



Cabinet suggests five-year plan to address job market needs



IS bombers hit Libya pro-govt forces as Sirte battle rages



Modric moment of class lifts Croatia to 1-0 win over Turkey



Man throws explosives into Shanghai airport, 4 hurt

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

150 FILES
40 PAGES
NO: 16903

50 KILLED IN MASSACRE AT FLORIDA NIGHTCLUB

GUNMAN OMAR MATEEN SHOT DEAD; IS LINK BEING PROBED



Min 30°
Max 43°
High Tide 06:35 & 17:42
Low Tide 12:22

Ramadan Kareem

BENEFITS OF FASTING

By Teresa Leshar

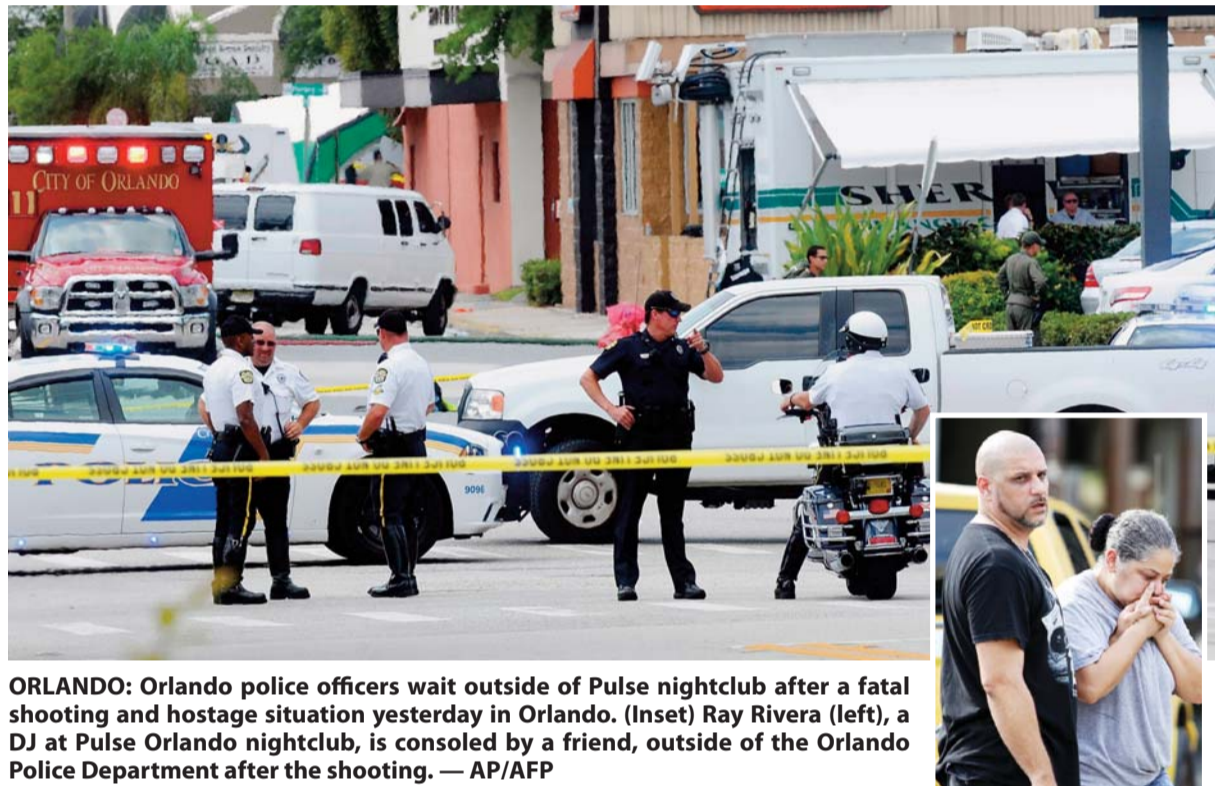
Ramadan is an act of worship that is part of being Muslim. The main purpose of fasting in Ramadan is to increase our awareness of and connection to God minute by minute and day after day. But there are additional benefits of the month-long fast, such as increased self-discipline, patience, compassion, gratitude, and brotherhood, as well as documented medical benefits. It is a time of spiritual growth, mental focus, physical training, and social solidarity. I strongly advise everyone to try fasting, even for a single day, to reap some of its benefits. This article will help you get started.

Rules of fasting

The procedure for fasting in Ramadan is easy: nothing should pass the throat from the crack of dawn (approximately 3:15 am) until the sun has set. Therefore, no foods or drinks are allowed. Some people mistakenly believe that if they could drink water, it would be easier; however, a total fast - including from water - is what gives the digestive system a rest. Drinking water will make you feel more hungry.

In addition to abstaining from food and drinks, Muslims are required to abstain from sexual intimacy, smoking, chewing gum, and general bad behavior such as shouting in anger. But one can brush his teeth, rinse his mouth or gargle.

Continued on Page 13



ORLANDO: Orlando police officers wait outside of Pulse nightclub after a fatal shooting and hostage situation yesterday in Orlando. (Inset) Ray Rivera (left), a DJ at Pulse Orlando nightclub, is consoled by a friend, outside of the Orlando Police Department after the shooting. — AP/AFP

ORLANDO, Fla: A gunman killed 50 people at a packed gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida yesterday in the worst mass shooting in US history which authorities described as a possible act of terrorism. Police killed the shooter, who was identified as Omar S Mateen, a Florida resident. A top US congressman said Mateen may have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State militant group. US officials cautioned, however, that they had no immediate evidence of any direct connection with Islamic State or any other foreign extremist group.

Mateen called 911 before the shooting and swore allegiance to Islamic State, NBC News said on Twitter. In a posting on its website, MSNBC said Mateen swore allegiance to Islamic State leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi.

Fifty-three people were wounded in the rampage, which Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer said was the deadliest single US shooting incident, eclipsing the 32 people killed in the 2007 massacre at Virginia Tech university. "Today we're dealing with something that we never imagined and is unimaginable," Dyer said, more than doubling an earlier estimate that about 20 bodies had been found.

A police officer working as a security guard inside the Pulse nightclub, which has operated in downtown Orlando since 2004 and was hosting some 350 revelers, exchanged fire with the suspect at about 2 am (0600 GMT), police officials said.

Continued on Page 13

ASSEMBLY TO PASS KEY LAWS TODAY

110,000 PEOPLE GRANTED CITIZENSHIP SINCE 2012

By B Izzak

CIA: NO EVIDENCE THAT SAUDI GOVT HELPED 9/11 ATTACKERS

WASHINGTON: CIA Director John Brennan said there is no evidence that the Saudi government or senior Saudi officials supported the Sept 11 attacks. Brennan's remarks, in a weekend interview with Al-Arabiya, addressed the still-secret 28 pages of a congressional inquiry into the 2001 attacks, in which 15 of the 19 hijackers were citizens of Saudi Arabia. President Barack Obama has promised to publicly release all or part of the 28 pages of the report, which could happen as early as this month. The rest of the report was released in December 2002.

Bob Graham, who was co-chairman of that bipartisan congressional panel, and others say the 28 pages point suspicion at the Saudis. Graham said it's important for the public to know that all of the still-classified allegations were thoroughly investigated. Brennan had said earlier that the 28 pages contained preliminary information about possible

Saudi links to the attackers that had not been corroborated or vetted at the time. He said that the 9/11 Commission, which did a follow-on investigation into the attacks, ultimately found nothing that pointed to Saudi complicity.

"Subsequently the Sept 11 commission looked very thoroughly at these allegations of Saudi involvement, Saudi government involvement and their finding, their conclusion was that there was no evidence to indicate that the Saudi government as an institution or Saudi senior officials individually had supported the Sep. 11 attacks," Brennan told Al-Arabiya, the Saudi-owned broadcaster, on Saturday. "Indeed, subsequently the assessments that have been done have shown it was very unfortunate that these attacks took place but this was the work of Al-Qaeda, (Al-Qaeda leader Ayman) Al-Zawahri, and others of that ilk," said

Continued on Page 13

which governs awarding of public projects worth billions of dinars every year.

Regarding the municipality bill, rapporteur of the public utilities committee MP Saud Al-Huraiji said the panel approved all the amendments to the law but left the highly controversial article regarding the distribution of electoral districts for the assembly to decide. He expected that a number of MPs and the government to submit amendments to this article.

MP Faisal Al-Shayeh said yesterday that he and a number of lawmakers are preparing an amendment to the election law to create a committee to supervise the election. The amendment will be submitted after it is complete and has support.

Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah said yesterday that the government has granted Kuwaiti citizenship to 110,000 people since January 2012. In response to a question by MP Abdulhameed Dashti, the minister said that the central committee for Bedoons (stateless) is responsible for recommending names of Bedoons for naturalization when they fulfill conditions.

Continued on Page 13

DUBAI AIRPORT SHUT FOR AN HOUR DUE TO DRONE ACTIVITY

DUBAI: Dubai International Airport, the world's busiest airport for international travel, closed its airspace for 69 minutes due to unauthorized drone activity on Saturday, causing 22 flights to be diverted, aviation authorities said.

Government-owned Dubai Airports, which operates Dubai's two main airports, said in a statement the closure lasted between 11:36 am and 12:45 pm (0639-0745 GMT), and Dubai Airports chief executive Paul Griffiths said thousands of passengers suffered disruption to their journeys.

Sixteen of the diverted flights went to Dubai World Central, Dubai's other main airport, a Dubai Airports spokesperson told Reuters. Dubai, a trade, tourism and investment hub for the Gulf region, is one of seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates (UAE). "This is a very serious incident and we obviously take the safety of our customers and our staff extremely seriously," Griffiths told Dubai's Dabaieye 103.8 radio.

"As you can imagine, this is the busiest international airport in the world and there was major inconvenience to thousands of passengers ... There are very clear restrictions and no fly zones around all airports in the UAE, saying that this type of activity is actually illegal." The flying of drones is prohibited within 5 km (3 miles) of airports, helipads, landing areas or manned aircraft in the UAE. — Reuters



KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysians break fast in front of the Sultan Abdul Samad building in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, yesterday. — AP

News

in brief

Military helicopter crash kills two in UAE

ABU DHABI: A United Arab Emirates military helicopter crashed into the sea yesterday killing two crew members, the country's armed forces said in a statement. The aircraft crashed "during a routine flight over international waters, causing the death of its pilot and co-pilot," said the statement on the official WAM news agency. It did not specify the type of aircraft or the location that it went down. On May 15, the armed forces also announced that an Emirati military jet crashed during training killing the pilot and trainer who were on board.

Dubai seizes 81 vehicles in crackdown on racing

DUBAI: Dubai police have seized 81 vehicles for alleged "reckless driving", the authorities said, in a crackdown on street racing among youths in the wealthy Gulf emirate. The vehicles were impounded for being driven at speeds of up to 300 kilometers per hour (186 miles per hour), and without number plates. "Dubai traffic patrols tracked a number of reckless drivers and seized 81 vehicles," Dubai police commander-in-chief Major General Khamis al-Muzainah said in a statement Saturday, without specifying over what period these seizures were made. Among the other allegations they face is driving without headlights switched on, according to media reports. "Motorists who participate in racing without permission will have to pay a 100,000 dirham (\$27,000) fine to release the confiscated vehicle, while owners of seized bikes will need to pay a 50,000 dirham (\$13,600) fine," said the Khaleej Times newspaper.

Kuwait orders probe into US Dow deal: Report

KUWAIT: Kuwait has asked the public prosecutor to open an investigation into a scrapped deal with US firm Dow Chemical that resulted in a \$2.2 billion fine, a newspaper reported yesterday. Citing an unnamed high-ranking source, Al-Qabas daily said the government last week sent a large number of documents to the public prosecutor all the details about the deal. The documents included the names of officials who have been associated with the \$17.4 billion joint venture, the daily said. Kuwait and US petrochemicals giant Dow Chemical signed the deal in 2008 but the emirate unilaterally scrapped it later in the same year due to a political dispute between the government and parliament. The International Chamber of Commerce, acting as an arbitrator, later ordered Kuwait to pay a penalty of \$2.2 billion for scrapping the deal. The government paid the fine in May 2013 although parliament had warned against making the payment before conducting a probe. The oil-rich Gulf state's move comes six months after a parliamentary probe into the case urged the government to prosecute 24 ex-officials, including two former oil ministers and several top former industry executives.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives two documentary films from film director Abdullah Hamad Al-Mekhyal, as Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah looks on. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives two documentary films from film director Abdullah Hamad Al-Mekhyal, as Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah looks on.

JORDAN'S KING ABDULLAH VISITS KUWAIT TODAY

KUWAIT: King Abdullah II of Jordan will visit Kuwait today to convey his greetings on the Holy Month of Ramadan to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. In other news, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah received Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah at Seif Palace yesterday. Film director Abdullah Hamad Al-Mekhyal accompanied the Minister and presented to His Highness the Amir with two documentary films on Kuwaiti culture, heritage and environment. Sheikh Salman and Mekhyal later met with His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and gifted him copies of the two documentaries. His Highness the Crown Prince also met with Kuwait Shooting Club Board of Directors Duajj Al-Otaibi, who gifted a rifle to His Highness.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Crown Prince, Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad

Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. He also met with Sheikh Al-Humoud and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

Separately, Ghanem met yesterday with Kuwait Ambassador to Cuba Bader Al-Awadi, in presence of MP Yusuf Al-Zalzalah. He also received the GCC mission chairperson at the EU, Ambassador Amal Al-Hamad. Also yesterday, His Highness the Amir sent a cable yesterday to UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayid Al-Nahyan, expressing his deepest condolences and sympathy over the death of two military pilots when their aircraft crashed over international waters. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent similar cables to the UAE President, while Speaker Ghanem sent a cable to UAE Speaker of the Federal National Council Dr Amal Al-Qubeisi. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah inspects a rifle he received as a gift from Kuwait Shooting Club Board of Directors Duajj Al-Otaibi.



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem received GCC mission chairperson at the EU Ambassador Amal Al-Hamad.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the cabinet's weekly meeting yesterday. — KUNA

CABINET DISCUSSES 5-YEAR PLAN TO HARMONIZE EMPLOYMENT

KUWAIT: The Cabinet discussed yesterday a bill forwarded by the Bureau of the Minister of State for Youth Affairs stipulating a five-year strategy aimed at employing citizens on basis of the market demand and the State Development Strategy. The Cabinet, during the weekly session held at Seif Palace, examined the proposed plan, designed to secure works through "an employment map," needed by the State institutions and the private sector; whereby the employment degree and the allotted payment for each civil servant must be according to the State requirements. This approach warrants re-examining current specializations at Kuwait University, private universities, colleges and institutes of the Public Authority for Applied Education and

Training. The Cabinet decided to submit the proposed bill to the Civil Service Commission for further examination and working out an executive program and a timetable to put the proposed plan into action.

Economic reforms

The ministers, during the session chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, re-examined the second report of the commission tasked with following up on implementation of procedures for backing financial and economic reforms, according to the Cabinet statement, read by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

The ministers were briefed by the Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Acting Oil Minister Anas Al-Saleh, Finance Undersecretary Khalifah Hamada and senior finance ministry officials about the commission measures for boosting the reforms. The abovementioned commission has held 105 separate meetings with work teams and entrepreneurs. Moreover, a technical bureau for backing up the commission has been set up. The office is charged with facilitating the committee tasks and following up on implementation of the reforms. Furthermore, the reforms document has been harmonized with the development plan.

Bills approved

Meanwhile, the Cabinet was informed about recommendations by the legal affairs committee regarding a number of bills. It approved a proposed MoU for police cooperation between the State of Kuwait and the Government of the Federal Mexican States, a bill for cultural and technical cooperation with the said state, another bill for identical cooperation with Egypt and a draft law for cooperation in oil, gas and petrochemical sectors with Qatar. All these bills have been referred to His Highness the Amir, pending submission to the National Assembly.

Political issues

The ministers also discussed a host of political issues, in shadow of reports related to conditions on the Arab and international levels. The Kuwaiti Cabinet, during the session, condemned the recent suicidal and bombing attacks in Jordan and Turkey, where a large number of innocent people died, rejecting such criminal operations that aim at spilling blood of the innocent and destabilizing states.

At start of the session, the ministers were briefed about contents of a message addressed to His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, from Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi regarding the distinctive ties between the two brotherly countries, as well as the invitation to His Highness to pay an official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

They were also informed about a message from the Gambian president to His Highness the Amir, another one from the General Governor of the Commonwealth of Australia and a fourth message to His Highness from the president of Jerusalem University on accomplishing His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Complex for Medical Sciences. — KUNA

TWO KUWAITI AUTHORITIES JOIN HANDS TO AID DISABLED

KUWAIT: Ministry of Education and Public Authority for Special Needs Affairs signed an agreement to provide better services for individuals with special needs. The agreement was signed as an implementation of law 8/2010 which stipulates providing proper education and educational staff for the disabled; in addition to proper access and facilities for those of special needs, Ministry of Education Undersecretary Dr Haitham Al-Athiri told the press yesterday after signing the agreement. He added that Kuwait

is always keen on bettering the lives of the disabled in accordance to international standards.

Meanwhile, Director General of the Public Authority for Special Needs Affairs Dr Tariq Al-Shatti said that the agreement, which emanates from the social responsibility toward individuals of disabilities, guarantees their civic rights. The agreement aims at integrating people with special needs into their society and providing them with a chance to be productive and effective individuals, he pointed out. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Ministry of Education Undersecretary Dr Haitham Al-Athiri (right) and Director General of the Public Authority for Special Needs Affairs Dr Tariq Al-Shatti sign the agreement. — KUNA

SUDAN ENVOY TOUTS KUWAIT'S HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVES

KUWAIT: Sudanese Ambassador to Kuwait Mohie Eddin Salem yesterday highly acclaimed Kuwait's international humanitarian initiatives and efforts, especially in Sudan. Speaking after a meeting with Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Board Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer, Salem said: "The KRCS has become a considerable charitable landmark in the humanitarian domain thanks to its field moves in all domains and areas that are hit by natural disasters." However, he urged the KRCS to continue its efforts and vital projects in Sudan in order to

improve the living conditions of the poor. The Sudanese ambassador added that he had discussed with the KRCS chairman how to support Sudan's war-hit South Kordofan, mainly in the health field. Meanwhile, Sayer said his society was willing to have constructive cooperation and coordination with humanitarian and societal organizations in Sudan. He said that his society's humanitarian efforts and initiatives in Sudan are just part of its duties towards the Sudanese people. He lauded close people-to-people relations. — KUNA



KUWAIT: KRCS Board Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer meets with Sudanese Ambassador to Kuwait Mohie Eddin Salem. — KUNA

KFH ORGANIZES VISIT TO NURSING HOMES

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) organized a visit to nursing homes, as part of its social responsibility during Ramadan. KFH's Public Relations team handed out gifts to the elderly in continuation of its efforts to communicate with all segments of the society in the holy month of Ramadan. KFH is keen on strengthening its social charity deeds for public welfare institutions, which is part of its Islamic values. This step contributes in easing the suffer-

ing of the elderly while drawing a smile on their faces. The elderly appreciated the bank's gesture, indicating KFH has been always striving for optimally shouldering the social responsibility, caring for the elderly and offering gifts on various occasions. It is worth noting that KFH underlines its commitment towards assuming the social responsibility, as it firmly believes that it is an important humanitarian role and reflects its Islamic identity.



A KFH PR team member hands out a Ramadan gift to a senior citizen.

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MARRIOTT HOTELS IN KUWAIT HOLD RAMADAN IFTAR FOR LOCAL MEDIA

KUWAIT: Marriott Hotels in Kuwait organized a Ramadan iftar for the local media recently, at Al-Thuraya Ramadan Tent at the JW Marriott Kuwait City. The event was very successful and was attended by more than 100 media representatives from different newspapers and magazines in Kuwait. The iftar was a great opportunity for Marriott Hotels to raise awareness about the different offers and promotions available throughout the holy month of Ramadan.

The JW Marriott Kuwait invites guests to enjoy the perfect Ramadan experience at the breathtaking 'Al-Thuraya Tent'. The tent offers traditional settings complemented by live cooking stations, scrumptious seasonal specials and breathtaking ambience. 'Al-Thuraya' embodies the special occasion, accompanied by stunning Ramadan decoration and soothing live oud music, all combining together to create the ultimate invitation into the homely setting. It is the ideal spot for friends or family to come and enjoy shisha following iftar and ghabka offerings.

Guests will also stand the chance to win valuable prizes every week, including free airline tickets to Europe, free hotel stays, free gift vouchers and a lot more. Moreover, the Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait has recently launched a new culinary adventure called 'The Market'. The new culinary concept allows guests to enjoy a dining extravaganza from around the globe. 'The Market' offers a wide array of stations with ready-to-eat food from the most popular cuisines in the World, including Indian, Asian, Mediterranean and a lot more. Throughout the month of Ramadan, "The Market" will offer a generous Arabian feasts featuring delicious Ramadan dishes, live cooking stations, live entertainment and a wide range of shisha flavors. In addition, the stun-

ning oriental decoration and tent-like surroundings as well as the weekly raffle draw to win valuable prizes, will make 'The Market' the perfect Ramadan venue to enjoy unforgettable time with friends and family. 'The Market' will leave guests captivated, not only by the lavish buffets but by the warm and inviting atmosphere.

Furthermore, guests can celebrate Ramadan in style at the 'Blendz' restaurant at Residence Inn by Marriott Kuwait. 'Blendz' offers sumptuous iftar and ghabka buffets featuring a variety of oriental and international dishes. Adding to the magical atmosphere, guests can enjoy a wide selection of shisha flavors at the restaurant's outdoor terrace and stand a chance to win weekly prizes such as airline tickets, hotel accommodation and much more.

Guests can also watch the Euro Cup 2016 matches live with friends and family, enjoy the great atmosphere and unparalleled hospitality at the JW Marriott Kuwait, Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait and Residence Inn by Marriott Kuwait.

'Arraya' Ballroom also offers a wide range of buffets for iftar and ghabka perfect for corporate events. George Aoun, Cluster General Manager at Marriott Hotels in Kuwait, said "on behalf of Marriott Hotels Kuwait management and associates, I would like to wish Kuwait's nationals and residents Ramadan Mubarak."

Aoun added "Marriott Hotels in Kuwait always try to offer their guests exceptional Ramadan experiences, including rich iftar and ghabka buffets, live entertainment and valuable prizes at competitive prices." Ramadan 2016 at Marriott Hotels in Kuwait is generously sponsored by the Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Sama Dental Centre and KLM-Air France.



Ramadan Quiz 2016

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.

2016/7/6 ع.س

8) The Prophet (PBUH) himself led the Muslim army in how many battles?

Five times.

YES NO

Date: _____

Name: _____

Civil ID: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Photo of the day

Following the discovery of oil, old Arab houses were replaced with modern buildings and cars. This side of the Fahad Al-Salem Street, as it appeared in 1963, shows life at one of the most important commercial streets in Kuwait at the time. Photo prepared by Mahmoud Zakaria Abu Alella, Researcher in Heritage, the Ministry of Information. (Source: Kuwait Commercial Directory Company)

FARWANIYA GOVERNOR WELCOMES WELL-WISHERS



KUWAIT: Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah welcomed Ramadan well-wishers at the governorate's public diwan recently. The guests included Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Mubarak Al-Khuraij, parliament members, sheikhs, tribal chiefs, ambassador and a large number of citizens and residents.



NBK VISITS MUBARAK HOSPITAL

KUWAIT: The Public Relations Department at National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) organized a visit to Mubarak Hospital in Jabriya to share iftar with medical staff there, and show appreciation to their efforts in serving patients throughout the year.

NBK's Public Relations Officer Talal Al-Terki said: "The NBK family of employees is always keen on communicating with all segments of society in all occasions, especially social ones such as Ramadan and Eids. NBK is also committed to organizing activities and periodic visits to hospitals around Kuwait, as part of its social and humanitarian activities, and reflecting the spirit of participation and communication with all social categories."

NBK is always keen on organizing social activities and initiatives in the health sector in specific, and has been for over 20 years, Terki said, expressing appreciation for the humanitarian efforts that medical staff at Mubarak Hospital exert towards all patients.

The visit took place in a friendly atmosphere, during which Mubarak Hospital's medical staff expressed appreciation to NBK's initiative, as well as other activities through which the bank seeks to spread humanitarian awareness and the culture of participation.



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Young Voices



LOTS OF FUN IN KUWAIT, BUT IT NEEDS MORE RECYCLING

By Faten Omar

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.

Q: What is your name?

A: My name is Safyre.

Q: What grade are you in? What school do you go to?

A: I'm grade two at Kuwait American School (KAS).

Q: What do you want to be when you grow up?

A: I want to be an architect because I like to draw and design buildings.

Q: What is your experience about Ramadan?

A: I think Ramadan is good because most people seem happy when they fast but for others it seems hard for them to get through a day without eating or drinking. I tried to fast but I got too hungry. My mother said it's better to start out by fasting for one meal.

Q: Tell me more about growing up in Kuwait?

A: What I like about Kuwait is that there are many things to do such as going to the parks, the beach, riding bikes, meeting friends, shopping and spending time with my family. I also love that a lot of people are trying to recycle though still not enough people are recycling.

Q: What do you dislike about Kuwait?

A: I don't like that people are throwing their trash everywhere and leaving their rubbish in the parks.

Q: What do you want to change about Kuwait or the world?

A: I'm going to make buildings look like animals, maybe horses or rabbits, I will let them decide. And I'm also going to help people recycle by making signs and keeping an eye on people if they are throwing trash or not.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do with your friends?

A: I like to go to my friend's house and spy on her grandmother and see what she's cooking and know the ingredients of her yummy cookies. Today I will make a midnight's snack with my father called friendship cookie from a book about girls' friendship.

Q: What was the nicest thing you did for someone?

A: I cheered up a friend, she was really sad because her first friend was mean to her but I told her that sometimes in life people will just start being mean to you and I told her about how sad I get when I see the living things suffer from all the rubbish in Kuwait, then she felt better.

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- Drive and achieve budget sales and average spend target.
- Good English communication skills. Arabic is a plus.
- Delivery of excellent standards.
- Customer service oriented.
- Ability to lead.

Retail In-Charge

Minimum Requirements

- Minimum 4 to 5 years of experience in a similar role.
- Knowledge in Restaurant and Food Hygiene standards.
- Drive and achieve budget sales and average spend target.
- Good English communication skills. Arabic is a plus.
- Delivery of excellent standards.
- Customer service oriented.
- Ability to lead.

Catering In-Charge

Minimum Requirements

- Minimum 4 to 5 years of experience in a similar role.
- Knowledge in Restaurant and Food Hygiene standards.
- Drive and achieve budget sales and average spend target.
- Good English communication skills. Arabic is a plus.
- Delivery of excellent standards.
- Customer service oriented.
- Ability to lead.

Cost Controller

Minimum Requirements

- Minimum 4 to 5 years of experience in a similar role.
- Hold a Bachelor's Degree.
- Advanced accounting skills, including data analysis.
- Experience in costing and dealing with suppliers.
- Good English communication skills. Arabic is a plus.

Interested applicants may send their CVs to Hr.hospitality@alibinali.com

Legalese

RAMADAN

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

Ramadan Mubarak to everyone. Before I start with my topic, I just want to say that I am very grateful to my readers (and writers), for giving me the chance to explain the law in the simplest way possible through my articles, with the aim of helping as many people as possible live a peaceful life.

Even though Ramadan is an Islamic religious month, in Kuwait the practices seem to affect everyone. Our schedules change, even our work environments change. It all makes sense to those who are used to Ramadan - we wake up late because we stay up late. We work fewer hours because we spend more time with family, but for an expat who's just moved here, Ramadan can be very confusing and maybe even hectic. Therefore, today I am going to be answering Ramadan related questions.

Working hours

Question: Our shifts have changed in Ramadan from 8 am to 4 pm to 11 am to 4 pm and 8 pm to midnight. We are now working nine hours instead of eight. We come in six days a week and are forced into coming twice a day, instead of one continuous shift. Is this legal?

Fajer: No, the requirements from your employer are not legal. The law clearly states the following: "It is forbidden to allow workers to work for more than 48 hours per week or eight hours a day, except in such events as are specified in this law. Working hours during the month of Ramadan shall be equal to 36 hours per week."

Let me explain. The working week is six days a week and not five, even though most offices give the sixth day off to the employee as paid leave. Six working days means six hours per day for Ramadan as the maximum is 36 hours per week. As for the double shifts, it's legal, if it's not more than six hours a day.

Eating in public

Question: I moved to Kuwait recently and was not aware that eating and drinking in public was prohibited in Kuwait. My assumption was that fasting was for Muslims only and as a non-Muslim, I thought I would be able to eat and drink freely. A police officer saw me and warned me not to do so, and I am wondering what the basis behind this is.

Fajer: There's a law in Kuwait that was issued in 1968 (nearly 50 years ago!) that prohibits people from eating or drinking in public, and prohibits others from assisting people from drinking or eating in public. There's an up to one month jail punishment and/or a fine of up to KD 100 for violators. You might have also noticed that restaurants don't open until a later time, and only offer delivery for earlier hours - that's also by law.

Eid

Question: My boss just told me that I will be working on Eid and am not entitled to the public holiday. He also said that I will not be compensated with overtime, instead I will just get another day off. I don't think that's right, what can I do?

Fajer: Article 68 of Kuwait labor law states fully-paid official holidays are as follows:

- a- Hegira New Year: 1 day
- b- Isra' and Mi'raj day: 1 day
- c- Eid Al-Fitr: 3 days
- d- Waqfat Arafat: 1 day
- e- Eid Al-Adha: 3 days
- f- Prophet's (PBUH) Birthday (Al-Mawlid Al-Nabawi): 1 day
- g- National Day: 1 day
- h- Gregorian New Year: 1 day

In the event where the worker is required to work during any of the above mentioned holidays, he shall be entitled to a double remuneration and an additional day off. I think the law is extremely clear that you should be compensated with double your daily wage, which is your monthly salary divided by 26, as well as an additional day off.

I hope the above was helpful and Ramadan Mubarak to you and your families!

For any legal questions or queries, email ask@fajertelawyer.com.

Crimes

report

Interior Ministry official charged

KUWAIT: According to a security source, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah received information from a citizen who said that a ministry official is committing immoral acts with a relative. Sheikh Mohammad asked an undersecretary to form a committee that included two major generals, and following investigations, it was found that the official had committed several violations including immoral and indecent acts, and these were documented by messages found on the phone of the relative.

The committee also found financial violations, including covering up for an employee who receives a salary but does not report to work for long periods. There are also financial transfers worth thousands of dinars that seem suspicious.

In another case, an officer at the central prison was found giving mobile phones to an inmate, who is his relative. The officer admitted doing so and claimed other officials are doing the same. A disciplinary council decided to terminate two officers, and Sheikh Mohammad will submit the decision to the Cabinet to fire the higher ranked officer.

Thief Caught

Neighbors caught a thief who broke into a citizen's car at iftar time in Fintas, and handed him to police.

Man assaults father

A citizen insulted his father at the urging of his wife. His sister then called the police, so he fled. The elderly man was surprised by his son's verbal attack and attempts to physically beat him, before other family members intervened. Police are investigating.

Search for 'home wrecker'

"Please, this woman wants to destroy my life," is what a citizen told Mubarak Al-Kabeer police when a girl he knows threatened to expose him in front of his wife. The citizen broke up his relationship with the girl and ignored her calls, so she sent him a text message threatening to tell his wife. The woman is being summoned for questioning. — Al-Rai



KUWAIT: This photo shows drugs and other contrabands found with four dealers who were arrested yesterday.



A policeman inspects a car's trunk during one of the campaigns carried out in Jaber Al-Ahmed and Doha.

POLICEMAN, CADET ARRESTED FOR TRAFFICKING IN DRUGS

2 KG HASHISH, OTHER DRUGS FOUND WITH FOUR-MEMBER GANG

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Farwaniya detectives arrested four citizens for drug trafficking, said security sources, noting that one of the suspects was a policeman and one of the buyers was a police cadet. Case papers indicate that narcotics detectives had been tipped off concerning the suspects' activities and that they were ambushed and arrested red-handed in Ardiya with 140 illicit pills.

Separately, a four-member gang was arrested for drug trafficking, said security sources. Case papers indicate that narcotics detectives were tipped off concerning a female citizen trading in drugs, and on raiding her house, a male illegal resident was arrested with a huge amount of meth. They admitted that they possessed the drugs to trade in them. They also said they procured the drugs from another female citizen and her Filipina maid, who were also arrested. On searching the suppliers' house, detectives found 2 kg of hashish, 200 gm of heroin, 50 gm of marijuana, two bags of ice, 200 illicit pills and 25 imported liquor bottles. In addition, detectives said that they found a huge amount of hormones, proteins and muscle enhancing injections worth over KD 200,000.

More beggars caught

Following up the daily hunt for beggars, security sources arrested five more expats begging, including: Alem Abdul Hussein (65), an Iranian holding a dependent residency visa sponsored by Murad Shah Mirani, another Iranian; Lotfi Bekheet Habib, an Egyptian heavy duty machinery operator working for Al-Sahm Al-Moltaheb Est; Nader Bekheet Habib, an Egyptian painter working for New Jersey General Trading Co; Ali Abbas Fakhruddin, sponsored by a tailor shop in Farwaniya; and Sobha Ala, sponsored by citizen Habib Abdul Hameed.

Police impersonators arrested

Criminal investigations detectives arrested two people who committed several robberies in Khaitan and Farwaniya while impersonating as police detectives, the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Media Department announced yesterday. Case papers indicate that detectives had received several reports about robberies in which the culprits could not be identified, as they sometimes committed their robberies while impersonating as police detectives. However, investigations evenly led to two Syrians, 31 and 25,



Another person arrested yesterday for begging.



Kuwait Municipality inspectors are seen during a food safety inspection campaign in Mubarakiya.

who were arrested later on in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. The suspects admitted to committing six robberies, and that they impersonated as police detectives in four cases. They were sent to the proper authorities to face charges.

Weapons campaign

Weapons police launched inspection campaigns in Jaber Al-Ahmed and Doha in search of unlicensed weapons and ammunition. Security sources said after blockading both areas, checkpoints were placed everywhere and inspections resulted in arresting six people who had been wanted for financial claims and one for a drug-related five-year prison sentence.

Food safety

As part of its 'Your Health Matters to Us' campaign, Kuwait Municipality, represented by the Mubarakiya inspection team, inspected foodstuff stores, butcheries, markets and co-ops in Mubarakiya and Mirqab from 8:00 pm until 1:00 am to make all stores complied with municipality conditions. The campaign resulted in destroying 120 kg of lamb legs, filing



20 citations and closing down two outlets and a restaurant.

Traffic fines unlocked

The Ministry of Interior's Traffic General Department has unlocked the traffic fines committed in 2015 and earlier for one complete month starting yesterday, with the exemption of serious violations like driving with a driver's license for non-Kuwaitis, high speeds and 2016 violations, Director of Traffic Fine Investigations Brigadier Mohsen Al-Mekhyal said. Mekhyal explained that violators could pay off their tickets online through the ministry's website, or at various traffic departments and service centers. Further, Mekhyal explained that motorists who had their vehicles or licenses withdrawn should check with the traffic fine investigations department once they have paid off their tickets.



A photo provided by the Interior Ministry showing two suspects arrested for committing robberies while impersonating police.



A handout photo shows a woman arrested yesterday for begging, with some cash that police found with her.

POLICE INTENSIFY SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILD

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: MP Ahmed Mutee' said upon direct instructions from Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, the Ministry of Interior has intensified search operations for missing Kuwaiti child Abdulaziz Ahmad Al-Azmi. Meanwhile, MP Sultan Al-Lughaisam Al-Shemmari denied reports that he had offered a big reward to whoever finds the missing child.

The Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Media Department urged the public to provide police with any information that could lead to finding the child.

