

Lights drown out Milky Way for 3rd of the population



US Muslims see anti-mosque bias in court decision



Hard times in Egypt stoke labor unrest



Warriors move to brink of NBA title, beat Cavs

Ramadan Timings	
Emsak:	03:03
Fajer:	03:13
Shrooq:	04:48
Dohr:	11:48
Asr:	15:22
Maghreb:	18:48
Eshaa:	20:20



150 FILS

NO: 16902

40 PAGES

IS SUICIDE BOMBERS KILL 20 OUTSIDE SYRIA SHRINE

ATTACK HIGHLIGHTS SECTARIAN DIMENSION OF CIVIL WAR



Min 30°

Max 46°

High Tide

05:46 & 16:33

Low Tide

11:16 & 23:48



DAMASCUS: Syrians check the site of a double bombing attack yesterday outside the Sayyida Zeinab shrine, which is revered by Shiites around the world. — AFP

AMMAN: Islamic State claimed responsibility for suicide and car bomb blasts that struck a Damascus suburb yesterday near Syria's holiest Shiite Muslim shrine, and a monitoring group said at least 20 people were killed. State television showed debris, mangled cars and wrecked shops in a main commercial thoroughfare near the Sayeda Zeinab shrine, in an area where at least three bomb attacks claimed by Islamic State have killed and wounded scores of people this year.

The ultra-hardline Sunni militants of IS, whose many foes are advancing on a number of fronts in both Syria and Iraq, are avowed enemies of Shiites, whom they consider a heretical group within Islam. State media said at least eight people were killed. But the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the death toll had risen to at least 20, including at least 13 civilians, with the other victims coming from pro-government militias. It said the number was expected to rise because many of the scores of wounded people were in critical condition.

Islamic State said two of its suicide bombers had blown themselves up and operatives had detonated an explosives-laden car, according to the IS-affiliated Amaq news agency. The Sayeda Zeinab shrine is a magnet for thousands of Iraqi and Afghan Shiite militia recruits who go there before being assigned to front lines, where they fight against the Sunni rebel groups trying to topple President Bashar Al-Assad. Almost every Shiite militia fighter bears insignia on his combat fatigues with the words "For your sake, Sayeda Zeinab".

The heavily garrisoned area near the shrine is also a well known stronghold of Lebanon's powerful Shiite Hezbollah group, an Iranian-backed movement that is one of Assad's chief allies.

Continued on Page 13

FORGIVENESS IN RAMADAN

Ramadan Kareem

By Hassan T Bwambale

"F"orgiveness is epitomized in avoiding harming someone in revenge for the injury or harm he meted out to you, despite having the ability to avenge," according to Al-Imam Al-Kafawi (Al-Kulliyat, P 52- 58). This means that when someone wrongs you or treats you with injustice, underestimating your ability to avenge, you choose to forgive and forget due to your strong faith in God Almighty. Not only is your self-confidence boosted, but also your reward for this virtue is great.

Encouraging us to forgive, Allah (to Whom is ascribed all perfection and majesty) says what can be translated as: "So by mercy from God, you [O Muhammad (PBUH)] were lenient with them. And if you had been rude [in speech] and harsh-hearted, they would have disbanded from about you. So pardon them and ask forgiveness for them and consult them in affairs..." (Al-Imran 3: 159). God Almighty in this verse as well as in many others, commands Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to forgive all those who wronged him whether Muslims or non-Muslims so long as their offences did not lead to a dangerous catastrophe.

Continued on Page 13

News

in brief

Prominent opposition activist leaves Bahrain

DUBAI: Bahraini Shiite opposition activist Zainab Al-Khawaja, who was released from jail this week on "humanitarian" grounds, announced yesterday that she has left the country. "It pains me to leave, but I leave carrying our cause on my back, and my love for my country in my chest," Khawaja, who left for Denmark where she also holds nationality, said on Twitter. Her sister Maryam, likewise on Twitter, said Zainab left on Monday with her children after having received undisclosed threats. Bahraini authorities said they released Khawaja, who had been held in prison with her toddler son since March, on May 31 because of her "humanitarian situation". The Shiite mother had been convicted of insulting King Hamad by ripping up a picture of him, and she had chosen to keep her 17-month-old son with her in jail. Judicial authorities ordered "the suspension of the sentence" for Khawaja. She is the daughter of prominent rights activist Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, who is serving a life sentence for plotting to overthrow the Sunni regime.

Woman held in Qatar over 'rape complaint'

THE HAGUE: A 22-year-old Dutch woman is being held in Qatar on suspicion of adultery after she said she was raped while on holiday there, her lawyer and Dutch media said yesterday. The woman says she was drugged in a hotel, and that she realized she had been raped when she woke up in an unfamiliar apartment. "She was arrested in March on suspicion of adultery, which means having sex outside marriage," lawyer Brian Lokollo told Dutch radio NOS-Radio1. A Dutch foreign ministry spokeswoman confirmed the arrest but said the young woman, whom she named as Laura, has not been charged. Daphne Kerremans added that "the enquiry is ongoing" and that Dutch authorities are in regular contact with Laura. The woman's lawyer said that the case concerns a trip his client made in March to a Qatar hotel where the consumption of alcohol is allowed.

Journalist Mohamed Fahmy regains Egyptian citizenship

TORONTO: A Canadian journalist who spent almost two years jailed in Egypt said that Egyptian authorities have restored the citizenship he renounced in order to win his release. Mohamed Fahmy, a former Al-Jazeera journalist released last year after receiving a pardon from Egypt's president, was a dual citizen but renounced his Egyptian citizenship late in 2014 after being asked to do as a condition of his release. He says he never wanted to do that. Fahmy was arrested in 2013 with two Al-Jazeera English colleagues. In a case that was widely condemned, he was sentenced to three years in prison in a retrial for airing what a court described as "false news" and coverage biased in favor of the now-banned Muslim Brotherhood. Fahmy said he called government officials and they confirmed he has his citizenship back. "I am thankful the mistake was corrected," he said.

FIRE RAVAGES KUWAIT AIRPORT WAREHOUSE

KUWAIT: Six teams of firefighters managed to put out a fire that broke out yesterday at a warehouse of a post office at a cargo terminal of Kuwait International Airport, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) said. The fire did not lead to any injury, but some little financial losses, Deputy Director General of KFSD for Fighting Sector Major General Jamal Al-Bulaihees said. The body tasked with the incidents of fire is working on collecting required data to uncover the reasons behind the fire, he said.

He noted that a number of fire sta-

tions took part in extinguishing the blaze. He expressed his deep gratitude for the efforts of firefighters which is aimed at saving the lives and properties. Director General of KFSD Lieutenant General Yousef Abdullah Al-Ansari, who was in a direct contact with Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, rushed to the site of the fire to get acquainted with the incident. Earlier, Acting Director of KFSD Major General Khalid Al-Mekrad said that the fire did not affect the flights at the airport. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Massive fires engulfed the Kuwait Airport cargo store yesterday. Firemen from the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) battled the blaze. — KUNA

'THE VOICE' STAR KILLED IN US SHOOTING



BEIT HANUN: Palestinian Karam Al-Zaaneen (left), 13, and his brother Mustafa, 16, ride a donkey-pulled-cart after collecting plastic at a garbage dump in Beit Hanun in the northern Gaza Strip. — AFP

WARS AND POVERTY FORCE GAZA CHILDREN TO WORK

GAZA: Instead of going to school, Walid and Ibrahim spend hours each day rummaging through houses destroyed in Gaza's wars in search of scrap to raise a few shekels for their families. They were once good students but Walid Maaruf, 11, and Ibrahim Ghaben, 12, had to quit school and earn a living when their fathers lost their jobs. Israel and Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip have fought three wars since 2008, including a devastating 50-day conflict in 2014 in the tiny Mediterranean territory.

Residents have lived under a punitive Israeli blockade imposed 10 years ago and their options are further limited by Egypt, which has largely kept its border with Gaza closed since 2013. Nearly half the enclave's 1.9 million inhabitants live under the poverty line, with 80 percent surviving on humanitarian aid.

Continued on Page 13

MIAMI: Singer Christina Grimmie, who starred in NBC's "The Voice," was killed after being shot at a concert in Orlando, Florida by an unidentified gunman, who then killed himself, police said yesterday. "With deep regret, we have confirmed Christina Grimmie, @TheRealGrimmie, has died from her injuries," the Orlando Police Department said on its Twitter account.

The 22-year-old Grimmie performed late Friday with the group Before You Exit at Orlando's Plaza Live Theater and stayed after to sign autographs and sell merchandise. A man, who was armed with two guns, walked toward her and shot her, police said. "Christina's brother immediately tackled the suspect, who shot & killed himself," the police said. Grimmie was rushed to the Orlando Regional Medical Center. The motive of the gunman, who was not identified, was unclear. "We don't know if he was just a crazy fan that followed her on Twitter or on social media. We really don't know," police spokeswoman Wanda Miglio said at a news conference.

"This is a very tragic event. This should have been something that was fun and exciting, and for something like this to happen is just a tragedy." She said about 60 to 100 people attended the concert, but only a handful were left when the shooting occurred. "Her brother is a hero for saving and stopping him from not hurting anyone else," Miglio said. The shooting seemed likely to add fuel to the long simmering debate over gun laws in the United States, where guns were used in more than 11,200 murders in 2013, according to the Centers for Disease



Christina Grimmie

Control and Prevention.

But past bouts of even more extreme gun violence, including the 2012 killing of 20 school children at an elementary school in Connecticut, have led to little change in a country where the right to bear arms is protected under the second amendment of the US constitution. US Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton has vowed to take on the powerful US gun lobby if elected president, while Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee, has promised "to cherish the Second Amendment".

Grimmie, who competed in the sixth season of "The Voice" in 2014, released her debut EP "Find Me" in 2011. "We are heartbroken," the NBC talent show said on its Twitter account after the shooting, calling

Continued on Page 13

In Brief

250 EXPATS CONVERT TO ISLAM IN RAMADAN: IPC

KUWAIT: Up to 250 expats from different nationalities have converted to Islam during the first five days of the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan, the Islam Presentation Committee (IPC) said yesterday. The IPC aspires, through field preaching and cooperation on the part of Kuwaitis and expat communities, that converts to Islam would hit up to 1,200 during the month, IPC Director General Abdulaziz Ahmad Al-Du'ai said in a press statement. Preaching and cultural sessions are organized for the newly converts as part of the iftar banquets, to further acquaint them with the teachings of Islam, he said. — KUNA



BLOOD PRESSURE, DIABETES COMMON DURING RAMADAN

KUWAIT: Cases of fluctuating blood pressure and diabetes have increased during the Holy Month of Ramadan of last year and this same scenario might repeat itself this year, said a medial official yesterday. Executive at the Ministry of Health Dr Abeer Al-Bahho said that a ministry study showed that bad eating habits were the main cause for the increase of such ailments especially during the advent of Ramadan. Good eating habits, exercising, and practicing self-restraint are keys to combat the expected increase of such diseases, the doctor said, affirming that the ministry will do its part to provide health tips. — KUNA



RATIONALIZED CONSUMPTION SAVES ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION COSTS

KUWAIT: Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity and Water Mohammad Bushehri said Friday that rationalization of the electricity consumption could save 20-30 percent of the production costs. "The Ministry's rationalization program targets saving KD 500 million - KD 600 million (nearly \$1.65 billion - \$1.99 billion) of the water and electricity costs annually," he said. Bushehri made the comments on the sidelines of the inauguration of the Ministry's pavilion at a shopping mall themed 'imagine your life without it.' "The power generating process consumes about 340,000 barrels of oil per day," he said. —KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Kuwaitis watch the UEFA Euro 2016 opening football match between France and Romania at a traditional coffee shop in downtown Kuwait City on June 10, 2016. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with a delegation of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) branch in the US. — KUNA

SPEAKER GHANEM MEETS NUKS TEAM

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem met yesterday with a delegation of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) branch in the US. The team comprised Secretary Talal Al-Thufairi and Treasurer Dawoud Al-Busairi.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will patronize the 25th conference for NUKS. His Highness the Crown Prince will be represented at the event by Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. The conference will be held today at 10:30 pm in

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel.

In other news, His Highness the Crown Prince congratulated Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Interior Prince Mohammad bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on the advent of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

During a phone conversation, His Highness the Crown Prince expressed sincere wishes of welfare and development to the Saudi leadership and people. Prince Mohammad thanked His Highness Sheikh Nawaf for his sentiments, expressing the same wishes for the Kuwaiti people and leadership. — KUNA

MINISTRY OF STATE FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS HONORS KFH

FOR PARTICIPATING IN 'YOUTH WEEK'

KUWAIT: Ministry of State for Youth Affairs honored Kuwait Finance House (KFH) for its participation in the 'Youth Week' that had been organized by the Ministry under the theme 'Success Partners.' The recognition affirms KFH's commitment towards achieving its social responsibility, yet reflects its keenness to support the youth and the society.

Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah praised KFH during the honoring ceremony held to recognize the entities and companies took part in the "Youth Week". He stressed the importance of the efficient partnership between the public and private sectors along with the public welfare institutions in developing the youth and supporting the government's efforts in patronizing the youth as they are the future pillar of the country.

He noted that the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs succeeded in presenting several achievements in the fields of planning, preparations and increasing the awareness among the youth.

It is worth noting that KFH has a proven track record in supporting and patronizing the youth, while participating in the activities and events of interest to the society and the youth.



KUWAIT: KFH PR team with the Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

DIPLOMAT LAUDS PARTICIPATION IN ILC'S 105TH SESSION

GENEVA: Kuwait's participation in the 105th Session of the International Labor Conference (ILC) was 'successful,' the country's Permanent Representative at the UN and International Organizations in Geneva Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim said yesterday.

Ghunaim added that the diplomatic efforts, and fruitful endeavors by the Ministry of Social Affairs had led to removing Kuwait from the International Labor Organization (ILO's) list of violators of labor rights. In addition, the Kuwaiti delegation put forward the country's views on proper work and how to direct globalization toward principles of corporate social responsibility in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, he said.

He also pointed to ILO Director-General

Guy Ryder's praise of Kuwait's support to the organization's development programs in Palestine to alleviate the effects of the Israeli unjust siege on the Palestinian people and their capabilities.

Ghunaim noted that Kuwait had taken part in all discussions fighting poverty around the globe as well as backing developing and least poor countries. He said that Kuwait is among the leading supporters of social justice and dialogue among the three parties of the production process, government, workers (employees) and employers.

The ILC 105th Session that started on May 30 and wrapped up discussions Saturday morning was attended by delegations from 187 countries, together with representatives of trade unions and civil society organizations concerned with labor rights. — KUNA



Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim

INFO MINISTER CONGRATULATES TWO KJA MEMBERS ON WINNING IFJ POSTS

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah congratulated Kuwait Journalist Association (KJA) members Dahiran Aba-Al-Khail and Jassem Kamal on their election as Asia executive board member of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and observer for Asia respectively.

"This is a new achievement for the Kuwaiti journalism," Sheikh Salman said Friday night, noting that Kuwait is the first GCC member that wins these two posts in the IFJ. He attributed the win to the sincere

efforts made by Aba-Al-Khail and Kamal in supporting the KJA to play its role as a civil society institution and cooperate with the Ministry of Information.

He reaffirmed the Ministry's support to the activities of the KJA on the local, regional and international scales. Aba-Al-Khail won 181 votes out of 290 of the IFJ while Kamal was elected uncontested in the IFJ polls which took place in Angers, France, earlier today. The Brussels-based IFJ represents more than 600,000 journalists and 179 press associations worldwide. — KUNA

COMMITTEE MULLS TOTAL COEDUCATION BAN BILL

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The parliament's legislation committee is scheduled to meet today and discuss a proposal made by MPs Humoud Al-Hamdan, Ouda Al-Ruwai, Mohammed Al-Huwailah, Ali Al-Khamees and Hamdan Al-Azmi to amend article one of law number 24/1966 pertaining regulating higher education at Kuwait University, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) and private schools. In their proposal, the lawmakers urged the government to develop colleges, buildings and labs at both Kuwait University and PAAET to ensure preventing coeducation, which was deemed as an attempt to manipulate the constitutional court ruling in this regard. Minister of Education Dr Bader Al-Essa stressed that PAAET was keen on developing its buildings in a way that allocates special places for male and female students, with only one exception - the nursing college, where female students outnumber male ones, with the result of having one male student at most in a group of female students. Essa added that fully preventing coeducation was fully observed in designing the new Sabah Al-Salem University, which includes two separate campuses.

Municipality law

The parliament's activities committee is scheduled to discuss the municipality law for the third time in a fortnight today, to be referred to the parliament for Monday's session, said informed sources. The sources added some MPs were expected to demand reducing the minimum educational qualification for a candidate run-

ning for municipal council elections from university degree to diploma or high school certificate.

Expat nurses

The Ministry of Health's (MoH) assistant undersecretary for assisting medical services Dr Jamal Al-Harbi said that Civil Services Commission (CSC) law number 5/2009 pertaining with nursing staff was fair towards expats rather than citizens. Harbi added that the ministry had met CSC officials to discuss improving the working conditions of Kuwaiti nursing staff members. Harbi also stressed the need to hold the heads of ambulance centers accountable for any negligence and said that the ministry was considering a new system of incentives, such as selecting the center, the area leader and the paramedic of the month, paying training and meal

allowances of up to KD 100 to paramedics and not to administrative staff. In other news, CSC reaffirmed the illegality of allowing government employees to study and work at the same time, except with official permission from the body they work for.

Sewer closed

The Environment Public Authority (EPA) prepared a schedule for closing the Ministry of Public Work's (MPW) sewer outlets into Kuwait Bay to prevent polluting the bay's water. According to the plan, it will start by closing the Ghazali sewer line next month, and thus prevent over 100,000 liters of sewage water from being pumped into the sea daily from Jleeb Al-Shuyukh alone, as it had been designed to house 50,000 people but has a population of over 300,000.

LAWMAKER URGES MEETING FAILAKA RESIDENTS' DEMANDS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: MP Abdullah Al-Turaiji urged Deputy Prime Minister Finance Minister and Acting Oil Minister Dr Anas Al-Saleh to meet the demands made by Failaka residents to provide them with enough diesel and gas supplies. Turaiji added that citizens living on the island had contacted relevant authorities concerning fuel supplies so that they could continue living on the island instead of abandoning it. According to several reports and studies, Failaka has the potential to become a very promising regional touristic attraction, the lawmaker said

Bold decision

MP Faisal Al-Duwaisan hailed the Ministry of Interior's decision on suspending accepting new batches of cadets at Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for two years with the aim of developing and improving various training courses in a way that

would be reflected in the graduates joining the force. "This was a bold and daring decision," he said, noting that lawmakers had been demanding development and rehabilitation. He also expressed wishes that others would follow the Interior Ministry's footsteps.

Syrian workers

A delegation of the Kuwait Society for Human Rights (KSHR) visited the residency affairs directorate where it was received by Director Major General Talal Maarafi. Maarafi and the KSHR delegation discussed many topics including the Zimbabwean maid case, improving the living conditions of expatriate laborers, namely domestic helpers, means of cooperation with KSHR and the situation of Syrians living in Kuwait. Maarafi explained that there are over 6,000 Syrians in violation of residency laws and that a special committee had been formed to discuss their cases.



CALLAWAY: In this file photo, Omaha photographer Lane Hickenbottom photographs the night sky in a pasture near Callaway, Nebraska. With no moon in the sky, the Milky Way was visible to the naked eye. —AP

LIGHTS DROWN OUT MILKY WAY FOR THIRD OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION

KUWAIT AND QATAR - CLOSE RUNNERS-UP

CAPE CANAVERAL: More than one-third of the world's population can no longer see the Milky Way because of man-made lights. Among those missing out on awe-inspiring Milky Way views: nearly 80 percent of North Americans and 60 percent of Europeans. These are the findings of a new global atlas of light pollution, published as part of a scientific paper Friday.

More than four-fifths of Earthlings now live beneath skies polluted by artificial light, which blocks out the Milky Way for more than a third of them, according to the research. "I hope that this atlas will finally open the eyes of people to light pollution," lead author Fabio Falchi said in a statement. He is with the Light Pollution Science and Technology Institute in northern Italy. Tiny

Singapore is the most light-polluted country; the entire population loses out on seeing the true night sky. Kuwait and Qatar are close runners-up. On the opposite end of the spectrum - countries whose populations are exposed to the least light pollution - are Chad, Central African Republic and Madagascar.

Falchi and his team members warn the problem affects more than astronomers. It is profoundly altered a fundamental human experience, namely that of pondering the night sky. Co-author Christopher Elvidge, a scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Centers for Environmental Information in Boulder, Colorado, bemoans the fact that "whole generations" of Americans have never seen the

Milky Way. "It is a big part of our connection to the cosmos - and it's been lost," he said in a statement.

The situation is even worse for some animals. Artificial light can confuse insects, birds and sea turtles, with deadly results. There's also the waste of energy and money, the researchers point out. The National Park Service's Dan Duriscoe, a co-author, noted that some national parks in the West like Yellowstone are among the last refuges of darkness in the US Urban light a few hundred miles away or more can spoil nighttime vistas, even in pristine federal land like Death Valley National Park in Southern California. The report - which appears in the journal Science Advances - is based on new satellite data and special software.—AP

MAN DEAD AFTER CAR FELL IN SEA

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Marine rescue forces found the body of a citizen who drowned when his vehicle fell into the gulf in Mangaf. Case papers indicate that two citizens were driving their vehicle along the beach, which fell into the water and was submerged. Rescue forces rushed to the scene and managed to rescue one of them as he was still alive inside the vehicle, while the victim, a 19-year-old, was missing. The beach was combed for hours until coastguards and the marine rescue forces found his body off the beach.

Beggars arrested

The Ministry of Interior announced a new list of beggars it said Farwaniya detectives arrested as part of campaigns against begging during

Ramadan. They include:

1. Anjoman Belal Hussein, a Bangladeshi who did not hold any ID.
2. Siryani Chander, a Sri Lankan sponsored by citizen Salem Misfer.
3. Azza Ahmed, an Egyptian working as a cleaner at the Ministry of Education.
4. Munir Zulaikhat, Jordanian dependent sponsored by his father Samir Mohsen.
5. Dilshad Khan Saber, a resident working for Khorafi company.

At the same time, Capital security forces arrested another group of beggars, including:

1. Mohammed Naji, an Egyptian sponsored by Maraseem General Trading and Contracting Company.
2. Tawasol Ahmed, an Egyptian dependent sponsored by her husband Ahsraf Mohammed.

3. Haneef Khan, Indian sponsored by citizen Mohammed Abdullatif. He was caught while begging on the dates street in Shuwaikh and had KD 192 on him.
4. Mohammed Abd Rabbu, an Egyptian fisherman sponsored by citizen Waleed Saleh.
5. Suad Gaballah, Egyptian dependent sponsored by her husband, a beggar who has already been arrested.

House fire

A fire broke out in a house in Qurain, where two people were trapped by flames inside the bedroom. Security sources said firefighters controlled the fire, preventing it from spreading to the rest of the house and managed to rescue the two trapped citizens, handing them over to paramedics, who also tended to a fireman who suffered from smoke inhalation.

43 PERCENT EXPECT BUSINESS CONDITIONS TO IMPROVE NEXT YEAR

THIRD RESPONDENTS EXPECT OVERALL ECONOMY TO IMPROVE

KUWAIT: Thirty percent of Kuwait respondents have a very positive outlook on the future of Kuwait's economy, according to a recent Bayt.com Middle East and North Africa Consumer Confidence Index survey, which was conducted by Bayt.com, the Middle East's number one job site, and YouGov, a leading market research agency.

Country's economic situation

Seventeen percent of Kuwait respondents believe that the country's economy has 'improved' in the last six months, while nearly a half (48 percent) believe that it has 'receded'. However, 30 percent expect the country's economy to 'improve' in the next six months, almost equaling the 31 percent who expect it to 'get worse'.

Almost a quarter of employed Kuwait respondents (23 percent) believe that business conditions are either 'good' or 'very good'; 24 percent believe that business conditions are bad. However, respondents are largely optimistic about the future, with 43 percent of Kuwait respondents who expect business conditions to 'get better' in a year's time.

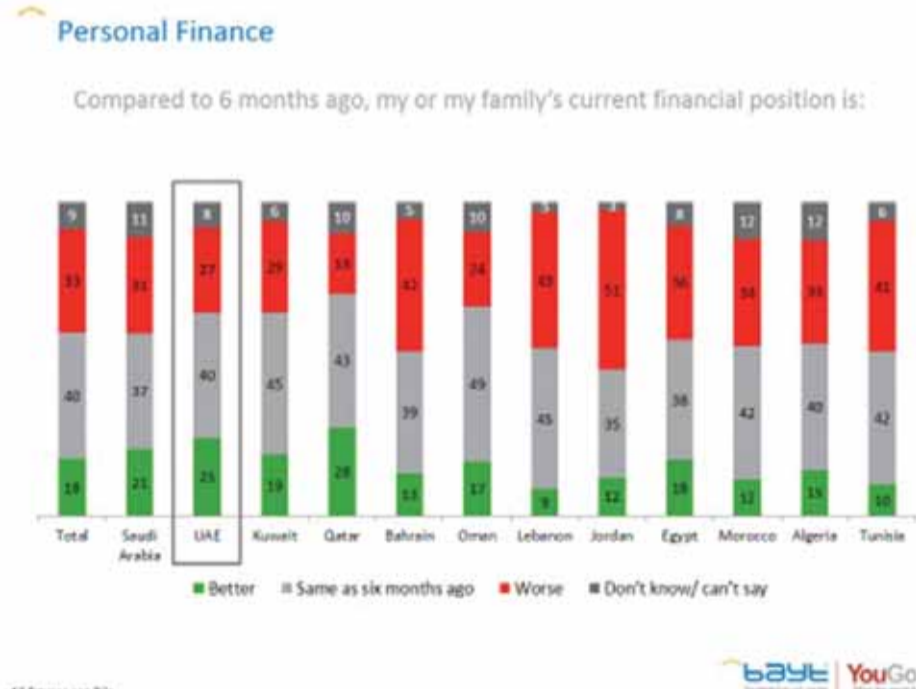
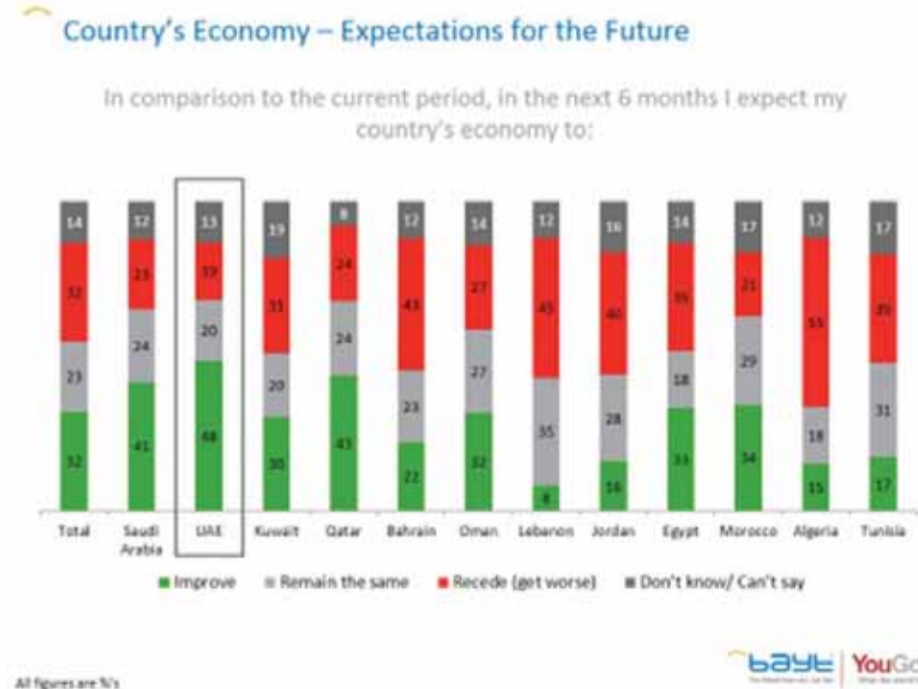
Personal economic situation

According to 45 percent of respondents in Kuwait, their financial situation is the 'same as six months ago' (19 percent say it is 'better' than it was six months ago, while 29 percent claim that it is 'worse'). The outlook in Kuwait is positive: 39 percent of respondents believe that their personal financial situation will 'improve' in the next six months. When it comes to the cost of living in the next six months, eight in 10 respondents expect it to increase, while one in 10 expect the cost of living to 'remain the same'.

Sixty four percent of Kuwait respondents say that their savings have 'decreased' when compared to last year. Eleven percent claim that their savings have 'increased' this year, while 21 percent reveal that they have 'remained the same'.

Consumer spending in Kuwait

Twenty seven percent of those surveyed in Kuwait are planning to invest in a motor vehicle in the next 12 months. Of those, 47 percent are planning to buy a new vehicle, while



33 percent are planning to buy a used one. 63 percent of Kuwait respondents are not planning on purchasing a vehicle.

When it comes to investing in property, a quarter of Kuwait respondents are planning to invest in the next 12 months. Of those who are planning to buy property, 48 percent will invest in an 'apartment', while 30 percent plan to buy a 'villa/townhouse/bungalow' and 17 percent will purchase 'commercial property'. The majority (59 percent) of respondents who are planning to invest in property in Kuwait plan to buy 'new' property in the next 12 months, while 12 percent will invest in 'pre-owned' property.

Regarding consumer goods, 21 percent of Kuwait residents plan to purchase a 'tablet or smartphone' in the next six months, while 19 percent will invest in a 'desktop or laptop' or in 'furniture'. Around 13 percent of respondents in Kuwait are planning to buy 'LCD or Plasma TV' over the same period. A 'washing machine' (12 percent), refrigerator (10 percent) and cooking range (10 per-

cent) are also among the respondents' list of priorities for this year.

Current job perspective in Kuwait

Presently, 29 percent of respondents surveyed believe that there are plenty of jobs available in Kuwait, with 12 percent claiming availability across multiple industries and 17 percent claiming availability across a limited number of industries. 15 percent of Kuwait respondents expect the job availability to 'increase' in the next six months.

Twenty four percent of employed respondents feel that the number of employees in their company over the past six months has 'increased', while 45 percent believe the opposite to be true. Over the course of the next six months, 26 percent of employed respondents in Kuwait expect the number of employees in their organization to 'increase'.

With regards to satisfaction levels, 33 percent of employed Kuwait respondents are satisfied with career growth opportunities, and 30 percent are satisfied with their current compensation. On the other hand, 52 percent are

dissatisfied with their current salary and allowances. When it comes to non-monetary benefits, 31 percent of employed Kuwait respondents are satisfied, while 52 percent feel the opposite. 34 percent of employed respondents in Kuwait feel secure in their jobs.

"While the region as a whole has seen a relative dip in consumer confidence, future expectations amongst respondents remain positive and bright," said Suhail Masri, VP of Employer Solutions, Bayt.com. "At Bayt.com there are currently more than 10,000 jobs posted on the website on any given day. This augments the tremendous amount of recruitment that takes place via the Bayt.com CV Search functionality for employers who prefer not to immediately advertise their pressing job vacancies, which recruiters can try for free on www.bayt.com/en/search-cv/. Jobseeker registration on our website is growing at over 12,000 new professionals a day and continues to reflect a healthy appetite for jobs across the industrial and career spectrum. In an extra-competitive job market though, we advise professionals to

enhance their visibility to employers by creating online profiles on Bayt.com and increasing their visibility on popular search engines. At Bayt.com, we always endeavor to empower the region's job seekers and employers by providing them with the latest technology and most relevant tools and market insights related to recruitment."

Elissavet Vraka, Research Manager, YouGov, said: "Gauging consumer opinion is a powerful tool for revealing the current attitudes and sentiments about the business and economic conditions in a specific country. Despite the positive outlook on the future, the rising cost of living is negatively impacting residents' ability to save."

Data for the Bayt.com Middle East and North Africa Consumer Confidence Index survey was collected online from January 27 to February 10, 2016, with 3,905 respondents from the UAE, KSA, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria. Males and females aged 18 years old and above, of all nationalities, were included in the survey.

A large crowd of people, mostly men, is gathered in front of a building. In the background, a purple banner is visible with Arabic text: 'الجمعية الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان' (Palestinian Association for Human Rights) and 'الاحتفال بالذكرى السنوية 2015' (2015 Anniversary Celebration). The scene appears to be a public gathering or protest.

Similarly, Lebanese official Khalil Nassar underscored the persistence of Kuwaiti humanitarian aid, saying that KRC's assistance could not have come at a more opportune time, given the soaring unemployment rates in the country, in addition to rampant poverty. According to a recent study conducted by the American University in Beirut (AUB), 65 percent of Palestinian refugees live in Lebanon. — KUNA

o f t h e d a y



Ramadan Quiz 2016




الإتihad
ETIHAD
AIRWAYS
ABU DHABI

Lulu
HYPERMARKET

Ruby Tuesday

Answer & Win

Fabulous Prizes

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

Kuwait Times Ramadan Quiz
Answer & Win

7. How many times a day we need to perform obligatory prayers?

Five times.

☐ YES ☐ NO

Kuwait Times Ramadan Quiz
Answer & Win

Date: _____

Name: _____

Civil ID.: _____

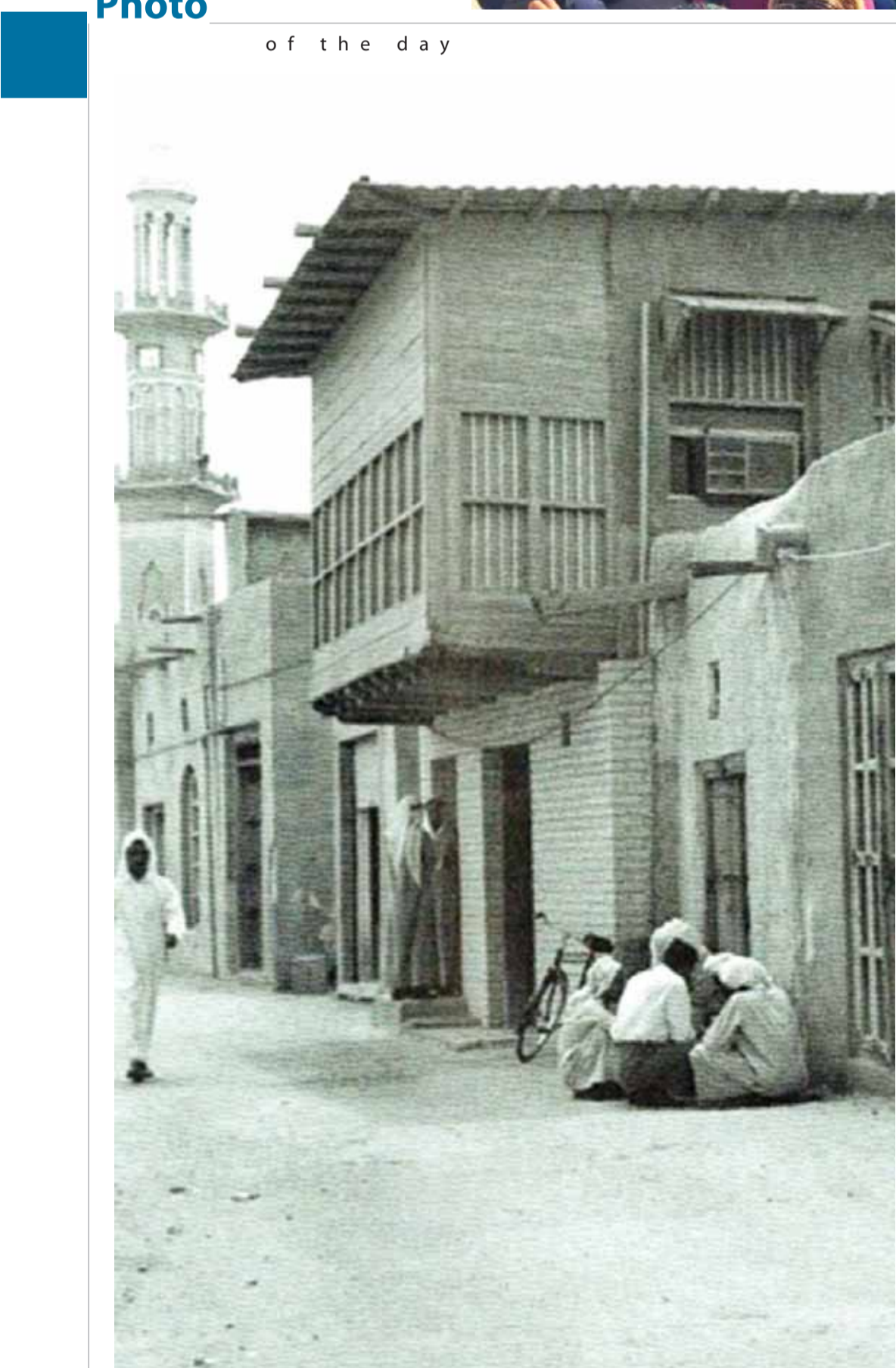
Tel: _____

Email: _____



Ramadan Kareem





A scene from the old times: This photo shows Kuwait's aspect of daily life, including people's clothing, architecture and other aspects of the simple lifestyle. Photo prepared by Mahmoud Zakaria Abu Alella, Researcher in Heritage, the Ministry of Information. (Source: 'Kuwait in black and white' by Basem Al Loughani)



MARINA HOTEL CELEBRATES RAMADAN BY HOSTING GHABKA FOR LOCAL MEDIA



Young Voices

‘I LIKE FASTING AND GATHERING FOR IFTAR’

Nearly a quarter of Kuwait’s entire population is under the age of 14 and yet with the exception of school assemblies, we never hear their voices. During Ramadan, Kuwait Times likes to publish a special series that engages with its readership in a more direct, personal way to learn their concerns, issues and viewpoints.

This Ramadan, we will chat with some of our youngest readers about their lives in Kuwait, in an attempt to see the world through their eyes. What do they see for the future of our beautiful country? What would they improve and how would they change it? By listening to their future plans, stories, and experience in Ramadan, we can remind ourselves and hopefully our readers of the ties that bind us all together as a species. These are the voice of Kuwait’s future and we invite them to share their thoughts with us here.

Mariam Al-Tamimi, or Mimi, is an 11-year-old girl who loves swimming. Kuwait Times had a little chat with her about what she likes about Ramadan, and other matters.

KT: What is your plan for the holidays?
Mariam: Reading, playing and getting ready for middle school.

KT: What are the places you go to in Kuwait to have fun?
Mariam: Visiting grandma and grandpa and collecting seashells at the beach with my mom and dad.

KT: What do you like about Kuwait?
Mariam: Sandy beaches and family gatherings.

KT: Tell me about yourself. How do you see yourself as a grownup?
Mariam: Funny, kind and active.

KT: Tell us a joke.
Mariam: What did the female volcano tell the male volcano? “I lava you!”

KT: What do you like the most about Ramadan?
Mariam: Fasting and gathering for iftar. I also love the tradition of Girgian.

Editor’s Note: If you would like your child to be interviewed for this special series, please email us at local@kuwaittimes.net

KUWAIT: Marina Hotel Kuwait celebrated the beginning of the Holy Month of Ramadan by hosting the local media to its much awaited annual ghabka which was organized to thank the members of the press for their continuous support on all activities undertaken by the hotel. The evening witnessed a host of guests who all gathered at the Kamar Al-Marina Tent to enjoy the distinctive hospitality of the special event.

Upon arrival, guests were welcomed by the entire management team and were greeted with Arabic coffee and dates. Nabil Hammoud, General Manager of Marina Hotel Kuwait wished the guests a Ramadan Kareem and invited them to enjoy the rest of their night. They were welcomed to an evening of traditional Middle Eastern hospitality reflected by a range of sumptuous buffet tables laden with superb Arab delicacies and other cuisines from the live cooking stations. The special ghabka buffet also comprised of a large array of food, drinks, desserts and flavored Shisha to be the perfect place for such a meaningful night during this holy month.

The evening was further enhanced by the sounds of soft oriental music.

Hammoud expressed his appreciation to the media for their ongoing support and extended his gratitude to the sponsors of Marina Hotel which included Emirates Airlines for sponsoring the “Kamar Al Marina Tent” for the entire period of Ramadan.

The highlight of the evening was the exciting Raffle Draw held on the entrance tickets, which granted a range of fabulous prizes adding more joy to the evening. The ghabka lasted till after midnight and Marina Hotel ensured that each and every guest had a truly memorable evening filled with fun and exceptional delight.

The Kamar Al-Marina tent is specially prepared every Ramadan with new selective decorations, and Oriental music to reflect the traditional feel of the Holy month. With a capacity to accommodate up to 200 guests, Kamar Al-Marina tent has proven to be the favorite venue for companies and individuals to host their own private iftars or ghabkas during the whole month of Ramadan.

AMIDEAST

اميد إيست

RECRUITING

PART-TIME ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS

MUST BE TEFL/TESL QUALIFIED

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR CV TO: KUWAIT@AMIDEAST.ORG

@AMIDEASTKUWAIT

LOCATION: KUWAIT CITY

TIME: 6:00AM

In 1 hour, our BUSINESS MANAGEMENT graduates will be going to manage the top companies in Kuwait.

ACK Live

ACK Live

ACK Live

1 828 225

Experience Your Future

ACK

الكلية الأسترالية في الكويت

Australian College of Kuwait

التيس

Al-Qabas

TEACH ME HOW TO FISH

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

A Chinese proverb says: "Do not give me a fish, rather teach me how to fish." Newspapers reported about a month ago that the Kuwait embassy in Cambodia laid the cornerstone for the second expansion of the Kuwait Girls Islamic Institute in a Cambodian governorate at the cost of \$1,00,000. And because the embassy is preoccupied, and its staff have no experience in construction issues, the building and administration of the institute was given to a Salafist society in Kuwait!

They are the ones who will execute the project and then manage it, so this means education in it will be Salafist, and this means that the government is seeding religious division around the world with its money and will. This project will be used by the society to collect more donations, both private and governmental for itself, and propagate its ideology. And soon, we will see the appearance of the Salafist ideology in the Cambodian society, which is mostly Buddhist, and we will see Salafist girls in the streets of Phnom Penh, fighting other Muslim women from other groups, as if this is what we and Cambodia lack.

The Cambodian population numbers more than 15 million, and unemployment among those who are able to work is around 30 percent in a country that needs everything, after it was shredded by its civil wars and made it go down. The last thing it needs is a religious establishment teaching girls the religious basics. So, what will these girls do with what they learned if they will remain as a burden on their families?

The Cambodian Muslim is in dire need for productive projects and factories that absorb the unemployed, but it seems that our culture, that is adapted from the core of our customs and traditions, does not know anything about industry and development and has no interest in establishing productive projects. Rather all what it knows is spend what its gets in money on religious education, that may be important, but surely, it is the last thing a backward society that is searching for work opportunities for hundreds of thousands needs. Spending on religious institutes brought us only more division and extremism.

The strange thing is that the reason for the reluctance of societies described as charitable to build occupational schools and institutions in Kuwait and abroad is not only because of the difficulty to establish and manage them, compared with the ease of establishing a simple religious school - rather it is because of the fact that they believe that religious education is true knowledge, and the reward in the hereafter is in building mosques and religious schools and not in building factories and scientific institutes. The best evidence of that is the report about the arrest of that deceitful man who disguised himself as a Shiite sayyid and Sunni imam and collected thousands from them and Sufi groups in Kuwait, before he was busted. This money was not given to him for his poverty or feebleness - rather it was given to him to get heavenly rewards.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



الانباء

Al-Anbaa

ABO TBAILAH

By Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi

Abo Tbailah was a person who used a small drum to wake people up to have suhour meals before fasting for the following day of Ramadan. In the past and before electricity was connected to houses in Kuwait, people used to go to bed early, and this made it necessary that someone should wake them up late at night to have the suhour meal before emsak (commencing of fasting) and Fajr prayers.

Abo Tbaila used to walk long distances around various neighborhoods. That was why he really deserved what he was paid for it on Eid. He was sometimes accompanied by a donkey carrying two sacks on its sides and hit his drum, crying out loud, 'Many Happy Returns'. People used to give him some food or cereal, dates or sometimes money.

In recent decades, people no longer need Abo Tbailah because they are used to staying up late

because of electricity in all streets and houses. Now there are ways to know the suhour and emsak times including emsakiyat (Ramadan timetables), alarm clocks, radio, TV and many other means.

Notably, 65 years ago during World War II, the government imported a siren to warn people whenever planes raided Kuwait, which never happened because Kuwait did not have any significant facilities. Accordingly, the government started using this siren along with the iftar and emsak cannon. Its sound was very loudly and the lack of noise that we have these days. Abo Tbailah has become something of the past of which young people nowadays know nothing and thus we need to remind them!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

Crime

Report

Teen flees family's house to stay with boyfriend

KUWAIT: A 19-year-old Syrian girl who had been reported missing by her father was arrested in a Salmiya cafe with a citizen, said security sources. Case papers indicate that the father had reported his daughter missing a week earlier, noting that she fled the family's house in Nugra. Spotting the girl at the Salmiya cafe, detectives arrested her and her companion, a young citizen. The girl said she left her home after being enamored by her "boyfriend" the moment she met him at a shopping mall. The girl added that for days, they spent hours talking on the phone, until he told her he could not live without her and told her to flee her house, which she did. The girl added that she spent the week with her lover in an apartment he rented in Salmiya and accompanied him to parties and cafes. But the young man denied the girl's statement. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Officer insulted

A traffic policeman filed a complaint against a female citizen accusing her of insulting him when he ticketed her for driving her vehicle on the wrong side of the road in Jahra. A case was filed and the woman is being summoned for further investigations.

Pharmacists fight

Policemen were dispatched to stop a fight between two pharmacists in a Hawally pharmacy, said security sources, noting that both pharmacists were injured during the fight. Initial investigations showed that one of the pharmacists owned the pharmacy and was arguing with the other pharmacist about a mistake he discovered during an inventory, which soon developed into a fight. A case was filed.

Domestic violence

A female citizen called the police reporting that her husband had locked her up and assaulted her at the family house in Ardiya, said security sources. A police force rushed to the house and released her. Another female citizen reported that her ex-husband, also a citizen, was waiting outside the building where she lived in Jabriya, and while she was leaving, he charged at her. Security sources said the woman provided a medical report of her injuries. A case was filed.

Drug addicts arrested

Two citizens were arrested in Farwaniya with a bag full of illicit pills, said security sources, noting that the suspects themselves were intoxicated on arrest. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Woman kidnapped

Policemen went on alert after receiving a call from a woman who said she was a Dutchwoman of Iraqi origin and that she was visiting Kuwait for the first time. The woman claimed that she had been kidnapped by unidentified people, who took her to an apartment in Hawally, forced her to drink something and then robbed her. The woman said that she was standing in a street close to where the apartment was, but she could not provide the address or further information. Locating her by GPS, a police patrol was sent to her. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa

ZAIN GROUP HOSTS TALENT ACQUISITION SUMMIT IN COLLABORATION WITH LINKEDIN



KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa announces the successful conclusion of its two-day Zain/LinkedIn 2016 Talent Acquisition Summit, which drew human resources professionals from across the Group to learn about the latest trends in recruitment.

Held on 30 and 31 May, 2016 in Kuwait, the first of its kind Summit in the region undertaken by LinkedIn was attended by recruiters and talent management teams from Zain Group's operating companies and falls in line with the operator's Employer Value Proposition and its 'Together, we are Resourcing' and 'Together, we are Connecting' engagements.

In November 2014, Zain entered into an agreement with LinkedIn to enhance its employer branding and talent acquisition strategy across the region, enabling Zain to identify and recruit the best talent from amongst LinkedIn's global professional members.

Zain is further reinforcing the One Zain Community program through a number of unified initiatives to support its talent acquisition teams across the Group, and its cooperation with LinkedIn to host the interactive summit is

one such activity. Commenting on the successful conclusion of the summit, Maryam Saif, Zain Group's Director of Human Resources said, "With our focus on enhancing both our employer brand and our candidate experience, we are incredibly pleased that LinkedIn choose Zain to host its first ever Talent Acquisition Summit in the region - to support us on our journey. Zain continues to place employees at the center of its activities and strategy, and recruiting top talent and being able to retain them is key to sustaining this vision."

Arda Atalay, Head of LinkedIn Talent Solution, Private Sector, MENA, said on the occasion; "At LinkedIn and through our innovative Talent Solutions, we are committed to supporting our partners achieve their Employer Branding and Talent targets. Since our handshake in 2014, LinkedIn and Zain have built a successful partnership that allowed the group to implement the latest recruitment and employer branding initiatives." Atalay continued, "We are happy to be here today supporting Zain Group realize their talent vision and strategy through the execution of the first of its kind 2-day Talent Acquisition Summit in the region. The

event highlighted further the importance of employee engagement as well as how employees can become successful brand ambassadors of their company's culture."

800 new staff

During the course of 2015, for example, Zain recruited approximately 800 new staff members, and under the theme 'Together', provided a meaningful framework by which people could relate to the organization and make sense of the employment dynamics. Zain country operations have also been collaborating towards a unified goal, which is to increase response rates and engagement amongst staff. The 'Zainer' spirit came to the fore during the 2015 Engagement Survey, resulting in an overall response rate of over 90 percent, and an engagement score of 76 percent compared to the telecom industry average of 69 percent.

As a group of operations, a communal communications plan was created to ensure the dissemination of consistent messages through various mediums such as Zain's intranet, blogs, instant messaging, town halls and videos. The campaign also fostered a unified 'champions' initiative, which saw the recruitment of Zainers with a passion to see a change, and recruitment techniques such as these were discussed during the summit.

Other topics that were discussed during the training included the presentation of The Ultimate Hiring Toolkit for a unified experience and Onboarding in a Box toolkit for a 'One Zain' experience. During 2015 Zain Group also introduced a capability framework that identifies core and leadership competencies that support the company's strategic initiatives and provide a standard by which to measure present performance and identify the kind of activity required in the future. This strategy was reviewed during the LinkedIn summit.



POLICE ACADEMY READY TO RECEIVE NEW BATCH OF SPECIALIZED OFFICERS

KUWAIT: The Saad Al-Abdullah Academy for Security Sciences has finished all preparations needed to receive a new batch of university graduates applying to become specialized police officers, the Ministry of Interior's Relations

and Security Media Department announced. A detailed announcement will be made within a few days concerning the specialties needed, general conditions and number of seats available, it added.



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) launched a new campaign to distribute suhour meals to cleaning and construction workers around Kuwait during the holy month of Ramadan. This campaign comes in continuation of the bank's annual campaign to distribute goods to workers.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2016



SIRTE, Libya: Forces loyal to Libya's UN-backed unity government stand next to an Islamic State (IS) flag as they advance to recapture the city from the jihadists on Friday. — AFP

LIBYAN FORCES 'RETAKE PORT' IN SIRTE

TRIPOLI: Forces allied with Libya's unity government said yesterday they had recaptured the port in the jihadist stronghold of Sirte from Islamic State group fighters encircled inside the city. The fall of Sirte, the hometown of ousted dictator Muammar Gaddafi, would be a major setback for the extremists who have also lost territory in Syria and Iraq where they have declared an Islamic "caliphate". The Libyan forces also retook residential areas in the east of Sirte, which for the past year has been the main IS base in the North African country, a spokesman for the forces, Rida Issa, told AFP.

The jihadists are now surrounded in a densely populated area of around five square kilometers inside the city where they are laying booby traps, he said. Most of the city's residents have fled but about 30,000 remain, he said. After a month-long operation to close in on Sirte, the rapid pace of the advance by forces allied to the Government of National Accord (GNA) who entered the city on Wednesday has surprised Libyan authorities. "The battle wasn't as difficult as we thought it would be," a government official said. "Maybe we exaggerated their (IS') numbers?"

The UN envoy to Libya, Martin Kobler, said yesterday on Twitter that he was "impressed" by the "rapid progress" of pro-GNA forces. But analysts have warned the city's fall would not spell the end of the jihadists in Libya, where they have fed on political and military divisions since the 2011 uprising that killed Gaddafi. Foreign intelligence services estimate the extremist group has 5,000 fighters in Libya, but its strength inside Sirte, which IS has held since June 2015, is unclear.

IS fighters tried to wrest back the port yesterday in an attack that killed two members of the GNA forces, who repelled the assault. A total of 137 pro-GNA forces have been killed and 500 wounded since the May 12 beginning of the operation, according to a medical official in the western city of Misrata. Libya's unity government forces have fought fierce street battles with the jihadists around a sprawling Gaddafi-era conference center which once hosted international summits but now houses an IS command center. An AFP correspondent at

the scene reported heavy street fighting on Friday about two kilometres from the Ouagadougou center.

'We Won't Back Down'

GNA forces used tanks, rocket launchers and artillery, the correspondent said, while the jihadists responded with machineguns, mortar rounds and sniper fire. "We are fighting between houses, on the streets, and we won't back down before we eliminate them," said one GNA combatant, who declined to be named. Warplanes have carried out air strikes around the conference center and other IS positions inside the city, according to social media accounts belonging to the anti-jihadist operation.

The operations command, on its Facebook page, said jihadist positions had been targeted in a total of 150 air strikes since mid-May. Formed under a UN-backed power-sharing deal agreed by some Libyan lawmakers in December, the GNA has been working to assert its authority but has yet to receive the official endorsement of the country's recognized parliament. The pro-GNA forces are mostly made up of militias from western cities, notably Misrata, and the guards of oil installations that IS has repeatedly tried to seize.

Emily Estelle, a North Africa and Middle East specialist with the Washington-based American Enterprise Institute, said an estimated 2,000 fighters, primarily Misrata militiamen, were engaged in the Sirte operation. The forces allied with the GNA said on Thursday they expected to announce the liberation of Sirte in "two or three days," after thrusting into the city center. "We're encouraged by the progress they're making," said US special envoy Brett McGurk. "Once you have a credible force on the ground that moves against them (IS), there is a chance that they could crack pretty quickly."

