 02:20 Zou
- 02:30 Loopdidoo
- 02:45 Art Attack



- 06:00 Boyster
- 06:10 Super Matrak
- 06:35 Super Matrak
- 07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 07:25 K.C. Undercover
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 Annedroids
- 08:40 Lab Rats
- 09:10 Kirby Buckets
- 09:35 Pokemon Series Xy: Kalos Quest
- 10:00 Rocket Monkeys
- 10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 10:50 Boyster
- 11:20 Boyster
- 11:45 Pair Of Kings
- 12:10 Pair Of Kings
- 12:35 Lab Rats
- 13:00 Lab Rats
- 13:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 13:55 Phineas And Ferb
- 14:20 Kickin' It
- 14:45 Kickin' It
- 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 15:15 Supa Strikas
- 15:40 Supa Strikas
- 16:05 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 16:30 Kirby Buckets
- 16:55 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 17:25 K.C. Undercover
- 17:50 Supa Strikas
- 18:15 Supa Strikas
- 18:40 K.C. Undercover
- 19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 19:10 Annedroids
- 19:35 Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister
- 20:00 Kirby Buckets
- 20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 20:55 K.C. Undercover
- 21:20 Pickle And Peanut
- 21:45 Lab Rats
- 22:10 Mighty Med
- 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am
- KSA



- 03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 04:00 Man Fire Food
- 04:30 Man Fire Food
- 05:00 Chopped
- 06:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 07:00 Man Fire Food
- 07:30 Man Fire Food
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 09:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 10:00 The Kitchen
- 11:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 11:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 12:00 Chopped
- 13:00 Grandma's Secret Cookbook
- 13:30 Grandma's Secret Cookbook Special



FAST & FURIOUS 7 ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Man Fire Food
- 15:30 Man Fire Food
- 16:00 Chopped
- 17:00 The Kitchen
- 18:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 18:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 19:00 Chopped
- 20:00 Iron Chef America
- 21:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 22:00 Chopped South Africa
- 23:00 Kitchen Casino
- 00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 01:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 02:00 Chopped South Africa
- H2 HD
- 03:40 Serial Killer Earth
- 04:30 The Universe
- 05:20 Ancient Aliens
- 06:10 Ancient Discoveries
- 07:00 Dogfights
- 08:00 Cities Of The Underworld
- 09:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
- 10:00 Serial Killer Earth
- 11:00 The Universe
- 12:00 Ancient Aliens
- 13:00 Dogfights
- 14:00 Cities Of The Underworld
- 15:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
- 16:00 Serial Killer Earth
- 17:00 The Universe
- 18:00 Ancient Aliens
- 19:00 Dogfights
- 20:00 Cities Of The Underworld
- 21:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
- 22:00 Decoding The Past
- 23:00 Brad Meltzer's Lost History
- 00:00 Ancient Aliens
- 01:00 Dogfights
- 02:00 Cities Of The Underworld
- 02:50 America: The Story Of The U.S.



- 03:25 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 04:20 Pick Me!
- 05:15 Pick Me!
- 06:10 Mr Selfridge
- 07:05 Catchphrase
- 07:35 James Nesbitt's Ireland
- 08:00 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 08:55 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 09:50 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 10:40 Pick Me!
- 11:35 Catchphrase
- 12:05 James Nesbitt's Ireland
- 12:30 Mr Selfridge
- 13:25 Emmerdale
- 13:50 Emmerdale
- 14:20 Coronation Street
- 14:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 15:35 Catchphrase



- 16:05 James Nesbitt's Ireland
- 16:30 Endeavour
- 18:20 Emmerdale
- 18:45 Emmerdale
- 19:10 Coronation Street
- 19:35 Catchphrase
- 20:05 James Nesbitt's Ireland
- 20:30 Endeavour
- 22:20 Coronation Street
- 22:50 Emmerdale
- 23:15 Emmerdale
- 23:40 Catchphrase
- 00:10 Catchphrase
- 01:05 James Nesbitt's Ireland
- 01:30 James Nesbitt's Ireland
- 02:00 Emmerdale
- 02:30 Emmerdale
- 02:55 Emmerdale

- 03:05 Lucky Chow
- 03:30 Places We Go
- 03:55 One Man & His Campervan
- 04:20 One Man & His Campervan
- 04:45 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 05:10 World's Best Chefs
- 05:35 World's Best Chefs
- 06:00 A Model Adventure
- 06:50 Cesar To The Rescue
- 07:40 Chefs Run Wild
- 08:05 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 08:30 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 08:55 Lucky Chow
- 09:20 Places We Go
- 09:45 One Man & His Campervan
- 10:10 One Man & His Campervan
- 10:35 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 11:00 World's Best Chefs
- 11:25 World's Best Chefs
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- 17:40 World's Best Chefs
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- 19:05 Lucky Chow
- 19:30 Places We Go
- 20:00 One Man & His Campervan
- 20:25 One Man & His Campervan
- 20:50 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 21:15 World's Best Chefs
- 21:40 World's Best Chefs
- 22:05 A Model Adventure
- 22:55 Cesar To The Rescue
- 23:45 Chefs Run Wild

- 00:10 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 00:35 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 01:00 Glamour Puds
- 01:25 Home Strange Home
- 02:15 Meat v Veg
- 02:40 American Food Battle



- 03:45 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
- 04:40 1000 Days For The Planet
- 05:35 Ultimate Predators GPU
- 06:30 Animals Gone Wild
- 07:25 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
- 08:20 1000 Days For The Planet
- 09:15 Japan's Wild Year
- 10:10 Revenge Of The Lioness
- 11:05 Blood Rivals: Hippo V. Lion
- 12:00 Shark Men
- 12:55 Ultimate Predators GPU
- 13:50 Animals Gone Wild
- 14:45 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
- 15:40 1000 Days For The Planet
- 16:35 World's Deadliest Snakes
- 17:30 Legends Of Lemur Island
- 18:25 Africa's Blood River
- 19:20 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
- 20:10 1000 Days For The Planet
- 21:00 World's Deadliest Snakes
- 21:50 Legends Of Lemur Island
- 22:40 Africa's Blood River
- 23:30 Shark Men
- 00:20 Ultimate Predators GPU
- 01:10 Animals Gone Wild
- 02:00 Dangerous Encounters
- 02:50 Super Predators
- National Geo HD
- 03:50 Nazi Megastructures
- 04:45 X: The Generation That Changed The World
- 05:40 Science Of Stupid
- 06:05 Science Of Stupid
- 06:35 Somewhere In China
- 07:30 True Tube
- 08:25 Wicked Tuna
- 09:20 X: The Generation That Changed The World

- 10:15 Locked Up Abroad
- 11:10 Desperate Hours
- 11:35 Desperate Hours
- 12:05 Inside
- 13:00 Wicked Tuna
- 14:00 Test Your Brain
- 15:00 Kung Fu Motion
- 16:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 17:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
- 18:00 Dirty Rotten Survival
- 19:00 Kung Fu Motion
- 20:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 20:50 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
- 21:40 Dirty Rotten Survival
- 22:30 Kung Fu Motion
- 23:20 Science Of Stupid
- 23:45 Science Of Stupid

- 00:10 Locked Up Abroad
- 01:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
- 02:00 Dirty Rotten Survival
- 02:55 Nazi Megastructures



- 03:40 American Restoration
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Grave Trade
- 06:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 06:50 Inside Alcatraz: Legends Of The Rock
- 07:40 Battle 360
- 08:30 American Restoration
- 08:55 Mountain Men
- 09:45 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
- 10:35 Swamp People
- 11:25 American Restoration
- 12:15 Counting Cars
- 12:40 Counting Cars
- 13:05 American Pickers
- 13:55 Grave Trade
- 14:45 Inside Alcatraz: Legends Of The Rock
- 15:35 Battle 360
- 16:25 Counting Cars
- 16:50 Shark Wranglers
- 17:40 Down East Dickering
- 18:30 Duck Dynasty
- 18:55 Duck Dynasty
- 19:20 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
- 20:10 Swamp People
- 21:00 Storage Wars Miami
- 21:25 Storage Wars
- 21:50 Criss Angel: Mindfreak
- 22:40 Battle 360
- 23:30 Forged In Fire
- 00:20 Grave Trade
- 01:10 Counting Cars
- 01:35 Counting Cars
- 02:00 American Pickers
- 02:50 Down East Dickering



- 03:00 Odyssey
- 04:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 07:00 Chicago Fire
- 08:00 Prison Break
- 09:00 Royal Pains
- 10:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 11:00 Chicago Fire
- 12:00 Prison Break
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 The Night Shift
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Prison Break
- 19:00 Royal Pains
- 20:00 Shark Tank
- 21:00 The Night Shift

- 22:00 Downton Abbey
- 23:00 Sleepy Hollow
- 00:00 Chicago Fire
- 01:00 The Night Shift
- 02:00 Downton Abbey



- 04:00 The Trip To Italy
- 06:00 Dunston Checks In
- 08:00 My Girl 2
- 10:00 The Trip To Italy
- 12:00 Dunston Checks In
- 14:00 Three Men And A Little Lady
- 16:00 My Girl 2
- 18:00 My Father The Hero
- 20:00 Deliver Us From Eva
- 22:00 500 Days Of Summer
- 00:00 Three Men And A Little Lady
- 02:00 Deliver Us From Eva



- 03:00 College Road Trip
- 05:00 Postman Pat: The Movie
- 07:00 Big Miracle
- 09:00 Alice In Wonderland
- 11:00 Dinosaur Island
- 13:00 Pocahontas
- 15:00 Monsters Inc
- 17:00 Freaky Friday
- 19:00 Earth To Echo
- 21:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest
- 23:30 Monsters Inc
- 01:30 Earth To Echo



- 03:15 Taken 3
- 05:15 The Transporter: Refueled
- 07:00 Bears
- 09:00 How To Train Your Dragon 2
- 11:00 Penguins Of Madagascar
- 13:00 Big Game
- 14:45 Fast & Furious 7
- 17:00 Hot Pursuit
- 19:00 Big Eyes
- 21:00 Madoff Part 1
- 22:30 Madoff Part 2
- 00:00 Kingsman: The Secret Service
- 02:15 Big Game



- 03:15 Shanghai
- 05:00 Hard Cash
- 06:45 Love And Other Impossible Pursuits
- 08:30 Staten Island
- 10:15 Hanna
- 12:30 Kinky Boots
- 14:30 Another Year
- 16:45 The Last Shot
- 18:15 Nearing Grace
- 20:00 Gone In Sixty Seconds
- 22:00 Krazy And Leopold
- 00:00 Cate On The Outside



- 03:00 Private Practice
- 04:00 Da Vinci's Demons
- 05:00 Happy Endings
- 05:30 Happy Endings
- 06:00 The Simpsons
- 06:30 The Simpsons
- 07:00 Switched At Birth
- 08:00 Lost
- 09:00 Lost
- 10:00 Private Practice
- 11:00 Private Practice
- 12:00 Da Vinci's Demons
- 13:00 Happy Endings
- 13:30 Happy Endings
- 14:00 The Simpsons
- 14:30 The Simpsons
- 15:00 Switched At Birth
- 16:00 Lost
- 17:00 Melissa & Joey
- 17:30 Cougar Town
- 18:00 Desperate Housewives
- 19:00 Desperate Housewives
- 20:00 Fit For Fashion
- 21:00 Melissa & Joey
- 21:30 Cougar Town
- 22:00 Lost
- 23:00 Lost
- 00:00 Private Practice
- 01:00 Da Vinci's Demons