The local press reported yesterday that Abdulaziz Al-Azmi, a 14-year-old boy, disappeared last week, and his family hasn't found him yet. His father said that his son suffers from a psychological problem and dropped out of school two years ago. He said they sought medical and spiritual treatment to no avail. He said that on the day of his disappearance, he was with his mother and brothers at dawn, and told his mother he wanted to sit outside. He went out under the watchful eye of his mother, then fled towards the Sixth Ring Road, which is across from his Saad Al-Abdullah house. The father said the mother woke him up, and he went along with his brother to look for him. He said when they came close to him, he crossed the road and disappeared. He said police searched the area, but the boy is yet to be found.



POWER DISCONNECTED FROM VIOLATING HOUSE

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) yesterday disconnected power supply at a Jaber Al-Ali house owned by a citizen who had violated construction regulations and built five floors. Undersecretary Mohammed Boshehri said. The current law bans building more than three floors in total for each house. Boshehri added that the ministry would do the same at dozens of houses whose owners committed similar violations in various areas over the coming few days. He added that a meeting was held with municipality Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi yesterday to discuss coordinating cutting and disconnecting power supplies at violating houses in private and model residential areas.

Meanwhile, MEW's distribution grid manager Dhahwi Al-Hamli said that the rate of blackouts recently was normal in view of rising temperatures and the expected overload on the national power grid. "Compared to blackouts that happened last year, they are relatively less this summer," he said, noting that 18,000 power units were working throughout Kuwait and that the number would reach 20,000 once the new units in newly constructed areas join service. "Things are still safe this summer," he underlined.

KNPC SIGNS CONTRACTS WITH TWO LOCAL COMPANIES TO INVEST IN FILLING STATIONS

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) announced yesterday the signing of two contracts with two local companies to invest in five filling stations to offer a variety of services. The company said in a press statement that its CEO Mohammed Ghazi Al-Mutairi signed the two contracts yesterday.

The first contract the company said was signed with a local company with a five-year duration and includes the provision of supermarkets in five filling stations including Doha (35), Ghazali street (62), Waha in Jahra (129), Al-Siddiq (127) and Ardiah (126).

It said the second contract was signed with another local company to invest in three filling stations including Ghazali Street (62), Waha in Jahra (129) and Ardiah (126) so as to provide automobile service, a car wash, spare parts and accessories sales, pointing out that the duration of the contract is also for five years.

Meanwhile, Mutairi stressed the importance of these contracts, a step that is the first of its kind adopted by KNPC, adding that the company was eager to improve its services provided to consumers. He said that this step comes as part of the company's plan to create investment opportunities for local companies and strengthen the partnership with the private sector, pointing to the company's intention to expand these services in the rest of the stations. — KUNA



Sanders' hometown proud of his mark on campaign

BANGLADESH MAKES 2000 ARRESTS IN ANTI-MILITANT CRACKDOWN



RICHMOND: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump gestures during a rally. — AP

TRUMP PRESSURED TO STEER FREE OF CONTROVERSY

'YOU THINK I'M GOING TO CHANGE? I'M NOT CHANGING'

NEW YORK: Weary Republicans are looking for assurances that Donald Trump can maintain the discipline needed to stay on message as he prepares for a bruising general election run-up against Hillary Clinton.

Trump's conciliatory, teleprompter-guided victory speech Tuesday appeared to stave off - at least for the time being - a near-revolt over his racially divisive attacks against the American-born judge of Mexican heritage hearing the case against his now-defunct Trump University. As he kicked off his general election campaign Friday, a thorny question has arisen: How does the party keep Trump in check?

'Total pivot'

"A primary campaign against 16 opponents is very different and combative in a different way than a general election against a well-organized, well-funded Clinton machine," said Rep. Chris Collins, who has been helping to coordinate Trump's outreach to Congress. Collins said he understood there would be lingering questions about Trump after the distracting episode, but said the speech was part of what he sees as a "total pivot" by the candidate.

"Mr Trump is a very smart guy and wants to win," he said after a weekly gathering with Trump staff on Thursday. "I'm convinced we'll see a very disciplined GOP nominee moving forward." The judge episode arguably marked the biggest crisis of Trump's campaign to date, and sparked a series of phone calls from concerned Republicans, including House Speaker Paul Ryan, pressing the gravity of the situation. "I explained exactly what I thought about that comment. I said it publicly and I said it privately," Ryan said in an interview that aired on "Good Morning America" Friday. "I don't know what's in his heart," he added. "But I do think, hope and believe that he's going to improve the tenor of the campaign, the tone of the campaign, the kind of campaign that he's going to run."

It remains to be seen, however, how deeply Trump has internalized the message. Since launching his campaign, Trump has pushed back against calls by some of his closest aides and family members to adopt a more "presidential tone." His fiery language and penchant for controversy has earned him endless free media attention and energized voters during the primaries, helping him secure victory.

"You think I'm going to change? I'm not changing," he

boomed at a press conference recently. Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski dismissed the idea of an intervention, and downplayed the significance of the victory speech, noting that Trump has used teleprompters on multiple occasions to deliver specific remarks.

"From time to time, he'll use it. But it's a function of the audience and what he wants to say. I can guarantee you this: In Richmond tonight, it will not be a teleprompter speech," he said. Indeed, Trump was already showing signs that general election Trump will sound a lot like primary Trump. He tweeted "Pocahontas is at it again!" Friday morning, using his favored nickname for Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who officially endorsed Clinton Thursday evening and met with her Friday. At a rally later in Richmond, Virginia, he evoked the nickname yet again, saying "Pocahontas is not too happy!" That prompted some in the crowd to break out into Indian war cries. Trump - indeed, not using a teleprompter - delivered a speech that sounded like the ones from his rallies during the primaries, delivering familiar riffs about the Mexican border wall, claiming he was "the least racist person you'll see" and suggesting that Clinton "hates" President Barack Obama.

'Winners Night':

Speaking in a 12,000-person-capacity arena that was only about one-third full, he also mused that he might hold a "Winners Night" at the Republican convention next month, during which various sports heroes would appear. To try to keep Trump, who is notoriously resistant to advice, on track, some on his team are turning more to his grown children - Eric, Don Jr and Ivanka, as well as Ivanka's husband, Jared

Kushner - in the hope that they can exert influence. In addition to giving them more public roles, some campaign aides have been pushing for them to travel more with the candidate, according to a person familiar with the efforts, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about private discussions.

The goal is to try to keep Trump on message, while asserting more control over Lewandowski, who is a constant presence by Trump's side. Lewandowski led Trump to victory in the primary with the motto "Let Trump be Trump," and has long resisted suggestions that Trump needs to change his tone. — AP

MAN THROWS EXPLOSIVES INSIDE SHANGHAI AIRPORT

SHANGHAI: A man hurled a bottle containing homemade explosives inside the main international airport in China's commercial hub of Shanghai yesterday, injuring four people before attempting to kill himself, authorities said. The unidentified man removed a beer bottle or bottles with explosive materials from a backpack before throwing one near a check-in counter in Terminal Two at Pudong International Airport, the Shanghai government said in a statement.

He then took out a knife and slashed at his neck, it said, adding the man is now in critical condition in hospital. His motive was not disclosed. There have been several cases in China of disgruntled individuals setting off explosions or starting fires in revenge for perceived wrongs.

Four passengers were injured in the incident, said the statement on the Shanghai government's official microblog. The official Xinhua news agency said they included a man from the Philippines, as well as a 67-year-old man and a 64-year-old woman - both described as Chinese. The nationality of the fourth victim was unclear.

The four were slightly injured by glass shards and are being treated in hospital, it added. A few flights were affected because the incident disrupted the check-in area but the airport later returned to normal operation, Xinhua said. Online video clips showed dense grey smoke rising to the ceiling of the cavernous terminal, and paramilitary security forces rushing into the building immediately after the incident.

Photos posted online by those claiming to be witnesses showed police keeping people back from the scene and abandoned luggage littering the floor. The incident came as people returned home after a public holiday and just days before Thursday's opening of a Disney theme park in Shanghai. In a similar incident, a wheelchair-bound man from southern China detonated a homemade bomb at Beijing international airport in 2013 as a protest at alleged police brutality. The man, Ji Zhongxing, was later sentenced to six years in jail. Last year an unemployed man set off an explosion at a public park in the eastern province of Shandong, killing himself and another person and wounding 24. — AFP

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THOUSANDS FLEE FALLUJA USING ARMY SECURED SAFE EXIT ROUTE

BAGHDAD: The Iraqi army said yesterday it had secured the first safe exit route for civilians to leave Islamic State's besieged stronghold Falluja, and a Norwegian aid group said thousands of people had already used it to flee in the first day it was open.

Iraq has launched a major operation to recapture Falluja - an Islamic State bastion just an hour's drive from Baghdad - but the United Nations fears for the fate of up to 90,000 civilians believed trapped inside with little food or water. The new exit route, known as al-Salam (Peace) Junction, was secured on Saturday, southwest of Falluja, Joint Operation Command spokesman Brigadier Gen. Yahya Rasool told Reuters.

"There were exit routes previously, but this is the

first to be completely secured and it's relatively safe," said Rasool. About 4,000 people had fled the city over the past 24 hours through the al-Salam Junction, said Karl Schembri, a spokesman for the Norwegian Refugee Council, which has been assisting people who escape the city. "We expect thousands more to be able to leave in the coming days," he said.

The Al-Salam Junction route was secured after troops dislodged insurgents from districts located on the western bank of the Euphrates river, opposite Falluja's city centre on the east bank, said Rasool. He did not give a number for the civilians who were able to flee so far using it.

More than 20,000 people have managed to flee the city and its surrounding area since the Iraqi army began the offensive on May 23, the United Nations said on June 8. But the lack of secure routes made their escape extremely difficult and dangerous. At least a dozen people were reported to have drowned while crossing the Euphrates.

Those who managed to reach government-held lines said they walked for days to avoid sniper fire and explosive devices planted by Islamic State insurgents along roads to delay the army's advance. A government official said the militants were putting up a tough fight defending the city, long an insurgent bastion where US forces fought the heaviest

battles of their own 2003-2011 occupation.

Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi says the troops are progressing cautiously in order to protect the civilians. The army is receiving air support from the US-led coalition and ground support from Iranian-backed Shiite militias and Sunni tribal fighters. The Shiite militias have deployed behind the army's lines and did not take part directly in the assault on the city to avoid inflaming sectarian feelings. The assault on Falluja is taking place at the same time as advances by US-backed fighters and Russian-backed Syrian government forces in Syria, at the opposite end of Islamic State's self-declared caliphate. — Reuters



SIRTE: This handout photo uploaded yesterday on the official Facebook page of the media center of the Libya's Government of National Accord's forces' military operation against the Islamic State group in Sirte, reportedly shows burnt vehicles at the site of a suicide car bombing carried out by the Islamic State group against gatherings of pro-government forces. — AFP

IS BOMBERS HIT LIBYA PRO-GOVT FORCES AS SIRTE BATTLE RAGES

JIHADIST FORCES PUTTING UP FIERCE RESISTANCE

TRIPOLI: Forces allied with Libya's unity government battled yesterday to retake the Islamic State group's last redoubts in its stronghold of Sirte, facing fierce resistance including a series of suicide car bombings.

The pro-government forces entered Sirte on Wednesday and have been advancing more quickly than expected against IS, which seized control of the coastal city last year and turned it into its main base of operations in North Africa. The loss of Sirte would be a major setback for IS, which has also been losing territory in Syria and Iraq where the jihadist group established its self-declared "caliphate" in 2014.

Jihadist forces surrounded in a densely populated area of around five square kilometers in the city centre have been putting up fierce resistance and yesterday carried out three suicide car bombings against pro-government fighters. "Three explosions from cars driven by Islamic State suicide bombers targeted our forces in Sirte," Reda Issa, a spokesman for the unity government's forces, told AFP.

Two of the bombers hit gatherings of pro-government forces and another hit a field hospital, he said. At least one person was killed and four wounded in the blasts, Issa said. The attacks came a day after pro-government forces said they had recaptured the port in Sirte, the hometown of Libya's ousted Dictator Moamer Kadhafi, and residential areas in the city's east.

Fighting street-to-street

The forces are allied with Libya's Government of National Accord, which is backed by the international community as the country's legitimate authority. The GNA, led by prime minister-designate Fayez al-Sarraj, has been struggling for months to assert its authority in the face of rival administrations vying for power in the chaos of post-Kadhafi Libya. 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. They have engaged in heavy street-to-street battles with the jihadists, deploying tanks, rocket launchers and artillery in the fight for the city.

The Misrata militia forces who have an arsenal that includes MiG fighter jets and attack helicopters have also carried out dozens of air raids against IS. The operation announced yesterday on its Facebook page that it had launched fresh air strikes against IS positions and vehicles in central Sirte. Much of the fighting has been around a sprawling Kadhafi-era conference centre which once hosted international summits but now houses an IS command centre.

IS has responded to the offensive with machineguns, mortar rounds and sniper fire, as well as bombings like yesterday's suicide attacks. A medical official in Misrata said on Saturday that at least 137 pro-GNA fighters had been killed and 500 wounded since the operation began with a sweep towards Sirte on May 12.

US hails 'rapid progress'

Foreign intelligence services estimate IS has 5,000 fighters in the country, but its strength inside Sirte is unclear. The establishment of an IS bastion in northern Libya, just across the Mediterranean from Europe, raised widespread fears and foreign powers backing the GNA have welcomed the offensive on Sirte.

The UN envoy to Libya, Martin Kobler, said Saturday on Twitter that he was "impressed" by the "rapid progress" of pro-GNA forces. He also urged "all fighters to respect international humanitarian law," saying "civilians must not be targeted". Most Sirte residents have fled but officials have said some 30,000 civilians remain in the city. Washington's anti-IS envoy Brett McGurk also said Friday he was "encouraged by the progress" being made in Sirte, adding there was a good chance IS forces in the city "could crack pretty quickly". The United States and Britain are reported to be providing intelligence support to the operation, with the Washington Post reporting earlier this month that a small group of US special forces had been sent to Libya to work with the militias.

Pro-GNA forces said on Thursday they expected within "two or three days" to announce the liberation of the city. Analysts have warned that retaking Sirte would not spell the end of IS in Libya, where the jihadists have fed on political and military divisions since the 2011 uprising that ousted and killed Kadhafi. — AFP

US PROBES 'FRIENDLY FIRE' STRIKE ON SYRIA ALLIES

WASHINGTON: The coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Syria may have accidentally hit allied rebels during an air strike at the end of last month, a US military spokesman said Saturday. Coalition forces carried out three air strikes against tactical IS units and vehicles near Ma'ra on May 28, Centcom spokesman Colonel Patrick Ryder said in a statement.

"The coalition was subsequently informed that one of the air strikes may have hit counter-ISIL forces and their vehicle, instead of ISIL forces. Initial reports were that four counter-ISIL personnel may have been killed in the strike," he said, adding that an investigation was under way. "We will continue our support of counter-ISIL forces and will apply any lessons learned derived from the investigation to improve our operation in the future," Ryder said, confirming a Wall Street Journal report.

According to Centcom, the coalition had conducted three bombings that day in that area of the province of Aleppo, along the Turkish border, where heavy fighting took between rebels and jihadis has raged in recent weeks. The spot hit is located as the city of Manbij further east, in the last stretch of territory along the border with Turkey still under jihadist control.

According to the Journal, the rebels hit by the bombing belonged to the Mutasim brigade, which claims to have lost 10 fighters in the strike. The newspaper said the brigade is one of the groups that received weapons and equipment from the Pentagon as part of the US training program for Syrian rebels. The \$500 million program launched in early 2015 was suspended a few months later when the rebels failed to progress. It was relaunched this year in a simpler form. — AFP

EGYPT APPOINTS NEW ANTI-CORRUPTION CHIEF WITH PREDECESSOR FACING TRIAL

CAIRO: Egypt's parliament approved yesterday the appointment of a former prosecutor as the new anti-corruption chief, state news agency MENA said, less than a week after his predecessor went on trial accused of making up lies about the scale of the problem. Parliament approved the appointment of Hisham Badawi as head of the Central Auditing Authority, Egypt's main anti-corruption agency, with 329 of Egypt's 596 deputies voting in his favor.

Badawi's predecessor, Hisham Geneina, was sacked by President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in March after he stirred controversy in a raft of interviews at the end of last year in which he claimed that government corruption had cost 600 billion Egyptian pounds (\$67.6 billion) over a four-year period. Sisi appointed a fact-finding commission that quickly concluded Geneina, a former judge, had misled

the public. Geneina was charged this month with spreading false news about the cost of corruption. His trial began on Tuesday.

Sisi has made fighting graft a priority for his government as it struggles to rebuild an economy battered by political turmoil since the 2011 uprising that ended Hosni Mubarak's 30-year rule. Pro-government media accused Geneina of being an Islamist because he was appointed by Sisi's predecessor, Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood. As military chief, Sisi ousted Mursi in 2013 after mass protests against his rule, outlawing the group and declaring it a terrorist organization. He went on to win a presidential election in 2014 and launched a fierce crackdown on dissent, drawing widespread allegations of abuse by human rights groups. The government says it follows the law and says cases of prisoner abuse are isolated incidents. — Reuters



MAKASAR: Three Indonesian Muslim women look at a giant copy of the Quran at a mosque in Makasar yesterday. Tens of millions across the Muslim world fast from dawn to dusk and strive to be more pious and charitable during the month, which ends with the Eid holiday. — AFP

TAIWAN AUTHORITIES REJECT EX-PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO HK

TAIPEI: Taiwanese authorities yesterday refused former president Ma Ying-jeou permission to visit Hong Kong, citing national security considerations. Ma, who stepped down on May 20 after eight years, applied to the presidential office early this month for permission to make a trip on June 15 to the semi-autonomous southern Chinese city.

He was to deliver a keynote speech at the Society of Publishers in Asia awards. Ma, an advocate of rapprochement between Taiwan and China, was to have spoken about cross-strait relations and the Northeast Asia situation, according to his office. But the office of new President Tsai Ing-wen, from the China-sceptic Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), rejected his application, which was reviewed by a special panel grouping senior officials from various government agencies.

"The presidential office has decided not to approve the former president's application," Tsai's spokesman Alex Huang told reporters. Huang termed Ma's application as "sensitive," "unique" and "crucial in a national security perspective." "The former president had been in charge of or in contact with massive amounts of top state

secrets, and the plan came about less than a month since his retirement," Huang said.

"Hong Kong has been a highly sensitive area considered from Taiwan's national security point of view," he said, adding Ma must respect a state secrets law introduced in 2003. Ma's office strongly condemned the decision, saying the purpose of the planned trip was transparent. The suggestion that secrets might be leaked "is disrespect of a retired president and has damaged the international image of Taiwan's freedom and democracy".

Ties between Taiwan and China have become frosty since Tsai won the presidential election in January, as Beijing does not trust her independence-leaning party. China and Taiwan split in 1949 at the end of a civil war but Beijing still considers the island part of its territory awaiting reunification-by force if necessary.

Tensions eased markedly and 21 agreements between the two former bitter rivals were signed during Ma's tenure. But public sentiment in Taiwan has recently turned against closer ties with Beijing, with voters saying trade deals have been agreed in secret and not benefited ordinary citizens. — AFP

TWIN BLASTS NEAR DAMASCUS KILL 12, WOUND DOZENS MORE

BEIRUT: Two suicide bombers struck close to the Syrian capital Saturday, killing at least 12 people and wounding dozens more in the latest attack to hit the predominantly Shiite area in recent months, state TV and an opposition activist group said.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the bombings through its Amaq news agency, which said there were three attacks carried out by suicide bombers. Amaq said two attackers were wearing explosive belts while the third was in a car.

Syrian State TV said the blasts in the Sayyida Zeinab area just south of Damascus killed 12 people and wounded 55 others. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 20 people were killed and dozens were wounded in the two explosions.

The blasts came as US-backed fighters in northern Syria tightened their siege on the IS stronghold of Manbij, where tens of thousands of civilians are trapped by the fighting. The Syria Democratic Forces,

a predominantly Kurdish group, encircled the town after capturing dozens of villages and farms near the Turkish border. "The push toward Manbij slowed down because of fear for civilians there," said Mustafa Bali, a Syrian journalist who visited the front line. "All telecommunications with the town have been cut," he told The Associated Press by telephone. The Observatory said tens of thousands of civilians in the town fear bombardment of residential areas at a time when most bakeries have stopped working and food is running out. It said airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition have killed 30 civilians, including 11 children, since SDF began its offensive on May 31.

Key supply line

Manbij, one of IS's largest strongholds in Syria's Aleppo province, is a waypoint on a key supply line between the extremists' de facto capital of Raqqa and the Turkish frontier. The suburb where the bombing took place is home to a shrine by the same name, one of the most renowned in Shiite Islam. The heavily guarded shrine to Sayyida Zeinab, the daughter of the first Shiite imam, Ali, and granddaughter of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad, receives thousands of Shiite pilgrims each year.

State TV aired footage from the blast site, showing several vehicles and shops on fire and at least two buildings whose balconies, doors and windows had been destroyed. Blood stains could be seen on the debris-covered road. Fire engines rushed to the scene to extinguish fires caused by the explosions. State news agency SANA said the first blast was caused by a suicide attacker wearing an explosives belt, while the second was the result of a suicide attacker in a car rigged with explosives. — AP



DAMASCUS: In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, Syrians gather around burning buildings after a bomb attack at the Sayyida Zeinab suburb. — AP

STUDENTS TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR VICTIM AT STANFORD GRADUATION

PALO ALTO: Stanford University graduating students and women's rights advocates plan to use the school's commencement ceremony to again express their anger over the six-month jail sentence given to a former student for sexually assaulting an unconscious woman.

Students will demonstrate Sunday during "Wacky Walk," a rambunctious, slow-moving stroll by graduating students dressed in zany costumes that precedes the official graduation events. Organizers are asking them to carry signs and decorate their caps with messages showing solidarity to the woman sexually assaulted on campus last year by former Stanford swimmer Brock Turner.

The woman's emotional statement to the court about how the assault devastated her life was widely shared online, attracting national attention to the case. Turner, 20, of Oakwood, Ohio, is scheduled to be released from Santa Clara County jail in September, after completing three months of his sentence due to good behavior.

Emotional national debate

His six-months in jail sentence, which also orders him to register as a sex offender for life, touched off an emotional national debate about leniency and campus sexual assault and sparked outrage with critics collecting thousands of signatures to demand trial Judge Aaron Persky be removed from the bench.

The women's advocacy group UltraViolet submitted more than 800,000

signatures to the Commission on Judicial Performance's San Francisco offices Friday in a symbolic effort for Persky's removal. The group also has filed a formal misconduct complaint. The group said it has commissioned a plane to carry a banner reading "Protect Survivors. Not Rapists. #PerskyMustGo" to fly over Stanford University Stadium ahead of Sunday's commencement ceremonies.

"Stanford students are justifiably outraged over a so-called justice system that protects privileged white rapists over the survivors of their crimes - and nearly 900k UltraViolet members from California to Florida agree," said Nita Chaudhary, co-founder of UltraViolet. "With one in four women sexually assaulted while in college, we need judges that take rape seriously, and that's why Judge Persky should be removed from the bench."

UltraViolet said it has also paid for a full page ad in The Stanford Daily's graduation issue inviting students and alumni to take a stand against rape and that bicycles carrying billboards calling for the judge's removal will accompany student protesters. The bikes are a nod to two graduate students who were riding their bicycles when they confronted the freshman as he attacked the unconscious victim by a garbage bin. "I sleep with two bicycles that I drew taped above my bed to remind myself there are heroes in this story. That we are looking out for one another," the woman said in her statement to the court. — AP



SAN FRANCISCO: Activists from UltraViolet, a national women's advocacy organization, hold a rally before delivering over one million signatures to the California Commission on Judicial Performance calling for the removal of Judge Aaron Persky from the bench. — AP



WASHINGTON: Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt, and his wife Jane Sanders arrive at a rally. — AP

SANDERS' HOMETOWN PROUD OF HIS MARK ON CAMPAIGN

SANDERS STILL REFUSING TO QUIT RACE

BURLINGTON: People in this lakeside city that Bernie Sanders helped transform as mayor before embarking on a career in Congress are proud of the mark he's left in the 2016 presidential race even as they recognize that his White House bid is almost certainly going to fall short.

The senator returned to Burlington, his hometown, after a week of major developments in the campaign: Hillary Clinton clinched the Democratic nomination, President Barack Obama endorsed her after meeting with Sanders at the White House, and the party kept up efforts to ease Sanders from the race while trying not to offend his many supporters.

Sanders was largely staying out of public view this weekend, though he was booked on some Washington-based news shows on Sunday and his campaign spokesman, Michael Briggs, said Sanders and his wife, Jane, invited "a couple dozen key supporters and advisers from around the country to come to Burlington to share ideas."

Briggs said he expected "a lot of thoughtful discussion among smart people and good friends." Sanders was expected to return to

Washington for Tuesday's primary in the District of Columbia, the final one on the nomination calendar. In an email Saturday to supporters, Sanders reminded them of their "chance to stand up and be heard." His message ended: "I thank you for everything you've shared with me and all the support you've given our campaign. Now it's time to bring it home on Tuesday."

Quit the race

Sanders hasn't said he would quit the race, but after meeting with Obama, he made clear he would do everything he could to stop presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump from winning the White House. People in Burlington are familiar with Sanders and the message of social justice that he has promoted since before he was elected mayor in 1981. Many credit him with helping make Burlington the vibrant, multicultural small city that it is today, and are thrilled to see his message gain so much attention.

"What's really cool is he sort of changed the narrative in a big way," said Benjamin Gorbach, 29, of Burlington, who works at the regional

transit agency and was standing on Church Street in the rain Saturday with friend Vanessa Arbour, 26, an information technology worker. Both are Sanders supporters. Said Arbour: "I think the real important thing about Bernie was that a) he really had a chance of winning and b) people actually thought he was going to win."

Sarah Mandl, 26, of Ithaca, New York, who attended the University of Vermont and spends summers in the state, said she was surprised and happy that Sanders made it as far as he did in the race, and continues to try to get out his message "even though he knows he's not going to be president."

Dan McAllister, 60, a clergyman from South Burlington, credited Sanders with raising "some questions both the Democrats and the Republicans have to answer." Don Dresser, 65, a retired postmaster from Huntington who was wearing a "Bernie" sticker on his shirt, said he's not sure what's next for Sanders, but expects him to press his agenda at the party convention this summer. "I mean he's been speaking on the same thing since I came here in the mid-70s." — AP

A YEAR AFTER CHURCH SHOOTING, CHARLESTON REMAINS THE SAME

CHARLESTON: The names of Confederate generals still adorn street signs in Charleston's public housing projects, and a heroic waterfront statue dedicated to the Confederate Defenders of Charleston still faces Fort Sumter, where the first shots of the Civil War were fired.

Just down from the Emanuel AME church - where nine black parishioners studying their Bibles were gunned down one year ago - a statue of Vice President John C. Calhoun, a staunch defender of slavery, towers above a park.

After the June 17, 2015, massacre, South Carolina lawmakers did what many people thought was impossible to achieve and removed the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds in Columbia. Across the country, as far away as Alaska, officials moved to strip streets, college dormitories and even lakes of the names of Confederates, secessionists and public figures who championed segregation.

But a year later, little has changed in Charleston, the city where tens of thousands of enslaved Africans first set foot in North America. It was here that the work of plantation slaves made the city one of the wealthiest in the nation before the Civil War. It was here where the bombardment of Fort Sumter threw the nation into that war in 1861.

Racial issues endure

A section of a street in front of the white stucco Emanuel AME church may

have been renamed "Mother Emanuel Way Memorial District," but all of Charleston's Confederate commemorations remain intact - and longstanding racial issues endure.

"I think a lot of things happened out of the immediate emotions of how horrific the killings were. That's the human side of folks and the politeness, particularly of Charleston, that we just had to do something. But then when reality checks us - the question is what is that going to cost us in terms of changing the way we think and do things?" said Dot Scott, president of the Charleston branch of the NAACP.

A white man who police said hated blacks and posted photos of himself with the Confederate flag has been charged with killing the nine parishioners. "It was truly an attack on a race of people," Malcolm Graham, the brother of victim Cynthia Hurd, said of the shootings. "After 400 years, the African-American community still is suffering and dealing with these types of issues relating to race."

So why was there not a push to remove Confederate symbols in Charleston following the church attack? Bernard Powers, a black College of Charleston history professor, noted that it took a 15-year struggle to get the flag removed from the Statehouse grounds and that it happened only after the slayings. "People see what it took, and ultimately that flag was removed because nine people were murdered,"

said Powers, who co-authored a book about the massacre called "We are Charleston." "I think people appreciate how deeply entrenched the reverence is for the Confederacy. For a lot of folks, it is a civil religion."

As soon as South Carolina lawmakers voted to pull down the flag, they shut the door on any other changes. Gov Nikki Haley had pushed for the flag to come down but feared that going further would incite fights across the state, so she asked lawmakers to protect all the other flags and monuments while removing the Statehouse flag.

"Our goal was to hold everything together. Let's do what we can, let's be kind and accepting and understand history is just that - it's history," she said. So a statue of former Gov and US Sen "Pitchfork" Ben Tillman still stands on the Statehouse grounds. Tillman once famously praised a lynch mob that killed seven black Republicans in 1876 to intimidate others from voting. The statue calls him a "friend and leader of the common people" but makes no mention of the violence he bragged about for decades, something black lawmakers would like to see added.

Changes blocked

Changing a monument requires a two-thirds vote, and South Carolina and House Speaker Jay Lucas has vowed to block changes of any kind. That means the Citadel, South Carolina's Charleston-based military college, has to keep the Confederate flag up in the campus chapel among the flags of the 50 states and other territories, even though the school's board of visitors voted to take it down.

It's not just South Carolina. North Carolina passed a bill protecting its Confederate monuments, and other Southern states also made it harder to alter monuments or change the names of buildings honoring prominent Confederates. Like many southern states, just about every North Carolina county has a monument extolling the bravery and honor of its Confederate soldiers.

University of North Carolina history professor W. Fitzhugh Brundage, who is white, said he understands blacks who feel alienated seeing statues in public places honoring those who fought a war in large part to keep them enslaved. "That is a reminder that this state's history includes an organized effort to keep people like you, African-Americans, enslaved at the cost of hundreds of thousands of lives and hundreds of millions of dollars of destruction," he said. — AP



SOUTH CAROLINA: In this June, 27, 2015, file photo, Bree Newsome of Charlotte, NC, climbs a flagpole to remove the Confederate battle flag at a Confederate monument in front of the Statehouse in Columbia. — AP

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UK'S DAVID CAMERON WARNS OF 'LOST DECADE' AFTER EU OUT VOTE

LONDON: Prime Minister David Cameron warned Sunday that Britain would face a "lost decade" if it voted to leave the European Union as Brexit negotiations gumbled up the political system. Cameron is facing a tough fight to keep Britain in the EU in a June 23 referendum. With under two weeks to go, recent opinion polls suggest growing momentum for the "Leave" camp.

In the latest of a string of TV appearances designed to persuade wavering voters to back "Remain", the premier told the BBC that there could be a "lost decade for Britain" if it votes to leave the European bloc. "You've got to negotiate your exit," he said. "You've got to negotiate a trade deal with the EU." "I think we'd

be looking at a decade of uncertainty," he added. "It would suck the energy out of our government and our country."

A Sunday Times/YouGov online poll found that Cameron's "Remain" campaign is currently lagging the "Leave" side by 42 percent to 43 percent. A further 11 percent of people surveyed said they did not know how they would vote and four percent said they would not take part in the ballot. Averaging out the last six opinion polls, both sides are tied on 50 percent, according to academics at the What UK Thinks project. Their average excludes undecided voters.

'Putting two fingers up'
"Nobody knows what these polls are

saying," Cameron admitted to the BBC, while stressing he was optimistic of victory. Meanwhile, the leader of the anti-EU UK Independence Party Nigel Farage told the BBC that the polls showed people were putting "two fingers up" to the establishment.

"Let me just say this: there has been a shift in the last fortnight, there has been a change in this debate," he said. "People have had enough of being threatened by the prime minister and the chancellor and I think collectively people are beginning to put two fingers up to the political class." While Cameron has stressed the economic argument for Britain staying in the EU, the "Leave" camp has repeatedly

focused on concerns about the levels of immigration from the EU to Britain.

The possibility of Turkey joining the EU, opening the door to a massive wave of new arrivals, has been a recurring theme. But Cameron dismissed this as a "complete red herring" in Sunday's BBC interview, insisting: "There's no prospect of Turkey joining the EU in decades." He added: "At the current rate of progress, they will get there in the year 3000".

Ministers have denied a story in this week's Sunday Times that British diplomats had considered letting up to 1.5 million Turkish citizens have visa-free travel to Britain. The paper published details of five diplomatic documents

which it said could mean a planned deal giving Turkish citizens easier access to the EU's Schengen area being extended to Britain.

The EU agreed in March to offer Turkey visa-free access, increased aid and speeded up accession talks in return for Ankara controlling the flood of migrants crossing into Greece. But in a joint statement, Britain's Home Secretary Theresa May and Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said "selectively leaked quotes" had been used "to give a completely false impression that the UK is considering granting visa liberalization to some Turkish citizens". "That is completely untrue," they added. — AFP

SPAIN'S PP SET TO SACRIFICE PM RAJOY TO SECURE GOVT

MADRID: A majority of voters of Spain's ruling conservative People's Party (PP) would consent to its leader and acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy stepping aside if this allowed the party to stay in government, a poll showed yesterday.

Rajoy, blamed for harsh austerity measures implemented in recent years that crippled the economy as well as political corruption cases at the PP during his leadership, is seen as the main obstacle for other parties to back a PP government.

Spain returns to the ballot box on June 26 after an inconclusive December election stripped Rajoy's centre-right party of its absolute majority. Opinions polls show the vote could produce another political stalemate, forcing PP to strike a 'grand coalition' deal with the Socialists and newcomer liberal party Ciudadanos to remain in power.

According to the Metroscopia poll in the daily newspaper El Pais, which questioned 1,200 people on June 7 and June 8, the vote still remains too fragmented for any clear government majority. Among those polled, 57 percent of PP voters said they would accept Rajoy resigning his position if this meant securing a PP government, while 74 percent of overall voters thought Rajoy should go if this would pave the way for a new government.

Natural allies

An official survey released on Thursday showed voters are still not inclined to revert to the two-party system that dominated Spanish politics for the past 40 years. They seem likely to spread their votes among four main parties and four smaller ones. While the PP would win the most

votes, according to two separate polls published in El Pais and La Vanguardia on Sunday, it remains without a large enough presence in the lower house to take a second term alone.

The party led by Rajoy would win 29.8 percent of the vote, or between 119-122 seats in parliament, the GAD3 poll in La Vanguardia showed, far short of the 176 seats needed to win back its previous absolute majority. Even if the PP were to rely on backing by natural allies, market-friendly Ciudadanos (Citizens), a resulting coalition would still fall short, holding just up to 163 seats, the survey showed.

Meanwhile, support for a joint left-wing group formed by Podemos (We can) and Izquierda Unidos (IU or United Left) would stay ahead of the Socialists, with the poll in La Vanguardia giving the group 85-87 seats in Parliament over the Socialists' 80-82. The GAD3 poll questioned 1,016 people between June 6-9. The Socialists again took a hit in both surveys, similar to two separate polls published last week, losing support from the December ballot to leftwing newcomers. The Metroscopia poll in El Pais showed the Socialists winning 20.8 percent of the vote, behind the Unidos Podemos coalition with 25.4 percent, and the PP with 28.9 percent. If a ruling majority cannot be formed after the June vote, Spaniards could potentially be forced to return to the ballot box for the third time in a year. While the political impasse has had little effect on the country's economic recovery following years of prolonged recession, the Bank of Spain has warned stalled economic policy decisions could hit output if the situation continued. — Reuters



TIMBUKTU: This file photo taken on May 12, 2015 shows UN peacekeepers patrolling in Timbuktu, where nine Malian soldiers were killed by the rebel Coordination of Azawad Movements (CMA) between Timbuktu and Goundam on May 11. — AFP

UN MULLS MALI MISSION AS BODY COUNT MOUNTS

POOR LOCAL COLLABORATION, FUNDING GAPS COSTING LIVES

BAMAKO: As the United Nations looks to extend its most deadly active mission for peacekeepers for another year, those working closely with its venture in Mali say poor local collaboration and funding gaps are costing lives.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has asked the Security Council to approve 2,500 extra troops and police for the Mali force, known by the acronym MINUSMA, and to keep the mission in place until June 2017. Increasingly relentless jihadist attacks and growing hostility from locals have soured its presence in the country, with 68 peacekeepers killed since it was established in April 2013, including 12 in the space of two weeks in May.