GNA head Fayez Al-Sarraj called Friday on "all military forces to unite in the face of our common enemy... and to join the victorious forces". But Ahmed Al-Mesmari, a spokesman for forces loyal to a rival government based in the country's far east, described the GNA forces as "illegitimate militias, loyal to an illegitimate government". — AFP

FINLAND'S CO-RULING NCP OUSTS FM STUBB AS CHIEF

LAPPEENRANTA, Finland: Finland's National Coalition Party voted yesterday to replace Finance Minister Alexander Stubb as leader, hoping to revive flagging support for the center-right group that is part of the government elected last year. At a party congress, 441 delegates voted in favor of replacing Stubb with Interior Minister Petteri Orpo, while 361 backed keeping him as NCP chief. Orpo is now expected to become finance minister.

In Finland, coalition parties usually divide up the cabinet posts amongst themselves, and each party chairman then proposes the ministers who will hold those positions. Orpo had already made it clear that he would take over the finance ministry portfolio if he were to win yesterday's chairmanship race. "Orpo will now propose the new ministers for his party, probably at the end of next week... The president will then announce the new ministers," the chair of the NCP's parliamentary group, Arto Satonen, told AFP.

Stubb, who served as prime minister in 2014-15, has faced growing criticism both for his party's poor showing in polls and for compromises made in the three-party government. A polyglot, social media-savvy sportsman, Stubb has also drawn fire for his image and leadership style. In a speech to party members gathered in a small town near the Russian border, 46-year-old Orpo said he wanted to curb public debt growth and seek measures to support entrepreneurship. "We are seen as an arrogant party. We have to rebuild the trust between the NCP and Finnish citizens," he said ahead of the vote.

Orpo is seen as a consensus-seeker with little experience from international politics, but he has been hailed across the political spectre for his handling of the migration crisis as the interior minister. Stubb stirred anger last year by giving parliament incorrect information on a plan to allow local investors to hold securities through an anonymous register, a bill he later dropped. — Agencies

Enjoy one of the country's largest Iftar buffet with family and friends in the exquisitely decorated Badnah Ballroom with live music entertainment. Follow the live broadcast of the UEFA EURO 2016 games in Al Sadu tent and relish in the ghabka set menu and your choice of multi-flavored shisha.

For bookings, call us at +965 22269666 or visit jumeirah.com.

Diamond Sponsor

Media Partners

Platinum Sponsors

ZIMBABWE'S FLAG CENTER OF SOCIAL MEDIA WAR

HARARE: Zimbabwe's national flag is furiously flapping in the center of a heated social media war over what the flag means and people's frustrations with President Robert Mugabe's government. The hashtags #Thisflag and #Ourflag now determine one's political loyalty in this deeply polarized southern African country. A young pastor in the capital, Evan Mawarire, in April launched the #Thisflag campaign to protest alleged government failures. He said he was struggling to raise money for his children's school fees when he looked at the flag sitting on his office desk. He questioned its relevance, and from there the idea was born.

Mawarire went onto social media and challenged people to post pictures and videos of themselves with the national flag and to drape the flag around their shoulders in public. His first video, in which he rants about how the flag's colors have lost significance because of alleged political mismanagement, attracted over 120,000 views on the first day it was posted. He has since posted several videos, and the campaign has taken on a life of its own. Other people now post videos of themselves wrapped in the flag and venting about their everyday problems.

"I was just frustrated," Mawarire told AP. "My own country is standing in front of my dreams. That's how I started the campaign." He said he has since received death threats that say the flag should be used to choke him. Gone viral, the campaign is now a full-blooded political war that has engaged cabinet ministers, members of parliament and diplomats in the social media conflict. To counter Mawarire's movement, supporters of Mugabe's government have coined their own cam-

paign, #Ourflag. That campaign extolls Mugabe's virtues and the successes of his ruling ZANU-PF party, but it has struggled to take off.

The five colors of the Zimbabwe flag, adopted at independence in 1980, are loaded with political and economic significance. Red represents the blood shed during the 1970s war to end white minority rule, yellow is for the country's gold and mineral resources and green stands for Zimbabwe's rich agriculture and its rural areas. Black is for the country's majority population and white stands for peace. The flag also features a rendering of the historic Zimbabwe bird which is on top of a red star, symbolizing the Marxism espoused by the ruling party at independence.

The dueling flag campaigns have sparked some skirmishes in parliament. "This is the Zimbabwean flag. Just put it down," speaker of the House of Assembly, Jacob Mudenda, said to opposition MPs who wore flags over their shoulders during a session last month. "Place the Zimbabwean flag down. We have to treat it with some respect." Opposition chief whip Innocent Gonese responded by pointing out the small flag pins worn by ZANU-PF supporters: "Where is the difference with those wearing the flag over their shoulders and those with flags on their jackets?" — AFP

Diplomats have entered the fray, with the United States and European Union ambassadors to Zimbabwe retweeting some of the campaign messages. US Ambassador Harry K. Thomas drew the anger of pro-Mugabe officials, who began calling him #dirtyharry, after he tweeted in May: "Wonder if #Zimbabwe's #ThisFlag movement will spread to the



HARARE: This photo taken on May 18, 2016 shows Christians marching while brandishing the Zimbabwean national flag. — AP

US y other nations?" Others in Zimbabwe think it's a wasteful campaign. "The only person benefiting from this is the guy selling the flags," said Blessing Vava, a

government critic activist based in South Africa. "If Zimbabweans are bold enough, then they should just demonstrate in the streets." — AFP



JEBB HASSAN AGHA, Syria: A young wounded girl sits on a tyre as she holds her medicines at a roadblock set up by fighters from the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on Friday on the outskirts of the northern Syrian town of Manbij, held by the Islamic State (IS) group, as they encircled the town, cutting off the jihadists' main supply route between Syria and Turkey. — AFP

SCORES TRAPPED IN BESIEGED IS BASTION IN NORTH SYRIA

WEST SLAMS REGIME OVER DARAYA BOMBINGS

JEBB HASSAN AGHA, Syria: A siege by US-backed Kurdish and Arab forces of the key jihadist-held city of Manbij in northern Syria left tens of thousands of civilians trapped yesterday. Near Damascus, suicide bombings claimed by the Islamic State jihadist group outside a Shiite shrine killed at least 20 people, in the latest in repeated deadly strikes on the revered site. IS has fought back with deadly bombings even as it comes under pressure on several fronts since it declared a cross-border "caliphate" in Syria and Iraq in 2014.

The Syrian Democratic Forces supported by US air strikes encircled Manbij on Friday, severing the jihadist group's principal supply route between Turkey and its de facto Syrian capital, Raqqa city. Manbij lies at the heart of the last stretch of territory along Turkey's border still under IS control, and it was a key point on the jihadists' supply line from Turkey. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said warplanes from a US-led coalition have been conducting heavy bombing raids on the town and its surroundings.

"Tens of thousands of civilians still there can't leave as all the routes out of town are cut," the Britain-based monitoring group's head Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP. He said at least 159 IS fighters and 22 SDF troops had been killed as well as 37 civilians, most of the last group in coalition air raids, since the alliance launched its Manbij offensive on May 31. "Bakeries in the town haven't been open since Friday and food is beginning to become rare," Abdel Rahman said.

Everything 'Forbidden'

Manbij had a pre-war population of about

120,000 - mostly Arabs, but about a quarter are Syrian Kurds. Thousands fled this week as the SDF closed in on the city which has been held by IS since early 2014. Outside the city in areas reclaimed by the Kurdish-led alliance from IS, residents yesterday expressed relief. "We're so happy and we hope Manbij will soon be liberated as we have relatives there," said Munzer Saleh, a resident of Jebb Hassan Agha village, 13 km southeast of the city.

"Our village was known for cigarette smuggling so Daesh was always after us," he told AFP, using an Arabic acronym for IS which prohibits smoking. Doha Hajj Ali, a young woman, cursed the jihadists who had laid down strict rules to govern her and her neighbors' lives. "They'd say, 'Cover your eyes... Make-up, parties, and weddings were not allowed.' But residents said the village has run out of bread and water, and an AFP reporter saw a young boy beg for bread from passing cars. "We haven't eaten bread for two days," he said, after the SDF seized the village at the start of the week. Dakish Fatimi, a Kurdish Red Crescent official, said his team had treated dozens of civilians wounded by landmines planted by retreating IS fighters.

Daraya Bombed

Western powers lashed out at Syria's government on Friday, accusing regime forces of dropping barrel bombs on the town of Daraya hours after it received its first food aid in almost four years. The strikes used crude unguided explosive devices. French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault accused Damascus of "extraordinary duplicity" over the bombings, which came just as aid workers were beginning to distrib-

ute supplies to thousands of desperate people. Ayrault said he was "outraged beyond words", declaring the end of an already shaky ceasefire and calling world powers to meet.

A convoy of trucks carrying food arrived in Daraya late Thursday, delivering rice, lentils, sugar, oil and wheat flour to civilians for the first time since the regime laid siege to the town in late 2012. Assad's forces bombarded the town shortly after, according to a witness and human rights monitors, dropping indiscriminate barrel bombs from helicopters as residents shared food. Local council member Shadi Matar said aid had not yet been distributed "because of the intensity of the raids". US State Department spokesman Mark Toner said "such attacks are unacceptable in any circumstance, but in this case they also hampered the delivery and distribution of badly needed assistance".

Nearly 600,000 people live in besieged areas in Syria, most surrounded by government forces, and another four million in hard-to-reach areas, according to the United Nations. UN-backed peace talks on ending the war stalled in April when the opposition walked out over lack of humanitarian access. Aid agencies said supplies reached Douma on Friday - the first UN delivery since autumn 2013, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent said 39 trucks took food and non-food items including medicines into the besieged town. But the UN's humanitarian agency was still awaiting Damascus's approval to deliver aid to two more of Syria's besieged areas: Al-Waer in Homs province and Zabadani in rural Damascus. — AFP

SHABAAB EXECUTES 6 'SPIES' IN SOMALIA

MOGADISHU: Shabaab jihadists in Somalia have publicly executed six men they accused of spying, including one they claimed helped kill their supreme leader in a US drone strike, the Al-Qaeda-linked group and local sources said yesterday. Four of the executions took place Friday evening in the village of Bulofay, in the Bay region in the southwest of the country, the sources said. Three of the men were shot by firing squad while the fourth, accused of helping the United States to kill Shabaab leader Ahmed Godane in Sept 2014, was decapitated.

"The Islamic court in the Bay and Bakool regions carried out" the executions of "four spies who worked for the US and Kenyan Intelligence Agencies," the group said in a statement on a pro-Shabaab website. "Mohamed Adan Nur Hassan, one of the spies, was responsible for the airstrike that killed"

Godane. Two Kenyans were also executed on Friday in the Jubbada Dhexe region, also in the southwest, for allegedly helping to kill Shabaab leaders in Kenya, the group said in a separate statement.

It said one of them was accused of collaborating with Kenyan, British, US and Israeli intelligence services, while the other only with Kenya's secret service. The Shabaab was pushed out of Mogadishu in 2011 but continues to carry out attacks on military, political and civilian targets aimed at undermining the internationally-backed Somali government. In recent months they have claimed attacks on bases of the African Union peacekeeping mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The United States has in recent years launched numerous drone strikes against Shabaab leaders, including the strike that killed Godane. — AFP

ISRAEL RAZES HOME OF PALESTINIAN TEENAGER

BEIT AMRA: Israel's army destroyed yesterday the home of a Palestinian teenager accused of stabbing a Jewish woman to death at her home in a West Bank settlement. The demolition took place in the West Bank village of Beit Amra, with bulldozers flattening an entire building as family members looked on, according to an AFP photographer. The murder in January of Dafna Meir, a 38-year-old nurse and mother of six, provoked fierce reaction among Israelis and prompted a personal vow from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the assailant's house would be razed.

Israeli forces arrested 15-year-old Palestinian suspect Murad Ideis in a raid on his family home days after the attack. Israel regularly demolishes the homes of alleged attackers in what it describes as a deterrent. Rights groups say it amounts to collective punishment, with families forced to suffer for the acts of relatives. The army said yesterday's demoli-

tion was carried out without incident. It also said it had made preparations for the destruction of the nearby homes of two Palestinians accused of shooting and killing four Israelis at a Tel Aviv nightclub on Wednesday in the deadliest attack in a months-long wave of violence.

Cousins Khaled Mohammad Makhmrah, 22, Mohammad Ahmad Makhmrah, 21, are both from the town of Yatta, around one kilometre east of Beit Amra. Wednesday's attack, which also wounded five bystanders, has prompted a range of measures from Israel, including a decision to temporarily bar entry for all Palestinians. Violence since October has killed at least 207 Palestinians, 32 Israelis, two Americans, an Eritrean and a Sudanese. Most of the Palestinians were carrying out knife, gun or car-ramming attacks, Israeli authorities say. Others were killed in clashes with security forces or by Israeli air strikes in the Gaza Strip. — AFP



BEIT AMRA: Maha, the mother of 15-year old Palestinian teenager Murad Ideis, reacts next to the rubble of her home after Israeli security forces demolished the building in this West Bank village south of Hebron yesterday. — AFP



SIMFEROPOL, Egypt: Soldiers stand guard next to the sculpture nicknamed the "polite people" during its unveiling ceremony yesterday. — AFP

CRIMEA UNVEILS GUN-TOTING STATUE TO CELEBRATE RUSSIAN ANNEXATION

SIMFEROPOL: The authorities in Crimea yesterday unveiled a bronze statue of a heavily armed Russian soldier to celebrate the peninsula's 2014 annexation from Ukraine. The slightly larger-than-life sculpture in Crimea's main city of Simferopol shows a soldier carrying a Kalashnikov and wearing rounds of ammunition on his chest. A small girl hands him flowers and a cat rubs against his legs. The Russian troops in unmarked uniforms who took control of the peninsula in March 2014 ahead of a referendum were nicknamed the "polite people" by supporters because of their tight-lipped demeanor.

Kiev and Western countries have refused to recognize the legitimacy of the hastily held referendum backing Russian rule and punished Moscow with sanctions. "We are opening a monument to our glorious Russian warriors - to the modern Russian soldier," Russian President Vladimir Putin's envoy to Crimea Oleg Belaventsev said at the ceremony, quoted by RIA Novosti news agency. He said the statue shows the "strength, calm, confidence and politeness of our Russian soldiers."

The statue was designed by a well-known Russian sculptor, Salavat Shcherbakov. He also created a controversial giant statue

of Prince Vladimir who brought Christianity to Russia, set to go up close to the Kremlin. The sculptor told AFP that "the Russian soldier embodies the Russian army, while the little girl represents the Crimean people" and "the cat shows that peaceful life has not been interrupted." "There was one aim: to defend people, so there was no bloodshed," he said of the Russian troops' role.

A Russian soldier who took part in the annexation posed for the sculpture, Shcherbakov said. "So we had genuine information about the events, what the atmosphere was, what clothes they wore." The sculpture cost around five million rubles (\$76,500) to create and install, he said. The cost was covered by private donations, RIA Novosti reported. The statue stands on the Republic Square close to the parliament building.

Civil and military officials, Cossacks and Russian Orthodox clerics attended the unveiling as part of weekend celebrations for Russia Day today. "There were a lot of people in high spirits with children. There was good weather, it was a real event," said Shcherbakov. Crimea's leader Sergei Aksyonov suggested that the statue should be a focal point for wedding parties, which traditionally pose for photos in front of popular landmarks. — AFP

MONTENEGRO TOURIST JEWEL RIVEN BY DRUG FEUDS

KOTOR, Montenegro: With its winding cobbled streets and stunning Adriatic bay, the Montenegrin town of Kotor draws crowds of visitors each summer. But deadly gang violence threatens to cloud the tourist boom. Dozens of anti-terrorist police officers have descended on the medieval fortress town in the past week after a string of public shootouts between rival drug-trafficking clans. "Kotor is a hostage town,"

Montenegro's Interior Minister Goran Danilovic told reporters after the special forces were sent into the Balkan resort last weekend. "Kotor has to stop being center of clashes between criminal gangs."

According to police sources, Kotor's main drugs cartel split into three feuding gangs in 2014 over the disappearance of 200 kg of South American cocaine in the Spanish town of Valencia. Their quarrels have led to at

least five murders in the past year across the region - and at least four murder attempts in the past two months in Kotor, all of them in public places. The latest on June 3 - although there were no casualties - pushed the authorities to deploy an anti-terrorist unit that has nearly 70 members, the police sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The town is in a drugs hell, left to criminals," said 52-year-old Mladen, working in an art gallery in the town center. Like most local residents who spoke to AFP, he was afraid to give his full name because of the tensions in the small community. "I fear for the future of my two sons," he said, complaining that authorities "do nothing" to stop rampant crime.

Lonely Planet's Top City

The heightened security comes as Kotor, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, gears up for a bumper tourist season. Kotor was named the top city in the world to visit in 2016 by travel guide Lonely Planet, and tourism officials expect up to a million visitors this year. Many of them arrive on cruise ships carrying up to 3,000 people, and the restaurants, churches and museums behind the 12th-century walls are already filling up.

For now, the police presence is subtle: an AFP reporter saw one black armored vehicle parked at the entrance to the old town, about 20 m from anchored cruise liners. But some locals are worried the security forces could turn off holidaymakers. "I'm afraid that sending them only few weeks before the start of the tourist season will damage it," said Branko, a 55-year-old

former sailor, sitting in a cafe in the old town.

With nearly 850,000 visitors last year, making it the country's top tourist destination, Kotor sums up the Montenegrin dilemma: A growing tourism sector under the threat of powerful organized crime. The nation of fewer than 650,000 people is a candidate for European Union membership, but the EU's progress report on Montenegro last year said "further efforts are needed, in particular to investigate wider criminal networks and to counter money laundering".

From Sailing to Trafficking

Kotor has a rich seafaring history and was once home to successful shipping company Jugooceanija, which fell apart with the breakup of Yugoslavia. Some out-of-work sailors are thought to have subsequently got involved in lucrative cocaine trafficking. The sense of impunity among Kotor's criminal gangs today is such that they installed surveillance cameras around town to control each other's movements - something a prosecutor is now investigating. Balkans "cocaine king" Darko Saric, who was jailed for 20 years by a Serbian court last year, had several companies in Kotor including a nightclub popular with tourists, according to local media. Foreign visitors who spoke to AFP expressed little awareness of Kotor's darker side. Canadian cruise-goer Claire Tremblay, 58, said she had chosen Montenegro over Istanbul owing to recent terrorist attacks in Turkey. "Now we see that we got a bonus. Kotor and the Adriatic Sea are beautiful," she said. — AFP



KOTOR, Montenegro: Picture taken on June 10, 2016 shows tourists walking past Montenegro's police special units in the harbor of this Adriatic coastal town. — AFP

SHOCK AS ITALY DAILY OFFERS 'MEIN KAMPF'

ROME: A rightwing Italian newspaper was yesterday giving away free copies of Adolf Hitler's anti-Semitic manifesto "Mein Kampf" in a move which sparked both shock and condemnation. "Know it in order to reject it" was the justification given by conservative tabloid Il Giornale, which is owned by Paolo Berlusconi, brother of former premier Silvio Berlusconi. Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi quickly denounced the initiative on Twitter, writing: "I find it sordid that an Italian daily is giving away Hitler's 'Mein Kampf'. I embrace the Jewish community with affection. #neveragain"

It was also denounced by Italy's 30,000-strong Jewish community, which is one of the oldest in Europe. "It is a vile act, light years away from any in-depth learning or study about the Holocaust," said Renzo Gattegna, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, describing the initiative as "indecent". Explaining the move, Il Giornale said it was an attempt to educate. "Reading 'Mein Kampf' is a real antidote to the toxicity of national-socialism," said the paper which published a 1937 version of the manifesto containing annotations by the historian Francesco Perfetti.

It said the text was being freely distributed alongside the first of a series of eight history books on the Nazi Third Reich which would be sold with the paper. Partly autobiographical, "Mein Kampf" - which means "My Struggle" - outlines Hitler's ideology that formed the basis for Nazism. Written in 1924, it sets out his hatred of Jews which led to the Holocaust in which about six million of them were murdered at the hands of Nazi Germany.

For 70 years, the German state of Bavaria which was handed copyright of the book in 1945, refused to allow it to be republished out of respect for the victims of the Nazis and to prevent incitement of hatred. But "Mein Kampf" fell into the public domain on Jan 1 this year, when a special edition was published for the first time since World War II which included critical annotations by historians.

Known for its rightwing positions, notably over the question of immigration, Il Giornale has a circulation of around 200,000. Neither the paper nor its owners are suspected of harboring anti-Semitic views. Anything touching on national-socialism is particularly sensitive in Italy due to the alliance between the fascist regime of Benito Mussolini and Hitler. — AFP



ROME: The Il Giornale newspaper is seen on sale in a newsstand with Hitler's 'Mein Kampf' yesterday. — AP

NOBEL WINNERS BACK EU AFTER BREXIT POLL BOOST

SCIENTISTS FEAR LOSS OF RESEARCH FUNDING

LONDON: Thirteen of Britain's top scientists signed a letter backing the campaign to remain in the EU yesterday after a dramatic new poll boosted the momentum behind the Brexit campaign less than two weeks before the June 23 referendum. Nobel Prize winners including Peter Higgs - after whom the Higgs Boson, believed to explain how matter acquires mass, is named - and geneticist Paul Nurse said the loss of research funding would be one consequence of leaving the bloc.

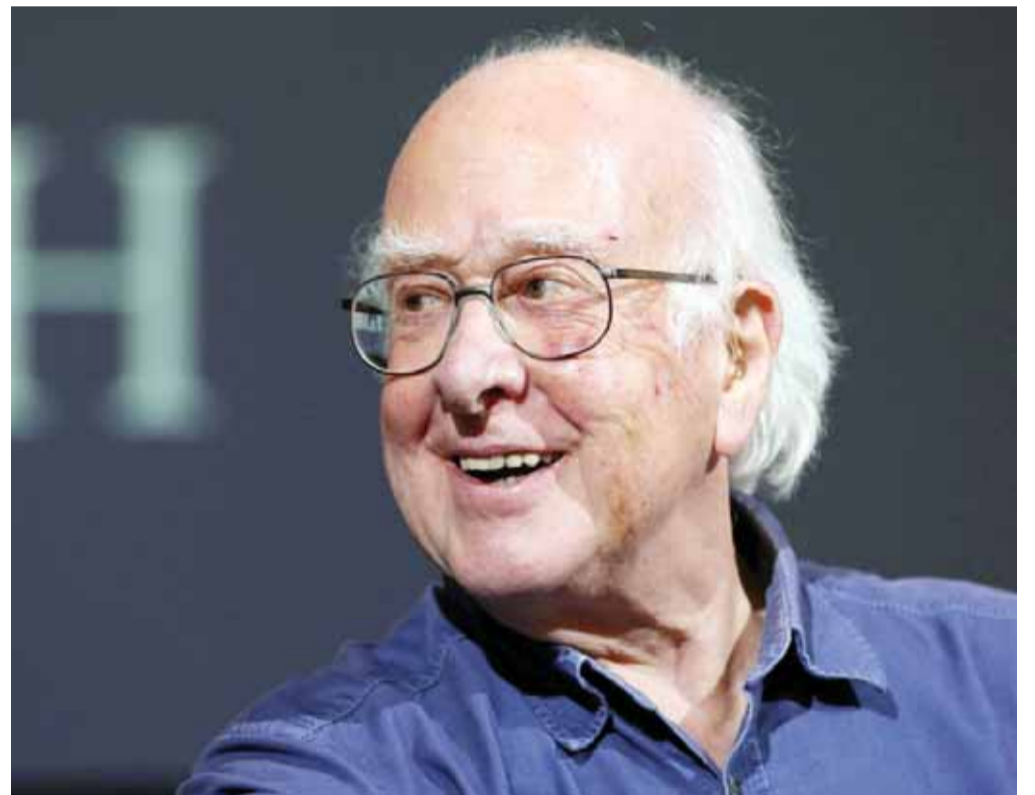
"The prospect of losing EU research funding is a key risk to UK science," the scientists wrote in a letter published by the Daily Telegraph. "Science thrives on permeability of ideas and people, and flourishes in environments that pool intelligence, minimize barriers, and are open to free exchange and collaboration. "The EU provides such an environment and scientists value it highly." Ahead of the June 23 referendum on European Union membership, the race is looking close.

An online ORB poll for the Independent newspaper Friday sent sterling falling after indicating that 55 percent of Britons want to leave the EU, compared to 45 percent who want to stay. An average of the last six opinion polls by academics at the What UK Thinks project indicates the race is tied, with each side on 50 percent. Senior figures in the main opposition Labour party are urging its leadership to step up their efforts to keep Britain in the EU.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, a veteran socialist, has long been sceptical of the EU and has played a relatively muted role in the "Remain" campaign. "We've got to throw every vote at it," Labour's deputy leader Tom Watson told the Guardian. "We've got to redouble our efforts." Appearing on a late night chat show on Channel 4 Friday, Corbyn rated his passion for staying in Europe at "seven, seven and a half".

Richer Outside EU?

Britain's top polling expert John Curtice this week said that, while it appeared there was "a sub-



EDINBURGH: In this file photo dated Oct 11, 2013, British Professor Peter Higgs smiles during a press conference. — AP

stantial body of evidence supporting the idea that 'Leave' have made some progress", this should be treated with caution. One factor behind the changes may be that the "Leave" camp is finding it easier to influence commentators since May 27, when a pre-vote period in which the government can no longer publish pro-EU analysis and statistics started, Curtice said.

Meanwhile, one of Britain's leading inventors, James Dyson, came out in favor of leaving the EU.

He told the Telegraph: "We will create more wealth and more jobs by being outside the EU. "We will be in control of our destiny. And control, I think, is the most important thing in life and business." Dyson is a billionaire best known for his bagless vacuum cleaners. His company says its products are used in over 65 countries worldwide. Elsewhere yesterday, Germany's top selling weekly magazine Der Spiegel urged British voters: "Please don't go!" in a special pre-referendum issue. — AFP



This Ramadan ... 3 GREAT DEALS!



K.D. 1000
Minimum Trade-in

Or



5
Installments FREE

Or



1 Year Comprehensive Insurance
& 3 Years / 60,000 km Service



2016 Models

- 2.5L • 6 Speed • Rear AC
- Rear View Camera • Sun Roof
- 17" Alloy Wheel

100%
Made in Japan



- 3.7 L, 6 Cylinders • 7 Passengers with 3rd Row seat
- Navigation with rear view camera
- Sun roof & Power Lift gate



Call our KFH
Representative
66410420



5 Years / 100,000 km Warranty



FREE 3rd Party Insurance & Registration

الشركة الكويتية لاستيراد السيارات ذ.م.م.
Kuwait Automotive Imports Co. W.L.L.

Working Hours: From Sat - Thu
From: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
From: 9:00 pm - 12:00 am

الخط الساخن
Hot Line **1820 888**

/MazdaKwt www.kaico.net
Info@kaico.net fleet@kaico.net

OFFENSIVE IN EL SALVADOR CUTS MURDER RATE

SAN SALVADOR: El Salvador, ranked one of the most dangerous countries in the world, has nearly halved its staggeringly bloody monthly murder rate amid a fierce crackdown on fearsome gangs. But analysts pointed out that the number of homicides this year is still above where it was the same time last year, and warned that the government offensive against the gangs needs to continue to break them apart. Justice and Security Minister Mauricio Ramirez said Thursday that the “extraordinary measures” El Salvador has employed “have managed to reduce the crime rate by more than 50 percent.”

Isolating gang bosses in prison, sending in elite troops and police to arrest gang members, and erasing gang graffiti from the streets of at least one town all appear to be bearing fruit. Some 353 murders were recorded in each of the months of May and April, according to the Institute for Forensic Medicine. While that is still high, it is significantly less than the 611 homicides in March, 644 in February and 740 in January. However the total number of murders so far this year, 2,721, is still higher than the 2,188 registered for the same period in 2015. That underlines El

Salvador's notoriety as the country with the most murders per capita in the world outside of a war zone.

Offense Needs to be ‘Sustainable’
El Salvador's government in April started its crackdown in a bid to roll back that reputation and to challenge the perception that it had lost control of swathes of territory to the gangs. Ramirez acknowledged that “to maintain security and the positive results so far, we have to keep control over the penitentiaries,” where gang bosses are now barred from receiving visitors and cell phone signals are blocked. Juan Ramon Medrano, a university professor and analyst, told AFP that the first phase of the government's plan to reduce the number of murders “is working”.

But, he said, “the current success is going to depend on keeping up a sustainable tactical offense over the duration.” No let-up should be given in the efforts to bust the gangs’ leadership and to prevent them winning back turf from the authorities, he said. The head of the national police force, Howard Cotto, also said that, beyond the operations by the security forces, “citizen participation in prevention tasks, such as

tip-offs,” had an important role to play.

Reliance on Soldiers
Part of the reason El Salvador has made progress this time against the gangs is that it has put thousands of soldiers onto its streets to back up the police. The deployment helps to contain gang members, who are said to number around 70,000, of which some 13,000 are already behind bars. The operations have resulted in the deaths of several gang members and the arrest of dozens on various charges. “What is happening is a remilitarization of public security,” an analyst, Roberto Canas, told AFP.

Under the urban operations and pressure of the joint army-police crackdown, the gangs “are changing” and in some cases are moving out to rural areas to escape the law enforcement heat, he said. Jannet Aguilar, director of the Public Opinion Institute of the University of Central America, said the gangs “are being neutralized” but were not disappearing from the communities they lived in. “The gangs are in a time of falling back. But recent history has shown that they soon manage to get around the application of the law,



QUEZALTEPEQUE, El Salvador: Soldiers during a campaign to clean up graffiti associated with the Mara Salvatrucha gang in this town 15 km from San Salvador, in an operation to take back gang-controlled neighborhoods on June 7, 2016. — AFP

to be able to develop the illegal economy they thrive on.”

A recent study by El Salvador's central bank estimated that the cost of the violence in the country to the state, households and businesses was \$4 billion, or 16 percent of gross domestic product. The government has allocated

around half that amount over the next five years to finance its security plan, branded “Secure El Salvador”. Late last month, lawmakers approved a government bond issue worth \$152 million which will go to giving pay hikes to the police, army and prisons on the frontline of the fight against the gangs. — AFP

BOLIVIAN LEADER'S EX SAYS LOVE CHILD DIED

LA PAZ: Bolivian President Evo Morales' jailed ex-girlfriend has admitted the child he fathered with her died, changing her story in a political telenovela that has shocked the country, a newspaper said Friday. The racy saga involves Morales' two-year relationship with Gabriela Zapata, a high-powered executive who is now accused of embezzlement and money laundering.

Morales, Bolivia's first indigenous president, acknowledged he had a child with Zapata, but said the boy died soon after birth. Zapata insisted he was alive. Confusing matters further, Vice President Alvaro Garcia Linera and the attorney general's office said the baby never existed. But Zapata herself has now told prosecutors the child existed but died in 2009, according to the daily Los Tiempos de Cochabamba. She made the statement this week, it reported. “He was born on April 30, 2007 in a private residence in La Paz,” she

reportedly said. “In reality he died on October 2, 2009 in La Paz.”

A former manager at Chinese engineering group CAMC, Zapata, 28, has been accused of using her ties to the president to land \$560 million in government contracts for the company. The case exploded onto the political scene just as Bolivia prepared to hold a referendum on whether to change the constitution to allow Morales, 56, to run for a fourth term. Morales, who has been in office since 2006, went on to lose the Feb 21 vote. He underwent court-ordered DNA testing in April to resolve the paternity case.

But Zapata refused to present the child for testing, saying the state medical officials in charge could fake the results. Amid the scandal, Congress opened an investigation after the government admitted Zapata used state offices and employees to carry out CAMC business, but ruled Morales was not at fault. — AFP

IN SOUR CONCESSION SPEECH, FUJIMORI VOWS TO LEAD OPPN

LIMA: Keiko Fujimori conceded defeat on Friday to Pedro Pablo Kuczynski in Peru's tightest presidential election in decades, but she warned that her rightwing populist party would be a force of opposition during his term. Fujimori, the 41-year-old daughter of Peru's jailed ex-authoritarian President Alberto Fujimori, said the centrist former investment banker Kuczynski had only scraped together a narrow victory with the support of “promoters of hate.”

“We wish much luck to Mr Kuczynski and his campaign friends who will accordingly be his allies in government,” Fujimori said, flanked by the dozens of incoming lawmakers who will give her Popular Force party a solid majority in the next Congress. “The people have tasked Popular Force with being the opposition,” Fujimori said. “Rest assured, we will not fail!”

Fujimori has not yet congratulated Kuczynski in person after the election as per Peruvian tradition. The speech, Fujimori's first since Sunday's election after a vote-count dragged on for days, laid bare the hostilities that could block Kuczynski's proposals to lower sales taxes and give rebates to companies that reinvest their profits. “The first thing we must do is to create an environment in which we can turn the page,” Kuczynski,

a 77-year-old former prime minister and World Bank economist, said later on local broadcaster RPP.

Fujimori had been the favorite to win the election just two weeks ago, but Kuczynski made a late surge after picking up an endorsement from a leftist rival and stepping up attacks as Fujimori was stung by scandals involving her close advisers. Kuczynski's thin margin of victory - just tens of thousands of votes - and his party's small presence in Congress give him one of the weakest mandates of any recent president in the conflict-prone copper and gold producer.

It was the second straight loss for Fujimori in a run-off presidential election that many saw as a referendum on the controversial legacy of her father. Alberto Fujimori is now serving a 25-year sentence for graft and human rights abuses during his 1990-2000 government, but many Peruvians credit him with quashing a leftist insurgency and ending years of hyperinflation and recession. Kuczynski endorsed Fujimori when she ran against President Ollanta Humala in 2011 before he became the unlikely leader of the country's fierce anti-Fujimori movement when he emerged as her run-off rival in April. Kuczynski will take office July 28. — Reuters



LIMA: In this May 29, 2016 photo, presidential candidate Keiko Fujimori (right) shakes hands with rival Pedro Pablo Kuczynski before a presidential debate. — AP



COXCALTLAN, Mexico: Local residents carry the corpse of one of the eleven members of a family shot dead in El Mirador village in Puebla state on Friday. — AFP

GUNMEN KILL 11 FROM SAME FAMILY IN MEXICO

ONE OF THE ASSAILANT IDENTIFIED AS RAPIST

PUEBLA, Mexico: Gunmen marched into a remote mountain village in Mexico on Friday and killed 11 members of the same family, including two children, apparently over “personal conflicts”, authorities said. Five women, four men and two girls were killed in the predawn attack in El Mirador, a community in central Puebla state, near Oaxaca. Two other girls were wounded in the attack and were taken to a hospital. Witnesses identified two assailants and recognized one of them as a man who allegedly sexually abused one of the dead women nine years ago, resulting in the birth a boy, according to the state prosecutor's office.

The woman's current partner, who was killed, was stabbed several times and had “more wounds than the other” victims, the office said in a statement. The two assailants fled toward neighboring Oaxaca state. Authorities in both states are searching for them. The hamlet is so remote that it is only accessible on foot. “It was an act of revenge,” said Vicente Lopez de la Vega, mayor of Coxcatlan, the municipality that oversees El Mirador. “To kill 11 people like that, you don't have feelings. It's alarming,” Lopez de la Vega said.

The prosecutor's office said the gunmen “arrived on foot where the family was located, fired several times and left on foot”. Pistol and rifle bullet casings were found at the scene. Government officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly, said the attack took place inside one home. Two witnesses have been placed under state protection.

An official at the prosecutor's office had earlier said that authorities were investigating whether the crime was related to organized crime or a family dispute. The village is inhabited by Evangelicals who broke away from another community of Catholics, El Potrero. But the mayor said the two villages respected each other. “It's a community in harmony, but things change. There's immigration. Many go north of the country and to the United States. Sometimes when people come back the harmony is lost,” Lopez de la Vega said.

Recent Violence

It is the latest murder to rock Puebla, a region that has been relatively spared the drug violence that has plagued other parts of Mexico. In March, an undetermined number of human remains were found in various acid containers in a rural area. In April, four bodies were found inside a burnt car near Veracruz, an eastern state beset by murders and disappearances linked to drug cartels. Two of the bodies belonged to sisters of a jailed Zetas drug cartel member, Veracruz authorities said. That same day, three

other bodies were found in the same area near a facility of state-run oil firm Pemex.

Late last month, four people died when gunmen linked to fuel thefts opened fire in the vil-

lage of La Purisima, a region where rival gangs seek to control such illegal pipeline taps. Puebla has also seen a spate of mob lynchings of crime suspects. —AFP

ROUSSEFF OFFERS EARLY ELECTIONS REFERENDUM

BRASILIA: Brazil's Dilma Rousseff said she would call a referendum on holding early elections if she is reinstated as president, an offer analysts saw as a bid to sway undecided senators to help clear her in an impeachment trial. If Rousseff survives the Senate trial, expected to conclude in August, the Constitution would provide for her to serve out her term until 2018, although she would be scarred and in a weak position to govern. Rousseff's proposal for early elections, which emerged on Thursday, is seen by many political analysts as a way out of Brazil's political crisis because it would subject a political class tainted by scandal to a popular vote. Rousseff's supporters have questioned the legitimacy of an interim government led by her Vice President Michel Temer, which is governing while she is suspended for the duration of the trial.

Protesters took to the streets of several cities in Brazil late on Friday in the first widespread organized demonstration against Temer. There were no official estimates regarding the number of people in the protests. Most participants were from leftist parties or from movements such as the landless rural workers. Former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva took part in one of the protests, in Sao Paulo. He called on Temer to step down. “Temer, as a constitutional lawyer you know that what you did was not right. Give the power back to the people and to Dilma and try to gain the Presidency in the next election,” he said. Lula also criticized the anti-corruption investigations against him and said that if he felt provoked, he could decide to run for president in 2018. He has strongly denied any wrongdoing. Just one in 10 Brazilians view Temer's government positively and a majority want new elections this year, a poll showed this week. The survey also showed that nearly two-thirds of Brazilians support Rousseff's impeachment. “We must consult the population to rebuild a constitutional pact that was broken by the impeachment process,” Rousseff said in an interview on Thursday on government television channel TV Brasil. Rousseff told a group of senators and political allies on Thursday that she was open to the holding of a plebiscite for the country to decide new elections, the Folha de S.Paulo newspaper reported. The leftist leader was suspended on May 12



SAO PAULO: Brazil's former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva speaks during a rally in support of suspended President Dilma Rousseff and against acting President Michel Temer on Friday. — AP

when the Senate voted 55-22 to put her on trial for allegedly breaking budget laws. To block her conviction and definitive ouster she needs five more votes, or one-third of the Senate. Temer's camp has opposed the idea of early elections, which would require a constitutional amendment by Congress.

A wave of scandals stemming from a corruption investigation at state company Petrobras have buffeted his month-old government and weakened the resolve to remove Rousseff among some senators who voted for the impeachment trial. Business leaders and investors have praised Temer for picking a strong economic team led by former central bank governor Finance Minister Henrique Meirelles to rescue Brazil from a fiscal crisis and the worst recession since the 1930s.

But his popularity has been undermined by policy reversals and allegations by prosecutors - based on recordings leaked to the media - that members of his Cabinet and the leader of his Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PDMB) sought to obstruct the investigation into the massive graft scheme at Petrobras. Temer has canceled a trip to northeastern Brazil, the first travel plans of his interim term, in order to personally deliver a proposed constitutional amendment to Congress on Wednesday, according to two presidential aides who asked not to be named. — Reuters

SPOTLIGHT ON RAPE CULTURE AT US CAMPUSES

LOS ANGELES: A high-profile sex assault case in California reverberating across the globe has prompted soul searching in America and reignited a debate about rape culture on US college campuses. The case burst into the spotlight after the victim made public a powerful letter to the judge who sentenced her attacker - 20-year-old former Stanford University student Brock Turner - on June 2 to six months in jail on three felony convictions.

Her harrowing 12-page account of the Jan 2015 assault and its impact on her life - read in court before the sentencing - lit up the Internet within hours of being posted online, drawing a global chorus of outrage at the light sentence and prompting calls for the judge to be removed from the bench. "You don't know me, but you've been inside me, and that's why we're here today," she told her attacker in the statement read in court. "You took away my worth, my privacy, my energy, my time, my intimacy, my confidence, my own voice, until today."

A letter to the court by Turner's father, stating that the former Stanford University swimmer did not deserve to be jailed for "20 minutes of action", further stoked the

debate about race and privilege. The furor even reached the nation's capital with Vice President Joe Biden praising the young victim as a "warrior". The case is emblematic of the way rape assaults are handled on US campuses, where observers say lax policies have created a climate of impunity and discouraged victims from speaking out.

'Still Didn't Get Justice'

"In general, colleges and universities have done a really bad job at managing campus sexual assault, preventing it or responding to it when it occurs," said Michele Dauber, a Stanford law professor spearheading a campaign to have the judge in the assault case recalled. Dauber, who is a close friend of the 23-year-old California woman targeted in the assault, told AFP the six-month sentence given to Turner - who is expected to serve only three months in county jail - downplays the seriousness of rape.

"Here we have the 'perfect' victim who did everything 'right', going to the police, making a formal charge and subjecting her body to the rape exam. She even had witnesses... and she still didn't get justice,"



Brock Turner

Dauber said. "The message this case is sending is 'Don't bother calling the police, you won't get justice'."

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, about one in six women in the United States are victims of sexual assault. A 2015 study by Brown

University found that more than one in every six women are raped during their first year at college while too drunk or incapacitated to fend off their attacker. The majority of college-age victims - about 80 percent - knew their attacker, surveys show.

Amy Ziering, producer of the 2015 campus rape documentary "The Hunting Ground", said if anything, the Stanford case had cast the spotlight on the issue as never before. "It has really, really raised everyone's consciousness in a way somewhat unprecedented," she told AFP. "You have 14 million people in five days reading someone's letter online and responding to it, and that is something I've never seen in my lifetime," she added. "This has actually ignited a conversation I just have never seen. It has prompted a debate about privilege, entitlement and the criminal justice system."

At Stanford University, the case has also drawn outrage among some faculty and students who have accused the school of a lack of sympathy toward the victim. "The university has still not apologized to her or expressed any compassion toward her," Dauber said. "They instead praised themselves about how they did everything right."

Two student-led petitions circulating online have questioned the university's response and urged the school to release the names of students responsible for sexual assault or misconduct. Protests are also planned at Stanford graduation ceremonies today.

Stanford officials did not reply to a request for interviews, referring to statements in which they defended their handling of the Turner case and denounced "misinformation" about the university's role. "Stanford University did everything within its power to assure that justice was served in this case," a statement said, citing a quick police response and referral to prosecutors.

Meanwhile Turner, who is being held in a county jail in San Jose, California, has been moved to protective custody out of fear for his safety. On Friday, he was banned for life from competing in national swim competitions. Filmmaker Ziering said she was confident the outcry would lead to change in the way rape victims are treated and often shamed into silence. "This case is the epitome of rape culture in our society," she said. "You couldn't get a better case. What is hopeful to me about it, is everything that has happened in the aftermath." — AFP



SAN FRANCISCO: Stanford law professor Michele Dauber speaks at a rally before activists delivered over one million signatures to the California Commission on Judicial Performance calling for the removal of Judge Aaron Persky from the bench on Friday. — AP

CAMPAIGN TO REMOVE JUDGE IN STANFORD RAPE INTENSIFIES

SAN FRANCISCO: A fledgling campaign to recall the judge who sentenced a former Stanford University swimmer to six months in jail for sexually assaulting an unconscious woman gained momentum Friday as three prominent political consultants joined the effort. The Recall Judge Aaron Persky campaign said media consultant Joe Trippi, campaign strategist John Shallman and pollster Paul Maslin would help secure the signatures and votes required to remove the Santa Clara County jurist from the bench next year.

Trippi has worked for a number of Democratic presidential candidates, while Maslin's clients include Gov Jerry Brown and members of Congress. Shallman has worked for the president of the California Senate, who spearheaded passage of a law requiring colleges and universities to apply a "yes means yes" standard in sexual misconduct cases. Persky was re-elected in an unopposed election Tuesday, five days after sentencing Brock Turner, 20, to six months in jail and three years' probation. The punishment for the Dayton, Ohio, native ignited intense outcry as too lenient.

Prosecutors had argued for Turner to spend six years in prison for three felony convictions that could have sent him away for 14 years. The judge said in court last week that he followed a recommendation from the county's probation department and cited Turner's clean criminal record and the effect the conviction will have on his life. "I have

daughters in college myself, and I find it deeply disturbing that a judge like Persky could let a campus predator like Turner off with barely a slap on the wrist," Shallman said. "Justice is supposed to be blind - not stupid."

A request to interview the judge wasn't returned Friday. A court spokesman has said Persky is barred from commenting because Turner is appealing his convictions of felony assault and attempted rape. Meanwhile, a group of California lawmakers joined women's rights advocates in urging the California agency that investigates complaints of judicial misconduct to take action against Persky. Eleven Democratic state lawmakers asked the Commission on Judicial Performance to investigate and discipline the judge, alleging he may have engaged in misconduct in sentencing Turner. The judge's decision "confirms what women already knew: That rape culture blames us for being vulnerable when crimes are committed against us, but treats the same factors - drinking, in particular - as reasons to be exceedingly lenient with rapists," Assemblywoman Susan Talamantes Eggman of Stockton said.

The lawmakers also want District Attorney Jeff Rosen to ask an appeals court to overturn the sentence. But prosecutors have said they don't think Persky's decision can be appealed because it was "authorized by law and was made by applying the correct standards". Rosen also has said the judge should not lose his job because of the ruling. — AP

TRUMP VOWS TO WORK FOR ETHNIC HARMONY

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE STUNG BY CRITICISM

WASHINGTON: US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump offered a message of ethnic harmony on Friday at a Christian evangelical conference as he sought to calm concern about his criticism of a Mexican-American judge. In a departure from his usual freewheeling style, Trump read a carefully scripted speech from a teleprompter as part of a new push by his campaign to tone down the outspoken New Yorker's harsh rhetoric.

Trump's remarks included a wide-ranging attack on Democratic rival Hillary Clinton, and he said money aimed at resettling Syrian refugees in the United States should instead be spent on tackling poverty in US cities. Speaking to the annual conference of the conservative Faith & Freedom Coalition, Trump did not mention the controversy over his charge that US District Judge Gonzalo Curiel cannot treat him fairly because of his Mexican heritage. But Trump did make a point of saying he would represent all Americans if elected president on Nov 8.

"Freedom of any kind means no one should be judged by their race or their color and the tone of his hue," Trump said. "Right now, we have a very divided nation. We're going to bring our nation together." Paul Ryan, the top elected US Republican, had criticized Trump for what he called a "textbook definition of a racist comment" for his remarks about the judge. Other Republican leaders warned Trump to change his tone or risk losing their support.

Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican presidential nominee who led a movement to derail Trump's nomination, told CNN he would not consider running for the White House. Romney blasted Trump for comments that he said denigrated Mexicans, women and religion. "Presidents have an impact on the nature of our nation, and trickle-down racism, trickle-down bigotry and trickle-down misogyny - all these things are extraordinarily dangerous to the heart and character of America," he said.

Romney said he expects Trump to get the Republican nomination, but said that he will not vote for either Trump or Clinton. He left open the possibility of casting a ballot for the Libertarian Party candidate, former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson. As Trump sought to rally more Republicans behind him, Clinton met with US Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts to try and shore up support from the left wing of the



RICHMOND, Virginia: Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump gestures during a rally on Friday. — AP

Democratic Party. Clinton later addressed the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, the nonpartisan arm of the women's health group, and had Trump trained in her sights. "This is a man who has called women pigs, dogs and disgusting animals, it's kind of hard to imagine counting on him to respect our fundamental rights," said Clinton, the first woman to become the presumptive presidential nominee of a major party. Clinton leads Trump by 11 percentage points, nearly the same as a week ago, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Friday.

Syrian Refugees

Trump on Friday criticized Clinton's willingness to accept thousands of Syrian refugees into the United States and challenged her to "replace her support for increased refugee admission" in favor of a new jobs program for inner cities. He stopped short of repeating his call for a temporary ban on Muslims entering the United States, a proposal that has drawn heavy fire from Republicans and Democrats.

"We have to temporarily stop this whole thing with what's going on with refugees where we don't know where they're coming from," Trump said. "We have to use the money to take care of our poorest Americans so they can come out of this horrible situation that they're in."

At the funeral on Friday of boxing champion Muhammad Ali, a convert to Islam, one speaker, a rabbi, inveighed against politicians promoting intolerance of Muslims. "We will not tolerate politicians or anyone else putting down Muslims and blaming Muslims for a few people," said Rabbi Michael Lerner, the editor of Tikkun magazine, who said he attended the ceremony in Louisville, Kentucky, as a representative of American Jews.

Trump said Clinton's refusal to use the phrase "radical Islamic terrorism" - favored by Republicans to describe violent Islamist militants - makes her unfit to be president. The real estate mogul's struggle to unify Republicans behind his insurgent candidacy was apparent at the evangelical Faith & Freedom conference, where several speakers studiously avoided speaking his name. — Reuters

MADURO RECALL ADVANCES, WITH THREATS

CARACAS: Facing mounting pressure from food shortages, looting and increasingly violent protests, Venezuelan authorities on Friday announced the next stage of a recall referendum against embattled President Nicolas Maduro. But Maduro's camp said it would go to the Supreme Court to contest the process, accusing the opposition of fraud while gathering the signatures needed to call a referendum. The wranglings are part of a marathon process to call a vote on sacking the leftist president, whom opponents accuse of driving oil-rich Venezuela to the brink of economic collapse.

In Washington, meanwhile, the Organization of American States announced a special session of its

permanent council on June 23 to discuss the situation in Venezuela. The meeting was called by OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro, who warned of an "institutional crisis" in Venezuela that requires "immediate changes in the actions of the executive branch".

The National Electoral Board's (CNE) decision to let the recall move ahead came with a warning from its chief, Tibisay Lucena, who told Maduro's opponents the proceedings would be halted if there was any violence. After repeated opposition protests, Lucena finally announced the CNE would take fingerprint scans from June 20 to 24 to confirm the identity of people who signed the opposi-

tion's referendum petition. The electoral board, which the opposition accuses of dragging its feet to protect Maduro, appeared to have caved in after protests turned violent Thursday and left a prominent lawmaker bloodied and beaten.

But a Maduro loyalist appointed to oversee the process, Jorge Rodriguez, vowed to go to the Supreme Court to stop what he called "this crime against the constitution". He said the opposition's petition, submitted on May 2 with 1.8 million signatures, included dead people, children and others ineligible to sign.

'Emphatic' Warning

Protests, looting and violent crime have been mounting in Venezuela as the country reels from shortages of food, water, medicine and electricity. On Thursday, police fired tear gas to break up a protest led by lawmakers in the opposition-majority congress, who tried to march on the CNE's headquarters. It was the fourth time in recent days police had cracked down on similar marches. A brawl broke out and punches flew when the protesters faced Maduro supporters.

Julio Borges, the congressional majority leader, was attacked with clubs, punches and kicks from Maduro backers, leaving him with a bloodied nose. Maduro blamed the violence on his political enemies and vowed to throw the "provocateurs" into prison. Lucena, the country's top electoral official, also had a warning for the opposition, even as she agreed to let them move ahead with the referendum process. "We want to say very emphatically (that) any aggression, disturbance or violence will lead to the immediate suspension of the process until order, peace and respect are reestablished," she told a press conference.

At least 200,000 people who signed the recall referendum petition must now confirm their identity with fingerprint scans. Under the constitution, the opposition would then have to gather four million more signatures - 20 percent of the electorate - to trigger a recall vote. — AFP



CARACAS: "La Vega" low income neighborhood residents clash with riot police during a demonstration on Friday. — AFP



WASHINGTON: In this April 7, 2016 photo, US President Barack Obama and his daughter Malia walk across the South Lawn of the White House before boarding Marine One helicopter for the short flight to Andrews Air Force Base. — AP

OBAMA MARKS MILESTONE WITH DAUGHTER'S SCHOOL GRADUATION

WASHINGTON: US President Barack Obama marked a big milestone Friday: His daughter Malia graduated from high school. Outside of the media glare, the soon-to-be 18-year-old collected her diploma from the private Sidwell Friends School in Northwest Washington during an outdoor ceremony warmed by sunshine. Her father, mother and other relatives were on hand for the big moment. The White House barred media coverage.

Malia was 10 and longing for the puppy her father had promised when her family moved to the White House. She's grown up in the public eye ever since, getting and shedding braces, being taught how to drive by Secret Service agents and spending short stints away from her parents and sister. Obama has said it hasn't been easy

watching "one of my best friends" grow up so fast, in front of the world. "I do a lot of commencements around this time of year, which I love doing, although my older daughter is graduating this week and I will not be able to handle that well," he told donors at a New York fundraiser earlier this week. Obama has blamed his emotions for declining an invitation to deliver Sidwell's commencement address as then-President Bill Clinton did in 1997 when his daughter, Chelsea, graduated from the same school. "I'm going to be sitting there with dark glasses, sobbing," he said in February. Malia's younger sister, Sasha, who turned 15 on Friday, attends Sidwell, too. After Friday's graduation ceremony, the Obama family celebrated over lunch at Cafe Milano in Georgetown. — AP

INDIA'S BID TO JOIN NSG A POINT OF PRIDE

NEW DELHI: India is rejoicing over news that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brokered deals with US officials to bring New Delhi closer to its long-held dream of joining an elite group of nations allowed to control the global trade in nuclear materials, equipment and technology. Newspapers have run daily front-page stories heralding progress on the nuclear front after President Barack Obama came out in support of Indian membership in

the Nuclear Suppliers Group, which led other nations including Mexico and Switzerland to suggest they, too, were on board.

Diplomats in Vienna suggested Thursday that India is closer than ever to joining the NSG, despite never fulfilling the requirement of signing a global treaty aimed at preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons technology. But would India's entry into the club make any difference? Some

analysts say no, at least not from a technical standpoint. India has already managed to secure access to nuclear fuel and technology to build power plants it says it needs to boost energy capacity and drive economic growth for the nation of 1.25 billion people.

Analysts say joining the NSG is chiefly a matter of pride and desire to be taken seriously by some of the world's most powerful nations. Since prompting international technology sanctions and limits on exports by conducting nuclear tests in 1998, India has been eager to gain legitimacy as a nuclear power. "In practical terms, there is nothing extra that the NSG will give India other than a seat at the nuclear high table," said Rakesh Sood, a retired diplomat closely associated with India's nuclear negotiations over the past decade.