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You could be taking the initiative today, but you will benefit best by letting others take the lead, especially if you have been experiencing a lot of overtime in the workplace. A few unfinished issues may gain your attention but you will be able to close them out successfully. Creativity and its expression are very important for your mental health and this is the day to enjoy creative expression-yours or others'. There will be some discussion today about ways in which to earn extra money. This could be a prosperous adventure. You may think about a few new ideas that will fit in with the unusual environment that you enjoy creating. Later today you may enjoy some group sports involvement or perhaps, working with children or animals.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your mind is ever on communication, how you present yourself and how you come across with others. You feel confident and outgoing today. You could be teaching or helping others make choices about their future goals. Finding any difficulties today may call on your ability to agree to disagree. You are the eternal patron of just about anyone who will let you look after them-the original mother hen. You need to feel useful and wanted and are happy to be involved in family activities. You will become active and involved in many different activities surrounding the needs of others. There are opportunities to visit with an older member of your family or an elderly friend today. If you have them, take some fresh cut flowers for them to enjoy.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your mind is naturally interested in all that is under the surface of conversations or body language. Ideas of self-sacrifice and compassion and how to serve and help others are what you tend to think about now. You have an innate urge to save and salvage. You always want to help and to be of service-be fully used. You hate waste and are very thorough. You are careful and sometimes a perfectionist. You are driven to send down roots, dig in and find the limits of whatever you are involved in today. This urge to be secure always pushes you to get to the foundation of things. You are motivated when it comes to home and family. You may enjoy some outdoor play... Golf, softball, working on cars, etc.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You have an ability and opportunity to be particularly artistic today. This could involve cooking, art, redecorating, gardening, meditation, music, etc. Your enthusiasm for mystical and religious experiences could make you an excellent teacher. You are also, no doubt, a romantic. You are at home in the world of dreams and images. Story writing or ghost writing may be an avenue for you to explore; you have talent. You build upon your sense of feeling secure as you develop the steady domestic virtues: routine work, regular growth and commitments. A love relationship could be strained this evening-agree to disagree. You are an idealist when it comes to partners and relationships, always holding out for what your imagination tells you it could be.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You enjoy tradition and find all that is historic to be very romantic. The ideal world of yesteryear seems to beckon and call. You are most imaginative when it comes to anything spiritual, or psychological-pertaining to the psyche. Others may find you entrancing and always able to draw them into your world of images and dreams. No one has any doubt that you are a high floater-a full-blown dreamer, complete with built-in psychic abilities and probably given to visions. This is a day of communication. You have a love affair going with the mind and you value its entire offspring: words, ideas, thoughts, etc. You love to talk. In particular, you appreciate good conversations. Fun and lively interactions with family members are possible all day.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You can expect some sort of major reevaluation of your likes and dislikes, how and what you enjoy or appreciate about yourself and life: your value system. You may find that your appreciation for the quality of everything is stronger; it is reappraisal time. Things you say mean a lot-especially today. You have a great mental drive and lavish great energy on mental pursuits of all kinds. Ideas, words, books, etc., are pursued with great gusto. Friends may keep you busy all afternoon-all of this should go rather smoothly, however. You are understanding and sensitive to the needs of others and are in a good position to use your communication skills. A visitor may compliment you on your tastes.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You have a high degree of motivation when it comes to giving and to personal sacrifice. You feel understanding and accepting and are easily moved by the problems of others. Psychology in all of its forms is a driving force in your day. Your feelings are always out front and entirely natural. You exhibit your expertise in matters of the heart. Children, animals and all creative work get top billing. You are very competitive-even pushy-when it comes to partners and other people. You have a great social drive and love to work in a group or with close friends. You may involve yourself with some heavy-duty action, motion sports, physicality, sex and the like. You have a good understanding of those around you and make some special time with someone you love.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You are most original when concentrating on areas of home and family. You are not always a private person but you may find the pomp and circumstance of public life repressive and boring for now. You are determined to pick up an old hobby and may decide to include an interested member of the family in your fun. This could be fishing, building a useful object or walking along the beach in search of exciting things. The opportunity to interact with others is available and provides an opening to discuss recently read books, articles or just talk of things to come. Whatever choice you make for your activities today, you will be refreshed from the experience. Tonight, you could concentrate more on preparations for a work conference.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Your mind is ever on communication, how you present yourself and information. Everything seems to work out for you when you are talking with others. You find it easy to say what you mean, even to people that do not speak your language. When it comes to teaching or coaching others, you are a natural, always able to motivate and inspire others. Personal achievement is exciting and you may find that you enjoy tutoring others in survival techniques. Perhaps you are good at identifying plants and starting a campfire. Your love of the spiritual and the eternal is clear to all who meet you. You love to solve the problems of the world, at least in words and images, and when you speak, all are enchanted. Lovers walk among the stars tonight.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A person or article comes to your attention and the information clears up a puzzling question from the past. You may find yourself analyzing and psychoanalyzing. You have no trouble putting your feelings into words; in fact, you may have to exercise some control over your tongue, for you may be quick to say things and everything you speak today packs a wallop. Letting go of things you cannot control, moves you forward. You have a great mental drive and lavish great energy on mental pursuits of all kinds. Young people will enjoy your guidance today, perhaps in a neighborhood party setting this afternoon. You are at your most elegant in social situations now. Ideas, words, books, etc., can be pursued with great gusto.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You can get to the heart of what is really happening today. You have great political power when it comes to other people and finances. You tend to attract and enjoy problem-solving situations, whether they are in board games, mathematical equations or disputes. Good results do not ignore signals that indicate a need for change, transformation and vulnerability in general. Know your subject and choose your words. Easy does it-ask for and listen to other people's opinions about what is needed to initiate a positive change. Think on these suggestions before making any firm decisions by yourself-you will be successful. Acceptance and faith may come into focus. Beautiful music fills the soft summer breezes this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your personal and business goals are the most active parts of your personality. These are the subconscious forces and influences you may be feeling now. There could be an opportunity to assemble with many different personalities today and for the next few days. A variety of subjects could have you feeling that your time with these people is a time well spent. You have a talent of guiding others through the hurdles of life and today you are learning new perspectives. This afternoon you will enjoy becoming satiated with music, art or physical activity. This will also help you to regain or boost your energies. Gossip may creep into your evening but it is best to navigate away from this waste of time. Bonding with family can be experienced this evening.

COUNTRY CODES

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

WEST AFRICA MARKS END OF RECENT EBOLA OUTBREAK

LIBERIA PASSES WHO THRESHOLD OF 42 DAYS

MONROVIA: Liberia said yesterday it was free of Ebola, meaning there are now no known cases of the deadly tropical virus left in west Africa following an outbreak that began in neighboring Guinea in December 2013. Liberia was the country worst hit with more than 4,800 Liberians killed by the virus, and was awaiting the all-clear following the discharge of its last known patients in May.

"Liberia is again free of Ebola. We have just ended the incubation period following the last case," Sorbor George, chief of communication at the ministry, told AFP. The west African nation has now passed the World Health Organization (WHO) threshold of 42 days-twice the incubation period for the virus-since the last known patient tested negative for the second time.

"WHO commends Liberia's government and people on their effective response to this recent re-emergence of Ebola," said WHO Representative in Liberia Alex Gasasira in a statement. "WHO will continue to support Liberia in its effort to prevent, detect and respond to suspected cases," Gasasira added. The country now enters a 90-day period of heightened surveillance for any new cases.

At its peak in 2014, Ebola sparked anxiety about a possible global pandemic and led some governments to threaten or unilaterally enforce travel bans to and from the worst-affected countries-Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. The World Health Organization declared an end to Ebola cases in Guinea on June 1 and Sierra Leone on March 17. However, previous declarations announcing the end of Ebola flare-ups in West Africa have been followed by new cases-the virus has re-emerged three times in Liberia.

Health authorities were monitoring for new cases after a woman died of Ebola in the capital of Monrovia on March 31 after arriving from Guinea. Two of her three children, aged five and two, subsequently tested positive for the virus. In all, the virus affected 10 countries, including the United States and Spain, with more than 28,000 cases reported.

Vigilance

The Liberian health ministry called on people to remain vigilant in order to avoid another outbreak in the future. "We have been carrying on a sensitization campaign. This campaign will continue, and we will still be in readiness to contain any eventual outbreak," George said. The risk of infection lasts beyond the 42-day period because the virus can survive in certain bodily fluids of survivors, particularly sperm, where it can linger up to a year, according to experts.

In Paynesville, the Monrovia suburb where the most recent spate of cases were registered, residents were glad to be moving on. "It is good to hear that Ebola is gone again, but from what we saw recently we remain resilient in our preventive measures. We don't want our neighborhoods' name to be attached to the outbreak," said Bubakar Sanor, 56. "We are happy that our health workers are now up to the task, containing the virus with bravery and professionalism," he told AFP.

"We have an effective tool," he said of Prozac. "There is also a risk of not prescribing drugs to patients who really need them," he said. Major depression affects about 3 percent of children aged six to 12 years and about 6 percent of teenagers aged 13 to 18. Doctors have sometimes been wary of prescribing antidepressants for young patients because some medications can be harmful to their developing brains. —AP

STUDY: MOST ANTIDEPRESSANTS DON'T WORK FOR YOUNG PATIENTS

LONDON: Scientists say most antidepressants don't work for children or teenagers with major depression, some may be unsafe, and the quality of evidence about these drugs is so bad the researchers cannot be sure if any are truly effective or safe. In the biggest analysis yet conducted of previously published studies, researchers studied 14 antidepressants and found only one drug that seemed to be useful.

"We now have a hierarchy of pharmaceutical treatments and the only one that is better than placebo and other drugs is Prozac," said Dr Andrea Cipriani of the University of Oxford, one of the study authors. He said psychological treatment such as behavioral therapy should be tried before prescribing drugs, echoing the recommendations of some current guidelines. Cipriani and colleagues analyzed 34 drug trials that included more than 5,000 patients. Of those, 22 studies were paid for by pharmaceutical companies. The scientists called the quality of the evidence in the research they studied "very low" - so low that they said their findings weren't enough to change how patients are treated. The authors cautioned that their results were based on flawed trials and that they couldn't figure out whether or not the drugs were truly effective or gauge the impact of serious side effects. Still, the review was enough to call into question the vast majority of medications used to treat young people with depression.

"There is little reason to think that any antidepressant is better than nothing for young people," wrote Jon Jureidini of the University of Adelaide in Australia in an accompanying commentary. Among findings on individual drugs, the researchers found that Sensoval was less effective than seven other antidepressants and a placebo and that Tofranil, Effexor and Cymbalta led to the worst side effects. When compared to five other drugs and a placebo, Effexor was linked to a risk of increased suicide attempts and suicidal thoughts. The new study was published online Wednesday in the journal Lancet. Even with all of the limitations the authors highlight in the study, Cipriani said doctors shouldn't shy away from prescribing antidepressants if children need them.

"We have an effective tool," he said of Prozac. "There is also a risk of not prescribing drugs to patients who really need them," he said. Major depression affects about 3 percent of children aged six to 12 years and about 6 percent of teenagers aged 13 to 18. Doctors have sometimes been wary of prescribing antidepressants for young patients because some medications can be harmful to their developing brains. —AP



LIBERIA: This file photo shows a man walking past an Ebola campaign banner with the new slogan "Ebola Must GO" in Monrovia. —AFP

CLINIC
PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

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



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (09/06/2016 TO 15/06/2016)

SHARQIA-1 TE3N (Hindi) WARCRAFT	9:30 PM 12:15 AM	AVENUES-9 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE HASAN WA BOQLOZ	10:30 PM 12:30 AM
SHARQIA-2 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE HASAN WA BOQLOZ	9:30 PM 11:45 PM	AVENUES-10 Ely Ektashou Matou UN HOMME A LA HAUTEUR	9:45 PM 12:05 AM
SHARQIA-3 THE ASIAN CONNECTION THE ASIAN CONNECTION	10:00 PM 12:05 AM	AVENUES-11 WARCRAFT (Atmos 2D) WARCRAFT (Atmos 2D)	10:00 PM 12:30 AM
MUHALAB-1 TE3N (Hindi) Hepta	9:45 PM 12:30 AM	360° 1 CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR NO THU GO WITH ME NO THU	9:30 PM 12:30 AM
MUHALAB-2 THE ASIAN CONNECTION THE ASIAN CONNECTION	10:15 PM 12:15 AM	360° 2 THE CODE OF CAIN NO WED PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND NO WED	10:00 PM 12:15 AM
MUHALAB-3 THE JUNGLE BOOK WARCRAFT	9:30 PM 11:45 PM	360° 3 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE HASAN WA BOQLOZ	9:45 PM 11:45 PM
FANAR-1 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE X-MEN: Apocalypse	9:30 PM 11:45 PM	360° 4 UN HOMME A LA HAUTEUR UN HOMME A LA HAUTEUR	10:45 PM 12:45 AM
FANAR-2 THE JUNGLE BOOK Hepta	9:45 PM 12:05 AM	AL-KOUT.1 WARCRAFT WARCRAFT	9:30 PM 12:05 AM
FANAR-3 TE3N (Hindi) THE ASIAN CONNECTION	10:00 PM 1:00 AM	AL-KOUT.2 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE GO WITH ME	10:00 PM 12:15 AM
FANAR-4 HASAN WA BOQLOZ WARCRAFT	9:45 PM 11:45 PM	AL-KOUT.3 THE ASIAN CONNECTION THE ASIAN CONNECTION	10:30 PM 12:30 AM
FANAR-5 HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi) THE ASIAN CONNECTION	9:30 PM 12:15 AM	AL-KOUT.4 Hepta X-MEN: Apocalypse	9:45 PM 12:05 AM
MARINA-1 THE ASIAN CONNECTION UN HOMME A LA HAUTEUR	10:00 PM 12:05 AM	BAIRAQ-1 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE NO MON WARCRAFT NO MON	9:30 PM 11:45 PM
MARINA-2 WARCRAFT CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	9:30 PM 12:05 AM	BAIRAQ-2 THE JUNGLE BOOK NO TUE Hepta	10:00 PM 12:15 AM
MARINA-3 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE Hepta	9:45 PM 12:15 AM	BAIRAQ-3 TE3N (Hindi) THE JUNGLE BOOK	9:45 PM 12:30 AM
AVENUES-1 PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND THE CODE OF CAIN	10:00 PM 12:15 AM	PLAZA IRAIVI (Tamil) THU+FRI+MON TE3N (Hindi) SAT+SUN+TUE+WED THE ASIAN CONNECTION	9:30 PM 9:30 PM 12:30 AM
AVENUES-3 THE JUNGLE BOOK TE3N (Hindi)	9:30 PM 11:45 PM	LAILA THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE WARCRAFT	9:45 PM 12:05 AM
AVENUES-4 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ASIAN CONNECTION	10:00 PM 12:05 AM	AJIAL.1 IRAIVI (Tamil) THE ASIAN CONNECTION	9:45 PM 12:45 AM
AVENUES-5 WARCRAFT WARCRAFT	9:45 PM 12:15 AM	AJIAL.2 JACOBINTE SWARGARAJYAM (Malayalam) A Aa (Telugu) WARCRAFT	9:30 PM 9:30 PM 12:30 AM
AVENUES-6 Hepta CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	9:30 PM 12:05 AM		
AVENUES-7 THE ASIAN CONNECTION THE ASIAN CONNECTION	9:45 PM 11:45 PM		
AVENUES-8 TE3N (Hindi) GO WITH ME	10:00 PM 12:45 AM		

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I, Kotakonda Manohar (Passport No: Z3017614) S/o Kotakonda Ramachandra, age 33 years, R/o bearing K Vaddipalli, Obulavaripalli, Kadapa Dist, AP, India, is here by declare that with my free consent I have embraced Islam on 14-3-2016 at state of Kuwait and I have adopted my name as Shaikh Umar Farooq. (C 5182)

I, Devarapalli Narasimha Sasindhar (Passport No J7195771) s/o Devarapalli Narasimhulu, age 29 years, r/o bearing Kondur H.W, Pengalur, Kadapa Dist, AP, India, is hereby declare that with my free consent. I have embraced Islam on 20-4-2016 at state of Kuwait and I have adopted my name as Shaikh Muhammad. (C 5182)

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Hospitals

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

Clinics

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

Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2016

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The US Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) Bryan Mound storage facility located in Brazoria County.