Islamist organizations such as Ansar Dine and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) have excelled in a combination of improvised explosive devices and ambushes in the unforgiving desert terrain of the country's north. Attacks on UN peacekeepers "are increasingly complex and sophisticated," Ban wrote in a report to the council, while banditry was also threatening the livelihoods of the citizens they were sent to protect.

MINUSMA military chief of staff General Herve Gomat laid out several challenges in this respect at a press conference on Thursday in Bamako. "To combat terrorist groups, we have to know where they are, how many of them there are, and how they work," Gomat said. "That requires technical capacities that we don't have today. But what is needed above all is intelligence-human intelligence," Gomat admitted.

Peace deal

The mission is supposed to oversee the implementation of a faltering peace deal signed in 2015 by the government, loyalist militias and the Coordination of Azawad Movements (CMA), a coalition of rebel groups. The UN-mediated accord calls for the creation of elected regional assemblies but stops short of autonomy or federalism for northern Mali, known by locals as Azawad, and was designed to bring stability following a military coup and jihadist takeover in 2012. Mali's government has since been unable to maintain security with domestic forces alone. But, according to Malian columnist and security expert Alexi Kalambry, certain armed groups unhappy with how the agreement is being rolled out are turning a blind eye on attacks on MINUSMA they could help prevent. "Every time there is a stalemate in negotiations the number of attacks goes up. It's linked, and MINUSMA know all about this," Kalambry said. "They should have modified their mandate as soon as they saw they were being targeted."

Ban also called for MINUSMA to be clearly allowed to "take all necessary means" to ensure that its areas of operation are not used for hostile activities of any kind that would prevent it from discharging its duties under its mandate, and to protect itself, following several violent confrontations with locals.

Most recently in April, angry demonstrators protested about day-to-day "harassment" by French forces in the restive city of Kidal, before breaking into a restricted area of an airport runway. Two protesters were killed and nine injured. "MINUSMA forces just stay behind their barbed wire and have no idea what's happening outside it," said Fahad Ag Almahmoud, secretary general of a pro-government militia. "You have to get out there to prevent danger," Almahmoud said,

accusing the force of failing to learn about its enemy and therefore opening itself up to vulnerabilities.

Equipment shortages

Much of the reluctance to get to know the terrain more intimately stems from a lack of equipment, support and even pay in contingents supplied by African countries that make up more than two thirds of the force. Ban's report said 12 units lacked "major equipment" while pointing to a lack of helicopters and special-

ists as a cause of concern, without naming any nation specifically.

The Chadian contingent of MINUSMA, a country at the forefront of the French-led military intervention launched to oust Islamist rebels in 2013 and led to the formation of the UN mission, is notably troubled. Chadian troops have deserted their posts in disputes over pay and conditions, complaining that they hadn't been paid, and have endured heavy losses while serving as well as in "friendly fire" incidents caused by internal disputes. — AFP

POPE SLAMS CULTURE OF 'PERFECT' PEOPLE SHUNNING THE DISABLED

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis scathingly decried the pursuit for perfect bodies yesterday, saying such obsession leads to society hiding away the disabled to avoid offending sensibilities of what he termed "the privileged few."

In St Peter's Square, Francis celebrated Mass dedicated to disabled people and their caregivers, then spent time chatting with and hugging many of them at the end of the service. "It is thought that sick or disabled persons cannot be happy, since they cannot live the lifestyle held up by the culture of pleasure and entertainment," Francis said in his homily. "In an age when care for one's body has become an obsession and a big business, anything that is imperfect has to be hidden away, since it threatens the happiness and serenity of the privileged few and endangers the dominant model."

Involved in the Mass were many of the

disabled themselves. A blind woman, using Braille, read aloud to the faithful from the Bible; the liturgy was translated in sign language. And in a first for such Vatican ceremonies, mentally disabled people in costumes acted out a parable in the Mass's Gospel selection as it was being read aloud.

"The world does not become better because only apparently 'perfect'—not to mention 'made-over'—people live there," the pope said, but "when solidarity and mutual acceptance and respect increase." Francis has used his papacy to champion the cause of those marginalized in societies where wealth and other financial achievements are prized over inner worth. The pope decried the rationale that it is better to keep disabled people "apart, in some 'enclosure'—even a gilded one—or in 'islands' of pietism or social welfare, so that they do not hold back the pace of a false well-being." — AP



VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis (L) sits as he leads a Mass for sick and disabled people as part of the Jubilee year of Mercy at St Peter's square. — AFP

VENEZUELA PRESIDENT VOWS NO RECALL REFERENDUM THIS YEAR

CARACAS: Venezuela's embattled President Nicolas Maduro vowed Saturday that no referendum on ending his term would be held until next year, amid mounting pressure as the country teeters on the brink of economic collapse.

Maduro's opponents are racing to call a referendum before January 10, as a successful recall vote before that deadline would trigger new elections rather than transfer power to the vice president. If the opposition meets all requirements with their bid to oust him, "the recall referendum will be held next year. Period," the elected leftist populist said.

For months now, Maduro has faced increasing hostility, with opponents accusing him of driving oil-rich Venezuela to

near economic demise and launching a marathon process to call a vote on ousting him from office. Maduro's comments came after the National Electoral Board (CNE) announced it would take fingerprint scans from June 20 to 24 to confirm the identity of 1.3 million people who signed the opposition's referendum petition.

The South American country's state-led economy has seen its situation veer from bad to desperate, with long lines for basic items such as rice or corn meal, looting and black marketeering now everyday scenes. Seven in 10 Venezuelans want Maduro to go, according to polls. "We must respect whatever the electoral authorities" decide, Maduro said at a pro-government event in Caracas. — AFP

HUNDREDS ATTEND TIGHTLY-POLICED GAY PRIDE MARCH IN CENTRAL KIEV

KIEV: More than 700 gay rights activists held a peaceful march through central Kiev yesterday amid an unprecedented security operation in the ex-Soviet country where homophobia remains widespread. Sunday's march was the third such gay pride rally in Ukraine but the first ever to be held in the centre of the capital Kiev. Several thousand police and National Guard officers lined the route during the event, which lasted about 20 minutes. "They did an excellent job on security this year. That's unprecedented," said one of the organizers Anna Sharygina. "According to our information all the participants got home safely without problems," she said. National police spokeswoman Katia Dekanoidze told Interfax-Ukraine news agency that 57 people were briefly detained on the sidelines of the march. Participants held "KyivPride" placards and banners bearing the slogan "LGBT rights are human rights." Some carried rainbow flags and Ukrainian national flags and chanted "Human rights come first!" "Rights should be respected irrespective of genre and orientation," said 25-year-old activist Darina Kovalyuk. "In a modern society, no one should face discrimination for these reasons." A number of Ukrainian politicians took part, including two from President Petro Poroshenko's parliamentary bloc.

A spokesman for the Pravy Sektor ultranationalist movement Artyom Skoropadski had warned on Facebook that the march could

turn into a "bloodbath." Before the march began, a group of five protesters held up a placard saying "Kiev opposes propaganda of sodomy, I am against gay pride in Ukraine." Police surrounded them and moved them away from the marchers. At the end of the peaceful march, some activists sang the Ukrainian national anthem.

'Civilized and tolerant'

Homosexuality was illegal in the USSR and homophobia is still rampant in Ukraine where the Orthodox Church has a strong influence. The march went ahead after Amnesty International rights group sent an open letter to Kiev Mayor Vitali Klitschko calling for him to make sure the event was adequately policed. Signatories including Ukraine's Eurovision Song Contest winner Jamala.

Klitschko responded with a statement saying he would do everything he could to keep the peace, urging both activists and opponents to behave in a "civilized and tolerant way." The previous year's gay pride event held far from the centre lasted only a few minutes before stone-throwing nationalist protesters clashed with the participants and at least 10 people were injured and 25 detained. In 2013 a small march on the outskirts of Kiev went ahead peacefully but a 2014 march was cancelled after police refused to ensure participants' safety. — AFP



KIEV: Pope Francis (L) sits as he leads a Mass for sick and disabled people as part of the Jubilee year of Mercy at St Peter's square. — AFP

CHINA SAYS MORE TALKS NEEDED TO BUILD CONSENSUS ON NUKE EXPORT

BEIJING: China said yesterday that more talks were needed to build a consensus on which countries can join the main group controlling access to sensitive nuclear technology, after a push by the United States to include India. China is seen as leading opposition to the US move to include India in the 48-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), but other countries, including New Zealand, Turkey, South Africa and Austria also oppose Indian membership, according to diplomats.

The NSG aims to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons by restricting the sale of items that can be used to make those arms. India already enjoys most of the benefits of membership under a 2008 exemption to NSG rules granted to support its nuclear cooperation deal with Washington, even though India has developed atomic weapons and never signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the main global arms control pact.

"Large differences" remain over the

issue of non-NPT countries joining the NSG, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said in an online statement. "With regard to what to do on the issue of non-NPT signatories joining (the NSG), China consistently supports having ample discussion on this to seek consensus and agreement and come to a unanimous decision," Hong said.

"The NPT is the political and legal basis for the entire international non-proliferation system," Hong said, adding that China would support the group in further

talks to come to a consensus at an early date. Opponents argue that granting India membership would further undermine efforts to prevent proliferation. It would also infuriate India's rival Pakistan, which responded to India's membership bid with one of its own and has the backing of its close ally China.

Pakistan joining would be unacceptable to many, given its track record. The scientist that headed its nuclear weapons program ran an illicit network for years that sold nuclear secrets to countries

including North Korea and Iran. A decision on Indian membership is not expected before an NSG plenary meeting in Seoul on June 20, but diplomats have said Washington has been pressuring hold-outs.

Most of the hold-outs oppose the idea of admitting a non-NPT state such as India and argue that if it is to be admitted, it should be under criteria that apply equally to all states rather than under a "tailor-made" solution for a US ally. —Reuters



ALLAHABAD: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader Lal Krishna Advani and BJP president Amit Shah (L) attend the party's national executive meeting. —AFP

MODI NOTCHES UPPER-HOUSE GAINS, EYES FURTHER BATTLES

ALLAHABAD: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has notched up gains in elections to India's upper house of parliament, and is seeking to drive home the advantage when his nationalist ruling party meets to devise a strategy to win India's biggest state.

Modi drew standing ovations from US lawmakers this week on a visit to Washington DC but, like President Barack Obama, has faced a struggle in his two years in power to get legislation through a hostile second chamber. That job may have become slightly less difficult after his nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies added five seats in Saturday's upper house polls, but with 74 seats in the 245-chamber they remain in a minority.

BJP leaders were due to meet later on Sunday to finalize their strategy to win the 2017 election in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, knowing that defeat would handicap Modi and sap his chances of win-

ning a second term. "We have to win Uttar Pradesh to change the destiny of India," BJP national secretary Sidharth Nath Singh said to Reuters ahead of the two-day meeting in Allahabad, eastern Uttar Pradesh.

The opposition Congress alliance lost three seats to 71, with regional parties holding the balance of power, according to media tallies. With Congress down but not yet out, Modi will still have to cut deals to pass tax, labour and land reforms.

Modi swept Uttar Pradesh in the 2014 general election, helping him to claim the biggest lower-house majority in three decades. But he is unlikely to repeat that result against tough opposition from regional parties. A senior BJP official said Modi's closed-door brainstorming session would mobilize grassroots activists to consolidate the majority Hindu vote base and devise a formula to play up Hindu-Muslim polarization and caste politics. —Reuters

BANGLADESH MAKES 2K ARRESTS IN ANTI-MILITANT CRACKDOWN

PM VOWS TO CATCH 'EACH AND EVERY KILLER'

DHAKA: Bangladesh police have arrested an additional 2,000 suspected criminals including Islamist militants in an ongoing crackdown on extremists following a spate of gruesome murders, an officer said yesterday.

More than 3,000 people, including suspected ordinary criminals with existing warrants against them, were arrested on Saturday after police launched a controversial anti-militant drive across the Muslim-majority nation. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina vowed on Saturday to catch "each and every killer" as Bangladesh reels from a wave of murders of religious minorities and secular and liberal activists that have spiked in recent weeks.

Among those arrested in the latest sweep were 48 suspected militants, many of them members of banned group Jamayetul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), police said. "We have arrested 2,132 people including 48 Islamist militants on the second day of the special drive," Deputy Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidur Rahman said.

JMB is one of two local groups blamed for most of the recent killings. The government rejects claims of responsibility from the Islamic State (IS) group and a South Asian branch of Al-Qaeda, saying international jihadists have no presence in Bangladesh.

Mounting pressure

The arrests come as a part-time imam was detained in northwestern Pabna district over the latest killing, that of a Hindu ashram, or monastery, worker hacked to death on Friday. "He is a suspect and is being questioned over the murder," local police chief Abu Qudus told AFP. Bangladesh authorities have

come under mounting international pressure to end the string of attacks, which have left nearly 50 people dead in the last three years. But Bangladesh opposition parties have accused police of using the crackdown to suppress political dissent, saying many of those arrested were "ordinary and innocent people".

The week-long crackdown is part of ramped up efforts to halt the killings, with five suspected Islamists members shot dead in gun battles with police in recent days. Hasina accuses the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Islamist party ally, Jamaat-e-Islami, of orchestrating

the killings to destabilise the country after they failed to topple the government in last year's transport blockade.

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. IS claimed responsibility for those murders as well as that of the 62-year-old monastery worker. In addition to the arrests, police said they had seized nearly 1,000 motorcycles.

Motorbikes have been used in many of the attacks, with the government recently announcing a ban on motorcyclists carrying more than one passenger. A

Hindu shop owner was hacked to death outside his store in a northern district late last month, while a Hindu tailor was killed in April. Although the country is officially secular, around 90 percent of Bangladesh's 160 million-strong population is Muslim, while some eight percent is Hindu.

Other victims have included liberal activists and secular bloggers along with two foreigners and two gay rights activists. Experts say a previous government crackdown on opponents, including a ban on Jamaat following a protracted political crisis, has pushed many towards extremism. —AFP



DHAKA: Bangladeshi police escort arrested men in Dhaka on June 12, 2016, who were detained during an anti-militant crackdown across the country. —AFP

PAKISTANI HELD BY TALEBAN GETS SIGNED MAN U JERSEY

ISLAMABAD: The son of a murdered Pakistani governor who was kidnapped by Islamist insurgents has received a signed jersey from Manchester United after revealing that listening to their matches kept him "sane" during his five years in captivity.

Shahbaz Taseer, who is in his early thirties, was captured by gunmen in Lahore in 2011 and returned to his family this March, a rare happy ending that captured the public's imagination in a country that has been battling a homegrown insurgency for more than a decade.

Last month, he described in chilling detail how he was flogged, shot and had his nails pulled out by Uzbek tormentors, but was able to cling on to sanity by following the progress of his favourite football club via a radio that one of his guards, a fellow United fan, snuck into his cell. "For me, it was a window to the outside world. Getting soccer news kept me sane," Taseer wrote in Pakistan's Daily Times newspaper.

On Saturday he tweeted a picture of himself wearing the famous red shirt, expressing his jubilation. "OMG

@ManUtd just sent me this!!!" he wrote. "I'm in shock! Thank you boys!" he added, expressing his gratitude to the squad members who signed the shirt. Since his release, Shahbaz and his wife Maheen have lit up Twitter with their funny and loving account of their relationship and of his return to civilisation.

His father Salmaan Taseer was governor of Punjab province and was shot dead by his own bodyguard for his opposition to the country's blasphemy laws, which critics say are used to target religious minorities. The exact circumstances of Shahbaz's release remain unclear. He told CNN and the BBC that the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan wanted to use him for a prisoner swap.

Later, after he came into the custody of the Afghan Taliban, he said he was released with the help of a senior militant but did not explain why. Earlier this year, Argentine football star Lionel Messi sent two jerseys to a five-year-old Afghan boy who became an Internet sensation when he was pictured wearing a plastic bag with "Messi" scrawled on it in marker pen. —AFP



SRINAGAR: A Kashmiri Muslim looks on during the annual Hindu festival at the Khirbhawani temple in Tullamulla village, some 30kms east of Srinagar on June 12, 2016. Thousands of Kashmiri Hindus, many of whom were displaced more than two decades ago, attended the festival in order to worship the Hindu goddess Mata Khirbhawani on the day of her birth. Some 200,000 Kashmiri Pandits fled the region in the early nineties at the start of an insurgency against Indian rule, mainly to the Hindu-dominated southern city of Jammu and they return yearly for the festival. —AFP

NEPAL'S FORMER MAOIST PM ANNOUNCES RIVAL NEW PARTY

KATHMANDU: Nepal's former Maoist Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai announced a new political party yesterday in an attempt to attract legions of voters disillusioned with mainstream leaders. Waving flags of the new centre-left party, thousands gathered at a stadium in Kathmandu where Bhattarai vowed to focus on bringing economic development to the impoverished Himalayan nation.

Bhattarai, prime minister from August 2011 to March 2013, played a key role in bringing the Maoists into the political mainstream after the end of their decade-long insurgency in 2006. But Bhattarai quit the main Maoist party last September over the adoption of Nepal's controversial new constitution, and after years of playing second fiddle to Maoist chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal, better known as Prachanda.

"Today we announce the establishment of a new political party, Naya Shakti Nepal, an alternative political force... to fulfill the hope of justice, equality, freedom, identity, liberty and prosperity of the people," Bhattarai told the cheering crowd.

A coalition of mainly left-wing parties including the main Maoist party form the current government. Bhattarai's move came weeks after the Maoists joined hands with hardline splinter groups to form their own new party in an attempt to bolster their strength. The Maoists, a minority partner in the current government, have lost ground since winning a landslide victory in the Himalayan nation's first post-war elections in 2008.

Many former guerrillas have broken away from the main party in recent years, accusing its leaders

of betraying their revolutionary ideals. Analyst Lok Raj Baral said Bhattarai's new party could become a powerful player in an already crowded political landscape. "Bhattarai has a strong image and his economic agendas can appeal to the people who

are highly dissatisfied with the major political parties," said Baral, of the Nepal Centre for Contemporary Studies. "As a Maoist leader, he also has strong linkages across the country to make the party powerful." —AFP



KATHMANDU: Nepal's former Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai announces the new Naya Shakti Nepal Party under his leadership in front of supporters. —AFP

KAZAKHSTAN SAYS GUNMEN BEHIND ATTACKS ARRESTED

ASTANA: Kazakhstan yesterday said it had detained all the remaining gunmen involved in a series of shooting attacks last week that killed seven people and was blamed on radical Islamists. Four civilians and three soldiers were killed when a group of gunmen went on the rampage at gun shops and attempted to storm a military base on June 5 in the western city of Aktobe near the Russian border.

In a statement, the national security service said "all the participants" in the June 5 attacks

had been disarmed and detained. It did not say how many had been detained. Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev called the incident a "terrorist attack" carried out by "followers of the non-traditional religious movement Salafism" in televised comments on Friday, referring to an ultra-conservative brand of Islam.

The oil-rich Central Asian state has released few details about the group that hijacked a bus as it attempted to storm a military base, but police and government troops said they had killed 18

suspects as they hunted down the perpetrators. Nazarbayev on Friday said the attackers had received instructions "from abroad" and called for tighter controls on foreign financing of Kazakh organizations among other security measures.

He did not say which foreign agents might have sponsored the attacks. Since gaining independence from the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan has largely avoided the chaos that has dogged other former Soviet nations in Central Asia. But social unrest in the

majority Muslim nation has grown as the economy reels from low oil prices and the economic crisis in neighboring Russia, a key ally.

Aktobe, a city of about 400,000 people, is located some 100 kilometers from the Russian border in Kazakhstan's oil-producing west. The city was the site of country's first ever suicide bombing in 2011 that targeted the local headquarters of the National Security Committee (KNB), although only the suicide bomber was killed in the attack. —AFP

S KOREA BEGINS OPERATION TO RETRIEVE SUNKEN FERRY



SEOUL: A giant crane that will lift up the sunken Sewol ferry is seen during a salvage project in the sea off Jindo. —AFP

SEOUL: A salvage firm yesterday began a difficult and costly operation to raise a sunken South Korean ferry which capsized at sea more than two years ago in a disaster that shocked and enraged the country. The Sewol was carrying 476 people when it sank off the southwestern island of Jindo in April 2014, with the loss of 304 lives—most of them schoolchildren.

Bringing the ferry to the surface has been a key demand of some victims' families, who hope nine bodies still unaccounted for may yet be recovered. The Seoul government last year announced plans to salvage the 6,825-ton ship and selected a Chinese consortium led by state-run Shanghai Salvage Co. to spearhead the \$72 million project.

"The operation began at 2 p.m.,"

Jung Seong-Wook, a bereaved family member who acts as a families' representative for the salvage project, told AFP. Jung was one of dozens of family members watching the work anxiously from fishing boats in foggy weather. Preparatory work was completed early in the morning, with the salvage firm's main crane positioned near the bow and several cables attached to the ferry.

The lifting of the bow section—which will be conducted over the next two days—is seen as the most challenging part of the operation. "This operation takes up about 70 percent of the overall salvage project," Jung said. Once the bow is lifted, work to place 18 lifting beams beneath the ferry will begin. If the lifting operation goes announced smoothly, the Sewol may be brought to the surface by late July.

The Sewol lies more than 40 metres (130 feet) beneath the surface, and officials say lifting the 145-metre-long vessel from the seabed without causing it to break up will be the main challenge. A naval architect involved in the project put the success rate at 80 percent at a press briefing in April, saying lifting a wreck in one piece from such a depth had never been done before.

The disaster was mainly due to human error—an illegal redesign of the ship, an overloaded cargo bay, inexperienced crew and a questionable relationship between the ship operators and state regulators. Captain Lee Jun-Seok was sentenced to life in prison for "murder through willful negligence" and sentences ranging from two to 12 years were passed on 14 other crew members. —AFP

PHILIPPINES GET TASTE OF DUTERTE ANTI-CRIME WAR

BLITZ OFFERING AN AUTHORITARIAN TASTE OF LIFE

MANILA: Armed police are detaining crying children, bewildered drunks and shirtless men throughout the Philippine capital in a night-time blitz that is offering an authoritarian taste of life under incoming president Rodrigo Duterte. The incendiary lawyer won last month's elections in a landslide largely on a pledge to end or suppress what he said was rampant crime, warning the Philippines was in danger of becoming a narco-state and that tens of thousands of criminals would be killed in his crackdown.

light on other controversial aspects of his law-and-order campaign.

Since winning, Duterte has said he will impose late-night bans on children walking the streets, alcohol sales and the national passion of karaoke singing — insisting that his crackdown must start with the fundamentals of discipline in society. Police in Manila, eager to burnish their tough-guy credentials for their new boss, have in recent weeks begun their own versions of such night-time curfews that have seen hundreds of people detained. In some districts police have

Armed police detain children
When AFP accompanied Modequillo's forces through CAA, children aged under 10 were taken away in police vehicles. Two girls were in tears as they were led away by armed officers even though they were out with adult relatives. Under Modequillo's operation, the children were taken back to the police station for lectures and to be picked-up later by parents.

But in another part of the Manila, parents of children found on the streets at night alone were jailed. Duterte has said he intends to simi-

detained. Sitting on the police station's floor, Rafael Ganton insisted he was sober but that his apparent crime was being outside on a sweltering night without a shirt on. "I was just going to lock the doors of our billiards shop," Ganton said. Jose Diokno, chairman of the Free Legal Assistance Group, which lawyers for victims of human rights abuses, said the operations were concerning on many levels, including that armed police were traumatizing children.

Diokno also voiced concern that Duterte's war on crime, like with Oplan RODY now, would target the poor. "They are the weakest sector of society the easiest to oppress, they are already oppressed," Diokno told AFP.

License to kill

Since winning, Duterte has said he will also offer bounties to police to kill criminals. More controversially, Duterte has called for ordinary citizens to kill suspects. Even hardened anti-crime figures in the Philippines have warned such incitements could lead to a breakdown in the rule of law, and mob rule.

"The situation could escalate into a serious peace and order problem in the entire country," said senator-elect and former national police chief Panfilo Lacson. Diokno said he was "appalled" by Duterte's call for citizens to kill suspected criminals. "It's an invitation for people to take the law into their own hands," Diokno said. Unidentified gunmen have killed at least nine drug suspects over the past fortnight, according to police statistics, raising fears that vigilante murders have already begun.

The murders have echoes of Duterte's two-decade rule of the southern city of Davao. He said he turned the city into one of the nation's safest but rights groups say vigilante death squads have killed more than 1,000 people there. Duterte has variously denied and boasted about links to the death squads, but has been unequivocal about what is in store for the Philippines when he becomes president. "I intend to instill fear in the criminals," he said after winning the election. —AFP



MANILA: In this picture taken on June 8, 2016, a social worker holds a child after a night-time curfew had passed in Manila. —AFP

Across the nation police have already reported killing more than 20 alleged drug suspects over the past fortnight, egged on by Duterte who has urged them to begin his war on crime even before he takes office at the end of this month. The efforts by police in Manila, a chaotic mega-city of more than 12 million people, to clean up the streets ahead of Duterte being sworn in casts a

even named the crackdowns "Oplan RODY"—an acronym for Rid the Streets of Drinkers and Youths that is also Duterte's nickname. "We all know drinking in the streets and youth roaming the streets at night are a formula for crime," Senior Superintendent Jemar Modequillo told AFP as he led Oplan RODY's sweep through a large southern Manila slum called CAA.

lary jail parents for "abandonment", while the children will be sent to be cared for by the already overwhelmed social welfare department. Under Modequillo's Oplan RODY, more than 100 adults deemed to be drunk or disorderly were detained and given the option of doing 40 push-ups at the police station or a fine and a short prison stint. All chose the former.

Some said they had been unfairly



OKINAWA: Protesters stage a demonstration march against US military presence. —AFP

US BASE PROTESTORS MARCH ON TOKYO

TOKYO: Japanese protesters yesterday demonstrated against the heavy US military presence on the island of Okinawa, as tensions run high after a base employee was arrested following the rape and murder of a local woman. Some 100 people marched through the streets of downtown Tokyo, with many of them holding banners reading "no more base".

The protest, calling for plans to create a fresh US base on the southern island to be scrapped, came a week before tens of thousands on Okinawa plan to hold their own rally against the foreign military presence. A series of crimes including rapes, assaults and hit-and-run accidents by US military personnel, dependents and civilians have long sparked protests.

Last week Kenneth Franklin Shinzato, 32, a former US Marine employed at the US Air Force's sprawling Kadena Air Base, was arrested for the alleged rape and murder of a 20-year-old woman. He had earlier been arrested for disposing of the body of the victim, identified by local media as Rina Shimabukuro. The case has intensified

longstanding local opposition to the military presence on the strategic island, which reluctantly hosts about 75 percent of US bases in Japan by land area.

A sailor was arrested in early June for allegedly driving the wrong way down a street while intoxicated and injuring two people, one seriously, leading to further opposition and an alcohol ban for US navy personnel stationed in the country. More than half of the 47,000 American troops in Japan under a decades-long security alliance are stationed on Okinawa, the site of a major World War II battle that was followed by a 27-year US occupation of the island.

In 1995 the abduction and rape of a 12-year-old girl by three US servicemen prompted Washington to pledge efforts to strengthen troop discipline to prevent such crimes and reduce the US footprint on the island. But a plan agreed by the US and Japanese governments to relocate a US base from Okinawa's heavily residential area to another site on the island has faced strong resistance from many Okinawans. —AFP

MAHATHIR HOUNDS SCANDAL-RIDDEN MALAYSIAN PM ELECTION CAMPAIGN

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's veteran former leader Mahathir Mohamad campaigned against his old party over the weekend, seeking to turn voters against scandal-tainted Prime Minister Najib Razak in two by-elections being fought next week. Mahathir, who led the country for 22 years until his retirement in 2003, quit the United Malays National Organization (UMNO) earlier this year in disgust over Najib's grip on the party despite allegations of massive corruption.

The feisty 90-year-old has teamed up with old foes in the Pakatan Harapan opposition alliance to remove Najib, his one-time protégé. "If the people want to see this country being robbed by the PM, who has now passed a law that makes him stronger than even the Agong (King)... If that's what the people want, they'll get what they deserve," Mahathir told a news conference while campaigning on Saturday.

Najib, who denies any wrongdoing, has seen his popularity sink to all time lows because of a multi-billion dollar graft scandal at the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) state fund and reports that around \$1 billion were deposited in his personal bank account.

The multi-ethnic Barisan Nasional coalition led by UMNO has lost support among the Southeast Asian nation's ethnic Chinese and Indian minorities because the controversy, leaving the embattled premier desperately trying to shore up his Muslim Malay vote bank.

Last month, UMNO convinced parliament to allow members to debate a bill submitted by the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS) which has stayed outside the anti-Najib alliance - for the introduction of hudud, the Islamic penal code that sets punishments like amputation and stoning.

The constituencies being contested on June 18, midway through the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, are largely

Malay, and the only runner that the anti-Najib alliance has in the race is a new moderate Islamist party that splintered from PAS.

Hudud gambit

The by-elections at Sungai Besar and Kuala Kangsar will show how well support for Najib is holding up, with an eye to a national election due in 2018. Mahathir on Saturday carried his anti-Najib message to Sungai Besar, a coastal town amid the paddy fields, coconut groves and palm oil plantations on the western side of the Malaysian Peninsula. He called on voters to rally behind the candidate from the newly-formed National Trust Party, known as Amanah.

"It doesn't matter what party, these are parties for the people against Najib because he has committed a lot of corruption, including misappropriating up to 50 billion ringgit (\$12 billion) that cannot be explained," Mahathir said, referring to the troubles at 1MDB, whose advisory board had been chaired by Najib until recently.

Najib has strengthened his grip over UMNO by purging dissidents including a deputy prime minister and, worryingly for non-Muslim Malaysians, he has also built bridges with PAS, whose Islamist hardliners make up the second-largest Malay party.

Oh Ei Sun, senior fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, said UMNO and PAS had insufficient votes to force the hudud bill through parliament, and saw the issue as a ploy to distract Malay voters away from 1MDB.

Some analysts suspect Najib of testing the ground for working with PAS to secure a victory at the next general election. "UMNO is trying to use the Islamic card to build a relationship with PAS," Professor James Chin, director at the University of Tasmania's Asia Institute. —Reuters

PHILIPPINES ARREST KIDNAP SUSPECT OF ITALIAN PRIEST

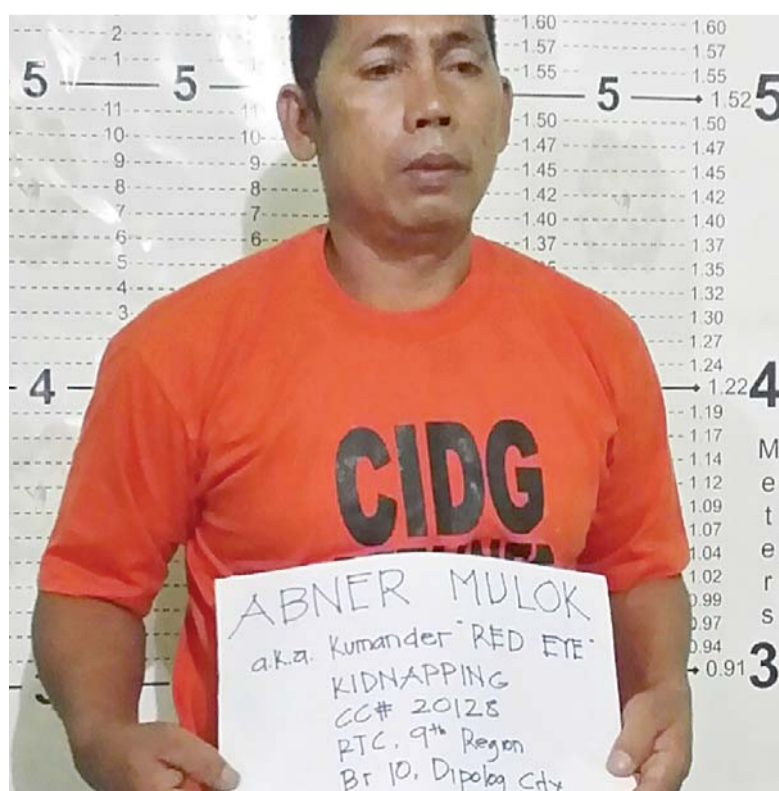
PAGADIAN: Philippine authorities have arrested a man accused of kidnapping an Italian businessman who was held hostage for six months by Islamic militants, the military said yesterday. Retired Catholic priest Rolando Del Torchio, was abducted at his pizza restaurant in the southern city of Dipolog on Mindanao island last October. He was released unharmed on the Abu Sayyaf stronghold of Jolo Island in April.

Sehar Muloc, also known in the area as Commander Red Eye, helped the kidnapers select and stalk their Italian target, regional military spokesman Major Filemon Tan told AFP. "He (Muloc) is linked with the Abu Sayyaf. We have no information on whether he is also a member," Tan said referring to the kidnap group, which is also blamed for the deadliest bombings in the Philippines.

Muloc was arrested near the

town of Naga, about halfway between Dipolog and Jolo, early yesterday and will be charged with kidnapping, Tan added. Authorities had earlier said they suspected Del Torchio was abducted by local gunmen who handed him over to the Abu Sayyaf group in Jolo, 230 kilometers to the southwest.

Del Torchio, then 56, had worked as a missionary for the international organization PIME in the south from 1998 before retiring in 2000 to set up his restaurant, colleagues told AFP shortly after he was abducted. The Abu Sayyaf murdered a Canadian hostage in April but subsequently released 18 Indonesian and four Malaysian captives. The group still holds another Canadian man, a Dutchman and a Norwegian, the military said. The kidnapers have threatened to kill either the Canadian or the Norwegian if a multi-million-dollar ransom is not paid by today. —AFP



DIPOLOG: This undated handout photo released on June 12, 2016 by the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Western Mindanao Command (WESTMINCON) shows Sehar Muloc, also known as Commander Red Eye, the man accused of kidnapping an Italian businessman in the southern city of Dipolog on Mindanao Island. —AFP

FLORIDA NIGHTCLUB ATTACK: LATEST US MASS SHOOTING

ORLANDO: A gunman took hostages and opened fire inside a crowded gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, early yesterday morning, killing approximately 50 people and wounding more than 42 others before SWAT officers killed him, authorities said. Police Chief John Mina said the shooter had an assault-style rifle, a handgun and a "suspicious device" with him during the attack, which is being investigated as an act of terrorism.

Here's a look at some of the nation's deadliest rampages since 2012:

Feb 25, 2016: Cedric Ford, 38, killed three people and wounded 14 others in a lawnmower factory where he worked in the central Kansas community of Hesston. The local police chief killed him during a shootout with 200 to 300 workers still in the building, authorities said.

Feb. 20, 2016: Jason Dalton, 45, is accused of randomly

shooting and killing six people and severely wounding two others during a series of attacks over several hours in the Kalamazoo, Michigan, area. Authorities say he paused between shootings to make money as an Uber driver. He faces murder and attempted murder charges.

Dec 2, 2015: Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, and Tashfeen Malik, 27, opened fire at a social services center in San Bernardino, California, killing 14 people and wounding more than 20. They fled the scene but died hours later in a shootout with police.

Oct. 1, 2015: A shooting at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, left 10 people dead and seven wounded. Shooter Christopher Harper-Mercer, 26, exchanged gunfire with police, then killed himself.

June 17, 2015: Dylann Roof, 21, shot and killed nine African-American church members during a Bible study

group inside the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Police contend the attack was racially motivated. Roof faces nine counts of murder in state court and dozens of federal charges, including hate crimes.