India already has deals with more than eight countries for supplies of uranium, and has signed agreements for reactors with France, Russia and the United States. Last week's reported nuclear breakthroughs were seen as a major point of progress for Modi, who has placed new urgency on India's nuclear ambitions with the aim of vastly expanding atomic power to account for about half of the country's total electricity supply by 2050. Nuclear power is one way India, the third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, could cut its emissions and reduce air pollution from coal-fired power plants.

Progress stalled

India scored a major victory in 2008, under Modi's predecessor, by securing a waiver from Washington allowing it access to nuclear technology and fuel despite its refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. But progress in deals to build new nuclear plants since then has stalled. For months, Indian officials have crisscrossed the globe to gather support for New Delhi's entry into the NSG, the 48-member group that controls access to technology used in making atomic weapons.

Ironically, the group was set up in response to India's own clandestine nuclear test in 1974, which made New Delhi something of a pariah in the West. Joining the club requires the unanimous approval of all members. Analysts said Modi is anxious to secure NSG membership while Obama is still in office, after years of receiving support from his administration. "It's a matter of timing. A crescendo is building up; now is the time to clinch it," said Sheel Kant Sharma, a former Indian ambassador to Vienna, Austria. "Tactically and strategically it's time for India to be on the side of those who control technology."

This week, Obama hailed India's membership in the Missile Technology Control Regime, a group that restricts the export of missiles and their delivery systems. Officials also reported progress in resolving an impasse over an Indian liability law passed in 2010 that makes builders of nuclear plants in India financially responsible for any accidents that might

occur, with efforts to negotiate a multimillion-dollar insurance fund to cover any accidents.

Solution

The workaround solution seems to be ameliorating concerns; the Toshiba-backed US energy giant Westinghouse Electric Co said this week it is finalizing a contract to build six nuclear reactors in southern India. India continues to refuse to sign the nonproliferation treaty, arguing that it is discriminatory since it defines nuclear weapon states as those that tested nuclear devices before Jan 1967 - which would disqualify India from ever becoming a member.

Nevertheless, Obama called on governments participating in the NSG to support India's application to the group when it meets later this month in Seoul, South Korea. On Thursday, two diplomats at an NSG meeting in Vienna said resistance from New Zealand, Ireland, Turkey, South Africa and Austria had softened, though China remained opposed. The diplomats demanded anonymity in exchange for speaking to AP because they were not authorized to talk about the substance of the closed session.

India's admission to the nuclear club is further complicated because Pakistan, its archrival, also wants to join. On Thursday, the Dawn newspaper in Islamabad reported that the Pakistani government had formally asked the Obama administration and Congress for their support. —AP



WASHINGTON: In this June 7, 2016, file photo, US President Barack Obama and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi shake hands before their meeting in the Oval Office of the White House. —AP

3,000 ARRESTED IN BANGLADESH AS PM VOWS TO CATCH KILLERS

OPPN ACCUSES GOVT OF SUPPRESSING POLITICAL DISSENT

DHAKA: Bangladesh police have arrested more than 3,000 people in a sweeping nationwide crackdown following a spate of gruesome murders, they said yesterday, as the prime minister vowed to catch "each and every killer". Those detained include 37 suspected Islamist militants and hundreds of potential criminals who pre-

over the last 24 hours," A K M Shahidur Rahman, deputy police inspector general told AFP. "The militants included 27 members of Jamayetul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB)," he said. The JMB is one of the main domestic militant outfits blamed by the government, which rejects claims from Islamic State group and a South

criminals hide? Each and every killer will be brought to book as we did after the 2015 mayhem," she said, referring to a deadly transport blockade last year organized by opposition parties.

However, Bangladesh opposition parties immediately accused the police of using the crackdown to suppress political dissent. "Hundreds of opposi-

they failed to topple the government in last year's transport blockade.

JMB Arrests

Police detained some 350 people in the country's second-largest city of Chittagong and its surrounding areas. They include one suspect in the murder of Mahmuda Begum, the wife of a top anti-terror police officer who was fatally stabbed and shot last weekend. Her husband had led several high-profile operations against the JMB in Chittagong and her killing prompted the police to vow to catch her killers. "We suspect Shahjahan Robin as the prime offender in the murder of (anti-terror officer) Babul Akter's wife," Chittagong police chief Iqbal Bahar told AFP.

In recent days an elderly Hindu priest was found nearly decapitated in a rice field, while a Christian grocer was hacked to death near a church, with Islamic State group claiming responsibility for the killings. A Hindu monastery worker was found hacked to death Friday in the northwestern district of Pabna. Police have targeted domestic militant outfits, however, specifically the JMB, with five members of the group shot dead in gun battles this week.

Nine members of the JMB were arrested in Rajshahi, Shariful Islam, a police inspector in the northwestern district said yesterday. Several attacks have occurred in the district including the killing of a liberal professor in April. As well as the arrests, police said they had seized nearly 1,000 motorcycles across the country. Motorbikes have been used in many of the attacks, with the government recently announcing a ban on motorcyclists carrying more than one passenger. —AFP



DHAKA: This Feb 20, 2016 file photo shows local residents watching a police raid on a building. —AP

viously had warrants out against them, as well as several hundred ordinary arrests, police said. Bangladesh is reeling from a wave of brutal killings that have spiked in recent weeks, with religious minorities, secular thinkers and liberal activists the chief targets.

"We have arrested 3,155 people including 37 Islamist militants as part of the special drive

Asian branch of Al-Qaeda that they are behind the killings.

The country's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told a meeting of her ruling Awami League party yesterday that police would stamp out the violence. "It may take time, but God willing, we will be able to bring them under control," Hasina told a meeting of her ruling Awami League party yesterday. "Where will the

tion activists have been arrested in the police drive," Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) secretary general Fakhruddin Islam Alamgir told AFP. "In the name of the crackdown against Islamist militants, many ordinary and innocent people are being detained." Hasina has accused the BNP and the country's largest Islamist party, Jamaat-e-Islami, of orchestrating the attacks after

ACT EXAMS CANCELED IN S KOREA, HK OVER BREACH

SEOUL: Operators of the ACT college entrance exam yesterday canceled the tests for students in South Korea and Hong Kong at the last moment over what they said was a verified breach of test materials. The cancellation affected about 5,500 test takers who will receive refunds of test fees, according to ACT spokesman Edward Colby, who said the company believes it was the first time the exam was canceled for an entire country.

The ACT, an Iowa-based nonprofit organization, had planned to administer the tests at 56 different locations in South Korea and Hong Kong on Saturday morning. The ACT decided to cancel the test soon after it received "credible evidence" that the test materials had been leaked, Colby said. "We are extremely concerned about any activities that could impact the fairness and integrity of the test. When individuals attempt to profit by stealing test materials and selling them, it can hurt thousands of

students who did nothing wrong, as it has in this case," Colby said in an email conversation.

Colby said he couldn't comment on when and how the test materials might have been leaked because the incident is still under investigation. He said the ACT exams will be administered in South Korea and Hong Kong again in September. The sudden cancellation of the exam caused confusion in South Korea, where many students didn't know of the decision until they arrived at the test sites, according to teachers from private "cram schools" in affluent southern Seoul that specialize in preparing students for the tests.

ACT emails notifying students of the cancellations didn't reach inboxes until nearly 7 am, an hour before students were to arrive at test sites, they said. "It's frustrating for students, including those who had been planning to use the scores for early decision admissions at US schools," said a cram

school teacher who had prepared four students to take the test. She spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear she might anger her clients if she allowed her name to be used.

"Parents have asked whether they should prepare their kids to take the exams in other countries like Japan in the future, because they are worried that the cheating problems could reoccur here, as it had with the SATs," she said. South Korea has struggled to clamp down on cheating on standardized English and college admission tests and similar problems have been reported in other Asian countries. The College Board, the New York-based testing firm that oversees the SAT college entrance exams, canceled tests in China and Macau in January over concerns that some students had seen copies of the tests in advance. The College Board was forced to cancel SATs in South Korea in 2013 for similar reasons. —AP



KAZIRANGA, India: In this April 14, 2016 photo, a forest official shows shell casings that were recovered from a site where a rhinoceros was killed by poachers with AK-47 at Kaziranga National Park. —AP

ASSAM MAKES NEW PLANS TO HALT RHINO POACHING

GAUHATI, India: The newly elected government of the northeast Indian state of Assam has launched plans to crack down on the poaching of the area's famed one-horned rhinos. The state's Kaziranga National Park is home to the world's largest population of the rare rhinos, with more than 2,000 of the species. While overall poaching deaths have dropped over the last few years, a series of rhino killings this year has led the new government to renew anti-poaching efforts.

The state's new environment minister, Pramila Rani Brahma, said Saturday that local police have been asked to join the offensive against poaching. Previously, Kaziranga's forest rangers and anti-poaching staff handled this responsibility on their own. Brahma said allegations that some park staff may be involved in the trade in rhino parts were also being investigated. On Tuesday, as Brahma and other officials visited Kaziranga to discuss the threat of poaching, a female rhino was

shot dead by poachers in the vicinity.

In April, poachers killed a rhino at the 480-sq-km park hours after a visit by Britain's Prince William and his wife, Kate. The royal couple had spent several hours at Kaziranga in hopes of drawing attention to the plight of endangered animals, including the park's one-horned rhinos. All five of the world's rhino species are under constant threat from poachers seeking their horns to sell on the black market. Demand is high in countries such as China and Vietnam, where people mistakenly believe consuming rhino horns can increase male potency. It does not.

This year, eight rhinos in Kaziranga have been killed for their horns, after 17 were poached in 2015. Despite the threats, Kaziranga is a conservation success story. The reserve had 75 rhinos in 1905. In 1966, the number of rhinos in Kaziranga was put at 366. According to a 2015 estimate, the number has risen to 2,401. —AP

11 SCHOOL TEACHERS KILLED IN THAILAND ROAD CRASH

BANGKOK: A passenger van overturned and caught fire on a highway in Thailand, killing 11 school teachers inside, news reports said yesterday. The Nation newspaper said the teachers were trapped in the burning vehicle after the Friday night crash on a highway in Chonburi, southeast of Bangkok. The Khaosod newspaper said the victims were schoolteachers. The Nation reported the driver lost control after one of the tyres of the van burst. It quoted the interior ministry's disaster management department as saying that four people managed to get out of the van before it burst into flames.

Photos published in local media showed the toppled vehicle engulfed in flames on

the side of the road. The passengers were from a small private elementary school in eastern Bangkok. A school employee told AFP the school's director was driving the vehicle and was among the injured. Despite relatively good infrastructure, Thailand has the second most dangerous roads in the world in terms of per capita deaths, according to data collected by the World Health Organization (WHO) in a 2015 report. Speeding and other traffic violations are common and law enforcement on the highways is lax. The WHO estimates about 24,000 people die each year in traffic accidents on Thailand's roads. Only Libya records a greater number of fatalities per capita. —Agencies

QAEDA VOWS ALLEGIANCE TO NEW TALEBAN LEADER

CAIRO: Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Zawahiri, in an online audio message, pledged allegiance to the new head of the Afghan Taliban, who was appointed last month after his predecessor was killed in a US drone strike. The veteran Islamist militant became Al-Qaeda's leader after US Navy Seals killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan in 2011, and he is thought to be hiding in the Pakistan-Afghanistan border region, having been based there since the late 1990s.

"As leader of the Al-Qaeda organization for jihad, I extend my pledge of allegiance once again, the approach of Osama to invite the Muslim nation to support the Islamic Emirate," Zawahiri said in a 14

minute recording. During its years in power, from 1996 to 2001, the Taliban established the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, and it has been fighting an insurgency since to regain control of the country. The authenticity of the recording could not be immediately verified.

Haibatullah Akhundzada, Islamic legal scholar who was one of former leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour's deputies, was appointed a few days after Mansour was killed by a US drone attack in a remote border area just inside Pakistan. Since Zawahiri, an Egyptian doctor-turned-militant, succeeded bin Laden, Al-Qaeda has lost ground to Islamic State in the leadership of the global jihadist movement. —Reuters

US MUSLIMS SEE ANTI-MOSQUE BIAS IN 'LANDMARK' DECISION

YONKERS: After months of searching to find a home for their mosque, a Muslim group settled on a century-old, three-story Tudor in a leafy neighborhood of a New York suburb, a fixer upper they say would be perfect with the right renovations. But not long after the sale went through last year, neighbors thought it was perfect just the way it was. A neighborhood group filed an application to have the building designated a city landmark and won final approval last month, meaning any exterior renovations will now have to go through a time-consuming permission process.

While city officials insisted the landmark status wouldn't prevent the home being used as a mosque, the Muslim organization saw something more sinister. "We feel that we are being targeted," said Arshad Shariff, chairman of the Islamic Community Center of Mid-Westchester. "And unnecessary obstacles and hindrances are being placed because we are Muslim." It's a refrain that's been heard around the country, from Muslims who say they have faced all kinds of zoning and other obstacles as they've tried to build or expand mosques.

Some of the conflicts have gone to court, under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, a federal law passed in 2000 that forbids using zoning laws in such a way. Among the most high-profile of the controversies was over plans for an Islamic center to be built in the vicinity of New York City's World Trade Center site, which was dubbed the "Ground Zero mosque" in 2010 by opponents. More recently, a Muslim group in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, has been facing zoning and other obstacles for several years over its plan to build a mosque, resulting in a federal lawsuit against the town's planning board.

Earlier this year, officials in Lexington, Kentucky, sued the local mosque, saying it was violating zoning ordinances with its plans to renovate the property and expand to an adjacent building. Houses of worship from all faiths can and do face issues related to their land usage, said Luke Goodrich, deputy general counsel at The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty. Communities don't like them for a number of reasons, either because

of the crowds they can bring or the lack of tax revenue, or sometimes because of bias against the faith in question, he said.

But Muslims have faced a disproportionate amount of those issues. A Department of Justice review of the law since its inception found that in its first 10 years, 15 percent of the cases brought by the department's Civil Rights division under the religious land use act involved mosques or Islamic schools, a percentage that has increased to more than 25 percent of the case load in the following four years. Muslims make up an estimated 1 percent of the population.

Naeem Baig, president of the Islamic Circle of North America, a grassroots Muslim outreach group, says that backlash has been fueled by anti-Muslim rhetoric has become more prevalent in the mainstream in recent years. "Where people see a mosque coming into a neighborhood or community, they're not seeing it as fellow Americans who happen to be Muslim," he said.

In Yonkers, Islamic Community Center leader Shariff said the dispute with the city has delayed the opening of the mosque indefinitely. Shariff said the group never planned major changes to the exterior of the \$750,000 home to make it a mosque - no minarets, no loudspeakers issuing the call to prayer. It primarily wanted to add an entrance ramp for handicapped visitors and another entrance, and some kind of signage indicating that it was a mosque. Shariff said they had met with city officials before the sale went through to ask if there was any historical significance to the property, and were told there were no records indicating any.

In a statement announcing the landmark designation last month, Mayor Mike Spano said the home was significant because it was one of the original homes to be built in the city's historic Colonial Heights section. Spano's office declined repeated requests for additional comment, and a telephone number for the neighborhood organization that started the landmark application, the Colonial Heights Association of Taxpayers, could not be found. "It's important for the neighbors to understand we are their neighbors," Shariff said. "We are part of the American fabric." — AP



NEW YORK: A house in Yonkers, NY that the Islamic Community Center of Mid-Westchester hopes to convert into a mosque is seen in this photo. The Islamic Community Center faces hurdles now that the home they purchased has been given a historic landmark designation limiting how it can be altered. — AP

IS SUICIDE BOMBERS KILL 20 OUTSIDE SYRIA..

Continued from Page 1

Non-jihadist rebels say Iran's strong military intervention on the side of Assad, alongside its backing of other Shiite militias, is fuelling the sectarian dimension of the nearly six-year Syrian civil war by drawing even more radical foreign Sunni jihadists into the country.

Separately, US-backed Syrian forces made new territorial gains against Islamic State yesterday, moving closer to another of its major strongholds in northern Syria, according to the monitoring group. The Observatory

said the Syria Democratic Forces (SDF), bringing together Kurdish and Arab fighters, were now almost 17 km (10 miles) from the city of Al-Bab, an Islamic State stronghold north east of Aleppo. The SDF on Friday cut off the last route into the encircled town of Manbij from Al-Bab after over a week of advances around that area, allowing it to lay siege to the large town from all directions, the monitor said. In other frontlines in northern Syria, two rebel sources said Russian and Syrian jets stepped up their relentless aerial bombing of their positions in the northern city of Aleppo. — Reuters

FORGIVENESS IN RAMADAN

Continued from Page 1

Prophetic traditions

Abu Mousa Al-Ash'Ari (Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) companion) narrated that the Prophet (PBUH) said, "None is more patient than God against the harmful and annoying words He hears (from the people). They ascribe children to Him, yet He bestows upon them health and provisions." (Al-Bukhari 7,378). In this Hadith, the Prophet (PBUH) informs us that some people ascribe children to God Almighty, yet He continues to give them sustenance as well as provide them with good health.

He also leaves the door of repentance wide open to them before death. If anyone of them repents sincerely before death, then Allah (SWT) would accept his repentance and forgive him categorically. It would be extremely difficult for a human-being to forgive people who continuously blaspheme and falsely accuse him of vices, while he continues to feed and help them. If God our creator is ready to forgive even those who ascribe children to Him, what about human beings - why shouldn't they forgive?

Anas Bin Malik (Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) companions) reported thus: "I was walking with the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) who was wearing a Najrani cloak with a very thick border when a Bedouin chanced upon him. He took hold of the side of the Prophet's cloak and pulled it violently. I noticed that the severity of that pulling had bruised the neck of the Messenger of Allah (PBUH). The Bedouin said, "O Muhammad! Give me something from Allah's wealth that you are keeping."

The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) turned to him and smiled. He then ordered his companions to give him something. (Al-Bukhari 7378 or Volume 9, Hadeeth No 473). Imagine a person of Muhammad's caliber, who was revered by all his companions as well as some non-Muslims, and someone disrespects him in front of his bona-fide companions! Had he ordered his companions to take revenge on his behalf, they would have done it. However, he chose to forgive.

Moreover, he gave the Bedouin what he was asking

for. Who can do that in our world today? Only a few devout pious human-beings can do that. Not only did the Prophet (PBUH) forgive the Bedouin, but he also ordered those in charge of the Muslim treasury to give him something. This an extraordinary lesson that Muslims ought to learn from the Messenger of Allah (PBUH).

Abdullah Bin Abbas (Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) companion) said, "Uyaina bin Hisn bin Hudhaifa bin Badr came and stayed in Medina being hosted by his nephew - Al-Hurr bin Qais bin Hisn - who was one of those whom Umar used to keep near him among those who memorized the entire Quran by heart. They used to be considered respectfully in Umar's meetings as his advisors both old and young. Uyaina said to his nephew, "O my nephew! Does this chief (alluding to Umar) hold you in high regard? If yes, then please ask him to permit me to see him."

His nephew said, "I will get the permission for you to see him." (Ibn Abbas added), "So he took the permission for Uyaina, and when the latter entered, he said, "O son of Al-Khattab! By Allah, you neither give us sufficient provisions nor judge among us with justice." Upon hearing that, Umar became so furious and angry that he intended to harm him in revenge. Al-Hurr said, "O leader of the Believers! Allah said to His Apostle, 'Hold to forgiveness, command what is good and right, and leave the foolish (ie do not punish them)' (7: 199) This person is among the foolish people." By Allah, Umar did not overlook that verse when Al-Hurr recited it to him, for he (Umar) was famous for observing the commandments of Allah strictly as well as putting them into consideration." (Al-Bukhari 7,286)

Courtesy of the TIES Center: The TIES Center aims at empower Kuwait's expats through social and educational services that promote a positive and productive role in society, and to facilitate opportunities for intra- and interfaith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or e-mail: info@tiescenter.net

WARS AND POVERTY FORCE GAZA CHILDREN...

Continued from Page 1

Unemployment has risen dramatically to reach around 45 percent-one of the highest in the world-forcing many children to become bread-winners. On Sunday, the International Labor Organization marks World Day Against Child Labor, an initiative that has seen the number of child laborers drop to 168 million from 246 million in 2000.

But in Gaza the trend has been upward. According to Palestinian estimates, child labor has doubled over the past five years, with 9,700 children aged between 10 and 17 now working in the enclave. "My father is unemployed, he used to gather stones and scrap metal... but now I work," said Ibrahim who earns about 20 shekels (\$5) a day-toiling six to 12 hours to feed his family of nine. The boy, who looks much older than his age, said he and his father used to transport their find on a donkey-drawn cart "but the donkey died".

All day long, often under a searing sun or howling wind, boys like Walid and Ibrahim scour flashpoint Beit Lahiya-near the border fence with Israel in northern Gaza-for scrap to sell to recycling firms. The area is attractive because of potential finds of lead from Israeli munitions, but also carries the risk of drawing gunfire from border guards. "Most of the children who work do so in neighborhoods along the border fence, and these are the poorest areas," said psychologist Aida Kassab from the

Gaza Community Mental Health Program.

"Sometimes these children are only five and yet they are forced to do a job which is not appropriate for their age, their physical or psychological state," said Kassab. Akram Saeed, 14, said he spent years gathering scrap but now he wants out and would like to "learn a useful skill" to improve the lot of his four siblings and parents.

Help came in the form of a Swiss children's relief agency, Terre des Hommes, which helps families send their children back to school or to attend vocational courses. "The phenomenon of children who work reflects the economic and social situation of the Gaza Strip," said Khatam Abu Hamad, who represents the NGO in Gaza. "There is no job market in Gaza," she said. Palestinian law bans children under 15 from working but "it is rarely applied," said Iyad Abu Hujayr of the Palestinian Centre for Democracy and Conflict Resolution.

He said enforcement has been hampered by divisions between the Islamist movement Hamas, which rules Gaza, and the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority. These divisions have also allowed abuse by some employers who often force children to work a 12-hour day for as little as 20 shekels, he said. And the situation is far from improving, said Hyam Al-Jarjawi, who is in charge of children's affairs at the Hamas-run ministry of social affairs. With each war, "there is more poverty and the more the number of child laborers increases", she said. — AFP

'THE VOICE' STAR KILLED IN US SHOOTING

Continued from Page 1

the young singer "a loved member of our family". "There are no words. We lost a beautiful soul w/ an amazing voice," it said after her death was confirmed. Adam Levine, the singer whose team she performed with on the program, posted a picture of himself with her on his Instagram account after the incident when the singer was taken wounded but still alive to the hospital.

"I'm sad, shocked and confused. We love you so much Grimmie. We are all praying hard that you can pull through this... this just isn't fair," he wrote, before news of her death became public. Fans posted video clips on social media of her performances, including her cover of Miley Cyrus's "Wrecking Ball" during a blind audition on "The Voice". A New Jersey native, Grimmie first gained public attention with moving covers of hit songs in videos viewed by millions on YouTube. — AFP

Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:

+965 248 35 616 / 617

E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
ads@kuwaittimes.net
 Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Best Saving Offers For RAMADAN

50% Save More

Ramadan Kareem

SHARP

LC-32LE265M

32"

59 (Price 990)

HDMI USB 200

SHARP

LC-50LE275X

50"

139 (Price 990)

MHL HDMI USB

SHARP

LC-50UE630X

50"

229 (Price 990)

QUAD CORE HDMI USB WiFi

4K Ultra HD

android tv

Entertainment tailored for you

best بست

AL-YOUSIFI

• Kuwait 1 (The New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khalid str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road) • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahaheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

Shop Online: www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618
P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL : info@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Issues

DUMP TRUMP

By Dr James J Zogby

Recent Trump outrages have thrown the GOP establishment into a tizzy. Reactions have been varied, ranging from a few brave souls who have denounced their nominee's bigotry to those who continue to hope against hope that Trump will begin to behave more "presidential". Ignored in all of this are two important realities: Trump is Trump; and his message and movement are the handiwork of the very establishment that is now rejecting their creations.

Trump's xenophobic, male chauvinist, and bigoted bullying campaign rhetoric is not an act. It is who he is and it what the constituency that has propelled his candidacy wants him to be. While this simple truth has been self-evident throughout the campaign, the establishment has been in denial, unwilling or unable to confront reality.

With every display of brutish behavior, they pronounced Trump fatally wounded-only to discover that his appalling and dangerous attacks on Mexicans, women, Muslims, people with disabilities, news reporters, and incitements to violence against demonstrators-caused his poll numbers to rise. Party leaders shouldn't have been surprised, since it was they who set the table for "The Donald". For decades, the GOP has preyed off the fears of white voters who are in economic distress. Since the days of Richard Nixon, they have used subtle and not so subtle racial messages to win support.

Whether the targets were "welfare queens", "Willie Horton", or resentment over "affirmative action"-the appeal was the same: "they are a threat to you" and "they are privileged and are taking from you". With the election of Barack Obama, in the midst of the most severe economic crisis since the Depression, this effort swung into high gear with the Tea Party and "birther" movements. New targets were added-Mexicans ("illegals" and "drugs") and Muslims ("terrorists" and "an existential threat to our way of life").

In each instance, the GOP fed the beast. They funded, helped to organize, and used the Tea Party to win elections, and with "a wink and a nod" they let the "birthers" fester in effort to delegitimize the president. They encouraged and celebrated vigilante actions against "illegals" and callously exploited the fear of Muslims with trumped-up campaigns against Sharia law and TV ads in congressional races charging Democrats with being "soft on Muslims".

All of this created a constituency which Trump, the entertainer, understood and toward whom he directed his campaign. He is but the latest in a long line of demagogues to tap into resentment and fear-following in the footsteps of Sarah Palin, Newt Gingrich, and Michele Bachmann. The hope of the Republican Party establishment that Trump would become a more "respectable" candidate has been, in part, disingenuous. If he were not the nominee, they would be thrilled to have him campaigning for GOP candidate. But as the standard bearer, he is an embarrassment.

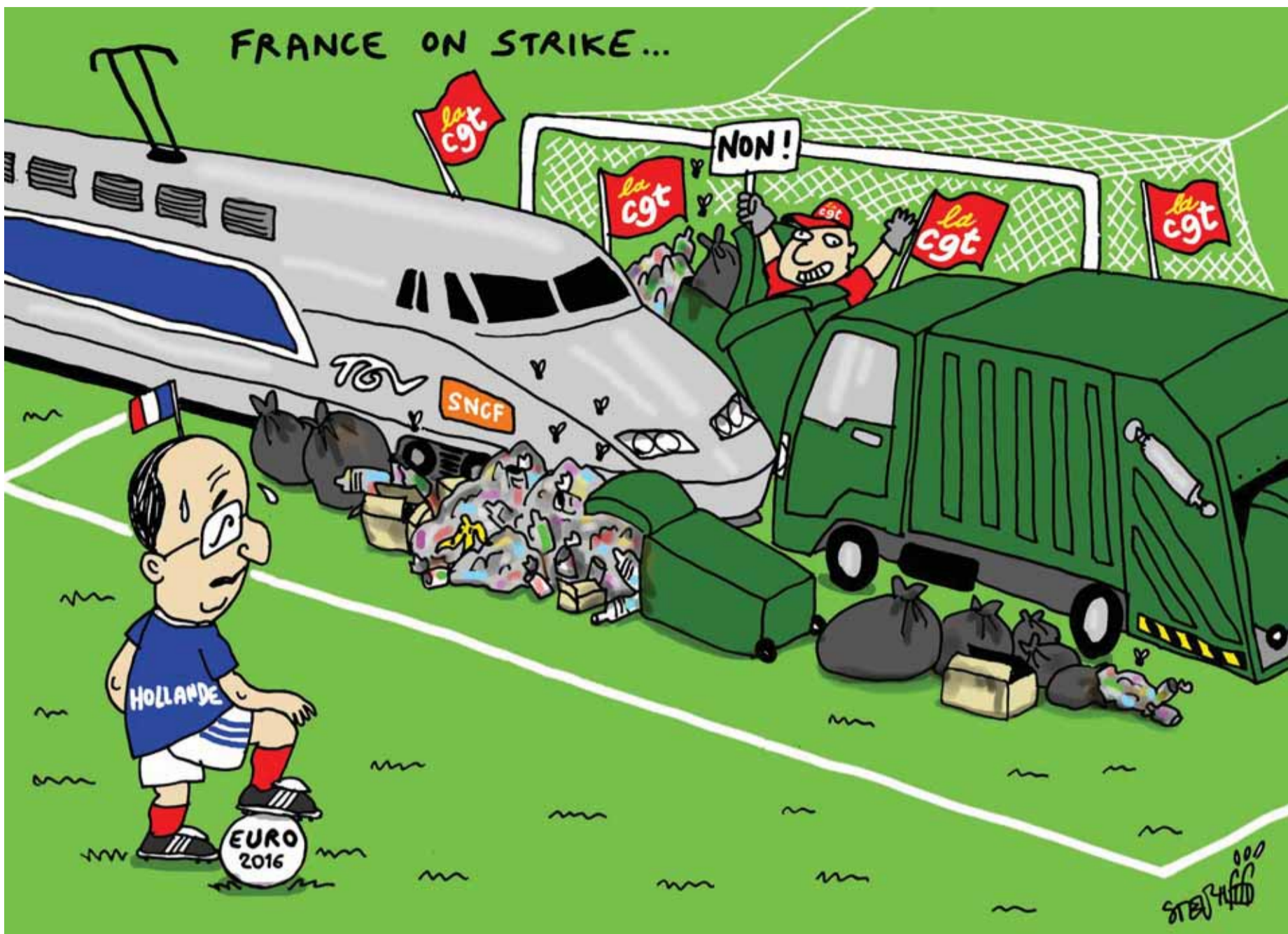
His racist attack on the judge who is hearing the case against the so-called "Trump University" has left party leaders flailing about. In an effort to distance themselves from his behavior, they have expressed everything from disappointment to disgust. Last weekend, Trump compounded his bigotry by noting that not only did he feel that a judge of Mexican descent couldn't give him a fair trial (because Trump was planning to build a wall between Mexico and the US); he also felt he couldn't trust a Muslim American judge (because he had called for a ban on Muslim immigrants to the US).

While I do not have polling data on Mexican Americans, I did conduct a survey of US voters a few months ago that demonstrates the sad reality that is behind Trump's calculations. American voters were asked "If a Muslim American were to attain an important position of influence in the government, would you feel confident that person would be able to do the job, or would you feel that their religion would influence their decision-making?"

A plurality of voters (46%) said they felt that Muslims would be unduly influenced by their religion. More telling: while a plurality of Democrats (47%) were confident that a Muslim American could do the job, 63% of Republicans said a Muslim couldn't be trusted-including a whopping 75% of voters who said they were Trump supporters. The bottom line is that Trump didn't create this mindset or this constituency. It was created for him and he is merely playing to the crowd. Instead of hand-wringing, the party leaders who for years have encouraged this phenomenon need to accept their responsibility. It didn't just happen, and Trump didn't will it into being.

The fear and/or resentment of Mexicans/Muslims/blacks/strong women/etc has long been cultivated and has now given birth to its evil fruit. I warned that this beast would turn on its creators, and now it has. Whining or expressions of disappointment won't make it go away. Decisive action just might. Republicans should repudiate bigotry and demonstrate resolve by listening to those courageous voices who are calling on them to "Dump Trump" and undo the damage they have done to their party and to our country.

All articles appearing on these pages are the personal opinion of the writers. Kuwait Times takes no responsibility for views expressed therein. Kuwait Times invites readers to voice their opinions. Please send submissions via email to: opinion@kuwaittimes.net or via snail mail to PO Box 1301 Safat, Kuwait. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission as necessary.



KNIFE-EDGE EU REFERENDUM SETS SOOTHSAYERS ABUZZ

The only thing everyone seems to agree on is that Britain's EU referendum result is going to be close. One of the main references is the polling average compiled by the WhatUKThinks website, which is currently predicting 51 percent for "Remain". Hard and fast predictions are hard to come by but here are a few forecasts ahead of the June 23 vote:

Online polls: 50-50

Cheaper and less time-consuming than phone surveys, Internet polls have become prevalent in Britain in recent years and are predicting a roughly equal split between the "Leave" and "Remain" camps. A couple of recent online polls have even put the "Leave" camp ahead, sending the value of the pound plunging and scaring the pro-EU side, with Prime Minister David Cameron quickly calling a news conference to rebut key arguments made by the Brexit camp. Some pollsters are wary though, saying these polls may have overestimated the "Leave" vote because highly motivated anti-EU voters tend to reply more quickly and in greater numbers online, skewing the result.

Phone polls: 'Remain' victory

The picture is very different when it comes to phone polling, which shows a roughly 55 percent to 45 percent split in favour of "Remain", according to British Polling Council president John Curtice. There have been fewer phone polls in recent days, which means the WhatUKThinks average is still close and there is also the possibility of voters becoming more risk averse and pro-Remain as the vote nears.

Bookmakers: 'Remain' victory

Betting companies are overwhelmingly confident that the pro-EU camp will win, although the odds they offer for pro-EU gambles have narrowed in recent days. A "Brexit barometer" compiled by Ladbrokes gave "Remain" a 73-percent chance of winning compared to just 27 percent for "Leave" on Friday. Ladbrokes and William Hill were offering 3/10 odds for "Remain", meaning that a £10 bet would win just £3. The same bookmakers had 5/2 odds for "Leave" on Friday, meaning a £10 bet would win £25. During a campaign stop last week, UK

Independence Party leader Nigel Farage put his money where his mouth is and bet £1,000 on "Leave" at Ladbrokes. He stands to earn £2,500 if his side wins.

Markets: 'Leave' victory?

The financial markets have been far less certain on the result, falling sharply in recent days as the "Leave" campaign appears to have gathered momentum. "It is becoming extremely worrying for the financial markets and expect more sterling losses" if polls show a Brexit lead," Hussein Sayed, chief market strategist at currency trader FXTM said earlier. On voting day itself, the value of the pound could become a key indicator as to the final result, if British media reports about banks and funds commissioning private exit polls are to be believed. There are no official exit polls for the referendum.

Election expert: 'Leave' victory

A respected election expert, Lord Rob Hayward, has this week said that "the balance of probability is that the nation will vote to leave", saying that

polls may be underestimating support for Brexit. Hayward said Labor supporters have not been motivated to vote "Remain" and polls underestimate "Leave" support among voters he categorizes as "mortgaged, married, male, mid-30s-40s with kids". Hayward correctly warned that polls were underestimating support for the Conservatives ahead of last year's general election-a victory for Cameron that has seriously discredited pollsters who had predicted a much closer-run race against Labor.

Brewery: 'Remain' victory

A British brewery has launched a range of beers to stimulate debate over European Union membership, with early results suggesting that guzzlers are united with their continental counterparts. Little Valley Brewery in Yorkshire has brewed 10,000 pints (5,600 litres) of three pale ales, bearing the names "In", "Out" and "IDK" (I Don't Know). Punters are encouraged to order according to how they will vote and at the Aire Bar in Leeds, staff told AFP the results from one day of this informal poll were clear — 62 percent in favor of "In". —AFP

VOLUNTEERS HOPE TO KEEP UK IN EU WITH A PHONE CALL

By Edouard Guihaire

Catherine Maclean, a volunteer campaigning to keep Britain in the EU, is on the phone with a "Leave" supporter, trying to change his mind. It is not going well. "He's a tough one," she whispers, raising her eyebrows. She tries to break back into the conversation. "I think..." she manages, before being interrupted by a fresh tirade against the European Union.

The conversation, part of the campaign for Britain to remain in the EU at a June 23 referendum, soon strays into discussion of Turkey's process of accession to the bloc. The man on the other end argues that it will join imminently, touching on one of the key arguments of the "Leave" campaign, immigration. Maclean argues it is a long way off yet. Eventually, the call comes to an end. "I do think the risks are more with going out than remaining in but clearly we have a different view on that," she surmises. "Thank you for your time anyway, goodbye."

Sporting short hair and an "I'm In" T-shirt, Maclean is one of a small team of volunteers for the "Remain" campaign led by Prime Minister David Cameron. This evening, they have transformed an office on the 24th floor of a skyscraper in east London's Canary Wharf business district into telephone nerve centre. Their mission is to contact as many voters as possible to try to convince them to vote for the status quo. With less than two weeks to go until the vote, opinion polls are tight—"Remain" is on 51 percent and "Leave" 49 percent according to a polling average by What UK Thinks academics.

'Desperately worried'

The effort represents a "last push", according to Thomas Cole, the group's leader, wearing jeans and a T-shirt. "We can be successful, we need to make sure that we galvanize our supporters," he added. To boost the morale of the troops, there are

motivational phrases and smiley faces up on a white board. These include "In it to win it" and "Team work makes the dream work!" There are also plenty of sweets, chocolate and fizzy drinks to keep their energy levels up. Another volunteer, 28-year-old Sarah Barber, is trying to shoot down the pro-Brexit claim that the future

of the state-run National Health Service is at risk from the EU.

Afterwards, she tells AFP that has serious concerns about what could happen if Britain votes to leave. "I feel desperately worried about the referendum and worried that we are going to make a huge mistake which we won't be able to rectify," she says.

"I haven't done anything yet to kind of volunteer locally and I found out about this and if this is the only way I can contribute... then that's what I can do to make a difference." Hundreds of phone calls later, the volunteers pick up their bags to go home, hopeful that their efforts may have helped keep Britain in the EU. —AFP



British Prime Minister David Cameron takes part in a BuzzFeed News and Facebook live EU referendum debate in London. —AFP

FORMER NIGERIA COACH
AMODU DIES AGED 58



LAGOS: Shaiibu Amodu, who had nine different spells as coach of Nigeria, has died suddenly, the country's football federation said yesterday. Amodu, 58, was the Nigeria Football Federation's (NFF) technical director and his death came days after that of former national team captain and coach Stephen Keshi on Tuesday from a suspected heart attack. The NFF said Amodu complained of chest pains on Friday night and passed away in his sleep. All but two of Amodu's nine different spells as coach of Nigeria were as a caretaker after working as an assistant to a myriad of expatriate trainers. Amodu qualified Nigeria for the 2002 World Cup finals but was fired just months before the tournament in Asia after only reaching the semi-finals of the African Nations Cup. He also led Nigeria to the 2010 World Cup finals but was axed in favour of Sven-Goran Eriksson. — Reuters

DE GEA SCANDAL WON'T
DESTABILISE SPAIN

SAINT-MARTIN-DE-R....: Chelsea forward Pedro Rodriguez insisted Saturday that Spain's quest to win an unprecedented third consecutive European Championship will not be blown off course by sex scandal claims against goalkeeper David De Gea. The Eldiario.es news website reported witness testimony that alleged De Gea organised a party at which women were forced to have sex with two footballers. The Manchester United stopper fiercely denied the claims as "a lie". "David is very well, I see him training calmly and he was calm when we spoke about the subject," Pedro said. De Gea is battling Spain captain Iker Casillas for a start when the holders open their Euro campaign against the Czech Republic tomorrow. Spain coach Vicente del Bosque explained De Gea had met with the rest of the squad on Friday to stress his innocence and was given his full backing. "We are with him, we need to support him. We are calm, as is he and this will not destabilise us," Pedro said. "He has a cool head and that is the most important thing for the group. —AP

JAPAN'S KIYOTAKE TARGETS
SPANISH BREAKTHROUGH

TOKYO: Japan midfielder Hiroshi Kiyotake vowed yesterday to nail down a first-team place at Spanish side Sevilla after agreeing a four-year deal with the Europa League champions. "I know there will be fierce competition for places," the 26-year-old said at a charity event in tsunami-hit Fukushima prefecture. "But I'll fight for my place with the conviction that I'll make it. "Being able to play in the Champions League was obviously key (to choosing Sevilla)," added the Kyushu-born Kiyotake, who will move to La Liga after spells at German clubs Nuremberg and Hannover. "The offer came at a good time with the World Cup in two years." Kiyotake is set to join Sevilla for a reported 6.5 million euros (\$7.3 million), subject to a medical next week. He has twice suffered metatarsal breaks in the past year but has established himself as a regular in the Japan side. Sevilla won their third successive Europa League title last month by beating Liverpool 3-1 in Basel to qualify for next season's Champions League. — AFP



SAN FRANCISCO: San Francisco Giants' Buster Posey, left, drives in a run with a double against the Los Angeles Dodgers during the sixth inning of a baseball game Friday, in San Francisco. —AP

KERSHAW STRIKES OUT 13, WINS 7TH STRAIGHT BY BEATING GIANTS

SAN FRANCISCO: Clayton Kershaw struck out 13 in eight innings, Justin Turner hit a go ahead homer in the ninth and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the San Francisco Giants 3-2 on Friday night. Kershaw (9-1) outdueled Johnny Cueto to improve to 7-0 over his last eight starts, and with 82 strikeouts to just three walks during that stretch since an April 26 loss to Miami. He is 3-0 in six road starts. Turner hit a 2-1 pitch from Santiago Casilla (1-2) to left field to start the ninth and the Dodgers shaved a game off the Giants' NL West lead to pull within three - though both clubs know this race surely will be decided down the stretch. The Dodgers have won the last five games against the Giants when Kershaw pitches, and the lefty is 18-7 in 33 starts facing rival San Francisco.

CARDINALS 9, PIRATES 3, 12 INNINGS

Pitcher Adam Wainwright, pinch-hitting because St. Louis was out of position players, hit a two-run, two-out double to spark a six-run 12th inning in the Cardinals' victory over Pittsburgh. Wainwright batted for reliever Jonathan Broxton after Matt Carpenter drew a two-out walk from Juan Nicasio and Pirates manager Clint Hurdle decided to intentionally walk Aledmys Diaz to bring up Broxton's spot in the order. Wainwright followed with a drive to the gap in left-center to score both runners. He is hitting .261 this season, going 6 for 23 with four doubles, one triple and one home run. The Cardinals added four more runs. Matt Adams hit an RBI double to extend his hitting streak to 10 games and scored on Jhonny Peralta's single. Brandon Moss' two-run homer, his 14th, capped the outburst. Broxton (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings to help the Cardinals (33-28) win for the fifth time in six games. Nicasio (5-5) was charged with six runs in one inning after beating the New York Mets in the second game of a doubleheader Tuesday when he allowed one run in five innings as a starter.

MARINERS 7, RANGERS 5

Dae-Ho Lee hit two home runs, including a three-run blast off starter Derek Holland, and Seattle beat Texas. Hisashi Iwakuma (5-5) allowed three runs - all on solo home runs - over seven innings for Seattle. Steve Cishek earned a four-out save, his 14th of the season. Lee gave the Mariners the early lead with a solo shot off Holland (5-5) in the second inning. A leadoff walk to Robinson Cano and single by Nelson Cruz set the stage for Lee's second blast. He crushed a slider from Holland to nearly the same spot over the wall in center field to give the Mariners a 4-1 lead. Lee's four RBIs match a career high.

NATIONALS 9, PHILLIES 6

Stephen Strasburg struck out 10 and won his 13th straight decision despite a rocky beginning, and Washington overcame a four-run deficit to beat Philadelphia. The Nationals scored in five straight innings after trailing 4-0 in the third.

Wilson Ramos, Stephen Drew and Danny Espinosa homered off Jeremy Hellickson (4-4), and Daniel Murphy drove in three runs. Tommy Joseph homered twice for the Phillies. They have lost 11 of 14. Strasburg (10-0) labored early but finished strong, retiring the final 14 batters he faced after Joseph's two-run homer in the third. The right-hander allowed four runs, five hits with one walk over seven innings. Strasburg's winning streak, already a franchise record, matches the longest in D.C. baseball history since Walter Johnson won 13 in a row for the Washington Senators in 1924.

YANKEES 4, TIGERS 0

CC Sabathia kept up his recent resurgence with seven sharp innings, Brett Gardner sparked another scoring burst and New York beat Detroit for its fifth straight victory. Carlos Beltran and Didi Gregorius each added two hits to help the Yankees (31-30) move over .500 for the first time since they were 4-3. The Tigers began a 10-game

Swarzak each threw an inning to complete the combined shutout. Mike Pelfrey (1-6) quickly ran into trouble in his first outing since stopping an 18-start winless streak.

BLUE JAYS 4, ORIOLES 3, 10 INNINGS

Edwin Encarnacion homered in the 10th inning to lift Toronto past Baltimore, snapping the Orioles' winning streak at five. Encarnacion hit an opposite field shot off Brad Brach (5-1) to begin the 10th and end an 0-for-19 slump. Drew Storen (1-2) pitched one inning for the win. Chris Davis hit a two-run homer and Jonathan Schoop added a solo blast for the Orioles. Blue Jays right-hander Marco Estrada held the Orioles without a hit for the first four innings after taking a no-hitter into the eighth inning against Boston in his previous start.

BRAVES 5, CUBS 1

Bud Norris pitched seven strong innings, Adonis Garcia and Tyler Flowers hit home runs

WHITE SOX 7, ROYALS 5

Alex Avila hit two of Chicago's season-high four home runs and the White Sox beat Kansas City to give Chris Sale his major league-leading 10th win and the Royals their eight straight loss. The defending champions matched their longest losing streak since May 2013, while the White Sox opened the weekend series with their second straight win after dropping 20 of 26. Sale (10-2) pitched into the seventh and got the victory despite giving up a season-high three home runs - two solo drives to Eric Hosmer and one to Salvador Perez. Avila came through with his first two homers since signing with Chicago in the off-season. He hit back-to-back solo drives with Brett Lawrie in the fourth and added a two-run shot in the sixth off Ian Kennedy (4-5) to make it 7-3.

METS 2, BREWERS 1, 11 INNINGS

Matt Reynolds drove home the go-ahead run in the 11th inning with a fielder's choice after a line hit off shortstop Jonathan Villar's glove, leading New York past Milwaukee. With the bases loaded, Reynolds hit a 1-0 slider from Blaine Boyer (1-1) on a line up the middle that glanced off Villar's glove. The deflection gave Asdrubal Cabrera enough time to dash home from third. Jeurys Familia held the Brewers hitless in the bottom of the 11th for his major league-leading 21st save in 21 opportunities. Jerry Blevins (2-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win.

REDS 2, ATHLETICS 1

Adam Duvall doubled home the tying run in the seventh and scored on Sonny Gray's second wild pitch of the inning, rallying Cincinnati past Oakland for its first interleague victory of the season. The Reds had dropped their first seven interleague games and didn't manage a hit off Gray (3-6) through the first five innings. Gray let a 1-0 lead slip away in the seventh. Brandon Phillips singled for Cincinnati's second hit and advanced on a wild pitch. Duvall doubled for the tying run, advanced on Eugenio Suarez's infield single, and scored on another errant throw by Gray, who leads the majors with 11 wild pitches. Blake Wood (5-1) pitched two innings in relief of Anthony DeSclafani.

RED SOX 8, TWINS 1

Xander Bogaerts hit a three-run homer and matched his career high with four hits, Steven Wright pitched into the eighth inning, and Boston beat Minnesota. Bogaerts opened the scoring with his homer in the fifth inning off Twins starter Tyler Duffy (25). Bogaerts' seventh homer of the season landed in the bullpen in left-center field for a 3-0 lead. The home run was one of 16 hits by the Red Sox. Bogaerts' chance to homer was the result of Minnesota's inability to turn a double play in the inning. Mookie Betts hit a grounder to third baseman Trevor Plouffe, who threw to second base. But Minnesota's Brian

Dozier lost handle on the ball and couldn't make the throw to first. Minnesota didn't have much of an answer for Wright (7-4) and his knuckleball.

INDIANS 6, ANGELS 2

Corey Kluber pitched a three-hitter with eight strikeouts and Jason Kipnis had three hits in Cleveland's victory over slumping Los Angeles. Mike Napoli doubled home the first run in a four-run first inning for AL Central-leading Cleveland, which has won eight of 10 in June. The Indians led 6-1 in the second inning while chasing Hector Santiago (3-4), who got just four outs in his shortest start of the season. Kluber (6-6) started the game by giving up Escobar's double off the wall in center field, but Los Angeles' next 17 batters couldn't get a hit off the right-hander. The Angels lost their fifth straight to drop a season-worst nine games below .500.

PADRES 7, ROCKIES 5

Wil Myers hit a two-out, three-run homer in the ninth inning off closer Jake McGee, helping San Diego rally past Colorado Rockies on Friday night. Myers lined a 3-2 fastball from McGee (0-2) over the fence in center, capping a four-run inning. Kevin Quackenbush (3-2) threw two innings for the win, and Fernando Rodney picked up his 12th save by retiring the Rockies in order to end the game. Colorado's Nolan Arenado hit a two-run homer in the first for his NL-leading 19th of the season.

MARLINS 8, DIAMONDBACKS 6

Justin Bour hit a pinch-hit grand slam and Miami Marlins overcame a four-run deficit to beat Arizona. Bour's first career slam, and the first pinch-hit grand slam for the Marlins in 11 years, came off reliever Tyler Clippard and tied it at 5-5 during a seven-run seventh inning, erasing a solid outing by Arizona starter Patrick Corbin. Clippard (2-3) walked the next two batters then Christian Yellich doubled down the left field line off lefty Zac Curtis, scoring both runners to put Miami up 7-5. Marcell Ozuna capped the outburst with an RBI single off reliever Jake Barrett to make it 8-5. Brian Ellington (1-0) pitched one-third of an inning in relief of starter Justin Nicolino to get the victory. A.J. Ramos threw a scoreless ninth for his 19th consecutive save to open the season, the most in club history.

RAYS 4, ASTROS 3

Steve Pearce had three hits and two RBIs in Tampa Bay's victory over Houston. Pearce had a two-run double in the first inning, and Logan Forsythe and Brad Miller drove in runs with two-out hits off Lance McCullers (3-2) in the second to give Matt Andriese (5-0) a four-run lead. Houston rallied with three runs in the sixth, two on Jason Castro's homer that chased Andriese. McCullers, who grew up in Tampa, allowed four runs and seven hits in six innings. Alex Colome pitched the ninth for his 18th save. — AP

MLB Results/Standings

NY Yankees 4, Detroit 0; Washington 9, Philadelphia 6; St. Louis 9, Pittsburgh 3 (12 innings); Toronto 4, Baltimore 3 (10 innings); Tampa Bay 4, Houston 3; Cincinnati 2, Oakland 1; Atlanta 5, Chicago Cubs 1; Boston 8, Minnesota 1; Chicago White Sox 7, Kansas City 5; NY Mets 2, Milwaukee 1 (11 innings); San Diego 7, Colorado 5; Miami 8, Arizona 6; Cleveland 6, LA Angels 2; Seattle 7, Texas 5; LA Dodgers 3, San Francisco 2.

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Baltimore	36	24	.600	-	Washington	37	24	.607	-
Boston	35	25	.583	1	NY Mets	34	26	.567	2.5
Toronto	33	30	.524	4.5	Miami	32	29	.525	5
NY Yankees	31	30	.508	5.5	Philadelphia	29	32	.475	8
Tampa Bay	28	31	.475	7.5	Atlanta	18	42	.300	18.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	34	26	.567	-	Chicago Cubs	41	18	.695	-
Chicago White Sox	31	30	.508	3.5	St. Louis	33	28	.541	9
Detroit	30	30	.500	4	Pittsburgh	32	29	.525	10
Kansas City	30	30	.500	4	Milwaukee	28	33	.459	14
Minnesota	18	42	.300	16	Cincinnati	23	38	.377	19
Western Division					Western Division				
Texas	37	24	.607	-	San Francisco	36	26	.581	-
Seattle	34	27	.557	3	LA Dodgers	33	29	.532	3
Houston	29	34	.460	9	Colorado	28	33	.459	7.5
LA Angels	26	35	.426	11	San Diego	26	36	.419	10
Oakland	25	35	.417	11.5	Arizona	26	37	.413	10.5

trip by losing for the second straight time following a five-game winning streak. Sabathia (4-4) gave up five singles, walked two and struck out four. He hasn't allowed more than two runs in his last six starts and left with a 2.28 ERA - his lowest after 10 starts or more in any season. Coming back from a year plagued by problems on and off the field, Sabathia beat Detroit for the second time this season. The 35-year-old lefty improved to 21-13 against the Tigers - among active pitchers, only Seattle ace Felix Hernandez, who is 22-8 vs. Oakland, has beaten an opponent more often. Relievers Dellin Betances and Anthony

and Atlanta beat Jason Hammel and Chicago. Making his second start since returning to the rotation, Norris (2-7) allowed one run on four hits and no walks with six strikeouts. He gave up only one hit in his last four innings. Garcia and Flowers gave the weak-hitting Braves back-to-back homers for the first time this season. Garcia's homer off Hammel (7-2) with one out in the second inning barely cleared the center-field wall. Flowers followed with a homer high over the left-field wall for a 2-0 lead. Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo sat out because of tightness in his back.

PRADEEP TREBLE ROCKS ENGLAND IN THIRD TEST

LONDON: Nuwan Pradeep took three wickets and did some serious damage to a couple of England careers as Sri Lanka fought hard to avoid a series whitewash in the third Test at Lord's yesterday.

England in their second innings were 109 for four at the close of the third day, a healthy but not impregnable lead of 237 runs. Alex Hales was 41 not out, having been dropped on 19 and 39, with night-watchman Steven Finn, missed on one, unbeaten on six. England, 2-0 up in the three-match series, were rocking at 50 for three on Saturday before first-innings century-maker Jonny Bairstow helped Hales add 52 for the fourth wicket.

Hales launched the innings with two fours in as many balls off Suranga Lakmal. But he was dropped on 19 when Dimuth Karunaratne failed to hold a one-handed slip chance off pacesman Pradeep.

However, it wasn't long before Pradeep had Nick Compton out for 19 instead. Compton had been promoted to open in place of England captain Alastair Cook, after the left-hander suffered a knee injury fielding close in earlier on Saturday.

By his own admission, Compton needed a big score to secure his place. But on his Middlesex home ground and one where a stand is named after his grandfather Denis Compton-one of England's greatest batsmen-he was caught behind tamely pushing at Shaminda Eranga.