US HOPES TO FLEX ENERGY MUSCLE

OBAMA GOVT PLANS TO OVERHAUL STRATEGIC OIL RESERVE

FREEMONT, Texas: The United States boasts the world's largest stash of emergency oil supplies, yet the country's ability to influence global crude markets with releases from that reserve has waned.

The Obama administration hopes to fix that problem with an overhaul of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, or SPR, and details about its plans should be revealed in coming weeks. The Energy Department is expected to send Congress a report detailing a proposal to modernize the SPR, a string of crude-filled underground salt caverns guarded by sharpshooters in four remote locations on the coasts of Texas and Louisiana. The system holds 695 million barrels, or what the entire country uses in about five weeks.

The North American oil boom, in which US crude output has risen to more than 9.4 million barrels per day in 2015 from more than 5 million bpd in 2008, has reshaped the domestic oil market and crimped the ability of the SPR to make speedy releases. Many pipelines that once pushed SPR oil north to refineries, such as the Seaway Pipeline linking the Gulf Coast to Oklahoma, have been reversed to send oil produced in Canada and North Dakota south to be processed.

A 2014 test sale of 5 million barrels of SPR oil showed officials that the pipeline changes and

aging infrastructure have reduced the SPR's ability to speed oil to market at its design rate of 4.4 million barrels per day. Problems sending oil from the SPR were also revealed during its last major release in 2011, when the United States sold 30 million barrels amid supply disruption in Libya during its civil war. Henry Kissinger pushed for the creation of the SPR in 1975, when he was secretary of state, after the Arab oil embargo caused gasoline price spikes and harmed the economy. Since then upkeep has not been a priority.

"Maintenance has been deferred for so long it has gone from low priority to high priority," said Kevin Book, energy policy analyst at ClearView Energy Partners in Washington. "The failure to maintain the SPR would be an abandonment of its role as a crucial national security asset."

At least eight of the SPR's more than 60 caverns, created by injecting water into salt formations and pumping out the dissolved remains, have changed shape with the weight of the crude over time and should be fixed, said John Shages, who ran the SPR during the administrations of George W. Bush and Bill Clinton. President Barack Obama, who wrote Congress in April that SPR infrastructure is "at the end of its design life," wants to sell more than \$375 million worth of SPR oil, or about 7.3 million barrels at today's prices, in fiscal 2017, which starts in

October, to fund the overhaul. It would be the first of a series of such sales, laid out late last year in a spending bill passed by Congress totaling \$2 billion by the end of fiscal 2020.

It remains to be seen exactly how the Obama administration will approach the overhaul, and the next president, after she or he takes over in January, may have different ideas. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz has indicated one priority, since pipelines are clogged, is to build additional terminals and docks at the SPR so more ships can move oil. SPR oil could be shipped faster to the East Coast, or abroad for the first time after Congress last year ended a 40-year ban on US crude exports.

Another option the Department of Energy has studied is creating more oil product reserves that are closer to consumers such as the East Coast gasoline reserve created after 2012's Superstorm Sandy caused local shortages. The Southeast and California could benefit from such reserves, but storing gasoline is pricier than stashing crude, potentially boosting the SPR's annual \$200 million cost.

And some of the misshapen caverns could be shut permanently, Shages said, since Congress has authorized other SPR sales from 2018 to 2025 that could eventually reduce crude stored at the SPR by more than 20 percent.

MARKET INTERVENTION?

Moniz has been optimistic about the ability of the reserve to prevent potential price spikes from harming the US economy. He said at an energy conference last year that the SPR could be used in an "anticipatory" way to head off such spikes faster.

Others are not so sure. "It's not necessarily clear that we want to unleash a new realm of government intervention in oil markets, which could potentially then lead to a whole other series of regulations on when it happens and how it happens," said Carlos Pascual, who was Obama's top energy diplomat until 2014 and is now vice president for global energy issues at research provider IHS. Still, a more nimble SPR, even if it holds less crude in coming years, could help the US maintain alliances with Europe and other regions in a risky world where potential oil disruptions in Nigeria, Venezuela and the Middle East threaten markets.

Amy Myers Jaffe, director of the energy and sustainability program at the University of California, Davis, said an advantage of an overhaul would be helping allies deal with potential shortages. "It's an important arsenal in our strategic foreign policy that's non-military," she said. "If we are not willing to help our allies, why the hell would they help us?" — Reuters

EGYPT'S CORE INFLATION JUMPS TO 12.23%

CAIRO: Egypt's urban consumer inflation jumped for a second month in May, the statistics agency said yesterday, adding pressure on the central bank to hike interest rates at its monetary policy meeting on June 16. Annual urban consumer price inflation jumped to 12.3 percent in May from 10.3 percent in April, the official statistics agency CAPMAS said yesterday.

Food prices normally spike during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan because of heavy consumption following the dawn to dusk fasting period. Ramadan started on June 6. Egypt's core inflation, which excludes items such as fruit and vegetables as their prices fluctuate widely, also jumped to 12.23 percent year on year in May, up from 9.51 percent in April, the central bank said yesterday. Egypt has been struggling since a 2011 uprising drove away tourists and foreign investors, putting pressure on foreign reserves which

halved to \$17.5 billion in May. The central bank devalued the pound in March by around 13 percent, and then hiked interest rates a few days later by 150 basis points at its MPC meeting on March 17 to curb inflationary pressures. It is due to meet again on June 16. "Food prices had increased significantly in May, in the lead up to Ramadan when consumption increases," said Reham El Desoki, economist at Arqaam Securities.

President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi is under increasing pressure to revive the economy and keep prices under control to avoid any backlash from the public whose rallying cries in the 2011 revolution included "bread, freedom and social justice". The government said late last year it would control the prices of 10 essential commodities to help restrain inflation with the country short of foreign hard currency. Price movement subsequently eased but surged back again after the pound was devalued in March. Army

trucks have distributed cheap food and Sisi has promised to protect the poorest in a society where tens of millions rely on subsidies. Some analysts expect the central bank to hike rates on Thursday to control growing inflationary pressures. "We expect annual headline inflation will remain high in the coming months, possibly registering 14-15 percent in the remainder of the year," El Desoki said, forecasting an interest rate hike of 50 basis points yesterday. At its last MPC meeting on April 28, the central bank kept benchmark interest rates unchanged, balancing inflationary pressures with the need to stimulate the economy.

CIB drops plan

Egypt's Commercial International Bank (CIB) has dropped plans to sell its investment bank CI Capital to Beltone Financial after failing to win regulatory approval, sources told Reuters yesterday. In February

CIB signed a deal to sell CI Capital to Beltone, a unit of billionaire Naguib Sawiris's Orascom Telecom Media and Technology Holding, for 924 million Egyptian pounds (\$104 million).

Naguib Sawiris said at the time he planned to merge CI Capital with Beltone Financial, which OTMT bought last year, to create one of Egypt's largest investment firms. But the deal has hit a series of delays. The Egyptian Financial Supervisory Authority said in April that the acquisition was delayed pending the resolution of a court case and other issues.

Sawiris's bid for CI Capital was also challenged in February when a unit of the state-owned National Bank of Egypt made a counter offer. It later withdrew. Sawiris said in March the deal was being held up by national security concerns and criticised the state for meddling in business, saying this would discourage investors. — Reuters



PITTSBURGH: Alice Price, educational outreach specialist for adult and graduate studies at Geneva College, speaks with a visitor to her table at a job fair in Pittsburgh. Yesterday, the Labor Department reports on the number of people who applied for unemployment benefits a week earlier. — AP

FEWER AMERICANS APPLIED FOR JOBLESS BENEFITS LAST WEEK

WASHINGTON: Fewer Americans sought unemployment benefits last week, a sign that employers are hanging on to workers despite a sluggish economy.

THE NUMBERS: The Labor Department said yesterday that weekly applications for unemployment aid fell by 4,000 to a seasonally adjusted 264,000. The less volatile four-week average dropped by 7,500 to 269,500. Weekly jobless claims have come in below the historically low level of 300,000 for 66 straight weeks, the longest such streak since 1973.

The total number of people collecting unemployment benefits slipped below 2.1 million last week to the lowest level since 2000; it's down 7.5 percent from a year ago.

THE TAKEAWAY: Applications for unemployment aid are a proxy for layoffs, so the jobless claims figures suggest employees are enjoying job security despite a recent slowdown in hiring.

KEY DRIVERS: Just because employers aren't cutting jobs doesn't mean they are hiring. U.S. employers added just 116,000 jobs a month from March to May, making it the weakest three months of hiring since mid-2012.

The Labor Department reported Wednesday that employers advertised the most job openings in nine months but were reluctant to fill them. The hiring slowdown reflects a sluggish economy. US growth came in at an annual rate of 1.4 percent from October through December and 0.8 percent from January through March. A strong dollar has hurt American exporters by making their products more expensive overseas. And low oil and natural gas prices have caused energy companies to slash investment. "These data appear comforting in the light of the slowing in payrolls," Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, wrote in a research note. "But claims often are a not a reliable guide to employment in the early stage of a downturn, because the first thing firms do when demand falters is slow the pace of hiring, rather than start firing." — AP

EU TO RULE ON RUSSIAN ACCESS TO NORD STREAM GAS PIPELINE

2009 EU RULES CAP GAZPROM'S USE OF OPAL LINK AT 50%

BRUSSELS/MOSCOW: Brussels is expected to rule next month on whether to allow Russia to pump more gas via its Nord Stream pipeline's gas link to Germany, risking fresh discord between member states over energy dependence on Russia, EU and Gazprom sources said.

Full access to Opal, which provides a land link between Russia's Nord Stream pipeline to Germany and the Czech Republic, is crucial to Gazprom's plan to double capacity of the undersea pipeline in a project known as Nord Stream 2. The expansion would see more Russian gas bypass Ukraine - a move seen depriving Kiev of transit fees as the route for more than half of Russian gas supplies to Europe.

The Nord Stream 2 project is one of the toughest issues on the table as European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker plans to meet President Vladimir Putin next week. Germany's Energy Regulator Bundesnetzagentur said it has struck a deal with the Russian state energy company to bypass EU anti-monopoly rules capping Gazprom's use at half of the Opal pipeline capacity. The gas giant declined to comment.

Because Gazprom is also part-owner of the pipeline, it is regulated by a 2009 EU law, known as the Third Energy Package, that seeks to prevent energy suppliers from dominating infrastructure. Gazprom has long fought an EU decision requiring it to auction gas in order to gain greater access to the pipeline, but talks on reaching a settlement collapsed in 2014 after Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region. Germany's support for Nord Stream 2, which would see most Russian gas exports pumped directly to its shores, has pitted it against eastern European nations.

Poland, Slovakia and other EU members states say the project strips Ukraine of transit fees and increases dependence on Gazprom, which supplies around one third of EU gas.

The Nord Stream 2 consortium,

including E.ON, Wintershall, Shell, OMV and Engie, says the project is purely commercial. The EU executive has the final word on Germany's settlement with Gazprom on access to Opal. A European Commission spokeswoman said it was notified on May 13 by the Bundesnetzagentur. "The internal procedures for the Commission decision concerning Opal have now started again," the spokeswoman said.

Under EU rules, the executive has two months to assess the draft decision,

but it has repeatedly prolonged previous deliberations. A positive ruling on Opal would help Gazprom build Nord Stream 2, which has not received EU regulatory approval. "It would be a sign of thaw in relations between the company and the European consumers," said Andrey Polishchuk, analyst in Raiffeisenbank in Moscow. It would also lower the cost of shipping gas across the Baltic Sea route by some 25 percent, Mikhail Korchemkin of East European Gas Analysis said. — Reuters

OIL PRICES FALL ON PROFIT TAKING

LONDON: Oil prices fell yesterday as traders took profits after three sessions of gains, though prices remained close to their highest this year thanks to a fall in US crude inventories and supply disruptions. International Brent crude oil futures traded 46 cents a barrel lower at \$52.05 a barrel at 1132 GMT, after setting a 2016 high of \$52.86 a barrel earlier in the session. US crude fell by 34 cents a barrel to \$50.89 after also hitting a new 2016 high at \$51.67.

A rebounding US dollar also weighed on prices. "If you look at the week behind us ... there was support for commodities from the currency side, the equity side, and the emerging markets side," chief commodity analyst at SEB Bjarne Schieldrop said.