May 23, 2014: A community college student, Elliot Rodger, 22, killed six people and wounded 13 in shooting and stabbing attacks in the area near the University of California, Santa Barbara, campus. Authorities said he apparently shot himself to death after a gunbattle with deputies.

Sept. 16, 2013: Aaron Alexis, a mentally disturbed civilian contractor, shot 12 people to death at the Washington Navy Yard before he was killed in a police shootout.

July 26, 2013: Pedro Vargas, 42, went on a shooting

rampage at his Hialeah, Florida, apartment building, gunning down six people before officers fatally shot him.

Dec. 14, 2012: In Newtown, Connecticut, an armed 20-year-old man entered Sandy Hook Elementary School and used a semi-automatic rifle to kill 26 people, including 20 first graders and six adult school staff members. He then killed himself.

Sept 27, 2012: In Minnesota's deadliest workplace rampage, Andrew Engeldinger, who had just been fired, pulled a gun and fatally shot six people, including the company's founder. He also wounded two others at Accent Signage Systems in Minneapolis before taking his own life.

Aug 5, 2012: In Oak Creek, Wisconsin, 40-year-old gunman Wade Michael Page killed six worshippers at a Sikh Temple before killing himself. — AP

CIA: NO EVIDENCE THAT SAUDI GOVT HELPED...

Continued from Page 1

Brennan, who called Riyadh a strong US partner in fighting terrorism. Brennan said he supports the release of the still classified part of the congressional inquiry.

The Saudi government says it has been "wrongfully and morbidly accused of complicity" in the attacks, is fighting extremists and working to clamp down on their funding channels. Still, the Saudis have long said that

they would welcome declassification of the 28 pages because it would "allow us to respond to any allegations in a clear and credible manner."

The pages were withheld from the 838-page report on the orders of President George W Bush, who said the release could divulge intelligence sources and methods. Still, protecting US-Saudi diplomatic relations also was believed to have been a factor. — AP

50 KILLED IN MASSACRE AT FLORIDA NIGHTCLUB

Continued from Page 1

"Everyone get out of pulse and keep running," the club's management wrote on Facebook as the incident unfolded. A hostage situation developed, and three hours later SWAT team officers used armored cars to storm the club before shooting dead the gunman. It was unclear when the victims were killed.

Dozens of terrified patrons, some of whom had been hiding in restrooms, were rescued. One officer was injured when he was hit in his helmet while exchanging fire with the gunman, police said. Representative Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on a congressional intelligence committee, noted that the shooting took place during Ramadan, and that ISIS leaders in Syria have urged attacks during this time. "The target was an LGBT nightclub during Pride, and - if accurate - that according to local law enforcement the shooter declared his allegiance to ISIS, (that) indicates an ISIS-inspired act of terrorism," Schiff said in a statement.

'DIFFERENT KIND OF CASE'

If confirmed as an act of terrorism, it would stand as the deadliest such attack on US soil since Sept 11, 2001, when Al-Qaeda-trained hijackers crashed jetliners into New York's World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania, killing some 3,000 people.

A pair of ethnic Chechen brothers killed three people and injured more than 260 with a pair of homemade pressure-cooker bombs at the Boston Marathon in April 2013. Asked if the FBI suspected the gunman might have had inclinations toward militant Islam, including a possible sympathy for Islamic State, Ronald Hopper, an assistant FBI agent in charge, told reporters: "We do have suggestions that the individual may have leanings toward that particular ideology. But right now we can't say definitively."

US Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, who sits on the Senate intelligence and foreign relations committees, told CNN he understood that the gunman had worked for a security company and so would have undergone some background checks. "Over the next couple of days they're going to be looking to see where this individual was inspired to carry out this horrifying act of terrorism," Rubio said. "I think we're going to be talking about a very different kind of case here soon."

President Barack Obama ordered the federal government to provide any assistance needed to Florida police investigating the shooting, the White House said. He was due to speak later yesterday. The attacker was carrying an assault rifle and a handgun, Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings said. He was also carrying an unidentified "device", Orlando Police Chief John Mina said earlier.

Video footage showed police officers and civilians carrying some people away from the club and bending over others on the ground. Dozens of police cruisers, ambulances and other emergency vehicles could be seen in the area.

'HORRIFIC ACT'

"It's definitely a tragedy not only for the city but for our entire nation," Mina told reporters. "We believe this is a tragedy that could happen anywhere in the United States of America, and what we need to do is continue to be vigilant." Pulse, which was crowded for a Latin music night, describes itself on its website as more than "just another gay club." One of the founders and owners, Barbara Poma, opened it more than a decade

ago in an effort to keep alive the spirit of her brother, who died after battling HIV.

The choice of target was especially heart-wrenching for members of the US lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, LGBT advocacy group Equality Florida said in a statement. "Gay clubs hold a significant place in LGBTQ history. They were often the only safe gathering place and this horrific act strikes directly at our sense of safety," the group said. "We will await the details in tears of sadness and anger."

Orlando has a population of 270,930 and is the home of the famed Disney World amusement park and many other tourist attractions that attracted 62 million visitors in 2014. It was the second deadly shooting at an Orlando night spot in as many nights. Late Friday, a man thought to be a deranged fan fatally shot singer Christina Grimmie, a former contestant on "The Voice", as she was signing autographs after a concert.

FBI agent Ron Hopper said there was no further threat to Orlando or the surrounding area. When asked if the gunman had a connection to radical Islamic terrorism, Hopper said authorities had "suggestions that individual has leanings towards that." Police had said previously on Twitter that there was a "controlled explosion" at the scene of the shooting. Mina said that noise was caused by a device intended to distract the shooter.

A woman who was outside the dance club early yesterday was trying to contact her 30-year-old son, Eddie, who texted her when the shooting happened and asked her to call police. He told her he ran into a bathroom with other club patrons to hide. He then texted her: "He's coming."

"The next text said: 'He has us, and he's in here with us,'" Mina Justice said. "That was the last conversation." Dozens of police vehicles swarmed the area around the club. At least two police pickup trucks were seen taking what appeared to be shooting victims to the Orlando Regional Medical Center.

Pulse posted on its own Facebook page around 2 am: "Everyone get out of pulse and keep running." Just before 6 am, the club posted an update: "As soon as we have any information, we will update everyone. Please keep everyone in your prayers as we work through this tragic event. Thank you for your thoughts and love." Local, state and federal agencies were investigating.

Jon Alamo said he was at the back of one of the club's rooms when a man holding a weapon came into the front of the room. "I heard 20, 40, 50 shots," Alamo said. "The music stopped."

BEFORE CLOSING TIME

Club-goer Rob Rick said the shooting started just before closing time. "Everybody was drinking their last sip," he said. He estimated more than 100 people were still inside when he heard shots, got on the ground and crawled toward a DJ booth. A bouncer knocked down a partition between the club area and an area in the back where only workers are allowed. People inside were able to then escape through the back of the club. Christopher Hansen said he was in the VIP lounge when he heard gunshots. He continued to hear shooting even after he emerged and police urged people to back away from the club. He saw the wounded being tended to across the street. "I was thinking, 'Are you kidding me?' So I just dropped down. I just said, 'Please, please, please, I want to make it out,'" he said. "And when I did, I saw people shot. I saw blood. You hope and pray you don't get shot." — Agencies

ASSEMBLY TO PASS KEY LAWS TODAY

Continued from Page 1

In the meantime, MP Khalil Abul said yesterday that a grilling is being prepared against Education Minister Bader Al-Issa over certain violations he did not reveal. Abul said he saw the draft of the grilling which is very strong and aims at reforming education. But he said the grilling will be presented only in the next term starting in October.

The public prosecution yesterday challenged jail terms issued against seven people including three royals and acquitted six others for insulting the judiciary. The prosecution demanded stiffening the jail terms. The court last month sentenced five people including three members of the ruling family to five years in jail and a sixth for one year while it handed a 10-year sentence in absentia against a seventh. They were convicted of using social media to accuse top judges of receiving bribes. The court acquitted six others.

BENEFITS OF FASTING

Continued from Page 1

It is recommended to cut down on caffeine before fasting, since an abrupt interruption can result in headaches. The night before the fast, avoid fatty, spicy and salty foods. Before you start your fast, wake up at 2:30 and have a light but nutritious meal with plenty of liquids. The best foods are nuts, beans, fresh or dried fruits, cheese, eggs and of course, plenty of water. Some people like a cup of tea.

Avoid lengthy exposure to the sun in the early morning as well as strenuous exercise early in the day. You may feel intensely hungry mid-day but the feeling will pass after a few minutes. Don't worry if you feel a bit lightheaded or lethargic. These symptoms are more marked in the first two or three days of the fast until your body is accustomed to the change in eating patterns. Take it easy and engage in quiet activities or take a nap when you feel tired. Once the sun has set, it is recommended to break fast with some cool (not cold) water and dates (or something else sweet), which will refresh you rather quickly. Wait a few minutes before having your meal and take your time - if you eat too fast you may get a stomach ache.

Fasting this way for several days has many health benefits; in addition, you will feel a sense of exhilaration and accomplishment on completing a feat of endurance, will-power and focus. You will be ready to achieve any goal you set your mind to!

For greater achievement

While beneficial for the body, fasting in Ramadan is a way to reconnect with our Creator and reevaluate our lives. If you want to get the most out of fasting, you should realize that it has three levels and strive to achieve them all. The first level is to abstain from the things that break one's fast, such as eating or drinking. The second level is to abstain from all sins, such as anger and gossip. The third level involves keeping one's mind on wholesome, spiritually uplifting thoughts and deeds. To experience the third level and get the maximum benefit from your fast, follow these tips:

1. Read the holy Quran since, after all, fasting in Ramadan is in celebration of the revelation of this Holy Scripture: "The month of Ramadan [is that] in which was revealed the Quran, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. So whoever sights [the

new moon of] the month, let him fast it" (Quran 2:185). Many Muslims will try to read the entire Quran at least once during Ramadan. The best time to read is before or after the pre-dawn meal, but you could read it at any time.

2. Engage in prayer and supplication often, since Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) said, "Allah is angry with those who do not ask Him for anything" (Tirmidhi). Making supplications while fasting is highly recommended. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "The supplications of three persons are not rejected: the supplication of a fasting person (especially) at the time of breaking fast, of a just ruler, and of a person who is wronged... Allah causes their supplications to rise above the clouds, and gates of heaven are opened for them, and God says, 'By My Might, I will help you, even if it be after a while'" (Tirmidhi).

3. Plan to give in more charity during your fast. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, "The best charity is that given in Ramadan" (Tirmidhi). The Prophet (saw) was the most generous of people. He used to be the most generous in Ramadan when he would meet with angel Gabriel and review the Quran with him. Angel Gabriel would meet with the Prophet every night in Ramadan to teach him the Quran. Ibn Abbaas, the Prophet's cousin, said that when he met with Gabriel, he was "more generous than the wind that brings heavy rain" and when asked for anything at all, he would give it. Remember that charity can be financial and non-financial. Feeding a poor person, animals, birds, preparing a small dish to share with a neighbor, smiling to people, or teaching people beneficial knowledge are all forms of charity. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Every good deed is charity" (Muslim).

By following the spiritual and social guidelines of Ramadan, you will experience much more than a physical detox or a chance to reflect on your usual routine. You will understand why Muslims look forward to the month, feel sad when it passes, and greet each other in Eid with the prayer, "May you live to see it again!!"

Courtesy of the TIES Center, whose mission is to 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.

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Issues

PAINFUL SEARCH FOR
MISSING REFUGEE
CHILDREN IN EUROPE

By Morgan Meaker

After losing its way in the dark waters of the Aegean between Turkey and the Greek island of Lesbos, the small wooden boat carrying Ghulam Haidar, his young family and nearly 50 other passengers was hit by strong winds and waves. As the boat sank, Haidar managed to save his seven-year-old son, Shahzad, but he lost sight of the others. For the past eight months he has been in Turkey searching for his wife Shila, his daughter Zahra, 8, and his three-year-old son Behzad.

"I'm just living to find my family," said Haidar, who is from Afghanistan. He has contacted coast guards, immigration officers, international aid groups and the authorities in both Greece and Turkey. But so far, he's found nothing. His two missing children smile cheekily in a photo posted on the Facebook page "Search and find your family for refugees".

The page posts photographs and information about missing refugees, and has dealt with 172 cases of missing children since September, said its Austria-based founder Jimmy Nagy. It was through this page that the Thomson Reuters Foundation made contact with Haidar, but so far his pleas for information have answered none of his questions about his missing family.

"I've searched all the hospitals but I've found no sign of them or their bodies. That's why I believe they are alive," Haidar said by phone from Istanbul. Like Haidar, many other families who have fled war and poverty in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, are searching for missing children. Without help, they are left to conduct their desperate investigations alone. In January, the EU's criminal intelligence agency Europol said at least 10,000 unaccompanied child refugees had vanished after arriving in Europe, at risk of falling prey to trafficking gangs.

VULNERABLE

Many missing or unaccompanied children are thought to be in Greece, the EU country that has become the staging post for attempts by refugees and migrants hoping to reach wealthier northern Europe. With many camps and detention facilities in Greece full, Karen Shalev-Greene, director of the Centre for the Study of Missing Persons at the University of Portsmouth, believes that hundreds of children are living in squats or on the street - making them vulnerable to exploitation. In Exarcheia, an Athens neighborhood plastered with anarchist posters, an old school building is being used as a squat. Toddlers weave around bags of rice donated by a Chinese charity in a building now home to over 300 refugee and migrant families.

It was near to here that volunteers from Zaatar, a group that runs a shelter for unaccompanied minors and vulnerable families, discovered a group of Syrian boys, between 12 and 16, outside a brothel, smoking cigarettes. Keeping track of unaccompanied children is a tough job, particularly in an area known for its people smugglers.

"These kids are very vulnerable," said Zaatar's founder, who asked not to be named. "The big agencies are not doing their work - either they don't want to or they don't have the means - so we try to be a good influence on them." Zaatar gives the children phones so volunteers can stay in contact, making sure they stay safe.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

According to the European Commission, missing unaccompanied children are the responsibility of individual EU member states. But a February report by Missing Children Europe - an umbrella group of some 30 child protection groups - highlighted a "clear lack of ownership" in cases involving missing, unaccompanied children who often slip through the cracks. "As an example, children from refugee backgrounds tend to aim for Germany. So if a child is reported missing in Greece, authorities will assume that traffickers have taken them to Germany via Austria," said Shalev-Greene, who co-authored the report. It was then unclear whether Germany, Austria or Greece would be responsible for the case. "There has to be a decision as to who is responsible because this is happening so frequently," she said. Europol said finding missing children did not fall within its remit. "Our role is to support law enforcement authorities in different member states. We don't have any powers to act alone," its spokeswoman, Tine Hollevoet, said by email.

FILLING THE GAP

In an effort to plug the gap in protecting vulnerable children, the International Committee of the Red Cross in collaboration with national Red Cross societies has launched an online tracing project, Trace the Face, for parents looking for their children, and children searching for family members. Lucile Marbeau, a spokeswoman for the ICRC delegation in France, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation there were some 300 unaccompanied children in the Trace the Face database. —Reuters

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CLINTON VS TRUMP: BATTLE OF THE NEW YORKERS



Sen Hillary Rodham Clinton. —AP

By Jennie Matthew

Perhaps the only guarantee in Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump's epic fight for the White House is that Americans will get their first New Yorker president since World War II. On a likely freezing January 20, 2017 either the adopted daughter who served twice as state senator or the Queens-born, Manhattan billionaire will be sworn in as the 45th president of the United States.

Their campaign is the first time in 72 years that two New Yorkers are facing off in a US general election since Franklin D. Roosevelt defeated then Republican governor of New York, Thomas Dewey, in 1944. Clinton and Trump are two extraordinarily different personalities who once socialized together but are now political enemies. Yet both come from the same place in a country that straddles four time zones.

How?

New York's pulling power is one answer. "New York attracts very aggressive, high quality, high performing individuals," says Sharyn O'Halloran, profes-

sor of political economy and international and public affairs at Columbia University. "Sometimes you've got to have that oomph that only a New Yorker can bring," joked Will Liu, a 30-year-old working in finance who took his husband to celebrate Clinton clinching the Democratic nomination. "I know that if you can make it here, you can make it anywhere."

Constituency

Diversity might be another reason. New York is the largest city in the country, where more than 200 languages are spoken and nearly 35 percent of the 8.55 million residents were born overseas. Clinton, who launched her historic bid to become America's first woman commander-in-chief from the FDR memorial in New York, exemplifies the affluent, intellectual Democratic elite in the state.

Born in Illinois and an Ivy League-educated lawyer, New York elected her twice to the US Senate, allowing her to escape her husband's shadow after serving as first lady in the White House and first lady in Arkansas. Trump on the other hand comes from the cut-throat



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump. —AP

world of Manhattan real estate, a celebrity and former reality TV star whose messy divorces and outlandish opinions were tabloid fodder.

Far removed from Republicans in the southwest, Trump can be considered a monied, northeastern Republican-fairly liberal on social issues and conservative on economic issues, O'Halloran says.

But while Clinton has a New York constituency, Trump does not. His skyscrapers may dot the city, but in the Republican primary he lost Manhattan to his moderate rival John Kasich. Instead he speaks for white, often working class Republicans who feel disenfranchised and fed up. He has pockets of support upstate, but New York as a whole has been Democrat for more than 30 years.

Fluke

The state has twice as many registered Democrat voters as Republicans, but does have conservative counties that prevent an extreme Democrat from winning which helped Clinton hone her electoral skills. "To win a position in state politics in New York you have to be able to go across the lines to really

win and that's an important exercise for a potential presidential candidate," O'Halloran told AFP. Nationally, New York is an important source of donations to political campaigns and influential as the capital of a largely liberal media. If Trump pulls off what much of the world regards as the unthinkable and wins on November 8, he will also become the first president born in the city since Theodore Roosevelt took power in 1901.

Theodore, incidentally the name of Trump's newest grandson, was also larger than life and lavishly wealthy. But while Trump would be the oldest elected president at age 70, Theodore was the youngest. Stephen Hess, senior fellow in governance studies at the Brookings Institute, says Clinton and Trump's hometown is trifling at best.

"It doesn't really mean anything," he told AFP. What's more important, he said, is Clinton being the first major party female nominee and Trump an unusual party nominee with no prior background in politics. "They are unusual candidates in that regard, but the fact that both happen to come from New York is almost a fluke." —AFP

CLINTON, OBAMA PROVE DEPENDENCE ON NONWHITES

By Bill Barrow

Eight years ago, exit polls showed Hillary Clinton with comfortable margins over now-President Barack Obama among whites and Latinos during the Democratic primary season. This year, exit polls of Democratic voters showed whites narrowly preferred Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. Yet, Clinton is the presumptive 2016 Democratic nominee. The key difference: African-Americans sided overwhelmingly with the winner of 2008 and 2016 nominations, with black voters across the South and in heavily Democratic cities fueling key wins and delegate advantages in the draw-out primary contests.

For Clinton, her second effort is evidence of a lesson learned, and it provides her with a head start in rebuilding part of the general election coalition that propelled Obama to two terms. For Sanders, it's a case of what-might-have-been. And for aspiring Democrats eyeing future White House bids, it serves notice that the presidential demand for a diverse voting coalition isn't just a general election concern for Republicans too dependent on whites; it actually begins in the Democratic primary.

"You just can't have a limited strategy focused on Iowa and New Hampshire, two of the whitest states in the country," said Atlanta-based Democratic consultant Tharon Johnson, who worked for Obama's 2008 campaign, arguing that Sanders and Clinton, in her first campaign, made that mistake. South Carolina Democratic Chairman Jaime Harrison, whose early voting state offers the first primary contest with a large contingent of black voters, singled out

black women. "They almost single-handedly gave the nomination to Secretary Clinton," he said, after "doing that for Sen. Obama" in 2008.

The two campaigns bear strikingly similar trajectories. Each time, the top two contenders split Iowa and New Hampshire before a competitive finish in Nevada. But Obama then trounced Clinton in South Carolina by a 2-to-1 margin. Blacks made up about 55 percent of the electorate, and Obama won about four of five of them, according to exit polls conducted for the Associated Press and television networks.

This year, Clinton won South Carolina 3-to-1, with exit polling reflected a whopping 86-14 advantage for Clinton over Sanders among blacks, who accounted for an estimated 61 percent of primary ballots.

The 2008 and 2016 circumstances were influenced by unique characteristics of the candidates. Black voters embraced the possibility of Obama becoming the nation's first black president. Clinton, this year, capitalized on decades of good relations with black Democrats she'd helped elect, raise money for and worked with on various issues since her early years as a lawyer, advocate and first lady of Arkansas. But South Carolina established a pattern.

The nine states where blacks account for the greatest population share form an unbroken band from Maryland and Delaware down the Atlantic Coast and through the Deep South to Louisiana. Obama defeated Clinton in all of them on his way to winning 82 percent of African-Americans in states where exit polling was conducted. Clinton defeated Sanders in the same nine states, as well, and won 77 percent of the black vote in states with exit polling.

Proportional

The margins are important since Democrats award pledged delegates roughly proportionally. Obama's total pledged-delegate advantage of less than 200 can be attributed almost entirely to his success among African-Americans. Clinton's advantage this year is wider, but it was first established during a concentration of Southern states that had voted by March 15. Unable to catch up, Sanders sometimes dismissed Clinton's victories, saying the primary schedule "distorts reality" because the South is so conservative. Yet in late 2015, before voting began, he began emphasizing his personal civil rights advocacy in the 1960s - including being arrested for protesting segregated housing in Chicago. He also massaged his economic inequality arguments to focus on minorities. "The African-American community ... will respond," he predicted to AP in September.

Clinton, who spent 2015 formalizing a deep network in the South, countered with her own biography and an open embrace of Obama. She cast Sanders as disloyal to the president and hammered the senator as soft on gun control, focusing the issue on black voters wrenched by violence within the black community and many high-profile cases of black citizens being killed by police.

Georgia state Sen. Vincent Fort, a black Sanders supporter, argued Clinton's advantage was "entirely to do with her brand" as a party powerbroker and lamented that Sanders "is more in line with the black community" on issues "from universal health care to free college tuition." —AP

FROOME WINS THIRD DAUPHINE

SAINT-ETIENNE-EN-DEVOLOY: Chris Froome held on to win the Criterium du Dauphine for the third time as fellow Briton Stephen Cummings won the seventh and final stage yesterday. The two previous times Froome won the Dauphine, he went on to claim Tour de France glory a month later. The 31-year-old had to survive some nervous moments in the final 15km of Sunday's 151km run from Le-Pont-de-Claix to Superdevoluy as Spaniard Alberto Contador launched several accelerations on the penultimate climb. Frenchman Romain Bardet also tried his chances on a rapid descent between the final two climbs but Froome doggedly chased down every attack. He finished 12 seconds clear of Bardet with Ireland's Dan Martin third at 19sec. Australian Richie Porte was fourth at 21sec with Contador, himself a two-time Tour winner, settling for fifth at 35sec. Cummings, 35, who won a memorable stage at last year's Tour, outwitting French pair Bardet and Thibaut Pinot in a dramatic finish, was the last of a 20-man breakaway group to wilt and finished 3min 58sec clear of the chasing pack. Martin won the sprint for second with Bardet third, moving both up a place in the overall standings thanks to the bonus points available on the line. Tasmanian Porte, who started the day second, was caught out in the uphill sprint finish and lost two places. — AFP

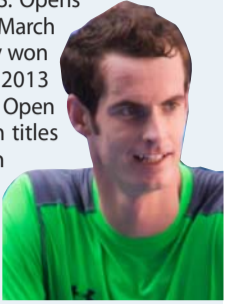


EX-ENGLAND CAPTAIN CARR DEAD AT 89

LONDON: Former England captain Donald Carr has died, at the age of 89, it was announced yesterday. The MCC flag at Lord's, where England were playing Sri Lanka in the third Test, flew at half-mast as a mark of respect. Carr played twice for England, once as captain, on the 1951/52 tour of India. He made almost 20,000 first-class runs, in a 23-year career, was Derbyshire captain between 1955 and 1962 and a Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1960. But Carr became better known as a cricket administrator, serving as secretary of the Test and County Cricket Board—the forerunner of the current England and Wales Cricket Board. Carr was also an assistant secretary of MCC, managed three England overseas tours and later became an International Cricket Council match referee. Paying tribute to Carr, ECB chairman Colin Graves said: "Cricket has lost one of its greatest friends; someone who gave a lifetime of service to our game; as a cricketer, a captain, a club secretary, an England tour manager, and, of course, as a senior administrator - serving MCC and the TCCB with distinction in a leadership role as the game moved into the modern, professional era; and always meeting the many difficult challenges he faced during this period with his customary good humour and charm. — AFP

MURRAY AND LENDL TO WORK TOGETHER AGAIN

LONDON: World number two Andy Murray is reuniting with his former coach Ivan Lendl and the two will work together at Queen's Club today, the Scot said in a statement. "Ivan's single-minded and knows what it takes to win the big events," Murray added ahead of the Aegon Championships, the warm-up for Wimbledon. "I had two very successful years working with him. I'm looking forward to Ivan joining the team again and helping me try and reach my goals." Czech-born Lendl, 56, was world number one in the 1980s and won eight Grand Slam singles titles—three French Opens, three U.S. Opens and two Australian Opens. The two parted company in March 2014 after a successful relationship during which Murray won the 2012 Olympic gold, the 2012 U.S. Open and the 2013 Wimbledon title. Murray, who reached his first French Open final this month, has not added to his two grand slam titles since the separation. The 29-year-old, who worked with former British player Jamie Delgado at the French Open, split with French coach and former Wimbledon women's champion Amelie Mauresmo in May after a two-year working relationship. — Reuters



EIGHTH RAMADAN DISABLED GAMES KICKS OFF



By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The eighth Ramadan disabled games kicked off Saturday night, organized by Kuwait Disabled Sports Club that includes wheelchair basketball, table tennis, fencing and bocce, with the participation of a large number of players of

both genders and will continue for three days. Competitions of the first day resulted in Kuwait team defeating Al-Ittihad with the score of 54-52 in the opening basketball match, following a strong and tough match. The tournament also includes Al-Noukhatha team. Abdallah Al-Haddad won first place in the flores



fencing for the general category, followed by Faisal Al-Kandary. In the juniors category, Suleiman Al-Tamimi was first, followed by Abdallah Al-Khaldi. In the table tennis preliminaries for the individual standing and setting categories, in addition to the bocce for the BC1 and BC2 were held later. Al-Ittihad and national



teams wheelchair basketball player Nizar Ramadan said today's match which his team lost by two points was very strong and highly competitive. He said he will work along with his teammates on adjusting to the situation and deal with the mistakes during their next match against Al-Noukhatha.

Nizar Ramadan said local games have much importance because they contribute to the discovery of new skills in most games, and this reflects positively on the national teams. He thanked the club's board of directors under the chairmanship of Shaafi Al-Hajiri for organizing this tournament.



VIVA HOLDS BRIEFING SESSION FOR PLAYERS SELECTED TO ATTEND MANCHESTER UNITED TRAINING PROGRAM

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, held a briefing session, for 16 players who will be participating in Manchester United Soccer School's training program organized by VIVA in cooperation with MUSS, to brief them about the academy's rules and regulations before travelling to Manchester United, UK between 16 and 24 July 2016. Players were selected from over 300 participants who joined the MUSS tryouts, held in last April, and will get the opportunity to travel to Manchester United, UK to join a training camp to be educated and trained by famous soccer team coaches. A team from VIVA in addition to professionals and coaches will accompany the players to take care of them and ensure their safety. Commenting on this occasion, Abdulrazzaq Bader Al-Essa, Director of Corporate Communications at VIVA said:

"MUSS is one of the initiatives that VIVA aims to support the youth through it, enhance their skills and grant them the opportunity to learn and communicate with international and professional coaches to earn the needed experience that lead them to fulfill their dreams."

A judging committee from Manchester United Soccer School chose the top 16 players. Each of them were judged based on their foot-balling capability and talent, physical fitness, discipline, their communication skills amongst each other as players and their general conduct on and off the field. The training program focused on different technical areas, such as dribbling, short passing, turning and finishing. The programs were also designed to develop young players in other fields, such as tactical understanding, and mental, physical and social growth.

A HISTORIC QUADRUPLE VICTORY FOR MERCEDES-AMG IN 2016 24-HOUR RACE

NURBURGRING: Mercedes-AMG is celebrating the biggest success to date since the start of its AMG Customer Sports programme: in the 44th running of the ADAC Zurich 24h-Rennen Nurburgring, teams with the Mercedes-AMG GT3 lock out the first four places and take sixth position. Victory went to Maro Engel (GER), Bernd Schneider (GER), Adam Christodoulou (GBR) and Manuel Metzger (GER) with the #4 entry of the AMG-Team BLACK FALCON. The AMG-Team HTP Motorsport, HARIBO Racing Team-AMG, the second AMG-Team BLACK FALCON car and the MANN-FILTER Team ZAKSPEED follow in second, third, fourth and sixth place respectively.

The Mercedes-AMG GT3 had a perfect debut in the Nurburgring 24-hour race. The teams that ran the new customer sports car for the first time in the classic endurance race in the Eifel secured a historic victory including a clean sweep of the podium for the brand and a total of five cars finishing in the top six. In the race, marked by extremely changeable weather conditions, drivers, teams and cars equally shone with a consistent high performance level, huge reliability and good race strategies.

Prior to the start of the race, Maro Engel (GER) had already caught the attention by taking the maiden pole position for AMG in the Nurburgring 24-hour race with the #9 car of the AMG-Team BLACK FALCON. Freak weather conditions had their effect on the open-



Quadruple victory for Mercedes-AMG.

ing stages of the race on Saturday afternoon as a hail storm caused an interruption of the race for several hours. After the restart, AMG Performance Teams quickly established themselves in the group of the front-runners in the field that included over 150 cars.

When the night set in and the track dried out more and more, the Mercedes-AMG GT3 teams had a quintuple lead for the first time. The remainder of the race saw thrilling duels and numerous lead changes. On Sunday morning, a quadruple lead of the Mercedes-AMG GT3 cars had been established, in which the race leader, the HARIBO Racing Team-AMG's #88 car, was able to pull a slight gap. A yellow-flag infringement and the subsequent time penalty then prevented a possible win for Maximilian Gotz (GER), Lance

David Arnold (GER), Uwe Alzen (GER) and Jan Seyffarth (GER).

In the thrilling finale, the #29 car with Christian Hohenadel (GER), Marco Seefried (GER), Christian Vietoris (GER) and Renger van der Zande (NED) and the #4 entry with Bernd Schneider (GER), Adam Christodoulou (GBR), Manuel Metzger (GER) and Maro Engel (GER) alternated in the lead. The final two laps turned out to be the exciting highlight: after a 'splash and dash' fuel stop just a few minutes before the duration of 24 hours was completed, final driver Hohenadel initially held on to a tiny lead from Engel. With a last-gasp overtaking move, Engel then took the lead and went on to drive victory for the AMG-Team BLACK FALCON home after 134 laps. With a gap of 5.697 seconds, the closest finish in history of the

24-hour race, Hohenadel followed to finish second for the AMG-Team HTP Motorsport. One lap down, Uwe Alzen drove the #88 HARIBO Racing Team-AMG car to third place.

Behind the teams on the podium, Yelmer Buurman (NED) secured fourth place for the AMG-Team BLACK FALCON #9 car and his team-mates Hubert Haupt (GER), Dirk Muller (GER) and double starter Maro Engel. The MANN-FILTER Team ZAKSPEED showed impressive progress: following problems in the first half of the race, Sebastian Asch (GER), Kenneth Heyer (GER), Daniel Keilwitz (GER) and Luca Ludwig (GER) fought their way back into the group of the front-runners. Final driver Sebastian Asch eventually brought the #75 Mercedes-AMG G3 home in sixth place, three laps down. Thus, five Mercedes-AMG GT3 finished in the top six of this year's 24-hour race.

The AMG-Team HTP Motorsport's #30 car didn't make it to the finish: Dominik Baumann (AUT), Maximilian Buhk (GER), Thomas Jager (GER) and Stefan Mucke (GER) retired following an accident during the night. The #8 HARIBO Racing Team-AMG entry (Maximilian Gotz, Lance David Arnold, Uwe Alzen, Jan Seyffarth) also became involved in a collision and was then withdrawn by the team. The #14 BLACK FALCON Customer Sports car with Abdulaziz Al Faisal (KSA), Indy Dontje (NED), Rob Huff (GBR) and Gerwin Schuring (NED) retired after an accident in the morning. All drivers escaped unscathed.

MOLINA BEATS PROVODNIKOV IN 12-ROUND SLUGFEST

NEW YORK: American boxer John Molina posted the biggest victory of his career Saturday night, upsetting Ruslan Provodnikov by a unanimous decision in a 12-round junior welterweight fight. The two brawlers squared off in the centre of the ring for all 12 rounds but it was Molina's ring expertise in the first half of the fight that allowed him to pile up enough points to hold on for the victory at the Turning Stone Casino, in Verona, New York. "This was a fight we needed," Molina said. "Ruslan is a very notable name. A tough guy. People don't realize that I had my amateur career in the pros and now it is time for me to step out and shine." The 33-year-old Molina

improved to 29-6, with 23 knockouts as he won the non-title contest by scores of 116-112, 117-111, 115-113. Ex-junior welterweight champ Provodnikov was the favourite heading into the bout and was fighting the first of a multi-fight contract he signed with Showtime cable network. It was the fifth loss of his career to go with 25 victories.

Molina, who had lost three of his last four fights, stunned the former champ with a game plan that involved slugging it out with the dangerous Russian warrior.

"I knew I won that fight and it was going to be hardpressed for them to take it away from me," Molina said. Molina joked before

the fight that "this wouldn't be Dancing with the Stars" and he meant it.

Molina scored early by landing his jab almost at will. The Russian appeared to be content to walk into blows in an attempt to get in heavy counterpunches of his own.

But the strategy failed to work as Molina took Provodnikov's best shots, even withstanding some four-punch combinations that would have floored most fighters.

'IT WASN'T MY NIGHT'

Provodnikov accepted the decision and said Molina wanted the victory more. "Molina won the fight. He was better tonight,"

Provodnikov said. "It wasn't my night, maybe I don't have the same hunger as before." Provodnikov started using his jab effectively in the ninth but it was too late and Molina, despite bleeding from the mouth, still had enough left in the tank to withstand the assault. Tempers flared at the end of the seventh round when the referee warned Molina about throwing punches after the bell even though both fighters were guilty of doing it.

On the undercard, undefeated Dejan Zlaticanin became the first boxer from Montenegro to win a major championship with a third round technical knockout of Franklin Mamani.

The 32-year-old Zlaticanin captured the vacant World Boxing Council lightweight title as he improved to 18-0. He finished off Mamani 54 seconds into the third round to record his 11th career knockout and the first in the third round. "I think I made my country very proud," said Zlaticanin. "The people of Montenegro will be delighted. They still don't know what this means." Mamani was a late addition to the card as he accepted the challenge on just 11 days notice. It showed Saturday as the Bolivian was outclassed from the beginning. The 29-year-old Mamani suffered the third loss of his career to go with 21 wins and two draws. — AFP

TOP-RANKED LYDIA KO TAKES 1-SHOT LEAD AT WOMEN'S PGA

SAMMAMISH: When Lydia Ko won the last two major championships, she was the one lurking behind. Yesterday at Sahalee, the top-ranked Ko will take a one-stroke lead into the final round of the KPMG Women's PGA Championship.

"I can't control what the other girls are doing," the 19-year-old Ko said. "So (I'll) just try my best out there. We've still got a long 18 holes to go." Ko shot a 1-under 70 on Saturday to reach 2-under 211. She won the Evian Championship in September in France for her first major title and took the ANA Inspiration in April in California, giving her a chance to become the fifth player in tour history to win three straight majors. "It's really cool to, obviously, have my name

in those records among those amazing players. And I think that's the really cool thing about it," Ko said. "But when I'm out there I'm not thinking so much about records and what could happen."

Ko used her deft short-game to save shots on the 16th and 17th holes, but couldn't avoid dropping a stroke at the last when her third shot went to the back of the green and she missed a 15-foot par putt. Brittany Lincicome and Gerina Pillier were tied for second.