England were now 45 for one and that quickly became 50 for three. Joe Root (four) was bowled by an absolute shooter from Pradeep. New batsman James Vince, like Compton, was in need of runs, albeit this was the Hampshire batsman's maiden Test series. But Vince was out for a golden duck as he deliberately played no shot to a Pradeep delivery that nipped back down the Lord's slope and knocked over his off stump. Bairstow, in at 84 for four in the first

innings before making a Test-best 167 not out, survived the hat-trick. But on 32 he too was clean bowled by Pradeep.

DOUBLE DESPAIR

Hales then saw a tough one-handed chance down the legside off Pradeep dropped by wicket-keeper Dinesh Chandimal. Worse followed for Pradeep next ball when Chandimal inexplicably failed to move for a Finn edge. Pradeep ended the day with three for 25 in nine overs but his figures could easily have been better. Earlier, England all-rounder Chris Woakes started and finished a collapse that saw Sri Lanka, 162 for one overnight, dismissed for 288.

That gave England, who made 416 in their first innings, a lead of 128. Woakes, who took a wicket with his first ball yesterday, ended the innings with the opening delivery of a new spell when Eranga was caught in the slips. Warwickshire all-rounder Woakes took three for 31 in 17.1 overs. Sri Lanka resumed Saturday with Kaushal Silva 79 not out and Kusal Mendis 25 not. But they both fell for their overnight scores as Sri Lanka subsided in the face of increasingly accurate fast bowling, with the overcast conditions making batting harder than had been the case on Friday.

Woakes had Mendis lbw with his first ball Saturday before Silva was caught behind off Stuart Broad.

Kusal Perera (42) and Rangana Herath (31) fought back with a seventh-wicket stand of 71.

Perera's bold innings was particularly impressive as this was his first match in more than six months after a drugs ban was rescinded because of a botched analysis. He was eventually caught behind after wildly slogging at James Anderson to start a slump that saw Sri Lanka lose all their last three wickets on 288. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

LONDON: Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the third Test between England and Sri Lanka at Lord's yesterday:			
England 1st Innings 416 (J Bairstow 167 no, A Cook 85, C Woakes 66; R Herath 4-81, S Lakmal 3-90).			
Sri Lanka 1st Innings (overnight: 162-1) D. Karunaratne c Bairstow b Finn50			
K. Silva c Bairstow b Broad	79	8-288 (Perera), 9-288 (Lakmal), 10-288 (Eranga)	
K. Mendis lbw b Woakes	25	Bowling: Anderson 23-6-61-2; Broad 23-7-79-2; Finn 18-1-59-3 (1w); Woakes 17.1-5-31-3; Ali 14-2-38-0;	
L. Thirimanne c Root b Finn	17	England 2nd Innings	
A. Mathews c Root b Woakes	3	N. Compton c Chandimal b Eranga 19	
D. Chandimal lbw b Finn	19	A. Hales not out	41
K. Perera c Bairstow b Anderson	42	J. Root b Pradeep	4
R. Herath b Broad	31	J. Vince b Pradeep	0
S. Eranga c Vince b Woakes	1	J. Bairstow b Pradeep	32
S. Lakmal c Root b Anderson	0	S. Finn not out	6
N. Pradeep not out	0	Extras (b3, nb4)	7
Extras (b4, lb16, w1)	21	Total (4 wks, 38 overs, 168 mins)109	
Total (all out, 95.1 overs, 437 mins)288		To bat: A Cook, M Ali, C Woakes, S Broad, J Anderson.	
Fall of wickets: 1-108 (Karunaratne), 2-162 (Mendis), 3-166 (Silva), 4-169 (Mathews), 5-202 (Chandimal), 6-205 (Thirimanne), 7-276 (Herath),		Fall of wickets: 1-45 (Compton), 2-50 (Root), 3-50 (Vince), 4-101 (Bairstow). Bowling: Lakmal 8-1-32-0; Eranga 8-1-25-1 (3nb); Pradeep 9-2-25-3 (1nb); Herath 9-2-16-0; Mathews 4-1-8-0.	



LONDON: Sri Lanka's Nuwan Pradeep, left, celebrates taking the wicket of England's James Vince for 0 during day three of the Third Test match at Lord's in London, yesterday. — AP



HARARE: India's batsman KL Rahul (R) eyes the ball during the first one-day international (ODI) matches between India and host Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club in Harare yesterday. — AFP

TON-UP RAHUL MAKES INDIA HISTORY IN ZIMBABWE ROMP

HARARE: Opener KL Rahul became the first Indian to hit a century on one-day international debut as he secured a comfortable nine-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in the first ODI at Harare Sports Club yesterday.

With just two runs required for victory, Rahul launched Hamilton Masakadza for six to finish unbeaten on 100, as India chased down a target of 169 with more than seven overs to spare.

Such a dramatic finish was in stark contrast to an otherwise lethargic match on a sluggish wicket that followed the expected trajectory, with India's second-string side proving too good for a full-strength Zimbabwean outfit despite Zimbabwe interim coach Makhaya Ntini's pre-series comments about sweeping the tourists under the carpet. While Rahul has already scored two centuries in five Tests, this is his first tour with the limited overs side and he made an immediate mark. "It's a great thing to get an ODI hundred, but to get it in my first match is something very special to me," he said. "I always knew I had the game and the skill set to be successful in all three formats, it was just about getting the opportunities and getting the confidence in myself to know that I can perform at any level."

Playing just his second ODI, seamer Jasprit Bumrah recorded figures of 4 for 28 as Zimbabwe were bowled out for 168 after India had won the toss and asked the hosts to bat first. Opening bowlers Barinder Sran and Dhawal Kulkarni both used the early-morning swing on offer to make inroads at the top of the Zimbabwean innings, and that damage was compounded when Bumrah dismissed opener Chamu Chibhabha and then Vusi Sibanda in his

opening spell. With the hosts reduced to 69 for four in the 20th over, spinners Axar Patel and Yuzvendra Chahal were able to strangle Zimbabwe through the middle overs, picking up a wicket apiece and conceding just 53 runs in their combined 20 overs.

Top scorer Elton Chigumbura attempted to lift Zimbabwe to a respectable score with a late flourish, but was eventually bowled by Bumrah for 41 in the final over of the innings.

"I think even 80 more runs, had we applied ourselves and formed a few partnerships, would at least have forced them to try and play a bit

differently and allowed us to create a few more chances," said Zimbabwe's batting coach Lance Klusener. "Let's give the boys a little slack and hopefully we can grow from here. We want to draw a line in the sand from the way Zimbabwe have played in the past, but we just need to find our balance and work out how we want to play."

India lost debutant Karun Nair early on, but the rest of their chase was a breeze as Rahul shared an unbroken 162-run stand with Ambati Rayudu, who ended unbeaten on 62.

The second game in the three-match series takes place at the same venue tomorrow. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

HARARE: Scoreboard from the first one-day international between Zimbabwe and India in Harare yesterday:			
Zimbabwe			
P. Moor lbw b Sran	3	Bowling: Kulkarni 10-1-42-2, Sran 10-0-42-2, Bumrah 9.5-2-28-4, Patel 10-1-26-1, Chahal 10-1-27-1.	
C. Chibhabha b Bumrah	13	India	
H. Masakadza c Dhoni b Kulkarni	14	KL Rahul not out	100
C. Ervine c sub (Fazal) b Patel	21	K. Nair c Sikandar Raza b Chatarra	7
V. Sibanda c Dhoni b Bumrah	5	A. Rayudu not out	62
Sikandar Raza b Sran	23	Extras (1lb, 3w)	4
E. Chigumbura b Bumrah	41	Total (1 wkt, 42.3 overs)	173
R. Mutumbami c Rahul b Chahal	15	Fall of wicket: 1-11 (Nair)	
G. Cremer b Kulkarni	8	Did not bat: Manish Pandey, Kedar Jadhav, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Axar Patel,	
T. Chatarra c Rayudu b Bumrah	4	Dhawal Kulkarni, Jasprit Bumrah, Barinder Sran, Yuzvendra Chahal.	
T. Muzarabani not out	1	Bowling: Chatarra 7-1-20-1, Muzarabani 6-0-18-0, Chibhabha 8-1-14-0, Cremer 10-0-47-0, Chigumbura 4-0-34-0, Sikandar Raza 5-0-20-0, Masakadza 2.3-0-19-0.	
Extras (3lb, 14w, 3nb)	20	Result: India won by 9 wickets.	
Total (all out, 49.5 overs)	168		
Fall of wickets: 1-8 (Moor), 2-30 (Masakadza), 3-47 (Chibhabha), 4-69 (Sibanda), 5-77 (Ervine), 6-115 (Sikandar Raza), 7-140 (Mutumbami), 8-156 (Cremer), 9-167 (Chigumbura), 10-168 (Chatarra).			

ZAIN LAUNCHES AN AMAZING BEIN OFFER

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced a partnership with beIN, the leading regional pay TV network, broadcasting exclusive sports and entertainment content in the Middle East and North Africa. Football enthusiasts can enjoy watching the biggest football tournaments of this year with the offer Zain is launching today on its most advanced network in partnership with beIN, which includes one-year subscription for KD 20 monthly.

The new offer includes amazing features, including a beIN Receiver, one-year Complete beIN subscription with Euro 2016 and Copa America, 1 year beIN CONNECT subscription, 1 TB LTE-A internet and an option to add a 4G LTE hotspot for KD 1.

Zain rolled out this offer in time for the upcoming Copa America tournament in the USA and UEFA EURO 2016 in France. Zain postpaid customers who are football enthusiasts can now enjoy the live football experience from anywhere on its most advanced network.

beIN is a multi-genre platform providing exclusive access to prime sporting competitions including: FIFA World Cup, UEFA Champions League, football leagues from Europe including Spain's La Liga, England's Premier League, Italy's Serie A, France's Ligue 1, German's League Bundesliga; CAN, AFC Champions League and AFC Asian Cup.

Placing customers at the forefront providing them appealing and flexible product and service offerings is a main priority of entertainment by Zain. This reinforces its position as the leader in



the Kuwaiti telecommunications landscape.

The company emphasized that the introduction of this service highlights Zain's new portfolio of entertainment services. This offer is an indication of Zain delivering on its promises to provide customers with the best services and latest

technology. Zain emphasized its commitment to the needs of the largest customer base in Kuwait, and will continuously look into expanding its horizons to keep everyone conveniently connected to watch content and stay in touch with their loved ones throughout the day.



BURGAN BANK SPONSORS 'EIGHTY PERCENT WOMEN FOOTBALL RAMADAN TOURNAMENT'

KUWAIT: As part of its commitment and strategy towards Corporate Social Responsibility, Borgan Bank will be sponsoring the first of its kind 'Eighty Percent Women Football Tournament' which will take place during the month of Ramadan, and under the organization of EightyPercent sports social firm.

The tournament, which will take place starting on 12th June 2016 until 24th June 2016 in Kuwait City will include 12 teams, wherein each 3 teams will be placed in one Group to compete against each other. The top two teams from each group will then proceed accordingly to the "knock out

stage" where teams will be chosen according to a draw to compete with each other, wherein the winning team of each tournament is to proceed to the final stage. The tournament which will be offered free to the public from 9-11pm will take place in Spower Field, AlKhalidiya, Block 4, Street 43. As a firm believer of the ability and talents of its women athletes, Borgan Bank pledges to continue supporting several initiatives as part of its overall social responsibility framework that adds more value to the community as well as focusing its efforts on spreading awareness on a better and healthier lifestyle and helping to improve the

quality of life of women in the community as a whole. It is worth mentioning that Borgan Bank's support to this initiative falls under its recently launched full-fledged community program entitled 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change. This program sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural, social and health initiatives. Borgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the Kuwaiti society.

CURRY LIFTS WARRIORS OVER CAVS TO BRINK OF REPEAT CROWN

CLEVELAND: NBA Most Valuable Player Stephen Curry snapped out of a slump with 38 points and the Golden State Warriors reached the brink of back-to-back NBA Finals titles Friday by defeating Cleveland 108-97.

The Warriors, who sank an NBA Finals record 17 3-pointers, seized a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven series and can eliminate the Cavaliers with a home victory in game five tomorrow.

"Game five will be the hardest game of the series," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "We have to understand this series is not over. Game five will be extremely difficult."

NBA scoring leader Curry had struggled with shooting rhythm and foul troubles in the first three games but connected on 11-of-25 from the floor, including 7-of-13 3-point attempts, and 9-of-10 free throws. He had 13 points in the decisive fourth quarter. "When I had the ball in my hands, I had to be assertive and decisive," Curry said. "I didn't have to deal with foul trouble. My teammates set great screens. We got the ball moving from side to side so I got some better looks off the ball."

No team down 3-1 has ever rallied to win the NBA Finals and the Cavaliers' first home playoff loss in nine starts dimmed their hopes of avenging last year's finals loss to Golden State to become Cleveland's first sports champion since 1964.

"We have to play with desperation, play to exhaustion and figure out how to win," said Cleveland's J.R. Smith. "It just sucks to be in this position. I don't think there's any doubting that we can do it. We've just got to ball out." Klay Thompson added 25 points and Harrison Barnes contributed 14, each hitting four 3-pointers, and Draymond Green grabbed 12 rebounds for the Warriors, who made 11 more 3-pointers than Cleveland and one more 3-point shot than they did 2-point shots, in large part to Curry's revival of form.

"He's the MVP for a reason," Kerr said. "He doesn't have the size and strength to dominate a game physically so he has to dominate with his skill and that's not an easy thing to do because your shot sometimes isn't going to go in."

"But he has a lot of faith in himself. He trusts his shot and he just kept firing and tonight they went in."



CLEVELAND: Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) drives on Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) during the second half of Game 4 of basketball's NBA Finals in Cleveland, Friday. Golden State won 108-97. — AP

LATE TENSION AT LAST

After three blowouts, the finals finally produced late drama. A 26-12 Golden State run ignited by 10 points from Thompson and eight by Curry was answered by a LeBron James-sparked 10-2 Cleveland run that put the Cavaliers ahead 83-81.

Golden State responded with a 12-1 run, Barnes opening and closing the critical stretch with 3-pointers to give the Warriors a 93-84 lead while the Cavaliers missed six consecutive shots and went more than six minutes without making a basket.

"They started making shots and getting stops," James said. "We've got to learn from our mistakes... we had our chances."

Kyrie Irving, who led Cleveland with 34 points, sank a layup but Curry answered with a 3-point shot as the tension mounted, so much so that James and Green exchanged words and had to be separated. "Some of the words that came out of his mouth were a little bit overboard," James said of Green.

Irving added a hoop and, after a fan ran onto the court and was taken off by security, James sank a free throw to pull the Cavs within 96-89. But Cleveland could only trade points to the finish, Curry and Thompson making late free throws to seal the Cavaliers' fate. James and Curry exchanged words in the dying seconds.

"That's just normal basketball talk," Curry said. "I wanted a foul. He didn't think he fouled. We were just jabbering."

SEVEN TURNOVERS FOR LEBRON

James finished with 25 points and game highs of 13 rebounds and nine assists but also made seven of 11 Cleveland turnovers. Tristan Thompson and J.R. Smith each had 10 points, but all in the first half.

The Warriors, who won an NBA record 73 regular-season games, broke the old finals 3-point mark of 16 set by San Antonio against James-led Miami in 2013.

Golden State's 88 combined season and playoff wins broke the old one-campaign mark of 87 by the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls.

Cleveland's Kevin Love had 11 points in his first reserve role since 2010 after being cleared by doctors to return to the lineup following a concussion barely an hour before tipoff. In a sellout crowd was incoming Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola, who wore a James jersey. —AFP



CHICAGO: Argentina's Lionel Messi (C) scores against Panama during the Copa America Centenario football tournament in Chicago, Illinois, United States, on Friday. — AFP

MAGICAL MESSI GRABS HAT-TRICK AS ARGENTINA ROMP INTO QUARTERS

CHICAGO: Lionel Messi scored a magical hat-trick in 19 minutes as Argentina cruised into the Copa America Centenario quarter-finals with a 5-0 rout of Panama on Friday.

Messi had been forced to delay his debut in the tournament after a slow recovery from a lower back injury, with Argentina coach Gerardo Martino surprisingly naming him amongst the substitutes once more. But Messi wasted no time in stamping his genius on the tournament after coming on in the 61st minute to replace Augusto Fernandez with Argentina leading the Group D game 1-0.

An electrifying cameo from the Barcelona superstar began with his first goal of the tournament on 68 minutes, finishing with aplomb after Gonzalo Higuain's shot bounced off a Panamanian defender into his path.

But there was no question of luck with his second, with Messi curling a wonderful free-kick into the top corner to bring the Soldier Field crowd to its feet in the 78th minute.

With Panama's heads down, Messi then duly completed his quick-fire hat-trick-skippping clear of a marker inside the penalty area to finish emphatically for 4-0. There was still time for Messi to have a hand in Argentina's fifth goal of the evening, providing a sublime pass in the build-up to Sergio Aguero's close range headed effort in the 90th minute. Aguero's Manchester City team-mate Nicolas Otamendi had opened the scoring for Argentina in the seventh minute, heading home an Angel Di Maria free-kick from close range. "I'm happy to be playing again, I really wanted to play tonight," a satisfied Messi said. "I'm very happy with the result and the goals," added Messi, whose entrance was accompanied by a loud ovation and chants of his name. Shellshocked Panama coach Hernan Dario Gomez, the experienced Colombian, was left in awe by Messi's masterclass. "Messi is a monster," Gomez said. "Before he came on the match was quite even. But with Messi you make one mistake, and you pay for it."

Aguero's Manchester City team-mate Nicolas Otamendi had opened the scoring for Argentina in the seventh minute, heading home an Angel Di Maria free-kick from close range.

DI MARIA INJURY

The victory sees Argentina, convincing 2-1 winners over Chile in their opening game, guaranteed a spot in the last eight with one group game remaining. The only blemish on the evening was an injury to Di Maria, who limped off in the first half to extend his miserable record of injuries in major tournaments.

The Paris Saint-Germain winger was injured in the 2014 World Cup, missing the final, and was also injured during last year's Copa America in Chile. Argentina are now firmly on course to top Group D, with only one game against pointless Bolivia to come. Friday's win marked a dazzling return to the spotlight for Messi, who is determined to help lead Argentina to their first major international tournament victory for 23 years.

Messi, a veteran of Argentina's agonizing defeats in the 2014 World Cup final and 2015 Copa

America final, had arrived in the United States nursing a back injury sustained during a friendly victory against Honduras last month.

He was late joining up with the squad after returning to Spain to give evidence in his tax fraud trial. On Thursday he had faced a fresh round of criticism from Argentina great Diego Maradona,

who accused Messi of lacking "the personality to be a leader" during remarks to journalists in Paris on the eve of Euro 2016. But 24 hours later, Messi crafted the best possible response on the pitch at Chicago, lighting up the tournament with a hat-trick performance that firmly establishes Argentina as the team to beat. —AFP

CHILE SCRAPE COPA WIN AFTER PENALTY SHOCKER

FOXBOROUGH: Arturo Vidal scored a controversial penalty deep into injury time as holders Chile snatched a dramatic 2-1 victory over Bolivia to keep their Copa America Centenario campaign alive here Friday.

Bayern Munich star Vidal struck from the spot in the 10th minute of time added on after a hugely debatable penalty was awarded against Bolivian defender Luis Gutierrez for handball by US referee Jair Marrufo.

Television replays showed Gutierrez had his right arm behind his back to avoid conceding a handball but Alexis Sanchez's cross struck him on the shoulder and Marrufo pointed to the spot after the apparent intervention of the linesman. Bolivia's players surrounded the referee for angry protests but Marrufo's decision stood and it was left to Vidal to drive home the penalty. The result gives Chile hope of reaching the last eight following their opening defeat to Argentina in Group D. Chile coach Juan Antonio Pizzi brushed off questions about his team's fortuitous penalty award, insisting that they had deserved to win.

"We more than deserved to win the game,"

Pizzi said. "The game didn't go quite as we planned, but we were worthy winners. "Sometimes decisions go for you, sometimes against you. They balance out."

But we deserved to win." Vidal meanwhile admitted he doubted whether the penalty should have been given but claimed it was compensation. "They missed a clear handball earlier in the game, so it balanced things," the midfielder said. Bolivia coach Julio Cesar Baldovino decried the spot-kick as a "disgrace" and also questioned how match officials had determined that more than eight minutes of added time should be played.

"It's a disgrace what they've done," he fumed. "It really hurts to lose that way. I'd ask you to analyze the video and tell me where those eight minutes of injury time came from."

Earlier a stunning 61st minute free-kick from Kuwait-based playmaker Jhasmani Campos appeared to have grabbed a share of the points for Bolivia at Gillette Stadium after Vidal had given Chile the lead just after half-time. Bolivia, beaten by Panama in their first match, have zero points from two games. —AFP



FOXBOROUGH: Bolivia goalkeeper Carlos Lampe (1) makes a save under pressure from Chile's Alexis Sanchez, right, as Bolivia's Edward Zenteno (22) watches during a Copa America Group D soccer match Friday, in Foxborough, Mass. n— AP

LEXUS PARTNERS WITH AL-CORNICHE FOR KUWAIT NATIONAL TRIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIP

KUWAIT: Mohamed Naser Al Sayer and Lexus one of the Al Sayer Group Holding Companies was one of the sponsors for The Kuwait National Triathlon Championship hosted by Al-Corniche Club in collaboration with Kuwait Public Authority of Sports.

The event was aimed at all abilities among fitness enthusiasts in different age groups and as well as hosting the National Championships is an ideal introduction to the sport of triathlon. The course was traffic friendly, providing the greatest degree of safety. Participants had the option to enter either Super Sprint distance (375m swim - 12k bike - 2.5k run) or Sprint distance (750m swim - 24k bike - 5k run) Individually or Team-Relay. Lexus provided branded T-shirts and caps for all participants of the competition.

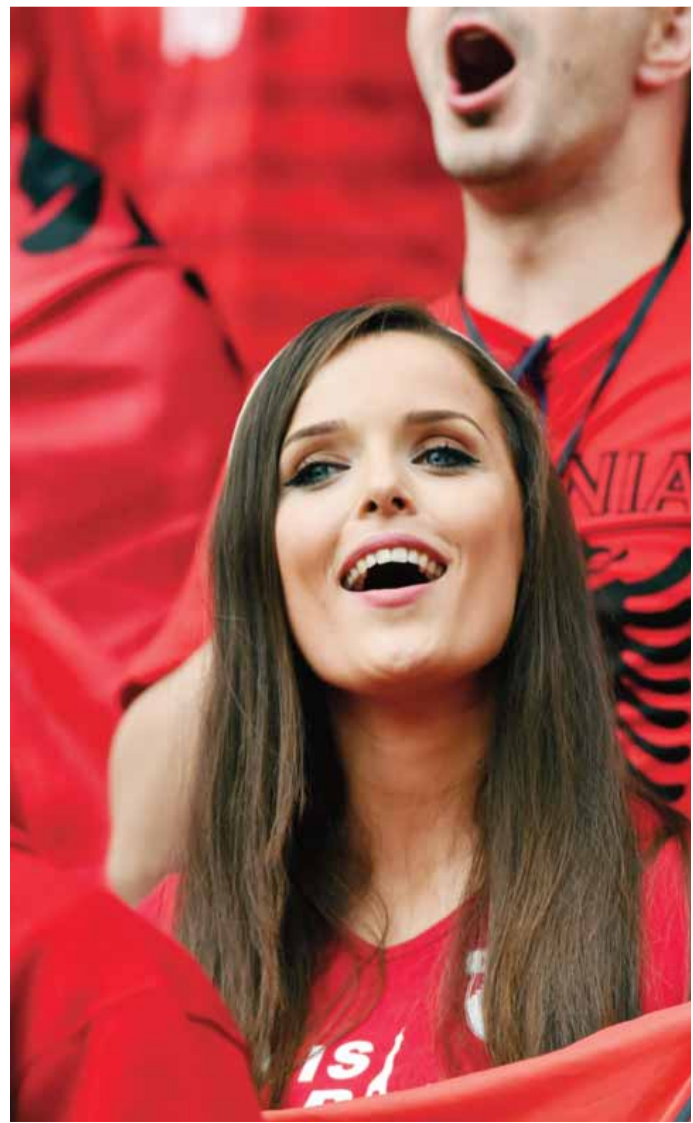
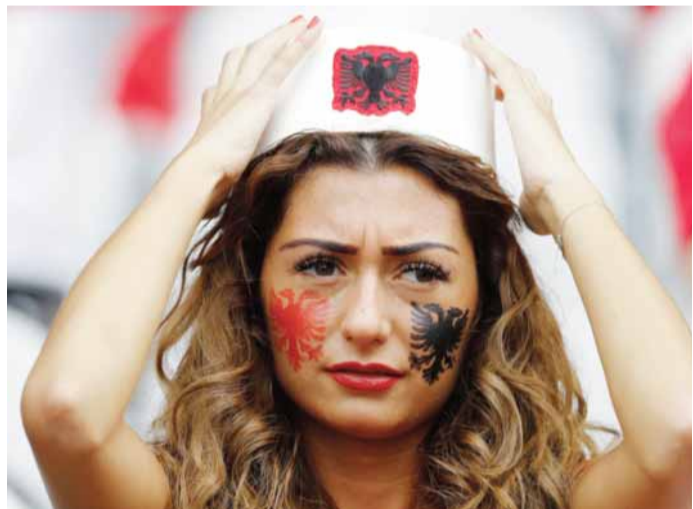
According to Philip Burrluck General Manager Lexus Sales "After the successful 8th fitness convention, we are honored to partner once again with Al Corniche Club for Triathlon National Championship being conducted with the support of Kuwait Public Authority of Sports. We are confident about our association with Al-Corniche Club for this Championship, a great initiative focusing on improving public health and wellness." Lexus continues to drive positive changes within the luxury automotive industry and Al Sayer is committed to offering premium service for a distinct customer experience meanwhile Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons will continue to engage with people in Kuwait through such events that are aimed at caring for valued interests of our society.





FRANCE FACES HOOLIGANS, MORE STRIKES AT EURO 2016

FAN FERVOR



PARIS: After a triumphant start to Euro 2016, France braced for more hooligan violence as England face Russia yesterday, while a pilots' strike threatened fans' travel plans.

A tense France was finally able to party after winning the opening match against Romania and avoiding major hiccups as ongoing industrial unrest failed to disrupt transport to the Stade de France. However a strike by a quarter of Air France's pilots meant travellers risked delays and cancellations, and train services continued to be disrupted on the 11th day of a rail strike. While France is on high alert for terror attacks it is old-fashioned hooligans who have proved the first test for security forces, with two nights of clashes in Marseille.

Even before England and Russia hit the field, hundreds of drunk and bare-chested supporters clashed with each other and police, hurling bottles and insults outside bars in the Vieux Port district. Police fired tear gas and ordered bars and restaurants on the quay to close, after the violence, which also involved French locals. Seven fans were arrested.

Marseille is determined to avoid a repeat of the violence during the 1998 World Cup when English hooligans clashed with Tunisia supporters in the Mediterranean city.

FRANCE STILL HOLDING BREATH

The European football championship arrived in a glum France desperate for some good news after last year's terror attacks were followed by months of industrial unrest, political turmoil and floods.

A much-needed 2-1 win against Romania, which came when Dimitri Payet fired in a long-range effort in the final minutes of the match, broke the tension with supporters in the stadium and bars around the city erupting into cheers. Le Parisien newspaper said more success for the French team could brighten the country's mood.

"Even if France is breathing easier this morning, it is still holding its breath, hoping for victory in this Euro, to ward off the threat of attacks, for a stop to the social conflicts. Finally," it said in an editorial. Euro 2016 comes seven months after November attacks by Islamic State jihadists and suicide bombers in Paris left 130 people dead.

While 80,000 football fans cheerfully submitted to heavy security to enter the Stade de France, fears of an attack have dampened enthusiasm and a massive Paris fan zone under the Eiffel Tower was only half-full, according to police. Those who did go out were unperturbed. "There is a lot of security here, but it's OK," said 20-year-old Ruairi Scott from Belfast, as he downed pints of beer. "I was a little worried before we came here, but not anymore. I feel safe." But German student Julia Settgest, 28, said she was too jittery to go out and watch the match. "In Germany I would watch the matches in bars or at a public viewing, but in France... I am afraid of terrorism," she told AFP. Some 90,000 police and private security guards have been deployed to protect players and around two million foreign visitors expected for the matches at 10 venues around the country.

UNIONS REJECT 'BLACKMAIL'

President Francois Hollande hailed the "smooth" start to the tournament on Friday, despite numerous strikes over pay, conditions and government reforms to labour law.

However the industrial action is far from over. Air France pilots began a four-day stoppage yesterday. While the company's chief executive Frederic Gagey has promised that more than 80 percent of flights would operate, he has not ruled out "cancellations and last-minute delays".

The company predicts "the same trend for the coming days" of the strike. The head of the CGT union Philippe Martinez, who is spearheading opposition to labour reforms, has vowed not to be "blackmailed with the Euro." Workers are planning a massive nationwide rally on Tuesday against the law which government forced through parliament without a vote. Meanwhile rail operator SNCF voted to continue its walkout throughout the weekend as negotiations remain blocked and rubbish collectors and incineration plants would remain on strike until Tuesday.

While Paris and Marseille scrambled to clear uncollected rubbish, there were still stinking piles on pavements in some districts.

The CGT voted to suspend a strike at a Total oil refinery in Normandy after 25 days due to financial losses to strikers and "enormous pressure" from Total, said union representative Thierry Defresne. However he said the strike would resume for the labour reform protest on Tuesday. — AFP

SPAIN BEGINS EUROPEAN TITLE DEFENSE AFTER HECTIC WEEK

PARIS: After a hectic final week of preparations that has raised concerns about the team's readiness, Spain will start defending its European Championship title tomorrow. The two-time defending champions take on the Czech Republic in their Group D opener looking to rebound from an embarrassing loss to 137th-ranked Georgia in their final warm-up game, and from an off-the-field controversy involving goalkeeper David de Gea. De Gea's name appeared in court papers as part of a police investigation into a prostitution ring allegedly involving a Spanish pornographic filmmaker. The goalkeeper was accused by a protected witness of promoting an encounter between her and two other soccer players.

Federation officials had to hastily organize a news conference so De Gea could explain himself. A team meeting also was called so the Manchester United goalkeeper could give his version of what happened to his teammates. De Gea denied any wrongdoing and indicated he would sue those who accused him. Instead of focusing on soccer and the match against Czech Republic in Toulouse, however, the

main subject at the camp was De Gea's problems.

"I will only say this once. We won't talk about this issue," Spain striker Ariz Aduriz said. "We'll say nothing at all." De Gea is fighting for a starting position with veteran Iker Casillas and it was unclear how the allegations would affect his chances to start on Monday. Spain coach Vicente Del Bosque defended his player but didn't say if he would get to start.

Spain had arrived in France filled with doubts after the disappointing 1-0 loss to Georgia at home on Tuesday, a game that Del Bosque said was supposed to boost the team's confidence going into tournament but instead raised some doubts.

"We really want to start playing," Spain midfielder Jorge "Koke" Resurreccion said. "It's true that we had a setback, but it's better that it happened then and not during the Euros."

The Czech Republic also lost its final warm-up match, falling 2-1 to South Korea in Prague. Just a few days earlier, Spain had routed South Korea 6-1 in Austria. Spain hasn't lost an official match since October 2014, against Slovakia. It has won eight straight



SAINT-MARTIN-DE-RE'S: Spain's defender Mikel San Jose speaks during a press conference at Saint-Martin-de-Re's stadium yesterday, during the Euro 2016 football tournament. — AFP

competitive games, and the last three against the Czechs.

Spain will be trying to regain its soccer supremacy after a disappointing early elimination from the 2014 World Cup. It had arrived in Brazil as

the favorite after winning three straight major titles but couldn't make it out of the group stage.

The other teams in Group D are Turkey and Croatia, who play today in Paris. — AP

KYLE EXCITEMENT MOUNTS AS POLAND CLASH LOOM

NICE: Kyle Lafferty is at near fever pitch for Northern Ireland's debut at the European Championship finals today against Poland.

The thousands of fans arriving in Nice for the Group C game have a lot to celebrate. It is also the first time Northern Ireland have appeared at a major tournament since the 1986 World Cup.

"I've never been so excited about a football match, it's the biggest international for everyone to date," said hot-shot striker Lafferty.

Northern Ireland's top scorer with seven goals in qualifying-the same number as Real Madrid's Gareth Bale netted to help Wales reach the Euros - Lafferty came through a training injury scare this week to get his place.

"I've never felt better," said the 28-year-old Norwich City striker whose goals, including one in each of Northern Ireland's opening three wins, did so much to get the team to the finals. "To score at a major tournament would be amazing," he added.

LEWANDOWSKI THREAT

Northern Ireland are outsiders in Group C but begin the tournament on the longest unbeaten run of all 24 teams, a 12-game streak, a record for the side.

Although only a handful of Michael O'Neill's squad play in England's Premier League, the former financial analyst has moulded a tough unyielding outfit that is dangerous from set-pieces. Key to avoiding defeat again today will be whether centre-backs Gareth McAuley and Jonny Evans, both of Premier League side West Bromwich Albion, can stifle Bayern Munich star Robert Lewandowski, Poland's top scorer in qualifying with 13 goals.

"If they can have a good night, they can keep Lewandowski quiet," Aberdeen winger Niall McGinn said.

Poland are desperate to improve on dismal performances at the last two European Championships in 2008 and 2012 which they co-hosted with Ukraine.

They limped out bottom of the group on both occasions.

This time round, experienced attacking talents like Jakub Blaszczykowski (Fiorentina), Lukasz Piszczek (Borussia Dortmund) and Arkadiusz Milik (Ajax) are all able to give opponents plenty of headaches. Holding midfielder Grzegorz Krychowiak also starred for Sevilla in their run to the Europa League title they won against Liverpool in Basle last month. With less burden on the 27-year-old Lewandowski, who scored 42 goals in 50 games for Bayern last season, many pundits and supporters fancy the 'Bialo-Czerwoni' (White and Reds) to reach the last 16 at least.

Poland claimed an historic first win over neighbours Germany - who they meet in the Stade de France on June 16 - at the 19th attempt when they stunned the world champions with a 2-0 win in Warsaw with goals by Milik and Sebastian Mila in a Euro 2016 qualifier in 2014. The Germans gained revenge in Frankfurt last September with a 3-1 win. But there will be plenty of spice when Poland faces Germany again at the Stade de France on June 16.

'PUNCHING ABOVE OUR WEIGHT'

"We will beat Northern Ireland 3-0, and face Germany, the big game, with confidence," Pawel Polanski, a 33-year-

old fan from Warsaw told AFP Friday on Nice's sun-splashed shorefront the 'Promenade des Anglais'.

Northern Ireland's expectations are lower but their fans suspect Poland might be vulnerable if their minds are rather focused on the clash with Germany and their third Group C game with another neighbour, Ukraine. "Other teams see us as the weak link, but we're happy if they're complacent, we might be able to catch them on the break," Jackie Palmer, 50, from Belfast, told AFP in Nice. "We're punching above our weight but we're not just here to make up the numbers," he said. — AFP



VERSAILLES: Ireland's forward Jonathan Walters (R) and others attend a training session of the Republic of Ireland's national football team at the Stade Municipal Montbauron stadium in Versailles, near Paris, yesterday, during the Euro 2016 football tournament. — AFP

LACK OF FORM, FITNESS CAST DOUBTS OVER GERMANS EUROS BID

FAN FERVOR



LILLE: Missing inspirational World Cup-winning captain Philipp Lahm, Germany begin Euro 2016 against Ukraine today with major doubts over whether they can reach the heights of Brazil two years ago.

The versatile Lahm retired from international football after the World Cup leaving a gap that coach Joachim Loew has found difficult to fill, whilst a series of injuries have further disrupted Germany's preparation. Moreover, erratic form in qualifying and in the build-up to the Euros has eroded confidence in the world champions. Germany suffered away defeats to both Ireland and Poland in qualifying and threw away a two-goal lead to lose 3-2 at home to England in March. An inexperienced side including several debutants lost to Slovakia last month before a full-strength side struggled to see off Hungary last Saturday.

"We saw that we've needed to turn one or two screws to make improvements," Loew said on Friday. "In a few situations (in the warm-up games) we weren't particularly dynamic or fresh."

Indeed, Loew has picked the youngest squad present in France with Borussia Dortmund star Marco Reus and Roma defender Antonio Ruediger missing out through injury.

Ruediger's absence may mean Bayern Munich's latest recruit from rivals Dortmund, Mats Hummels, may

be rushed back to face Ukraine despite not featuring since tearing a calf muscle in his last game for his old club in the German Cup final on May 21.

SUBSTITUTE SCHWEINSTEIGER

Captain Bastian Schweinsteiger is set to only start on the bench in Lille on Sunday, having played just 23 minutes of football since the end of March after tearing a knee ligament.

The Manchester United star came off the bench at the end of Germany's warm-up friendly win over Hungary last Saturday.

However, German assistant boss Thomas Schneider insisted Schweinsteiger is fit and highlighted the importance of his leadership to such a young squad. "In any case, Basti is fit," added Schneider. "As a bloke, he is extremely important for us and is on a very good path." If Hummels is not fit to start, Valencia's Shkodran Mustafi or the experienced Benedikt Howedes will partner Jerome Boateng in central defence.

Bayern Munich's Joshua Kimmich is set to complete a meteoric rise this season in Lahm's old position at right-back with Jonas Hector at left-back.

Up front, the scorer of the winning goal in the World Cup final two years ago, Mario Goetze, looks

set to continue despite a lack of form and fitness restricting him to just seven league starts for Bayern all season. "Goetze has rediscovered his playing rhythm even though he hasn't played so much recently for his club," added Loew. "He can play at the front of or just behind the forward line, which is a great advantage for him." Ukraine could expose Germany's inexperience at the back with their major threat coming from talented wingers Yevhen Konoplyanka of Sevilla and Dynamo Kiev's Andriy Yarmolenko.

However, their preparations have been affected by a public bust-up between Yarmolenko and teammate Taras Stepanenko.

Shakhtar Donetsk midfielder Stepanenko was blatantly kicked by Yarmolenko for a provocative goal celebration in front of the Dynamo fans in a clash between the two giants of Ukrainian club football last month. Yarmolenko was suspended for three matches and fined \$2,000 over the incident, provoking Stepanenko to say their "friendship is over."

"The incident was intentional and he could have broken my knee," Stepanenko said. "On the field, we are a team and I give it my all. But off the field, I'm not required to associate and have friendly relations with a given person." —AFP

FRANCE MAESTRO PAYET GETS PAYBACK WITH STUNNING WINNER



SAINT-DENIS: France's forward Dimitri Payet (2R) shoots to score during the Euro 2016 group A football match between France and Romania at Stade de France, in Saint-Denis, north of Paris, on Friday. France won the match 2-1. — AFP

But his persistence paid off and he was finally welcomed back in to the French fold in March, just in time to force his way into the reckoning for the Euros.

DESCHAMPS CONVINCED

A superb display on his return against the Netherlands in March, and an unstoppable free kick in the final minute of a 3-2 victory over Cameroon in a May friendly, finally convinced Deschamps and Payet was brought back into the squad.

At the Stade de France on Friday, he stepped out of the shadow of Paul Pogba and stole the show, creating a slew of chances for his side before

eventually serving up the sublime cross that allowed Olivier Giroud to break the deadlock. A Bogdan Stancu penalty put Romania level and they looked like leaving with a share of the spoils before Payet struck his stunning late winner, beautifully curling a left-foot shot into the top corner of the net to delight the home fans.

Deschamps then replaced Payet, who left the field in tears of joy having fully justified his selection and shown the sold-out crowd why he was worthy of a place in the team.

"There was a lot of stress, a lot of pressure. If someone had told me that it would have gone like that I don't think I would have believed it," he said.

"I think all that emotion came out with the goal," Deschamps said he had no doubts over the inclusion of Payet and the impact he could have on the game. "He's an attacking player, but is also someone who helps out the team. It's quite easy in football when you can bang it into the top corner. It solves quite a lot of problem," the 47-year-old told reporters.

For Payet and France the win has provided some much-needed breathing space for a side feeling the weight of expectation of the demanding home fans. "We know how important the three points are and now we're able to rest up and work calmly for the second match," he said. —Reuters

TALENT AND TENSION AS CROATIA, TURKEY RECONVENE



Matches on TV

(Local Timings)

UEFA EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Turkey v Croatia

16:00

beIN MAX 2 HD

beIN MAX 3 HD EN

beIN MAX 1 HD

beIN MAX 4 HD FR

Poland v N Ireland

19:00

beIN MAX 2 HD

beIN MAX 3 HD EN

beIN MAX 1 HD

beIN MAX 4 HD FR

Germany v Ukraine

22:00

beIN MAX 2 HD

beIN MAX 3 HD EN

beIN MAX 1 HD

beIN MAX 4 HD FR

COPA AMERICA CENTENARIO

United States v Paraguay

2:00

beIN SPORTS 1 HD FR

beIN MAX 2 HD

beIN MAX 3 HD EN

beIN MAX 4 HD FR

Colombia v Costa Rica

4:00

beIN MAX 2 HD

beIN MAX 3 HD EN

beIN MAX 4 HD FR

TOMORROW

Ecuador v Haiti

1:30

beIN MAX 2 HD

beIN MAX 3 HD EN

Brazil v Peru

3:30

beIN MAX 2 HD

beIN MAX 3 HD EN

PARIS: The twinkle-toed talents of Luka Modric's Croatia and Turkey led by Arda Turan resume their European Championship rivalry today with both sides mindful of contests past. The teams met at Euro 96 in England, Croatia winning 1-0 late on, and in qualifying for Euro 2012, when the Croats again prevailed. But it is their encounter at Euro 2008 that rekindles the strongest emotions. A classy Croatian team took the lead through Ivan Klasnic in the penultimate minute of extra time in their quarter-final in Vienna, only for Semih Senturk to equalise in the second minute of stoppage time before the Turks won on penalties. "We should not think about what happened at Euro 2008 in Austria. This is a new match, everything is different," said Croatia's Juventus striker Mario Mandzukic. "We should think about our qualities much more than those of our opponents."

I like that our coach thinks that way. "We have to focus on what can we do not what our opponents can do because we are really good and have great players." Croatia's coach, Ante Cacic, took over from Niko Kovac last September following a stumble in the qualifying campaign.

His squad, characteristically, is blessed with exceptional quality in the middle of the pitch, where Real Madrid maestro Modric and Barcelona's Ivan Rakitic pull the strings in a Spanish-accented midfield. Cacic is expected to deploy Fiorentina's Milan Badelj alongside Modric as one of the holding midfielders in a 4-2-3-1 formation, affording the former Tottenham Hotspur schemer more freedom to get forward.

COMEBACK KINGS

Croatia lost only once in qualifying, away to Norway, and twice drew with Italy, but with defending champions Spain and the Czech Republic also awaiting them in Group D, they can ill afford a slow start at the Parc des Princes if they are to advance to the last 16. Turkey's qualifying campaign, in contrast, was a rollercoaster, as opening defeats against Iceland and the Netherlands, plus a draw against Latvia, left them with a mountain to climb.

But they produced a stunning flourish, beating The Netherlands 3-0, winning 2-0 away to the Czech Republic and then edging Iceland courtesy of a 89th-

minute Selcuk Inan free-kick to qualify as the best third-place team. It was a fightback that recalled their crowd-pleasing exploits at Euro 2008, when aside from eliminating Croatia, they also came from behind to beat both Switzerland and the Czech Republic in the group phase and narrowly lost 3-2 to Germany in a gripping last-four tie.

Coach Fatih Terim, now in his third stint at the helm, saw his side go 13 games unbeaten prior to last month's 2-1 friendly defeat by England and in players like Barcelona's Arda Turan and Hakan Calhanoglu of Bayer Leverkusen, he possesses plenty of attacking quality. "In this type of tournament, the start is very important," said Terim. "If we beat Croatia, we will get a very big morale boost and get a very important advantage in trying to get out of the group."

"I am happy with how everything is going. It's going very well. We want to show our strengths in the Croatia match. Let's start well and bring good news to our country from France." — AFP



PARIS: Croatia's Luka Modric is pictured during a training session on the eve of the team's opening match for the Euro 2016 European football tournament at the Parc des Princes in Paris yesterday. — AFP

Sports

Kershaw strikes out 13, wins 7th straight by beating Giants



Magical Messi grabs hat-trick as Argentina romp into quarters



SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2016

SPAIN BEGINS EUROPEAN TITLE DEFENSE AFTER HECTIC WEEK

Page 18



LENS: Switzerland's Fabian Schaer, second from right, scores his side's first goal on a header, during the Euro 2016 Group A soccer match between Albania and Switzerland, at the Bollaert stadium in Lens, France, yesterday. —AP

SCHAER GOAL SEALS SWITZERLAND WIN

LENS: Fabien Schaer's powerful header gave Switzerland a narrow 1-0 win over 10-man Albania on the second day of the European Championship finals yesterday. The Group A match, in the spotlight with brothers Granit and Taulant Xhaka playing for opposing sides, was decided by the sending-off of Albania captain Lorik Cana.

The Albanian underdogs were continually scrambling to get back into the game while Switzerland, who now occupy top two spots with France, never took firm control.

After just five minutes, Hoffenheim centre back Schaer rose above the Albanian defence to head in from a corner by Stoke City's Xherdan Shaqiri. The

1.86 metre (6ft 2in) defender makes a habit of scoring for the national side, with five goals in 19 appearances now.

"It hasn't been always easy for me recently," Schaer said after. "I've come in for a lot of criticism and am of course happy that I could help the team in such a way." Schaer was also a rock in defence and was booked in the 12th minute for chopping down Emir Lenjani.

"I think we made it difficult for ourselves," said Schaer. "We could have made it easier for ourselves if we had taken our opportunities earlier.

"Afterwards we got a bit too passive. There were also a certain amount of nerves at the end.

We definitely wanted to keep a clean sheet and because of that we didn't take too many risks at the end."

Albania had their chances. Taulant Xhaka, the elder of the Kosovo-origin brothers, was put clear in the 26th minute but shot well over the top. Referee Carlos Velasco Carballo had a busy time, dishing out six yellow cards and a red. He showed a first yellow card to Cana in the 13th minute for sliding in on Haris Seferovic. Former Marseille player Cana was again in trouble in the 36th minute.

DESPERATE MOMENTS
Chasing Seferovic, Cana fell and headed the

ball away on the edge of the penalty area and when it bounced flicked it away with his hands. His protests had no effect. Carballo produced a second yellow and a red. Albania had several desperate moments, Ergys Kace nearly ripped the shorts off Valon Behrami and then tripped him. That meant another yellow. Switzerland, who next play Romania on Wednesday, also had their chances but desperate defence and poor finishing meant there were no more goals. Seferovic was put clear through but his shot went off keeper Berisha. The Swiss player kicked the post in frustration and anger that summed up the match.

Swiss coach Vladimir Petkovic called the result

"the right first step" in the tournament. "It wasn't so easy, we were lucky in the end," he acknowledged. "We could have scored a second goal a few times. That's football."

Albania boss Gianni De Biasi said the tension got to his players taking part in their first big tournament. "We needed a good start and that didn't happen. The pressure got to us and for 20 minutes we were under par."

De Biasi also admitted that Cana deserved his red card. "The key moments were the goal, the red card-unfortunately it was a very fair sending-off and three big misses... we didn't have the luck today." —AFP

ROBSON-KANU GIVES WALES WINNING RETURN

BORDEAUX: Substitute Hal Robson-Kanu scored a joyously celebrated 81st-minute winner as Wales marked their major tournament return by edging Slovakia 2-1 in yesterday's Euro 2016 opener in Bordeaux.

Playing their first game at a major championship since the 1958 World Cup, Wales took a 10th-minute lead courtesy of Gareth Bale's fine free-kick, only for Slovakia substitute Ondrej Duda to equalise.

But with nine minutes remaining, Robson-Kanu, released by Reading at the end of the season, scuffed a shot past Matus Kozacik to send Chris Coleman's side striding towards the last 16. His strike ended Wales's four-game winless run and tees the European Championship debutants up perfectly for Thursday's hotly anticipated second Group B fixture against neighbours England in Lens.

Jan Kozak's Slovakia, previously unbeaten in eight games, tackle Russia in Lille on Wednesday knowing that a second defeat could be fatal. The match at the elegant Stadium Bordeaux had been billed in some quarters as a battle between Real Madrid star Bale and Marek Hamsik, and the Slovakia playmaker was the first of the pair to catch the eye.

After robbing Bale, he surged past Ashley Williams, David Edwards and James Chester before drilling a left-foot shot past goalkeeper Danny Ward, making his first start in place of the injured Wayne Hennessey, but Ben Davies slid in almost miraculously to divert the ball behind for a corner. When Bale's moment arrived 10 minutes in, there was to be no such reprieve for Slovakia. Presented with a free-kick 30 yards from goal, he slammed the ball over the wall and as Kozacik moved to his left, it darted in the

other direction and plunged low into the net.

LAZARUS LEDLEY

Bale tore down the touchline in celebration of his 20th Wales goal, which came almost 10 years after he opened his international account with a free-kick against the same opposition.

"Are you watching England?" crowed the Wales fans, before honouring former manager Gary Speed, who took his own life in November 2011, with a cry of "There's only Gary Speed!"

Boos emanated from the red-clad hordes in the Wales end moments later, however, as a replay on the stadium's big screens revealed that Martin Skrtel had escaped punishment after catching Jonny Williams in the throat with his elbow, barely six feet from one of the goal-line officials.

The teams exchanged chances early in the second half-Robert Mak drilling over, Bale sending Kozacik scrambling with a downward header-before a double substitution brought Slovakia back into the game.

Slovakia coach Kozak sent on Adam Nemec and Duda, with Michal Duris and Patrik Hrovosky giving way, and within a minute Duda had scored, arrowing a shot past Ward's left hand from Mak's right-wing cut-back.

It made him the first player to score past Wales at a major tournament since a 17-year-old Pele at the 1958 World Cup.

Hamsik and Mak threatened before Coleman made a double change of his own, sending on Joe Ledley, 35 days after he fractured a fibula, and Robson-Kanu, who was to make a major impact.

After crossing for Aaron Ramsey to head over, the roles were reversed to decisive effect,

the Arsenal man skipping past Skrtel and Robson-Kanu steering the ball home. There was

a late scare when Nemec wobbled the post with a header, but Wales survived. —AFP



BORDEAUX: Wales' forward Hal Robson-Kanu shoots to score during the Euro 2016 group B football match between Wales and Slovakia at the Stade de Bordeaux in Bordeaux yesterday. — AFP

THIEM STUNS FEDERER IN STUTTGART UPSET

STUTTGART: Roger Federer uncharacteristically failed to nail two match points as Dominic Thiem stunned the top seed on the grass in the rain-disrupted Stuttgart semi-finals yesterday.

The Swiss legend, who is returning from a back injury that ruled him out of the French Open, saw his preparations for Wimbledon unravel as Thiem battled through 3-6, 7-6 (9/7), 6-4. The third seed Thiem, a Roland Garros semi-finalist who moved into the ATP top 10 only this week, will play for his fourth title of the season on Sunday against Juan Martin del Potro or Philipp Kohlschreiber. "You're always a little disappointed when you lose with match points," Federer said after surrendering the match points that would have given him a straight-sets victory. "But losing any match is not that great." The contest was halted twice for a total of an hour by rain showers, but Federer—who turns 35 in August—did not attempt to make any excuses. "It was a good match from both sides in tough conditions," he said. The 17-time Grand Slam champion, who eased through the first set, put on a charge after falling behind 5-1 in the second set, denying the Austrian as he served to win the set.

Federer forced the set into a tiebreaker, where he had his match-point chances, but Thiem held on and then made it a set apiece. The third set was interrupted after the fifth game with Thiem up a break after Federer missed a volley at the net. "We both had our chances throughout," Federer said. "Coming back in the second set was good but it was tough to lose in the breaker. "I can play better, but he came up with some good shots when he needed them."

Thiem called the victory one of his best, saying beating an injured Federer on the clay in Rome last month did not compare. "The way I played and felt on court was one of the best feelings I've had in tennis. For sure this was one of my best matches—I didn't know I could play so well on grass," said the winner. "In Rome he was not fit and just testing to see if he could play Paris. The win was nice but it didn't mean so much like now. This is probably his best surface." —AFP



HOW TO MAKE A SUCCESSFUL CAREER CHANGE



PARIS: Striking CGT labor Union garbage collectors, block access to the Paris waste treatment center in Ivry Sur Seine, near Paris on Friday. — AP

AIR FRANCE PILOTS JOIN TRAIN, GARBAGE STRIKES

LATEST CHALLENGE TO FRANCE’S IMAGE AS EURO 2016 GETS UNDERWAY

PARIS: About a quarter of Air France pilots are striking to demand better working conditions - the latest challenge to travelers and France’s image as it hosts Europe’s biggest sporting event.

Weeks of strikes and demonstrations over the country’s labor reforms and other industrial disputes have led to panic at the pumps, violent protests in the streets and, most recently, garbage rotting in the gutters. It’s a litany of headaches which some Parisians fear will scare away visitors.

“I’m telling you, France has become a very ugly country,” Francoise Cuip, 60, told a reporter in Paris’ well-heeled 16th district. “It’s my country, but that’s the way it is.” French leaders had hoped to put the disruption behind them as the country turned its attention to the European Championship soccer tournament, which is expected to draw over 2 million visitors, but unions are planning to keep up the airline and trash strikes through Tuesday.

Up to a fifth of flights are canceled yesterday, Air France said, both domestic and

international. Among those affected were flights carrying spectators to cities holding matches. French train drivers have also been on strike for days; France’s SNCF rail company was disrupted in the southeast, with cancellations possible. In Paris the rail link between the capital and Charles de Gaulle Airport was disrupted, with few trains running along the usually busy route.

Meanwhile garbage was piling up uncollected because of a continuing strike and lockages by collectors. On the streets of the capital, there was exasperation at the drumbeat of disruption.

“When it’s not the trains, when it’s not the metro, it’s the trash,” said Catherine Jacob, 48, who was walking past an overflowing garbage bin near Paris’ Trocadero. “In terms of hygiene, it’s not good for the tourists, it’s not good for the residents. Tomorrow we’ll have rats in the street.” Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo said on Twitter that the city was “mobilizing all means, public and private” to clear the garbage.