"We see some reverse of that now," he added. A fall in the dollar against a basket of currencies to a five-week low on Wednesday boosted oil prices, but the index recovered yesterday, rising by 0.33 percent at 1135 GMT. A weaker dollar makes oil cheaper for holders of other currencies. Oil prices also gained ground after data on Wednesday from the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) showed US crude stocks last week fell by 3.23 million barrels, while inventories of gasoline and middle distillates rose.

Supply outages in Nigeria and Canada have also kept oil prices supported. Consultancy Energy Aspects estimates Canadian output losses will total 29 million barrels across May and June, "after adjusting for turnaround work that was underway before the wildfires broke out, and assuming a pre wildfire utilization rate of 85 percent of (the 2015 average)".

The Niger Delta Avengers militant group on Wednesday rejected an offer of talks with the government to end its attacks on oil facilities and said it had blown up a Chevron pipeline site in the Niger Delta. But some analysts said there are signs that downward pressure on prices is mounting.

ANZ bank said the rises were "tempered by an increase in (US) crude production of 10,000 barrels per day to 8.75 million barrels per day and the number of active rigs increasing by 9 to 325".

Traders also said refined product stocks were building up in the United States and Asia. With fundamentals both for and against higher prices, many traders and analysts say a price of \$50-60 per barrel may be fair value. This is reflected in Brent's forward curve, which stays within that range until early 2021. — Reuters

US ECONOMIC AVERAGES MISS BIG PICTURE

AN EXPLORATION OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DIVISIONS IN AMERICAN SOCIETY

MEMPHIS, Tennessee: Dozens of FedEx jets queue up for takeoff at the airport here. Beale Street, the heart of the music district, hums with tourists. Yet the empty storefronts in Memphis' moribund downtown and the cash-advance shops strewn near its highways tell another story.

It's a tale of two cities, all in one place. And it's a tale of two Americas: the one that national averages indicate has all but recovered from the Great Recession and the one lost in the statistics. The pattern is evident in cities and towns across America, from Memphis to Colorado Springs, Colorado, from Wichita to Jacksonville: The national numbers aren't capturing the experience of many typical people in typical communities.

A key reason is that pay and wealth are flowing disproportionately to the rich, skewing the data used to measure economic health - and producing an economy on paper that most Americans don't recognize in their own lives. That disconnect has fueled much of the frustration and anxiety that have propelled the insurgent presidential campaigns of Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders.

Again and again, primary voters who were most worried about the economy told pollsters that they had cast their ballots for Trump or Sanders, according to Edison Research, which conducted the surveys on behalf of The Associated Press and television networks. Trump's candidacy, in particular, has been driven by support in some of the most economically distressed regions in the country, where jobs have been automated, eliminated, or moved to other states and countries. It's in these places that the outsider message of an unconventional candidate promising a return to the way things used to be resonates most.

Less secure

Mike Williams voted for Trump in Tennessee's March primary, which the billionaire won easily. To many, it would seem that Williams is doing pretty well - he earns \$22 an hour as a maintenance worker at an Owens-Corning factory, along with health care and retirement benefits. But his hourly pay has only recently returned to where it was a decade ago, when he worked as a welder.

"I feel like I'm going backward rather than forward," Williams, 51, said on a recent afternoon after finishing his shift. One reason he backed Trump, he said, is that he feels less secure than in the past, when more manufacturing work was available. "I remember when you could quit a job today and go to work somewhere else tomorrow," Williams said. "There was always someone hiring."

The depth of that kind of insecurity after seven years of national economic expansion has caught many observers off guard. "The political reaction to the economy leads me to wonder if we're looking at the wrong things," said Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at Northern Trust and former economist at the Federal Reserve. "The averages certainly don't tell the whole story."

Consider incomes for the average US household. They ticked up 0.7 percent from 2008 to 2014, after taking inflation into account. But even that scant increase reflected mainly the rise in income for the richest tenth of households, which pulled up the average. For most others, incomes actually decreased - as much as 6 percent for the bottom 20 percent, at a time when the economy was mostly recovering. Or consider employment. The US economy has added a healthy average of roughly 200,000 jobs a month since 2011. Yet most have been either high-paying or low-paying positions. By the end of 2015, the nation still had fewer middle-income jobs than it did before the recession, according to the Georgetown



MEMPHIS: Pedestrians walk past a "for sale" sign on Elvis Presley Boulevard in Memphis. The US economy has added a healthy average of roughly 200,000 jobs a month since 2011. Yet most have been either high-paying or low-paying positions. —AP

University Center on Education and the Workforce.

That reflects what economists call the "hollowing out" of the workforce, as traditional mid-level positions such as office administrators, bookkeepers, and factory assembly-line workers are cut in recessions and never fully recover their previous levels of employment.

Robust spending

Part-time jobs surged in the recession, too, and remained high in the recovery, even while full-time work was slower to return. The number of full-time jobs has risen just 1.3 percent since December 2007, when the recession officially began. Part-time positions are up more than 12 percent.

In Memphis, hiring resumed after the recession and the unemployment rate has dropped to match the national figure of 5 percent. But jobs in low-paying industries, such as retail, restaurants and hotels, are the only category to have fully recovered from the recession, according to Moody's Analytics. Higher- and middle-paying jobs still trail their pre-recession levels.

In Millington, a Memphis suburb where Trump held a rally in February at a military airfield, residents complain that most of the available jobs are in the fast-food chains that dot Highway 51, the main thoroughfare. The rebound from the recession has been felt in vastly different ways not only by income levels but across geographic lines. Areas like Las Vegas that still bear deep scars from the housing crisis have lagged behind the nation's recovery. So have cities like Memphis that need robust consumer spending to fuel growth at the shipping and logistics firms that form the backbone of its economy.

By contrast, cities like Seattle, Denver and Austin, Texas, with heavy concentrations of information technology, management consulting or other highly paid services, have enjoyed a disproportionate share of the job and income growth.

In other words, the richest places in the country are making the economy look better than it actually is, while places like Memphis stagnate.

In the first half of the recovery, jobs grew 5.6 percent nationwide. Yet in the wealthiest one-fifth of zip codes, hiring jumped 11.2 percent, according to the Economic Innovation Group think tank. For the rest of the country, total jobs increased just 3.3 percent.

"It's hard to find an average city," Tannenbaum says. "There just aren't a whole lot right in the middle." The same is true for households. These data suggest that the post-World War II trend of a steadily growing middle class, lifted by broader national prosperity, is reversing.

Slightly fewer than half of American adults now fall in the middle-class camp, according to the Pew Research Center, a vast shift. In 1971, 61 percent of households were middle class, according to Pew, which defines middle class as income between two-thirds and double the median household income.

Home prices rise

And while home prices have risen nationwide since 2012, they're still below their boom-era levels in most parts of the country. Since most middle-class wealth is in home equity, those families are poorer than they were before the recession. By and large, more affluent Americans are the ones who hold stock - and stock prices are back near record heights.

In Las Vegas, which is still recovering from its huge housing boom and bust, Tracy Brigida's husband, Michael, last summer lost his second job in three years. Tracy, 48, has been paying the bills by substitute-teaching while raising their two children, one of whom is autistic and is home-schooled.

They still owe more on their Las Vegas home than it's worth, having bought it nine years ago. They hoped it would build wealth for their retirements. Now, it's a money pit.

The couple initially supported Wisconsin Gov Scott Walker's presidential campaign. But after Michael's latest layoff, they switched to Trump. Families like hers, she says, seem forgotten in the celebration of rosy national economic averages.

"This administration wants to tell us the economy is better and people are getting jobs," she

said. "But that's not my experience." With higher-paying jobs clustering in wealthier metro areas, business and political leaders in the weaker cities fight to attract and retain employers. Memphis has provided tax breaks to attract or keep 36 companies, including Electrolux, Mitsubishi Electric and Unilever.

Community leaders have also focused on improving the education and skills of the area's workforce, which trail national averages. A Brookings Institution analysis found that three-quarters of jobs in Memphis require post-high school education or training - something that 40 percent of the area's adults lack. Rising automation at many warehouses is also undercutting efforts to create solid middle-income jobs. Memphis is a leading transport hub: In addition to FedEx, shipping firms such as UPS, DHL, and XPO Logistics have warehouses in the region. So do other companies like Nike. Yet Memphis still has 3,200 fewer transportation and warehousing jobs than it did before the recession.

Middle income positions

Contributing also to the decline of middle-income positions has been the rising use of temporary workers, whose ranks have surged 54 percent in Memphis since the recession ended while the area's overall jobs grew just 3.3 percent. City officials involved in workforce training say some of the unemployed have 25 years of work history - all of it through temp firms. Chris Rice, 29, has worked steadily in the Memphis region for the past 10 years, all at temporary jobs. Rice most recently worked as a forklift driver for Electrolux and for CEVA Logistics, a privately held warehouse and distribution firm.

The CEVA job ended after the company lost a contract to distribute Microsoft's X-Box, Rice said during a job fair at a community center in Bartlett, a Memphis suburb. Rice said he was hopeful of getting a new temp job at an assembly plant owned by printer manufacturer Brother International. He was the only forklift driver at the job fair. Still, "I'd love to have a permanent job," he said. "I'm tired of going from temp agency to temp agency when there's no work." — AP



SENDAI: Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda (right) speaks with President of European Central Bank Mario Draghi prior to a symposium in Sendai, northern Japan in this May 20, 2016 file photo. —AP

GOVERNMENTS MUST ACT TO HELP ECONOMY: DRAGHI

GERMAN EXPORTS STAGNATE AS IMPORTS SLOW

BRUSSELS: European Central Bank President Mario Draghi is calling on governments to do more to make their economies more competitive and create jobs as the region's aging population weighs on labor markets. The economy of the 19-country eurozone has struggled to gain traction despite the ECB's efforts to stimulate it with a raft of measures, which have ranged from cutting interest rates to injecting hundreds of billions of euros into the financial system.

Draghi told finance and banking experts at the Brussels Economic Forum yesterday that the eurozone could not rely solely on the central bank's efforts and needs more action from governments.

"The cost of delay is simply too high," he said in a speech. He said that while structural reforms - such as cutting red tape and making labor markets more flexible - can be politically difficult, they are essential to boost growth and lower unemployment.

Draghi called for a particular focus on the long-term jobless. Unemployment in the eurozone was at 10.2 percent at last count. The percentage of people who have been looking for a job for more than 12 months was at 5.5 percent in 2015, well above the 2.9 percent in 2008, according to statistics agency Eurostat.

Draghi pointed to reforms in Portugal that reduced unemployment by about 3 percentage points from 2011 to 2014. He underlined that it is important not just to get people into jobs but to increase the size of the workforce, amid forecasts that

Europe's working age population will start to decline in the next decade.

German exports stagnate

Meanwhile German exports were unchanged in April while imports slowed slightly as Europe's strongest economy showed signs of stagnation. The Federal Statistical Office said yesterday that adjusted for calendar and seasonal factors, Germany exported 101.3 billion euros (\$115.3 billion) of goods in April, unchanged from March, and imported goods worth 77.4 billion euros, down 0.2 percent on the previous month. Germany's adjusted trade surplus was 24 billion euros.

Compared to April 2015, exports to European Union countries rose 7.3 percent while exports from other countries dropped 0.7 percent. Imports from EU countries rose 2 percent, while falling 3.8 percent from elsewhere.

ING-DiBa analyst Carsten Brzeski says after strong first quarter growth, "all hard data for April was weaker than in the first quarter and GDP growth looks set for a slowdown.

Germany's economy minister urged yesterday the EU to shield its key industries from foreign investors after Chinese appliance giant Midea made a controversial bid for German robotics group Kuka. Sigmar Gabriel, who is also vice chancellor, has recently expressed his disapproval of Midea's takeover bid.

Writing a guest editorial for today's edition of business weekly WirtschaftsWoche, Gabriel said the EU should be protective of not only its

security and defence sectors. "We should discuss whether we should also take into consideration the industrial interests of the EU vis-a-vis those of investors, for sectors that are strategic for the future of the European economy," he wrote.

"The areas where the seeds of prosperity and value creation of tomorrow are sown have changed. We must take this change into account," argued the centre-left Social Democrat. Chinese appliance giant Midea - best known for its washing machines and air conditioners - last month launched a takeover offer for Kuka. It is seeking at least a 30 percent stake in a deal that values Kuka at 4.6 billion euros (\$5.2 billion). Midea already holds a 13.5 percent stake in Kuka.

In what appeared to be a veiled attack at China, whose state-run enterprises have been going on a shopping spree in Europe, Gabriel wrote that "we have to ask ourselves seriously whether we want investors from third countries who move into our market economy using state resources."

"I am not ready to sacrifice jobs and companies on the altar of an open European market," he added.

During a press conference on Wednesday, Gabriel had criticized investments made by "companies from countries that have not even themselves opened their markets", in a direct attack at China.

Gabriel's comments come just ahead of Chancellor Angela Merkel's visit on Sunday to Beijing. The German leader has so far not commented on the Kuka case. —Agencies

UKRAINE CB WARNS OF RISKS OF STRAYING FROM IMF PATH

KIEV: Ukraine risks damaging its reputation and economic stability if it fails to keep up with a \$17.5 billion bailout program from the International Monetary Fund, the central bank said yesterday.