They each shot 71, with Lincicome also bogeying the 18th. Second round co-leaders Brooke Henderson and Mirim Lee each shot 73 to drop into the group at even par. Only three players were

under par even as Sahalee played easier following overnight rain.

IN GREAT SHAPE

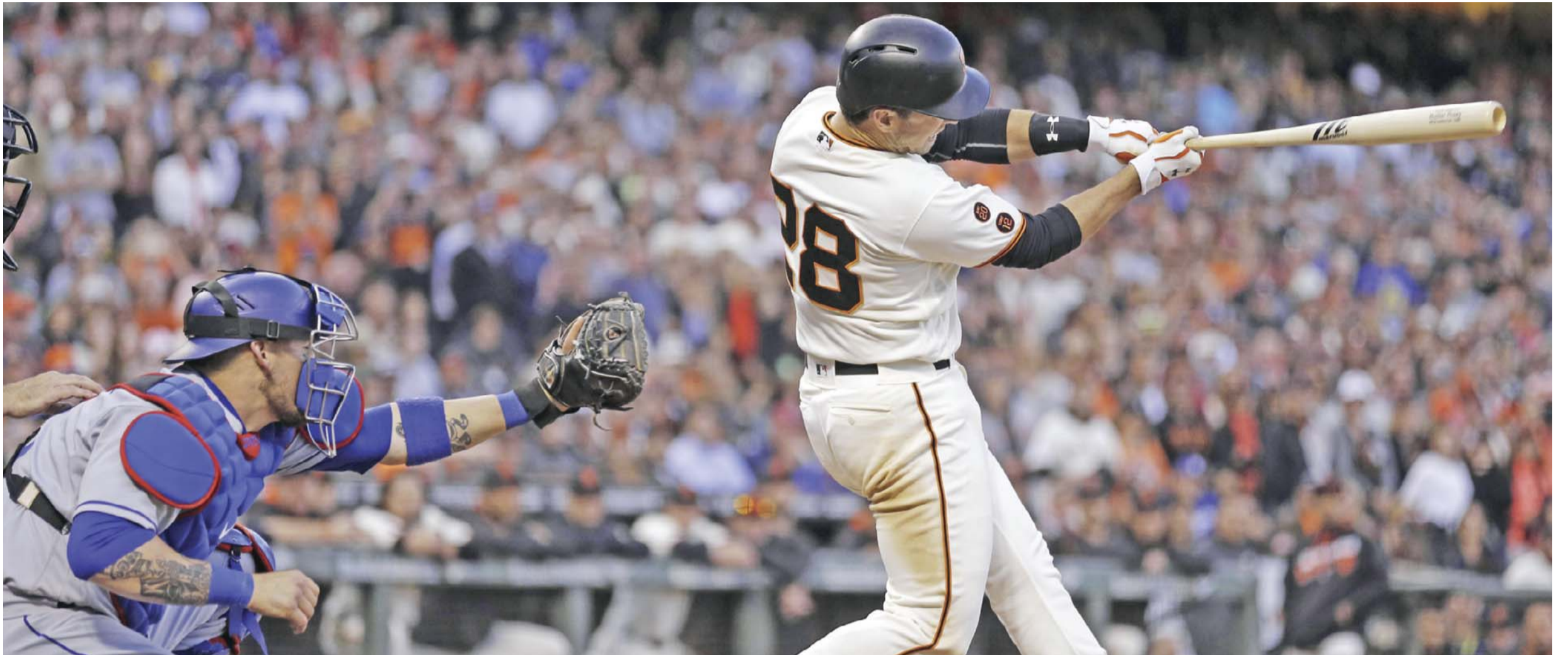
Ariya Jutanugarn, the winner of her last three tournaments, was in the group at even par. Jutanugarn got back into contention with a 68. Amy Yang also was even after the lowest round of the week, a 66. Yang went out in 32 and was 6 under for her round after a birdie at No. 15, before dropping a shot on the 16th.

Anna Nordqvist, the winner last week in New Jersey, and Chella Choi completed the group at even par. They each shot 69. Ko missed a chance to create some separation late in her round. She moved to 3 under with

an 18-foot birdie putt on the 15th, then showed off her delicate touch around - and on - the green coming in. Ko put herself in poor position off the tee on the 16th, but a flop shot out of the rough to 4 feet allowed her to save par. On the par-3 17th, Ko's tee shot found the green but in a position where a chip shot was the only way to get to the hole because of the fringe. The chip from green-to-green left her a 3-foot tap in. But her second shot on the 18th caught a large tree fronting the left of the green and was unable to save par. Lincicome, a two-time major champion, also dropped a shot at the final hole because of a three-putt. Along with Ko, Lincicome is the only other player in the field not to post a round over par in the

tournament "It's easier to come from behind than be the leader," Lincicome said. "I feel like I'm in great shape." Pillier is hoping she can finally make a breakthrough after three years of progressively getting closer to her first career victory.

She has finished in the top 10 six times this year, including a second-place finish at home in Texas when she was overtaken on the final day. She has risen to No. 16 in the world rankings and moving up one more spot before July 11 would earn her an automatic spot in the Olympics. "I do feel like winning is definitely close," Pillier said. "I definitely feel that my game is good enough and it's just a matter of time when the pieces fit and it just comes together." — AP



SAN FRANCISCO: San Francisco Giants' Buster Posey swings for the game winning hit off Los Angeles Dodgers' Kenley Jansen in the tenth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, in San Francisco. The Giants won 5-4. — AP

POSEY GETS WALKOFF SINGLE IN 10TH LIFTS GIANTS PAST DODGERS

SAN FRANCISCO: Joe Panik hit a game-tying single off Los Angeles closer Kenley Jansen with one out in the 10th inning and scored on Buster Posey's RBI single, and the San Francisco Giants beat the Dodgers 5-4 on Saturday night. Adrian Gonzalez homered leading off the 10th to put the Dodgers up 4-3 before the Giants rallied to win with four consecutive hits off Jansen (2-2). Denard Span started the comeback with a one-out double. Panik singled in Span to tie the game and Brandon Belt followed with a bloop single to right. Posey then lined an 0-1 pitch to left center and Panik scored easily. Chris Stratton, the ninth pitcher used by Giants manager Bruce Bochy, retired three batters for his first major league

win. It's San Francisco's sixth walkoff win this season and their second against Los Angeles. Gonzalez, Justin Turner and Trayce Thompson had two hits apiece for the Dodgers, who lost for the third time in five games.

ROYALS 4, WHITE SOX 1

Cheslor Cuthbert hit a pair of solo home runs, Danny Duffy pitched six shutout innings and Kansas City ended an eight-game losing streak by beating Chicago. Kendrys Morales also homered as the World Series champion Royals stopped their longest slide since an eight-game skid in May 2013. The White Sox lost for the 21st time in their last 29 games following back-to-back wins.

Duffy (2-1) struck out 10 and gave up three hits. Jose Quintana (5-7) also struck out 10 in his career-high sixth straight loss.

RANGERS 2, MARINERS 1, 11 INNINGS

Rougned Odor's solo home run off reliever Mike Montgomery in the 11th inning lifted Texas over Seattle. Prince Fielder's two-out home run in the bottom of the ninth inning forced the game into extra frames. With both teams failing to break the tie in the 10th inning, Odor's blast into the right-field seats off Montgomery (2-1) gave the Rangers their first lead. Matt Bush (2-0) picked up the victory in relief.

ANGELS 4, INDIANS 3

Yunel Escobar lined a game-ending RBI single in the ninth inning after closer Huston Street blew Matt Shoemaker's gem, and Los Angeles beat Cleveland to end a five-game losing streak. Shoemaker struck out 11 over eight scoreless innings, but Street blew a three-run lead in the top of the ninth. In the bottom of the inning, Escobar singled off Bryan Shaw (0-2) with one out to score Brendan Ryan, who had reached on a single and advanced on Jett Bandy's sacrifice. Fernando Salas (3-2) replaced Street and got the final out of the ninth.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, MARLINS 3

Michael Bourn homered to start a four-run sixth inning and Arizona ended Jose Fernandez's streak of eight consecutive victories by beating Miami. Fernandez (9-3) retired the first 17 batters he faced before giving up five straight hits and lost for the first time since April 23. The four runs were the most Fernandez has allowed in a game since that loss, a 7-2 defeat at San Francisco. He struck out eight with no walks. Zack Godley (1-0), called up from Triple-A Reno to make the start, gave up two runs on four hits in six innings, with two strikeouts and three walks. Brad Ziegler escaped a ninth-inning jam for his 40th save in a row, 12 of them this year.

CUBS 8, BRAVES 2

Jake Arrieta allowed only four hits in seven strong innings and, backed by four homers, made an impressive return to winning form for Chicago. Arrieta (10-1) allowed two runs in his answer to his first loss of the season. He also had two hits. Miguel Montero hit a three-run homer, Kris Bryant hit a two-run shot and Jason Heyward and Anthony Rizzo also hit homers. Atlanta starter Matt Wisler (2-7) allowed five runs on seven hits, including three homers, in four innings.

RED SOX 15, TWINS 4

Xander Bogaerts tacked four more hits onto his majors-most total, including a two-run homer as Boston broke away late. The highest-scoring team in the majors managed to post a season high in runs, with five apiece in the eighth and ninth against league-worst Minnesota. Bogaerts also doubled, scored four runs and drove in three. Heath Hembree (3-0) won in relief. The Red Sox took a 5-4 lead in the sixth against Kyle Gibson (0-4).

TIGERS 6, YANKEES 1

Ian Kinsler homered and drove in a career-high five runs, and Justin Verlander finally won in the new Yankee Stadium. Verlander (6-5) allowed one run in 6 2/3 innings to snap New York's five-game winning streak. He had been 0-4 with a 4.84 ERA in seven starts at this park, which opened in 2009. Francisco Rodriguez got one out for his 18th straight save conversion. Kinsler hit a

tiebreaking three-run homer in the Detroit fifth and a two-run double in the seventh. Nick Castellanos also homered. Masahiro Tanaka (3-2) allowed five runs on six hits in 6 1/3 innings.

CARDINALS 5, PIRATES 1

Carlos Martinez pitched into the ninth inning for his third consecutive win and Matt Holliday had a three-run homer among his three hits for St. Louis. The Cardinals won for the sixth time in seven games. Pittsburgh lost its fourth in a row. Martinez (7-5) gave up one run and six hits in 8 1/3 innings before being lifted when the Pirates put runners on first and second with one out. Trevor Rosenthal got two outs for his 12th save in 14 opportunities. Holliday's 10th home run capped a four-run fifth inning against Francisco Lirio (4-6).

BLUE JAYS 11, ORIOLES 6

Edwin Encarnacion hit two more homers and drove in five runs for Toronto. Encarnacion snapped an 0-for-19 slump by ending Friday's game with a leadoff homer in the 10th. Chris Davis hit a two-run homer for Baltimore and Manny Machado and Joey Rickard each hit solo shots. J.A. Happ (7-3) went seven innings. T.J. McFarland (1-2) lost in relief.

ASTROS 4, RAYS 3

Carlos Gomez and Luis Valbuena hit solo home runs to back the pitching of Mike Fiers and lead Houston. Fiers (4-3) wound up with the win when the Astros held on in the ninth. Down by two runs, Tampa Bay loaded the bases with no outs, but scored just once. Will Harris got his second save. Gomez went deep off Chris Archer (4-8) to tie it in the seventh. Marwin Gonzalez scored on Erasmo Ramirez's wild pitch in the eighth. Evan Longoria hit his sixth homer in eight games for the Rays.

NATIONALS 8, PHILLIES 0

Tanner Roark pitched seven sharp innings and made a rare contribution with his bat to help surging Washington. Stephen Drew and Anthony Rendon had two RBIs apiece for the first-place Nationals, who have won nine of 12. Roark (5-4)

gave up six hits and struck out seven. He's 0 for 22 at the plate this year, but put down a two-strike bunt that keyed a four-run second inning. Aaron Nola (5-5) allowed four runs and seven hits in 3 2-3 innings, his shortest outing of the season for Philadelphia.

REDS 2, ATHLETICS 1

Jay Bruce hit a two-run homer off Daniel Mengden, who made his major league debut after a speedy rise through the minors, and Cincinnati sent Oakland to its seventh straight loss. Oakland has dropped all seven on the road. The 23-year-old Mengden (0-1) was acquired from Houston last July as part of the deal for Scott Kazmir.

The fourth-round draft pick in 2014 started this season in Double-A. He gave up six hits, walked four and struck out five in 5 2/3 innings, throwing 104 pitches. Dan Straily (4-2) won and Ross Ohlendorf got his second career save and his first of the season.

BREWERS 7, METS 4

Ryan Braun hit two home runs, starting pitcher Wily Peralta had another and Milwaukee used five homers to beat New York. Braun ended an 0-for-15 skid with his long ball in the third inning. Scooter Gennett and Chris Carter also connected to help the Brewers end a six-game losing streak to the Mets. Peralta (4-7) allowed homers to Curtis Granderson and Asdrubal Cabrera. Jeremy Jeffress got his 17th save. Logan Verrett (3-4) took the loss.

ROCKIES 5, PADRES 3

Charlie Blackmon hit a tiebreaking solo homer off the foul pole in the fifth and Tyler Chatwood effectively threw into the seventh for Colorado. Carlos Gonzalez had a three-run homer in the first and an RBI single in the fifth for the Rockies. Chatwood (8-4) threw 6 2-3 innings and gave up three runs.

Carlos Estevez earned his first career save. Erik Johnson (0-1) went 4 2-3 innings and gave up five runs in his Padres debut. He was acquired last weekend in a deal that sent James Shields to the Chicago White Sox. — AP



SYDNEY: India's Saina Nehwal poses with the winner's trophy after defeating China's Sun Yu in the women's singles final at the Australian Open Badminton tournament in Sydney yesterday. — AFP

VITTINGHUS, NEHWAL WIN AUSTRALIAN SUPERSERIES

SYDNEY: Denmark's Hans-Kristian Vittinghus and Saina Nehwal of India won the Australian Open Badminton Superseries titles in Sydney yesterday. Vittinghus defeated South Korean Jeon Hyeok-Jin to win his first Superseries title. The 30-year-old Dane, ranked 12, finished strongly to beat Jeon 21-16, 19-21, 21-11 in 71 minutes.

He became the first Dane to win a Superseries tournament in two years and took away a Aus\$56,000 (\$41,000) cheque as the winner. In the women's singles final, India's former world No. 1 Nehwal fought back from a game down to overhaul China's Sun Yu. Nehwal, ranked eight, showed her trademark fighting qualities to beat the 12th-ranked Sun, 11-21, 21-14, 21-19 in 71 minutes. Vittinghus sunk to his knees on claiming the title after coming up short

winning the Superseries Masters final to China's Chen Long in Dubai in 2014. Chen, the world No. 2, was knocked out in the quarter-finals of the Australian Open by Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting on Friday. Vittinghus led Denmark to victory in the fifth and final match of last month's Thomas Cup in China, the first time a European nation has won the men's teams cup competition.

It was 26th-ranked Jeon's first Superseries final and came a day before his 21st birthday. Nehwal, 26, claimed her second Australian Open title, her 22nd career title and her first Superseries tournament since winning in India in March last year.

Nehwal's retrieval game was outstanding as she wore down the tall 22-year-old Chinese to win on her second champi-

MLB results/standings

Washington 8, Philadelphia 0; Toronto 11, Baltimore 6; Boston 15, Minnesota 4; Kansas City 4, Chicago White Sox 1; Chicago Cubs 8, Atlanta 2; Houston 4, Tampa Bay 3; Milwaukee 7, NY Mets 4; Cincinnati 2, Oakland 1; Colorado 5, San Diego 3; Detroit 6, NY Yankees 1; San Francisco 5, LA Dodgers 4 (10 innings); St. Louis 5, Pittsburgh 1; LA Angels 4, Cleveland 3; Arizona 5, Miami 3; Texas 2, Seattle 1 (11 innings).

American League				National League				
Eastern Division				Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB				
Baltimore	36	25	.590	-	Washington	38	24	.613
Boston	36	25	.590	-	NY Mets	34	27	.557
Toronto	34	30	.531	3.5	Miami	32	30	.516
NY Yankees	31	31	.500	5.5	Philadelphia	29	33	.468
Tampa Bay	28	32	.467	7.5	Atlanta	18	43	.295
Central Division					Central Division			
Cleveland	34	27	.557	-	Chicago Cubs	42	18	.700
Detroit	31	30	.508	3	St. Louis	34	28	.548
Kansas City	31	30	.508	3	Pittsburgh	32	30	.516
Chicago WSox	31	31	.500	3.5	Milwaukee	29	33	.468
Minnesota	18	43	.295	16	Cincinnati	24	38	.387
Western Division					Western Division			
Texas	38	24	.613	-	San Francisco	37	26	.587
Seattle	34	28	.548	4	LA Dodgers	33	30	.524
Houston	30	34	.469	9	Colorado	29	33	.468
LA Angels	27	35	.435	11	Arizona	27	37	.422
Oakland	25	36	.410	12.5	San Diego	26	37	.413

FORD PREPARING TO GO ALL OUT AT LE MANS 24 HOURS

DUBAI: A light rain was falling and grey clouds hung low over the rolling French countryside, producing premature twilight as three sleek prototype automobiles rolled across the finish line to end the 24 Hours of Le Mans for 1966.

Fifty years on from that historic 1-2-3 finish for the Ford GT40 at the world's greatest endurance race, Ford is back.

The four Ford GTs run by the Ford Chip Ganassi Racing team take to the track at Le Mans today for the official Test Day. This is the first time the Ford GTs will run at Le Mans as the team prepares for the 24-hour race that starts at 15:00 CET on June 18. "Fifty years ago, one of the most legendary moments in motorsports history took place as the duel between Ford and Ferrari took place on the track at Le Mans 1966," said Bill Ford, executive chairman, Ford Motor Company. "Once again, all eyes will be focused on this legendary race as Ford returns to take on the best in endurance racing."

The Ford GT race car is based on the new Ford GT supercar - the most advanced Ford production vehicle ever, featuring the latest in light-weighting, aerodynamics and Eco Boost engine



technology, and an innovation showcase for the Ford brand. The Ford GT has been built to take on the toughest competition from Ferrari, Corvette, Porsche and Aston Martin in the ultimate battle of speed, endurance and efficiency.

"From the outset, we developed the all-new Ford GT to return Ford to the world of GT endurance racing," said Raj Nair, executive vice president, Global Product Development and chief technical

officer. "We're pleased with the progress we've made so far, including winning at Laguna Seca and taking second place at Spa. We are looking forward to further pushing the capabilities of this next-generation GT at Le Mans."

In 2016 Ford Chip Ganassi Racing is running two Ford GTs in the FIA World Endurance Championship and two in the IMSA Weather Tech Sports Car Championship. The WEC team, in only



their second race, recently took second place at Spa Francor champs in Belgium, putting them in second place in the WEC drivers' and teams' standings going into Le Mans. The IMSA team have four races under their belts and crucially the first race victory for the Ford GT after a great win at Laguna Seca in the US. This result moved them up to third place in the IMSA drivers' and teams' standings.

"It is exciting for me personally and for all of Ford Chip Ganassi Racing to be going to Le Mans to race, especially given the 50th anniversary of Ford's historic 1966 win," said Chip Ganassi. "We have enjoyed racing the new Ford GT this season and expect to be strong at Le Mans." The two WEC Ford GTs retain their #66 and #67 race numbers for Le Mans while the IMSA cars become #68 and #69, celebrating Ford's Le Mans victories in 1966, 1967, 1968 and 1969.



BASSETTERRE: Australian cricket team captain Steven Smith plays a shot during their Tri-nation series One Day International match against South Africa at the Warner Park stadium in Basseterre, Saint Kitts, on Saturday. Australia have scored 288 runs, at the end of their innings. — AFP

WARNER CENTURY LIFTS AUSTRALIA OVER SA

BASSETTERRE: Australia showed the stuff of champions and South Africa's suspect temperament was again exposed as they crashed to a 36-run defeat in the fourth match of the Tri-Nation One-Day International series at Warner Park in St Kitts on Saturday.

After David Warner's first ODI hundred away from home anchored the World Cup holders to a challenging total of 288 for six the Proteas relied on composed half-centuries from Faf du Plessis and Hashim Amla to establish the launchpad from which they looked destined to reach the target comfortably.

However the dismissal of captain A.B. de Villiers for 39 at 210 for four in the 38th over changed the complexion of the match as they lost their last seven wickets for 42 runs to be dismissed for 252 in the 48th over when Imran Tahir was run out.

Opening bowlers Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood played key roles in the capitulation, as did leg-spinner Adam Zampa as they all finished with three wickets each. "I really can't explain what happened," a deflated de Villiers said.

Australia have now opened up a four-point lead over the South Africans at the top of the standings ahead of Monday's fixture at Warner Park where the West Indies, a point behind the South Africans, will seek to get their campaign to reach the June 26 final back on track.

Poised for a total well in excess of 300 when Warner and Usman Khawaja (59) were in full flow during a 136-run second-wicket stand, Australia's loss of momentum over the final 15 overs of was put in perspective by South Africa's composed chase until they lost wickets and their nerve.

Amla's typically serene 60 set his team on their way. He lost Quinton de Kock to Hazlewood after an opening stand of 35

but was then entrenched in a 105-run stand with du Plessis. By the time the fast-medium bowler returned to remove Amla via a good low catch by Steve Smith at short extra-cover, South Africa needed only to maintain progress.

However Starc drew du Plessis into chasing a wide delivery for George Bailey's catch at backward-point to send him back to the pavilion for a topscore of 63.

De Villiers looked to be in complete control until he was bowled heaving at Hazlewood, and when Adam Zampa earned an LBW verdict against Farhaan Behardien, South Africa, at 221 for five in the 41st over, were toppling. Starc ripped out three wickets and Zampa joined in the rout before Tahir's demise sealed the result.

"Once we got A.B., we knew we had a chance," Hazlewood said.

WORKMANLIKE WARNER

Warner was more workmanlike than explosive at the start of the match in compiling 109 off 120 deliveries with 11 fours and two sixes.

He and Khawaja looked to have set the stage for an assault over the last ten overs towards a total well in excess of 300. But only another 104 runs were added off the remaining 16 overs after Warner fell to medium-pacer Parnell. Phangiso and Tahir were the pick of the bowlers for the Proteas at that critical stage of the innings.

In his 57th ODI, Tahir had provided the breakthrough when he bowled Aaron Finch for 13 to end an opening stand of 48 with Warner after Smith chose to bat first on winning the toss. Tahir added the scalp of Bailey LBW to lift his tally of wickets in this format of the game to 98. Smith kept the flagging innings going with an unbeaten 52 off 49 deliveries that included five fours and one six. — AFP

US REACHES COPA QUARTERS WITH WIN OVER PARAGUAY

PHILADELPHIA: Protecting a lead after Clint Dempsey's first-half goal, the United States' Copa America planning was suddenly upended.

DeAndre Yedlin got a pair of yellow cards 57 seconds apart just into the second half for two rash tackles, forcing the US to play a man short against Paraguay for what turned out to 49 fretful minutes. Defenders held the back line, goalkeeper Brad Guzan made an outstanding double save in the 82nd minute and the US held on for 1-0 victory Saturday night to reach the Copa America quarterfinals. "We stuck today," defender Geoff Cameron said. "Everybody sacrificed."

Hosting a special expanded 100th anniversary edition of South America's championship, the Americans (2-1) won Group A on goal difference over Colombia (2-1), which was upset 3-2 by already eliminated Costa Rica. By finishing first, the Americans may avoid quarterfinal matchup with Brazil.

The US plays Thursday night at Seattle, most likely against Ecuador or Peru, with the matchup to be determined by Sunday's Group B finales.

"I think that we could possibly do something special here," Dempsey said. With the Americans playing for the third time in nine days, US coach Klinsmann started the same lineup for the third straight game - something done only once before in US national team history, in its three matches at the 1930 World Cup.

Dempsey scored for the second straight game, getting his 51st international goal in the 27th minute to move six behind Landon Donovan's American scoring record. Gyasi Zardes received a pass from Michael Bradley, ran down the left flank and slowed. Marked by Paulo Da Silva, who made his record 137th appearance for Paraguay, and Victor Ayala, Zardes spurred to the endline and crossed. Dempsey sprinted into the penalty area as trailing runner and from 8 yards one-timed a left-footed shot past the leg of sliding defender Fabian Balbuena and under the left arm of diving goalkeeper Justo Villar.

RED CARD

Yedlin got his first yellow in the 47th for a slide tackle from the side into Miguel Almiron near the center circle. When play resumed, he raised a foot and charged into Miguel Samudio near a sideline. Chilean referee Julio Bascunan immediately gave a second yellow, and the 22-year-old Yedlin lifted both arms wide as if to say, why me?



PHILADELPHIA: Paraguay's Rodrigo Rojas (R) and USA's Bobby Wood vie for the ball during their Copa America Centenario football tournament match in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States, on Saturday. — AFP

"He got caught emotionally," Klinsmann said. "He just lost his head for a second." Yedlin, the first US player to receive a red card in a competitive match since Michael Bradley at the 2009 Confederations Cup, walked by reporters without stopping to answer questions.

Because of goal difference, Paraguay needed to win in order to advance. Michael Orozco entered to replace Yedlin at right back in the 50th, and Dempsey came off as the US prepared to survive an onslaught during the rest of the half, which included six minutes of stoppage time. "It's huge discipline. It's huge workrate," Guzan said. "Everyone needs to be on the same page. And when you play a man down in the conditions like they were tonight, for so long, for 45 minutes, it's always going to be hard."

repeatedly turned to try to spur on the crowd of 51,041. Brooks had made a sliding tackle to knock the ball away from Almiron on a 3-on-1 break in the 11th minute, and Guzan had parried Derlis Gonzalez's short-range, angled header in the 18th. That was just a prelude. Of Guzan's seven saves, the best were in the 82nd minute, a sliding body stop on Jorge Benitez's 4-yard shot followed by a kick save on Almiron's 6-yard attempt off the rebound.

"You sit there biting your nails," Dempsey said. "Certain plays, you're wanting the ball to go out of bounds. You want people to kind of take their time and be smart how they manage the game," Klinsmann reveled in one of the team's bigger wins since he took over in 2011. "This," he said, "is a huge statement to teams in South America or whoever watches it on TV." — AP

COSTA RICA UPSETS COLOMBIA 3-2 IN COPA AMERICA

HOUSTON: Johan Venegas and Celso Borges each scored and Costa Rica benefited from an own goal by Colombia in a 3-2 upset victory to wrap up Group A play in the Copa America on Saturday night.

The match was largely inconsequential to these teams because Colombia earned a berth in the quarterfinals with a win over Paraguay on Tuesday and Costa Rica was eliminated from contention with the United States' 1-0 victory over Paraguay earlier on Saturday. But the United States did benefit from Costa Rica's upset, with Colombia's loss giving the team first place in Group A.

Frank Fabra and Marlos Moreno scored Colombia's two goals. Fabra scored Colombia's own-goal in the first half to give Costa Rica a lead it would not relinquish. After failing to score in its two previous matches in the tournament, Costa Rica wasted no time getting on the board on Saturday. Venegas put Los Ticos up 1-0 with a 20-yard strike to the upper left hand corner in the second minute. It wasn't just the last two matches in which Costa Rica hadn't scored. The goal by Venegas was the team's first in Copa America play since it beat Bolivia 2-0 in 2011. Colombia evened it up in the seventh minute when Fabra split a pair of defenders and regained control of a loose ball just in time to boot it in and make it 1-1. Fabra was shaken up midway through the first half when he slid and took a kick to the head by Christian Bolanos. He stayed on the ground for a couple of minutes before being placed on a stretcher and taken off the field. He wasn't out long though, getting a Band-Aid over his right eye, a fresh jersey and returning in the 23rd minute.

Costa Rica took the lead when Venegas crossed the ball into the box from the left and Fabra accidentally ran into it and knocked it into



HOUSTON: Celso Borges #5 of Costa Rica battles for the ball with Marlos Moreno #21 of Colombia in the second half at NRG Stadium on Saturday in Houston, Texas. — AFP

the net as he fell to the ground for an own goal in the 34th minute. With an assist from Bryan Oviedo, Borges scored from 15 yards out in the 58th minute to extend Costa Rica's lead to 3-1.

Colombia's Marlos Moreno cut it to 3-2 with a perfect strike to the near post in the 73rd minute. Because Colombia was already in the quarterfinals, Los Cafeteros rested Real Madrid star James Rodriguez in the first half. He entered the match early in the second half to a roaring ovation. The robust crowd of 45,808 at NRG Stadium, where the NFL's Houston Texans play,

was overwhelmingly filled with Colombia fans. A sea of yellow filled the stadium, with hundreds of fans waving Colombian flags and many faces painted with bright colors. One man went all out, dressing in a sparkly yellow costume that covered him head to toe and had webbing under both arms that made him look like a star when he lifted both arms skyward. There were patches of Costa Rica fans, but their red crimson shirts were exponentially outnumbered by the throngs of fans who donned yellow for the match. — AP

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play in the fourth Triangular Series match between Australia and South Africa on Saturday in Basseterre, St Kitts and Nevis.

Australia Innings:		South Africa Innings:	
D. Warner c Amla b Parnell	109	H. Amla c Smith b Hazlewood	60
A. Finch b Tahir	13	F. du Plessis c Bailey b Starc	63
U. Khawaja c Amla b Phangiso	59	A. de Villiers b Hazlewood	39
S. Smith not out	52	J. Duminy c sub b Zampa	41
G. Bailey lbw b Tahir	11	F. Behardien lbw b Zampa	4
M. Marsh c Behardien b Abbott	10	W. Parnell c M. Marsh b Zampa	3
M. Wade lbw b Rabada	24	K. Abbott b Starc	1
J. Faulkner not out	1	A. Phangiso c sub b Starc	3
Extras (lb-2 nb-4 w-3)	9	K. Rabada not out	3
Total (for 6 wickets, 50 overs)	288	I. Tahir run out (Khawaja, Wade)	6
Fall of wickets: 1-48 A. Finch, 2-184 D. Warner, 3-196 U. Khawaja, 4-217 G. Bailey, 5-240 M. Marsh, 6-274 M. Wade.		Extras (lb-8 w-2)	10
Did not bat: A. Zampa, M. Starc, J. Hazlewood		Total (all out, 47.4 overs)	252
Bowling: K. Abbott 10-2-50-1 (nb-2), K. Rabada 8-0-66-1 (nb-2 w-1), I. Tahir 9-0-45-2, W. Parnell 7-0-34-1, J. Duminy 7-0-39-0 (w-2), A. Phangiso 9-0-52-1.		Fall of wickets: 1-35 Q. de Kock, 2-140 H. Amla, 3-177 F. du Plessis, 4-210 A. de Villiers, 5-221 F. Behardien, 6-236 J. Duminy, 7-237 K. Abbott, 8-239 W. Parnell, 9-240 A. Phangiso, 10-252 I. Tahir.	
		Bowling: M. Starc 10-0-43-3 (w-1), J. Hazlewood 9-4-0-52-3 (w-1), J. Faulkner 7-0-32-0, M. Marsh 9-0-52-0, A. Zampa 10-0-52-3, A. Finch 2-0-13-0.	
		Result: Australia won by 36 runs.	

UEFA OPENS DISCIPLINARY CASE AGAINST RUSSIA OVER VIOLENCE

FAN FERVOR



PARIS: Russia is facing UEFA sanctions after disciplinary proceedings were opened against the federation for crowd disturbances and racist behavior by its fans during a European Championship game against England. The English Football Association, whose fans fled the stadium in Marseille after being attacked by a large group of Russian fans, has not been charged by UEFA. Russia has also been charged over fireworks being set off inside the Stade Velodrome, where the game finished 1-1. UEFA said its control, ethics and disciplinary body will judge the case tomorrow, imposing sanctions ahead of its second Euro 2016 game against Slovakia on Wednesday in Lille.

European soccer's governing body is only taking disciplinary action over the disorder inside the stadium, where it spread after three straight days of fighting near the port in the Mediterranean city. Although UEFA holds national federations responsible for their fans' behavior inside stadiums, it typically does not act on incidents elsewhere.

When UEFA's disciplinary panel judges incidents in Marseille, it could take Russian fans' track record at Euro 2012 into account. UEFA imposed a series of sanctions, including fines, on the Russian FA for incidents at that tournament, which was hosted by Poland and Ukraine. England is likely to be treated more leniently by UEFA because its fans have little history of disorder in recent European Championship qualifying and final tournaments.

Saturday's game was Russia's first to be organized by UEFA since the lifting of probationary sanctions that were threatened after violent disorder by its fans in Poland four years ago.

It was also the second case in recent weeks of fighting between rival fans at a high-profile UEFA-organized match. Last month, UEFA formally opened a disciplinary case two days after Liverpool and Sevilla fans clashed at the Europa League final in Basel, Switzerland. Among the incidents at Euro 2012, stadium security staff in Wroclaw, Poland, were

assaulted by Russian fans in Russia's opening 4-1 victory over the Czech Republic. The Russian authorities were fined 30,000 euros (\$37,500) for racially insulting Czech Republic defender Theodor Gebre Selassie, who is black.

In a separate Euro 2012 incident, UEFA charged and fined Russia for a fan carrying a national flag across the field after a 1-1 draw against Poland. That heavily policed match in Warsaw was played on June 12 - Russia's national holiday - after fights in the city as rival fans went to the stadium.

Four years ago, UEFA deferred a sanction of ordering Russia to play three home Euro 2016 qualifying in empty stadiums. The stadium ban would have been activated if fan violence during qualifying matches was repeated. UEFA had initially threatened Russia with a six-point deduction in Euro 2016 qualifying but that was removed when the Russian Football Union appealed to UEFA. A fine of 120,000 euros (\$150,000) was maintained though. — AP



BALE NOT ENGLAND'S ONLY WORRY, SAYS ROONEY

MARSEILLE: Wayne Rooney insists England will not focus on Gareth Bale's threat when they look to bounce back in Euro 2016 against Wales.

England were stunned by a late equaliser by Russia in Marseille in their opening Group B match. England centre back Gary Cahill called the 1-1 result "a kick in the teeth".

A young England side looked to be heading for victory at the Stade Velodrome when Tottenham's Eric Dier beat Russian goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev with a superb 20-metre free kick.

But three minutes from the final whistle, Russia captain Igor Berezutski stunned the stadium when he rose above the England defence to send a looping header over goalkeeper Joe Hart.

Two years after their first-round exit from the 2014 World Cup, England will now have to bounce back against a Welsh side that beat Slovakia 2-1 earlier in the day. Real Madrid star Bale also scored a stunning strike in the win. Fresh from helping the Spanish giants to Champions League victory, he is expected to be the danger man when the sides meet in Lens.

Manchester United veteran Rooney labelled Bale as "one of the top five players" in the world, said England will not concentrate on the Welsh winger.

"We have to stop other players, you can't just focus on Gareth Bale. We're not going to double team him," said Rooney. "We have to just think about the next game, and playing the same way we did tonight, on Thursday."

BITTER PILL

England manager Roy Hodgson handed five Tottenham players their tournament debut, leaving Leicester City striker Jamie Vardy on the bench.

But despite bossing Russia for long spells, England struggled to find the net in a dominant first half that saw Adam Lallana drill wide of Akinfeev's post and Rooney testing the Russian goalkeeper with an impressive volley. Although Russia came fighting back in the second half, the game turned 13 minutes from the end when England won a free kick on the edge of the area after Georgi Shchennikov's foul on Spurs midfielder Dele Alli. Dier sent England's rowdy fans into raptures when he stepped up to fire into the top corner of the net to score England's first free kick goal in a major tournament since David Beckham scored against Ecuador in 2006.



PERROS-GUIREC: Albania's goalkeepers Alban Hoxha (L) and Etrit Berisha (2nd-L) take part in a training session in Perros-Guirec, western France, yesterday during the Euro 2016 football tournament. — AFP

Man-of-the-match Dier admitted watching Beckham over the years had inspired him to perfect his dead ball technique. "Obviously he was one of the best at it," said Dier. "I've seen lots of his free kicks and it's something I like doing and have practised a lot."