The strikes are occurring for different

reasons, but the labor unrest is tapping into nationwide discontent as the government tries to change laws regulating working hours and layoffs. The influential CGT union, which is driving much of the action, may meet with the government over the weekend.

Police on alert

Police were on high alert in the southern city of Marseille, where England and Russia supporters clashed and hurled bottles at officers in a second night of violence before their first game. Industrial unrest, fears of terrorist attacks and devastating flooding have overshadowed the buildup to the month-long tournament.

President Francois Hollande hailed the “smooth” start to the tournament on Friday, despite a 10-day train strike that has caused travel disruption across France.

Weeks of industrial action over government reforms to labour law had dampened the party atmosphere around the tournament, disrupting rail and metro services

and leaving petrol pumps dry in many places.

‘Blackmailed’

Arriving fans have been confronted by stinking piles of rubbish left strewn on the streets of Paris and Marseille after strikers began blockading incineration plants. The head of the CGT union Philippe Martinez, who is spearheading opposition to the labour market reforms being pushed by the government, has vowed not to be “blackmailed with the Euro.” “There is a lot of security here, but it’s OK,” said 20-year-old Ruairi Scott from Belfast, downing pints. “I was a little worried before we came here, but not anymore. I feel safe.” Further south, stretched security forces in Marseille fired teargas at football hooligans after clashes broke out for a second night ahead of a match between England and Russia. Streets of the city’s port area were left littered with broken bottles after hundreds of fans hurled bottles and other objects at police. —Agencies

STERLING HIT AFTER
SURVEY PUTS BREXIT
CAMP 10 POINTS AHEAD

LONDON: Betting odds on a British vote to exit the European Union shortened yesterday after an opinion poll put the “Leave” camp 10 points ahead of “Remain”, hitting the value of the pound. Sterling weakened by as much as 1.2 percent against the dollar immediately after the poll, by ORB for the Independent newspaper, was published on Friday evening. The pound fell from \$1.4343 to \$1.4177, but later recovered about half of the loss. Britons will vote on June 23 referendum on whether to leave the world’s largest free trading area, a decision with far-reaching implications for politics, the economy, trade, defence and migration in Britain and the rest of the EU.

The ORB poll put support for “Leave” on 55 percent, against 45 percent for “Remain”. Bookmaker Betfair cut the odds of a vote to stay, giving a probability of 70 percent, down from 78 percent earlier this week. Financial markets have been paying close attention to bookmakers’ odds, especially as opinion polls failed to predict last year’s outright election victory for Prime Minister David Cameron’s Conservatives.

“The ‘Remain’ camp has two weeks to convince those thinking about voting for Brexit that the risk is real,” said ORB pollster Johnny Heald. However, he did say that recent referendums in Scotland, Ireland and Canada showed that opinion polls had a tendency to underestimate support for the status quo.

BIGGEST ‘LEAVE’ LEAD

Friday’s survey gave the “Brexit” camp their biggest lead since the poll series started a year ago, the Independent said. But the official Vote Leave campaign reacted cautiously, tweeting: “We don’t believe the ORB online poll, our data suggests it’s closer to 50-50.” Bookmaker Ladbroke’s said the ORB poll had caused it to shorten its odds on Brexit to 9/4 from 11/4 previously, implying a rise in the likelihood of a “Leave” vote to 30 percent from 27 percent.

“We thought the Brexit rally was finished, but the ‘Leave’ odds have tumbled again on the back of the eye-catching 10-point poll,” said a Ladbroke’s spokesman. Asked about the contradiction between the betting odds and the poll, he said the former reflected the weight of money in the market.

“Since we first started taking bets on this, 80 percent of the money we’ve taken has been for ‘Remain’. This is like any other market, the money moves the market,” the spokesman said.

“Polling is a snapshot of voter intention at any given point; a betting market is a predictions market.” The mixed picture has heightened market jitters about the outcome, with sterling repeatedly reacting to poll results.—Reuters

REFUGEE CHILDREN LABOR IN TURKISH FACTORIES

GAZIANTEP, Turkey: On any given summer day, the hot sun glares down on the streets of Gaziantep, a Turkish city on the border with Syria. Inside stifling garment and shoe workshops, Syrian refugee children are hard at work, sewing machines buzzing in the background. They should be at school. Instead, they are making trousers and footwear for other children.

Ahmad Abo Baker, 11, from Aleppo is one of them. He works 12 hours a day, six days a week for about \$35. It is a repetitive routine devoid of any play time with friends. The boy rises at 7, goes straight to work and doesn’t stop until sundown, except for a brief lunch break.

After work, he says, “I go back home, have dinner, talk with my family and then go to sleep.” His father, Yahya Abo Baker, who works with him, wishes his son was at school rather than at work.

“We don’t have any other choice,” he explains. They need the dual income to be able to pay the rent of a flat shared with strangers and send money to the rest of the family who stayed in Syria.

According to the United Nations Children’s Fund, or UNICEF, more than half of Turkey’s 2.7 million Syrian refugees are children. Only 325,000 are enrolled in school. About half a million school-age children have no access to education.

There is no official figure on how many Syrian children work in Turkey, but human rights organizations say those who do not attend school have become part of an informal economy, working for a pittance in a range of sectors including agriculture and textiles. The International Labor Organization has designated June 12 as World Day Against Child Labor. Turkey is a signatory of the ILO’s Minimum Age Convention, which sets the legal age for work at 15. —AP



GAZIANTEP: A Syrian refugee child works at a copper workshop in Gaziantep, southeastern Turkey. —AP

MOZAMBIQUE PAID \$35M FOR VTB SHIPYARD LOAN

LAGARDE SAYS CORRUPTION BEHIND BORROWING SECRECY

JOHANNESBURG: Mozambique, one of the world's poorest countries, paid \$35 million in up-front "arrangement fees" for a \$500 million loan organized by Russia's VTB Bank, according to loan related documents reviewed by Reuters. In percentage terms - seven percent - the fees are several times what some bankers say is typically paid on such deals.

The loan was made in 2014 to state-owned Mozambique Asset Management (MAM), which was set up to oversee construction of shipyards in the capital, Maputo, and the northern town of Pemba. MAM missed a \$178 million repayment due on May 23, putting the government on track for default if it fails to honor a state guarantee or renegotiate the debt with creditors. The MAM debt is part of \$2 billion that Mozambique has borrowed through bonds and loans since 2013 in deals that were not reported to parliament. Mozambique law requires parliament to authorise such borrowing.

The full extent of Mozambique's borrowing emerged in April when the government informed the International Monetary Fund about the previously undisclosed loans. As a consequence of the disclosure, the IMF suspended aid to Mozambique. Parliament authorized a commission of inquiry into the borrowing this week after a two-day emergency debate on the issue, according to state media. So far, there has been no official apportionment of blame.

In a BBC radio interview last month, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde said the lack of transparency by the Mozambique government in its borrowing was "clearly concealing corruption". She did not elaborate. The arrangement fees charged to MAM under the terms of the VTB loan amount to 7 percent of the sum borrowed, according to the loan document and a Nov. 13, 2015 letter from VTB's investment arm, VTB Capital, to the Maputo office of audit firm Ernst and Young. It was unclear what, if any, role EY played. EY in Maputo declined to comment for this article.

Three Johannesburg-based bankers with experience of arranging African sovereign debt deals told Reuters the charges were excessive, with 1 percent being the industry norm.

"If it's a really complicated credit, you might push it up to 2 percent," said one of the bankers, who did not wish to be named because of the commercial sensitivity of investment banking fees.

In response to questions from Reuters, VTB said the terms of the six-year loan had stipulated annual interest of 8.87 percent over the floating London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR). This was in line with other bilateral financing deals in sub-Saharan Africa and an \$850 million, 10-year Eurobond issued by Mozambique state tuna firm Ematum in 2013, VTB said.

VTB said the arrangement fees, charged to MAM and set out in the loan document and VTB's letter to EY, included interest charges that Mozambique agreed to pay up front. The Johannesburg-based bankers said that immediately paying back interest on a loan out of the proceeds of the loan itself was an unconventional financing structure. They said that typically interest and capital are paid back at intervals over the duration of a loan, but not at the outset.

The letter from VTB Capital to EY confirmed disbursement to MAM of \$435 million on May 23, 2014 with an "Arrangement Fee" of \$28,457,943.93. A follow-up pay-

DONOR ANGER

Only in April did the government acknowledge the existence of two loans - the one arranged by VTB and a \$622 million loan taken out by Mozambique state-owned security firm Proindicus.

Together, these loans have pushed the former Portuguese colony's total foreign debt to 80 percent of GDP. Public anger at the government's racking up of dollar debt equal to \$400 per capita - a sum only slightly less than the average Mozambican's annual income - is rising. The IMF and donors, who normally account for 40 percent of Mozambique's budget, have suspended aid to Maputo,



VTB Bank headquarters in Moscow

ment on June 11 of \$100 million had an accompanying charge of \$6,542,056.07, it said. Mozambique Finance Ministry spokesman Rogerio Nkomo said he was unaware of the details of the fees. Attempts to contact MAM were unsuccessful. Requests by Reuters for comment emailed to the Maputo office of EY were not answered and telephone calls were not returned.

Neither the loan contract nor the EY letter detailed whether all of the fees went to VTB or whether they were split with other intermediaries.

annoyed at being kept in the dark over the \$2 billion in borrowing. Mozambique's sovereign credit ratings are now deep in "junk" territory. Fitch has downgraded Mozambique's credit rating to CC from CCC, indicating that "a default of some kind appears probable".

The government and creditors have been in talks to try to reach a repayment solution. Mozambique sent a delegation to Moscow to meet senior VTB management at the end of May, one VTB official said. Neither side has given details of the outcome. —Reuters

RUSSIA CUTS KEY RATE FOR FIRST TIME IN 10 MONTHS

MOSCOW: Russia's central bank cut its key interest rate by half a percentage point Friday, the first reduction in nearly a year on the back of fading inflation fears and a recovery by the ruble thanks to a bounce in oil. "The Bank of Russia Board of Directors decided to reduce the key rate from 11.00 to 10.50 percent," the bank said in a statement.

"The Board of Directors notes the positive trends of more stable inflation, decreased inflation expectations and inflation risks against the backdrop of imminent growth recovery in the economy."

Russia is desperate to breathe life into its energy-driven economy, which is mired in a recession caused mainly by the drop in oil prices and Western sanctions imposed over Moscow's meddling in Ukraine.

The ruble has risen some 25 percent since January as the price of oil has nearly doubled after hitting its lowest point in over a decade.

Inflation has now also steadied at around 7.3 percent, according to the central bank, its lowest level since 2014. The bank said that it was now marking down its inflation forecast for the end of 2016 to between five and six percent and said inflation would hit its long-term target of four percent by the end of 2017.

"The evolution is positive and we are more confident in the fact that we are going to achieve our inflation target," central bank chief Elvira Nabiullina said.

The rise in the national currency and stabi-

lization of inflation had ramped up pressure on the bank to cut its rate for the first time since late July 2015.

A slump in oil prices from their 2014 peaks and worries over inflation spelt the end of a series of rate reductions at the time as Moscow cut back following a monster rate rise in December 2014 aimed at stemming a dramatic ruble drop.

'Close one'

In its statement announcing Friday's reduction, the bank pledged it would also look to further cut back the key lending rate in the future. "The Bank of Russia will consider the possibility of a further rate cut based on estimates for inflation risks and alignment of inflation decline with the forecast trajectory," the statement said.

The ruble weakened slightly Friday against the dollar to around 64.8 and to around 73.2 against the euro. Central bank head Nabiullina said that it had improved its forecast for the Russian economy overall this year to predict a contraction of between just 0.3 and 0.7 percent.

The International Monetary Fund predicted last month that Russia's economy will contract by some 1.5 percent this year before growing by 1 percent in 2017.

Russia is gearing up for parliamentary elections in September that will test how resilient support for the authorities is in the face of growing economic woes. —AFP

EGYPT TO END LOCAL WHEAT BUYING

CAIRO: Egypt will end local wheat buying on Wednesday, earlier than usual, due to exceeding its target of 4 million tonnes, the supplies ministry said yesterday.

"Supplies Minister Khaled Hanafi pointed out that the door for receiving local wheat from farmers will close at the end of Wednesday due to lowering local procurement rates," the ministry said in a statement. Egypt, the world's biggest wheat importer, has bought 4.8 million tons of domestic wheat since the start of the season on April 15. Egypt's wheat harvest begins in April and normally runs through July.

Last year, the government said it

bought a record 5.3 million tons of the grain, up from 3.7 million the year before. The ministry said yesterday it had spent 14.5 billion Egyptian pounds (\$1.6 billion) this year as part of a subsidy for farmers, who are being paid a fixed price of 420 Egyptian pounds (\$47.30) per ardeb (150 kg) of wheat after Egypt abandoned plans to pay farmers global market rates this year.

The higher fixed price, well above global rates, is meant to encourage farmers to grow wheat but has led to smuggling involving the sale of cheaper imported wheat to the government falsely labelled as Egyptian. —Reuters

US TO CUT WATER MONITORING BECAUSE OF PUERTO RICO DEBT

SAN JUAN: The US Geological Survey said Friday it can no longer monitor water resources in Puerto Rico because the territory's government owes it \$2 million amid a worsening economic crisis.

The agency said it expects to stop operating up to 177 hydrologic stations by July 1. That would affect the ability to issue flood warnings and as well as the monitoring of water quality, aquifer levels and drinking water supplies. The stations also are used for environmental research and provide data for water use, flood planning and climate change.

"It's a serious problem," Rafael Rodriguez, director of the USGS Caribbean-Florida Water

Science Center, said in a phone interview. "The water quality network is being eliminated in its entirety."

Puerto Rico's Environmental Quality Board and 12 other local agencies are required by law to pay USGS 65 percent of the cost of operating the stations. However, the agencies have accumulated \$2 million in debt in the past year, Rodriguez said. He said the USGS has offered local officials a payment plan and proposals to lower the agencies' yearly contributions, but officials have not responded. A spokesperson for the Environmental Quality Board could not be immediately reached for comment. —AP

Bayt.com weekly report

HOW TO MAKE A SUCCESSFUL CAREER CHANGE

KUWAIT: New technologies mean new economies, new ways of doing business and new roles attracting people with new skill sets. More and more people are attracted to job opportunities arising from technology breakthroughs in innovation companies and fast-growth sectors across the industry spectrum. Yet, it is not the lure of glamorous new roles in exciting companies that is whetting professional appetites for career change. The prospect of doing something you love in an environment that caters to your needs and wants, and the promise of more career fulfillment, flexibility, growth and autonomy are also among the top triggers for wanting a career change. Fortunately, it has never been easier or more common and acceptable to throw in the towel on an old career path and embrace a new one.

Here, the career experts at Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site, give you some tips to help you make a successful mid-career transition:

1. Decide what you truly want in life

Interestingly, while some professionals have a very clear sense of purpose and knowledge of where their passions and interests lie, others may still be soul searching. This is the time to really ask yourself what your life objectives are, what motivates you and makes you happy and what you imagine yourself doing for the foreseeable future that would fulfill you, excite you and agree with your values and life priorities. In the Middle East for example, five in 10 professionals want to work for a company where they feel their work is part of a greater purpose, as revealed in the Bayt.com 'What Makes a Company an Attractive Place to Work?' poll, February 2014.

2. Align your skills to your goals

Once you are clear on a path you wish to take, it's time to brush up on the skills you need to excel in the new role. Remember, you bring to the table a slew of transferable skills and today's workplace is all about self-learning. The Bayt.com 'Learning in the Workplace in the MENA poll', March 2015, shows that 97% of professionals in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region are very dedicated to lifelong learning. Tools such as the Bayt.com Career Map can help you find out the skills that are higher in demand by employers, and those that can help you stay competitive in the job market. Bayt.com Courses will help you learn all the skills you need to be able to excel and stand out in today's job market. Go to the Bayt.com Learning platform now and start your own personalized learning journey.

3. Leave no stone unturned

Life is rife with opportunities, as long as you're present in the right places. In order to ensure that chances don't simply pass you by, be sure to make full use of the latest online technologies. First and foremost, you must apply for jobs strategically and not at random (have a look at the thousands of jobs available on Bayt.com every day!). Secondly, enhance your job application and expose your professional brand to the right audience by getting a public profile which will help you become instantly searchable on key search engines, such as Google. Thirdly, join and become a part of industry-related discussions on professional networking platforms, such as Bayt.com Specialties, where you can establish your expertise and network with peers and employers.

4. Network like it's a science

One of the most vital elements to accelerate your career change is networking vigorously. Networking in this sense does not imply a simple exchange of information and contact details; it means meeting the right people at the right time and developing mutually-beneficial relationships over a period of time. Fortunately, there are numerous physical and virtual avenues through which professionals can network and engage in this day and age. The most common methods to network are through career fairs and industry fairs, conferences and exhibitions, and online networking platforms, such as Bayt.com Specialties.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
ASIAN COUNTRIES		
Japanese Yen	2.825	
Indian Rupees	4.513	
Pakistani Rupees	2.885	
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.051	
Nepali Rupees	2.826	
Singapore Dollar	222.820	
Hongkong Dollar	38.900	
Bangladesh Taka	3.852	
Philippine Peso	6.540	
Thai Baht	8.553	

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.616
Qatari Riyal	83.042
ani Riyal	785.213
Bahraini Dinar	802.840
UAE Dirham	82.307

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	31.900
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.416
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.214
Tunisian Dinar	143.200
Jordanian Dinar	425.890
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.014
Syrian Lira	2.154
Morocco Dirham	31.805

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.150
Euro	344.450
Sterling Pound	436.610

Canadian dollar	234.040
Turkish lira	104.730
Swiss Franc	310.850
Australian Dollar	222.680
US Dollar Buying	300.950

GOLD

20 Gram	250.790
10 Gram	128.310
5 Gram	65.000

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.100
Canadian Dollar	237.455
Sterling Pound	437.090
Euro	342.185
Swiss Frank	292.455
Bahrain Dinar	799.210
UAE Dirhams	82.490
Qatari Riyals	83.705
Saudi Riyals	81.240
Jordanian Dinar	425.565
Egyptian Pound	33.923
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.084
Indian Rupees	4.4519
Pakistani Rupees	2.894
Bangladesh Taka	3.844
Philippines Pess0	6.551
Cyprus pound	575.400
Japanese Yen	3.815
Syrian Pound	2.370
Nepalese Rupees	3.815
Malaysian Ringgit	74.980

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.400
Thai Bhat	9.545
Turkish Lira	104.330

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.431464	0.441464
Czech Korune	0.004674	0.016674
Danish Krone	0.042045	0.047045
Euro	0.0337538	0.0346538
Norwegian Krone	0.032900	0.038100
Romanian Leu	0.075871	0.075871
Slovakia	0.008995	0.018995
Swedish Krona	0.033074	0.038074
Swiss Franc	0.304581	0.315581
Turkish Lira	0.098508	0.108808
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.216219	0.228219
New Zealand Dollar	0.202875	0.212375
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.2230251	0.239251
US Dollars	0.298050	0.302750
US Dollars Mint	0.298550	0.302750
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003404	0.003988
Chinese Yuan	0.044523	0.0478023
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036809	0.039559
Indian Rupee	0.004192	0.004602

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002721	0.002901
Kenyan Shilling	0.002979	0.002979
Korean Won	0.000249	0.000264
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070066	0.076066
Nepalese Rupee	0.002879	0.003049
Pakistan Rupee	0.002709	0.002999
Philippine Peso	0.006387	0.006687
Sierra Leone	0.000073	0.000079
Singapore Dollar	0.217112	0.227112
South African Rand	0.014171	0.022671
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001669	0.002249
Taiwan	0.009233	0.009413
Thai Baht	0.008206	0.008756

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.794890	0.803390
Egyptian Pound	0.027923	0.033041
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.422155	0.431155
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020069	0.044069
Nigerian Naira	0.001245	0.001880
Omani Riyal	0.778385	0.784065
Qatar Riyal	0.082182	0.083632
Saudi Riyal	0.079487	0.080787
Syrian Pound	0.001280	0.001500
Tunisian Dinar	0.139062	0.147062
Turkish Lira	0.098508	0.108808
UAE Dirhams	0.080839	0.082539
Yemeni Riyal	0.001365	0.001445

ZAIN OFFERS ALL-NEW HTC 10 WITH KD 21 POSTPAID PLAN AVAILABLE IN ALL BRANCHES AND ZAIN’S ONLINE STORE

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, launched the all-new HTC 10 smartphone for postpaid customers, available in all branches and Zain's online store. The company offers its customers the opportunity to enjoy one of the latest smartphones on its most advanced LTE-A network.

Zain is committed to bringing its customers the latest and most advanced products in the telecommunications world, as it strives to enrich their lives with technology's most advanced solu-

tions. The HTC 10 smartphone brings a number of amazing features that meet customers' personal and professional needs.

The new HTC 10 is offered with Zain's KD 21 smartphone plan, which entitles postpaid customers to exciting features, including 50 GBs of monthly Internet, 500 local minutes, unlimited SMS, as well as free Zain Wi-Fi at the Avenues and Souq Sharq.

HTC 10 comes with a brand new all-metal body with a seamless full glass

front that includes a masterful 5.2-inch multi-touch screen. HTC 10's 12 MP camera includes laser autofocus that gives the user focused shots faster. It's the only front camera with Optical Image Stabilization for great selfies. HTC 10 also comes with brand new BoomSound speakers, Personal Audio Profile and Hi-Res audio earphones. HTC 10 is designed to stay running longer - up to 2 days of normal use.

This offering comes in line with Zain's aim to provide its customers with a supe-

rior telecommunications experience, and springs from its core understanding of postpaid customers' needs. The offer aims at providing customers with a superior content consumption experience with Zain's nationwide LTE-A Internet. Zain emphasized its commitment to the needs of the largest customer base in Kuwait, and will continuously look into expanding its horizons to keep customers conveniently connected, to download content and stay in touch with their loved ones throughout the day.



ARLANDA: Passengers wait for flight information at Arlanda Airport on yesterday in Sigtuna near Stockholm. Some 400 Swedish SAS pilots walked off the job on Friday in a dispute over wages and working conditions, stranding 4,000 passengers, the Scandinavian carrier said. —AFP

SAS’ SWEDISH PILOTS STRIKE, FLIGHTS, PASSENGERS AFFECTED

COPENHAGEN: Scandinavian Airlines says its flights operated by Swedish pilots are being canceled because of a strike over a wage increase, meaning nearly 160 flights and some 20,000 passengers are affected yesterday.

The Stockholm-based airline said planes with Danish and Norwegian pilots are not affected. The Swedish pilots' union demands a 3.5 percent salary increase while company

had offered an overall pay increase of 2.2 percent, according to the Swedish news agency TT.

SAS vice president Karin Nyman said in a statement the sides "have unfortunately been unable to come to an agreement." The strike started late Friday. The airline is partly owned by the governments of Sweden, Denmark and Norway. It's the largest airline in Scandinavia. —AP

CAUTION PERVADES AT FOUR OF WORLD’S TOP CENTRAL BANKS GLOBAL ECONOMY WEEKAHEAD

LONDON: It is a sign of the caution that permeates the global economic outlook when four of the world's top central banks, all due to meet within days of each other, are almost unanimously expected to make no change to their extraordinary stimulus programs.

While the US Federal Reserve, Bank of England, Swiss National Bank and the Bank of Japan are all dealing with varying amounts or shortages of inflation, none are expected to act ahead of one of the biggest risk events of 2016. Britain's referendum on whether to remain in or leave the European Union has been creeping from the back to the front of investors' minds. During the last full week of campaigning before the June 23 vote, it may dominate most discussion.

Janet Yellen's Fed has spent most of the past month or so dropping hints that a summer rate hike was on the way. However, disappointing May hiring data and a UK vote that is too close in the polls to have confidence in the outcome have toned down her message, making a rate rise on June 15 now highly unlikely. That leaves financial markets stuck in a holding pattern with renewed fears about global growth pushing against safety nets that central banks have built up over the years, according to Valentin Marinov, head of G10 FX strategy at CA-CIB.

So a packed week of data releases for the world's largest economy, including retail sales, housing starts, building permits as well as inflation, will at best be able to help build the case for a Fed rise as soon as July, rather than September.

"Weak labour market data have messed up the carefully-prepared script for the Fed's next rate move. An interest rate rise at the meeting next week is off the table," wrote Christoph Balz, economist at Commerzbank, in a note. "However ... the US labor market recovery is not over yet and a rate hike at the meeting in July is therefore still on the agenda."

A recent Reuters poll showed four-fifths of a sample of 90 economists expect a rate rise in either July or September, with most leaning toward the latter month, and with many saying a hiring rebound could seal an earlier move.

June jobs data won't be released until early July. But for the most part, the economy has been performing well: an analysis of key economic releases since the last Fed meeting shows 70 percent have come in at or above Reuters poll forecasts. US retail sales may stage a milder 0.4 percent rise on the month after a 1.3 percent surge in April, while housing starts and permits will be watched closely after a blowout month in April for pending and new home sales.

Core consumer price inflation is likely to remain on a relatively steady course a few ticks above 2 percent. In Britain, where not a soul expects the Bank of England to change policy just ahead of the EU referendum but instead focus on contingency planning and market liquidity in the event of a vote to leave, price pressures are weaker. Headline inflation, which the BoE targets, is forecast to rise to 0.4 percent, with core inflation at 1.3 percent. The UK jobless rate is forecast to hold steady at 5.1 percent, close to what many would call full employment.

But with a slowdown this year in the UK economy which a majority of analysts attribute to jitters ahead of the referendum, talk about interest rates has shifted from the next rate rise to whether they will need to be cut. In Japan, the dearth of inflation is much more severe, much as it has been for the better part of two decades and there is little hope for a revival any time soon.

So while the Fed is forecast to take a pass in June and possibly lift its federal funds rate gingerly in July, the Bank of Japan is forecast to take a pass on June 16 and do the opposite in July by piling on more stimulus. Much of it will depend on the yen exchange rate, which appears now to be out of the BOJ's control, having surged earlier this year when it surprised the markets by introducing by a narrow majority a negative deposit rate policy.

In Zurich, the SNB is also expected to leave its negative key rate unchanged at a midpoint of -0.75 percent, according to a Reuters poll. There may be some signs of inflation turning but again, what the Swiss Franc does will matter a lot and what drives it is not completely within the SNB's control. —Reuters

FINNISH LABOUR MARKET REFORM IN SIGHT AFTER KEY UNION AGREES

HELSINKI: A key union in Finland says it has voted to join a government-proposed labor reform pact that aims to boost the stagnant economy by easing labor market rules and cutting workers' benefits.

Friday's decision by the Metalworkers' Union, which represents over 140,000 people and is the biggest for industrial workers, paves the way for the milestone deal, which other major unions and employer representatives have already approved.

Under the deal, the center-right government pledges to lower taxes and cancel planned spending cuts in return for an increase in work hours and pension contributions, longer holiday bonuses and a freeze on wages for a year.

A rigid labor market is seen as one reason for Finland's economic woes. The European Commission predicts the economy will grow 0.7 percent this year, less than any EU country apart from Greece. —AP

MYANMAR SCRAMBLES TO CLEAR PORT JAM THREATENING GROWTH

RAPID GROWTH PUTTING PRESSURE ON ANTIQUATED INFRASTRUCTURE

YANGON: Myanmar's new government has been grappling with its first economic management crisis, as a weeks-long traffic jam of cargo ships at the country's biggest port threatens to scare potential investors away and choke off nascent economic growth. The bottleneck at the dilapidated port was caused by a spike in demand for goods as the opening up of the economy accelerates following a historic election win by Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) in November.

"Because of the general growth of the economy we are packed. The ships have nowhere to go," said Ma Cherry Trivedi, managing director of Ayuroma International, an advisor to Myanmar Industrial Port (MIP), where congestion has been worst. Myanmar boasts one of the world's fastest growing economies, expanding at 7-8 percent in the years since the military relinquished direct control in 2011.

But its main port has changed little since the end of British colonial rule nearly 70 years ago - emblematic of ramshackle infrastructure that could hold back the foreign investment Suu Kyi needs to live up to sky-high expectations and remake a country impoverished by decades of junta rule.

The number of ships docking in Yangon has doubled over the past decade and the number of containers has jumped fourfold, data shows, clogging up inadequate storage space, overwhelming sclerotic logistics systems and delaying deliveries. "We bring in the steel, the cement, everything you can think of...as infrastructure grows, which is the key aspect of any development in a country like Myanmar, you are going to see massive growth in imports," said Ma Cherry Trivedi.

Western shipping lines are largely confined to a single creaking terminal within the port, because of reluctance to use other facilities operated by Asia World, whose majority owner Steven Law remains subject to US sanctions.

WORKING 24/7

The tipping point into a crisis came when MIP miscalculated the volume of incoming shipments before a three-week holiday in April, when the country largely shut down, shipping companies operating at the terminal said. That meant up to 10 ships faced delays of as long as two weeks to have their cargo unloaded, causing the biggest jam the port had seen in modern times.

Industry sources said the holdup cost major shipping lines millions of dollars a week. "There was

no proper cooperation between shipping lines, container storage facilities and terminal operators. Chaos," said Aye Lwin, Joint Secretary General of Myanmar's Chamber of Commerce, who was involved in efforts to resolve the jam.

Myanmar's presidential office announced emergency measures in mid-May to tackle the congestion, including 24-hour port operation and customs clearance, and ordered daily reports from the ministers of commerce and transport. Some of the biggest shipping companies, such as Denmark's Maersk Line Ltd, dispatched their own specialists to help manage the situation.



YANGON: Traffic grinds to a halt in downtown Yangon. —AP

By Thursday, the backlog had been largely cleared, Ma Cherry Trivedi said, although additional staff flown in by shipping lines remained in place, as did the emergency measures, to prevent cargoes piling up once more. Tatsuya "Ricky" Ueki, managing director at shipping company MOL Myanmar, said the port infrastructure has not caught up with the economic development of the country.

"There's no easy way out of this, but billions of dollars in the country's development hinge on how aggressive the government is in solving the problem," said Ueki. The port jam underscores the challenges Suu Kyi's government faces to keep growth going and attract investment to a country struggling to compete with neighbours in sectors such as garment exports, which rely on accurate and timely deliveries.

"Lead times are very important," said Jacob Clere, who works on a European Union-funded project to improve Myanmar's garment industry. "Taking a few days longer than those in the region, they (garment brands) will avoid Myanmar until the lead time is shortened."

NOT SO SWEET

Another factor contributing to the port disruption has been a crackdown by China on sugar smuggling, officials said. Up to 1 million tons of sugar is trafficked into China every year, experts say, mostly entering the country from India and

Thailand via Myanmar.

In March, just before the handover of power, Myanmar's outgoing government issued additional "re-exporting licenses" to sugar traders, Aye Lwin of the chamber of commerce said. That meant that, just as port operations were closing down for the long April holiday, "four vessels came and discharged about 20,000 or 30,000 containers," said Aye Lwin. "These containers couldn't move for the time being, they were blocked."

As China stepped up inspections, he said, "our cargo got stuck on the border. So a lot of containers cannot move and a traffic jam is formed all the way to the jetty in Yangon." "There should be quotas and some predictability," Aye Lwin added. "Our governments should talk about it. Otherwise, it's a total mess." —Reuters

CONSTRUCTION FOR EASTERN ILLINOIS FERTILIZER PLANT DELAYED

CHAMPAIGN, Ill: Construction on a massive fertilizer plant in eastern Illinois has been delayed until next year, the company said Friday. Cronus Chemicals initially planned to begin building near Tuscola in 2015 but now says it anticipates building sometime next year, spokesman Dave Lundy said. The plant, which will produce nitrogen-based fertilizers urea and ammonia, is expected to employ about 175 people full-time, as well as about 2,000 construction workers.

Cronus also now lists the cost of the project as \$1.9 billion on its website; originally construction was to cost \$1.4 billion. Lundy says the larger figure reflects finance costs, adding that construction costs have not increased.

The US Environmental Protection Agency has granted the company a one-year extension on its air permit. Construction now must start by October 2017. No date has been set but Lundy said the company expects building to start "well before" then. Lundy attributed the delay to, among other things, ongoing negotiations with contractors. "Everything is actually going fine," he said. "Obviously they're slower - with big projects things happen slower than one might like them to do."

Brian Moody is executive director of Tuscola Economic Development, Inc., which works to develop the economy in the town



MONACA: This 2015 photo provided by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development shows a former zinc smelting site where Shell Chemical Appalachia plans to build a petrochemical plant in the northwestern Pennsylvania borough of Monaca, Pa. —AP

of 4,500 people. He said his confidence that Cronus will get the plant built is "strong."

"We understand that there will continue to be challenges but we are committed to helping Cronus achieve their goal of beginning construction in Tuscola," Moody said in an email to

The Associated Press.

Cronus is owned by a group of Swiss and Turkish investors, and has a US headquarters in Chicago.

The project will be built on the site that was once considered for the now-defunct FutureGen clean coal project. The company chose

the Tuscola site in 2014 over a location in Iowa. The state of Illinois agreed to provide a package of incentives that have thus far not been publicly disclosed. No opening date is set, though Cronus' website indicates the plant should take about 37 months to build. —AP

STUDY: GLOBALIZED ECONOMY MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO WEATHER EXTREMES

BARCELONA: The globalization of the world's economy this century has made it far more vulnerable to the impacts of extreme weather, including heat stress on workers, scientists said on Friday.

A study by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Columbia University showed production losses caused by high temperatures, predicted to rise further with climate change, now spread more easily from one place to another as they ripple through global supply chains.

In just a decade, the susceptibility of the world's eco-

nomc network to heat stress - which causes workers to tire quickly among other physical effects - has doubled, researchers found. This is because production has become more interlinked since the turn of the century, said co-author Anders Levermann, a top climate change expert at the Potsdam Institute.

The first decade studied, from 1991 to 2001, did not suffer increased production losses, in contrast to the decade from 2001 to 2011, he noted. "Weather extremes are not really factored into the thinking of a lot of industries, and in particular not weather extremes far away," he

told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "But our study shows it's really one world with respect to climate impacts." The researchers looked at the effects of small daily disruptions to production from extreme temperatures leading to heat stress among workers in construction, agriculture and other economic sectors. They covered economic flows between 26 industry sectors and final demand in 186 countries, running computer simulations of heat-stress consequences to find out more about how production losses are propagated along supply chains. —Reuters

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY					SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %	Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	8,591,079	2.21%	386,520	1.11%	OIL & GAS	742.92	768.18	-3.29%	-9.26%
BASIC MATERIALS	2,410,687	0.62%	961,235	2.76%	BASIC MATERIALS	947.53	917.99	3.22%	-3.94%
INDUSTRIALS	49,175,493	12.62%	5,173,748	14.86%	INDUSTRIALS	1,062.66	1,051.05	1.10%	1.88%
CONSUMER GOODS	15,863,440	4.07%	3,940,273	11.32%	CONSUMER GOODS	1,102.05	1,122.30	-1.80%	0.65%
HEALTH CARE	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	HEALTH CARE	990.98	990.98	0.00%	7.09%
CONSUMER SERVICES	15,845,497	4.07%	1,876,512	5.39%	CONSUMER SERVICES	1,015.97	986.87	2.95%	0.72%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	42,293,713	10.86%	3,070,110	8.82%	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	612.14	609.16	0.49%	2.26%
BANKS	25,011,806	6.42%	8,752,285	25.14%	BANKS	810.84	813.75	-0.36%	-10.61%
INSURANCE	216,694	0.06%	35,254	0.10%	INSURANCE	1,031.28	1,021.43	0.96%	-8.49%
REAL ESTATE	73,807,537	18.95%	3,437,198	9.87%	REAL ESTATE	850.91	853.15	-0.26%	-9.55%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	155,003,817	39.79%	6,988,692	20.07%	FINANCIAL SERVICES	565.61	559.55	1.08%	-5.00%
TECHNOLOGY	1,302,179	0.33%	198,216	0.57%	TECHNOLOGY	1,006.37	972.55	3.48%	22.70%

KSE EQUITIES BEARISH AMID PROFIT-TAKING

BAYAN INVESTMENT WEEKLY REPORT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week with mixed performance. The Price Index closed at 5,410.60 points, up by 0.62 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.12 percent after closing at 354.93 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 814.65 points down by 0.42 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 41.47 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 6.96 million, whereas trading volume average was 77.90 million shares, recording a decrease of 50.03 percent.

The three stock market indices witnessed a mixed closing as a result to the different traders' perspectives, whereas the Price Index was able to realize a relative increase, in light of the return of the active speculation to control the trading direction of the market once again, and was basically concentrating on the small-cap stocks; while the Weighted and KSX-15 indices could not record gains affected by the decline of some leading and operational stocks, especially in the Oil and Gas sector and the Consumer Goods sector, as it witnessed profit collection operations that caused it to drop by the end of the week. Also, it was noticed during the last week a return to the purchasing activity on some investment groups in the market, as it witnessed collection operations especially after its prices reached tempting levels, which positively affected the Price Index in particular.

As per the daily trading activity; Sunday's session witnessed a decrease in the three market indices due to the strong selling pressures that most of the traded stocks were subject to, especially the Banks Sector, in addition to the continued profit collection operations executed on some small-cap stocks. On Monday's session, the market was able to realize a grouped increase to the three indices, amid support of the random purchasing operations executed on some leading stocks that declined in the previous session, in addition to the speculative operations that concentrated on the small-cap stocks. On mid-week session, the market fluctuated and the three indices closed mixed, whereas the Price Index was able to increase supported by the continued purchasing and collection operations executed on the small-cap stocks, while the quick profit collection operations pushed the Weighted and KSX-15 indices to close in the red zone; such performance came in light of a noticeable decline in liquidity levels, reaching its lowest level in around two years. Moreover, the market was able to realize a grouped increase to its indices on Wednesday's session, supported by the purchasing operations that included a wide range of stocks, in addition to the active speculative operations that concentrated on the small-cap stocks. On the end of week session, the market returned to its mixed performance, as the Price Index increased by the end of the session supported by the continued quick speculation on a number of small-cap stocks, while the Weighted and KSX-15 indices could not grow affected by the profit collection operations that the heavy stocks were subject to.

By the end of the week, the market capitalization for KSE reached KD 23.13 billion down by 0.16 percent compared to its level in a week earlier, where it reached then KD 23.16 billion; on an annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in the market dropped by 8.46 percent from its value at end of 2015, where it was KD 25.27 billion.

As far as KSE annual performance, the price index ended last week recording 3.64 percent annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the weighted index decreased by 7.01 percent, and the KSX-15 recorded 9.53 percent loss.

declined by 1.80 percent, closing at 1,102.05 points, followed by the Banks sector, as its index closed at 810.84 points at a loss of 0.36 percent.

Sectors' Activity

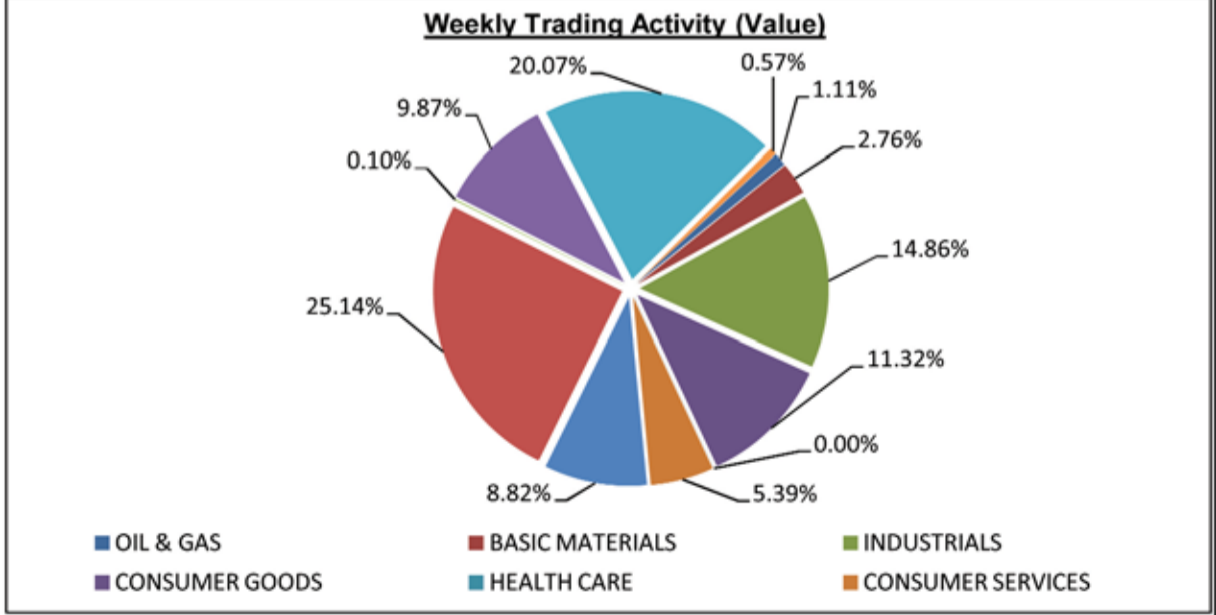
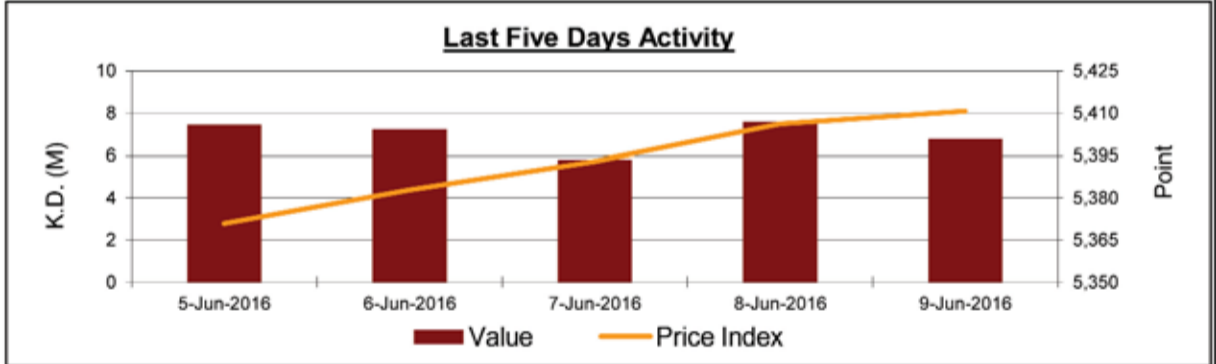
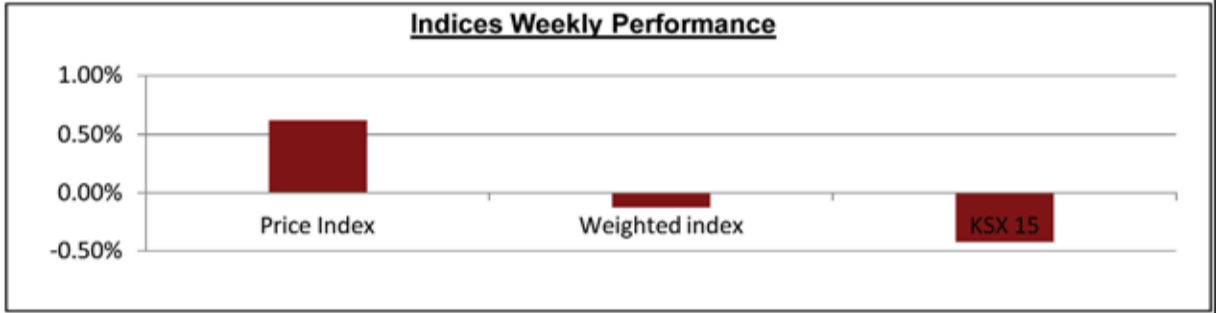
The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 155 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 39.79 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 18.95 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 73.81 million shares. On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 8.75 million or 25.14 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 6.99 million representing 20.07 percent of the total market trading value.-Prepared by the Studies & Research Department, Bayan Investment Co.

Sectors' Indices

Seven of KSE's sectors ended last week in the green zone, and four recorded declines, whereas the Health Care sector's index closed with no change from the week before. Last week's highest gainer was the Technology sector, achieving 3.48 percent growth rate as its index closed at 1,006.37 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Basic Materials sector's index closed at 947.53 points recording 3.22 percent increase. The Consumer Services sector came in third as its index achieved 2.95 percent growth, ending the week at 1,015.97 points.

On the other hand, the Oil & Gas sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 3.29 percent to end the week's activity at 742.92 points. The Consumer Goods sector was second on the losers' list, which index

KSE INDICES				
Weekly	Last week	5,410.60	354.93	814.65
	Previous week	5,377.05	355.37	818.10
	Change (Point)	33.55	-0.44	-3.45
	Change (%)	0.62%	-0.12%	-0.42%
Annual	Last year	5,615.12	381.70	900.43
	Change (Point)	-204.52	-26.77	-85.78
	Change (%)	-3.64%	-7.01%	-9.53%



MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	389,521,942	779,542,708	-50.03%
Value (K.D)	34,820,043	59,488,057	-41.47%
Deals	9,136	16,649	-45.13%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)			
Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
23,126,700,000	23,163,000,000	-0.16%	-8.46%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
ALRAI	162.00	136.00	26.0	19.12%
CITYGROUP	630.00	530.00	100.0	18.87%
ENERGYH	51.00	43.00	8.0	18.60%
CATTL	198.00	176.00	22.0	12.50%
ASC	390.00	350.00	40.0	11.43%

TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
DANAH	104.00	124.00	-20.0	-16.13%
ERESCO	52.00	60.00	-8.0	-13.33%
ADNC	11.50	13.00	-1.5	-11.54%
IPG	305.00	330.00	-25.0	-7.58%
NAPESCO	680.00	730.00	-50.0	-6.85%

SECTORS' ACTIVITY	
The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 155 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 39.79% of the total market trading volume. On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around K.D 8.75 million or 25.14% of last week's total market trading value.	

US STOCKS GIVE UP RECENT GAINS AS OIL PRICES SINK

WALL STREET WEEKLY REPORT

NEW YORK: US stocks skidded Friday in a wave of selling that wiped out most of the market's gains from earlier this week. A drop in oil prices took energy companies sharply lower. Investors were also troubled by a poll showing Britain may be more likely to leave the European Union. Oil prices fell by the largest amount in two months, and banks slumped as bond yields fell for the second consecutive day, pulling interest rates lower. Machinery, technology and consumer stocks also lost ground. It was the market's biggest loss in more than three weeks.

Eric Wiegand, senior portfolio manager for US Bank's Private Client Reserve, said investors are guessing at the outcome of the British referendum and the Federal Reserve's meeting next week, as well as the impending US presidential election. "There's just not a good way to handicap the outcome just yet," he said. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 119.85 points, or 0.7 percent, to 17,865.34. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 19.41 points, or 0.9 percent, to 2,096.07. The Nasdaq composite shed 64.07 points, or 1.3 percent, to 4,894.55.

US crude shed \$1.49, or 2.9 percent, to \$49.07 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the benchmark for international oil prices, fell \$1.28, or 2.5 percent, to \$50.56 a barrel in London. Oil prices had reached 11-month highs in the last few days. ConocoPhillips gave up \$2.06, or 4.4 percent, to \$44.51 and oilfield services company Schlumberger shed \$1.43, or 1.8 percent, to \$78.53. As they did Thursday, banks fell along with bond yields. Lower bond yields drive down interest rates on mortgages and other kinds of loans, and that makes them less profitable for banks. Citigroup sank \$1.11, or 2.5 percent, to \$43.90 and JPMorgan Chase lost 91 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$63.84.

Bond prices rose further and the yield on the 10-year US Treasury note sank to 1.64 percent from 1.69 percent. The drop in bond yields sent phone companies higher, as those stocks' high dividend yields are comparable to bonds. Verizon Communications rose 72 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$52.67.

Stocks started the week with three days of gains and reached their highest levels in months, but finished back where they started. For the week the Dow was a bit higher, the Nasdaq lower, and the S&P 500 essentially unchanged.

That showed investors are cautiously optimistic, as the US economy is still growing and corporate profits are expected to pick up later in the year. But they're also very sensitive to uncertainty or potential trouble, whether it's from slower global growth or Fed policy or Britain's status in the European Union.

Brexit jitters

A poll in London's The Independent showed that 55 percent of British citizens want to leave the European Union. Some investors fear Britain's economy will be damaged if it votes to leave the EU, and that other nations might follow Britain's lead. Consumer stocks also fell, with some of the sharpest losses going to big names. Netflix slid \$3.34, or 3.4 percent, to \$93.75 and Amazon declined \$9.74, or 1.3 percent, to \$717.91.

Retailer Urban Outfitters slumped after it said sales at established stores are continuing to fall in the second quarter so far. Those sales are considered an important measure of retailer performance. The company's stock slid \$1.61, or 5.8 percent, to \$26.32. Westlake Chemical Corp. said it will buy Axiall for \$33 per share, or \$2.33 billion. The agreement ends a takeover dispute that had lasted all year, and it will create one of the largest producers of chlorine, plastics and other chemicals. Axiall jumped \$6.75, or 26.2 percent, to \$32.56 and Westlake rose \$1.34, or 3 percent, to \$46.40. —AP

KUWAIT STOCKS MIXED AHEAD OF OPEC MEET

KFH CAPITAL WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: The KSE Indices witnessed a mixed week as the KSE price index closed with 5,410.60 an increase of 0.62 percent up 33.55 points compared to the previous week. As the MUDX also witnessed a decrease of 0.17 percent to close at 511.86 for the week. While the market blue-chip index the KSX15 closed at 814.65 points down 0.42 percent during the week.

Gulf stock witnessed a mixed week ahead of an OPEC meeting that will discuss the possibility of coordinated action among oil producers to support prices. Brent crude oil crossed the \$50 mark, closing at \$51.98 per barrel.

The reported weekly volumes were 389.58 million shares compared to 779.24 million shares in previous. Among the major contributors, the Financial Services Sector (contributing 39.51 percent) witnessed 153.93 million shares of trading compared to 216.42 million shares in the previous week, while Real Estate Sector (contributing 18.95 percent) witnessed 73.80 million shares of trading compared to 187.08 million shares in the previous week.

The overall Market Cap witnessed a negative week as it stood at KD 24.49 billion down 0.1 percent on weekly basis. As for the blue chips, National Bank of Kuwait - NBK (Mcap - KD 3.43 billion) saw its market cap drop 1.61 percent during the week. Moreover; Kuwait Food Co - Americana (Mcap - KD 828.12 million) saw it market cap plunge 3.74 percent, after media reports denying the sale of Al-Khair National for stocks and real estate Company stake in the company. While Kuwait Projects Co- KIPCO (Mcap - KD 766.25 million) saw its market cap increase 1.96 percent during the week.

On the total market breadth, Of the 56

Most Active Stocks	Current Week ('000 Share)	Prev. Week ('000 Share)	Chng	% Total Mkt	YTD-Turnover	Price Stats- Weekly	Current	Prev.	Chng.
Hits Telecom Holding Co. @	37,943	138,334	-72.6%	9.74%	73.1%	0.040	0.040	0.0%	
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co.	24,838	-	NM	6.38%	59.5%	0.039	0.041	-4.9%	
National Ranges Co. @	18,612	22,420	-17.0%	4.78%	198.6%	0.026	0.025	4.1%	
Gulf North Africa Holding Co. @	17,047	15,937	7.0%	4.36%	188.1%	0.033	0.032	3.2%	
Fujairah Cement Industries Co. @	16,843	615	2638.7%	4.32%	14.3%	0.074	0.075	-1.3%	

Top 3 Gainers	C. Mkt Cap	Pr. Mkt Cap	Change %	% Total Mkt	Price Stats- Weekly	Current	Previous
Al Rai Media Group Co.	37.75	31.69	19.12%	0.154%	0.162	0.136	
City Group Co. @	71.19	59.89	18.87%	0.291%	0.630	0.530	
The Energy House Co. @	38.25	32.25	18.60%	0.156%	0.051	0.043	

Top 3 Losers	C. Mkt Cap	Pr. Mkt Cap	Change %	% Total Mkt	Price Stats- Weekly	Current	Previous
Danah AlSafat Food Stuff Co. @	30.03	35.81	-16.13%	0.123%	0.104	0.124	
Al-Enma'a Real Estate Co. @	23.43	27.03	-13.33%	0.096%	0.062	0.060	
Al-Dar National Real Estate Co. @	4.83	5.46	-11.54%	0.020%	0.012	0.013	

Top KSE Islamic Stocks in terms of Market Capitalization (MC)						
Stocks	Current Week	Previous Week	Chg.	% of MUDX	Weekly Volume	YTD-Gain
Kuwait Finance House @	2,326.53	2,326.53	0.0%	37.2%	4,338,533	-6.4%
Boubyan Bank @	866.57	866.57	0.0%	13.9%	1,470,233	-3.4%
Ahli United Bank @	701.61	718.93	-2.4%	11.2%	1,246,671	-15.0%
Kuwait Telecommunications Co. @	469.44	459.45	2.2%	7.5%	146,453	-5.1%
Kuwait International Bank @	203.32	201.24	1.0%	3.3%	5,042,386	-9.3%

Islamic Companies,13 advanced while 18 declined during the week. The Islamic universe market cap witnessed a decrease of 0.20 percent in its market cap to close at KD 6.24 billion. The universe heavyweights like Kuwait Finance House - KFH (Mcap - KD 2.32 billion)

saw its market cap remain unchanged during the week. While Boubyan Bank (Mcap - KD 866.57 million) also saw its market cap remain unchanged. Kuwait Telecommunications Co (Mcap - KD 469.44 million) was up 2.17 percent during the week.