The loans have helped Ukraine pull itself out of two years of economic recession caused by a separatist conflict in its industrial east. But a third tranche of cash from the Fund has been delayed since October due to political upheaval. "A return to full cooperation with the IMF ... is a critically important precondition for Ukraine's macroeconomic and financial stability. Any delay in implementing the (IMF) program creates significant reputational risks," the bank said in a report. Months of political infighting held up IMF-backed legislative changes aimed at limiting the power of vested interests and modernising the economy. Ukraine's Western backers are waiting to see if the new government of Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman has the will and clout to push through the reforms.

Central bank chief Valeriia Gontareva said Ukraine had emerged from the worst of an economic crisis that saw inflation hit over 60 percent last year and the national hryvnia currency slump 50 percent, but warned that the recovery was still fragile.

"The Ukrainian financial system remains vulnerable to external shocks and internal risks," she said at a briefing, where she presented the report. An IMF mission visited in May for talks on a new memorandum, which is still being drafted, and the Fund is expected to decide on disbursing new aid in July. The central bank said it does not expect much hryvnia volatility in the second half of 2016 provided Ukraine continues working with the IMF and there is no surge in violence in separatist eastern territory.

A sharp fall in inflation in recent months and relative hryvnia stability has allowed the bank to ease monetary policy. It has cut the main interest rate for two months in row and on Wednesday loosened a number of currency controls to improve the business and investment climate. —Agencies

NEW ZEALAND LEAVES RATES AT RECORD LOW

WELLINGTON: New Zealand's central bank left interest rates at a record low of 2.25 percent yesterday although analysts predicted there could be further cuts if inflation does not rise. The Reserve Bank of New Zealand has lowered its benchmark rate five times in the past year but cited Auckland's red-hot housing market as a reason for staying put in June.

Governor Graeme Wheeler warned more cuts were on the table though if inflation failed to reach the 1.0 to 3.0 percent target. "Further policy easing may be required to ensure that future average inflation settles near the middle of the target range," he said in a statement.

Inflation was just 0.4 percent in the year to March 31 and has been below the bank's target for more than 18 months. Economists said the central bank avoided a rate reduction this month because it wanted to see fresh data on the cost of living, which is due out in July. They said it also feared further stoking Auckland's housing market, which has been booming in recent years. The Reserve Bank said in the statement that house price inflation could "add to financial stability concerns".

But economists said more tepid inflation figures next month would force a move. "The major concern for the RBNZ continues to be worryingly low inflation," IG Markets analyst Angus Nicholson said, tipping a rate cut to 2.0 percent in August. Capital Economics, an independent forecaster, agreed and said further action could be needed if slower-than-expected economic growth kept inflation in the doldrums.

"It may even be the case that the RBNZ will yet reduce interest rates to 1.75 percent," chief economist Paul Dales said. The New Zealand dollar rose 0.75 US cents to 70.90 US cents after the announcement. —AFP

GOLD EASES FROM 3-WEEK HIGH AS DOLLAR CLAWS BACK LOSSES

LONDON: Gold eased from three-week highs yesterday as a recovery in the dollar prompted some buyers to cash in gains after the previous day's sharp rally, though the outlook for US interest rates offered support. The metal surged 1.5 percent on Wednesday after below-consensus US payrolls data and dovish comments from Janet Yellen, chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve, dampened expectations of an imminent rate hike.

Gold is highly sensitive to rising interest rates, which lift the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion while boosting the dollar, in which it is priced.

Spot gold reached its highest since May 18 in early trade, at \$1,266.01 an ounce, before easing to \$1,258.66 at 1145 GMT, down 0.3 percent. US gold futures for June delivery were down 70 cents at \$1,261.60. "Gold is holding up as traders have taken a very relaxed approach with Janet Yellen's recent comments," said Naeem Aslam, chief market analyst at ThinkForex. "The view is that the Fed may not be increasing the rate this summer at all."

The dollar, which on Wednesday slipped to a five-week low against a basket of currencies, regained some lost ground yesterday, pressuring gold. A grim mood on global financial markets sent investors searching for the security of the dollar and yen, driving both higher against a euro weakened by the prospect of prolonged low inflation and negative interest rates.

Investors have almost priced out the chance of a rate increase at the Fed Reserve's June 14-15 policy review and reduced the likelihood of a July increase to about 26 percent.

Yet markets remain cautious on Fed policy, analysts said. "While there is likely further room to the upside for gold, there may be some road blocks to the rally near term," HSBC said in a note. "We expect that as the FOMC (Fed policy meeting) approaches, trading volume may quieten down and some near-term traders will book square and take profits."

"There is always the possibility the Fed surprises the market and raises rates, which could rapidly reverse gains." Among other precious metals, silver hit a three-week high at \$17.22 an ounce after climbing nearly 4 percent in the previous session, its biggest one-day gain since April 19.

The metal was later up 0.1 percent at \$17.04. Platinum dropped 1 percent to \$995.24, while palladium was down 0.6 percent at \$556.70. — Reuters

ESSENTRA SEES LOWER FULL-YEAR ADJUSTED OPERATING PROFIT

LONDON: Essentra Plc, a supplier of speciality plastic and packaging components, warned of lower full-year adjusted operating profit, citing challenging market conditions in filter products and delays in some large projects. Essentra's shares slumped 22.5 percent in early trade on the London Stock Exchange. The company, whose filter products are used in tobacco, health and personal care and consumer goods, said it expects adjusted operating profit to be between 155 million pounds and 165 million pounds for the year ended Dec. 31, 2016, compared with 171.5 million pounds (\$248.8 million) last year.

Revenue is expected to be broadly unchanged from the 1.09 billion pounds it reported last year, Essentra said. Filter products accounted for about 27 percent of the company's revenue in 2015. The company, whose products range from cigarette filters to adhesives, said site integration in health and personal care packaging had resulted in some short-term operational issues in both the US and the UK, hurting revenue and operating profit.

Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire-based Essentra said it was unlikely to achieve trading levels expected at the time of its full year 2015 results announcement in February. The company had said then that it was confident of continuing its track record of "balanced profitable growth" in 2016, driven by international markets and its wide product mix. Essentra, which was formed after being demerged from Bunzl Plc in June 2005, gets roughly half its sales from Europe, about a third from the Americas and the rest from Asia. The company said yesterday that its second-half profit would be stronger than that for the first half of 2016. Essentra reports its first-half results on July 29. — Reuters

DUTCH TO BE HIT HARD BY ANY BREXIT: STUDY

1.2% FALL IN GDP BY 2030 AND 10-BN EURO TRADE LOSS PREDICTED

THE HAGUE: The Netherlands will be hit hard if Britain leaves the EU, a Dutch government think tank warned yesterday, predicting a possible 1.2-percent fall in GDP by 2030 and a 10-billion-euro trade loss. Britain itself, though, would be affected even more, it said, adding London could take "years" to reforge its trade ties with the European Union if it pulled out of the 28-nation bloc.

"If the United Kingdom withdraws from the European Union, it will affect the Netherlands more severely than other EU countries because of the strong (bilateral) trade relations," the Central Planning Bureau (CPB) said.

The drop in trade, much of which is carried across the North Sea, "could amount to a GDP loss for the Netherlands of 1.2 percent, or 10 billion euros (\$11.4 billion), by 2030".

And the effects could be even further heightened by less innovation which "could amplify the GDP loss of 10 billion euros by another 65 percent."

Britons will go to the polls on June 23 to vote in a bitterly divisive referendum. The OECD last week predicted that Ireland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands would be the first of Britain's partners to bear the brunt of a Brexit. And piling on the grim warnings,

S&P Thursday published a table of those EU nations which would be hardest hit, placing Ireland, Malta and Luxembourg at the top. The Netherlands was ranked in 7th place, also behind Cyprus, Switzerland and Belgium. S&P's survey of 20 nations found they were "in the frontline of economies susceptible to any trade and migratory aftershocks from a decision by the UK to leave".

According to different scenarios, the drop in the Dutch gross domestic product could add up to a loss of between 450 euros to 1,000 euros (\$511-\$1,135) per person. Sectors more tightly interconnected with Britain such as chemicals, plastics, rubber and electronic equipment would bear the brunt, with production losses of up to 5.0 percent, the Dutch CPB report warned.

Those sectors along with the auto industry and food processing account for some 12 percent of Dutch GDP. That in turn could spark job losses, as well as a fall in wages, the CPB predicted, forecasting as many as 40,000 jobs could be shed across all areas.

"However, in a number of other sectors, employment would increase, such as an additional 15,000 jobs in the low-tech industry and in the sector 'other financial services,'" it said.

Britain stands to lose more

But mirroring other recent reports from economic institutions, the Dutch bureau had an even starker warning for Britain. "The UK is far more dependent on the trade with the EU than vice versa," it said, highlighting predictions from the World Trade Organisation (WTO) which said by 2030 Britain's GDP could have fallen by 4.0 percent. "If we assume that innovation would lag behind due to reduced trade levels, these losses may even increase to nearly 9 percent of GDP. In that case, the UK losses would be similar to those experienced during the 2008-2009 crisis."

The repercussions could be mitigated if the EU were to enter into a separate trade agreement with Britain, but it would take time to negotiate. Any withdrawal from EU could take two years to complete and a "renegotiation process for various trade agreements will likely last a number of years."

The intervening years would usher in a period of uncertainty, which could also drag down business confidence. It was also uncertain that all EU members would be in favour of a new trade accord, as "the Brexit-related costs are relatively low for countries in eastern and southern Europe." — AFP

S KOREA CUTS INTEREST RATE TO RECORD LOW AS GROWTH SLOWS

SEOUL: The Bank of Korea unexpectedly lowered its key interest rate to a record low yesterday as policymakers worry that corporate restructuring and sluggish global trade will further drag on South Korea's economic recovery. The central bank policymakers cut its policy rate by a quarter of a percentage point to 1.25 percent for the month of June, sooner than most analysts expected.

It was the first rate cut since June last year. The bank lowered the key interest rate twice in 2015 to aid the slowing recovery and to bolster consumption. Most market analysts had expected the bank to lower interest rates later in the year as growth was expected to slow during the second half of this year.

But Lee Ju-yeol, the Bank of Korea governor, said policymakers unanimously decided to lower borrowing costs this month as it became clear that the recovery was expected to be slower than the bank had forecast in April. He said the looming repercussions from corporate restructuring, likely to prompt major shipbuilding and shipping companies to cut jobs and assets, were another point of concern.

"Amid low inflationary pressure, growth trends of the domestic economy will likely be weaker than expected," Lee told a news conference. South Korea has seen weak exports amid low crude oil prices that hit its shipyards and other its key export sectors. An export drop eased in May but growth momentum has remained sluggish. Asia's fourth-largest economy eked out a mere



SEOUL: Visitors pass by signs displaying foreign currency exchange rates at downtown Seoul, South Korea yesterday. The Bank of Korea lowered its key interest rate to a record low yesterday in a move that took market watchers by surprise. — AP

0.5 percent of growth during the first quarter from the previous three months, the slowest pace since spring last year.

South Korea's government is focusing on restructuring shipbuilders and shipping industries that have been in losses due to a slowdown in global trade, supply gluts and the steep fall in oil prices. Debt restructuring of shipbuilders and shipping companies is expected to increase job losses and

depress the economy in the southern region, where most shipyards, an important source of jobs, are located.

The rate cut comes one day after the government announced that it would create a fund of 11 trillion won (\$9.5 billion) to shore up state-owned banks so they can withstand any losses as they help the restructuring of shipping and shipbuilding companies. — AP

ALTUVE HITS TIEBREAKER AS ASTROS BEAT RANGERS

ARLINGTON: Jose Altuve hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the seventh inning and the Houston Astros finally beat the Rangers 3-1 on Wednesday night in a game Texas starter Yu Darvish exited earlier than expected. Darvish, in only his third start for the Rangers since elbow surgery in March 2015, left after feeling tightness in his right shoulder during the fifth inning. He was shaking his arm after throwing a 63 mph breaking pitch to strike out George Springer but faced two more batters to finish the inning.

Houston had lost its first eight games this season against its AL West and in-state rival. The Astros had also lost 12 straight in

GIANTS 2, RED SOX 1

Mac Williamson hit a go-ahead home run leading off the eighth inning for his first career long ball, Brandon Belt also connected and San Francisco beat David Price and Boston to split the quick two-game series. Price (7-3) struck out seven over eight innings, allowing three hits and two runs with two walks. He and Madison Bumgarner opposed each other in a rare matchup between two of baseball's top left-handers representing each league. Both surrendered only a home run before Williamson sent the first pitch deep into the bleachers in left field. Cory Gearrin (2-0) struck out two in a 1-2-3 eighth for the win.

2011. The Orioles took control with a four-run fifth inning against Edinson Volquez (5-6).

CUBS 8, PHILLIES 1

John Lackey struck out eight in seven dominant innings, Kris Bryant and Ben Zobrist hit homers and Chicago beat Philadelphia. Lackey (7-2) gave up three hits and extended his scoreless streak to 13 2/3 innings. Phillies starter Vince Velasquez left the game after getting one out because of right biceps soreness. Velasquez threw two pitches and quickly left the mound when a trainer came out. Brett Oberholtzer (2-1) replaced him and allowed one unearned run following his throwing error in four innings.

the past 20 meetings overall, will go for a four-game sweep Thursday night. Mike Trout and Albert Pujols smacked consecutive doubles in the fifth to give Los Angeles a 5-4 lead that got away from Jered Weaver (5-5) and an ineffective bullpen. Anthony Swarzak (1-0) was the winner in his Yankees debut, tossing 1 2/3 scoreless innings in relief of a shaky Nathan Eovaldi.