But after declaring the goal one of his "best moments" in football, he added: "I would have taken a win, with anyone else scoring." Centre-back Cahill said he believed England can bounce back against Wales and Slovakia. "I can't help thinking we should all be celebrating victory but we got a kick in the teeth at the end which has made the mood after not great," said the Chelsea defender.

"We wanted to get off to a winning start but if we

bring that level of confidence and performance in the next two games, we'll be fine." For Hodgson, the draw felt more like a defeat. But after seeing positives in the performance, the 68-year-old insisted: "It was a bitter pill to swallow but if we can swallow it and take encouragement from the good things we did offensively and defensively then I shall be very hopeful going forward that the misfortune of tonight won't happen again."

Hodgson added: "There were a lot of good things in our performance tonight. It was, unfortunately for us, a very good goal they scored to equalise and we'll have to accept that disappointment, digest it and move on." — AFP

SPAIN SUFFER TROUBLED BUILD-UP TO CZECH OPENER

TOULOUSE: Holders Spain's hopes of recreating the atmosphere that led to continental success four years ago has been tested ahead of their Euro 2016 opener with Czech Republic though the players remain confident. Goalkeeper David De Gea has been dragged into an off-pitch scandal while Spain have also had a troubled build-up on the pitch, leaving the European champions with much to prove in their first Group C match in Toulouse today.

Spain, who will also face Turkey and Croatia in a tricky section, were dominating international football when they became the first side to claim two consecutive European titles by winning Euro 2012 two years after a maiden World Cup win.

But that came to an abrupt end at the 2014 World Cup when they crashed out in the group stage, never recovering from a 5-1 demolition by the Netherlands in their opener, and they have endured some mediocre results ahead of this tournament.

However, forward Pedro says they are even more determined to do well after their poor display at the World Cup in Brazil as they chase an unprecedented third European title in a row.

"The mood reminds me of those of four years ago," he told reporters at Spain's headquarters on the Ile de Re on Saturday. "The group have a different mentality, they want to do something great and have a successful tournament."

"We're motivated. Maybe it's because we didn't have a good World Cup and we want to turn that situation around."

SELECTION POLICY

A 1-0 friendly defeat by Georgia in their final warm-up game raised questions of Vicente del Bosque's selection policy after he left a swathe of big names out of his Euro 2016 squad including Juan Mata, Paco Alcacer and Fernando Torres.

He also had to wait for the late arrival of the Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid players in the squad following their participation in the Champions League final. Manchester United keeper De Gea has vehemently denied allegations in the Spanish media



TOULOUSE: This UEFA handout image taken yesterday taken in Toulouse shows Spain's midfielder Sergio Busquets (L) and Spain's midfielder Andres Iniesta attending a press conference on the eve of Spain's opening match against Czech Republic for the Euro 2016 football tournament. — AFP

linking him to a prostitution case and he has the backing of his team mates. "We're with (De Gea) and we must support him," said Pedro. "We are calm, as he is, and this won't destabilise the group. It's not affecting us," he added. "The atmosphere's good."

De Gea's situation may prompt Del Bosque to stick with Iker Casillas in goal, while Alvaro Morata leads the race to start in attack after overcoming a thigh

injury. The Czech Republic qualified ahead of Iceland, Turkey and the Netherlands and Pavel Vrba has every member of his squad - including captain Tomas Rosicky - fit for Monday's match.

"I had to work hard during the last two months," Rosicky told reporters. "I intensified my training and played with the (Arsenal) reserves to get ready for Spain." — Reuters



WORKMANLIKE MENTALITY GIVES ITALY HOPE AGAINST BELGIUM

FAN FERVOR



LYON: Plagued by injuries to his creative midfielders and without a talisman up front, Italy coach Antonio Conte is banking on a workmanlike team full of energy to outfox Belgium's exciting young forwards when they meet today.

The Euro 2016 Group E match comes ahead of tough encounters against Ireland and Sweden giving neither side much respite should they lose the first game in Lyon. Once famed for their "catenaccio", a tactical system with an emphasis on a strong defensive unit, Italy come to the tournament with arguably their weakest team for years and conceding goals particularly against top teams. They face a Belgium side with a talented squad tipped by some to go one better than the golden generation that finished as tournament runners up in 1980.

Despite opening the scoring, the Italians were beaten comfortably 3-1 by Belgium in a November friendly. Conte, who joins Chelsea after the tournament, is known for his motivational skills, team unity and tactical flexibility,

although a tendency to tinker has led to mixed results since 2014. "You need to sacrifice yourself for the team," Conte recently said in an interview. "The team isn't a single person." His best midfielders Marco Verratti and Claudio Marchisio are both ruled out through injury.

Without the magic of Andrea Pirlo, pulling strings in the heart of midfield, old heads Thiago Motta and Daniele De Rossi alongside Marco Parolo will try to stop the supply lines to creative Belgium attackers Eden Hazard, Yannick Carrasco and Kevin de Bruyne. Conte is hoping winger Alessandro Florenzi flourishes after an encouraging season with club AS Roma and inspirational veteran goalkeeper and captain Gianluigi Buffon will also need to galvanise his troops.

NO KILLER INSTINCT

Yet the lack of a killer instinct among Italy's strikers, notably target man Graziano Pelle, could make it difficult should Belgium score first and force the Italians to chase the

game. In contrast, the Red Devils appear spoilt for choice in attack having scored an average of more than two goals per game over their last 10 matches. After a terrible season at club level for Chelsea, Hazard has hit form. Atletico Madrid's Carrasco has turned games on their head and could be one of the stand-out performers of the tournament. De Bruyne is likely to be deployed in the playmaker role while any one of Belgium's four central strikers Michy Batshuayi, Christian Benteke, Romelu Lukaku and Divock Origi, could be chosen to lead the line.

Coach Marc Wilmots, however, has not had things all his own way in the build-up after losing defensive rock Vincent Kompany and fellow centre back Nicolas Lombaerts. He looks set to play Tottenham pair Toby Alderweireld and Jan Vertonghen in the heart of defence, but a lack of cohesion was exposed in their three warm-up games. Tightening up that defence may well be key to whether Belgium can overcome a well-drilled Italian team. — Reuters



MARSEILLE: England's midfielder Adam Lallana (C, #8) passes the ball as he is marked by Russia's defender Georgi Shchennikov (2-R) during the Euro 2016 group B football match between England and Russia at the Stade Velodrome in Marseille on Saturday. — AFP

VIOLENCE MARS ENGLAND'S 1-1 DRAW WITH RUSSIA

MARSEILLE: Russia fans stormed a section of England supporters inside the stadium moments after Saturday's 1-1 draw between the countries at the European Championship on another day of violence and rioting in the southern French city of Marseille.

England and Russia fans clashed throughout the day at the Old Port district and briefly outside the nearby Stade Velodrome before the match. Police in the Mediterranean port city fired tear gas and water cannons at fighting supporters in a largely unsuccessful attempt to rein in trouble that authorities said left at least five people injured.

The clashes continued moments after the final whistle, when a large group of Russian fans in one of the stands behind the goal advanced on England supporters in the neighboring area, throwing objects and breaking through a line of stewards. England fans - including young children - fled for the exits in panic, with some having to vault railings to escape. UEFA will open disciplinary proceedings over the violence in Marseille, with Russia facing the stronger sanctions from European soccer's governing body after the incidents inside the stadium. "The FA is very disappointed by the terrible scenes that we saw there and of course con-

demns such behavior," said FA spokesman Mark Whittle, adding that the body was calling on French authorities "to identify those involved in the troubles and deal with them appropriately and quickly." Vasily Berezutsky scored Russia's equalizer with a looping header in the second minute of injury time, canceling out Eric Dier's goal from a free kick in the 73rd. Dier, a defensive midfielder, was a surprising choice to take the free kick for England, but his fierce strike curled into the top corner from the edge of the area.

BLOOD DRIPPING

"It's disappointing because we were so close to an important and big win in our first game," Dier said. "I thought it would have been well deserved. Our emotions went from a high to a low pretty quickly."

England failed to finish a flurry of chances in a dominant first-half performance and faded until Dier stepped up to put England ahead in the Group B match. However, what happened during the match will be overshadowed by the fan violence before and after. Amid the broken beer bottles and gray clouds of tear gas that filled the Old Port, families and tourists walked around the picturesque area, sometimes forced to skirt

around lines of riot police. TV footage showed fans throwing chairs yanked from restaurant terraces and scuffling on a staircase, where one man was seen kicking another one down the stairs. Some fans walked through the city bare-chested and with blood dripping from head wounds. The trouble that raged all day had largely died down by the time the match started, but reignited just as it finished. Shortly before the final whistle, Russian fans appeared to seize a power cable running around the front of the stand. A group then attacked nearby English supporters.

As England fans fled, Russian fans gave chase, snatching English flags that had been on display. Large numbers of stewards struggled to restore order. The Russian fans were kept behind while most England fans left, but were soon allowed to leave. Russia fans also set off flares late in the game. An Associated Press reporter said it was calm outside the stadium afterward, with Russia and England fans drifting away peacefully. England coach Roy Hodgson refused to comment in detail on the incidents, but said the players "weren't particularly aware (of what happened) and it certainly had no effect on our preparation for the game and our performance in the game." — AP

Live		Matches on TV	
		(Local Timings)	
UEFA EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP			
Spain v Czech Republic	16:00	beIN MAX 2 HD	
		beIN MAX 3 HD EN	
		beIN MAX 1 HD	
		beIN MAX 4 HD FR	
Ireland v Sweden	19:00	beIN MAX 2 HD	
		beIN MAX 3 HD EN	
		beIN MAX 1 HD	
		beIN MAX 4 HD FR	
Belgium v Italy	22:00	beIN MAX 2 HD	
		beIN MAX 3 HD EN	
		beIN MAX 1 HD	
		beIN MAX 4 HD FR	
COPA AMERICA CENTENARIO			
Ecuador v Haiti	1:30	beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
		beIN MAX 2 HD	
		beIN MAX 3 HD EN	
		beIN MAX 4 HD FR	
Brazil v Peru	3:30	beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
		beIN MAX 2 HD	
		beIN MAX 3 HD EN	
		beIN MAX 4 HD FR	
Tomorrow			
Mexico v Venezuela	3:00	beIN MAX 2 HD	
		beIN MAX 3 HD EN	
Uruguay v Jamaica	5:00	beIN MAX 2 HD	
		beIN MAX 3 HD EN	

IRELAND, SWEDEN SEEK REDEMPTION IN GROUP E

PARIS: Ireland and Sweden meet in the Euro 2016 Group E opener at the Stade de France today where a win would go a long way to redeeming their past failures in the championship and getting them to the knockout stage. Drawn in a tough section with Belgium and Italy, a victory is of paramount importance to both sides' fortunes. "The team that wins this game has a very good chance of progressing," Sweden coach Erik Hamren told Reuters recently. "Even if we win or lose we still have a chance to go through but it's a lot smaller. It's a real key game." Both teams also have a point to prove following dismal showings at Europe's flagship tournament four years ago. Ireland scored one goal and conceded nine to become the first team eliminated from Euro 2012, while the Swedes threw away the lead twice in losing their first two games, to Ukraine and England, packing their bags shortly after the Irish.

As ever, Sweden will rely on their enigmatic 34-year-old captain Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who has spent the last four years banging in goals in the French capital for Ligue 1 side Paris Saint Germain, but who is now leaving on a free transfer. Strongly linked to a reunion with his former Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho, now at Manchester United, Ibra was allowed to leave the Sweden camp on his days off to finalise a move, but all talk of his next club will be on ice when the action starts. Ibrahimovic's burgeoning partnership with winger Emil Forsberg is likely to cause problems down Ireland's right flank, where full back Seamus Coleman should be partnered by combative Jon Walters who looks to have got over an Achilles problem.

Walters is among the survivors from the Giovanni Trapattoni-led side that performed so dismally four

years ago, and he will be keen to erase the memories of a tournament in which the Irish failed to showcase their famous fighting spirit. "Ireland and ourselves are the underdogs in our group, and we're quite close to one another in the rankings. With regard to who is going to win or lose, it's quite open," Hamren told Reuters. Sweden are 35th and Ireland 33rd in the FIFA rankings. With manager Martin O'Neill and his assistant Roy Keane in charge of Ireland, the clash is likely to be a physical battle but the Swedes are no shrinking violets and the high stakes ensure they will be ready for whatever the Irish throw at them. — Reuters



SAINT-DENIS: This UEFA handout image taken and released yesterday in Saint-Denis, near Paris, shows Sweden's Captain Zlatan Ibrahimovic attending a press conference on the eve of Sweden's opening match against Ireland for the Euro 2016 football tournament. — AFP

Sports

Posey gets walkoff single in 10th lifts Giants past Dodgers



US reaches Copa quarters with win over Paraguay



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WORKMANLIKE MENTALITY GIVES ITALY HOPE AGAINST BELGIUM

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STADE DE NICE: Northern Ireland's midfielder Oliver Norwood (L) and Northern Ireland's defender Jonny Evans (foreground R) vie with Poland's midfielder Jakub Blaszczykowski (C) during the Euro 2016 group C football match between Poland and Northern Ireland at the Stade de Nice in Nice yesterday. — AFP

POLAND'S MILIK BREAKS N IRELAND HEARTS

NICE: Ajax striker Arkadiusz Milik broke Northern Ireland hearts yesterday after rifling home the only goal in their Euro 2016 Group C opener in Nice.

Poland had never won a game before at the European Championship, with three draws and three losses over two appearances in 2008 and 2012 — the latter a tournament that they co-hosted with Ukraine.

Now they can look forward to a spicy tie with neighbours Germany in the Stade de France on June 16 with eyes on a spot in the last 16. The result dents Northern Ireland's pre-tournament hopes of qualifying from a tough group as one of the four best third-placed teams, with a win now essential against Ukraine in Lyon the same day. Adam Nawalka's side dominated the game but took time to break down a stubborn defence, Milik's

strike early in the second half coming after several missed chances in the first.

For Michael O'Neill's side, it was a disappointing end to their first ever European Championship match, and first major tournament appearance since the 1986 World Cup. They entered the game unbeaten in a record 12 matches, but although they held their more vaunted opponents scoreless until half-time, they ultimately paid for an over-defensive approach in the impressive Stadium Nice.

From the off Poland dominated possession but struggled to penetrate close to goal against a back-four stoutly marshalled by West Brom's Jonny Evans.

With Bayern Munich star Robert Lewandowski bottled up by a dogged Northern Ireland defence and Milik

misfiring on several occasions, it was a frustrating opening period for Poland. Top scorers in qualifying for Euro 2016, they managed just two shots on target in the first period. The first was on the half-hour when a left-footed drive by Milik from outside the box was easily parried by Michael McGovern. Milik should also have scored after a cut-back by Piszczek put him in space 10 yards out but he sliced high and wide.

Then as a scrappy half drew to a close, Poland almost broke the deadlock when a left-foot snapshot by the lively Bartosz Kapustka from the edge of the area was superbly tipped over by McGovern.

Northern Ireland, whose striker Kyle Lafferty was their only player in the opposing half for much of the game, soon paid for their defensive approach. Six min-

utes into the second period Milik made no mistake when firing through the legs of Craig Cathcart after Jakub Blaszczykowski found him unmarked on the edge of the area. Blaszczykowski had his own chance to add to Poland's tally on 68 minutes but steered wide after Milik had stroked a ball behind the Northern Ireland defence. Krzysztof Maczynski, substitute Kamil Grosicki, Milik again, and Grzegorz Krychowiak all had chances to put Poland 2-0 up in the last 15 minutes but all narrowly missed.

Northern Ireland rarely looked like scoring although a speculative off-target scissor kick from Lafferty gave their raucous fans some hope, while captain Steven Davis almost got on the end of a through ball late on. — AFP

MODRIC STUNNER SEES CROATIA PAST TURKEY

PARIS: Luka Modric's perfect technique lifted Croatia to a 1-0 win over Turkey yesterday at the European Championship.

The Real Madrid midfielder scored with a dipping volley in the 41st minute of a rugged and bloodied Group D game at Parc des Princes. Modric strode forward into the path of a high clearance for a 25-meter shot that Turkey goalkeeper Volkan Babacan failed to keep out. Croatia had several good chances to score, but was twice denied by the crossbar in the second half. Veteran captain Darijo Srna's curling free kick glanced off the woodwork on its way over, and Ivan Perisic's close-range header rebounded out of danger.

Modric's goal stood out in a mostly uninspiring first half. Playing in a deep role, he was perfectly placed when Turkey's defense panicked dealing with a cross into the goalmouth. An aimless clearance sent the ball looping

into a central area and Modric sent back a bouncing shot. In the first Euro 2016 match after violence Saturday at the match between Russia and England in Marseille, a fan in a Croatia shirt jumped from the stands to join the players while they were celebrating the goal. He was led away by stadium security staff and UEFA will likely sanction Croatia's soccer federation for the security breach.

The 1-0 scoreline was the same when the teams made their Euro debuts playing each other in 1996 in England.

"We never start well in these big tournaments," said Terim, who coached Turkey 20 years ago and to the semifinals of Euro 2008. "I am upset but, as I said, we will learn our lessons. We shouldn't lose the ball so easily and we should run and fight more."

Two teams better known for neat ground passes mostly preferred lofting crosses into the goalmouth. Unfortunately for Croatia, back-to-back headed chances in the 23rd were wasted by midfielder Marcelo Brozovic as tall forward Mario Mandzukic lurked nearby. Turkey's best headed chance also fell to a midfielder. Ozan Tufan miscued in the 29th to force goalkeeper Danijel Subasic into a stumbling save on his goal line. Amid so much aerial play, there were collisions and casualties.

Croatia defender Vedran Corluka was left with a bloodied head and face by forward Cenk



PARC DES PRINCES: Turkey's goalkeeper Volkan Babacan (2nd R) clears his line during the Euro 2016 group D football match between Turkey and Croatia at the Parc des Princes in Paris yesterday. — AFP

Tosun's elbow. Tosun was shown a yellow card and Corluka wore a large white bandage until he could be stitched up at halftime. Corluka's wound reopened and he was patched up twice more, angering Turkish fans whose whistles and jeers when he fell to the ground suggested they felt it was a time-wasting tactic. — AP

SAGAN WINS SWISS TOUR SECOND STAGE

LAUSANNE: World champion Peter Sagan won the second stage of the Tour of Switzerland yesterday as Belgian Jurgen Roelandts claimed the leader's yellow jersey.

Sagan's victory was his 12th stage success in the race, setting a new record. The Slovak benefitted from a split in the peloton 500 metres from the line at the end of the 187.6km stage around Baar to win the sprint.

But that split cost home hero Fabian Cancellara—who won Saturday's opening prologue the leader's jersey as he was caught the wrong side and came home three seconds back.

Roelandts, who was second to Cancellara on Saturday, finished in Sagan's group and took the yellow jersey by a single second. Australian Luke Durbridge remains third overall, as he was after the prologue, at 6sec with Sagan fourth at 10sec.

Argentine Maximiliano Richeze was second to Sagan on the stage with Aussie Michael Matthews third. Reigning champion Simon Spilak of Slovenia is 55th overall at 35sec but Welshman Geraint Thomas, who will assist Sky team leader Chris Froome at next month's Tour de France, is 17th at 16sec.

Having already won Paris-Nice and the Tour of the Algarve this season, Thomas is expected to challenge for the overall victory, alongside American Tejay Van Garderen, currently 47th at 32sec.

Today's third stage is a 192km trek over rolling terrain from Grosswangen to Rheinfelden.

Meanwhile, Lance Armstrong plans to be in Kalamazoo for a "Finishing the Ride" event in honor of the five cyclists killed when they were hit by a pickup truck.

Armstrong told the Detroit Free Press (<http://on.freep.com/1OjzxKo>) the collision on June 7 in Kalamazoo County's Cooper Township, 160 miles from Chicago, is the worst he's seen and he's not sure he's emotionally ready for the ride. Armstrong says a fear of being struck by a vehicle is shared by all cyclists.

Armstrong plans to join Kalamazoo-area cyclists in a 28.5-mile ride Tuesday from Kalamazoo to Plainwell and back.

The driver of the pickup, Charles Pickett Jr., appeared in court Friday on second-degree murder charges and other crimes. He was ordered held without bond, and an attorney will be appointed to represent him. Armstrong confessed in 2013 to doping to win the Tour de France seven times. — Agencies

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India guessing over future of 'rock star' banker Rajan

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SLOWDOWN KEEPS FED HAND OFF RATE-HIKE BUTTON

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KANDAHAR: Traditional bread sold at an Afghan shop is put on display during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan yesterday. — AFP

OMAN BONDS IN JP MORGAN INDEX?

NOTES LIKELY TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR INCLUSION

LONDON: In a year of comebacks in emerging markets, Oman returned to the international bond market for the first time in nearly 20 years last week with a US\$2.5bn offering comprising five and 10-year notes. While the outcome was considered decent by bankers, there were a couple of aspects of the deal that raised eyebrows. One was that the notes are likely to be eligible for inclusion in JP Morgan's widely followed EMBI Global Diversified index, even though Oman is considered a high-income economy by the World Bank.

The multilateral institution defines any country with a gross national income per capita of US\$12,736 within that category - much lower than Oman's levels. Even so, a sovereign or quasi-sovereign can qualify for inclusion in the Global Diversified index as long as a country's GNI per capita is below a certain threshold for three consecutive years. That threshold changes annually depending on economic variables.

If data between 2012 and 2014 were used, Oman would qualify for inclusion in the index. In 2014, for example, its GNI per capita was US\$18,340, while the index income ceiling was US\$19,708. In 2013, Oman's GNI per capita was US\$19,280 compared with an index income ceiling of US\$19,585. JP Morgan has yet to make a decision on whether or not the bonds will be included as it considers data for 2015 as part of its review process. Leads, however,

are confident Oman will be included in the index, which helps boost liquidity. It meets all the criteria for eligibility, said one, who added that the likelihood of index eligibility was helpful but not a game changer for the deal.

Pricing

The other issue that got bankers chatting was the pricing. With no outstanding curve, leads used feedback from the roadshow. Among other things, investors looked at where Abu Dhabi and Qatar were trading and their respective leading banks. With Omani lender Bank Muscat having US\$500m May 2021 notes outstanding, that gave some pointers for price thoughts. Those bonds were trading at a Z-spread of 253bp, according to Eikon.

Surprisingly, Oman began marketing the five-year notes flat to wide of Muscat at mid/high 200s over mid-swaps. It marketed the 10-year tranche at mid-300s. Guidance was set at plus 262.5bp area and plus 337.5bp area respectively, before a revision to 250bp area and 325bp area, plus or minus 5bp on both tranches. The sovereign priced the deal at the tight end, printing a US\$1bn 3.625 percent June 2021 note tranche at 245bp over swaps and US\$1.5bn of 4.75 percent June 2026s at plus 320bp. It's a bit unusual for a sovereign to be flattish against its banks, said a banker away from the deal.

The lead banker said a new Muscat deal would come

wide of where the outstanding bond is trading after taking into account a new issue premium. "If you look at where Muscat would come now, pricing looks acceptable," he said. The rival banker did acknowledge that Oman's five-year bond was for a bigger size and that liquidity on the Muscat notes is weak in the secondary market. He said that compared with where Abu Dhabi and Qatar printed their recent five- and 10-year bonds, Oman's pricing appeared fine. "The relative value against other sovereigns stacks up nicely."

Oman offered a 130bp pick-up over Abu Dhabi May 2021s in spread terms and just over 100bp over Qatar's June 2021s. On the 10-year, Oman came 185bp back of Abu Dhabi and 130bp wide of Qatar. And with Oman's bonds trading around par on the break, albeit having traded down later in the week, the rival banker said that overall the bonds were well priced, notwithstanding the Bank Muscat comparison.

Oman's deal is part of a spree of new issuance from the region and followed in the footsteps of Abu Dhabi and Qatar. While those two sovereigns are much better rated, the one thing they and Oman have in common is the need to raise funds to support government finances in the wake of lower oil prices. Oman, in particular, has suffered with Standard & Poor's downgrading the sovereign by four notches since February 2015 to BBB- and Moody's by three

notches since February this year to Baa1.

Despite material adjustment, Oman's fiscal and external break-even oil prices are forecast to remain one of the highest among countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council and Commonwealth of Independent States, according to International Monetary Fund estimates as of end-April 2016. Therefore, a protracted period of low oil prices has a much more pronounced negative impact on Oman's economic performance, government finances, and balance-of-payments position than it does for most other oil exporters rated by Moody's, said the ratings agency in its last downgrade statement in May.

Moody's added that Oman's fiscal deficit is more than 16 percent of GDP. It also forecast that the government's total external debt will increase significantly, to 75 percent of GDP by 2020 from less than 30 percent in 2015. Investors, however, were not just concerned with the Sultanate's economic challenges. Another issue is who will succeed the Sultan, who has no children. The Sultan, who is 75, acceded to the throne in 1970. He has not publicly named an heir. Middle East banks were the biggest buyers of the five-year notes, while international institutional investors dominated the allocations on the 10-year tranche. The order book was US\$6 billion. Citigroup, JP Morgan, MUFG, National Bank of Abu Dhabi and Natixis were the leads on the 144A/Reg S deal. — Reuters

MARKETS FALL BUT SAUDI DEVELOPERS MAKE GAINS

MIDEAST MARKETS REPORT

DUBAI: Middle East stock markets fell yesterday as investors booked profits following a pull-back in oil prices and international stock markets, but some Saudi Arabian real estate shares bucked the downtrend because of the kingdom's economic reform plan. Dar Al Arkan Real Estate Development added 7.5 percent after a 20 percent jump last week. It has been strong since the developer said last week that it was in talks with the government to provide housing under the reform policies.

Emaar Economic City, another company which announced last week that it plans to build homes with the Ministry of Housing, advanced 1.7 percent. The petrochemical sector was the main drag on Riyadh's stock index, which sank 0.6 percent. Saudi Basic Industries lost 1.2 percent. Dubai's index, the top performer in the region last week, lost 1.0 percent to 3,336 points, failing a test of technical resistance on the mid-May peak of 3,373 points.

Over nine-tenths of traded stocks declined, with Emaar Properties losing 2.0 percent and builder Arabtec down 2.1 percent. Abu Dhabi's main index declined 0.3 percent, extending Thursday's losses, with banking shares the main drag. Union National Bank dropped 1.5 percent. "Investors have now fully played out the recent oil rally and will continue to book profits and stay clear of the stock markets until

Q2 results," said one Dubai-based portfolio manager.

"The common adage for stock investors is that they are driven by two factors: fear and greed, and now the former is taking precedence over the latter," he added. The main fears, he said, were Britain's June 23 referendum on whether to leave the European Union, and the risk of further weakness in oil prices.

Egypt

Egypt's most heavily traded stock, Orascom Telecom Media, slumped 5.7 percent; sources told Reuters that Commercial International Bank (CIB) had dropped plans to sell its investment bank CI Capital to Belstone Financial, a subsidiary of Orascom, after failing to win regulatory approval. CIB dropped 2.0 percent.

Billionaire Naguib Sawiris, whose family controls OTMT, said in March that the deal was being held up by national security concerns and criticized the state for meddling in business, saying this would discourage investors. But investment firm EFG Hermes jumped 2.0 percent after saying it planned to distribute 1.08 billion Egyptian pounds (\$121.6 million) to shareholders through a cash distribution or share buy-backs, after its sale of a 40 percent stake in Lebanese bank Credit Libanais. Cairo's main index retreated 1.4 percent.

Yesterday's highlights:

SAUDI ARABIA

• The index fell 0.6 percent to 6,571 points.

DUBAI

• The index dropped 1.0 percent to 3,336 points.

ABU DHABI

• The index fell 0.3 percent to 4,368 points.

QATAR

• The index lost 0.4 percent to 9,794 points.

EGYPT

• The index declined 1.4 percent to 7,651 points.

KUWAIT

• The index edged up 0.2 percent to 5,422 points.

OMAN

• The index declined 0.3 percent to 5,868 points.

BAHRAIN

• The index lost 0.3 percent to 1,116 points.

DRONE FORCES HOUR-LONG CLOSURE OF DUBAI AIRPORT

DUBAI: Dubai International Airport, the world's busiest airport for international travel, closed its airspace for 69 minutes due to unauthorized drone activity yesterday, causing 22 flights to be diverted, aviation authorities said. Government-owned Dubai Airports, which operates Dubai's two main airports, said in a statement the closure lasted between 11:36 am and 12:45 pm (0639-0745 GMT), and Dubai Airports chief executive Paul Griffiths said thousands of passengers suffered disruption to their journeys.

Sixteen of the diverted flights went to Dubai World Central, Dubai's other main airport, a Dubai Airports spokesperson told Reuters. Dubai, a trade, tourism and investment hub for the Gulf region, is one of seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates (UAE). "This is a very serious incident and we obviously take the safety of our customers and our staff extremely seriously," Griffiths told Dubai's Dubaieye 103.8 radio. "As you can imagine, this is the busiest international airport in the world and there was major inconvenience to thousands of passengers ... There are very clear restrictions and no fly zones around all airports in the UAE, saying that this type of activity is actually illegal."

It was the second such incident in 18 months, according to media reports in the

United Arab Emirates. The flying of drones is prohibited within 5 km of airports, helipads, landing areas or manned aircraft in the UAE, with those found guilty of flying the pilotless aircraft there facing heavy fines. Situated on transcontinental air routes, Dubai is one of several Gulf-based airports to experience prodigious growth in recent years. Around 100 airlines fly to more than 240 destinations from the hub, which is also home to carrier Emirates.

Around the world the use of civil drones, whether for commercial purposes or just as a leisure activity, is rising. That popularity has led to increasing reports of near-misses with commercial aircraft, such as when a Lufthansa plane was approaching Warsaw airport last month. Aviation concerns focus on smaller drones, operated like model planes and flown for recreation, because their users are often not familiar with the rules of the air.

The UK's Civil Aviation Authority issued a warning in July 2015 after seven incidents where drones had flown near planes at different British airports in less than a year. Recognizing the threat, the European Commission conceded in 2015 that "drone accidents will happen" and has charged its aviation safety agency arm with developing common rules for operating drones in Europe. — Agencies

CAR GIANTS SEE ROAD TO RICHES IN SHARING

PARIS: Auto giants are racing to invest in car-and-ride-sharing services, lured by the prospect of fat profits yet to be tapped from a billion cars on the world's roads. A typical car spends 95 percent of its life at a standstill, industry analysts say, making it a vastly under-utilised, depreciating asset. There may be big money waiting, therefore, for the business that can get the car moving again. That is incentive enough for manufacturers from Toyota to Volkswagen and General Motors to join an investment rush, apparently without fear of ushering in a future in which individual car ownership is no longer king.

Thinking of the car business as a service dramatically changes perceptions of its value, Morgan Stanley analyst Laura Lembke told a conference in Munich this past week. New car

sales worldwide run at about 80 million a year bringing in \$1.5 trillion, Lembke said. But the total existing stock of cars is closer to one billion vehicles. If the average cost of a trip is \$1 a mile (€0.56 per kilometre), she estimated the market value could be as much as \$10 trillion. That estimate helps to explain the valuations placed on apps such as ride-hailing service Uber, valued at \$62.5 billion - a third more than the world's number three auto manufacturer General Motors.

Large Investments

GM this year invested \$500 million in Lyft, one of the chief competitors to Uber in the United States. Last month, Toyota announced a strategic partnership with Uber, with an undisclosed investment.

Volkswagen ploughed A300 million into taxi app Gett on the same day. "Alongside our pioneering role in the automotive business, we aim to become a world leading mobility provider by 2025," said Volkswagen chief executive Matthias Mueller.

Automakers see an opportunity but it is too early to accurately assess the potential value of such a young industry, said Jeremy Carlson, senior analyst of automotive technology at research group IHS. Car manufacturers may sell into a fleet of vehicles for drivers to use in these new services, he said. Or they may decide to gain experience and launch competing services. "Yes, this has the potential and the likelihood to impact the traditional automotive business model at least in some capacity," Carlson conceded.

"But we don't expect the kind of traditional ownership and sales model to disappear anytime soon. We expect it to be the majority until at least 2035 and for all of those years vehicle sales, the traditional model, remains the vast majority of our automotive sales."

Self-Driving Cars

Even if the future brings us self-driving vehicles combined with car-hailing apps to offer a service rivaling the convenience of private ownership, the market for car manufacturers could survive, the analyst said. "When you have autonomous added to car sharing and ride sharing, those vehicles are running at a higher rate and are making many more trips. The idea is that you will

replace those vehicles much faster," Carlson explained. "There may be an impact on the total vehicle production and sales base, but it's certainly not nearly as drastic as we have seen in other reports."

Paulin Dementhon, founder of Drivy, a French app that lets car owners rent out their vehicles, said the new services were starting to live up to their promise. Manufacturers, now concerned primarily with building and selling vehicles, would have to decide how to adapt to a market of car-related services, he said. "Sales might suffer a bit but the car is also a consumable," Dementhon said. "There will be fewer people buying cars but after two years they will have done 200,000 kilometres," he said. Then they will need replacing. —AFP



PARIS: This file photo taken on Nov 6, 2015 shows savons de Marseille (Marseille soap) at the stand of the "Union des producteurs de savon de Marseille" (Union of Marseille soap producers) during the 4th edition of the Made In France fair. —AFP

RIVALRY IN LATHER OVER RECIPE FOR FRANCE'S FAMOUS SOAP

MARSEILLE: It is as French as baguette, and as emblematic of the country's southern Provence region as lavender fields and cicadas. But a dispute over the "official" recipe for the region's famed traditional soap, "savon de Marseille", has producers in a froth. With cheap Chinese and Turkish soaps flooding the market, manufacturers want Marseille soap to be granted a "geographical indication" (GI) so consumers can tell the difference between the real thing and cheap imports.

But a dispute over how "true Marseille soap" should be made has the producers themselves at each other's throats. In one camp are a dozen soapmakers from across the southeast of France led by the cosmetics giant Occitane who have formed the Association of Makers of Savon de Marseille (AFSM). It was they who filed the bid in October to have the soap recognized as a GI, a designation which already protects many French wines and cheeses.

In the other corner are four diehard traditionalists, master soapmakers from the Marseille area itself who want to bring the product back to its artisanal roots. Their supporters in the Mediterranean city started a petition on change.org that has gotten more than 123,000 signatures to back their demand for a return to something closer to the original recipe, first officialised under the "Sun King" Louis XIV in 1688. But relations between the two camps are so bad now that the French state is having to arbitrate the vexed question of the soap's "official" make-up.

Heresy

"Talks have broken down, our only communication now is through third parties," said Serge Bruna of the more industrial AFSM. While they are pushing for the norms for a "traditional savon de Marseille" to be based on vegetable oil and soda ash, they also want certain additives and perfumes to be allowed. But this is heresy for the traditionalists who make their soaps from scratch in large cauldrons without recourse to ready-made ingredients produced elsewhere.

"We are the last to keep up the traditional

knowhow," said Marie Bousquet-Fabre, great grandniece of the founder of the Marius Fabre soapworks. "We are true soapmakers. We start from the vegetable matter and oil and we transform them by heating them with the soda ash in our cauldrons." Marseille soap was original made with seawater, olive oil and soda ash, but for decades olive oil has given way to palm and copra oil. Even the traditionalists now use some palm or copra oil in their olive soaps.

Marseille Only

Their lobby group, the UPSM, however, insists that true savon de Marseille can only be produced by artisanal makers in the Bouches-du-Rhone region around the city. This has angered the rival AFSM whose members are spread over a large swathe of southern France. AFSM stalwart Bruna claimed that the austere pale green and beige blocks of soap made by the traditionalists "are not what 90 percent of consumers want". One of the biggest sellers in his Licorne brand's shop in Marseille's Old Port is a soap in the shape of a sardine. For many customers, the lavender oil added to the soap gives it "the essential odour of savon de Marseille", he claimed.