Weekly Indices Performance & their Volatility						
Indices	Week-end Stats			Volatility		
	Current	Previous	Change	Chg (%)	Current	Previous
KSE Price Index	5,410.60	5,377.05	33.55	0.62%	3.33%	4.17%
MUDX	511.86	512.74	(0.89)	-0.17%	5.69%	5.30%
KSE Weighted	354.93	355.37	(0.44)	-0.12%	5.88%	5.30%
KSX15	814.65	818.10	(3.45)	-0.42%	18.62%	4.14%

Weekly KSE Statistics				
Key Parameters	Current	Previous	Chg.	%
Volume (Million Share)	389.58	779.54	(389.96)	-50.0%
Value (KD Million)	34.83	59.49	(24.66)	-41.4%
Deals ('000)	9.14	16.65	(7.51)	-45.1%
Market Cap (KD Bn)	24.49	24.52	(0.03)	-0.1%

Market Movers			
Advance	Decline	Unchanged	Not Traded
50	53	44	39



TAX SCRUTINY WILL OPEN ‘PANDORA’S BOX’ IN EU: GREEK SHIPOWNERS

ATHENS: Greece’s top shipping lobby on Friday warned that EU scrutiny of their tax concessions would open a “Pandora’s box” of revelations concerning other states, with harmful consequences all around.

“If we enter a full investigation and consultation begins... on what happens in European shipping, it would open a Pandora’s box, not for Greece but for other countries,” Theodore Veniamis, head of the Greek union of shipowners, told a news conference.

Back in 2012, the European Commission asked Greece to clarify the workings of its tax system for the shipping industry, and European transport commissioner Violeta Bulc told reporters on Friday it would likely become a full investigation. “Tonnage tax is crucial to keep the EU flag competitive internationally,” said Bulc.

The commission wanted to ensure “proper application of guidelines” and to “limit it to genuine shipping business”, she said. Brussels suspects the current taxation system, which grants favourable treatment to shipowners, is being extended to also benefit shipping company shareholders and brokers. Veniamis said the EU was drawing the “wrong conclusions” and could “unsettle” the shipowners’ presence in Greece.

“There is no competition kink between European maritime nations,” he said. “We haven’t seen any European shipowners coming to Greece’s (presumed tax) paradise.

‘Must remain competitive’

Greek shipowners are leaders in their sector internationally, but only about a third of their fleet sails under the Greek flag. “We must remain competitive towards Asian shipowners who are slowly spreading across the world,” Veniamis said.

The tax is levied on the tonnage a ship carries in place of a tax on the shippers’ profits, reportedly to the great advantage of Greece’s shippers and undercutting state income from one of the country’s prized economic assets. The system was set up in 1953 when the Greek shipping industry, one of the largest in the world, was rebuilding after World War II.

Greek press reports have said that the commission request was driven by pressure from Germany whose shippers are losing market share.

The commission denied that was the case, saying it was part of an investigation to ensure that competition rules on the shipping industry were being respected across Europe.

Veniamis said Greek shipowners would not “snitch” on other countries employing “labyrinthine laws and tricks” to benefit their own shipowners. But he wondered why similar investigations had failed to make headway in Germany and the Netherlands.

“If this thing turns sour, we bear no responsibility,” he said. — AFP



MAHALLA EL-KOBRA, Egypt: Workers from the Misr Spinning and Weaving Factory in the northern industrial town of Mahalla El-Kobra, Egypt, beat on makeshift drums as they protest on the final day of a week-long strike for unpaid bonuses. — AP

HARD TIMES IN EGYPT STOKES LABOR UNREST, SHOWDOWN LIES AHEAD

MAHALLA EL-KOBRA, Egypt: Labor activist Kamal Al-Fayoumi has lost none of his swagger since being fired from the sprawling Egyptian textile plant where he worked for three decades and was known as an agitator.

Striding through a gritty industrial town in the Nile Delta, he proudly points to workers’ clubs, cooperative grocery stores, cinemas, a pool and a hospital - all of which have seen better days - and brushes off threats from management and the police.

“Our forefathers built this place, it’s in our blood,” he said, looking toward the Misr Spinning and Weaving Company, Egypt’s largest factory. “We shouldn’t be afraid, they should fear us!”

Hard times in Egypt have spurred an increase in labor unrest, even as President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi’s government has largely succeeded in quashing political demonstrations over the past two years. Rising prices, low wages and delays in salaries and bonuses have workers vowing more strikes and protests, even at the risk of a violent crackdown. Since last month, workers have held sit-ins at Alexandria’s port and even in Cairo, flouting a 2013 ban on protests decreed after the military overthrew Islamist President Mohammed Morsi.

Thousands protested at a total of 493 actions in the first four months of 2016, a 25 percent increase from the same period a year ago, according to Democracy Meter, an Egyptian NGO that tracks and verifies protests using multiple sources.

“Labor tried to give Al-Sisi a chance. But you can’t take away peoples’ rights and fail to fix poverty simultaneously,” said Mohamed Adel, the director of the group. He said the actions range from work stoppages to peaceful marches and pickets.

Security forces have waged a relentless crackdown on dissent since Morsi’s ouster, arresting thousands of his Islamist supporters as well as prominent liberal and secular activists.

But while authorities banned a march on International Workers Day last month organized by independent trade unions, they have not carried out any mass arrests of labor activists, perhaps fearing a backlash. Former President Hosni

Mubarak kept a tight lid on labor unrest during most of his 30 years in power, permitting only state-controlled unions in a tradition dating back to the days of socialist leader Gamal Abdel Nasser. But the independent unions began holding protests in the twilight years of Mubarak’s reign, and workers assumed a major role in the 2011 uprising that ended it. Since then, organized labor has been under intense scrutiny.

Earlier this year, an Italian doctoral student who had been writing his thesis about independent unions was found tortured to death. Giulio Regeni disappeared on the Jan. 25 anniversary of the revolt, when security forces were out in force in central Cairo. Police have denied any involvement, but Italy withdrew its ambassador, saying Egypt was not fully cooperating with the investigation.

A draft law is in the works that would further delegitimize independent organizing, and a lawsuit filed by the official state union, expected to be decided later this summer, seeks to criminalize non-official trade unions. The government has also renewed efforts to shut down NGOs that receive foreign funding, which could affect unions with links to international labor movements.

Crackdown

At the International Labor Organization’s annual conference in Geneva this week, Egyptian Labor Minister Mohamed Saafan gave a speech that ignored the crackdown on independent unions and focused instead on state sovereignty and the fight against poverty. The head of the state union, Mohamed Wahballah, who was also present, described terrorism as the main obstacle to development, according to Egypt’s official news agency, MENA. Independent unions filed a complaint to the body, denouncing what they described as government attempts to “liquidate” them. Kamal Abbas, head of the independent Center for Trade Union and Workers’ Services, said he expects more strikes, but not the kind of large-scale demonstrations seen during and after the 2011 uprising.

“The government is attacking the independent and professional unions, and the workers are standing up, especially in cases where they are dis-

missed unjustly or benefits are not paid out,” he said. Strikes at the Misr Spinning and Weaving factory occur several times a year and have turned violent in the past. The grievances of its 20,000 workers sparked the first mass protests against Mubarak on April 6, 2008, spawning a youth movement called April 6 that played a key role in the 2011 uprising. The group has since been outlawed and its leaders imprisoned.

Social media

Around 10,000 of the factory’s workers are associated with the independent unions, Al-Fayoumi said, and have long used strikes as their principle means of securing higher wages and benefits. Activists say the workers are also organizing via social media.

For many workers, the pain of recent price increases - driven by double-digit inflation - could outweigh the dangers of taking to the streets. “No one can predict the future, but if prices keep rising, and salaries stay the same, the workers will hold peaceful protests until the salaries match the prices,” Al-Fayoumi said.

Al-Fayoumi said he was fired last year because he had spoken out about corruption that cost the company hundreds of millions of dollars, pointing to a report by Egypt’s top auditor released last year, which reportedly mentioned the factory. The auditor, Hesham Genena, is now on trial for spreading “false news.”

On a recent trip outside his old workplace, al-Fayoumi was detained by guards for five hours and questioned at the behest of state security about his activism and possible links to foreign funding.

Late last month, security forces broke up a sit-in at a shipyard in Alexandria, Egypt’s second city, arresting 13 workers and engineers, who could face military trials since the facility belongs to the navy. Adel, of Democracy Meter, says they are being held in a military prison on accusations of taking part in unauthorized protests.

“They want to show that no one can touch or oppose any kind of militarily installation or property,” he said, adding that he worried for the future. “When you take bread from my child, I become a monster. I fear it could turn violent.” — AP



AHLI UNITED BANK LAUNCHES NEW SALARY PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced today that it has launched a new salary promotional campaign “Win Cash and Do What You Wish”, offering customers a chance to win cash prizes worth up to ten times their salaries.

The new promotional drive comes as part of the Bank’s earlier salary transfer campaign, where the Bank provides exclusive benefits to customers transferring their salaries to AUB including cash prizes, offering them the chance to buy their preferred products and services rather than gift items that may not meet their needs.

The new salary campaign, which will run until the 30th of September, 2016, allows customers whose salaries are transferred to AUB, and are KD 400 or more, to receive 10 percent of their salaries in cash or a Qard Hasan up to KD 8,000. Moreover, customers are eligible to win instant cash prizes that reach up to ten times their salaries.

In addition, AUB is also providing a wide range of added value benefits that help streamline customers’ salary transfers to the Bank, positioning it as the ideal bank to do business with. These include customers receiving a finance

program up to KD 70,000 with flexibility in repayment for 15 years, special discounts that run up to KD 400 at any automotive dealer, and a free credit card for the first year which enables the client to earn more free air miles through the Bank’s credit card rewards scheme, in which for every KD 1 spent using the Bank’s cards, customers will receive 3 points on their air miles. Furthermore, customers will also benefit from an array of instant discounts at over 100 retail stores across Kuwait. The Bank’s initiatives also paves the way for customers to benefit from its Al Hasad Prize Program, Kuwait’s first banking rewards program that is in line with the Islamic Shari’a offering the highest prize value.

The Bank noted that the “Win Cash and Do What You Wish” salary campaign has been developed with the aim of providing an exciting range of added value benefits that provide customers with a comprehensive package of diversified products and services. Moreover, the bank was keen to allow the largest number of customers to enjoy the benefits of this campaign by providing them the greatest flexibility and ease of procedures when transferring their salary.

KFH NAMES 7 WINNERS OF BANKING CARDS CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) named 7 winners of the sixth draw of the new banking cards promotional campaign themed "Win Samsung Curved UHD 65" TV with KFH Cards" in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas.

The winners are Haydar Al-Kayali, Basem Alqadri, Wafaa Albarak, Radwan Badi, Khaled Alhajri, Mohammad Ghanem and Nawaf Al-Eisa.

For every KD 10 spent on their KFH cards, clients will get a chance to enter a draw and win daily Samsung Curved UHD 65"TV for 50 days ending June 14th 2016. KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used in domestic and international retail spends and KFH Debit cards used in international retail spends are eligible for the daily draw.

KFH strives to continuously offer its clients new promotions and discounts in order to distinguish them among peers, not to mention to further bolster bank's leading position in the field of banking cards.

KFH marketing campaigns play a significant role in underlining KFH's principles that include boosting sales, and benefitting clients and merchants.

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

It is worth noting that KFH has won several awards in the field of banking cards which reiterates its success and efficiency in banking cards market. KFH

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

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 446 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.



ZAIN LAUNCHES HUAWEI TOUCHSCREEN HOTSPOT FOR FIRST TIME IN KUWAIT

FIRST HOTSPOT DEVICE FROM HUAWEI WITH A TOUCHSCREEN



KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the launch of the new LTE-A compatible Huawei Touchscreen Hotspot device for the first time in Kuwait.

Zain launched the Huawei Touchscreen Hotspot device as part of its strategic partnership with Huawei, a leading global Information and Communications Technology (ICT) solutions provider. The company offers its customers base, the largest in the country, with an unmatched superfast Internet experience on its most advanced network.

The new Huawei Touchscreen Hotspot is the first hotspot device with a touchscreen from Huawei. The device is compatible with LTE-A technology, and features top of the line specs that offer customers a superfast Internet experience wherever they may be.

The hotspot features a brilliant color touchscreen made of powerful glass, which contains a blinking light to indicate the status of the Internet connection without the need to power the screen on. The device also comes with a unique portable design that offers a great Internet experience on the go from anywhere and at any time with the highest speed possible.

Customers can easily check and track their Internet data usage directly from the new Huawei Touchscreen Hotspot device, which is compatible with the ultrafast LTE-A technology on Zain's most advanced network. The device's powerful built-in battery allows it to run for up to 10 hours of continuous use.

This offering comes in line with Zain's aim to provide its customers with a superior telecommunications experience, and springs from its core understanding of customers' needs and aspirations. The offering aims at providing a superior content consumption experience with Zain's nationwide LTE-A network.

Zain emphasized its commitment to the needs of the largest customer base in Kuwait, and will continuously look into expanding its horizons to keep everyone conveniently connected, to download content and stay in touch with their loved ones throughout the day.

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 5 June 2016 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 29 May - 2 June 2016. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD1,000 per winner.

The winners are:

(Sunday 29/5): Shaikha Mohammed Abdullah, Abdullah Wael Al-Tali

(Monday 30/5): Fahad Nasser Fahad Al-Mutawa, Fadhil Ahmed Saleh Mohammed Al-Hadad

(Tuesday 31/5): Mohammad Abdulmajid Al-Kazimi, Salem Jaber Luftah Al-Mutairi

(Wednesday 1/6): Khalid Hussain Abdulrasoul Al-Ebraheem Al-Failakawi, Mariam Shakir Karam Ghloom Shihab

(Thursday 2/6): Jagadeep Puthiya Kalathil, Raeda Mohammed Ali Khanafer

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2016 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day each receive KD1000). Al-Danah's 2nd Quarterly draw for the prize of KD250,000 will be held on the 30th of June and the 3rd quarterly draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on September 29. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million will be held on 5 January, 2017 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced. Open an Al-Danah account now or deposit more to increase your chances of winning the KD500,000 or millionaire draw!

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:

- 1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million
- 2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
- 3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
- 4) The most chances to win
- 5) Only bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year Only Al-Danah makes millionaires.

Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner. Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/ or deposit more will enter the draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2016 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing at least KD 200; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance. Customers can also log on to www.e-gulfbank.com/aldanahwinners, to find out more about Al-Danah and its winners.



THIS RAMADAN, EXPERIENCE A NEW DIMENSION OF LUXURY WITH CADILLAC

KUWAIT: In celebration of the holy month of Ramadan, Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the sole distributor of Cadillac vehicles in Kuwait, is proud to present an incredible offer on selected vehicles including the exuberantly elegant, Cadillac ATS, the remarkably powerful, Cadillac CTS, the breathtakingly luxurious, Cadillac SRX, and the legacy Cadillac Escalade. This truly makes buying a Cadillac in Ramadan an irresistible opportunity that cannot be missed for all those who embrace luxury and elegance. Customers who purchase the new ATS and CTS will benefit from 0 percent interest for 5 years with zero down payments. SRX fans, meanwhile, will enjoy the above benefit plus a full comprehensive insurance for 1 year upon purchase.

If you are looking for a luxury drive that performs excellently on all terrains, look no further than the 2016 Cadillac ATS. Now priced at an attractive price of only KD 10,999, the Cadillac ATS compact luxury sports sedan challenges the world's best premium cars with an acclaimed balance of performance and refinement, effectively wrapped in a progressive expression of Cadillac's Art & Science design philosophy. With one of the lowest curb weights in the segment - less than 1,542 kg - the ATS's driving dynamics are rooted in mass efficiency, which helps make

it Cadillac's lightest and most agile sedan. Cadillac proprietary computational fluid dynamics (CFD) analysis techniques were used to develop an all-new combustion system with a higher compression ratio, which also helps boost efficiency. The award-winning 3.6L V-6 collection is rated at 321 horsepower and 373 Nm of torque, and comes equipped with Magnetic Ride Control, Brembo Brakes and Cadillac's advanced crash-avoidance systems that can pre-fill and automatically apply braking in response to potential hazards.

The Cadillac 2.0L Turbo returns in the CTS for 2016, adding the fuel-saving Stop/Start feature. It also is matched with the new 8L45 eight-speed automatic transmission and an unbelievable starting attractive price of KD 13,699 only. Also new for 2016 is an 18-inch polished wheel design and three premium exterior colors: Cocoa Bronze Metallic, Moonstone Metallic and Stellar Black Metallic. Inside, a Surround Vision 360 degree camera provides a "bird's eye" view of the entire vehicle, Cadillac CUE is enhanced and includes phone integration capability - including Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility (Android Auto to be offered later in the 2016 model year) - and several interior color/trim options enhance the ambience of the design.

THIS RAMADAN, EXPERIENCE A NEW DIMENSION OF LUXURY 2016 SRX

THIS RAMADAN:
5 years 0% interest with no down payment
1 year free comprehensive insurance
4 years or 100,000 KM free service and maintenance
4 years or 100,000 KM warranty
4 years road side assistance
Courtesy transportation
Courtesy vehicle
Airport pickup and drop

*PERMITS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

NISSAN BREAKS NEW GROUND WITH REDESIGNED AND REENGINEERED ALL-NEW PICK-UP NAVARA

DUBAI: Nissan launched for the Middle East its all-new Nissan pick-up Navara, which sets completely new standards for the segment in toughness, performance, styling and advanced features.

The launch event took place at the rugged Pyrenees Mountains of Barcelona, Spain, to showcase the off-roading capabilities of the vehicle which are perfectly matched to perform in this grueling terrain.

The all-new Nissan pick-up Navara has already been named International Pick-up of the Year 2016 in Europe. It builds on Nissan's 80-year heritage with 14 million pickups sold in over 170 countries through 12 generations. Combining toughness and modernity, it is the ideal vehicle for dual users who depend on their pick-up for professional and personal use.

Speaking at the launch event, Samir Cherfan, Nissan Middle East's Managing Director said, "The all-new Nissan pick-up Navara concept merges the previous Navara modernity with the Nissan Pick-up's toughness which has made it one of the best-selling pick-ups in the GCC over decades. With segment leadership across so many areas in the all-new Nissan pick-up Navara, we anticipate our sales in GCC market will increase by 41% over the next 3 years," Cherfan added.

In-line with Nissan's promise of "Innovation that Excites", the all-new pick-up Navara introduces an array of new features and in-car technology to a segment that has traditionally been slow to adopt the very latest in comfort and safety while delivering unmatched fuel efficiency and the lowest maintenance costs for its class. Many of these features set the benchmark for this segment and provide customers with more advanced levels of technology than ever seen in a pick-up.

Key Features of the all-new Pick-up Navara: Tough:

Segment Leader in Power and Torque

The all-new Nissan pick-up Navara is changing the standards that modern pick-ups are measured by, and with one engine size 2.5l (diesel and gas-line) it is already a segment leader in power and torque, offering the highest horse power in its class of 168 Hp and 403Nm of torque (within 2.5 and 2.7 liter engines range).

Class Leading Transmission

The all-new Nissan pick-up Navara offers class-leading transmissions and is a segment leader in delivering a 7-speed automatic transmission. The all-new Navara is also the only Japanese pick-up that offers a 6-speed manual transmission in any pick-up class, making it uniquely appealing to both types of drivers.

As customers have come to expect, the new model is as capable off-road as it is on-road. The four-wheel drive system builds on the strengths of the previous generation model to deliver sure-footed traction over rough terrain. The system is engaged and disengaged electronically via a rotary button located on the dashboard. For best economy and handling drivers can stay in 2WD mode on the road, while for off-road conditions



drivers can select the 4HI mode while driving up to 100km/h.

Fully Boxed Frame

The all-new Nissan pick-up Navara's full boxed frame delivers improved stiffness and durability that is usually reserved for full-size trucks, while boosting the Navara's payload to 1-ton.

Improving refinement and delivering a SUV-style driving experience was a key element of the model's development. To help achieve this without compromising the vehicle's acclaimed off-road ability, Nissan designed an all-new rigid leaf suspension system, providing significantly improved ride comfort and improved handling.

Advanced:

Striking Interior and Exterior Design

The all-new Nissan pick-up Navara has an advanced design that encompasses many unique design features as standard including signature LED headlamps, electric folding side mirrors, roof rails, side steps, 16-inch alloy wheels and chrome exterior accents to complement its exciting, modern look. Moreover with D/C bed size of 2.5M2 this makes it a segment leader. The strikingly designed interior brings new levels of luxury and refinement to the segment, too, with a leather steering wheel and a 5-inch central infotainment screen providing a premium look and feel.

SUV-Like Technologies

Nissan has a proven track record in the SUV segment and has brought much of that design influence to the fore with this new pick-up. The all-new interior has been designed for comfort and modernity, and is packed with SUV-like technologies that come as standard including a 5-inch color display with rear-view reverse camera,

Bluetooth connectivity, parking sensors, dual zone air-conditioning, smart key entry with push-button starter, cruise control and audio switch controls on the steering wheel.

Segment Leader in Running cost

The all-new Nissan pick-up Navara is also a segment leader in running costs due to its unmatched fuel efficiency and lowest maintenance costs for its class.

Unique Safety Features

The all-new Nissan pick-up Navara comes equipped with advanced safety features as standard such as ABS brakes and traction control, as well as SUV-like features that include Limited Slip Differential (LSD), Hill Start Assist which prevents the NAVARA from rolling backwards when starting up a steep ascent, as well as Hill Decent Assist to limit downhill speeds without using the brakes.

"In our market," continued Cherfan, "we face unique challenges and any vehicle that is used for work as well as play needs to be built with integrity if it's to last. The all-new pick-up Navara takes that philosophy and shows what is possible when Nissan brings its wealth of experience in building a tough and reliable, yet stylish and comfortable vehicle."

The all-new pick-up Navara, with its impressive array of performance, safety, technology, comfort and convenience features, and coupled with efficient running costs make this vehicle the ideal partner for work and leisure.

The all-new pick-up Navara is now offered with a choice of petrol or diesel engines in eight grade/levels and will have a price range between \$18,232 and \$27,967 in the GCC. Prices per market will be revealed at their respective launches and will vary from region to region.

GAWKER FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY, TO SELL ITSELF TO ZIFF DAVIS



ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA: Gawker Media founder Nick Denton arrives in a courtroom on March 16, 2016. — AP

NEW YORK: Gawker Media is filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and putting itself up for sale, strained by a jury's verdict that it must pay \$140 million to pro wrestler Hulk Hogan in an invasion-of-privacy lawsuit.

The filing by the 14-year-old website follows the revelation in May that Silicon Valley billionaire Peter Thiel bankrolled Hogan's lawsuit as what he called a "deterrent" to Gawker's no-holds-barred and sometimes gonzo style of journalism. Thiel's secret role sparked anxiety over the possibility that more wealthy individuals might cow publications by covertly funding lawsuits against them.

Gawker says it plans to sell itself to publishing company Ziff Davis, although other bidders could emerge during the bankruptcy court auction. The sale will help it fund its appeal against the Hogan judgment in a Florida state court.

"We have been forced by this litigation to give up our longstanding independence," Gawker founder Nick Denton said in a statement. "With stronger backing and disentangled from litigation, (Gawker writers) can perform their vital work on more platforms and in different forms."

The move also allows Gawker's web sites to keep operating normally, the company says.

Gawker filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection about three months after Hogan won a lawsuit against the online gossip and news publisher. The New York publisher said in the filing that it has as much as \$500 million in debt and up to \$100 million in assets. Hogan sued Gawker after it posted a video of him having sex with a friend's wife. Gawker said the footage was newsworthy information about a public figure, and protected by the First Amendment. Hogan still won a judgment for \$115 million in compensatory damages plus an added \$25.1 million in punitive damages.

Only afterward did Thiel's part in funding Hogan's lawsuit become clear. Thiel, who co-founded PayPal and was an early investor in Facebook, has been a frequent target of Gawker writers, who have written unflattering pieces about his political beliefs and utopian goals. One 2007 post outed Thiel as gay. A Gawker-owned site, Valleywag, ran a number of stories skewering Facebook, which provided a chunk of Thiel's estimated \$2.7 billion fortune.

A spokesman for Thiel said he had no comment

on Friday. Media analyst Dean Starkman, a fellow at the Center for Media, Data and Society at the Central European University in Budapest, said the bankruptcy was an "ominous development" for journalism.

"You don't want billionaires to be any final arbiter of press fairness - that's just not democracy," he said. "While many of us disagreed with Gawker's news judgment in this case, and many are ambivalent about Gawker itself, the issue here was a billionaire's use and potential abuse of the legal process to drain a journalism outlet's resources."

In the filing, Hogan, whose real name is Terry Bollea, was listed as Gawker's biggest creditor. One of his lawyers, David Houston, said in a statement that the wrestler and his legal team intend to pursue the judgment award and hold Gawker "accountable."

Gawker's Denton said in a statement that Ziff Davis' e-commerce, licensing and video assets would be a good fit with Gawker's websites, which include tech site Gizmodo, sports site Deadspin, video-game site Kotaku, celebrity and women-focused site Jezebel, news and gossip site Gawker, car-site Jalopnik and self-help site Life hacker. — AP

AEROSPACE FIRM SUCCESSFULLY TESTS SOLAR-POWERED AIRCRAFT

CALVERTON, NEW YORK: A test pilot successfully flew a solar-powered prototype aircraft on Friday for a company that envisions manufacturing a fleet of drones to provide aerial internet service for an estimated 4 billion people worldwide.

The test flight by Luminati Aerospace LLC took place at a former Northrop Grumman defense plant on eastern Long Island that once made military aircraft. Speakers at a ceremony before the flight recalled that Charles Lindberg took off for his historic 1927 solo flight to Paris from an air strip in nearby Nassau County, and others noted that the spacecraft that landed men on the moon was built in the Long Island suburbs east of New York City.

"This is a dream come true," Luminati founder and CEO Daniel Preston said. "Long Island is known as the Cradle of Aviation, and we want to do our part to keep it here where it belongs."

Pilot Robert Lutz flew the VO-Substrata aircraft for about 20 minutes in the first test flight opened to the public. The white aircraft features wing-mounted solar cells and has a wingspan of about 43 feet. Logos of several companies and other entities involved with its production are plastered on both sides, similar to the sponsor decals on NASCAR race cars.

The prototype aircraft allows for a pilot to control it, but eventually Luminati, which is based in Calverton, will build unmanned drones that can fly at 60,000 feet or more. Luminati hopes to start manufacturing by the end of the year.

Lutz said after his flight that the aircraft is "very birdlike."

"You know you go up there and you feel like you're in the environment up there with the creatures," he said. "Hawks will be circling around, and they kind of flock to you. It's the only aircraft I've ever flown where I can hear a helicopter next to me. It's a little spooky but pretty cool."

Luminati paid \$3.4 million last year to acquire 16.3 acres of land from the operator of a now-closed skydiving facility on the former Northrop Grumman property, and it announced intentions to develop the next generation of drones at the site. Preston, who holds more than 1,200 patents, formerly founded and operated Atair Aerospace from 2001 to 2008.

He has repeatedly refused to disclose the identity of a tech company that reportedly is involved in the enterprise. Google, Facebook and others tech companies all have been involved with initiatives in the field.

He confirmed that, besides private business uses for the drones, the company is interested in supplying aircraft for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance uses.

"We view it as our patriotic duty to do so," he said.

He said using technologies combining solar power with wind energy harvesting and using composite materials to make ultra-light, ultra-strong aircraft, the goal is to keep the drones airborne perpetually.

"I really can't think of any engineering project today that has a greater social impact than bringing communications for many people in the world that don't have it," he said. — AP



CALVERTON, NEW YORK: Luminati CEO and founder Daniel Preston talks to reporters about his company's solar-powered Luminati Aerospace VO-Substrata prototype aircraft on Friday. — AP

APPLE'S NEXT BIG CHALLENGE: MAKING SIRI SMARTER

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple's Siri made a big splash when the wisecracking digital assistant debuted on the iPhone five years ago. But as other tech giants jockey to build intelligent "chat bots" and voice-controlled home systems capable of more challenging artificial-intelligence feats, Siri at times no longer seems cutting edge.

On Monday, Apple is expected to demonstrate an upgrade to Siri's smarts as it kicks off its annual software conference. It's a potentially momentous time for the company; sales of its flagship iPhone are slowing, and AI is emerging as a key tech battleground. Apple, Google, Facebook and others are racing to create digital services that consumers will find indispensable for shopping, chatting, controlling other appliances and simply getting through their daily lives.

And while Siri has gained new abilities over the years, some experts believe Apple still lags in the AI race, hindered in part by its unwillingness to pry too deeply into your personal information.

"Google Now has kind of eaten their lunch," said Chris Monberg, co-founder of Boomtrain, a startup that makes artificial intelligence software used by online retailers. Monberg argues that Google's proactive digital assistant provides more useful reminders, recommendations and tips on local weather or traffic, largely because it reads his email and other data from his Android phone and crunches it with sophisticated algorithms on Google's powerful servers.

Amazon's Echo home speaker likewise has its fans; it recognizes informal voice commands and can order flowers, pizza or a ride to the airport. Similarly, many analysts believe the future lies in plans by Facebook, Google and Microsoft to incorporate intelligent "bots" into the voice- and text-messaging services that people use to chat with their friends.

In some respects, Siri remains plenty competitive, at least so long as you stick with Apple's other services. If an iPhone owner uses Google's Gmail, for instance, Apple's software may not scan those emails for useful information. But Jan Dawson, a tech analyst at Jackdaw Research, notes that Siri can volunteer helpful reminders from the Apple calendar, offer suggestions based on a user's location, or search for images stored in Apple's photo app.

Still, some experts say Apple is at a disadvantage with Google, which has compiled vast quantities of data - about individual users and consumer trends - from its search engine, Gmail, maps and other popular online services. (Many of those Google services remain popular on the iPhone, despite Apple's best efforts to replace them.)

With AI, "systems get much better the more they know about the user," said Alan Black, an expert in voice-enabled technology at Carnegie



CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA: Apple's Phil Schiller talks about Siri during an announcement at Apple headquarters on Oct. 4, 2011. — AP

Mellon University. And while today's smartphones have powerful processors, he added, they don't have the capabilities of more specialized processors used in big data centers.

Apple collects plenty of data from its users, but hasn't "focused on connecting all the dots," said Raj Singh, co-founder of Tempo AI, an artificial intelligence startup acquired by Salesforce.com last year.

Google, of course, makes money from advertising that's keyed to individual interests. Apple, which makes most of its money from iPhones, says its software respects customer privacy by working with an individual's data on the iPhone or iPad, while anonymizing information that's uploaded to its servers.

"We don't mine your email, your photos, or your contacts in the cloud to learn things about you," Apple VP Craig Federighi said at the company's Worldwide Developers Conference last year. "We honestly just don't want to know."

Apple declined comment on plans for Siri. Last fall, however, Apple acquired a startup that makes AI software specifically for mobile devices, and another that helps computers carry on extensive voice conversations. And tech news sites have reported Apple may loosen its restrictions on Siri's ability to work directly with

other companies' software. That could enable Siri to book a restaurant reservation on command, or order a ride from a car service, rather than show a link to an app like Open Table or Uber and requiring the user to do the rest.

Imposing that extra step may seem like a classic "first-world problem" - hardly a serious burden. "We're getting lazier as technology is getting smarter," joked Forrester Research analyst Julie Ask. But for tech companies, she added, money and power flows from providing the software that consumers use to interact with other companies and services.

Along with new Siri features, Apple is expected to unveil other software improvements for its iPhones, iPads and Mac computers. Analysts are also predicting an overhaul of Apple's music service. And after Apple's dust-up with the FBI earlier this year over its iPhone security, some believe Apple might announce new security measures to protect users' data.

Experts say the quality of Apple's software and online services is increasingly critical to maintaining its popularity with consumers. Services like Siri, Apple Music and Apple Pay add significant value to the iPhone and other Apple devices, Dawson said. "They're important to keeping the Apple ecosystem attractive." — AP

TESLA DENIES SAFETY PROBLEMS WITH MODEL S SUSPENSIONS

DETROIT: Electric car maker Tesla Motors Inc. on Friday denied allegations that there are safety problems with its vehicle suspensions.

The Palo Alto, California, company said one of its cars had an abnormal

amount of rust on a suspension part, a problem it hasn't seen in any other car. On Thursday, the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it asked for information from owners and Tesla about Model S sus-

pension failures. The agency has not opened a formal investigation and said late Friday that the inquiry was a "routine data collection."

Tesla the Model S with the rust had over 70,000 miles on it and was caked in dirt when picked up for service. The company said it has given the agency all relevant information.

NHTSA said Thursday that it was concerned that Tesla has asked owners to sign nondisclosure agreements about safety issues. The agency said it was concerned the agreements could prevent owners from reporting problems to the government. But it said Friday that Tesla has clarified the agreement language in a "satisfactory way" that resolves the issue.

Tesla said it has asked customers to sign a "Goodwill Agreement" when it agrees to fix a problem that wasn't the fault of the car. Those agreements make sure that repairing the car is not used against the company in court, Tesla said.

"This agreement never comes close to mentioning NHTSA or the government and has nothing to do with trying to stop someone from communicating with NHTSA," Tesla's statement said. Shares of Tesla Motors Inc. closed Friday down \$10.57, or 4.6 percent, to \$218.79. They are down almost 13 percent over the past year. — AP



BEIJING: Visitors gather around a Tesla Model S electric car on display at the Beijing International Automotive Exhibition on April 25, 2016. — AP



NEW YORK: Solar-powered airplane Solar Impulse 2, piloted by Swiss adventurer Andre Borschberg, flies over the Statue of Liberty yesterday. — AP

SOLAR-POWERED AIRPLANE LANDS IN NEW YORK CITY

NEW YORK: A solar-powered airplane has landed in New York City on the latest leg of its globe-circling voyage. The Swiss-made Solar Impulse 2 soared over the Statue of Liberty and flew into New York City, before landing at John F. Kennedy International Airport early Saturday morning. It had left Lehigh Valley International Airport in Pennsylvania late Friday.

The plane originally was scheduled to head to the Big Apple Monday night but showers and thunderstorms moving through the area caused it to be grounded.

The plane had been in Allentown since May 25. The voyage began March 2015 from Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. Stops were made in Oman, Myanmar, China and Japan. — AP

COUNTRIES COMMIT TO DOUBLE AIDS TREATMENT

UNITED NATIONS: Countries committed to nearly doubling the number of people who receive life-saving HIV treatment over the next five years as a high-level United Nations conference devoted to ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 drew to a close Friday.

During the three-day-long meeting, countries also saw the UN's 193-member states commit for the first time to monitoring the quality of treatment, with a goal of getting 90 percent of those receiving anti-retroviral medicine to reduce their viral load to the point where it is undetectable - something that improves quality of life and reduces the risk of transmission.

"It's a paradigm shift. What it's going to do is put the focus on quality. Instead of how many people have access to treatment now it's for how many people is the treatment working properly," said Sharonann Lynch, HIV & TB Policy adviser

for Medecins Sans Frontiers. In 2015, there were some 36.7 million people around the world living with HIV and about 17 million of them have access to anti-retroviral medication, according to the UN. At the conference, countries also committed to reducing the number of new HIV infections to below 500,000 a year by 2020, down from 2.1 million in 2015 and bringing the number of annual AIDS-related deaths to under half a million in 2020 from 1.1 million last year.

"Today is the day that we collectively say that we will end the AIDS epidemic by 2030," said General Assembly President Mogens Lykke. "We must pay greater attention to equality and inclusion, uphold human rights and speak out against stigma and discrimination." The United Nations is now looking to raise \$13 billion over the next three years in support of these goals. Conference organizers said while remark-

able progress has been made since the last United Nations meeting on AIDS in 2011, much remained to be done. "For the first time in history we can say that in Africa there are more people on HIV treatment than there are new HIV infections," said UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibe.

Still, the number of new HIV infections among adults has remained mostly unchanged since 2010 and key populations like young women, sex workers, prisoners, gay men, transgender people and intravenous drug users continued to be left behind.

On Thursday, the US announced it would start a new \$100 million Key Populations Investment Fund, intended to reach these people most at risk. "Too many leaders say they support the end of AIDS and claim to stand with the people facing the life-threatening effects of bigotry and discrimination on full display

during this week's negotiations. But for many governments these are just words, they fail to take action where it counts," Asia Russell, Executive Director of the Health Global Access Project, said in a statement. "We are therefore heartened to see the US government pledging funding to directly confront the human rights violations that keep quality, evidence based prevention and treatment services from key populations around the world."

Cultural sensitivities continued to be an obstacle to combating the disease, UN officials conceded, and a number of non-governmental organizations representing gay and transgender people were excluded from attending the conference after a number of conservative countries objected to their presence. Those countries also were accused by many anti-AIDS groups of working to weaken the final outcome document. — AP



ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY: A small bottle of the opiate overdose treatment drug, naloxone, also known by its brand name Narcan, is displayed at the South Jersey AIDS Alliance. — AP

COLOMBIA TO FORCE NOVARTIS TO LOWER PRICES OF CANCER DRUG

BOGOTA, Colombia: Colombia's government will unilaterally force the world's largest drugmaker Novartis to lower prices of a popular leukemia medicine in a closely followed patent dispute, authorities said Thursday.

Health Minister Alejandro Gaviria told reporters that two weeks of negotiations with the Swiss company had ended without an agreement. As a result, he's following through on a threat to declare the drug Gleevec in the public interest, the first step in breaking Novartis' monopoly in the South American nation.

"Negotiations have ended definitively," Gaviria said, adding that the resolution that will be published in the coming days is likely to mandate lower prices for the medicine but not throw open production to generic rivals as was originally contemplated.

Gleevec has been the top-selling drug for Novartis since 2012, bringing in \$4.7 billion worldwide last year, or about 10 percent of the company's total revenue. It won't be the top seller much longer, though. Gleevec got generic competition on Feb. 1 in the US, which accounts for half of its sales. In Colombia, the patent is due to expire in July 2018.

The drug maker's increasingly public feud with US ally Colombia over its patent has drawn attention because of fear in the pharmaceutical industry that Colombia's decision will set a precedent for middle-income countries grappling to contain rising prices for complex drugs. Memos written by diplomats at Colombia's Embassy in Washington and leaked to the non-profit Knowledge Ecology International describe the



MUMBAI, INDIA: a dove flies near the logo of Novartis India Limited at their head office. Colombia's government announced on Tuesday, May 17, 2106, that it is giving pharmaceutical giant Novartis a few weeks to lower prices on a popular cancer drug or see its monopoly on production of the medicine broken and competition thrown open to generic rivals. — AP

intense lobbying pressure by the pharmaceutical industry and its allies in the US Congress to avoid tapping a legal mechanism they consider should only be used in the case of epidemics and public health emergencies.

In one memo, the embassy warns that breaking Novartis' patent for Gleevec could hurt US support for Colombia's bid to join the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership trade zone and even jeopardize \$450 million in US assistance for a peace deal with leftist rebels. The memos followed meetings between Colombian diplomats and officials from the Office of the US Trade Representative and a Republican staffer on the Senate Finance Committee whose chairman, Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, has close ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

But Colombia's actions have also elicited much praise from the World Health Organization and public health experts worried about access to life-saving medicines and overburdened public health systems like Colombia's.

Novartis said in a statement that it has actively sought a solution that benefits patients, innovation and Colombia's health care system. It says it is already subject to price controls in Colombia and disputes the government's claim that competition doesn't exist. "Novartis never will close the door to a solution that benefits the parties and especially patients in Colombia," it said.

Colombia's actions are being motivated by a severe deficit in the public health system, which treats mostly the poor. Cost for treatment with Gleevec is about \$15,000 a year, or about twice the average Colombian worker's income. According to a study by the ministry, without competition from generics, the government would have to pay an extra \$15 million a year supplying Gleevec. — AP

TOO SOON TO RELEASE GM MOSQUITOES TO FIGHT ZIKA

WASHINGTON: Releasing genetically-modified mosquitoes into the wild to fight malaria, Zika or other insect-borne diseases is premature and could have unintended consequences, researchers said in a new report.

"Our committee urges caution—a lot more research is needed to understand the scientific, ethical, regulatory and social consequences of releasing such organisms," said Arizona State University professor James Collins, who was co-chair of a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine committee.

The committee was studying gene drives—systems of "biased inheritance" that make it more likely for a genetic trait to pass from parent to offspring. With new gene-editing techniques, modifications can quickly spread through a population via a gene drive, greatly increasing chances that the altered gene will become widespread.

"Preliminary research suggested that gene drives developed in the laboratory could spread a

targeted gene through nearly 100 percent of a population of yeast, fruit flies or mosquitoes," the academics said in a news release announcing the committee's report Wednesday.

The technology could potentially be used to target wild mosquitoes, modifying them so they are not able to carry or spread infectious diseases such as dengue, malaria and Zika. In agriculture, gene drive might be used to control pests that damage crops. However, such technology could have devastating unintended consequences "such as the unintentional disruption of a non-target species or the establishment of a second, more resilient invasive species," the researchers said.

"Because the goal of using a gene drive is to spread genetic information throughout a population rapidly, it is difficult to anticipate its impact and important to minimize the potential for unintended consequences," the report said, calling for more research, phased testing and better collaboration among scientists. — AFP

FLORIDA HEALTH WARRIORS DEPLOY IN WAR ON ZIKA

MIAMI: Carlos Varas inspects the front yards of Miami homes armed with larvicide, pesticide and what looks like a long-armed eyedropper. His mission: Destroy the Aedes aegypti mosquito that spreads the Zika virus.

Varas reaches into a leafy garden and sucks up water from tiny pools drop by drop. He examines the sample and grins: inside, tiny critters wiggle around nervously.

They are the larvae of the feared Aedes aegypti. "We look for standing water or flying mosquitoes," Varas told AFP. If they find larvae they spread out grain larvicide with a scoop. "If we find adult mosquitoes in the area we spray, and we try to eliminate the sources where they are breeding," he said.

The mosquito-borne Zika virus has been linked to a surge in cases of the birth defect microcephaly—babies born with abnormally small heads and deformed brains—after their mothers were infected with the virus. There is no vaccine for Zika.

Zika has spread rapidly across Latin America and the Caribbean in the past months, and experts warn that the continental United States will likely see an increase in cases as summer begins in the northern hemisphere.

Florida's hot, wet climate "has all the environmental conditions for an epidemic," said Carlos Espinal, head of the Florida International University Global Health Consortium and an expert in tropical diseases.

Primed for an epidemic

The best way to stop the spread of Zika is to kill off Aedes aegypti mosquitos, which breed in even tiny pools of stagnant water—the mammoth task facing Varas and his fellow inspectors.

But given the size of Florida "there will not be enough inspectors to cover the territory," Espinal told AFP. "This is a job that has to be done not only by the health service, but by the community." Coordinated work between community leaders and county health officials to destroy the Aedes aegypti larvae is

"very important," he said. Health authorities are especially frustrated by Washington's delay in releasing more federal funds to fight the virus. Tom Frieden, head of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is working feverishly to convince Congress to approve the \$1.9 billion to fight Zika that President Barack Obama asked for in February.

"Imagine this: You're standing by a lake and you see someone drowning. You have the ability to save that person, but your hands are tied," Frieden wrote recently on the White House blog.

"The ability to prevent dozens, hundreds, or even thousands of severe birth defects creates a special responsibility—every child protected is a tragedy prevented."

In Brazil, some 1.5 million people have been infected with the virus, and nearly 1,300 babies have been born with microcephaly since the outbreak of Zika began there last year. The virus, which usually causes only mild, flu-like symptoms, can also trigger adult-onset neurological problems such as Guillain-Barre Syndrome, which can cause paralysis and death. In an added complication, there is limited, but growing evidence that Zika can be transmitted sexually.

As of June 1 the CDC had registered 618 cases of Zika infection in the continental United States—all of them people who contracted the virus abroad.

The Florida Health Department as of June 3 registered more than 170 Zika cases in the state, nearly 40 of them in pregnant women. Governor Rick Scott said that Florida residents must prepare for a Zika outbreak with the same diligence that they prepare for a hurricane. "We don't yet know for certain what will happen with this virus, but we owe our citizens a vigorous and thorough preparation effort at the federal level to best protect their health," he said.

"Washington must put politics aside and agree to a comprehensive plan to protect and respond to the spread of Zika in America." — AFP

MERCK TO BUY BIOTECH DRUG DEVELOPER AFFERENT PHARMACEUTICALS

KENILWORTH, NEW JERSEY: Drugmaker Merck is buying Afferent Pharmaceuticals, a privately held biotechnology company developing a chronic cough medication.

Merck & Co., based in Kenilworth, New Jersey, says it's agreed to pay \$500 million up front for Afferent, and up to \$750 million more if the company meets goals for approval and eventual sales of medicines in development.

Afferent, based in San Mateo, California, focuses on creating treatments for "neuro-

genic conditions" - health problems caused when certain nerves become hypersensitive, for months or years, following an infection, injury or inflammation. Those conditions, affecting millions of people, include chronic pain and respiratory, cardiovascular and urologic disorders.

Afferent's medicine furthest along in development, known as AF-219, is in mid-stage human testing for treating coughs lasting more than eight weeks that don't respond to existing treatments. — AP

'DR FEELGOOD': PAINKILLING MEDIC DUBBED ANGEL AND DEMON

LOS ANGELES: To many of his patients he was the savior who rescued them from the misery of unbearable pain, but to others he was an amoral drug dealer who played fast and loose with people's lives.

The story of William Hurwitz's imprisonment for excessively prescribing painkillers is emblematic of America's burgeoning opioid crisis, and the dilemma it presents doctors seeking to manage pain responsibly.

"Dr Feelgood," which premiered last week at the Los Angeles Film Festival, examines what has been described as the worst drug crisis in US history through the lens of Hurwitz's trial in 2004 for trafficking. "He's a demon-what he's done to my family and the other families..." says Paul Nye, whose wife overdosed on the potent opioid OxyContin and died. "He gave her 200 OxyContin pills the first time she saw him. Two weeks later he doubled that, two weeks later something like four times that," adds Nye, whose his wife had been suffering from back pain.

The documentary follows the physician's run-ins with the authorities, his conviction in 2004, his appeal and the retrial which saw his 25-year prison sentence reduced to four. But it also lays bare the quandary for doctors duty-bound to relieve pain and yet required by law to take into account the possible ill effects of over-prescribing or supplying drugs to the wrong people.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, opioids—including prescription pain relievers and heroin—killed more than 28,000 people in the US in 2014, more than in any other year on record. Death

rates are higher than those from road accidents or AIDS at its peak, and the crisis has prompted urgent calls for action.

'Personal responsibility

The epidemic has been growing gradually since the 1990s but really took a firm foothold in the public consciousness in April when the rock musician Prince died of an overdose.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, Hurwitz was one of America's pre-eminent specialists in pain and its treatment with pharmaceuticals. He came to the notice of the Virginia Board of Medicine, who suspended his license on several occasions, and eventually the police, when two patients died and it became clear his pills were reaching the black market.

Yet Hurwitz was a polarizing figure who was as much lauded as condemned. "I was bedridden—I was wearing diapers," says Molly Shaw, one of the physician's patients who was suffering chronic pain due to a condition of the nervous system.

Tears streaming down her cheeks, Shaw described her pain as worse than childbirth, but says Hurwitz "really gave me my life back." "The thrust of the film is to say it's not as simple as 'pharmaceutical companies and doctors created a nation of addicts,'" first-time director Eve Marson told AFP. The 34-year-old says she was made aware of America's opioid problem by friends who were medics and every day saw people addicted to pills.

"If you're a doctor, here are these pills that are incredibly effective at treating pain and people come to you," Marson says.

Suicides

"One American in three suffers from chronic pain and you want to help them relieve this pain—that's why you became a doctor. "And at the same time, how can you do this while being sensitive to not creating addiction?" Hurwitz has always maintained he acted in good faith, saying it was not his job to check up on who was using their medication responsibly and who was dealing.

But he admits to having possibly solved this dilemma "too easily, choosing to trust

the patients" who sometimes abused the medication or sold their pills on the black market.

The doctor told AFP the crusade against him and other doctors had done nothing to stem the surge of opioid overdoses, or the growth of the black market. Hurwitz believes that while overdoses are given many column inches, suicides linked to untreated chronic severe pain are largely ignored.

Other patients are refused painkillers, he says, and turn to the black market for drugs

sometimes cut with substances like fentanyl, which is up to 50 times more potent than heroin.

In an attempt to curb the epidemic, health authorities have issued guidelines to reduce the duration of prescriptions and try to reduce the number of pills in circulation. But Marson believes better sharing of patient information is also key, as it would stop some addicts and dealers going "shopping from one doctor to the other" to amass stockpiles of pills. — AFP



NEW YORK CITY: A box of the overdose antidote Naloxone Hydrochloride sits on a counter at a Walgreens store on February 2, 2016. — AP

AFTER 3 DECADES WITH PARKINSON'S, ROACH FIGHTS ON

NEW YORK: Freddie Roach's tilted neck and the slight tremor of his hands were obvious to the onlookers at Mendez Gym, as the boxing trainer walked through the ropes and into the center of the ring.

But as the 56-year-old former boxer picked up his pink and blue mitts and started pad work with Chinese Olympian Zou Shiming, Roach's Parkinson's symptoms came to a noticeable halt. "Again, again, again," Roach instructed Zou, catching every punch the 35-year-old boxer threw his way. In his 24-hour-a-day fight against Parkinson's, boxing is his comfort zone, Roach says. It was Muhammad Ali's too.

Ali died Friday at age 74 in Arizona following a long battle with Parkinson's — a disease Roach has been living with since he was 27. The trainer — famous for his work with Manny Pacquiao — has no plans to slow down. He's preparing Zou, who won two Olympic golds and a bronze, for his US debut Saturday night on the undercard of the Roman Martinez-Vasyl Lomachenko fight on HBO.

About 10 to 15 years ago, Roach said



NEW YORK: Zou Shiming, left, a two-time Olympic gold medalist and three-time World Amateur Champion from China, spars with trainer Freddie Roach on Wednesday June 8, 2016, at Mendez Gym. — AP

Ali and his daughter visited Roach's gym, Wild Card Boxing Club in Los Angeles, completely unannounced. The two men discussed boxing and the medical treat-

ment they were taking to cut down the symptoms of Parkinson's.

"We got to know him pretty well," Roach said, smiling as he recalled the

memory. "He played jokes, he did magic, he hit the heavy bag and the best thing for me was when he started hitting the heavy bag, his tremors went away and he had no problems at all and it was like when — I have Parkinson's also — and when I get in the ring and get on the mitts with the fighters and so forth, all my symptoms kind of go away so our comfort zone was similar."

Roach was diagnosed years after Ali was in 1984. At the time of his diagnosis, Ali was 42. Parkinson's is a chronic and progressive movement disorder of the nervous system. Nearly one million people in the US are living with the disease and presently there is no cure, but there are treatment options to manage its symptoms.

Many doctors believe it can be caused by repeated head trauma, and both Roach and Ali took many punches during their fighting career. Roach said Parkinson's gets harder to deal with as people with the disease get older. He is younger than the majority of people who have the disease, so he feels like he can

deal with it better than most. The Hall of Fame boxing trainer has an alarm system that reminds him four times a day to take his medicine.

When Ali visited Roach, they spoke about their treatment. "We talked a little bit about the medication at that time," Roach said. "He was having trouble with the dopamine. It's very hard to take. It makes you very sick. It's really hard to get used to and sometimes you rather not take it and deal with the tremors just on your own because the medication doesn't make you feel so well so we hit on that a little bit back then, but that was quite a while ago and the medications are getting better and they're a lot more knowledge about Parkinson's than ever. I think that there will be a cure soon."

When Roach was fighting, his trainer was Eddie Futch, who had also trained Joe Fraizer, one of Ali's biggest rivals. Back then, Roach didn't think Ali was the best fighter in the world. Now, he does. "He was a friendly, happy, and just real nice guy," Roach said. "I really got to know him in those four hours." — AP

BELIEVE THE HYPE? HOW VIRTUAL REALITY COULD CHANGE LIFE

TAIPEI: Reducing errors made during surgery, bringing school books to life, enabling us to browse shops from the comfort of home—virtual reality is not just about gaming, it will change our lives, according to some tech leaders. "VR" is the buzz industry at Asia's largest tech fair, Computex, being held in Taiwan's capital Taipei this week. The island is hoping to become a development hub for virtual reality technology.

But while VR is currently aimed at gamers, its evangelists forecast it will eventually be about much more than entertainment. "We know that gaming will be the first wave of revenue and gamers the first wave of consumers, but our vision is larger than gaming," said Raymond Pao, Vice President of VR New Technology at Taiwanese smartphone maker HTC, which recently released its first VR headset: Vive.

Pao says any industry that could use 3D may well end up exploiting the technology. HTC is among major tech firms including Facebook and Samsung that have latched onto the immersive experience platform—forecast to become a huge market. With the Vive device strapped to their heads, users at Computex "flew" over New York or threw grenades at enemies on a cobbled road of a deserted town. But HTC has already branched out into the medical sector too. The firm last year invested in a US start-up that uses virtual reality to help surgeons plan complicated brain operations.

Retail and education are also predicted to be the next frontier for VR and its cousin, augmented reality. While virtual reality devices put users in fantasy worlds, augmented reality overlays holograms on an actual view. "What we learn from textbooks or labs can be really dull, but VR and AR will greatly enhance learning abilities," Zhu Bo, founder of InnoValley, a Chinese start-up investor based in Shenzhen said. "It can also be used in e-commerce. In the future, you will step into a real scene, you can see the products on the

shelves, touch and feel them. So our shopping experience will totally change," said Zhu, who has invested in the field but did not give details.

'No passing fad'

The global market size of virtual reality products may reach \$5.1 billion this year and is projected to more than double to \$10.9 billion in 2017, according to Taipei-based market intelligence provider TrendForce. Sony is launching its PlayStation VR headgear later this year, while Google is coming up with a new VR platform called Daydream.

British firm ARM also announced this week that its new processors will enable mobile phones to run virtual and augmented reality features by 2017, and US tech giant Microsoft says its software will be compatible with "mixed reality devices". However, despite the enthusiasm, there is still an air of uncertainty over whether the technology is ripe to take off. Some say companies must flesh out the "ecosystem" by creating more VR-related hardware and software for consumers. "To experience VR, you need a powerful engine. Without content, you can't experience anything," said L.Z. Wang, managing director of Taiwan for California-based chipmaker AMD.