ROCKIES 1, DODGERS 0

Chris Rusin combined with four relievers on a four-hitter as Colorado beat Los Angeles in the rubber match of their three-game series. Rusin (2-4) allowed three hits in six innings for his first win since April 13. Jake McGee pitched a perfect ninth for his 15th save. Kenta Maeda (5-4) took the loss for the Dodgers despite a career-high nine strikeouts in 6 2/3 innings.

BLUE JAYS 7, TIGERS 2

Josh Donaldson had three hits, including a three-run homer and a triple, and R.A. Dickey won consecutive starts for the first time since last summer, helping Toronto beat Detroit to avoid a three-game sweep. Justin Smoak hit a two-run homer and Kevin Pillar added a two-run triple as Toronto stopped Detroit's five-game winning streak. Dickey (4-6) allowed two runs and nine hits in 5 1/3 innings. Combined with Friday's victory at Boston, he won back-to-back outings for the first time since Aug. 28 against Detroit and Sept. 2 versus Cleveland. Jordan Zimmermann (8-3) gave up seven runs and eight hits in 4 2/3 innings - including two triples and two homers.

RAYS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 3

Corey Dickerson homered twice and Tampa Bay completed a 10-game trip with a victory over Arizona. Desmond Jennings also homered for the Rays. Rickie Weeks Jr. hit a home run for the Diamondbacks. Jake Odorizzi (3-3) went five innings and got the victory, thanks to a two-run Tampa Bay sixth that put the Rays up 4-3. Archie Bradley (2-2) allowed four runs and five hits in 5 2/3 innings.

BREWERS 4, ATHLETICS 0

Chase Anderson pitched 6 2/3 strong innings, Scooter Gennett drove in three runs and Milwaukee beat Oakland. Anderson (4-6) improved to 3-1 with a 2.03 ERA in his last five starts, Gennett keyed the offense off Jesse Hahn (2-4) with a run-scoring single in the first and a two-run base hit in the fourth.

TWINS 7, MARLINS 5

Trevor Plouffe hit a two-run homer and drove in the go-ahead run with a double off the right-field wall to help Minnesota keep up its power binge in a victory over Miami. Taylor Rogers (2-0) pitched one inning, and six relievers combined for 3 1/3 scoreless innings. Brandon Kintzler earned his first career save in place of struggling closer Kevin Jepsen. Ichiro Suzuki had three hits for Miami to come within 29 of 3,000 for his major league career. Nick Wittgren (1-1) gave up two runs on four hits in 1 1/3 innings.

BRAVES 4, PADRES 2

Ender Inciarte finished a home run shy of the cycle and scored twice, Julio Teheran pitched eight innings and had an RBI single, and Atlanta beat San Diego to stop a six-game losing streak. Wil Myers homered twice for the Padres, last in the NL West at 25-36. Teheran (2-6) allowed two runs and five hits, struck out eight and walked one. Arodis Vizcaino pitched the ninth for his seventh save in nine chances. Drew Pomeranz (5-6) allowed three runs and nine hits in five innings, struck out six and walked one. —AP



ARLINGTON: Ian Desmond #20 of the Texas Rangers slides in safe against Jose Altuve #27 of the Houston Astros in the fifth inning at Globe Life Park. - AFP

Arlington, matching their club record for longest road losing streak against one opponent. Doug Fister (6-3) got his fifth straight win over his last eight starts - all Astros victories. The right-hander had five strikeouts while allowing one run over six innings.

METS 6, PIRATES 5

Pinch-hitter Wilmer Flores' bloop single with the bases loaded in the 10th inning drove in the go-ahead run for New York in a victory over Pittsburgh. Yoenis Cespedes and Neil Walker opened the 10th with consecutive singles off Cory Luebke (0-1), and James Loney sacrificed. Asdrubal Cabrera was intentionally walked, and Flores hit a flare into center field. Addison Reed (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings, and Jeury Familia pitching a shaky ninth to convert his 35th straight save chance, including 19 this season. He walked three batters around Sean Rodriguez's double-play grounder, then threw a called third strike past David Freese to end the game with runners at the corners. Cespedes had three hits, and Michael Conforto drove in three runs.

MARINERS 5, INDIANS 0

Taijuan Walker returned to his early season form by throwing eight innings and tying a career high with 11 strikeouts, and Chris Iannetta provided the offense with two home runs in Seattle's victory over Cleveland. Walker (3-6) was dominant, allowing three hits and winning for the first time since April 25. Iannetta hit a two-run homer in the third inning, added a solo shot in the fifth off Cleveland starter Carlos Carrasco (2-1) and had an RBI double in the seventh.

ORIOLES 4, ROYALS 0

Chris Tillman pitched effectively into the eighth inning to earn his seventh consecutive win, Ryan Flaherty drove in two runs and Baltimore extended Kansas City's losing streak to seven games. Tillman (8-1) allowed eight hits over 7 1/3 innings, matched his career high with nine strikeouts and walked none. The right-hander is unbeaten in 10 starts since April 14, 6-0 at home and tied for second in the AL in wins. Brad Brach got the final five outs to earn his second save and help the Orioles complete their first three-game sweep of Kansas City since May

CARDINALS 12, REDS 7

Brandon Moss homered in consecutive at-bats, Matt Adams and Jhonny Peralta added three-run drives and St Louis rolled over Cincinnati. Moss broke a 4-4, fifth-inning tie with a two-run drive into the right-field seats, then lined a solo homer that barely cleared the right-field wall in the seventh for his eighth career multihomer game. Matt Bowman (1-1) got his first major league win by striking out his only batter, Zack Cozart, for the final out of the fifth with the potential tying run on second base. Alfredo Simon (2-6) walked a season-high five, allowing six runs and seven hits in five innings.

YANKEES 12, ANGELS 6

Chris Parmelee homered twice in his first start for the Yankees, Carlos Beltran added two more big hits to his huge series and New York's bats broke loose late in a victory over Los Angeles. Jacoby Ellsbury homered and scored three times, Brett Gardner had three hits and two RBIs, and the Yankees extended their home winning streak against the Angels to eight games. New York, which has won 15 of

SURGING LEE IS NUMBER 1 AGAIN AS OLYMPICS NEAR

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei yesterday reclaimed the world number one ranking he lost 18 months ago following a positive doping test, establishing himself as the man to beat as he takes a possibly final crack at an elusive Olympic gold medal.

Lee knocked China's Chen Long from the summit of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings, capping a remarkable comeback for Malaysia's biggest sporting star, who had earlier bleakly fretted that his eight-month doping ban could dash his Olympic hopes. Lee, then the world number one, had tested positive for the banned anti-inflammatory drug dexamethasone at the world championships in August 2014. The BWF eventually decided against a possible two-year ban after concluding that Lee "accidentally" took the drug.

Since returning to the court a year ago, the 33-year-old has recaptured much of the form that allowed him to dominate the game for years, lately surging to a string of victories including a win in last weekend's Indonesian Open that finally put him back in the world's top spot.

Lee's failure to add an Olympic or world title to his packed trophy case has become a defining feature of his career, earning accusations that the quiet, soft-spoken shuttler wilts on the biggest stages. In particular, his heart-breaking losses to long-time nemesis Lin Dan of China, who defeated Lee in the 2008 and 2012 Olympic finals, have become the stuff of badminton history.

He makes no secret of his burning desire to fill that void in his career and said recently the Rio Games now loomed larger for him and Malaysia due to his previous failures. "Everyone knows this Olympics is more important," the media-shy Lee told reporters during a recent public appearance in Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia has never won an Olympic gold and Lee has previously acknowledged the pressure that entails. His resurrection-Lee will carry the Malaysian flag and lead the country's team into the Rio opening ceremonies in August-raises the tantalizing possibility of another clash with Lin Dan, who is now third in the world, just behind his compatriot Chen. Lee had argued that he received dexamethasone during stem cell treatment for a thigh injury and that it gave him no playing advantage. —AFP



SHAH ALAM: This file photo taken on April 8, 2016 shows Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei hitting a return against Viktor Axelsen of Denmark during their men's singles quarter-final match of the 2016 Malaysia Open Badminton Superseries at the Malawati stadium. —AFP



CHRISTCHURCH: In this June 17, 2015 file photo, Brazil's Gabriel Jesus celebrates following a U20 soccer World Cup semifinal game against Senegal. —AP

BRAZIL TEEN STRIKER JESUS AIMS HIGH AT OLYMPICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil football fans are more excited by the country's young Olympic team than with the squad playing now at Copa America Centenario in the United States. One reason is that Barcelona star Neymar will be playing in the Olympics. He's not in the Copa America. But the main reason is 19-year-old Gabriel Jesus, a striker at Sao Paulo club Palmeiras, who may wind up being the star in the Olympics as Brazil shoots for its first soccer gold medal. He's also absent from the Copa.

In the Olympics, where squads are only allowed three players aged over 23, Jesus is expected to play alongside the country's other upcoming star Gabriel Barbosa - nicknamed Gabigol - and Neymar. "To play with Neymar at the Olympics will be another dream come true," Jesus told The Associated Press. "He is a mirror to all of us. If I ever play with him, it would be great for my career. I hope to win gold with him on

my side and make history with him wearing the Brazil shirt."

Brazil coach Dunga, who handles both the Copa America and Olympic team, wanted Jesus for the Copa America, but the youngster didn't have the documents to travel. He could have replaced Bayern Munich's Douglas Costa, Brazil's injured goal-scoring winger. Brazil played a lackluster 0-0 draw against Ecuador in its opening match in the Copa America, and faces Haiti on Wednesday in its second match in Group B.

Interest from giants

That Jesus didn't have documents to travel is a surprise for a player already drawing interest from giants like Juventus and Arsenal and others. But he says he isn't thinking of moving overseas yet. "I only want to think about Palmeiras now, they gave me everything and I want to become a reference here," he said. "But playing in Europe is surely in my

plans. I have no preference for a specific country or a club."

Website Transfermarkt ranked Jesus as one of the top young players in Brazil, valued at 8 million euros. Palmeiras officials have expressed concern about losing their young star as soon as the Olympic Games are finished. Since January, Jesus has scored 12 goals, including three in the first six rounds of the Brazilian Championship.

The striker has also enhanced his defensive role, according to his Palmeiras coach Alexi Stival, known as Cuca. "He still has a lot to mature, but Gabriel is undoubtedly a gem," Cuca said. Two-time world Cup winner and three-time FIFA world player of the year Ronaldo also has high hopes for Jesus and Brazil. "I am betting on two great talents that are still developing but already show a lot of skill: Santos' Gabigol and Palmeiras' Gabriel Jesus. And they haven't even turned 20 yet," Ronaldo said. —AP

ALL BLACKS ENTER NEW ERA

AUCKLAND: Captain Kieran Read leads New Zealand into a new era tomorrow, with the world champions shorn of their stars but intent on making an emphatic winning statement in the first Test against Wales. In a blunt warning to the visitors, coach Steve Hansen is demanding the All Blacks improve from where they signed off in 2015 after lifting the World Cup.

Hansen wants New Zealand to avoid the slip Wales have suffered since they beat England 28-25 in the pool stage at last year's World Cup. They have since lost twice to England and finished second to England in the Six Nations before heading to New Zealand.

The All Blacks, in contrast, have been untested since the World Cup

triumph and go into their first game of the season with Read taking over the captaincy from Richie McCaw. McCaw, along with Dan Carter and several other senior players, stepped away from the Test arena at the end of last year. And although their departures robbed the side of 859 Test caps, Hansen has been in no mood to dwell on the past.

"We've tried to make sure we've planned for this rollover of these great players," he said. "Whilst the opposition might believe that we're vulnerable because it's our first Test and we have lost some experienced players, we don't have that mindset. So we'll put a full stop on 2015. It's a new start from the point of view that we must go to a higher level." —AFP

CAVS ROUT WARRIORS TO TRIM DEFICIT IN FINALS

CLEVELAND: Smothering defensive work and an aggressive scoring attack inspired by LeBron James lifted the Cleveland Cavaliers back into the NBA Finals on Wednesday with a 120-90 rout of defending champion Golden State.

James scored 32 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and added six assists while Kyrie Irving netted 30 points, 16 in the first quarter, and had eight assists after producing only 10 points in a 110-77 loss in game two. "My teammates got me going. They told me to be aggressive and that's what I was," James said. "It was just a collective team win."

But Irving noted how an emotional James told his teammates in a pre-game huddle to "Follow my lead," and that motivated the Cavaliers, who scored the first nine points, jumped ahead 19-4 and 33-14 and never trailed in the romp.

"Our leader is looking us all eye to eye and telling us, 'Let's go to war,'" Irving said. "Just realizing the magnitude of what's about to happen, going out there and battling, understanding that we're being led by a great player." Despite the humbling defeat, the Warriors remain ahead 2-1 in the best-of-seven series with game four Friday at Cleveland and game five back in Oakland on Monday.

'Peaches and Cream'

"They came out and played like a team with a sense of desperation, like their season was on the line. And we came out and played like everything was peaches and cream," Golden State's Draymond Green said. "We got bullied. We can't get bullied." Only three teams in 69 prior NBA Finals have rallied from 2-0 down to win the title, but no team trailing 3-0 has ever won an NBA playoff series.