The French government, however, is taking its time over the decision partly because the Marseille soap will be the first manufactured item to be given the IG status - something that has up to now been reserved for food products. It hopes it will lead the way for other French regional products like Basque berets, Limoges porcelain and knives from Laguiole getting the same classification. With a public inquiry into the soap's composition ending only next week, no official decision is expected until September.

But an advisor to minister of state Martine Pinville, who will make the final decision, said the dilemma for officials was "promoting quality" while opening the IG classification to a "a maximum number of people". Sebastien Malangeau told AFP that the ministry was "ready to be as flexible as possible... but the most important criteria is the quality". If the label is just seen as "a marketing gimmick it will die", he added. —AFP

STRIKING SWEDISH PILOTS RESUME TALKS WITH SAS

STOCKHOLM: Striking Swedish SAS pilots and employer representatives returned to the negotiating table yesterday, the pilots' union said on day three of a walkout over wages that has stranded 50,000 passengers and cost the carrier millions. "We are in talks now. Hopefully we will be able to come to an agreement," SPF union chief Martin Lindgren told AFP. Yesterday, SAS cancelled 220 flights by Swedish pilots, affecting 26,000 passengers. On Friday and Saturday, another 24,000 passengers were stranded by cancelled flights. Flights operated by Danish and Norwegian pilots were running as normal.

The walkout comes during peak travel season, and has hit charter groups hard. The strike began on Friday at 6:00 pm (1600 GMT) after the pilots' union rejected a proposed 2.2 percent wage increase, insisting on a hike of 3.5 percent. The employers' organization however said the

pilots' overall demands, including employment contracts offering greater job security, would entail a 10 percent cost increase. "That would mean a cost increase of almost 100 million kronor (\$12 million/10.7 million euros) a year for SAS. We can't afford that given the current competition," SAS chief executive Rickard Gustafson told news agency TT.

SAS said it had not calculated how much money it was losing because of the strike, but financial analysts estimated it was costing the airline at least \$1.2 million (1.06 million euros) a day. Analysts said the losses could be even greater if customers were to lose confidence in the airline's dependability because of the strike. "SAS has to weigh the loss of prestige against the consequences of higher wage costs... People might be hesitant to choose SAS next time," air industry analyst Matts Hyttinge told TT. —AFP

CHINA STOCK MARKET BURNS INVESTORS WITH BOOM, BUST

STOCK PRICES REMAIN IN DOLDRUMS

SHANGHAI: Small-time investor Tracy Li lost more than \$3,000 of her hard-earned salary from working at a bank after China's stock market crashed last summer, wiping out trillions of dollars in valuations in just days. A year later, and she has been burned twice, betting government intervention to prop up the market after the rout would guarantee good returns. "Everybody was saying that the market was starting to rebound," she told AFP. "I bought a stock a friend recommended to me, but now I've lost 35 percent of my investment this year."

Her story is not much different from that of millions of other private investors who saw their savings go up in smoke during a year of countless government attempts to prop up the beleaguered market. Despite Beijing's best efforts, stock prices remain in the doldrums, with a reform agenda put on the backburner. Today marks the first anniversary of the day it all began to crumble, when the Shanghai stock market - having soared in the previous 12 months - started a 40 percent slide that it is struggling to recover from.

The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index rose more than 150 percent in the year to June 12, 2015, peaking at 5,166.35 as the government loosened limits on trading with borrowed money and encouraged buying with glowing commentary in state-controlled media. The bubble had been fuelled by lax government controls and rash investors looking for a quick profit, in what analysts say is an object lesson in the risks of trying to use policy to defy market forces.

When the collapse came, it destroyed fortunes, sparked a costly state bail-out, and shattered investor sentiment. But hard lessons were still to come. As the market plunged, China tasked a "national team" to prop up prices by directly buying at least \$236 billion worth of stocks, according to one estimate, which state-linked entities are still holding after hints they might unload them sparked renewed market

panic. Initially, the measures seemed to work, with the stock market rallying more than 24 percent from the low in August to mid-December.

But another crash came in January - with global repercussions - after the botched implementation of a so-called "circuit breaker", which was intended to halt trading in case of volatility but instead created a disastrous feedback loop that drove heavy sell-offs.

the fiasco but the debacle raised questions about the government's managerial abilities and its commitment to promised market reforms. "The government should avoid stimulating the market through policies. It should strive to build an open, free and fair market under the rule of law," said Hong Hao, Hong Kong-based chief strategist at securities firm BOCOM International.

Investors learned a "profound" lesson, too, he said, becoming

mer crash - and analysts warned there could still be further losses. None of that, however, has stopped Chinese officials from pushing for domestic shares to be included in global benchmark indexes compiled by MSCI - used as a guide by investors to allocate their portfolios. A decision is due on Tuesday.

But government reforms to build a more efficient market are still sorely needed, analysts said. Pressing issues include encourag-



BEIJING: This file picture taken on Feb 25, 2016 shows an investor watching stock prices on screens at a securities company. —AFP

'Forget High Returns'

Many of those who returned to stocks after the initial crash got burned. Software company boss Huo Jiayu invested 20,000 yuan (\$3,000) in January, but he was caught by the renewed fall this year, which was driven by worries over China's flailing economy and weakening currency. "I was trapped. I didn't even have the chance to cut my losses and before I knew it, I was losing too much money to get out," Huo told AFP.

China removed the head of the market regulator responsible for

more wary of the margin trading - the use of borrowed funds to buy stock - that played a key role in the run up. Now, the stock market has recovered slightly from January and February's plunge but it is still down almost 20 percent this year, making it the world's worst performing market among indexes tracked by the Wall Street Journal.

On Wednesday, the last trading day before a holiday, the Shanghai Composite Index closed at almost the exact same level as its low in August - the depths of the sum-

ing more institutional investors instead of individuals bent on short-term gains, and a long-awaited revamping of the initial public offering system which gives the market a bigger role. The year of hard lessons, however, has made regulators gun shy. "Market reform has slowed down," said Citic Securities analyst Zhang Qun. But one thing is for sure, he said. The days of sky-high pay offs are gone. His advice for investors? They "should lower their expectations and forget about unrealistic, high returns." —AFP

GREECE TV STATIONS FACE SIGN-OFF IN LICENSING ROW

ATHENS: Greece is in the grip of a row over television, with the government under attack for plans to slash the number of private channels in a sector that was hit hard by the financial crisis. Authorities say they want to clean up an industry known for its workforce exploitation and rumored under-the-table deals between media moguls, bankers and influential politicians, while bringing an end to 25 years of chaotic licensing.

The debt-laden government insists only "financially sustainable" channels should be allowed to broadcast, with several struggling stations reportedly owing large sums to both banks and state coffers. But critics say the overhaul is merely a ploy by Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras to replace powerful TV barons - who have opposed his leftist Syriza party in the past - with others more to his liking. Opposition leader Kyriakos Mitsotakis has accused the government of "authoritarian practices", saying: "If you are interested in pluralism, you should have given more licenses."

Greece has eight private nationwide TV channels, offering up a mix of rowdy talk shows, news and entertainment. These have been operating under provisional licenses, in some cases for over two decades - and Syriza has frequently accused previous governments of using broadcasters' precarious status to extract favorable coverage. Now the government wants to grant just four 10-year licenses. "This will bring an end to the era of arbitrariness," Tsipras promised last week. The government has launched an international tender, with opening bids starting at three million euros (\$3.4 million). A shortlist will be announced on July 14.

Too Much TV?

Times have been tough for media since Greece's financial crisis began in 2010, with many outlets closing as advertising slumped, and the survivors forced to cut thousands of jobs while taking on huge debt. According to a Kathimerini daily report, TV channels lost half their advertising revenue, around Euros400 million (\$450 million), between 2008 and 2012. The government says capping the number of channels would mean more advertising per channel - and that 11 million Greeks hardly need so many TV stations.

Other European countries around Greece's size, like Austria and Portugal, only have between two and four private channels. The decision was based on research by the European University Institute in Florence - but the Association of Private TV Channels (EITSEE) says the study uses flawed calculations. Michael Bletsas of the MIT Media Lab produced a counter-study arguing there would be room for up to 40 standard-definition channels. "Given the number of assumptions one has to make in order to come up with four, it seems to me that they started from the number four and worked their way backwards," Bletsas told AFP.

George Pleios, media studies chief at the National University of Athens, agrees in principle with reducing the number of channels, but not with the way it is being done. "I think the market can sustain no more than two or three channels. But it should be up to the market to regulate itself, not to the state," he said.

'Triangle of Corruption'

Leading channel Mega TV, which is seeking to block the tender in court, could be the

biggest casualty of the overhaul. The channel came close to bankruptcy last month. Its staff, unpaid for two months after banks froze the channel's accounts because of late payments, have repeatedly gone on strike. It is poorly placed to win one of the four coveted licenses. For media minister Nikos Pappas, it is key that the bidding process is demanding transparency from channels about their finances, with indebted companies barred.

Many channels' finances are "opaque", he complains, allowing their businessman owners to prop them up through other assets. But it may prove difficult to unravel what's known as the "triangle of corruption" - the web of interests between the media, banks and politicians. Researchers have frequently raised questions about the ease with which TV channels have secured hundreds of millions of euros in bank loans in an otherwise cash-starved economy.

And while Tsipras's government says it wants to clean up the murky industry, it too has been accused of playing politics when it comes to which channels get a helping hand. Struggling Mega, observers note, has been locked in a tug-of-war with Syriza over the station's dismissal of Tsipras's anti-austerity rhetoric. Sofia Chaimanta of the Greek journalists' union said it would take more than a new licensing law to change the landscape. "When it comes to interdependence as well as corruption, there are always three partners: political power, business and mass media," she said. "No law can (change this) without a real will to have transparency and independence in the media." —AFP

NEW VISION, GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS BY GAC

BEIJING: On April 25, GAC Group's 14th Beijing International Auto Show press conference themed "New Vision Σ Greater Achievements" was grandly held in E1 Hall of China International Exhibition Center. During the press conference, GAC Group debuted its high-end SUV GS8 and made public such major strategic moves as establishment of new energy branch of GAC MOTOR.

GAC Group's total exhibition area reached 1,689m² and the number of vehicles on exhibition hit 15, among which there were world's debut GS8, concept car I-Lounge, GS4EV, GA35 PHEV and EV-coupe and other new energy vehicles. Meanwhile, GA8, GS4, GA6 235T and GS5 super also showed up. In addition, GAC Group brought the new generation of GAC HONDA Accord, GAC-Toyota Highlander, GAC FIAT Cherokee and GAC Mitsubishi ASX, etc, so as to demonstrate the technical strength and innovation ability of GAC Group's "3+e" system.

New Vision - develop new products with cutting-edge technology

During this auto show, GAC Group, for the first time, launched its GS8 which is a self-developed 7-seat high-end SUV elaborately built based on GAC Group's cross-platform modular architecture. It is another move of GAC in making inroads into high-end market with proprietary brand after GA8.

Both GS8 and GA8 belong to Class C high-end platform and they adopt 7-seat layout. Aside from that, their second and third row can be laid down, meeting various demands of different situations. They both adopt the second generation of 320T engine with strong power and low noise, in addition to being equipped with i-4WD system, enabling them to cope with different road conditions easily.

Design of GS8 further construes the manufacturing philosophy of "daring to blaze new trails". From the perspective combined with Chinese and western, GAC Automobile Engineering Institute's top international design team continues the world-leading pioneer design language of Light and Sculpture 2.0 and makes GS8 strike a balance between strength and weakness and between aggressiveness and introversion. Also, it inherits the brand design philosophy of GAC MOTOR 2.0 that continuously takes the lead in domestic industry and steadily promotes internationalization. Thanks to the overlarge space, advanced technical configuration and super safety guarantee, GAC Motor will register astonishing progress in an all-around manner.

"With consumers' increasing demands for high-

quality products, its urgent need for Chinese auto brands to transform and upgrade to high-end models", said Zeng Qinghong, General Manager of GAC Group. GAC MOTOR consistently adheres to forward development and innovation development, making its sales rise to over 190,000 in 2015 from 17,000 in 2011. Over the past 5 years, GAC MOTOR opened up a development path of "Innovation-driven, Detailing and Greatness".

Greater Achievements - Promote New Development with Layout of Greater GAC MOTOR

In the first year of the "13th Five-year Planning", GAC Group made a good start in Q1 2016, realizing auto production of 352,500, a year-on-year growth of 45.96 percent, and sales volume of 332,200, a year-on-year increase of 35.82 percent. And its net profits took on year-on-year growth of 240 percent-270 percent. Meanwhile, GAC Group steadily promoted "3+e" development strategy, making significant achievements. That is aimed at improving overall strength and brand value.

GAC Group has achieved initial success in its proprietary industry layout. GAC MOTOR continues to keep high-speed growth and its sales volume in the first quarter hit about 80,000, a year-on-year increase of 171 percent, showing favorable development prospect. By integration of GAC GONOW, GAC Group has further consolidated its proprietary industry base and improved overall strength of independent module in an all-around manner. In independent R & D sector, GAC Group, based on global R & D network, has established the technical strategy and development philosophy by taking G-CPMA as forward development and proprietary brand, so as to quickly make layouts for product models, strongly support development of core business and realize steady development in proprietary industry layout.

In terms of cooperation with Japanese companies, GAC Group makes progress while maintaining stability by depending on GAC Toyota, GAC Honda and GAC Mitsubishi.

In this auto show, GAC Honda officially released brand-new enterprise brand slogan and brand strategies and three luxury SUV models (i.e. Avancier, Accord and ACURA) grandly showed up. GAC Toyota debuted its YARIS L in the auto show and announced that it will be applied to models with 1.2L turbo direct injection within this year and to Levin plug-in hybrid electric vehicle in 2018, so as to complete the "all-engine power" layout that leads the industry. New management of GAC Mitsubishi also showed up with first-ever ASX and



all models of Pajero Sport, showing technical strength and development vitality of "SUV families".

In terms of cooperation with European and American companies, GAC Group and FCA Group have stepped on a new stage in cooperation. Good news frequently came from first-ever Jeep Cherokee whose number of orders exceeded 10,000 for several months after the launch. On April 18, GAC FIAT Guangzhou Plant was put into operation and domestically-manufactured Jeep Renegade rolled off the line on the same day. GAC FIAT formed the development layout in which Changsha Plant and Canton Plant developed neck and neck, with constant improvement of intelligent manufacturing and supply reform, promoting multi-level and balanced development of GAC MOTOR business.

In addition, GAC finance and commercial & trade module will constantly optimize structure of finance and business service trade through unceasing innovation and reform in 2016. According to the development trend of the "13th Five-year Planning" outline, GAC Group put forward "1513" development strategy last year. In 2020, GAC Group will realize sales volume of 2.4 million, business revenue of over CNY 400 billion and total profits and taxes of over RMB 50 billion, becoming the advanced auto group.

New Drive - Drive Enterprise Innovation with the Spirit of the Craftsman

Since its establishment, GAC Group adheres to the philosophy of making excellent cars and constantly strives for perfection, pursues high quality of products and spares no efforts in innovation, which have been an indispensable part of GAC Group during its development history of more than 10 years and become the foundation of survival and development and internal motivation for progress in innovation. Over the past decade, employees put forward more than 2.53 million improvement proposals and the number of people involved hit over 275,000, each person put forward 5.7 proposals on average every year and the direct economic benefit created reached CNY 3.03 billion.

"GAC Group will constantly carry forward the spirit of craftsmen, implement innovative promotion and elaborately forge high-quality products", said Zeng Qinghong, General Manager of GAC Group. This year witnessed the 10th anniversary of the establishment of R & D system centered GAC Automobile Engineering Institute.

complete vehicles and key assembly and further support development of GAC Group's independent innovation.

New Energy - Promote New Energy Industry with Power Driving, Intellectualization and Network Connection

GAC Group insists on development of power driving, intellectualization and network connection, actively responds to national call of "green development", improves the development of new energy vehicles to strategic height, and makes comprehensive layouts. According to the "13th Five-year Planning" put forward by GAC Group in 2015, GAC Group will take power driving as the top priority for future business, insist on the technical route of pure-electric driving, master core technologies like "three power related technologies", erect industrialization platform for new energy vehicles and realize large-scale development of new energy vehicles. At the end of 2015, GAC MOTOR established new energy branch to increase input in R & D, production and market of new energy vehicle sector. Meanwhile, GAC Group has formulated "153" new-energy development strategy and made definite construction of R & D platform, R & D of core technologies and key development direction of products.

In terms of products, GAC Group will launch 3 new energy models, including GA35 PHEV (plug-in hybrid electric vehicle), GS4 EV (electric vehicle) and GS4 PHEV (plug-in hybrid electric SUV) in 2016 and there will be at least 7 new models to be launched in the coming 5 years. With absolute technical advantages and knock-out products, GAC Group forges ahead to output and sell more than 200,000 new energy vehicles in 2020, so as to provide guarantee for meeting fuel consumption of 5.0L/100km in China's fourth stage.

In February of this year, Guangzhou Lixin Taxi Company owned by GAC Access launched more than 200 Levin twin-engine HEVs into Guangzhou taxi market. Also, GAC Group fully mobilizes the creativity of various business sectors and is actively devoted in new energy and energy conservation and environmental protection. 400 pure electric buses produced by GAC BYD New Energy Bus Co., Ltd. are successively launched into Guangzhou public transport system to provide services for citizens. In the future, GAC Group will be committed to promoting new energy vehicles and exploring commercial mode application.

Looking into the future, GAC Group will substantively promote innovation in technology, product and commercial mode, so as to enhance comprehensive competitiveness and bring customers safe, convenient and high-quality auto products and service and thus create good car life.



YELLEN REMOVES REFERENCE TO TIMING OF HIKES

NBK MONEY MARKET REPORT

United States

Yellen Still Expects Gradual Rate Hikes Appropriate if Conditions Met

In a speech in Philadelphia on last Monday, Fed Chair Janet Yellen, speaking for the final time before the Fed's June 15 meeting, she was less specific about the timing of rate hikes, saying she expects that further gradual increases in the Fed funds rate will probably be appropriate. Overall, Yellen expressed optimism about the economy, which added roughly 2.7 million jobs last year. The US unemployment rate is quite low at 4.7 percent, and much of its progress during the recovery from the Great Recession has been positive. This spring, consumer spending too has picked up significantly and wage growth is showing some signs of momentum. Yellen described the mix of good consumer news and bad jobs news as "countervailing forces." "I see good reasons to expect that the positive forces supporting employment growth and higher inflation will continue to outweigh the negative ones," Yellen said.

The Fed Chair also touched on global concerns, such as China's slowing economy and referendum vote in the United Kingdom, also known as Brexit. Yellen said a Brexit vote to leave the European Union would have "significant economic repercussions." On the currency front, the euro opened the week at 1.1350 and managed to reach a short lived high at 1.1415. The currency slowly weakened after European Central Bank President Mario Draghi, as speculations heightened over further stimulus measures by the ECB. Draghi's speech brought down the Euro to a low of 1.1279. The currency closed the week at 1.1249.

The sterling pound quickly weakened last week as concerns regarding the likelihood of a 'Brexit' scenario still hurt the pair. When investors thought "Brexit" risks were long gone, the latest polls this week started to indicate gains registered by the exit camp. Immediately, the pound reacted by losing ground against the US dollar. The currency opened the week at 1.4513 rising throughout the week after Yellen speech. However, the pair fell to a low of 1.4350 and closed the week at 1.4256. The Japanese yen remains a safe haven on the FX Market last week. The outperformance on the Yen continues to pressure Japanese equities. The yen opened the week at 106.43 and managed to reach a high of 106.24 against US dollar on Thursday. The pair closed the week at 106.96.

On the commodities side, oil prices on both sides of Atlantic continue to strengthen amid ongoing USD selling, falling in US crude supplies

and Nigerian political tensions. Both crude benchmarks are extending into the green, with Brent at 52.86, while WTI keeps range near 51.50 levels. The latest news of shrinking US supplies was confirmed after the EIA inventory report showed that the US crude reserves fell by 3.23 million barrels over the week to June 3, almost in line with a drop of about 3.26 million barrels expected. Meanwhile, a sudden session of buying interest in the greenback might have forced investors to take some profits off the table, ahead of next week's Fed meeting, which would determine the near-term direction for the greenback and eventually affect movement for dollar-denominated commodities.

Fed Chair Yellen Speaks

Fed chair Janet Yellen signaled that the Fed will hold off raising rates this month, as she described last week jobs report as disappointing while highlighting uncertainties ahead including Britain's referendum on its EU membership. Additionally, she left the door open to a rate hike from July while downplaying the significance of one month's data. With regard to the shocker NFP employment gain, she warned against attaching too much significance to any single monthly report, particularly since other timely indicators from the labor market had been positive. She also highlighted that average hourly earnings in the report were a welcome indication that wage growth may finally be picking up. Yellen's overall tone was upbeat, highlighting her belief that the positives outweigh the negatives, but also indicating that rate hikes when they continue will be gradual.

Unemployment Claims Beating Forecasts

In the week ending June 4, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 264,000, a decrease of 4,000 from the previous week's revised level. The previous week's level was revised up by 1,000 from 267,000 to 268,000. The

4-week moving average was 269,500, a decrease of 7,500 from the previous week's revised average. There were no special factors impacting this week's initial claims. Significantly, this marked the lowest jobless report in six weeks. Moreover, his marks 66 consecutive weeks of initial claims below 300,000, the longest streak since 1973.

US JOLTS Opening climbed to a Record High

The number of job openings was little changed at 5.8 million in April from 5.67mn in the previous month, a record high. An economic slowdown should be reflected in a decrease in job opening, but the reverse was realized. This could indicate that tightness in participation rate has thinned the pool of qualified applicants. Hires edged down to 5.1 million while separations were little changed at 5.0 million. Within separations, the quits rate was 2.0 percent, and the layoffs and discharges rate was 1.1 percent.

Europe & UK

ECB President Comments in Speech at Brussels Economic Forum

ECB President Mario Draghi spoke at the Brussels Economic Forum on Thursday. Draghi cautioned that years of poor growth had hurt the bloc's productivity and warned that urgent action was needed in order to avoid the economy suffering permanent damage. Draghi said that monetary policy was not enough and structural reform was urgently needed. At last week's ECB's policy meeting, Draghi sounded more optimistic about the economy, noting that growth had improved in the first quarter, as the ECB revised its GDP forecast for 2016 slightly upwards, to 1.6 percent. The threat of deflation continues, as inflation levels have failed to respond to aggressive action by the ECB, which has cut the benchmark rate to 0.00 percent and increased the QE program to €80 billion monthly.

Moreover, the ECB implemented a corporate

Asia

Reserve Bank of Australia Came as Market Expectations

The Reserve Bank of Australia left interest rates unchanged at 1.75 percent on Tuesday, in line with expectations. The announcement comes after recent economic data showed growth accelerating to 3.1 percent in Q1, even as inflation has recently undershot. The RBA said that the global economy is continuing to grow, at a lower than average pace. Several advanced economies have recorded improved conditions over the past year, but conditions have become more difficult for a number of emerging market economies. The RBA also said that inflation has been quite low. Given very subdued growth in labor costs and very low cost pressures elsewhere in the world, this is expected to remain the case for some time.

Japan Gross Domestic Product Expanded

Japan's economy grew slightly more than the government initially reported for the first quarter, helped by a fractional revision in private consumption and business investment that dropped less than first thought. Gross domestic product expanded by an annualized 1.9 percent in the three months ended March 31, more than a preliminary reading of 1.7 percent. The upward revision may be some relief to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is struggling to revive Japan's economy and decided to postpone an increase in the sales tax. While GDP rebounded from a contraction in the final quarter of 2015, growth was bolstered in the three months through March by the leap year that provided an extra day of spending. A slowdown in overseas demand and the yen's strength remain risks for 2016.

Chinese Consumer Price Index Fell Below Expectations

The Chinese consumer price index dropped to 2 percent in May from a year earlier after holding at 2.3 percent for the past three months, it came below market forecasts for a 2.2 percent gain. The producer price index remained stuck in negative territory for the 51st straight month, dipping 2.8 percent on-year, which was slower than April's 3.4 percent drop and better than expectations for a 3.3 percent fall. Deflationary pressures in China were a major concern for financial markets and the central bank for much of 2015, but the trend began showing signs of improving late last year.

Kuwait
Kuwaiti Dinar at 0.30155
The USDKWD opened at 0.30155 yesterday morning.

Currencies	Previous Week Levels			Close	This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High		Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.1349	1.1243	1.1415	1.1249	1.1090	1.1420	1.1290
GBP	1.4513	1.4177	1.4643	1.4256	1.4050	1.4640	1.4275
JPY	106.43	106.24	107.89	106.96	104.15	109.60	106.67
CHF	0.9756	0.9574	0.9775	0.9640	0.9530	0.9770	0.9610

SUMMER OF ACTION, THRILLS AND LAUGHS WITH BRITISH AIRWAYS

KUWAIT: With the long, hot summer knocking at our door, residents across Kuwait will seek to avoid the steamy weather and use the extra time indoors to catch up on or discover new TV shows. Inevitably, classic American box sets and this season's hit new USA-based shows will rank among the nation's most popular options - but why settle for a seat on the couch?

Whether you're a fan of comedy or have a penchant for drama, British Airways is giving passengers the opportunity to turn art into life by travelling to famous USA TV locations in some of the country's most dynamic cities. With daily flights to numerous destinations throughout the US including Albuquerque, Washington DC, Los Angeles, Miami and New York - the settings for some of today's biggest TV shows - British Airways makes summer holiday travel affordable by offering return daily flights to the US.

BREAKING News: This Summer, It's not a BAD idea to go to Albuquerque

Taking a trip to the sweeping tan deserts of New Mexico in search of the famous camping car is an absolute must for any Breaking Bad superfan. Join the manhunt for the 'Heisenberg' himself in

the city of Albuquerque and lose yourself in the nostalgia of the critically acclaimed TV show. The incredible rolling blue skies, the warm, dry weather and even a vast majority of recognizable sets from the series - like the A-1 Car Wash (aka Octopus Car Wash) and Walter White's house - are here, ready for you to spend a day in the lives of Walter and Skyler.

Take a Trip to the White House... OF CARDS

Live your life like a title sequence in the heart of America's political landscape and the home of the Underwoods. Take a tour round the Capitol, enjoy a restaurant off-the-beaten tracks or even a jog through the city's leafy green parks just like Frank and Claire in Netflix's hit series House of Cards. The District never stops enticing fans over the world to come and see this magnificent town in real life. Thanks to daily British Airways flights via London, no need to pull any strings, exploit any loopholes or manipulate anyone to get here - Frank, take note!

Come and see your MODERN FAMILY in LA
Fans of the hit US comedy can get themselves to the City of Angels and see

what it's actually like to live in the sunshine of West LA. All of the houses are there, so why not pop round to Cam and Mitch's, go for a catch up with Jay and Gloria and drop in on Phil and Claire? TV fans can also take trips to plenty of studios and sets to see where most of their other favourite TV shows are shot - in La La Land, there's no escaping the wealth of behind the scenes activity available. British Airways flies to LA every day via London Heathrow with A380.

Come Sightseeing In... MIAMI

It's time to rewind the clock and revisit everyone's favourite team. One of the most successful prime-time shows in US history, it's no wonder that both the destination and the show are still in the hearts and minds of the public. Horatio and the gang live on in the dynamic Floridian city, so take a trip and see the beaches, the malls and the incredible culture that the Magic City offers - and leave forensic science to the experts! British Airways takes you to the heart of Florida seven days a week via London Heathrow.

Put the Needle on it in New York listening to VINYL

Take a trip down memory lane this



summer with Martin Scorsese, Mick Jagger and co's Vinyl, by transporting yourself to New York. Amidst the hustle and bustle of the world's alpha city, it's still possible to find hidden relics and gems of a bygone era - whether it's scouring through second hand 45's at the famous Academy Records

Store or paying a visit to the former locations of some of the most iconic clubs and bars of the time, like CBGB and Studio 54. There's something for every kind of music or film lover in New York, so this summer, make the most of British Airways' daily flights to the Big Apple via London.

HONDA RAMADAN OFFER LIKE NO OTHER

KUWAIT: Staying true to its tradition of launching the best offers during the holy month of Ramadan, Honda Motors, the exclusive distributor of Honda cars, motorcycles, power equipment and generators and more in Kuwait, is introducing a brand new offer on Honda cars. Everyone has the chance to enjoy a package that is filled with superior features, amazing discounts and instant gifts upon their purchase of a brand new Honda car of their choice. Honda Alghanim encourages everyone to visit the Honda showroom, a time where every passerby will realize that buying a new Honda car is one of the best decisions anyone can make during Ramadan.

Honda's Ramadan promotion includes a cash gift of up to KD 1,000 on Honda SUV cars including the CR-V, Odyssey, Odyssey J and Honda Pilot. The promotion also comprises third-party insurance and car registration. Honda goes beyond expectations so as to bring customers peace of mind by adding a free three-year service contract, a perk that saves customers money when maintaining their Honda car's quality and excellent performance.

Honda Alghanim is committed to offering everyone the newest cars at reasonable prices including the 2016 Honda Accord, which is now at only KD 5,999 while previously it was offered at KD 6,666. Available now at KD 6,999, the 2016 Honda Coupe was previously priced at KD 7,999. The newly marked down prices showcases Honda Alghanim's commitment to providing the best promotion that offers people's favorite cars at affordable prices. The promotion also includes the same aforementioned features including the third-party insurance and car registration.

Honda's overwhelming global presence is grounded in its ever-evolving features, quality in manufacturing and innovatively designed models, factors that have won the Japanese giant sundry admirable awards and assessments including Kelley Blue Book's KBB.com Best Buy of the Year, AutoGuide.com's 2016 Car of the Year, North American Car of the Year, 2016 Best Retained Value Awards, Best Car Award from US News based on the Honda's pricing and features, 5-star rating from NHTSA, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Top Safety Pick from IIHS, the Insurance Institute for Highway

Ramadan Deals Shine Bright

In Addition to:

- 3 Years Service Contract
- Third Party Insurance
- Car Registration

ALGHANIM MOTORS
1822 777
2496 2000

Safety and other awards and recognitions that solidly position Honda as one of the world's most competitive cars in the European and North American vehicle market.

Honda Alghanim urges everyone to visit its new showroom in Al Rai to benefit from its limited time Ramadan offer. The new, 9,000-square foot showroom, the largest in the MENA region, boasts three distinctive floors and a service center of an awe-inspiring capacity; it's also the first in the region to incorporate a new wall fabric technology that features moving images, an element that reflects Honda's commitment to newness and innovation.

Alluding to the corporation's transparency, the three-story showroom also features glass flooring that displays the service garage at the lower level, as well as a spacious, clean and brightly lit area that is equipped with a service

lounge that provides customers a chance to observe their vehicles' maintenance process. In essence, the showroom embodies Alghanim Industries' vision for Honda in Kuwait-to make dreams come true. The all-in-one showroom also includes a service area that welcomes over 70 cars every day at its 16 vehicle maintenance areas. Honda Alghanim's Ramadan working hours are from 10 AM until 2 PM and 9 PM until midnight.

Alghanim Motors, the exclusive distributor of Honda automobiles, motorcycles, power products, and marine products in Kuwait, is committed to providing customers with flexible payment solutions and efficient and cost-effective services. The waiting lounge offers entertainment and comfort for customers with gaming consoles, digital satellite TV, free wireless internet and relaxing massage chairs.

AL TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL NAJMA ACCOUNT DRAW

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al Najma Account daily draw on June 12, 2016. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry represented by Abdulaziz Al-Ashkanani.

The winners of the Al Najma Daily Draw are:

- Mohamad Jassim AlAnsari - KD 7,000/-
- Mohammed Turkey Askar - KD 7,000/-
- Mohammad Hassan Dahab Mohammad - KD 7,000/-
- Ahmed Abdullah Alnmsan - KD 7,000/-
- Mohammad Abdulkareem AlSaleh - KD 7,000/-

Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000

- 1ST QUARTER - KD 100 000
- 2ND QUARTER - KD 150 000
- 3RD QUARTER - KD 200 000
- 4TH QUARTER - KD 250 000

With Al Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes:

- Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to win
- Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw.
- Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.

Additional features

- ATM card.
 - Issue a credit card against your account.
 - Obtain all CBK banking services.
- You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.

Al Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever with the revamped Al Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

The new prizes scheme for Al Najma account Daily draw to win KD 7,000

Amazing news from Al-Tijari...

Al-Najma account gives you the biggest daily prize in Kuwait!

FITCH REAFFIRMS GIC'S 'A-' RATINGS AND 'STABLE' OUTLOOK

KUWAIT: The Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC) announced that Fitch Credit Rating Agency affirmed its Long Term IDR ratings at A-, Short Term ratings at F1, and Stable outlook. The viability ratings were reaffirmed at bb.

The action by Fitch is positive, especially in the current regional context where ratings have been under pressure for governments and financial institutions. Fitch have highlighted the capability of GIC's shareholders as a key support factor. They have also emphasized the strength of management, robust capital position and strong funding & liquidity profile as positive contributors.

Commenting on the recent action by Fitch, Ibrahim Al Qadhi, CEO, said "I believe this is a significant achievement, given the challenging operating environment." He added "the positive rating action is a validation of the support of our shareholders, and our efforts, as a team. It reflects the corporation's strong financial condition, prudent strategic initiatives and favorable future prospect".

The balance sheet then stood at \$5.1 billion and Shareholders' equity was \$2.5



billion. The modest leverage level and robust liquidity & liability profile, contributes to GIC's strong financial condition. Established in 1983, GIC is a regional financial institution owned entirely and equally by the six GCC states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. It is headquartered in Kuwait.

MALL OF JOY INAUGURATED IN KOTTAYAM

KOTTAYAM: Fashion, special occasions, fun for the whole family and delectable dining, more than 2,00,000 sq ft of premium retail space spread across ground plus five floors, this in a nutshell is the mix of the world-class mall experience that the global jewellery giant Joyalukkas brings to the city of Kottayam. Conveniently located at Baker Junction with three-level basement car parking space, Mall of Joy, which will open for residents on June 11, 2016, is set to be the district's busiest social and family hub.

Kottayam has historic significance to the Joyalukkas Group as it is the location of the first Joyalukkas Jewellery showroom in India. "When I was deliberating the site of our first showroom in India in 2002, my heart told me Kottayam is the best choice," says Joy Alukkas, Group Chairman & MD. "Now, 14 years later, we're paying tribute to the place that blessed us with growth to most parts of India and has made us a 120 showroom chain spread in 11 countries around the world. Mall of Joy is our way of thanking and commemorating the people of Kottayam for all their love and support."

According to Joy Alukkas, Mall of Joy has been created with the objective of changing the lifestyle and shopping habits of the people of Kottayam, and its prominent location at Baker Junction is to make it convenient for all Kottayam residents.

Other than the flagship brands of the Group, viz Joyalukkas Jewellery & Jolly Silks, Mall of Joy will house Indian Linen, ME Cosmetics, Michelle, Joy Mart Supermarket, Sonia Designer Boutique, Pepe Jeans, Puma, Jockey, Incell, Alpha Opticals, Baskin Robbins, DC Books Cross Word, Baker Cafe, V Connect, Ivolv Apple Premium Store, Polonica, Just Watches and Anez Anzare Make-up Studio are just a few of the brands to look forward to at the Mall of Joy, the complete destination for celebrations and special occasions. Mall of Joy will also offer a dedicated play zone for kids "Lil Joy" which offers a wonderful time for kids. To cater to the gastronomic pleasure of the shoppers, Mall of Joy features Maha Belly, a popular restaurant chain of India, which will offer a mix of Indian and Continental cuisine. "We are spreading the name and fame of 'Joyalukkas' across the world but Kottayam will always have a special place in my heart. Our next big step after this world-class mall in Kottayam are 4 Joyalukkas showrooms in USA," added Joy Alukkas. Kottayam Mall is the second of its kind, and three more Malls of Joy are in the offing, in Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin and Calicut.