The current VR products on the market only allow users to immerse in a movie or a game on their own, which could also limit the technology from catching on with consumers, experts say. "A lot of times with the demos, they are single user experiences. You just kind of go, 'Oh, that was fun,' and walk away," said Justin Hendrix, executive director of NYC Media Lab, an academic research group funded by tech companies. Other inhibitors include cost—HTC Vive headgear is about \$800 — and dizziness for some who strap on the headsets. But believers say it is a matter of time for those issues to be resolved. "VR and AR is not hype, it's an era," said Zhu from InnoValley. "In another three to five years, it will affect everyone's life." — AFP



LOS ANGELES: A sign posted outdoors at a smoke shop reads "You Must Be 18 Years Old with Valid I.D.," on June 8, 2016. Smokers have to be 21 and older to buy tobacco products in California under a new law that took effect on Thursday. California is the second state after Hawaii to raise the legal age from 18 to 21. — AP

NEW SMOKING AGE TO TAKE EFFECT IN CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES: Andrew Rodriguez was 15 years old when he smoked his first cigarette. He knows how addictive smoking can be and hopes a new California law raising the smoking age will discourage young people from taking up the habit.

"I think it's better," said the 21-year-old chef-in-training from Los Angeles. "I just hope they don't raise the drinking age." Beginning Thursday, smokers have to be at least 21 to buy tobacco products in California. The nation's most populous state joins Hawaii and more than 100 municipalities in raising the legal smoking age from 18 to 21. Anyone who sells or gives tobacco to people under 21 could be found guilty of a misdemeanor crime.

Huthyfa Ali, a convenience store clerk near downtown Los Angeles, doesn't expect the new rule to affect business since he doesn't serve many teenage customers. Ali applauded the effort to deter minors from using tobacco products, but noted that

determined youngsters tend to find a way around the law. "Sometimes they send other people to buy for them. Maybe some people will be too scared to ask" under the new law, he said. The push to raise the minimum smoking age in California stalled for months over objections by veterans groups, who argued that people old enough to fight in wars are old enough to smoke. Lawmakers eventually agreed to keep the 18-year-old tobacco age for service members.

Surveys have found that the vast majority of daily smokers begin using tobacco before age 19. Last year, the Institute of Medicine estimated that increasing the smoking age to 21 would discourage 15 percent of young adults from taking up smoking.

Tobacco companies have long opposed restrictions on sales, but kept a low-profile in the debate. A call to the tobacco organization Altria Group Inc. was not immediately returned Wednesday.

The smoking age increase was part of a package of tobacco-related legislation signed by Gov. Jerry Brown last month that also regulates e-cigarettes. Vaporizers, vape liquid and other electronic smoking paraphernalia are now treated as tobacco products under the law. Like cigarette smoking, e-cigarettes are banned in many public spaces including workplaces, restaurants and movie theaters.

The vaping industry had fought against the new e-cigarette limits, claiming its products are a better alternative to smoking tobacco.

Albert Sandoval, a 24-year-old LA resident, said he's relieved that people can only vape in certain places. A non-smoker, Sandoval said he stood in line for a new iPhone several years ago next to a man who vaped. "It was getting me mad because he was right in my face," he said. "I don't want the smoke in my face." — AP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199

Dr. Fabad Al-Mukhaizeem
استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

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

Greetings



CONGRATS

Amira Negmiddin Al-Gendy recently celebrated passing her school leaving certificate exams in the Science section with excellence as she scored a GPA of 99.4 per cent. Amira, who plans to study medicine in Egypt, received sincere congratulations from father, mother, siblings, family, friends and uncle Hassan. Well done Amira and congratulations.



13 years of friendship and a decade of marital bliss! Happy marriage anniversary Femi and Bimbo. May God continue to guide, protect and bless your family Amen. Greetings from friends and well-wishers.



CONGRATS

Professor of Dramatic Literature at the Higher Institute for Dramatic Arts Dr Nermin Al-Houti celebrated the graduation of her niece Dr Sarah Al-Tameemi from the Royal Surgeons College, Dublin with honors. Al-Houti said "I am proud today with Dr Sarah's graduation, as this came after hard work and great efforts.

Dr Al-Houti lauded the standard of education at the college which results in graduating health care providers with excellent qualifications and noble ethics. Meanwhile, Dr Sarah Al-Tameemi said her graduation comes as the crowning of many years of perseverance and hard work and overcoming many difficulties and challenges.

Al-Tameemi dedicated her graduation to Kuwait and HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and to her late mother Nisreen Yousuf Al-Houti.

PROTEGES KICKOFF SIXTH SEASON OF YOUTH PROGRAM SPONSORED BY OOREDOO AND THE MINISTRY OF STATE FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS

Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of international Ooredoo Group, has recently announced its sponsorship of the sixth season of the Proteges, the youth development program which will start by the beginning of July and continue for 6 weeks.

During a press conference held at the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs premises last Sunday, Yousef Al Shallah, Senior Manager of CSR, Sponsorship and Social media stated that Ooredoo is keen on supporting initiatives that aim youth development, and emphasized on the importance of the partnership with various state sectors to accomplish this target.

Al Shallah said: "Sponsoring youth-related activities comes in line with our corporate social responsibility strategy that is based on three key values: caring, connecting and challenging. We are proud of our partnership with the Proteges, an

initiative that has achieved great success over the past few years, and we are confident that this program will be useful to all the participants. We look forward to seeing the end result of this season."

Eman Al-Rasheed, Executive Manager of the Proteges said that this year's program will include a trip to Boston College in Massachusetts - USA. This is in addition to the annual program activities that aim to reinforce the social and personal skills of youth, develop their self-awareness, and improve their critical and creative thinking. The program includes workshops, projects, and open discussion circles. She stated: "Our main objective is to find young talents and provide them with the opportunity to excel. We hope that these young people get the chance to participate in lectures and training sessions that will have a huge positive impact

on their lives now and in the future."

Abdullah Al-Shatti, Head of Entrepreneurship Division at the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs stated that the Ministry is keen on taking part in such projects that focus on youth, which translates the vision of His Highness the Amir, who mentioned on numerous occasions the importance of investing in youth and assisting them to reach their highest potential. "At the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs we focus on empowering youth and preparing a national system with international standards for monitoring, evaluating and measuring the impact of youth empowerment projects by partnering with the right organizations." Added Al Shatti.

The Proteges program was launched in 2010 to mentor youth between the age of 16 and 24 by local iconic figures in different fields.



COLOURS' DAY CELEBRATION AT ICSK AMMAN

The Pre-Primary students of ICSK Amman celebrated Colors' Day with fun and enthusiasm on 11th May, 2016. A special assembly was conducted by class UKG-A highlighting the importance of colors. The day began with a short prayer and continued with various activities like singing, dancing & coloring.

This day was great fun for all the students. Various activ-

ities were designed to help the children identify and differentiate various colors and also to appreciate how colors enhance and influence their lives. Different colors like red, blue, green, yellow, orange, purple maroon and pink were allotted to each class. The classrooms were decorated with the specific colors and the students came dressed in that specific color. The teachers too were dressed up in the

same color as their students.

The Principal Rajesh Nair C. appreciated the little children enjoying as well as learning through activities and praised the efforts of the children and gave full support to make this celebration a grand success. The Vice-Principal Dr. Mary Issac visited the classes. The colorful celebration made the day a memorable one.



ASSE-KUWAIT CHAPTER ORGANIZED AWARENESS PROGRAM ON

"Menopause: A Health concern for Women (Your change...Your life...Take charge)" exclusively for women HSE professionals in Kuwait.

As part of ASSE's strategic plan to involve women HSE professionals, ASSE established Women in Safety Engineering (WISE) Committee in ASSE Kuwait Chapter. As part of this committee annual plan, ASSE organized Health program (ASSE Kuwait Chapter's 209th technical program and 11th technical program for the term 2015-16) on "Menopause: A Health concern for Women (Your change...Your life...Take charge)" on 10th May 2016 at Safir Hotel, Fintas.

Mr. Sampath Reddy President of ASSE Kuwait Chapter welcomed everyone for the Session. Dr. Shaikh Al Fajjam, Head, WISE Committee briefed about the program outline & thanked the speaker.

The training program was presented by Dr. Amel Gamal, Senior Registrar at Health promotion department, Ministry of Health,

Kuwait. During the presentation, Dr. Amel Gamal, described about the importance of knowing the facts about the Menopause & how early attention can reduce the adverse effect of Menopause. She took the participants through the journey of stages in Woman life. Dr. Amel stressed on importance of proper exercise, balance diet & maintaining body weight within BMI for better life in Menopause stage.

The Awareness session was very much interactive; it was followed by Question & Answer session. As a token of appreciation, Dr. Shaikh Al Fajjam, Head, WISE Committee handed over memento to Dr. Amel Gamal. Ms. Janet Najare, Deputy Head, WISE Committee, in her closing remarks thanked Dr. Amel for her excellent presentation & also thanked all the ladies for attending the program.

Around 40 women, including ASSE Kuwait Chapter member's spouses & ladies ASSE member, participated in the awareness program. The meet concluded with dinner.





GULF BANK CONGRATULATES INJAZ KUWAIT AND STUDENTS IN COMPANY PROGRAM COMPETITION 2016

THE BANK RECEIVED A VOLUNTEER AWARD

As a lead supporter of INJAZ Kuwait's programs, Gulf Bank recently took part in INJAZ Kuwait's Company Program Competition 2016, which was held at the JW Marriott Hotel, and was attended by INJAZ Kuwait's representatives, students, volunteers, CPC judges, parents, teachers, partners, sponsors and supporters, along with representatives from the local media.

The company competition saw students create a business concept and company. The company marketed a product and had booth to display and answer questions at

the competition. There were 10 student companies participating in this year's company program competition and approximately 120 high school students from private and public schools across Kuwait were involved. Throughout the day, INJAZ Kuwait's panel of judges visited the Student Companies' booths to evaluate various elements as part of the decision making process in order to choose a winner. Following a 15-minute presentation by each individual company, the judges made a unanimous decision on the winners. "Cloudzzz" was announced the 1st place winner,

"Unique Style" was awarded 2nd place, and "Croot Cute" took third place. "Cloudzzz" will now move onto the regional competition.

Gulf Bank staff from various departments and backgrounds were volunteers during the year, participating and leading training and skills development training. During the ceremony, Gulf Bank was also honoured by INJAZ Kuwait for being a top company providing volunteers.

Mrs. Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager, Human Resources at Gulf Bank, who awarded the winning team said; "On

behalf of Gulf Bank, I would like to congratulate the winners of this year's Company Program Competition and the INJAZ Kuwait team on this successful event. We wish the winning team the best of luck at the regional competition"

"Gulf Bank has been a long time partner and supporter of INJAZ and we will continue our investment in youth educational programs. Gulf Bank employees from various department and backgrounds always volunteer with INJAZ and we were proud to receive an award for top number of volunteers during the event", added Mrs. Al-Hajjaj.



KUWAIT NATIONAL ENGLISH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Reception children of Kuwait National English School celebrated their Graduation from the Early Years Department with a theme of "Follow Your Dreams". The children sang songs and danced as well as reciting poems for a large audience of parents. Madame Chantal Al Gharabally presented each Graduate with a Diploma and congratulated them on a job well done. Many of the children had completed Preschool, Kindergarten and Reception and are fully ready to enter Primary Year One in September. They made us at the school and their parents very proud and we look forward to watching them follow their dreams for many years to come.

amc

04:00 Love Or Money?
05:30 Big Screen
05:45 The Kentuckian
07:30 Bound For Glory
09:55 It Runs In The Family
11:20 Big Screen
11:35 The Beautiful Country
13:35 Groundhog Day
15:20 Crimes And Misdemeanors
17:05 Big Screen
17:20 The Kentuckian
19:05 If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium
20:45 Big Screen
21:00 Restoration
22:55 The Limey
00:25 Dead Men Can't Dance
02:05 Restoration

ANIMAL
PLANET HD

03:25 Natural World
04:15 Animal Cops South Africa
05:02 Lion Man: One World African Safari
05:25 Lion Man: One World African Safari
05:49 Gangland Killers
06:36 Call Of The Wildman
07:00 Call Of The Wildman
07:25 Dog TV
08:15 Restoration Wild
09:10 Backcountry Justice
10:05 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
11:00 Dog TV
11:55 Snake Crusader With Bruce George
12:20 Snake Crusader With Bruce George
12:50 Bahama Blue
13:45 Wildest Middle East
14:40 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
15:35 Biggest And Baddest
16:30 Killer Iq: Lion vs Hyena
17:25 Wild Expectations
18:20 Restoration Wild
19:15 Backcountry Justice
20:10 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
21:05 Village Vets
21:35 Village Vets
22:00 Restoration Wild
22:55 Snake Crusader With Bruce George
23:20 Snake Crusader With Bruce George
23:50 Gator Boys

Discovery
CHANNEL
HD

03:15 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
06:00 Yukon Men
06:50 Wheeler Dealers
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Dukes Of Haggie
08:55 Storage Wars Canada
09:20 Property Wars
09:45 How Do They Do It?
10:10 How Do They Do It?
10:35 Alaskan Bush People
11:25 The Last Alaskans
12:15 Hell Road Russia
13:05 Dukes Of Haggie
13:30 Storage Wars Canada
13:55 Property Wars
14:20 Yukon Men
15:10 Wheeler Dealers
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars
17:15 How Do They Do It?
17:40 Diesel Brothers
18:30 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
19:20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
20:10 Storage Wars Canada
20:35 Property Wars
21:00 Impossible Engineering
21:50 Curiosity: Volcano Time Bomb
22:40 Fire In The Hole
23:30 Fast N' Loud
00:20 Wheeler Dealers
01:10 Impossible Engineering
02:00 Curiosity: Volcano Time Bomb
02:50 Fire In The Hole

Discovery
Family

03:00 Morgan Freeman's Through The Wormhole
03:50 You Have Been Warned
06:20 How It's Made
07:00 Doki
07:50 Kids vs Film
08:40 You Have Been Warned
12:00 How It's Made
13:40 Mythbusters
17:00 Ed Stafford: Naked And Marooned
18:40 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
19:30 Out Of Egypt
20:20 Ways To Save The Planet
21:10 Dinosaurs: Return To Life
22:00 Untamed & Uncut
22:50 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Untamed & Uncut
00:30 Strangest Weather On Earth
01:20 Eco-Tech
02:10 Morgan Freeman's Through The Wormhole

ID.
INVESTIGATION
DISCOVERY

03:00 Breaking Point
03:48 Murder Among Friends
04:36 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
05:24 California Investigator
06:12 Southern Fried Homicide
07:00 Dr G: Medical Examiner
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
12:00 California Investigator
16:10 Tabloid
21:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
22:00 Disappeared
22:50 Double Cross
23:40 Obsession: Dark Desires
00:30 Paranormal Lockdown
01:20 The Haunted
02:10 Double Cross

Discovery
SCIENCE

03:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
06:12 Food Factory USA
11:10 How Do They Do It?
12:00 How It's Made
15:20 Mighty Ships
17:00 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 Uncovering Aliens
23:40 Food Factory USA
00:05 How The Universe Works
00:55 How The Universe Works
01:45 How It's Made
02:10 Prototype This

Disney
CHANNEL

03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 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 Zapped
12:20 Austin & Ally
12:45 Girl Meets World
13:10 Best Friends Whenever
13:35 Jessie
14:00 Jessie
15:15 Descendants Wicked World
15:20 Jessie
15:45 Jessie
17:50 The 7D
18:00 Lemonade Mouth
19:45 The 7D
19:55 Evermoor Chronicles
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
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

Disney
Junior

03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopedidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopedidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopedidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopedidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:15 Miles From Tomorrow
08:45 PJ Masks
09:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
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 Miles From Tomorrow
12:15 Henry Hugglemonster
12:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:55 Unbungalievable
13:00 Sofia The First
13:25 Goldie & Bear
13:50 Miles From Tomorrow
14:15 The Lion Guard
14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:10 Doc McStuffins
15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:00 Sofia The First
16:25 Jungle Cubs
16:50 Aladdin
17:15 The Lion Guard
17:40 Goldie & Bear
18:05 Miles From Tomorrow
18:30 Sofia The First
19:00 PJ Masks
19:25 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 Loopedidoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopedidoo

Disney
XD

06:00 Boyster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak
07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 Annedroids
08:40 Lab Rats
09:10 Brother Bear 2
10:30 Phineas And Ferb
10:50 Annedroids
11:20 Lab Rats
11:45 K.C. Undercover
12:10 K.C. Undercover
12:35 K.C. Undercover
13:00 K.C. Undercover
13:30 Phineas & Ferb: Mission Marvel
14:20 Phineas And Ferb
14:45 Kickin' It
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Rocket Monkeys
15:40 Guardians Of The Galaxy
16:05 Guardians Of The Galaxy
16:30 Guardians Of The Galaxy
16:55 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 Supa Strikas
18:15 Lab Rats
18:40 K.C. Undercover
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Annedroids
19:35 Star Wars Rebels
20:00 Kirby Buckets
20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
20:55 K.C. Undercover

21:20 Supa Strikas
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Mighty Med
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am

food
network

03:00 Kids Baking Championships
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Chopped
06:00 Man Fire Food
07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
10:00 The Pioneer Woman
11:00 Siba's Table
12:00 Ching's Amazing Asia
13:00 Man Finds Food
15:00 Chopped
16:00 Guy's Grocery Games
17:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
18:00 Siba's Table
19:00 Valerie's Home Cooking
20:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
21:00 Chopped South Africa
22:00 Man v Food
22:30 Man v Food
23:00 Mystery Diners
23:30 Mystery Diners
00:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
01:00 Chopped South Africa
02:00 Man v Food
02:30 Man v Food

HISTORY
HD

03:40 Shipping Wars
04:05 Shipping Wars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Lost Worlds
06:00 Ax Men
06:50 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
07:15 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
07:40 The Curse Of Oak Island
08:30 Shipping Wars
08:55 American Restoration
09:20 American Restoration
09:45 Counting Cars
10:10 Counting Cars
10:35 Fifth Gear
11:25 Grave Trade
12:15 American Pickers
13:05 Storage Wars Texas
13:30 Storage Wars Texas
13:55 Shark Wranglers
14:45 The Curse Of Oak Island
15:35 Counting Cars
16:00 Ax Men
16:50 The Curse Of Oak Island
17:40 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
18:05 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
18:30 Grave Trade
19:20 American Pickers
20:10 Pawn Stars
20:35 Pawn Stars
21:00 Pawn Stars
21:25 Pawn Stars
21:50 Pawn Stars South Africa
22:15 Pawn Stars South Africa
22:40 Battle 360
23:30 Pawn Stars
23:55 Pawn Stars
00:20 Pawn Stars South Africa

itv
CHOICE

03:20 Coronation Street
04:40 Endeavour
06:20 Midsomer Murders
08:00 Catchphrase
08:40 Mr Selfridge
13:15 Endeavour
15:00 Sunday Night At The Palladium
15:55 Doctor Thorne
16:50 Lewis
17:40 Doc Martin
18:30 Catchphrase
19:00 Sunday Night At The Palladium
19:50 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
20:40 The Jonathan Ross Show
21:30 Midsomer Murders
23:15 Mr Selfridge
00:10 Catchphrase
00:40 James Nesbitt's Ireland
01:05 Emmerdale
01:30 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Jonathan Ross Show

NAT GEO
people HD

03:05 Places We Go
03:30 Cesar Millan: Viva Las Vegas!
04:20 Access 360 World Heritage
05:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
05:35 The Food Files
06:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure

06:25 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
06:50 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
07:15 Maverick Chef
07:40 Miguel's Feasts
08:05 One Man & His Campervan
08:30 One Man & His Campervan
08:55 Carnival Eats
09:20 Carnival Eats
09:45 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
10:10 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
10:35 World's Best Chefs
11:00 Maximum Foodie
11:25 This Is Brazil
12:15 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
12:40 A Marriage Of Flavours
13:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
13:35 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
14:00 Meat v Veg
14:30 American Food Battle
14:55 Places We Go
15:25 Carnival Eats
15:50 Carnival Eats
16:20 Bangkok Airport
17:15 Bangkok Airport
18:10 City Chase Marrakech
19:05 Places We Go
19:30 Carnival Eats
20:00 Carnival Eats
20:25 Bangkok Airport
21:15 Bangkok Airport
22:05 City Chase Marrakech
22:55 A Marriage Of Flavours
23:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
23:45 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
00:10 Meat v Veg
00:35 American Food Battle
01:00 One Man & His Campervan
01:25 One Man & His Campervan
01:50 Poh & Co.
02:15 World's Best Chefs

NAT GEO
WILD HD

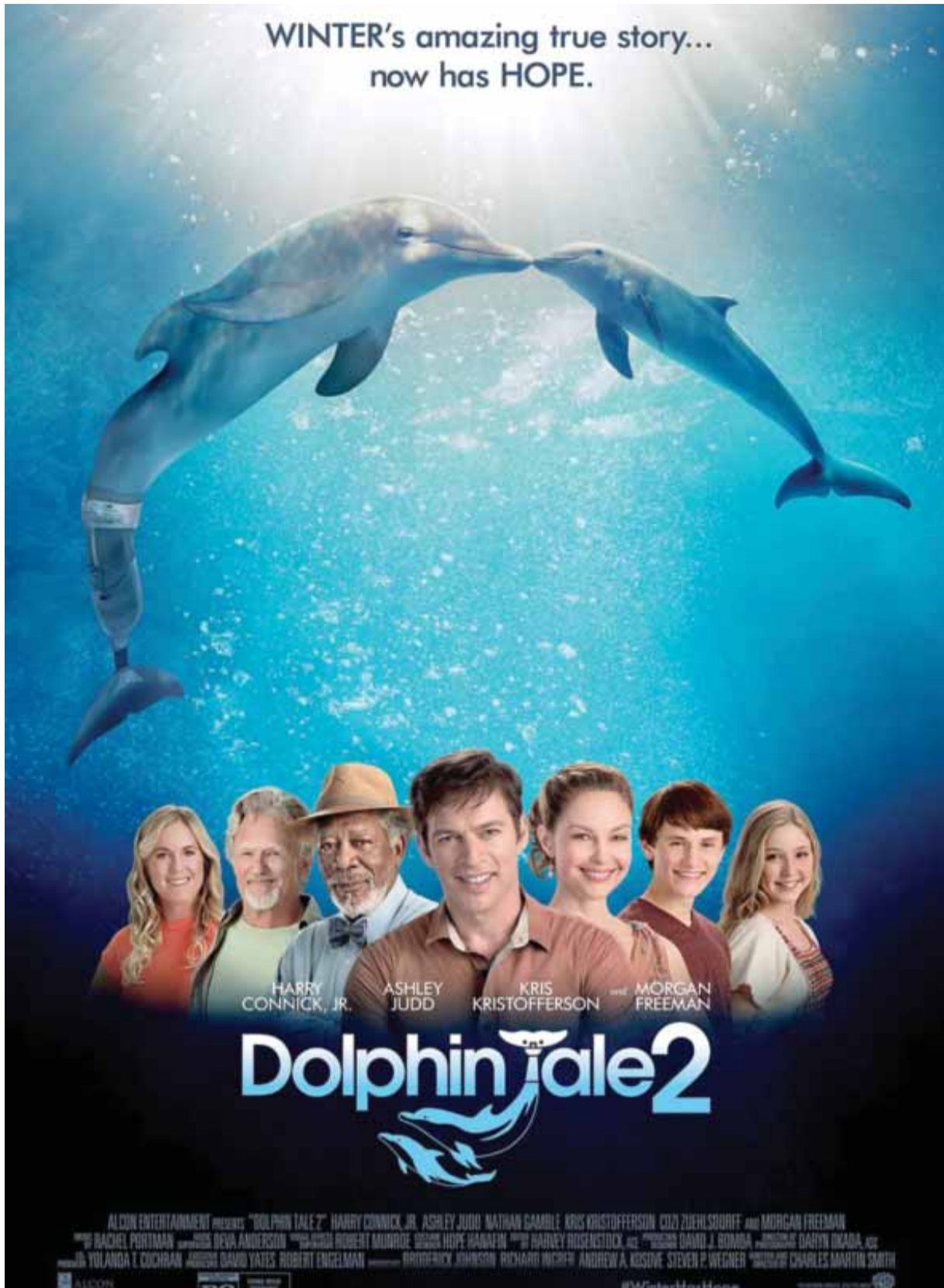
03:45 China's Golden Monkeys
04:40 Fish Tank Kings
05:35 Prehistoric Predators
06:30 Hooked
07:25 Monster Fish
08:20 1000 Days For The Planet
09:15 Animals Gone Wild
10:10 My Dog Ate What?
11:05 Bandit Patrol
12:00 Ultimate Predator
12:55 Animals Gone Wild
13:50 Man-Eater Of The Congo
14:45 Animal Fight Club
15:40 Cuba's Secret Reef
16:35 Legends Of Lemur Island
17:30 Africa's Blood River
18:25 Swamp Men
19:20 Animal Fight Club
20:10 Cuba's Secret Reef
21:00 Legends Of Lemur Island
21:50 Africa's Blood River
22:40 Swamp Men
23:30 Ultimate Predator
00:20 Animals Gone Wild
01:10 Man-Eater Of The Congo
02:00 Original Fight Club
02:50 Lion Ranger

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
CHANNEL HD

03:20 Street Genius
03:50 Locked Up Abroad
04:45 Megastructures
05:40 X: The Generation That Changed The World
06:35 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman
07:30 Kung Fu Motion
08:25 Wicked Tuna
09:20 Alaska Fish Wars
10:15 Megastructures
11:10 Building Wild
12:05 Cesar To The Rescue
13:00 Cesar To The Rescue
14:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
15:00 Dirty Rotten Survival
16:00 Wicked Tuna
17:00 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman
18:00 Nazi Megastructures
19:00 Nazi Underworld
20:00 Wicked Tuna
20:50 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman
21:40 Nazi Megastructures
22:30 Nazi Underworld
23:20 Alaska Fish Wars
00:10 Wicked Tuna
01:00 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman

nickelodeon HD

03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:48 Henry Danger
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn



DOLPHINTALE2 ON OSN MOVIES HD

04:00 The Wire
05:00 Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth
07:00 Hard Times: Lost On Long Island
08:00 On Freddie Roach
08:30 A Child's Garden Of Poetry
09:00 Veep
09:30 Subway Stories
11:00 Sometimes In April
13:15 The Gathering Storm
15:00 Conspiracy
16:45 Sometimes In April
19:00 Ellen Degeneres: Here And Now
20:00 From The Earth To The Moon
21:00 The Knick
22:00 American Crime Story: The People vs O.J. Simpson
23:00 Tracey Ullman In The Trailer Tales
00:00 Ellen Degeneres: Here And Now
01:00 From The Earth To The Moon
02:00 The Knick

03:00 Agent X
04:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
05:00 Good Morning America
06:00 Unforgettable
07:00 Chicago Fire
08:00 Prison Break
09:00 Agent X
10:00 Criminal Minds
11:00 Chicago Fire
12:00 Prison Break
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Graceland
15:00 Live Good Morning America

16:00 Unforgettable
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Prison Break
19:00 Bones
20:00 Complications
21:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
22:00 House Of Cards
23:00 Damien
00:00 Chicago Fire
01:00 Bones
02:00 House Of Cards

OSN MOVIES HD
COMEDY

04:00 Blended
06:00 What About Bob?
08:00 Nitro Circus: The Movie
10:00 Romy And Michelle's High School Reunion
12:00 Encino Man
14:00 Space Dogs
16:00 Nitro Circus: The Movie
18:00 Raising Helen
20:00 Save Your Legs!
22:00 The First Time
00:00 Nitro Circus: The Movie
02:00 Save Your Legs!

OSN MOVIES HD
COMEDY

03:00 Mighty Joe Young
05:00 Camp Nowhere
07:00 Wall-E
09:00 Herbie Fully Loaded
11:00 Coraline
13:00 Ice Age: The Meltdown
15:00 Alexander And The Terrible...
Very Bad Day
17:00 The Kid
19:00 The Country Bears
21:00 My Favorite Martian

23:00 Alexander And The Terrible...
Very Bad Day
01:00 The Country Bears

OSN MOVIES HD
FESTIVAL

04:45 Breathe In
06:30 Prefontaine
08:30 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike
10:30 Hitting The Apex
13:00 Philomena
14:45 Beaches
17:00 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike
19:00 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine
21:30 The Railway Man
00:00 The Mirror Has Two Faces
02:00 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike

OSN MOVIES HD

03:15 Annie
05:15 The Grand Seduction
07:15 The Love Punch
09:00 Annie
11:00 Ant-Man
13:00 Dolphin Tale 2
15:00 Kon-Tiki
17:00 Stoneheart Asylum
19:00 Whiplash
21:00 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes
23:15 Good People
01:00 A Birder's Guide To Everything

OSN MOVIES HD

04:30 Marco Macaco
06:00 Rugrats In Paris: The Movie
07:45 Daddy I'm A Zombie
09:30 Moomins And The Comet Chase
11:00 Space Warriors
12:45 Evolution Man
14:30 Goat Story 2
16:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
18:00 Moomins And The Comet Chase
20:00 Blackie And Kanuto
22:00 Goat Story 2
23:45 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
01:30 Daddy I'm A Zombie

OSN MOVIES HD

04:00 Superfast
06:00 Next Goal Wins
08:00 Step Up Revolution
10:00 Marvel's Hulk vs. Thor & Wolverine
12:00 The Age Of Adaline
14:00 Le Weekend
16:00 Step Up Revolution
18:00 Welcome To The Punch
20:00 The Prince
22:00 The Gift
00:00 Poltergeist
02:00 Step Up Revolution

STAR
MOVIES HD

04:00 Raising Helen
06:00 Crazy On The Outside
07:45 Gone In Sixty Seconds
09:45 Shanghai Knights
11:45 The No Sit List
13:00 Nearing Grace
14:45 Kate And Leopold
16:45 The Jonases
18:15 Monsters University
20:00 The Lone Ranger
22:45 Arthur 2: The Revenge Of Maltazard
00:30 Cold Mountain
02:00 Star World
03:00 The Listener
04:00 The Listener
05:00 How I Met Your Mother
05:30 How I Met Your Mother
06:00 Happy Endings
06:30 Happy Endings



DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES ON OSN MOVIES HD

CLASSIFIEDS



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

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

WANTED

For a Dermatology Clinic

- Dermatology nurse with at least two years experience. English and Arabic speaking.
- Receptionist with computer skill with at least two years experience.
- Facialist with at least two years experience.

Please send attached CV to this email:
skinworx@icloud.com / WhatsApp only: 98881041

LUXORIOUS APARTMENT AND FLOORS FOR RENT

IN SOUTH SURRA
(ALSEDEEQ) NEW
NEVER OCCUPED

MOB
55439438



BUSINESS IN OMAN

We Are Providing
Visas, Registration,
Local Sponsor,
Business Partner,
Decoument Clearing.

Contact Us: 00968-98457638
Email: Info@Eiglcoman.Com

SITUATION VACANT

A lady maid is needed to help in cooking and cleaning. Location Salmiya. Working hours - 12.30 pm - 6.30 pm / daily for six days/week. Salary KD 200/month. Contact 66417504. **(C 5183)**
11-6-2016

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Kotakonda** Manohar (Passport No: Z3017614) S/o Kotakonda Ramachandra, age 33 years, R/o bearing K Vaddipalli, Obulavaripalli, Kadapa Dist, AP, India, is hereby 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)**

I, **Ande** Narasimhulu (Passport No. J5342718) s/o Ande Bala Raju, Age 39 years, r/o bearing Akkulayapalli village, Viswanathapuram post, Mydukur Mandal, Kadapa Dist, AP, India, is hereby declare that with my free consent I have embraced Islam on 5-9-2012 at state of Kuwait and I have adopted my name as Shaikh Abdul Khaliq. **(C 5182)**
8-6-2016



Flight Schedule

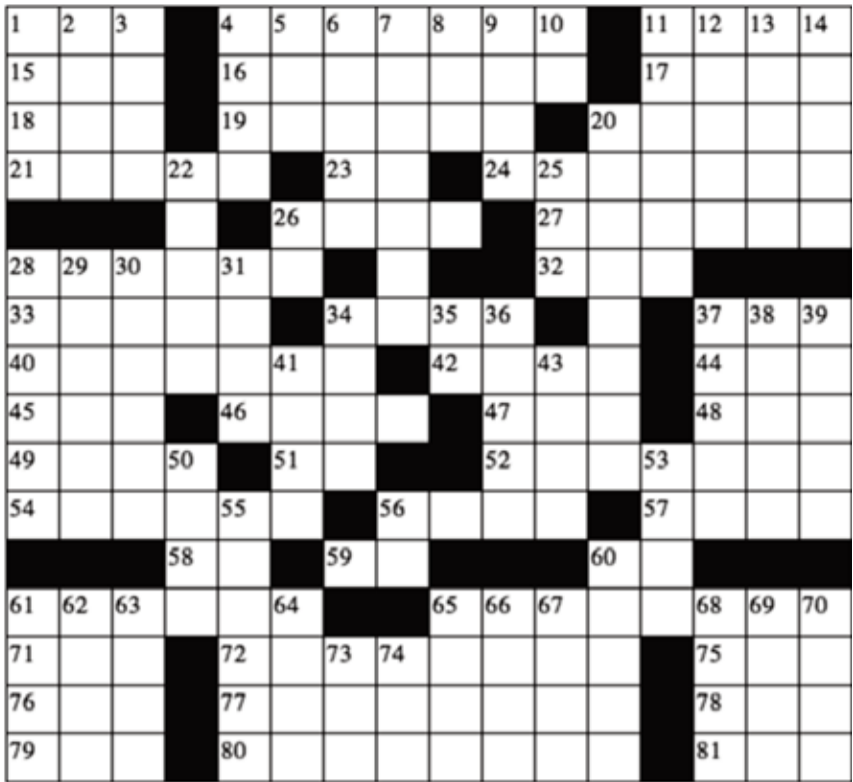
Arrival Flights on Sunday 12/6/2016				Departure Flights on Sunday 12/6/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	JZR	1540	Cairo	00:05
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	MSC	404	Asyut	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:50	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	JAD	302	Amman	00:25
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	OMA	644	Muscat	04:00
MSR	612	Riyadh	03:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	CEB	019	Manila	04:50
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
ETH	3403	Addis Ababa/Riyadh	04:30	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	ETH	3403	Addis Ababa	06:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	934	Sohag	06:00
QTR	8511	Doha	05:15	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
BAW	157	London	06:40	QTR	8512	Doha	06:45
JZR	1541	Cairo	06:55	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	JZR	240	Amman	06:55
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	BAW	156	London	08:25
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:40
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	KAC	117	New York	09:00
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	JZR	256	Beirut	09:05
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05	JZR	534	Cairo	09:25
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	671	Dubai	09:30
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:10	IRC	529	Ahwaz	10:10
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
CCE	341	Alexandria	10:00	KAC	677	Abu Dhabi/Muscat	10:50
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	CCE	346	Sohag	11:10
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	KAC	741	Dammam	11:35
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
FEG	961	Sohag	12:55	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
ATG	3293	Sharjah	13:00	KAC	103	London	12:10
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:10	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

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

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

CROSSWORD 1282



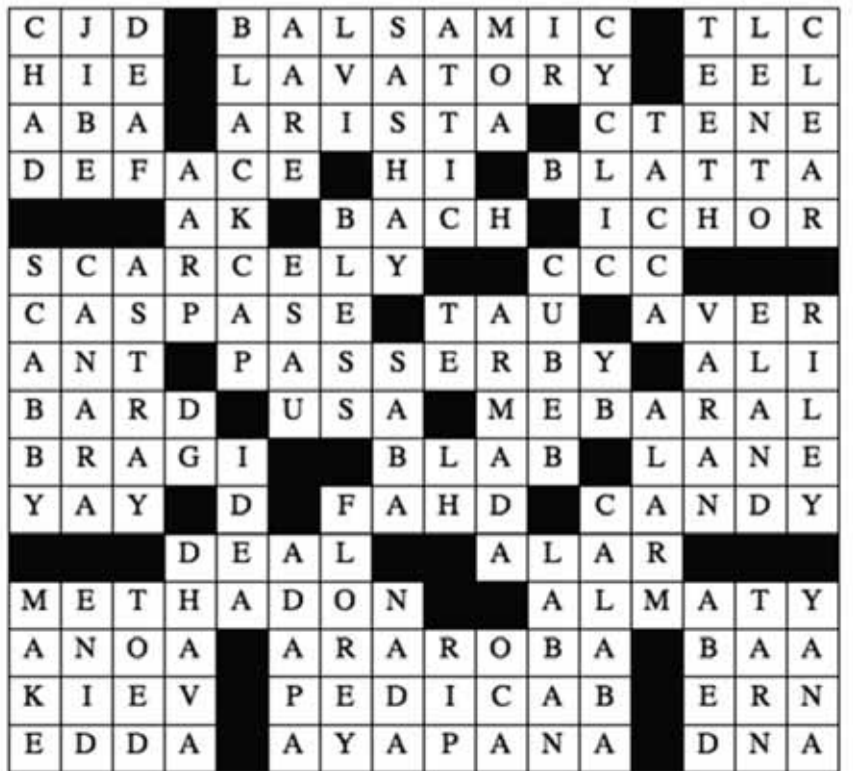
ACROSS

- 1. A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
- 4. Separate by abscission.
- 11. Used of milk and milk products from which the cream has been removed.
- 15. The syllable naming the sixth (submediant) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
- 16. A country on the island of Jamaica.
- 17. Sheet glass cut in shapes for windows or doors.
- 18. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
- 19. A peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf.
- 21. An imaginary elephant that appears in a series of French books for children.
- 23. 16 ounces.
- 24. An island in the Persian Gulf.
- 27. A statement of fundamental facts or principles.
- 28. A cook who bastes roasting meat with melted fat or gravy.
- 32. A metal-bearing mineral valuable enough to be mined.
- 33. Savory jelly based on fish or meat stock used as a mold for meats or vegetables.
- 40. The 15th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- 42. A system of one or more computers and associated software with common storage.
- 44. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- 45. A decree that prohibits something.
- 46. Genus of Eurasian spiny shrubs.
- 47. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.
- 48. A recurring sleep state during which dreaming occurs.
- 49. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- 51. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
- 52. An early French settler in the Maritimes.
- 54. When dried yields a hard substance used e.g. in golf balls.
- 57. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
- 58. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- 59. A nonmetallic largely pentavalent heavy volatile corrosive dark brown liquid element belonging to the halogens.
- 61. Consisting of or made of cedar.
- 71. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- 72. The craniometric point midway between the frontal eminences of the skull.
- 75. A negative.
- 76. Take something away by force or without the consent of the owner.
- 77. Large siphonophore of up to 50 ft long.
- 78. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
- 79. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
- 80. Moths whose larvae are cutworms.
- 81. The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of the smooth muscles and heart and glands.

DOWN

- 1. Loose or flaccid body fat.
- 2. (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
- 3. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
- 4. Slightly open.
- 5. A room or establishment where alcoholic drinks are served over a counter.
- 6. Limited or below average in number or quantity or magnitude or extent.
- 7. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
- 8. Being one more than two.
- 9. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- 10. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- 11. Not dense.
- 12. An island of Hawaii northwest of Oahu.
- 13. A branch of the Indo-Iranian family of languages.
- 14. How a result is obtained or an end is achieved.
- 20. A personal attractiveness that enables you to influence others.
- 22. Ludicrously odd.
- 25. A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.
- 26. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
- 29. The capital of Eritrea.
- 30. Of or relating to the spine or spinal cord.
- 31. A very light brown.
- 34. Hinge joint in the human leg connecting the tibia and fibula with the femur and protected in front by the patella.
- 35. Informal terms for a mother.
- 36. Someone whose business is advertising.
- 37. Long-winged web-footed aquatic bird of the gull family.
- 38. Causing fear or dread or terror.
- 39. A genus of Lamnidae.
- 41. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
- 43. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
- 50. A small cake leavened with yeast.
- 53. The state of owing money.
- 55. Covered with paving material.
- 56. A son who has the same first name as his father.
- 60. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
- 62. Very dark black.
- 63. A Chadik language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 64. Type genus of the Nepidae.
- 65. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- 66. A member of the North American Indian people living in southern Arizona and northern Mexico.
- 67. Productive work (especially physical work done for wages).
- 68. A ruler of the Inca Empire (or a member of his family).
- 69. Characteristic of false pride.
- 70. An unfledged or nestling hawk.
- 73. A small amount (especially of a drink).
- 74. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

As a natural architect and builder, you are able to use your mind in making decisions regarding matters of form and function. For you, the goal and the way to get to it are the same thing. You like to build each step and have each decision be an end in itself. Things must be done right. You also have great skill with the law, whether fabricated or those of nature. You can put all of this into words. You can put your understanding of how to handle authorities to good use today. You enjoy working with your mind and your sharp perceptions make finding new solutions easy. You are able to bring an unexpected twist or insight to anything you set your mind to now. This evening you should enjoy some healing conversations with loved ones.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There is much communication today. You are out-front, frank and even rough at times as you try to get to the heart of a subject. If you are asking a child questions today, you might want to back off just a bit and give the child a little more time to answer. You are a traveler of both the world and the mind-philosophy and religion. You can demonstrate sincere understanding of others' needs; you are in a good position to speak concerning groups and society. Perhaps you will be scheduling or organizing a program today. You can encourage the participants to do their best. This is a good day to solve problems and make important decisions. Your sense of inner direction is good and should lead you into many successes.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You could be most persuasive with others . . . You seem to intuitively know what is needed. The situation is a natural for you to offer your particular ideas and thoughts. Today, however, you may want to find a friend and enjoy a photography trip around town. You may like the edges of things . . . Buildings, signs, trees, etc. When time is appropriate, you can get on back home to meet up with other people that may have a few plans for you. You excel as a social being and should be in a career that involves your deep-seated interest in other people, partnerships, relationships, etc. You enjoy finding new visions and new outlets for your energy. This is a wonderful opportunity to laugh and tell jokes; the celebrations are for you-happy birthday!



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You work well with those in authority who are independent and original. You could become engaged in nonconformist causes, always ready to promote what is independent and innovative. You like radical approaches and may become in support of whatever new-wave product or breakthrough advance is next in line. Communication, computers, electronics and everything new wave excite you and you excel here. You may soon discover new ways of working with traditional materials. Your inner resources and emotions are accentuated. Your business expertise is in high focus. Expect a sense of support and good will from those around you. This is a great time to be with others and to work together. Neighbors pass along new and positive information.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Unhappiness in your professional or personal situation may be improved by working with, instead of against, your most obvious qualities. You have an uncanny ability to get beyond the regular routine. You are always coming up with new ways of doing things. You seldom depend on the regular rule of order, preferring a create-as-you-go type of process. This would indicate that you have a great deal of creative talent and the ability to coordinate a business of your own. Much of what makes you the person you are depends on this independence and love of freedom. You will discover new techniques that will help you energize your day. Understanding your circumstances can be found in your environment or support system. Animals have your interest this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is a time of good fortune when opportunities to better yourself and your surroundings open up naturally. Opportunities to expand and grow are plentiful and you may be able to do almost everything. It is important to pick and choose the subjects that are most beneficial as well as fun. This will not be a difficult task. You prosper through new insights. You have an independent point of view that is just what is needed to survive in a competitive task. In thinking about a vacation or a change of scenery, there is a love of the sea and of whatever heals anything that separates us. Mysticism, mythology, poetry and music are naturals. These are all known items to you. You may enjoy taking a class in writing music.

WORD SEARCH

90's Songs 1 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.



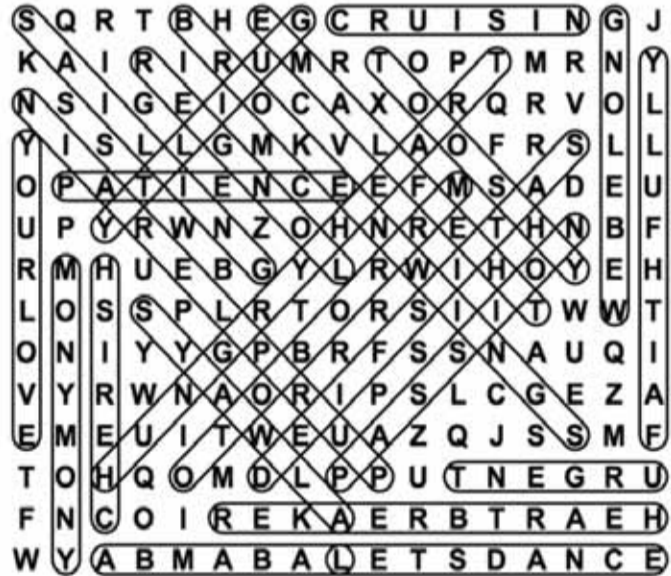
ALL STAR
CARNIVAL
FREAK ME
HAZARD
HEARTBREAKER
HOLE HEARTED
I WISH
INVISIBLE MAN

JOYRIDE
MACARENA
MMMBOP
MR. WENDAL
NEVER EVER
RHYTHM NATION
RUN AWAY
SCAR TISSUE

SUMMERTIME
TENNESSEE
TOM'S DINER
TORN
WICKED GAME
WONDER
YOU LEARN

Large Print Word Search Puzzles

80's Songs 5 - Solution

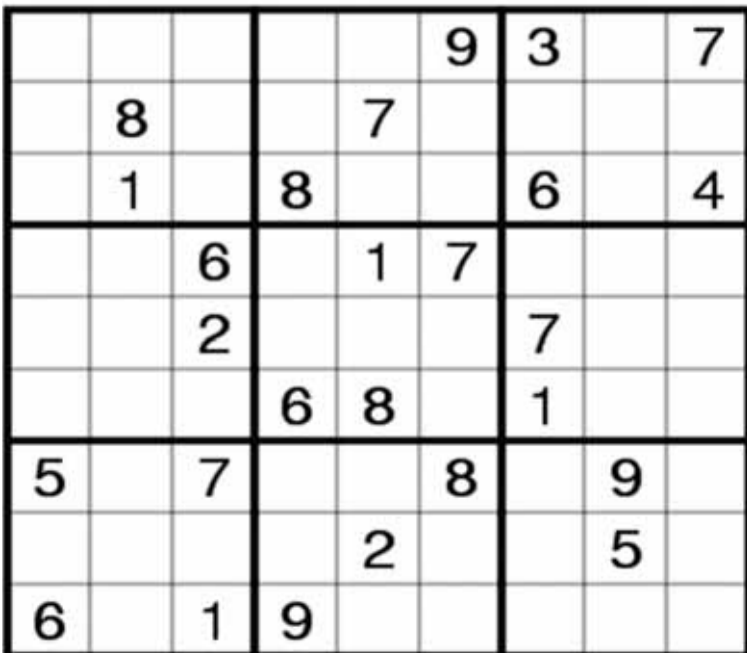


ALWAYS
BROKEN WINGS
CHERISH
CRUISIN
FAITHFULLY
GUILTY
HEARTBREAKER
HUNGRY HEART

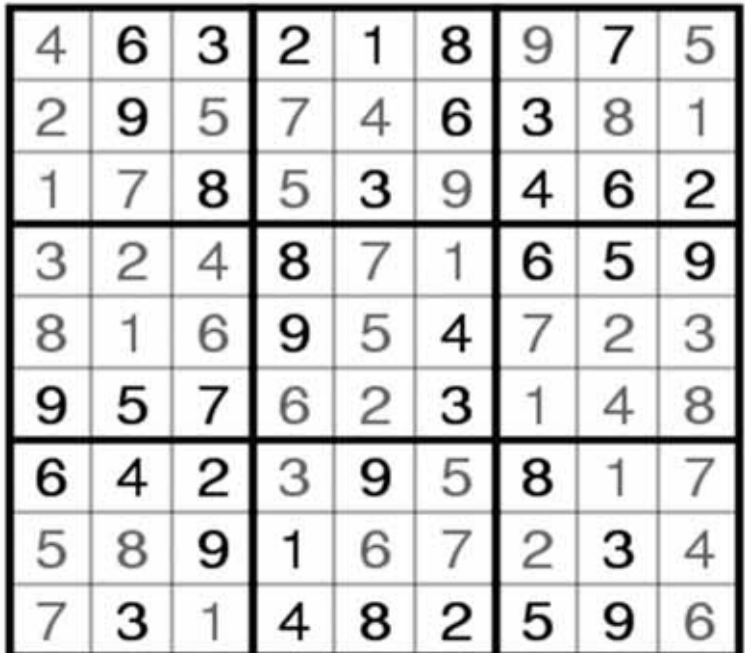
LA BAMBA
LETS DANCE
LONGER
MONY MONY
MR ROBOTO
PASSION
PATIENCE
PURPLE RAIN

SAILING
SATISFIED
THE FLAME
TOO SHY
URGENT
WE BELONG
YOUR LOVE

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





Glass Beach, California

Glass Beach is a beach in MacKerricher State Park near Fort Bragg, California that is abundant in sea glass created from years of dumping garbage into an area of coastline near the northern part of the town.

History

In 1906, Fort Bragg residents established an official water dump site behind the Union Lumber Company onto what is now known as "Site 1". Most water fronted communities had water dump sites discarding glass, appliances,

and even vehicles. Locals referred to it as "The Dumps." Fires were often lit to reduce the size of the trash pile. When the original dump site filled in 1943, the site was moved to what is now known as "Site 2", the active dump site from 1943 until 1949. When this beach filled in 1949, the dump was moved north to what is now known as "Glass Beach", which remained an active dump site until 1967.

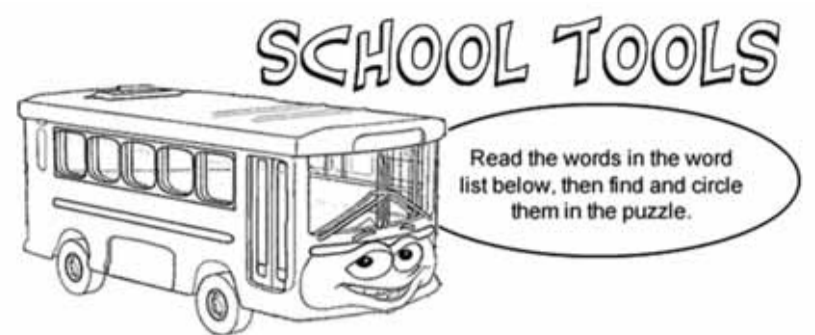
The California State Water Resources Control Board and city leaders closed this area in 1967. Various cleanup programs were undertaken through the years to correct the damage. Over the next several decades, what was biodegradable in the dump sites simply degraded and all the metal and other items were eventually removed and sold as scrap or used in art. The pounding waves broke down the glass and pottery and tumbled those pieces into the small, smooth, colored pieces that often become jewelry quality and that cover Glass Beach and the other two glass beaches (former dump sites) in Fort Bragg.

Tourism

The beach is now visited by tens of thousands of tourists yearly. Collecting is discouraged on the section of "Glass Beach" within and adjacent to the state park, although most of the sea glass is now found on the other two glass beaches outside the state park area.

Plants and animals

Several endangered and protected native plants occur at Glass Beach including hybrid Menzies' wallflower.



Read the words in the word list below, then find and circle them in the puzzle.

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

BOOKS
COMPUTERS
CRAYONS

ERASERS
GLUE
NETBOOKS

NOTEBOOKS
PAPER
PENCILS

RULERS
SCISSORS
TABLETS

Get more free activity and coloring pages @ www.theKidzpage.com
Copyright ©2013, divaDzine. All rights reserved. Not for commercial use.

JOKES

Q: Teacher: If I had 6 oranges in one hand and 7 apples in the other, what would I have?

A: Student: Big hands!

Q: Teacher: If you got \$20 from 5 people, what do you get?

A: Student: A new bike.

Q: Teacher: I hope I didn't see you looking at John's exam?

A: Student: I hope you didn't either.

Q: Teacher: What is the shortest month?

A: Student: May, it only has three letters.

Q: Teacher: Answer my question at once. What is 7 plus 2?

A: Student: At once!

Q: Why did closing her eyes remind the teacher of her classroom?

A: Because there were no pupils to see.

Q: Why did the teacher turn the lights on?

A: Because her class was so dim.

Q: What do you do if a teacher rolls her eyes at you?

A: Pick them up and roll them back

SUDOKU

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

Solution

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

RECIPES FOR KIDS

Italian Tomato Soup



What you need

- * 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- * 1 small onion, finely chopped
- * 2 carrots, chopped
- * 2 celery stalks, chopped
- * 1 clove garlic, chopped
- * 1 (16 oz.) box of low-sodium vegetable stock
- * 1 (28 oz.) can of crushed tomatoes
- * 1 teaspoon salt
- * 1 teaspoon black pepper
- * 1/2 cup basil, chopped
- * 3/4 cup alphabet shaped pasta

What to do

1. Place olive oil into the large pot over medium heat. (Adult help needed here!)
2. Add onion, carrots, celery, and garlic and cook until vegetables begin to soften, about 8 minutes.
3. Stir in vegetable stock and crushed tomatoes.
4. Season with salt and pepper.
5. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 25-30 minutes.
6. Stir in basil and pasta and cook until pasta is tender, about 5 additional minutes. Serve hot.

Did you know..?

Gorillas are endangered species that are constantly under threat from disease and commercial hunting. Their importance is further enhanced by the fact that they are close relatives to humans, sharing around 98% of the same DNA. Learn more by reading our list of gorilla facts.

- There are only about 700 mountain gorillas and they live high in the mountains in two protected parks in Africa. Lowland gorillas live in central Africa.

- You may have seen baby gorillas being carried on the back of their mothers, but for the first few months after birth the mother holds the baby gorilla to her chest.

- An adult male gorilla is called a silverback because of the distinctive silvery fur growing on their back and hips. Each gorilla family has a silverback as leader who scares away other animals by standing on their back legs and beating their chest!

- Young male gorillas usually leave their family group when they are about 11 years old and have their own family group by the age of 15 years old. Young female gorillas join a new group at about 8 years old.

- Gorillas are herbivores. They spend most of their day foraging for food and eating bamboo, leafy plants and sometimes small insects. Adult gorillas can eat up to 30 kilograms of food each day.

- An adult gorilla is about 1 meter tall to their shoulders when walking on all fours using their arms and their legs.
- A gorilla can live for 40 - 50 years.

- Gorillas are considered to be very intelligent animals. They are known for their use of tools and their varied communication. Some gorillas in captivity at a zoo have been taught to use sign language.



Color me!