"We weren't ready to play," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "They just punched us right in the mouth right in the beginning. We were turning the ball over like crazy. Soft. We were extremely soft to start the game. Just a horrible way to start." Playing without forward Kevin Love, sidelined by a concussion suffered in game two, the Cavaliers shifted James to power forward and used pressure defense to ignite scoring. "We were very physical defensively and we were aggressive offensively, attacking the basket, getting out in transition, running the floor," said Cavaliers coach Tyronn Lue. "That's how we have to play."

Never before in NBA Finals history had a team won by 30 or more only to lose the next game by



CLEVELAND: LeBron James #23 of the Cleveland Cavaliers shoots the ball during the second half against Klay Thompson #11 of the Golden State Warriors and Stephen Curry #30 in Game 3 of the 2016 NBA Finals at Quicken Loans Arena. — AFP

30 or more, but that's what the Warriors did. "If you let your guard down and the other team is angry, then you can see this kind of turnaround," Kerr said. "This was about one team being emotionally fired up and angry about being down 0-2 and another team being comfortable. It was just the level on intensity they brought. Their aggressiveness was important."

James was so aggressive that he swatted away a Steph Curry shot after a whistle. "When you have the greatest shooter in the world trying to get an easy one or trying to get in rhythm, it's our job to try to keep him out, after the whistle or not," James said. "That was just my mindset. I didn't want him to see the ball go in."

JR Smith added 20 points while Tristan Thompson contributed 14 points and 13 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who improved to 8-0 at home in the playoffs and snapped a seven-game losing streak to the Warriors. NBA Most Valuable Player and scoring champion Curry managed only two points in the first half and finished with 19 while Harrison Barnes added 18 points and Klay Thompson contributed 10. Curry and Thompson shot a combined 10-for-26.

'Big punch'

"They played aggressive defense and they came out with a big punch," Curry said. "For me to do what I need to do to help my team, I have to

play 100 times better than that, especially in the first quarter. "I've just got to be aggressive and play better and be more assertive. There's a sense of urgency knowing how big game four is and I need to be ready." Golden State, which won a record 73 games this season, lost the third game of a playoff series for the fifth consecutive time, falling to 3-5 on the road in this year's playoffs. The Cavaliers led 51-43 entering the second half despite shooting only 6-of-27 from the floor in the second quarter as the Warriors went only 2-of-14 from 3-point range. The Cavaliers began the third quarter with a 19-5 run, James scoring eight points to power Cleveland to a 70-48 advantage, and the Cavs pulled away for good. — AFP

WARRIORS MUST LEARN FROM HUMBLING DEFEAT

CLEVELAND: Delivered their worst playoff loss in two years, the defending champion Golden State Warriors must rebound quickly to prevent the Cleveland Cavaliers from pulling level in the NBA Finals. The Cavaliers ripped Golden State 120-90 Wednesday, trimming their deficit in the best-of-seven series to 2-1 entering game four Friday at Cleveland with game five Monday at Oakland, California.

"We've been able to bounce back pretty quick because we can turn the page and understand we're still in good position," said Warriors guard Stephen Curry, the NBA Most Valuable Player. "How we bounce back Friday will show our heart and soul about winning. This is hard. We've got to embrace the challenge." Curry, the league's top scorer during a record 73-win Warriors season, and Klay Thompson, a 3-point sharpshooter like Curry, have been contained by Cleveland's defenders, combining to hit 10-of-26 shots from the floor in game three, only 4-of-16 from 3-point range.

'Tough grind'

Curry, who hit an NBA record 402 3-pointers this season, scored 19 points, but most came long after the outcome was in little doubt, while Thompson managed only 10. "It's a tough grind to win a championship," Curry said. "We hope the better team will show throughout the course of the

series." Harrison Barnes, who scored 18 points, says the way to spark Curry's scoring touch is to create shots for him and ease the workload he has had to set up his own.

"Get the ball moving. It's a lot of 1-on-1 that we're making him do to get shots," Barnes said. "He can do that but we've got to get easy ways to get him going." A victory could have cut short the series, as no NBA team has rallied from a 3-0 hole to win a playoff series. But for the fifth series in a row, the Warriors lost game three and this was by the most lopsided margin since a 138-98 road defeat to the Los Angeles Clippers in 2014, before Steve Kerr took over as Golden State's coach.

"We're all to blame," Thompson said. "They were hungrier than us. There's no excuse. We've got to learn from it." "We're going to come out much better Friday. Golden opportunity still to go home up 3-1 so no time to sulk." "If we play with great energy and effort, we won't see another 30-point loss," he said. Thompson will miss Thursday practice after suffering a thigh bruise when struck by the knee of Cavaliers center Timofey Mozgov. "It seemed kind of dirty to me. He stuck his knee out," Thompson said of the Russian's defensive move that led to the injury. "I'm going to take the day off and get healthy. But it's the finals. Nothing is going to keep me out of it." — AFP



CLEVELAND: Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry listens to a reporter's question after Game 3 against the Cleveland Cavaliers in basketball's NBA Finals. — AP

INDIA UNVEIL SIX NEW TEST VENUES FOR HOME SEASON

NEW DELHI: Often accused of not taking cricket's longest format seriously, India unveiled six new test venues yesterday and announced a busy 2016-17 home season when they will play 13 tests against four visiting teams. Indore, Rajkot, Vizag, Dharamsala, Ranchi and Pune will host test matches for the first time, the Indian cricket board (BCCI) announced after a meeting of its Tour Program and Fixtures Committee.

India will also play eight one-day and

three Twenty20 Internationals. The only time India played as many as 13 tests at home was in 1979-80. "I welcome the new test venues hosting this prestigious format of cricket and their arrival will take test match cricket to every corner of the country," BCCI president Anurag Thakur said.

The central Indian city of Indore will debut as a test venue when New Zealand visit later this year to play three tests, one of them likely to be a day-nighter, and five one-day interna-

tionals. The subsequent series against England will see the western Indian city of Rajkot and the coastal venue of Vizag host tests for the first time. Apart from five tests, England will also play three ODIs and three Twenty20 Internationals, according to the BCCI statement. Set at the foot of the Himalayas, the picturesque Dharamsala will host its first test when Australia arrive in February to play four tests in India. The series will also feature two new venues-Ranchi, the home town of India's

limited-overs captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, and the western Indian city of Pune.

Bangladesh will play a one-off test at Hyderabad. "Some of the best teams of world cricket are coming to play in India this season and we are excited to announce the schedule well ahead of time," BCCI secretary Ajay Shirke said. "This gives the staging associations and the BCCI, sufficient time to prepare and present, one of the most memorable cricketing seasons for our fans." —Reuters

CRICKET AUSTRALIA CHIEF SAYS DAY-NIGHT ASHES ON AGENDA

MELBOURNE: Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland wants players to remain open-minded about day-night test matches during the 2017-18 Ashes series in Australia. Sutherland said he respected the concern of Australia captain Steve Smith and others, but reiterated that a pink-ball Ashes test would be a "natural progression."

Australia hosted the first day-night test at the Adelaide Oval last year, beating New Zealand in a low-scoring match. The venue will host another day-night test in November, after South African players ended weeks of debate by agreeing Wednesday to be involved. Yesterday, Sutherland said day-night tests will allow for bigger audiences at the matches and on television and predicted there'd be "somewhere between zero and two" day-night tests during the next Ashes series.

He spoke after Smith, playing in the West Indies in a limited-overs tri-series, said the Ashes "works pretty well with the red (regular) ball ... playing against England, we always get the viewers and the crowds out, so I don't think there is any issue there." England captain Alastair Cook has also indicated he'd like the 2017-18 Ashes series to be all traditional day matches. Dates haven't been announced for that series.

'Natural progression'

The Adelaide day-night test last year was completed in three days, but drew 124,000 spectators and television ratings were also favorable. "I think there's a natural progression for us to get to a stage where Ashes test matches are played as day-night games," Sutherland said. "The players are clearly an important stakeholder and I respect the views of Steven and Alastair in saying that. The Ashes is a great contest, and (it) will no doubt attract huge audiences both at the ground and on television.

"But I think the facts of the matter are that by playing a day-night test match you're actually going to get bigger audiences at the game and on television. It even time-shifts games into a more appealing time of day in the UK That's another factor we need to consider." Australia will host three tests against South Africa in November, with the series concluding in Adelaide from Nov 24, and will kick off a three-test series against Pakistan with a day-night match in Brisbane starting Dec 15.

South African players had been reluctant to play the Adelaide test after informal feedback from Australian players who had issues with the pink ball's visibility and durability in the Adelaide test. Cricket South Africa chief executive Haroon Lorgat said the Proteas were initially hesitant to play a key test match without previous experience and adequate preparation. "But after working through all their concerns and possible options to prepare sufficiently, there is newfound excitement for this novel test match," Lorgat said. "Our players deserve credit for the way they have worked through the issues which were clearly not insignificant."

Referring to the South Africa announcement, Smith said he hoped for better visibility with the pink ball in the Adelaide match this year. "As long as we keep continuing to improve the ball," the balance between bat and ball will improve, he said. "The seam was pretty hard to see last year - they've made it a black seam now, they've changed that up. Hopefully it's a bit easier to see. As long as we can continue to improve the ball, I think it's going to be a great form of cricket." —AP



LONDON: England batsman Alastair Cook plays a shot during the first day of the third Investec Test Match between England and Sri Lanka at Lord's cricket ground. —AFP

COOK SAYS HE DOESN'T COMPARE TO 'BATTING GENIUS' TENDULKAR

LONDON: England captain Alastair Cook insisted India batting great Sachin Tendulkar's all-time record for Test runs had yet to come into his sights even though he had surpassed one mark set by the 'Little Master'.

Cook became the 12th player in history to score 10,000 Test runs during England's nine-wicket win in the second Test against Sri Lanka at Durham to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series ahead of the third Test at Lord's. The left-handed opener was also the first Englishman to achieve the feat and, at 31 years and 157 days, the youngest to get to the landmark, breaking Tendulkar's record by more than five months.

Cook (10,042 runs in 128 Tests) is, however, nearly 6,000 runs short of retired star Tendulkar's record aggregate of 15,921 runs from 200 Tests. The England skipper has 28 Test hundreds to his name, with his runs having come at an average of 47, whereas Tendulkar bowled out with a record 51 centuries at an average of nearly 54.

"Six thousand runs is a long way away," Cook, speaking at Lord's, said Wednesday. "It was set by an incredibly talented genius. I'm no genius and Tendulkar is, so that is a long way ahead. "I want to play for England for as long as I can and at the moment I'm really enjoying it. I am really motivated and hungry and where that takes me who knows." Cook added: "I've never lived my life by saying where I want to get to publicly.

"In private you have a few goals you want to try and achieve, but at the moment a lot of my goals are very immediate with this England team and as a captain that takes me away from personal milestones as a batter." Nevertheless India hero Sunil Gavaskar, the first man to score 10,000 Test runs, said last week that Cook had it in him to set a new aggregate record for most Test runs because of

his age and the fact that England play more games over the long format than many other nations.

Pink ball concerns

Following the Lord's finale against Sri Lanka, England are then at home to Pakistan in a four-Test series. England will then tour Bangladesh and India, where they will play a total of seven Tests. None of those matches will be day/night contests. Australia and New Zealand broke new ground with a day/night Test at the Adelaide Oval late last year and Cricket Australia have now confirmed another such match against South Africa, also in Adelaide, for November.

But with Ashes matches between England and Australia well supported, Cook said international cricket's oldest rivalry could stick with traditional hours. "A lot of the games have really good attendances, and it's probably not a series where you need to do it exactly at this time," he explained. However, Cook also said: "My general view of day-night Tests is that they're definitely something cricket authorities need to keep looking at—because it's the way to keep the game moving with the times, making it more possible for spectators to come and watch.

"My issue with it is the quality of the pink ball (used under lights because the standard red one is deemed too hard to sight). "No disrespect to the guys who make it—but on the two occasions I've played, it doesn't seem to behave the same way as the red ball." Cook said his concern was that day/night fixtures could, as things stand, be too often decided by the fate of the team batting at the 'wrong' time.

"It's one of the great things about Test cricket - sometimes the ball swings conventionally, sometimes it reverses. "On my two occasions with the pink ball, it didn't do any of that - and then it nipped all over under twilight. "The quality of the ball is vital." —AFP

NEUER SET TO CAPTAIN GERMANY FOR OPENER

EVIAN: Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer is ready to step up and captain the world champions in their opening Euro 2016 group game against Ukraine on Sunday. Regular skipper Bastian Schweinsteiger, 31, played the final 23 minutes of last weekend's 2-0 warm-up win over Hungary but is doubtful for Germany's opening Euro 2016 Group C clash.

Germany's midfield talisman tore a medial knee ligament while on national duty in March. The Manchester United star has not played 90 minutes of football since January and if, as expected, he fails to start in Lille, either Neuer or Sami Khedira will skipper the world champions. Head coach Joachim Loew has yet to decide who will wear the captain's arm-band. But Neuer has already led the team in friendlies and

qualifiers and is braced to step in again for the European Championship finals.

"Basically, as a goalkeeper, I have to take responsibility anyway and I see my role as guiding the younger players," said Neuer, who has been voted world's best goalkeeper for the last three years. "As a goalkeeper, you are expected to talk a lot, both on and off the pitch." As well as deciding on his skipper, Loew must also re-juggle his defense after centre-back Antonio Rudiger dropped out with torn knee ligaments on Tuesday. He suffered the injury in training.

Jonas Hector will start at left-back with either Benedikt Hoewedes set to move in from right-back or Shkodran Mustafi to partner Jerome Boateng at centre-back. Bayern Munich's Joshua Kimmich, 21, could

cap his first season in the German senior squad with a start for die Mannschaft at right-back. But Neuer does not mind who plays in front of him.

"Basically, we will have a very good defense, whoever plays," said the 30-year-old Neuer, who has been Germany's first-choice shot-stopper since the 2010 World Cup. "I get on well with each player and we will have a functioning defense out there." The Germans suffered uncustomary defeats in their qualifying campaign, losing away to Poland and the Republic of Ireland. Now the world champions have a point to prove in France. "We are pleased that it's finally going to get started. We can barely wait to get on the pitch," said Neuer. Germany also face Poland on June 16, then Republic of Ireland on June 21. —Agencies



ORLANDO: Brazil's Philippe Coutinho (22) celebrates after scoring a goal against Haiti during the first half of a Copa America group B soccer match Wednesday, June 8, 2016. —AP

COUTINHO LEADS BRAZIL ROUT AS ECUADOR THWART PERU

LOS ANGELES: Philippe Coutinho completed a hat-trick as Brazil routed Haiti 7-1 at the Copa America Centenario on Wednesday while Ecuador produced a gutsy fightback to thwart Peru's push for a quarter-final berth. Coutinho conjured up the sort of form which made him one of Liverpool's most potent attackers in the Premier League last season as the Brazilians outclassed Haiti in the first ever competitive meeting of the two nations.

The 23-year-old attacking midfielder grabbed his first two goals inside the first half hour of a one-sided Group B game at Orlando's Citrus Bowl in Florida. Coutinho then grabbed his third in the dying seconds of injury time, curling in a spectacular shot to complete a fine night's work.

Brazil, who had drawn 0-0 with Ecuador in a lacklustre opening game last weekend, now lead Group B on goal difference, level on four points with Peru, who were held 2-2 by the Ecuadorans elsewhere on Wednesday. Brazil manager Dunga was left purring with pleasure at the performance of Coutinho, who scored 12 goals in all competitions for Liverpool this season.

"He is really taking advantage of the opportunities he has been given," Brazil's 1994 World Cup-winning captain said. "We have talked quite a lot to him about being the 'Liverpool Coutinho' - to take the initiative, be a leading part of the team, all within his own style," added the coach. Brazil's other goals came from Renato Augusto (2), teenage star Gabriel Barbosa and Lucas Lima.

'We've done nothing'

The goal-feast was a welcome return to potency for Brazil's attack against admittedly feeble opposition. Defender Filipe Luis

however cautioned that Brazil would face a sterner challenge against Peru in their final Group B game at Foxborough's Gillette Stadium on Sunday.

"It was a comfortable win but we have to be humble, we have done nothing yet," the Atletico Madrid left back said. "We tied the opening game so it was really important for us to win, which we did. Now we have to win against Peru." Haiti midfielder Jean-Marc Alexandre meanwhile said the memory of his first game against Brazil would always be clouded by the result. "It is very bitter-sweet for us. You always remember defeats like this. You can't make mistakes against a team like Brazil and they punished us for every mistake we made," Alexandre said.

Elsewhere on Wednesday, Ecuador frustrated Peru's hopes of sealing their quarter-final berth, fighting back from two goals down to snatch a 2-2 draw in Glendale, Arizona. A superb individual strike from West Ham's Enner Valencia and a second half effort from Brazil-based midfielder Miller Bolanos completed Ecuador's comeback.

The Ecuadorans had earlier been left reeling after falling 2-0 down inside the first 13 minutes. Peru, who had beaten Haiti in their opening game on Saturday, appeared to be cruising into the last eight after the early efforts from Christian Cueva and Edison Flores. But Ecuador's recovery leaves Group B evenly poised heading into the final round of games.

Brazil are in pole position likely needing only a draw against Peru to advance given their goal difference of plus six following their big win over Haiti. However Ecuador could conceivably sneak into the last eight with a big win over Haiti in the final game. Ecuador are third with two points from two games. —AFP

CONTE CALMS ITALY'S EURO 2016 HOPES

MONTPELLIER: Italy coach Antonio Conte calmed Azzurri hopes of a triumphant summer of football by admitting the beaten 2012 finalists will be taking a "humble" approach to their Euro 2016 campaign in France. But Conte, speaking at the 'Casa Azzurra' near their team base in Montpellier, said every one of his 23-man squad will get a chance to play in their opening three group games against Belgium, Sweden and the Republic of Ireland.

"I don't have a crystal ball," Conte told media when asked what Italy could be expected to achieve ahead of their Group E opener against Belgium in Lille. Using a cycling analogy, he added: "We have to stay humble, keep our heads down and just keep pedaling." Two years after suffering their second successive first round exit at a World Cup, while under former coach Cesare Prandelli, ex-Juventus boss Conte has huge pressure on his shoulders ahead of a move to Chelsea later this summer.

And the make-up of their group opponents doesn't help matters—Group E has been described as one of the toughest in the tournament. Belgium are ranked number two in the world and are expected to finish top of the standings.

Former Inter Milan, AC Milan and Juventus striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic is the big star of Sweden's team while Republic of Ireland are seen as an unpredictable side that, on their day, are capable of pulling off a big upset. Conte, flanked by Italian football federation (FIGC) president Carlo Tavecchio and Montpellier mayor Philippe Saurel, added: "We can't let ourselves be influenced by external factors. We're focused, concentrated on working and looking to improve on all parts of our game. "We have to be honest with ourselves and look to get the most out of this campaign."

After limping out of Brazil 2014 following defeats to Costa Rica and Uruguay, having opened their World Cup campaign with victory over England, Conte knows goalscoring will be crucial. But he said "creating" those opportunities is even more important, and he is ready to give all 23 of his squad a run-out in a bid to make that happen. "More than anything, we have to create (goalscoring) chances. Scoring goals is important, but to do that you also need a little luck," he said.

An opening session at the training camp of French Ligue 1 side Montpellier yesterday offered few clues as to who Conte might select for Italy's opener against Belgium on Monday. But Conte added: "As far as my selection choices go, there's little to say. I've selected 23 players and I have faith in all of them. I know what they are capable of giving me. "We have three games ahead of us, and all of them will play." —AFP



MONTPELLIER: Italy's defender Leonardo Bonucci prepares for a training session of Italy's national football team in Montpellier, southern France, on June 9, 2016, prior to the Euro 2016 football tournament. —AFP

IBRA' CAN STEER SWEDEN OUT OF 'GROUP OF DEATH': LJUNGBERG

PARIS: Sweden legend Freddie Ljungberg says his country can survive Euro 2016's 'group of death' with superstar Zlatan Ibrahimovic poised to play his last European Championship finals. Erik Hamren's Sweden open their campaign against the Republic of Ireland at Paris' Stade de France on June 13 and will also face Belgium and Italy in Group E. The Swedes will be spearheaded by their 34-year-old superstar striker Ibrahimovic, who is weighing up his future after finishing his Paris Saint Germain contract and has been linked to Manchester United.

"He's the biggest player in the team and a lot hangs on him to score our goals," said Ljungberg, who coaches Arsenal's Under-15 side having won the last of his 75 caps in captaining Sweden at Euro 2008 when they exited after the group stages. Ibrahimovic is his country's top scorer at European finals with six goals in 10 games and of Sweden's 19 goals in qualifying, Ibrahimovic scored 11, including three in their play-off win against Denmark. He has netted 62 goals in 112 international appearances since his 2001 debut.

Ibrahimovic gets freedom

Former Arsenal and West Ham winger Ljungberg said Ibrahimovic's aggressive play can steer Sweden into the knock-out stages, as they did in reaching the Euro 2004 quarter-finals, on his swansong at the finals. "That's how he plays, so it's very important for Sweden that he has a good tournament in order for us to progress.

"We have a lot of other players who don't get as much attention who are doing the work at the back and covering up, so he can that freedom to express himself, which is important for us or we might get cut open at the back. "They don't always get the headlines, but they are just as important to the team."

With Italy and Belgium widely tipped to go through, Ljungberg said the Swedes could be the group's dark-horses aiming to avoid bowing out in the group stages for the third Euro finals running. Having qualified for France by beating neighbors Denmark in a two-legged play-off, Sweden go into the finals under the radar. "We qualified through the play-offs, so we can't regard ourselves as favorites, but we hope we can get through the group stages," said Ljungberg.

Sweden won their group at the 2002 World Cup, with both Ljungberg and Ibrahimovic in the team, ahead of England and Argentina after grinding out 1-1 draws with both nations and a 2-1 win over bottom side Nigeria.

"It'll be tough, but that's sometimes a good thing, we played the World Cup with Argentina, Nigeria and England and we won it, it depends it can raise your game and I hope that happens again," added Ljungberg.

The ex-winger is tipping world champions Germany to add Euro 2016 title to their Brazil 2015 crown. "I'd hold the Germans are favourites, I like the fact they play as a team, they are doing really well and demanding a lot of each other, but they look very good," said Ljungberg. "They are well balanced, look at a side like England in the past where you had Scholes or Gerrard or Lampard and they all want to play as a Number Ten and you try to fix them in different roles, which doesn't always give the right balance in the team. "I think Germany are a bit more ruthless in that regards and I just enjoy watching them." —AFP



LISBON: Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, left, vies for the ball with Estonia's Nikita Baranov during their friendly soccer match at Benfica stadium. —AP

RONALDO AND CO LAUNCH EUROS IN JITTERY FRANCE

PARIS: Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice for Portugal before becoming the last of the football superstars to arrive in France for today's start of the European Championship finals. With the host nation under a state of emergency over feared terror attacks, strict security has greeted Ronaldo and other headline players as well as the hundreds of thousands of foreign fans gathering for the month-long, 51-match fiesta.

France launch the tournament with a Group A game against Romania on Friday at the Stade de France which was one of the targets of the November 13 attacks last year. Ronaldo scored twice in a 45 minute appearance for Portugal in their 7-0 win over Estonia on Wednesday night, their final match before their first Group F game next Tuesday against Iceland.

The three-time World Player of the Year, looking to add a first international trophy to his accolades, banished doubts over his fitness with his two goal display that allowed Portugal to head for France full of confidence.

"It has been a long season," he said. "I would have liked to have played more tonight, but I need to hold back and give others playing time. "I feel good. There is still a week to go. What I want is a good start to the Euros and an even better finish. It is a difficult competition to win, you have to go step by step."

There is also much focus on France, looking to add a new triumph on home territory after their triumphs in the 1984 European Championship and 1998 World Cup. Coach Didier Deschamps, captain of the 1998 side, is charged with lifting the spirits of a nation beset by social unrest and fears of a repeat of the attacks in Paris last November which killed 130 people. France has ramped up security, but two million visitors are expected to attend matches from Lens in the north of the country to Nice on the Cote d'Azur and the Stade de

France, which will host the opening game and July 10 final.

Rashford's Euro dream

Deschamps's preparations have been further disrupted by accusations of racism from Real Madrid star Karim Benzema after he was excluded from the squad over an investigation into his role in a sex-tape blackmail scandal. France's Paul Pogba will still be one of the most watched stars at Euro 2016 alongside the likes of Ronaldo.

France will also see Zlatan Ibrahimovic grace an international tournament for possibly the last time in the colors of Sweden, while Gareth Bale will hope to have a big impact as Wales return to a major finals for the first time since 1958. "We're not going there just to make up the numbers," Real Madrid forward Bale told the BBC recently.

The expanded finals could also see the younger stars of European football announce themselves on the international stage, from England teenager Marcus Rashford to Bayern Munich's David Alaba. "It doesn't seem real," 18-year-old Rashford said of his surprise inclusion just four months after making his Manchester United debut. "To be here now is just amazing. For it to be in my hands to go out and help the country is an amazing feeling."

Only eight of the 24 teams will be eliminated in the group stage giving a host of less-fancied nations a chance to shine on the big stage. Northern Ireland and Hungary return to major tournaments after three-decade absences, while it will be the first ever finals for the minnows of Iceland and Albania and Iceland. "It will be tough, but we're capable of springing a surprise," Albania forward Shkelzen Gashi told World Soccer. "We're going there to enjoy the occasion, sure, as it's the first time Albania has ever appeared in a major tournament, but we also want to give a good account of ourselves." —AP

EX-LIVERPOOL DEFENDER AGGER RETIRES AGED 31

COPENHAGEN: Former Liverpool defender Daniel Agger has announced his retirement due to injuries at the age of just 31. "It's sad, but it is the right decision to stop. I'm proud of my career," the Danish international centre-back wrote on Twitter.

Agger joined Liverpool from Brøndby in 2006 and made 232 appearances for the club, scoring 14 goals and winning the League Cup in 2012,

but his spell at Anfield was frequently disrupted by injuries. He returned to Brøndby in 2014. "It has been difficult in recent years. The last two-three years I think I've been at an acceptable level. But acceptable is not good enough for me," he said at a press conference at the Rosenhøj club outside Copenhagen where he played as a youth. "I don't want my level to fall any further and so it was time to stop," he added. —AFP



CLEVELAND: Stephen Curry #30 of the Golden State Warriors gets tangled with LeBron James #23 of the Cleveland Cavaliers during the first half in Game 3 of the 2016 NBA Finals at Quicken Loans Arena. — AFP



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