Floating colored water experiment

What you need

- * Two glasses
- * Salt
- * Food colouring
- * Water
- * Spoon

Activity

In the first glass, add a couple of teaspoons of salt. In the second glass, add several drops of food colouring. Slowly pour in warm tap water to both of the glasses. Stir the salt water until the salt dissolves completely and stir the food colouring in the other glass until the food colouring mixes.

Slowly pour the coloured water into the salt water glass. Watch to see how the coloured water rises to sit above the salt water.

Notes

* The coloured tap water will sit above the salted tap water because salt water is heavier than tap water.



Sarah Harding has a crush on Lady Gaga

The 34-year-old former Girls Aloud singer has revealed that while she considers herself to be straight, she is also "open-minded" and has a crush on the 'Bad Romance' hitmaker. Asked about her celebrity crush, Sarah shared: "Probably a little bit on Gaga because she's an all rounder. She's very androgynous at times and I love that. "I'd like to think that there were times when I would dress up as quite androgynously. Even in 'St Trinians', I loved dressing up as a boy." On the flip side, Sarah admitted she has had enough of men, because of the relationship heartache she has endured. Sarah admitted, too, that although she is straight, she can appreciate a beautiful female. Sarah said, as quoted by The Sun newspaper: "I'm straight, but I'm very open-minded. I can definitely appreciate the female form, definitely. "There have been times

when I've said I've had enough of men. Women know what women want!" This comes shortly after Louis Walsh, Girl Aloud's original manager, insisted that the quintet - Cheryl Fernandez Versini, Nicola Roberts, Kimberley Walsh, Nadine Coyle and Sarah - did not get on and claimed that Nadine was the only member who could sing. He said: "I didn't give them a lot of my time but they didn't give me time and they didn't even like each other!" It was problems from day one there. I contacted them as much as I could but they didn't like each other. "It was never going to work because I said Nadine was the best singer and she was. She was the voice of Girls Aloud."



Depp selling nine Jean-Michel Basquiat paintings

The 53-year-old star, who is currently in the midst of a divorce from Amber Heard, is due to auction the nine works from his private collection on June 29 and June 30, a Christie's auction house has confirmed. The pieces are largely from 1981 and took some 25 years to put together. The impressive collection of works should earn between £4 million to £6 million, according to the auction house, which also noted that the sale had been planned for months, meaning it is, most likely, completely unrelated to Johnny's split from Amber, 30. Meanwhile, Amber's friend iO Tillett Wright recently alleged that she was attacked "many times" by the actor before she sought a divorce. The 'Magic Mike' star's friend called 911 following an explosive row between the couple, but says it wasn't the first time she witnessed the aftermath of Depp's outbursts. Writing in a blog post, she said: "I called 911 because she never would. "I was on the phone with both of them and heard it drop, heard him say, 'What if I pulled your hair back?' and her scream for my help, I wondered like so many times before if I should break the code of silence that surrounds celebrities and invite the police into the situation." Tillett also recalled another incident in December when he allegedly flew off the handle. She said: "Every time it happened, her first thought was about protecting him... I know this because I went to their house. I saw the pillow with my own eyes. I saw the busted lip and the clumps of hair on the floor." Johnny has denied all of the accusations made against him.

Johnson once tried to pull out a man's tongue

The 'Central Intelligence' star got into a fight during his days as a football player but "luckily" was unable to achieve what he had set out to do to his opponent. He recalled: "[The fight] started in the weight room office, spilled out of there on to the weight room floor, and as we were trading shots, it ended when I reached in and tried to grab his tongue..." It was very slippery and luckily I couldn't get a grip on it." The 44-year-old actor became a household name as a WWE wrestler, and though he was following in the sporting footsteps of his father and grandfather, his dad wasn't impressed when he told him he also wanted to be a grappler. He recalled to Britain's GQ magazine: "When I first told my dad that I wanted to become a wrestler, we got into a huge fight. "At the time we were living in a two-bedroom apartment in Tampa and he said, 'Look around you. This is what I have. I pay \$500 a month, I am 49 and this is my life. And I don't want this for you.' "And I understood what he was saying and I didn't have any good reason for thinking wrestling was going to be right for me. "I remember him telling me, 'What do you think you have to offer the wrestling business?' And I told him that I didn't know, but that I just felt in my gut there was something in it for me." And as soon as he had his first bout, the 'Baywatch' star knew he'd made the right decision. He added: "I will tell you this; after I had my first wrestling match, in boots and purple shorts that I had borrowed, I knew I was in love. I knew that with absolute clarity. "I didn't know if I would ever make it but I did know I loved it."

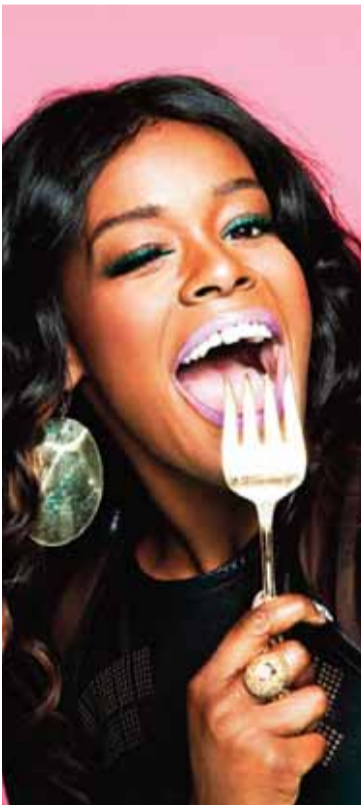


Aniston's hair is the 'bane of her life'

The 47-year-old actress' famous locks are the envy of women around the world and the feathered cut she sported when playing Rachel Green in 'Friends' sparked a huge trend, but she insists she always has trouble with her tresses and is "always" working on ways to keep it looking good. She said: "It's funny because my hair is, like, the bane of my life. "I'm always thinking about how to tame it. I always think it's too dry, too frizzy, too kinky and it's, like, everyone loves it. "The team and hairstylists - I owe it all to them. I can't take credit." The 'Cake' star - who is married to Justin Theroux - credits her good looks to "confidence". She said: "I'm pretty confident. It's just age and beauty. Beauty reflects confidence and keeps it going, you know? I guess you reach a point of peace with it all. "My confidence has definitely built up [over the years]." And Jennifer thinks she has learned how to take care of herself better as she has gotten older. She added: "I think youth is wasted on the young. We don't do all the right things - like in your twenties not taking care of your skin or not treating it right or wearing enough sunscreen." The 'Horrible Bosses' actress prefers to "play it safe" and stick with what suits her rather than follow fashion trends. She told LOOK magazine: "When it comes to fails, you have to go back to the 90s. "Now I play it safe and I don't like to follow trends because I just don't know what I'm doing."



Azealia Banks has apologizes for hurtful words



The 24-year-old rapper - who had her Twitter account suspended and was dropped from appearing at a London festival last month in the wake of a vile racist and homophobic rant towards Zayn Malik - has vowed never to use the word "f****t" again and admitted she now understands that not everyone is as "thick skinned" as she is. She wrote on Facebook: "Ok, i'm never saying the word F****T ever again. The amount of people that get hurt when I use the word vs the amount of people I've said it to are just not worth it. Honestly... This isn't a cop out, it's just me realizing that words hurt and while I may be immune to every word and be thicker skinned than most, it doesn't mean that I get to go around treating people with the same toughness that made my skin so thick. Because, that IS how people get thick skin... by being subjected to name calling/belittlement/abuse and it's not fair." The '212' hit-maker admitted she has allowed her ranting and use of unpleasant terms to paint a picture of herself that isn't the "true me" and doesn't want to damage her career by ruining her own reputation. She continued: "It's not fair to my fans, not fair to my peers but most importantly, Not fair to myself. By using those words i paint a picture of myself that isn't the true me. I paint the picture of my upbringing, my neighborhood, my pain, and my misfortunes... I paint the picture of someone who is used to suppressing things, and being defensive. I paint the picture of someone who cannot allow themselves to be vulnerable or at the very least, Happy.... When i am ALL of those things. Azealia ended her post with a "sincere" apology to her fans for letting them down "over the years" with her outspoken ways. She added: "To end this note I want to SINCERELY apologies to my fans for having let so many of you down over the years. I know that you all want nothing else for me but to see me win, and I thank the many of you who saw the beauty in me and have stuck around this far.... "You guys are my rock, I love you guys so much and all i want to do is make you proud."

Brown fined by police in Amsterdam

The 'Yeah 3x' hitmaker ran into trouble in Europe with law enforcement officers after "forgetting" to display the registration number of his vehicle. He said in a video posted on Instagram: "Public service announcement: Kids, do not ride motor vehicles without license plates. "Sorry, we just bought the bikes, forgot about the license plate. yeah. So, we're handling the situation as is." However, the 27-year-old singer didn't seem too upset about the situation as he thought the officers who handled the incident were "cool". He added: "The police are really nice about it man. I actually like the police out here. Cool as shiznets, for real." Local law enforcement sources told TMZ officers pulled Chris over on Friday (10.06.16) after noticing he was riding a dirt bike without a helmet or license plate, and had him follow them to the nearest police station, where he promptly paid his fine. The 'She Ain't You' singer was recently accused of stamping on Malek Mokrani's face at a club appearance held at Gotha nightclub during the Cannes Film Festival on May 18. Footage surfaced from the event with the singer/songwriter moving away from a large group of people and appearing to take a swing at Malek. The concert goer is currently in hospital and being treated for head and neck pain and has suffered severe bruising to his face. He has also been pictured wearing a neck brace since the incident, and it is reported Malek has plans to file a police report against the musician's alleged outburst. However, Chris later took to Instagram to deny the claims.



Rod Stewart has been awarded a knighthood

The 71-year-old singer has been recognized in the monarch's birthday honors for his services to music and charity and is overjoyed that he will now be titled Sir. He said: "I've led a wonderful life and have had a tremendous career thanks to the generous support of the great British public. "This monumental honor has topped it off and I couldn't ask for anything more. "I thank Her Majesty and promise to 'wear it well.'" The 'Maggie May' hitmaker thanked his fans for their support and revealed his friend Sir Elton John had already been in touch to congratulate him on the honor. Speaking on stage at Southampton's Ageas Bowl on Friday evening, he said: "So it's 10.30 and I have the great pleasure of being able to tell you now, in this hour, that your old mate up here has been knighted by Her Majesty The Queen. "It's all down to you guys, thank you so much you've made me who I am. "I had a funny text from Elton today. It said 'Congratulations darling, who would have thought a couple of old tarts from North London would be knighted?' "Bless all of you, thank you." Elsewhere, Dame Vera Lynn, 99, was "surprised" to be named a Companion of Honor. The wartime entertainer said: "I felt very greatly honored to

be given a Damehood and never expected to receive anything else. So for Her Majesty to bestow a further accolade on me is very unexpected and I feel even more honored."



Lopez was told to lose weight at the start of her career

The 'On the Floor' hitmaker is known for her curvaceous figure and she has always resisted people who urged her to slim down as she felt she wouldn't be herself anymore if she changed her body shape. She said: "They kept telling me to lose weight, and I was a dancer and I was athletic and even my manager at the time who I no longer work with was telling me, 'You need to lose weight. You need to be thinner.' 'I was like, 'No I don't. If I lose any more weight it won't be me.' You know what I mean?" The 46-year-old singer - who has eight-year-old twins Max and Emme with ex-husband Marc Anthony - admits she had a "fight" to stand her ground but is thankful she did as her curvy frame is an inspiration to many women. After a fan told Jennifer she had inspired her to stop wearing sweatshirts around her waist, the former 'American

Idol' judge said: "It was a fight. It was definitely a fight, and so it's good to hear that it helped anybody in some way because at the end of the day I was just trying to be myself without trying to fit into a mold of what everybody else should be. And the 'Maid in Manhattan' star is thankful we now live in a "more accepting" time and thinks attitudes have changed dramatically in recent years. She added: "It's a different time now you know, which is awesome to see for me where it is about our differences. It's about all the diversity. "It's just a more accepting time of everything whether it's body type or race or gender. We've come a long way."



Will Smith was stunned during Muhammad Ali's funeral

The 47-year-old actor - who served as a pallbearer for the late boxing legend's coffin - learned a "valuable lesson" while driving through the streets of Louisville, Kentucky on Friday and seeing how much people adored the sportsman, who died aged 74 on June 3. He said: "It's absolutely beautiful. We did a two-hour procession through the state ... the outpouring of love. "I learned a really valuable lesson about how the moment of the end of a life illuminates how it was lived. And every day you have to focus and concentrate on making sure you're living your life in a way that it illuminates the things you want illuminated, and the things that were illuminated today were his love, and his heart, and his unconditional appreciation for all people of every race and color." Will felt the thousands of people who turned out to pay their respects to Muhammad as his body made its way to Cave Hill Cemetery made the event a true "celebration". He added to 'Entertainment Tonight': "Every age was out there. It was beautiful. It was absolutely ... 'celebration' is the right word." The 'Suicide Squad' actor feels "humbled" to be involved in the funeral, and revealed he had enjoyed sharing stories of the boxer with his family and fellow pallbearers Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis. He said: "We all sat around, you know - Tyson, Lewis, and a lot of Ali's family and me - for about an hour. "We all just told the stories and our memories. You know, for me, it's just humbling to be able to be here with the family in this time of need. He lived the perfect example of how a human being is supposed to live their life. It was beautiful."

Megan Fox has mocked Will Arnett's young girlfriends

The 30-year-old actress told her 'Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles' co-star - who has kids Archie, seven, and Abel, five, with ex-wife Amy Poehler - she was "worried" about his dating habits during shooting of the 2014 movie as she feared the set didn't have the facilities to cater for the 46-year-old star's youthful female companions. She recalled on 'Conan': "He was sort of dating a lot and every other week there was a new girlfriend and he would bring them to set. "They were progressively getting younger and younger as the weeks went on, and it got to the point where I was like, 'Buddy, I'm worried. Should I talk to craft service and make sure they have Lunchables for your girlfriend?' There's no food here with cartoon characters on it." "Megan also admitted Will is much more "professional" than people might expect. She said: "Yeah, he's super funny. He's exactly like you would anticipate he is only he's very professional. "No, I don't mean that in a bad way. You'd think he'd be joking around while we're rolling but he's not.

He's focused and doing what we're supposed to do." Despite her jibes, the pair are friends and Will recently joked he plans to buy the "hippy dippy" brunette beauty - who is expecting her third child with estranged husband Brian Austin Green - a birthing tub. He said: "She is hippy-dippy. I should buy her Birkenstocks or something or a birthing tub. "That's what I'm going to get her. It's like a whole tub and they get in it and everyone's in it at the same time...Chanting and all the fluid is happening at once." A day after it was revealed she was pregnant to a mystery father, Megan - who also has sons Noah, three, and Bodhi, two, with Brian - posted an Instagram collage featuring Will, her 'Transformers' co-star Shia LaBeouf and fellow 'New Girl' cast member Jake Johnson and added the caption "#NotTheFather".



Lily Allen's stalker has been sectioned

The 30-year-old singer was terrorized for seven years by Alex Gray - who stalked her online and at concerts and even broke into her house one night when she and her two young daughters were asleep - and a judge has now ordered the man be detained indefinitely under the mental health act. Lily - who has daughters Ethel, four, and Marnie, three, with estranged husband Sam Cooper - did not attend a hearing at Harrow Crown Court on Friday, but said she was "left terrified for my and my children's safety" when Alex broke into her home last year. She added in a victim impact statement: "I had already been incredibly disturbed and upset by the letters Mr Gray sent, and his contact on social media, but the break-in at my home was absolutely terrifying. "I believe he came into my bedroom that night believing I would be alone. "The fact that I was not alone was probably the reason why I don't think he went any further. "I don't think this was a spur-of-the-moment decision, but rather something he thought about for some time. He thought he knew me, but he didn't."

Judge Martyn Barklem said Gray - who was found guilty in April - had told police he would "cut [Lily] with a knife". He added: "This was a terrifying experience for [Lily] and it was extremely fortunate there was an adult male in the property who evicted Mr Gray from it. "I make it clear that the (hospital) order I have made is not a punishment but is entirely for your well-being and that of the public." In a statement outside the court, solicitor Andy Cave said Gray - who had an unspecified number of previous convictions and was cautioned in 2008 for giving the 'Not Fair' singer a CD of love songs and a letter - never intended to cause any distress to the pop star and will not "pursue" her any more.. He added: "He wishes to assure Miss Allen that he will not be pursuing her any further. "He is aware he has significant work to do with his doctors and is looking forward to successfully achieving his release."

Brooklyn knew always wanted to be a photographer

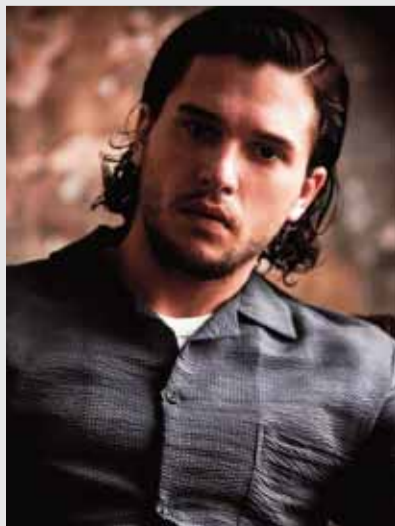
The 17 year old - who is the son of David and Victoria Beckham - has won a string of high-profile jobs behind the camera, including a Burberry fragrance campaign and an upcoming stint at V festival, and admits the gigs are the fulfillment of a long-held ambition. He told

L'Uomo Vogue magazine: "I studied photography in high school and straight away I knew it was something I was interested in. "When I left school I started shooting in my spare time and really started enjoying it. I bought a few books and then I ended up interning for David Sims on a couple of shoots." While his father's soccer career means Brooklyn and his family - which includes siblings Romeo, 13, Cruz, 11, and Harper, four - have lived in a number of cities around the world, including Madrid and Los Angeles, he calls London is "home", despite the fact girlfriend Chloe Grace Moretz is based in the US. He said: "It's really hard for me to think of which city I prefer, it's 50/50 because my girlfriend is in LA and all my friends I met at school, but London is my home, it's where I grew up." Meanwhile, the teenager, who at one stage looked set to follow his dad David into the world of professional soccer, credited his parents for instilling good values in him. He said: "My parents taught me to treat people how you want to be treated, and you know, never give up, have a good work ethic and always be humble. "When I played football there was a lot of people watching me and my every move, even if I made one mistake, I had to work harder than every single person and prove myself even more."



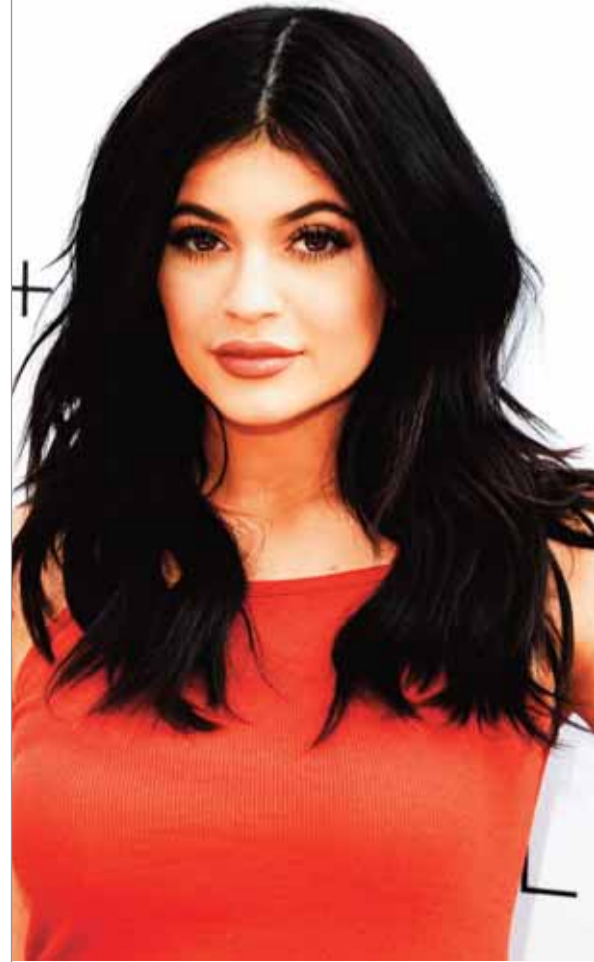
Harington eats three sweets before he goes on stage

The 'Game of Thrones' star is currently starring in 'Doctor Faustus' at the Duke of York's Theatre in London and has a three-part routine he must complete before he goes on stage. Opening up about his pre-stage ritual, he told Britain's ES magazine: "At the moment, I have a crucifix in my dressing room which I kiss three times, plus I eat three Haribos, and take three swigs of water before I go out on stage." Meanwhile, the 29-year-old actor previously revealed he stopped using buses



when they began to advertise his movies on the vehicles. He said: "I used to love to catch the bus, and I couldn't catch them for months during that, because of the fear that I might be sitting above my own head on the side of the bus. Occupational hazard, isn't it?" The buses also caused a problem for Kit when he was filming 'Spooks: The Greater Good' in London as they kept driving past and ruining the scenes. He shared: "It's funny to look back at it now, but at the time, they were a real pain in the ass! I was half naked on a bus the whole time we were shooting because of the 'Pompeii' poster. Every two seconds, we would have to call, 'Cut!' because there was some bus with the 'Pompeii' poster going across in the background. The first time, it was funny, but then after that, it just became really tedious. "[But] there was a lot of cool stuff I got to do because I didn't have a stuntman for this. I did everything myself. I like that! I like it when they say, 'You know, we haven't got a stuntman for you. Can you do it?' So I was climbing up buildings, jumping from building to building, sprinting through Heathrow airport, all sorts of stuff!"

— Bangshowbiz



Kylie thought her new relationship would be a 'rebound'

The 18-year-old reality star began dating the 22-year-old rapper - whose real name is Jahron Anthony Brathwaite - last month, shortly after her relationship with Tyga ended, and things have already got much more serious than she expected. A source told Us Weekly magazine: "They're talking and texting non-stop. "He's as into her as she's into him. "They were introduced by Drake. And they were all over each other at his party, even though Kylie initially thought that this would be a rebound." Though the 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star is still in touch with Tyga, insiders insist it is strictly on a platonic basis. One source said: "They still text and share a group of friends. But there's not a relationship-y vibe between them anymore." Another added: "She doesn't care about Tyga like she used to. As far as Kylie is concerned, Tyga can go do this thing." It was recently claimed Kylie's family approve of her new relationship as the age gap is much smaller than the eight years between her and the 'Rack City' hitmaker. A source previously said: "Kylie's family found the eight-year age gap with Tyga a bit weird, especially as they got together before she turned 18 last year. PartyNextDoor is much better as he's only four years older than her." Meanwhile, Kylie and Tyga are said to have split because she could no longer trust him. A source revealed: "He was lying repeatedly to her face and she just couldn't take it anymore. She couldn't trust a word he said. They were fighting a ton over stupid, petty things over the last few months, and she was over it."



In this March 2, 2016 file photo, Christina Grimmie performs as the opener for Rachel Platten at Center Stage Theater, in Atlanta.



This file photo taken on April 20, 2016 shows singer Christina Grimmie performing at What's Trending's Fourth Annual Tubeathon Benefitting the American Red Cross on April 20, 2016 in Burbank. — AFP



This April 15, 2014 file photo shows, Christina Grimmie at "The Voice" Top 12 Red Carpet Event in Universal City.

Singer Christina Grimmie dies in Orlando shooting

Singer Christina Grimmie, who starred in NBC's "The Voice," died Friday after being shot at a concert in Orlando, Florida by an unidentified gunman, who then killed himself, police said. "With deep regret, we have confirmed Christina Grimmie, @TheRealGrimmie, has died from her injuries," the Orlando Police Department said on its Twitter account.

The 22-year-old Grimmie had performed with the group Before You Exit at Orlando's Plaza Live Theater and stayed after to sign autographs and sell merchandise. A man, who was armed with two guns, walked toward her and shot her, police said.

Heroic brother

"Christina's brother immediately tackled the suspect, who shot & killed himself," the police said. Grimmie was rushed to the Orlando Regional Medical Center. The motive of the gunman, who was not identified, was unclear. "We don't know if he was just a crazy fan that followed her on Twitter or on social media. We really don't know," police spokeswoman Wanda Miglio said at a news conference.

"This is a very tragic event. This should have been something that was fun and exciting, and for something like this to happen is just a tragedy," She said about 60 to 100 people attended the concert, but only a handful were left when the shooting occurred. "Her brother is a hero for saving and stopping him from not hurting anyone else," Miglio said.

The shooting seemed likely to add fuel to the long simmering debate over gun laws in the United States, where guns were used in more than 11,200 murders in 2013, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But past bouts of even more extreme gun violence, including the 2012 killing of 20 school children at an elementary school in Connecticut, have led to little change in a country where the right to bear



Singer Christina Grimmie was shot after a concert at The Plaza Live Friday, June 10, 2016, in Orlando. — AP photos

arms is protected under the second amendment of the US constitution.

US Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton has vowed to take on the powerful US gun lobby if elected president, while Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee, has promised "to cherish the Second Amendment".

'We are heartbroken'

Grimmie, who competed in the sixth season of "The Voice" in 2014, released her debut EP "Find Me" in 2011. "We are heartbroken," the NBC talent show said on its Twitter account after the shooting, calling the young singer "a loved member of our family". "There are no words. We lost a beautiful soul w/ an amazing voice," it said after her death was confirmed.

Adam Levine, the singer whose team she performed with on the program, posted a picture of himself with her on his Instagram account after the incident when the singer was taken wounded but still alive to the hospital. "I'm sad, shocked and confused. We love you so much Grimmie. We are all praying hard that you can pull through this... this just isn't fair," he wrote, before news of her death became public.

Fans posted video clips on social media of her performances, including her cover of Miley Cyrus's "Wrecking Ball" during a blind audition on "The Voice". A New Jersey native, Grimmie first gained public attention with moving covers of hit songs in videos viewed by millions on YouTube. — AFP

LUMINOR MARINA 1950 3 DAYS AUTOMATIC

The Luminor Marina, one of the world's best-loved panerai models, is updated by the p.9010 automatic movement, with a power reserve of three days. High quality technical content and subtly redesigned proportions have reduced the thickness and weight of these watches.

The Panerai Manufacture in Neuch, tel is enhancing the history of the Luminor Marina by presenting the new Luminor Marina 1950 3 Days Automatic, fitted with the new P.9010 automatic calibre with a power reserve of three days.

The Luminor Marina was the first great success in the history of the Panerai brand. In the 1990s, after decades of creations produced for the Italian Navy which were for many years covered by military secrecy, the Luminor with the small seconds dial at 9 o'clock was one of the models which helped to make the Panerai brand known throughout the world, with its watches becoming icons of contemporary high quality sports watchmaking.

The new Luminor Marina 1950 3 Days Automatic models differ in their dimensions, finish, materials and creative dial designs, but they share the functions and technical characteristics of the same movement, and all of them are developed from the Luminor 1950 case. This case is faithful to the historic design with the device protecting the winding crown made for the Italian Navy in the 1940s and 1950s, but it is now presented with subtly modified proportions: the dimensions of the new calibre have enabled the case to be much thinner and lighter than those of the models already in collection.

THE P.9010 CALIBRE

The automatic P.9010 calibre, entirely developed and created in the Panerai Manufacture in Neuch, tel, has central hour and minute hands, the small seconds dial at 9 o'clock and the date at 3 o'clock. The energy necessary to accumulate a power reserve of three days - the basic standard for Panerai in-house movements - is stored in two spring barrels whose springs are wound by an oscillating weight operating in both directions.

Consisting of 200 components including 31 jewels, the calibre has a diameter of 133/4 lignes and it is 6 mm thick. The balance, fixed by a bridge with twin supports, oscillates at a frequency of 28,800 vibrations per hour (4Hz). It is associated with the device which stops it as soon as the winding crown is pulled out, enabling the watch to be perfectly synchronized with a reference signal.

In the P.9010 calibre the hours can be conveniently adjusted without interfering with the movement of the minute hand, thanks to the device which directly moves only the relative hand in jumps of one hour forward or backwards. This function is very useful when changing time zones or moving between summer time and winter time, and conveniently the adjustment of the hour hand is automatically connected to the date indicator.

LUMINOR MARINA 1950 3 DAYS AUTOMATIC ACCIAIO

The collection of the new Luminor Marina 1950 3

Days Automatic Acciaio includes five different models, all with the Luminor 1950 case in steel and the automatic P.9010 movement with a power reserve of three days. The main new feature, compared to the previous models with similar technical characteristics, is that the construction of the new P.9010 calibre has enabled the Panerai designers to make a significant reduction in the weight and thickness of the case, so that it is just 13.2 mm thick in the models 42 mm in diameter and 15.6 mm in those which are 44 mm in diameter. In all the versions, the movement can be admired through the sapphire crystal porthole in the caseback.

The new Luminor Marina 1950 3 Days Automatic Acciaio is available with the white dial, with a case 42 mm in diameter (PAM01523) or 44 mm (PAM01499). The dial design of these watches, with the hours marked by figures and dots and the date window at 3 o'clock, has an aesthetic detail which identifies all the models of this collection: the small seconds hand at 9 o'clock is an intense Panerai blue. The Assolutamente strap is in brown leather, which has not been chemically treated, and its contrasting ecru stitching harmonizes with the tone of the Super-LumiNova(r) which makes the time visible even in darkness. Similarly, the Luminor Marina 1950 3 Days Automatic Acciaio is available with a diameter of 42 mm (PAM01392) or 44 mm (PAM01312), with the black "sandwich" dial in the classic Panerai style: large figures at the cardinal points, bar hour markers, the small seconds dial - with a blue hand - at 9 o'clock and the date window at 3 o'clock.



In these models the strap is of black alligator with contrasting ecru stitching. Another version is available with figures marking all the hours (PAM01359) and a black leather strap. Like all Panerai watches, the Luminor Marina 1950 3 Days Automatic Acciaio models are designed to work perfectly when used underwater: the cases are made of a stainless steel alloy (AISI 316L) which excels at resisting corrosion, and the legendary Panerai water-resistance is guaranteed to 10 bar (about 100 meters) for the 42 mm models and to 30 bar (about 300 meters) for the 44 mm models.

LUMINOR MARINA 1950 CARBOTECH 3 DAYS AUTOMATIC - 44MM

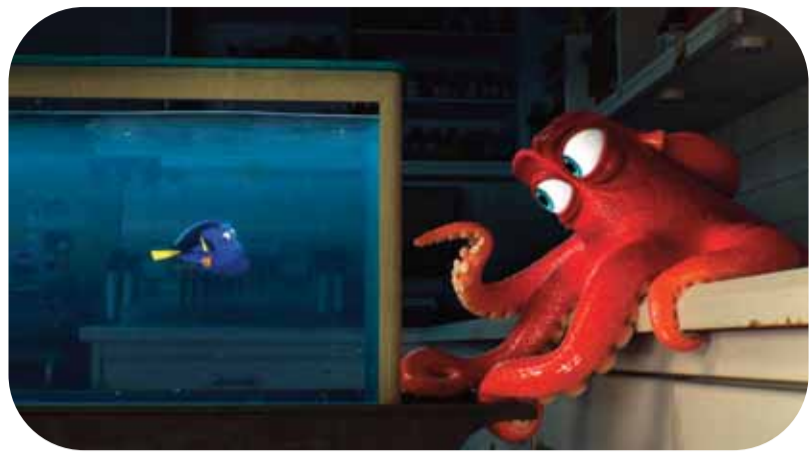
In 2015 Officine Panerai presented the first watch in carbotech, a material with absolutely unique characteristics based on carbon fiber, which had never been used before in the world of high quality watchmaking. As well as ensuring absolutely exceptional technical performance, carbotech has an irregular, matt black appearance, which varies according to the cut of the material: the result is that each individual example is different from all the others and unrepeatable.

The new Luminor Marina 1950 CarbotechTM 3 Days Automatic is the first Luminor Marina made using carbotech. Like the other models of the Luminor Marina 1950 3 Days Automatic collection, it has the P.9010 automatic calibre, with a power reserve of three days, small seconds dial and date.

The structure of the carbotech enhances both the appearance and the performance of the material, which is used for the case (44 mm in diameter) and the bridge device with locking lever which protects the winding crown. To form the plates of carbotech from which these components are made, very fine leaves of carbon fiber are compressed at a controlled temperature under high pressure together with a polymer, PEEK (Polyether Ether Ketone), which binds the composite material making it even stronger and more durable. The carbon fibers used are very long, in order to ensure great aesthetic uniformity, and the leaves are superimposed and pressed in such a way that the fibers of each layer are at an angle to the ones above and below it.

This structure means that the mechanical properties of carbotech are much higher compared to those of similar materials or of other materials used in the world of high quality watchmaking, such as ceramic and titanium. Carbotech is lighter and much more resistant to external stresses, as well as having hypoallergenic characteristics and not being subject to corrosion. The dial of the new Luminor Marina 1950 CarbotechTM 3 Days Automatic (PAM00661) is black. The figure markers and all the inscriptions on the dial are ecru, like the stitching of the Ponte Vecchio brown leather strap. The blue Panerai hand in the subsidiary small seconds dial is the only contrasting element and it accentuates the strong sports personality of the watch. Water-resistant to 30 bar (about 300 meters).





Film Review

‘Finding Dory’ is an ingeniously pleasing sequel

“Finding Dory,” the ingeniously pleasing sequel to “Finding Nemo,” opens with a scene that merges our affection for a beloved character with a bit of a jolt. We see Dory, the friendly blue tang fish from the first film, back when she was a big-eyed toddler with a babyish gurgle, getting trained by her parents, Charlie (Eugene Levy) and Jenny (Diane Keaton), to tell a stranger (any stranger), “I suffer from short-term memory loss.” The thing is, poor Dory really does—she can’t even remember the phrase! It’s no wonder that her parents are aghast with anxiety. In a flash, a character with a singular and beguilingly funny trait—the inability to remember almost anything for more than 10 seconds—comes at us in a whole new way. She’s no longer a daffy amnesiac. She’s a child fish with a serious disability.

Have the creators of “Finding Dory” gone all politically soft and sensitive on us in response, perhaps, to the memory-challenged community? Hardly. They’ve done something better: figured out how to take an already perfect character and deepen her in an exquisitely justifying way. Dory soon drifts away from her parents, and not just because she doesn’t know how to get back to them. She can barely remember that she has parents. As surely as the death of Bambi’s mother, this primal set-up rips a small emotional hole in the audience, one that we’re desperate to see filled. “Finding Dory” then leaps forward to one year after the first film, when Dory is an innocent grown-up with no idea of what she’s looking for. To figure that out, she must learn to stop forgetting.

It’s a film that spills over with laughs (most of them good, a few of them stinky) and tears (all of them earned), supporting characters who are meant to slay us (and mostly do) with their irascible sharp tongues, and dizzyingly extended flights of physical comedy. The images never stop dazzling us with their awesome, tactile sheen — their oceanic incandescence. (Who

needs 3D glasses? Even if you happen to see “Finding Dory” in 2D, just about every shot in it pops out at you with beauty.) In a summer of tepid and disappointing sequels, audiences from around the world will be grateful to encounter a sequel to a movie as beloved as “Finding Nemo” that more than lives up to the first film’s casually magical charms.

Ambition and achievement

At this point, the Pixar films fall into a few distinct tiers of ambition and achievement. There’s the visionary top drawer: the timeless works of peerlessly witty, mind-opening artistry (all three “Toy Story” films, “The Incredibles,” “Inside Out”). There are the whimsically clever concoctions that may not, in the end, do more than entertain you, but they do it splendidly (“Cars,” “Monsters, Inc.” and its sequel, to name a few). There are the rare overly busy duds (“Cars 2,” “A Bug’s Life”). “Finding Nemo” may be in a category all its own. To this critic, it has never been quite in the top drawer—it lacks that full-on audacity of imagination. Yet it has so much zest, soul, and cheer-of-the-ocean visual poetry that it’s still a movie you can cherish as a classic. It’s basically a sentimental odyssey: Can Marlin (Albert Brooks), the grumpy beleaguered clownfish, with the help of the winsomely forgetful Dory, locate his missing son? And that raises a challenge for the sequel. How can it be the same...but truly different?

In “Finding Dory,” our heroine, sparked by a split-second brain flash, remembers—before she forgets again—that she has parents, and that single momentary dislocation is enough to retrigger the feeling that her family is out there. It’s enough to tell her that she’s lost. So she decides to find them, with Brooks’ Marlin—and Nemo (Hayden Rolence) — in tow. If the movie were just one more extended underwater search, it might have played like glorified leftovers. And Dory, for a while, does seem

the unlikeliest candidate on earth to be a sidekick suddenly placed center stage. Her epic personality tic threatens to become annoying.

But Stanton and MacLane, working from a script by Stanton and Victoria Strouse, execute a minor marvel: Dory’s memory starts firing—not in a false, un-Dory way, but one jaggedly subliminal mind shard at a time, like a series of acid flashbacks. She’s still a fish who can really only see what’s right in front of her, and that, as before, is the beauty of Ellen DeGeneres’ vocal performance—her high-spirited myopic exuberance. Yet each new drop of memory triggers something in Dory, not so much a change in identity as a gain in dimension. She still knows very little, but she becomes someone who knows what she doesn’t know. Under the sea, 13 years later, proves to be an even more ravishing place than it was in “Finding Nemo.” The swaying stalks of kelp are as majestic as the trees in “The Lord of the Rings.” An irradiated octopus looms like a nightmare Cyclops, and a big old grouchy hairy oyster who speaks in vaudeville rim-shot jokes isn’t all that funny, but check out his ginormous pearl! The gliding schools of fish and pulsating coral reefs glow like creatures out of a psychedelic rainbow fairy land—which, of course, is just what the bottom of the ocean is.

Children daydreams

“Finding Dory,” like “Finding Nemo” before it, invites you to dive in with your eyes, which is why these movies are submersive daydreams for children. But it’s when the picture arrives at the Marine Life Institute, a theme-park conservatory ruled over with hilarious goddess-like force by the recorded voice of Sigourney Weaver on the loudspeaker, that the movie takes off as a swim-for-your-life slapstick adventure. Stanton and MacLane use the ocean as a mystic setting, but they use the Marine Life Institute the way Stanton used the spaceship in

“WALL-E”: as a fantastical playground. In a laboratory, Dory meets Hank (Ed O’Neill), a scaly-slimy curmudgeon of an octopus who is also a chameleon (he blends into everything from a tiled wall to a metal stair banister to a “Hang in There, Baby!” kitty poster).

Hank, for all his quick-change artistry, is a casualty of captivity—he just wants to curl up in a boxy aquarium somewhere. But bonding and redemption ensue, as does a voyage to the park’s ominous inner sanctum, a place where fish are placed into species containers and shipped off to deepest, darkest Cleveland, where they will live forever as joyless specimens. In a Touch Pool, children’s hands come down on the fish like bombs. The fight against the crushing of the spirit is built right into the

Pixar aesthetic, and it’s part of what animates Dory. She’s looking to rejoin her parents, but she’s also looking to rescue and liberate them. At a certain point, it will probably strike you that the title of “Finding Dory” seems like a misnomer (albeit a catchy one), since the story is all about Dory trying to find Charlie and Jenny. But, of course, it’s really about Dory discovering who she is after she gains the ballast of having a little bit of memory. But only a little bit. Dory’s glory is that her amnesia makes her totally responsive to life. She’s living in a pure existential state, unencumbered by the past, and that’s why she gets things done. Her way of solving problems becomes a credo (“What would Dory do?”), and it’s almost poetically funny when she herself adopts the credo. The movie, in the end, is about finding Dory. It’s about how the past, for her, isn’t really so past. It’s just the ability to remember life as we’re living it, one moment at a time. — Reuters

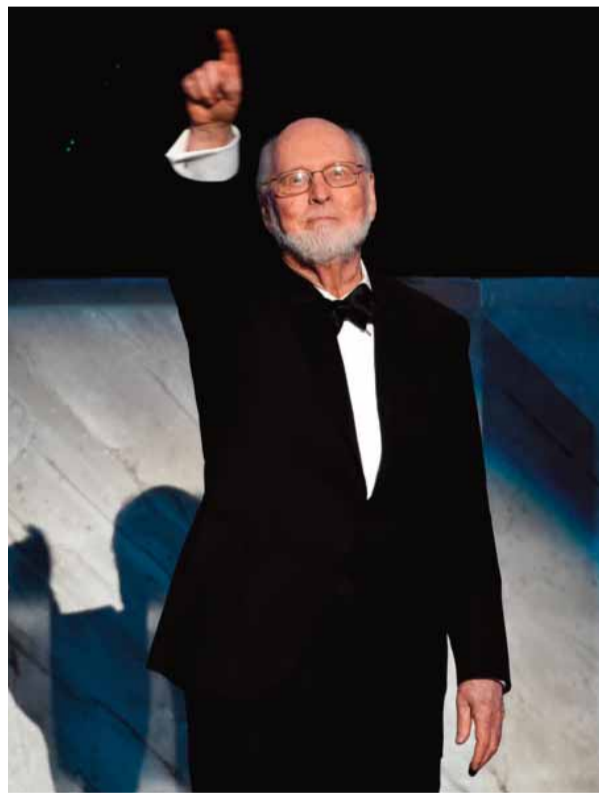


Composer John Williams, left, poses with filmmaker Steven Spielberg at the 2016 AFI Life Achievement Award Gala Tribute to Williams at the Dolby Theatre on Thursday, June 9, 2016, in Los Angeles. — AP photos



Filmmakers Steven Spielberg, left, George Lucas, center, and JJ Abrams pose together at the 2016 AFI Life Achievement Award Gala Tribute to John Williams.

Spielberg, Lucas salute composer John Williams at AFI gala



Composer John Williams gestures to the audience during the 2016 AFI Life Achievement Award Gala Tribute.

Kobe Bryant considers him a muse. Harrison Ford says he elevates entertainment to art. Seth MacFarlane calls him “the single greatest talent working in Hollywood.”

John Williams, creator of the iconic music from “Superman,” “Star Wars,” “Jaws,” “E.T.” and “Jurassic Park,” is also the first composer to receive the American Film Institute’s Life Achievement Award. He accepted the honor Thursday at a black-tie dinner at Hollywood’s Dolby Theatre that’s set to air as a TV special Wednesday night on TNT. Bryant, Ford and MacFarlane were among the stars celebrating Williams’ contributions to cinema. Steven Spielberg presented his longtime friend and collaborator with the award.

“Without John Williams, bikes don’t really fly,” Spielberg said. “Nor do brooms in Quidditch matches; nor do men in red capes. There is no Force. Dinosaurs don’t walk the Earth... You take our movies, many of them about our most impossible dreams, and through your musical genius, you make them real and everlasting for billions and billions of people.”

Williams has scored more than 100 films and received an astounding 50 Oscar nominations. He also composed the theme songs for Sunday Night Football, NBC’s “Nightly News” and the Olympics. George Lucas said it was Williams’ soaring score that “ensured that

“Star Wars” would live forever.” “And you did it again with ‘Raiders of the Lost Ark,’” he said. Bryant said he asked to meet with Williams in 2009 to learn how he approaches his work.

“I’m a passionate believer that everybody needs a muse, and John Williams is one of mine,” said the recently retired Lakers star. “John’s music achieved a level of perfection I wanted to reach on the basketball court.”

Other stars feting the composer from the stage included Drew Barrymore, Tom Hanks, JJ Abrams, Bryce Dallas Howard and Will Ferrell, who wordlessly attempted to conduct the audience in song. Broadway star Idina Menzel was among the guests, and she stood and sang a few notes. The 84-year-old Williams said that when he first learned he would be receiving AFI’s highest honor, he thought, “I’m really much too young for a thing like this.”

His career began in the 1950s as a paid pianist for Hollywood studios and thrives to this day. His latest composing credit is Spielberg’s “The BFG,” opening in July, and the next “Star Wars” installment. “I am enormously grateful, as all composers are, to film, for giving us the broadest possible audience worldwide that any composer has ever enjoyed,” Williams said, thanking his mentors, musicians and director collaborators. “Tomorrow morning when I’m back at work,” he said, “I’ll try to deserve all this.” — AP 5

What will Tony Awards telecast be missing? Suspense

The one thing that fuels most awards shows won’t really be present at the Tony Awards today — suspense. The night’s top award for best musical is a virtual lock for “Hamilton.” Perhaps the only real nail-biter is whether the show can actually win 13 awards, which would break the 12-Tony record held by “The Producers.”

The rabid interest in “Hamilton” is one thing producers of the telecast are banking on to try to stem a three-year slide in viewership. New host James Corden will likely bring his endearing, fan-boy vibe. “We’ll find out if it’s a good choice on Sunday night,” the host of “The Late Late Show” said. He’ll be returning to the Beacon Theatre stage where he won a best leading man Tony for “One Man, Two Guvnors” but said he will refuse to impose himself onto the show.

“The truth is that once the opening is out of the way, there’s not much time. We’re going to try our best to have some fun. We have an opening planned that will either work or not. I hope it will be OK,” he said. “It really isn’t about you. It’s about the nominees and the people who are going to win. Our job is to usher that along.”

Getting buzz from appearing on the telecast can really dictate a show’s future, both on Broadway and on the road. And, unlike last year, the upcoming telecast won’t have to compete with any NBA Finals games. Last year’s telecast — hosted by Alan Cumming and Kristin Chenoweth — was watched by a mere 6.35 million viewers. In 2014, it reached 7.02 million and captured 7.24 million in 2013.

Those tuning in this year will see musical numbers from the nine nominated new and revival musicals, including “Hamilton,” “Fiddler on the Roof,” “Waitress,” “Bright Star,” “She Loves Me,” “School of Rock,” “The Color Purple,” “Shuffle Along” and “Spring Awakening.” Gloria Estefan’s “On Your Feet!” which missed the new musical cut, will also get to shine.

Taking selfies

One highlight will be a duet between singer-songwriter Sara Bareilles and Tony nominee Jessie Mueller on the achingly beau-

tiful song “She Used to Be Mine” from “Waitress,” a show about a waitress and pie-maker.

During rehearsals this week at the Beacon, the 12-member cast practiced their 4 1/2-minute medley of “Opening Up” and “She



In this Nov 1, 2015, file photo, James Corden arrives at the Hollywood Film Awards in Beverly Hills, California. Corden will be hosting the Tony Awards today. — AP

Used to Be Mine” wearing sweats and taking selfies during down times when the cameras needed to be reset. Their segment begins with Mueller with her back to the audience, holding a pie, and ends with her alone onstage. In between, her cast-mates sing and dance and Bareilles, playing a piano, joins Mueller in a thrilling moment.

Christopher Fitzgerald, nominated for best featured actor in a musical, has a lot on his own plate. He’s in the opening number with all the nominees, he’s in the “Waitress” medley and he has to learn lines for a skit that leads to a commercial. “Everything feels very bright. There’s a lot of anxious love and panic all mixed into a big Tony pie,” said Fitzgerald who was also Tony-nominated for “Young Frankenstein” in 2008.—AP

Britain's queen wows in green at birthday parade

Queen Elizabeth II marked her official 90th birthday Saturday by taking the salute at a special military parade in London where her vivid green outfit caused a sensation. After Trooping the Color, members of the royal family appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to watch a military flypast, including Prince William and Kate with their children George and Charlotte.

Prince George, who is nearly three, waved at the planes as they flew by, while one-year-old Princess Charlotte, who was carried by Kate, blocked her ears. The parade featured almost 1,500 uniformed officers and their men as well as more than 300 horses. But it was the queen’s unusually bold dress and hat combination in a green so bright as to be almost fluorescent which caught the eye of many.

On Twitter, some compared it to the color of Kermit the Frog from Jim Henson’s TV comedy “The

Muppet Show”. The queen favors bright colors for public appearances so she can be easily seen by crowds, though they are normally in more muted shades.

Yesterday, she was accompanied by her husband Prince Philip, who wore a ceremonial red military uniform and bearskin hat. Thousands of people flocked to see the spectacle. The queen celebrates two birthdays as part of a royal tradition which dates back over 250 years. The actual date of her birth is April 21, 1926. But her official birthday is also marked in Britain on a Saturday in June with Trooping the Color. The birthday parade features the Household Division of the British Army—seven regiments traditionally seen as the monarch’s official guards.

Today, a giant street party known as the Patron’s Lunch will be held on The Mall outside Buckingham

Palace to mark the queen’s official birthday. The celebrations started on Friday with a service of thanksgiving at St Paul’s Cathedral. Even Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose country has frosty relations with Britain, sent a message of congratulations to the queen. The Kremlin said Putin “noted the rich history of relations between the two countries and expressed confidence in the further development of constructive cooperation.” — AFP

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II looks across the crowd with Prince Philip, right, Prince William, centre, his son Prince George, front, and Kate, Duchess of Cambridge holding Princess Charlotte, left, on the balcony during the Trooping The Colour parade at Buckingham Palace in London yesterday. — AP





Balinese women perform a traditional dance during a parade for the 38th Bali Art Festival in Denpasar on Indonesia's resort island of Bali yesterday. Indonesian President Joko Widodo opened the festival highlighted with a parade by traditional performers and cultural displays from Bali and other Indonesian provinces. — AFP

Video game industry shoots for momentum at E3 show

What's that in the sky? Is it a sign of E3's future? Or simply another hype-generating monstrosity? Outside the Los Angeles Convention Center, an imposing 60-foot-tall structure is being erected that may symbolize a shift happening with the Electronic Entertainment Expo, the interactive industry's annual extravaganza expected to draw more than 50,000 invite-only attendees next week.

When completed, the temporary six-story tower sponsored by cheesy snack food brand Doritos will resemble an old-school arcade cabinet. It'll function as both a ginormous working game and a stage for such musical acts as Wiz Khalifa and Steve Aoki. It's one of many fan-centric offerings this year joining E3 Live, the trade show's first-ever spin-off event open to the public. "It's going to add a festival-like excitement outside the building," said Michael Gallagher, president and CEO of the Entertainment Software Association, which organizes E3. "It's purely a product of this industry now going direct to consumers. If it's a success, I think we're going to learn from this and decide if it's something we'd like to do again in the future."

'Blockbuster launches'

Over the past 20 years, E3 has typically served as an opportunity for retailers and reporters to convene under one roof for a glimpse at publishers' newest software and hardware. But with the rise of social media and streaming video, publishers' focus has steadily shifted away from the store managers and bloggers in attendance to the gamers following all the action online. And even as E3 itself evolves, it's also no longer the only date on the calendar for game designers to reveal what they've been working on. In the decades since E3 was born, a growing number of gamer-focused events have sprung up around the world, including the Penny Arcade Expo, BlizzCon and the IndieCade Festival. "In general, E3 has become a very specific event," said Peter Warman, CEO of interactive industry tracker Newzoo. "It's mostly about blockbuster launches. When you consider mobile, virtual reality, e-sports and Asia, E3 no longer represents the total games business. I'm curious to see how this year's E3 will look and how they address the changing landscape of the industry."

The changing marketplace has prompted several E3 veter-



In this June 15, 2015 file photo, Phil Spencer, head of Microsoft's Xbox division and Microsoft Studios, opens the Xbox E3 2015 briefing ahead of the Electronic Entertainment Expo at the University of Southern California's Galen Center in Los Angeles. — AP photos

ans to rethink their approach to this year's trade show. Disney Interactive, Wargaming, Electronic Arts and Activision are among past E3 exhibitors that are either forgoing the three-day expo altogether or opting to host separate events held outside the Los Angeles Convention Center's sprawling show floor. "Star Wars Battlefront" and "Mass Effect" publisher Electronic Arts is trading its long-standing, ear-splitting booth at the entrance of E3's main hall for its own fan fest across the

street near E3 Live. That's where EA will promote such sequels as the robot-filled shoot-'em-up "Titanfall 2" and World War I-set military shooter "Battlefield 1."

Activision, which has occasionally skipped the show floor in years past, similarly decided against showing off the latest editions of "Call of Duty," "Skylanders" and "Destiny" at its own booth. Instead, the publisher will do so at other publishers' outposts, behind closed doors in Convention Center meeting

rooms and at its own "Call of Duty XP" event in September.

"It's not a reflection of E3 or its reduced relevance," said Eric Hirschberg, CEO of Activision Publishing. "I know that some other publishers have opted out of E3. We have our own reasons because of our slate this year and how we want to approach our marketing reveals that are specific to us and not specific to E3." Gallagher of the ESA noted that while many traditional console and PC game publishers have abandon the boisterous show floor, those spaces are being filled by mobile, virtual reality and augmented reality game makers. He said there are now 90 mobile game companies on hand over last year's 70 exhibitors, while VR attendees have swelled from 26 to 53 exhibitors.

Business as usual

Despite the boost in fan outreach, E3 will be business as usual - mostly - for the industry's three largest publishers. Microsoft and Sony have respectively planned press conferences Monday at the University of Southern California's Galen Center and the Shrine Auditorium, as well as booths showcasing titles like "Gears of War 4" and "Horizon Zero Dawn."

Nintendo, which stopped hosting an onstage press conference at E3 three years ago and instead streams an online video briefing, will again return to the show floor. However, the "Super Mario" publisher will be dedicating most of its floor space to a sole game: a "Legend of Zelda" adventure for its Wii U console and a yet-to-be-revealed new system.

"E3 absolutely remains a relevant event," said Reggie Fils-Aime, president of Nintendo of America. "We were the first to recognize a few years ago that we could touch millions of consumers online versus the few hundred that sit down for a live conference. We believe we've helped to make E3 a more vibrant and a cultural touchstone for consumers around the world." Whether it's inside or outside the convention center, everyone at E3 next week will likely agree on one thing: It's more fun to be there in person. — AP



In this June 15, 2015 file photo, Andrew House, president and global CEO of Sony Computer Entertainment Inc., talks about the Sony Morpheus virtual reality headset at the Sony Playstation at E3 2015 news conference in Los Angeles.



In this June 16, 2015 file photo, attendees play Electronic Arts' "Star Wars Battlefront" at the E3 Electronic Entertainment Expo at Los Angeles Convention Center.



Electronic Arts and Activision are among the video game publishers angling to cut through the noise on the Electronic Entertainment Expo show floor by ditching their long-standing E3 booths in favor of low-key, fan-focused events.