TAKING A LEAF FROM SCIENCE

KUWAIT: Keeping food fresh and safe, particularly in the heat of the summer can be a daunting task. Organizing the refrigerator the right way can boost food safety several times over. Proper food storage not only helps avoid food contamination, but can also eliminate food waste and drastically reduce grocery bills. We have identified a few tips that might be just what you need to keep your food fresher for longer:

- Wrap leafy vegetables in newspapers to maintain their crispness
- Use a cloth to rub white wine vinegar on to your cold cuts (and other salt-cured meat) to prevent dryness and unpleasant smells
- Store milk and other perishable items in the middle section of the fridge
- Keep your berries fresh by washing it with one part vinegar to ten parts water
- Separate onions from potatoes; onions make potatoes sprout
- Keep cucumber and tomato on your kitchen

counter, they fare better without refrigeration

- Wrap your cheese in absorbent material such as parchment paper so they maintain freshness

- An opened bottle of maple syrup should be kept in the freezer - high sugar content will preserve the syrup from solidifying
- Store ginger in the freezer to make it easier to grate
- Use kitchen thermometers to ensure perishable items are stored at proper temperatures to avoid bacterial growth
- Measure and maintain the right pH balance to keep the fridge healthy and food fresher. pH meters are available in leading supermarkets.

With these simple storage solutions and a little help from the all-new Twin Cooling Plus range, you are ensured a stress-free time in the kitchen. The risk of food contamination is minimized because of an Anti-Bacteria Protector, which effectively kills germs and even deodorizes the air to remove unwanted smells. The

range also delivers a storage capacity up to 850 liters; enough to accommodate a week's groceries, even for the extended family. The Samsung Twin Cooling Plus range not only

maintains food at the right temperature, but also a moisture level of up to 70 percent which preserves the freshness and taste of the food, just as nature intended.





LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO: A general view of the main gate to the Los Alamos National Laboratory, where scientists developed and tested the first atomic weapon. — AP

LOS ALAMOS APP ALLOWS USERS TO VISIT 1940s 'ATOMIC CITY'

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO: Los Alamos, a once secret city where scientists participated in the nation's classified World War II nuclear development program, can now be experienced much like it was then with a new app.

The "Los Alamos: The Secret City of The Manhattan Project" iPhone app takes users through an "augmented-reality" while visiting the northern New Mexico city to see it in its 1940s character. The app was created by Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Packed with games, historical nuggets and role playing, the app allows users to feel what it was like to join a secret project in an unknown location where the future of the world was at stake, said Jennifer Payne, Resource Management Team leader in Los Alamos' Environmental Stewardship Group. Because Los Alamos has changed since the project and is now a modern city, Payne said the app takes users on a virtual tour of a Manhattan Project world that is gone.

"It took us more than a year to create," Payne said. "Almost all of the structures from that era don't exist anymore." Once downloaded and opened, users will receive a "recruitment telegram" to begin the virtual journey from 109 E.

Palace Ave., in Santa Fe. That's the same location where the original Project Y staff members joined the team. Users then will receive an initial "clearance" there, then board a bus into the mountains to explore "the Hill."

From there, Payne said users can choose how much information they want to know while they explore Los Alamos as the bomb is developed. Of course, no actual nuclear secrets are shared, she said. Officials said the project is a collaboration of Los Alamos National Laboratory's VISIBLE team, the Bradbury Science Museum, and staff history specialists.

Developers also are working on an Android app. During World War II, Los Alamos scientists worked to develop the atomic bomb that was dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The secret program provided enriched uranium for the atomic bomb. It also involved facilities in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Hanford, Washington. July marks the 71st anniversary of the Trinity Test in southern New Mexico. The milestone comes amid renewed interest in the Manhattan Project thanks to new books, online video testimonies and the recently canceled TV drama series "Manhattan." — AP

TECH, BEAUTY INTERSECT IN SILICON VALLEY

SAN FRANCISCO: The beauty industry has long relied on creating a sense of mystery, magic even, around its creams, powders and potions. But now it has something else up its sleeve: high technology.

French cosmetics giant L'Oreal has opened a "tech incubator" employing two dozen people in San Francisco and elsewhere seeking ways to use big data and algorithms to win the hearts and minds of customers.

It may involve analyzing large data sets to find the right color for nail polish, or patches that measure absorption of ultraviolet radiation or using technology to spot emerging beauty trends ahead of the curve. The French group is hoping that Silicon Valley's talents can help it improve its products and connect better with customers. Guive Balooch, who heads the San Francisco incubator, said he sees how these kinds of analytics and other technologies can help improve beauty products.

One of the innovations from the team has resulted in the L'Oreal Lancome brand developing an individualized makeup foundation, known as "Le Teint Particulier." This system, now used in some retail outlets, scans a person's skin and uses an algorithm that designs a custom-blended product based on skin tone. The system was developed by California start-up Sayuki, which L'Oreal bought in 2014.

L'Oreal's team also created the Makeup Genius application which uses virtual reality to

allow people to try various makeup schemes on their smartphone. It has been downloaded some 20 million times. The cosmetics giant also worked with California Organovo for "bio-printing," creating three-dimensional human tissue to test its cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, and with PCH Lime Lab, a San Francisco design and engineering firm on the patch that sticks to one's skin and changes color with exposure to sun rays.

Hair tech

The L'Oreal team also hopes one day to have a Genius app on hair color, which could help another key product line, if it can overcome technical challenges.

"Hair color is very complex, because you have 100,000 fibers on average in your hair, on your head, and they're all moving in different directions," Balooch said. L'Oreal wants to stay on top of trends, and the data analytics team can play an important role, says Balooch. "We do know from anonymous data what colors people are trying all around the world, we know what products they're trying, we know how long they're using them before trying something else," Balooch said.

Being aware of new trends is also critical for marketing efforts. L'Oreal is working with Google, with whom it has an online advertising deal, to help better understand fashion trends by studying search queries. — AFP



CALIFORNIA: "Star Trek: Bridge Crew," the sci-fi franchise's first-ever virtual reality game. "Bridge Crew" will be unveiled tomorrow at the Electronic Entertainment Expo. — AP

'STAR TREK' ACTORS TAKE SERIES' FIRST VR GAME FOR A SPIN

LOS ANGELES: It looks like the trippiest episode of "Star Trek" ever created.

On the bridge of a starship resembling the Enterprise from director J.J. Abrams' "Trek" films, that series' Dr. McCoy is at the engineering station frantically beaming up survivors of an attack, while former Borg tinkerer Seven of Nine from "Star Trek: Voyager" is firing torpedoes at a Klingon vessel. They're both taking orders from "Star Trek: The Next Generation" chief engineer Geordi La Forge. He's sitting in the captain's chair, but he looks like a woman.

"Keep us in range of that Klingon," orders La Forge. "I'm trying to phaser him!" barks Seven. "Do you need some engine power for that?" asks McCoy. The out-of-this-world "Trek" mash-up isn't occurring on a soundstage. The actors - Karl Urban, Jeri Ryan and LeVar Burton - are playing a mission from "Star Trek: Bridge Crew," the sci-fi franchise's first-ever virtual reality game being created by publisher Ubisoft and developer Red Storm Entertainment. The interactive four-player experience casts players as the captain or either a tactical, engineering or helm officer aboard the starship Aegis.

"This wasn't anything like you see on the show," said Ryan, a cast member on "Voyager" for four seasons. "When we were shooting it, the bridge set was all plywood and plastic. When you're looking at the ship's monitors, they were either green screens or just big openings in the walls. This was incredible. It's what it would be like if it were real."

The stars from various "Trek" editions gathered earlier this month to don Oculus Rift headsets and play in front of cameras for a pro-

motional video for the game's unveiling Monday at the Electronic Entertainment Expo, the interactive industry's annual trade show. Burton, who portrayed visor-clad La Forge in seven TV seasons and four films, lit up when he realized he could not only sit in the captain's chair but that his avatar could be female.

"That's what 'Star Trek' is all about," said Burton. "It's infinite diversity in infinite combinations and a respect for all life. I think it's great to be able to role-play. ('Trek' creator) Gene Roddenberry's vision was one I always gravitated toward because it acknowledged me as a black kid growing up in Northern California. If I hadn't been in the cast, I would be a fan."

"Bridge Crew" utilizes a VR headset and hand-held controllers to boldly mimic seated players' heads and hands on the virtual bridge, providing 360-degree views and the ability to complete such tasks as activating the warp drive, scanning foreign objects in space and broadcasting relevant imagery to the ship's viewscreen. Urban, whose character rarely mashes buttons on the bridge, came away with an appreciation for his cast mates.

"In a funny kind of way, it gave me a new understanding for the reality of what we as actors pretend to do in our jobs," said Urban, who will reprise his role as McCoy on the big screen in "Star Trek Beyond" on July 22. "When you're playing the game, it's almost like you're not pretending. You're actually doing it. In some ways, it's one step closer to the experience."

The game is set in Abrams' rendition of the "Trek" universe, where the Aegis is tasked with

exploring an uncharted sector of space called The Trench in hopes of finding a suitable new home world for the population of Vulcan, which was obliterated in the 2009 film. The developers replicated the film's sleek visual style for their starship, but they crafted their own precise method of how operating a bridge on a Federation vessel would actually work.

"At first, people might think you're just pushing buttons and that's lame," said David Votykpa, senior creative director at Red Storm. "However, it's what the buttons do that makes it cool. You're on a Federation starship firing torpedoes, raising shields and turning on the red alert. That's an awesome sensation, especially when you're playing in VR with friends."

Votykpa said the Aegis is about 90 percent similar to the Enterprise, although the developers tilted the bridge stations so players could more easily reach gadgetry and better see fellow crew members in VR. He noted that the game's missions, which will be both story-focused and randomly generated, won't solely focus on blasting Romulans and Klingons out of the sky. "Bridge Crew" players will have to work together during both combat and exploration.

"It's up to you if you want to try the Kirk approach or be more methodical," said Votykpa. "The game is more about how you and your crew approach situations. It's not binary. Is it more important to save the Vulcan scientists or rescue everyone on the planet? It might be too difficult to do both. It's just like the show. There's not any one right answer."

"Bridge Crew" is set to launch this fall for Oculus Rift, HTC Vive and PlayStation VR. — AP

MUSK EXPLAINS HIS 'CARGO ROUTE' TO MARS

WASHINGTON: SpaceX chief Elon Musk shed light Saturday on his new plan to send an unmanned spaceship to Mars as early as 2018, as part of his quest to someday colonize the Red Planet.

Musk, the Internet entrepreneur who cofounded of PayPal and currently also runs Tesla Motors, earlier this year announced on Twitter that he was "Planning to send Dragon to Mars as soon as 2018." But there was little in the way of details at the time.

He appeared to be referring to an upgraded version of the California-based company's Dragon cargo capsule, which is currently used as an unmanned spacecraft to shuttle food and supplies to and from the International Space Station.

In a new exclusive this week with The Washington Post, the entrepreneur drew parallels between people crossing the oceans in centuries past to unknown worlds. The months-long journey is sure to be "hard, risky, dangerous, difficult," Musk told the Post, but he was confident people would sign up to go because "just as with the establishment of the English colonies, there are people who love that. They want to be the pioneers."

Before that can happen, however, unmanned travel and a supply chain must be developed successfully. "Essentially what we're saying is we're establishing a cargo

route to Mars," he said. "It's a regular cargo route. You can count on it. It's going to happen every 26 months. Like a train leaving the station. And if scientists around the world know that they can count on that, and it's going to be inexpensive, relatively speaking compared to anything in the past, then they will plan accordingly and come up with a lot of great experiments."

The mission is private and not funded by the US government or NASA, which has previously said it would provide "technical support" for the 2018 mission. NASA also is studying the effects of long-term space flight on the human body and has announced its own separate plans to send people to Mars by the 2030s.

It remains unclear how people would survive the long journey of a year or more, needing adequate food and water and protection from space radiation during the trip. Musk has previously spoken of his vision of creating a colony of a million earthlings on Mars, in order to make humanity "multi-planetary" and avoid the risk of extinction on Earth.

His most recent feats include managing to return the first stage of SpaceX's Falcon 9 rockets to an upright landing on water and on solid ground, as part of his effort to make rockets that are as reusable as airplanes. — AFP

PIONEERING SOLAR PILOTS 'MAKE SCI-FI A REALITY'



QUEENS, NEW YORK: Swiss pilot Andre Borschberg (R) and Swiss pilot Bertrand Piccard celebrate after the successful landing of the Solar Impulse 2 aircraft at JFK International Airport on Saturday. — AFP

NEW YORK: The Swiss pilot readying to cross the Atlantic in a solar-powered plane on the next leg of a record-breaking, round-the-world mission says he is making science fiction reality.

Bertrand Piccard, a psychiatrist and balloonist, will next command Solar Impulse 2 when meteorologists determine the best five-to-six day window for the ocean crossing from New York to either Ireland, France, Spain, Portugal or Morocco, depending on the wind and the weather.

"It gives the sensation of being in a science fiction story because you look at the sun and you understand that it's your only source of power," the explorer and father of three told AFP in New York. "You see left and right, your four props turning with electrical motors, with no noise and it's a vision of future," he added in an interview at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Piccard, and Swiss entrepreneur and engineer Andre Borschberg, are two thirds of the way through circumnavigating the Earth in a bid to inspire a future powered by renewable energy technologies. Their single-seater plane, which they take it in turns to fly, weighs the same as a car but has the wingspan of a Boeing 747.

They take off at night with a fully-charged battery and climb to 28,000 feet (9,000 meters) in the

day before descending to 5,000-6,000 feet, then catching the next sunrise, going up and down in waves. The journey began on March 9, 2015 from Abu Dhabi, flying across Asia, the Pacific and the United States. They must now cross the Atlantic, fly through Europe and return to the Middle East.

Each pilot lives off special soups and meals designed to withstand extreme temperature changes and catnaps for 20 minutes at a time on a seat that extends into a business-class style flat bed.

Cockpit yoga

There is even time for Borschberg to practice yoga-sitting postures only he concedes-while Piccard does self-hypnosis to help recharge his batteries or sleep more efficiently.

They need to call on great physical strength. When turbulence disconnects the auto pilot, Piccard and Borschberg must use their feet and upper body to deflect the yoke and the rudder as the plane swerves from left to right. "Sometimes it's rock and roll," smiled Piccard. But he is never scared. He has been well trained and the worst that could happen, he says, would be to bail out, but only as an unthinkable last-resort.

"It would be really sad to lose the plane," he

said. "We know it's a prototype, it's experimental so we have to be really careful with it."

Borschberg, who broke the world record for the longest continuous aviation journey on the 118-hour leg from Japan to Hawaii, said a positive mindset was vital. But that journey was fraught with problems and months of maintenance work followed. The task ahead is monumental. The unstable situation in the Middle East throws up yet more challenges.

Electric flight in 10 years?

Both pilots consider themselves superstitious and say they are focusing all their energies on making it back to Abu Dhabi. But they also see themselves as modern-day versions of the Wright brothers, the American aviation pioneers working 100 years ago.

Their plane goes at the same speed as Wrights' first plane, is also a single seater and also flies only in good weather, Piccard noted. "You have to start somewhere," agreed Borschberg, dismissing the impracticalities that make it impossible to replicate Solar Impulse 2 for commercial flight. "I'll make a bet with you that in 10 years' time you have airplanes for short haul flights with 50 passengers flying electric," said Piccard. — AFP

GOVERNOR TO MILITARY: FUND BLOOD TESTS OVER TAINTED WATER

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf has called on the military to fund blood tests for nearly 70,000 residents in suburban Philadelphia who might have been exposed to contaminated water. The Democratic governor wrote a letter to the secretaries of the Navy and Air Force on Thursday issuing the request to fund tests for residents in Warminster, Warrington and Horsham. "We believe blood testing is critical to addressing the concerns of the private citizens who may have been exposed," Wolf said in the letter.

Lawmakers have called on the federal

government to do more to address concerns over contamination of local water supplies with unregulated chemicals. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) were widely used for decades at three area military bases. The compounds are found in the firefighting foams that have been used on military bases throughout the country, as well as in household items including food packaging.

The state Department of Health issued a "very conservative" estimate that testing could cost \$7 million. An Environmental Protection Agency testing

program first found the chemicals in public drinking water supplies two years ago near the former Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Horsham and former Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster and the active Horsham Air Guard Station. More than a dozen public wells and 140 private wells in the area have been taken offline because of contamination. The Navy and National Guard Bureau have taken responsibility for the contamination and agreed to pay about \$19 million to provide replacement water and install filtration systems.— AP



PENNSYLVANIA: Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf speaks during a news conference at the Temple University Lewis Katz School of Medicine in Philadelphia, Thursday, June 2, 2016. — AP



PHILADELPHIA: In this file photo, students walk through the halls during an open house for incoming freshman and transfer students at a high school in Philadelphia. — AP

FEWER HIGH SCHOOL KIDS ARE HAVING SEX

NEW YORK: The troubles with kids these days are not as common as they used to be. US teens are having a lot less sex, they are drinking and using drugs less often, and they aren't smoking as much, according to a government survey of risky youth behaviors. "I think you can call this the cautious generation," said Bill Albert, spokesman for the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

Among a decline in several risky behaviors, a sharp decline in sexual activity stood out to researchers. The survey found 41 percent said they had ever had sex, after it had been about 47 percent over the previous decade. It also found marked declines last year in the proportion of students who said had sex recently, had sex before they were 13, and students who had had sex with four or more partners. The results come from a study conducted every two years by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. The surveys included 16,000 students at 125 schools, both public and private. Participation was voluntary and required parental permission, but responses were anonymous. Results were released Thursday.

'One possibility'

National surveys have seen a leveling off in recent years in the proportion of kids who said they had sex, after earlier declines. That led researchers to largely attribute continuing declines in teen pregnancies and abortions to more and better use of birth control. But the new numbers suggest less sex is a factor, too. The drops are surprising enough that government officials said they'd like to see what the next survey shows to make sure it's not a statistical blip. If it is a true drop, the reason is not clear why. "We're trying to look at reasons why this might be happening," said Dr Stephanie Zaza of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who oversees

the survey. One possibility, Albert said: "It may be that parking at Lookout Point has given way to texting from your mom's living room couch," he said.

In the new survey, about 42 percent said they played video or computer games or used a computer for something that was not school work for more than three hours per day on an average school day. Beth Matthey, who until last year was a nurse at a high school in Wilmington, Delaware, suggested a factor may be how much more common it is for teens to openly discuss sex and sexual orientation.

'Other findings'

"We want kids to have a healthy sexuality built around self-respect and self-esteem," said Matthey, who is now president of the National Association of School Nurses. Why would more discussion of sex reduce the amount of sex kids are having? One theory: "Culturally we may have shifted away from sex being a taboo that adolescents would sort of reach out for," said Beth Marshall, a Johns Hopkins University scientist focused on adolescent health.

The survey found the 30 percent of the students surveyed said they'd had sex in the previous three months, down from about 34 to 35 percent reported in each of the previous six surveys. About 11 percent had four or more sex partners, down from the 14 to 15 percent seen over the previous decade. And about 4 percent said they'd had sex before they turned 13, down from 6 to 7 percent. Other findings from the survey:

SMOKING

Fewer than 11 percent of the teens smoked a cigarette in the previous month - the lowest level since the government started doing the survey, when the rate was more than 27 percent. But the fall is not surprising - another CDC survey has put the high

school smoking rate at about 9 percent.

DRINKING

Just under a third had at least one alcoholic drink in the 30 days before the survey, down from 35 percent in the last survey and down from 45 percent in 2007. About 63 percent had ever had a drink, down from 66 percent in 2013 and 75 percent in 2007.

VAPING

The survey for the first time asked about electronic cigarettes, which have exploded in popularity in the past few years. It found about 24 percent had used electronic cigarettes or vaping products in the previous month - a much higher estimate than seen in other recent CDC youth surveys. CDC officials noted that the surveys are done differently, so a variation in the numbers is not that surprising.

TOKING

A little under 22 percent of teens said they used marijuana in the previous month. That's down a bit from the previous two surveys. The proportion who said they had ever tried marijuana, and who had tried it before they were 13, also slid a bit. The finding is considered mildly surprising, but is consistent with drops in the use of other illegal drugs like heroin (2 percent), cocaine (5 percent), ecstasy (5 percent), and hallucinogenic drugs like LSD (6 percent).

USING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

About 17 percent of the surveyed students said they had taken prescription drugs without a prescription, in response to a question that listed as some possible examples painkillers like Oxycontin and Vicodin and ADHD drugs like Adderall and Ritalin. That statistic has been declining, but is still alarmingly high, Zaza said.— AP

FDA APPROVES CHOLERA VACCINE FOR US TRAVELERS

WASHINGTON: Federal health officials have approved the first cholera vaccine intended to protect US travelers from the potentially life-threatening disease. The Food and Drug Administration approved the liquid vaccine, called Vaxchora, for adults ages 18 to 64 who are traveling to countries affected by cholera.

The bacterial infection is rare in the US but still occurs in many parts of Africa, Southeast Asia and Haiti. Severe cholera

can lead to profuse diarrhea and vomiting, causing dehydration. About one in 10 cases are considered severe, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Regulators approved the vaccine based on four clinical trials enrolling nearly 3,800 patients. Common side effects included fatigue, headache, abdominal pain and diarrhea. PaxVax Bermuda, of Hamilton, Bermuda, makes the vaccine.— AP

SNAKE FALLS FROM CAR'S DASHBOARD

FAYETTEVILLE, Arkansas: An Arkansas woman escaped injury and managed to safely stop her car after a 4-foot-long rat snake came out of her dashboard and slithered across her feet as she drove on Interstate 49. Rat snakes aren't venomous or generally a threat to people, but Kelly Swisher says the snake she encountered Thursday gave her a "nails on a chalkboard" sort of feeling.

"It was rough and scaly," said Swisher, who was running errands when it happened. "I do not know if I had my hands on the steering wheel or

not. I am not the most flexible person in the world, but I can guarantee my knees were up next to my ears." She said the snake first slithered back into the dashboard and she hoped it would stay there until she was able to get off the interstate and stop.

"That did not work out," she said. "Here he comes, and he wound up in my back seat," before she finally could get off the roadway, stop and get out of the car. Washington County animal control officers came and captured the snake. — AP



WASHINGTON: This photo provided by the Washington County Sheriff's Office shows the four-foot long rat snake that came out of a car dashboard and slithered across the driver's feet as she drove on Interstate 49 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. — AP

BUBBLES, BELOVED PILOT WHALE, DIES AT SEAWORLD SAN DIEGO

LOS ANGELES: Bubbles, a female pilot whale at SeaWorld in San Diego that was believed to have been the oldest animal of her species in a zoological park, has died, the company said. In an online posting, SeaWorld Entertainment Inc said Bubbles was in her early to mid 50s and had been at the park for nearly 30 years.

"SeaWorld San Diego is saddened to announce the passing of one of the world's most beloved animals, Bubbles the pilot whale," the company said on its website. A necropsy is planned to determine the cause of death. The company, which operates marine parks in San Diego, San Antonio, Texas, and Orlando, Florida, did not say when she died.

Pilot whales, which have rounded heads and mouth lines that curve

upward to resemble a smile, are in the dolphin family and are smaller than orcas, or killer whales. Pilots, which live in pods of 20 or 90 animals, are about as intelligent as dolphins and easily trained, according to the American Cetacean Society.

Weighing roughly 3,000 pounds and measuring 15 feet long, Bubbles was considered the "grande dame" of SeaWorld. She was known for her ability to jump out of the water and spin at great velocity. SeaWorld has faced intense public scrutiny over its public display of marine animals, especially killer whales. In March, the company said it would stop breeding killer whales in captivity, but would still put on performances with orcas at its three parks. — Reuters

FUNDING DELAY HURTS FIGHT AGAINST ZIKA

ATLANTA: Epidemics can spread in days and weeks and the sooner that Congress acts on Zika funding the better, a top US health official said on Thursday. "We really need to make sure that Congress acts quickly," Dr Thomas Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said.

"Give us the money so we can work with American women and children and families to monitor the effects of Zika, so we can do a better job at killing mosquitoes to pro-

tect American women, and so we can develop better tools to diagnose Zika, to control mosquitoes and ultimately, with NIH in the lead, to find a vaccine to protect women," he said during an appearance in Atlanta.

The Obama administration's \$1.9 billion request, made in February, would allow officials to continue Zika prevention efforts and begin studying long-term effects of people infected by the disease, he said. In Congress, the House and Senate

each passed Zika bills that would provide funding at levels lower than the administration's request. The Senate voted late Wednesday to begin talks with the House on compromise legislation.

The Senate proposal includes \$1.1 billion without spending cuts to offset the expense, while the House has backed a \$622 million measure with cuts elsewhere. "I know that there are people of good will in both houses of Congress, in both parties, who understand it's an

emergency, who want to make it happen," Frieden said. "Congress did the right thing with Ebola, and I'm hopeful they'll do the right thing in Zika. The sooner they do it, the better it's going to be." Zika can cause severe birth defects and is mostly transmitted by the bite of the Aedes aegypti mosquito. Frieden repeatedly echoed the CDC guidance that pregnant women shouldn't travel to any area where Zika is spreading, including the summer Olympics in Brazil. — AP



WASHINGTON: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr Thomas Frieden speaks at the National Press Club in Washington, Thursday, May 26, 2016, on the latest research and forecasts on the Zika virus. — AP



ATLANTA: Tom Frieden, the director for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention speaks about the Zika virus at a luncheon in Atlanta hosted by the Atlanta Press Club, on Thursday, June 9, 2016. — AP

PITTSBURGH RESEARCHER INFECTED WITH ZIKA IN LAB ACCIDENT

NEW YORK: The University of Pittsburgh says one of its researchers became infected with the Zika virus in a lab accident. The scientist accidentally stuck herself with a needle last month during a Zika experiment. She developed Zika symptoms last week and lab tests confirmed the infection.

Pitt officials on Thursday said the researcher has recovered and returned to

work. The virus is spread mainly through the bite of a tropical mosquito. It causes only a mild and brief illness, at worst, in most people. But it can cause fetal deaths and severe birth defects in the children of women infected during pregnancy. Nearly 700 infections have been reported in the 50 states. All were people who had traveled abroad, or who had sex with someone who did. — AP

PROPOSED PREMIUM HIKES RATTLE CONSUMERS PAYING THEIR OWN WAY

WASHINGTON: Millions of people who pay the full cost of their health insurance will face the sting of rising premiums next year, with no financial help from government subsidies.

Renewal notices bearing the bad news will go out this fall, just as the presidential election is in the homestretch. "I don't know if I could swallow another 30 or 40 percent without severely cutting into other things I'm trying to do, like retirement savings or reducing debt," said Bob Byrnes, of Blaine, Minnesota, a Twin Cities suburb. His monthly premium of \$524 is already about 50 percent more than he was paying in 2015, and he has a higher deductible.

President Barack Obama's health law provides income-based subsidies for consumers who buy individual policies on HealthCare.gov and state insurance markets. About 10 million people get assistance, helping reduce the uninsured rate to a historically low 9 percent.

But there's no subsidy for those making more than \$47,520 for an individual and \$97,200 for a family of four - cutoffs that represent four times the federal poverty level. Also, subsidies are not available for consumers at any income level who purchase outside of HealthCare.gov or a state marketplace. Those who remain uninsured risk fines.

Premiums are expected to climb next year in many areas because major insurers have taken significant financial losses under the health law. Enrollment has been lower than anticipated, new customers were sicker than expected and a government system to stabilize the markets had problems.

"People receiving subsidies can protect themselves from premium increases, but others who buy their own coverage don't have that option," said Larry Levitt, who tracks the health law for the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. He estimated 5 million to 7 million consumers nationally may be paying full freight.

Byrnes, a manager for a medical courier service, says he supports the law's goal of expanded coverage, but he hasn't found his policy particularly affordable. In the small East Texas city of Lufkin, Kirk Smith buys his policy from the only insurer available, which also happens to be the state's largest.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas is seeking an average premium increase of nearly 60 percent for 2017, and Smith says his monthly bill of about \$350 is already about as much as a car payment. Moreover, he's had to drive to a neighboring county for medical care because he couldn't get an appointment close to home. "I've got a problem when you can't see somebody in

the county, and they want an increase?" said Smith, who works for a contractor installing telecommunications equipment. He said the government should subsidize everyone in rural communities with no insurer competition.

Michelle Scarola of Queens, a borough of New York City, said she has received notice that her 2017 premiums will be going up in a range of 8 percent to 25 percent. Scarola, who's in the midst of a career transition from advertising to interior design, isn't happy that her insurer dropped the hospital network she's interested in. "For people like me who are in the middle, there is very limited choice, and now that limited choice is going to get more expensive," she said.

Insurance broker Liz Gallops in Raleigh, North Carolina, says she tries to let customers vent about large increases. Some see insurance bills that surpass their mortgage payments. The state's biggest insurer is proposing average increases of nearly 19 percent.

"I've had people yell on the phone," she said. "I've had people curse." Back in 2010, the Obama administration used public anger about premium increases as leverage to win passage of the health law. It now says worries about next year's premiums are premature because final rates have not been approved. Officials say people who don't receive subsidies still have options.

For example, some people buying directly from an insurer might find that they qualify for subsidies if they go through HealthCare.gov. Those who make too much for a subsidy still can shop for lower premiums. Under the health law, insurers have to accept consumers with health problems. People are no longer locked into a plan indefinitely.

Another wrinkle is that people who pay their own premiums may be able to later deduct the cost on their income taxes. But the rules are complex, and it's not the same as getting an upfront subsidy. It may seem counterintuitive that premium increases for health law policies also hit people who get no financial assistance. It's happening because the law created one big insurance pool in each state for consumers buying individual coverage, whether or not they go through markets such as HealthCare.gov.

Many people respond to premium hikes by switching to skimpier coverage, yet that leads to bigger medical bills if they need treatment. Some insurance brokers encourage customers to get plans linked to a health savings account. But rising premiums can cut into how much people stash away. — AP



DUBLIN: Thousands of anti-abortion protesters filling Dublin's major thoroughfare, as they march against Ireland's abortion bill. — AP

UN: IRELAND'S ABORTION BAN IS CRUEL, DISCRIMINATORY TO WOMEN

DUBLIN: Ireland's abortion ban subjects women to discriminatory, cruel and degrading treatment and should be ended immediately for cases involving fatal fetal abnormalities, UN human rights experts said Thursday.

The 29-page report from the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Committee accepted a complaint filed by Amanda Mellet, a Dublin woman who was denied a 2011 abortion in Ireland after doctors informed her that her fetus had a heart defect and could not survive outside the womb.

Ireland permits abortions only in cases where the woman's own life is endangered by continued pregnancy. Its ban on abortion in all other circumstances requires women to carry a physiologically doomed fetus until birth or its death in the womb. The only other option is to travel abroad for abortions, usually to England, where thousands of Irish citizens have abortions annually.

The Human Rights Committee, composed of experts from 17 nations led by Fabian Salvioli of Argentina, found that Ireland's abortion law violates the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and called for widespread reform.

The panel wields no power to compel change from Ireland, a predominantly Roman Catholic nation that maintains the strictest laws on abortion in the 28-nation EU.

In Dublin, Mellet said she hoped the government would find "the courage to make necessary changes in law." "I hope the day will soon come when women in Ireland will be able to access the health services they need in our own country, where we can be with our loved ones, with our own medical team, and where we have our own familiar bed to go home and cry in," she said in a statement. "Subjecting women to so much additional pain and trauma simply must not continue."

Ireland's health minister, Simon Harris, said the government understood the plight of women in Mellet's position and was open to

reforming law on the matter. But he said the process could take years, requiring first a citizen's forum to build public consensus followed by a referendum to amend Ireland's constitutional ban on abortion.

"I have met with families who have been through the trauma of knowing their baby will not survive and I have been very moved by hearing of their experiences. I want to see this issue addressed," Harris said.

Rights watchdogs said Ireland needed to move faster, noting that it had taken the country more than two decades to legalize abortions deemed necessary to save a pregnant woman's life. That move happened after the 2012 death in an Irish hospital of an Indian woman, Savita Halappanavar, who suffered lethal blood poisoning after doctors refused to terminate her dying fetus.

Mark Kelly, director of the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, said the UN criticism "joins a chorus of expert voices reminding Ireland that its abortion regime is wildly out of kilter with abortion law and practice in the family of civilized nations."

"The Irish government must take its head out of the sand and see that it has to tackle this issue," said Colm O'Gorman, Amnesty International's director in Ireland.

Opinion polls since 2013 have recorded majority support in Ireland for extending abortions to cases involving fatal defects and pregnancies caused by rape or incest, but anti-abortion activists argue that further exceptions to the ban would lead eventually to the legalization of abortion.

An Irish group opposed to abortion, the Pro Life Campaign, denounced the UN as a pro-abortion lobby group. Its leader, Cora Sherlock, argued that Mellet's fetus should have been given the chance to survive, regardless of medical opinion.

Sherlock said all fetuses should be carried to full term to ensure their right to life is vindicat-

ed. She said UN experts were wrong to treat unborn children with fatal abnormalities as "unworthy of any legal protections."

The UN report said Ireland's law made the rights of inviable fetuses superior to the rights of women and this arbitrary imbalance "cannot be justified," because in such cases the unborn child's life cannot be saved. It said Ireland's restrictions on providing clear advice and state-supported medical care to women who receive abortions overseas caused Mellet "intense suffering" and her experience "amounted to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment."

The experts also found that Ireland's underlying criminal law on abortion was "discriminatory because it places the burden of criminal liability primarily on the pregnant woman." Mellet testified that Dublin doctors informed her during scans that her child was likely to die

inside the womb but could not be aborted, only removed after it perished. After three weeks, she checked with doctors to see if her now 24-week-old fetus still had a heartbeat and, when told it was still alive, traveled with her husband to the English city of Liverpool. There, doctors induced a 36-hour labor that ended in a stillborn baby girl.

Mellet was denied any access to state-funded bereavement counseling in Ireland because Irish maternity hospitals are permitted to provide such services only to women who agree to carry their fetuses to birth or miscarriage.

Her legal complaint was accompanied by expert opinions from a Trinity College Dublin professor in midwifery and a clinical psychologist who found that Ireland's restrictions inflict unnecessary long-term trauma on women carrying fetuses likely to die.

Mellet told the UN panel she had wanted to take her stillborn daughter's remains back with her to Ireland on the plane but the hospital said it had no way to facilitate this. "She received the ashes, unexpectedly, three weeks later by courier, which deeply upset her," the report said. — AP



LUFKIN, TEXAS: Kirk Smith poses for a photograph on June 8, 2016. Smith's insurance company, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, is the only insurer in his county and it is requesting average premium increases of nearly 60 percent for 2017. — AP

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PAGE

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد علي المخيزيم

Consultant Pediatrician إستشاري أطفال
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AWE-INSPIRING INVESTITURE AT IES

Jleeb, May 04: The Student Council of the academic year 2016-17 of Indian Educational School (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan) was inducted on May 04, 2016 in a very solemn Investiture held in the school auditorium. The occasion was graced by the auspicious presence of the Chief Guest, Mr. Amit Sarraf, Assistant General Manager - Cards Division, Gulf Bank. The other dignitaries present for the function were the Chairman of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Middle East, Mr. N. K. Ramachandran Menon, the Principal of IES, Mr. T Premkumar, Vice Principals, the Supervisor Management, the teachers and the students of Grades 11 and 12.

The splendid event commenced auspiciously with the recital of the Holy Quran, prayer song and the rendition of the Kuwait National Anthem by the minstrels of the school choir. The prestigious gathering was welcomed by Anirudha Ramesh (12 A), the Deputy Head Boy of the academic session 2015-16.

The newly elected student council members marched into the auditorium amidst thunderous applause. The

epoch-making process of conferring sashes and badges of honour to the newly sworn in Student Council members was performed by the Chief Guest, Mr. Amit Sarraf, along with the Chairman and the Principal amidst sonorous plaudits.

It was the newly elected Head Boy, Aditya Jaypal of Grade 12A, and the Head Girl, Miss Evelyn Biju George of Grade 12B who received the honours first. The Chief Guest also presented sashes and badges of honour to the other office bearers of the student council, viz. Junior Head Boy, Junior Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl, Cultural Secretary (Boy And Girl), Deputy Cultural Secretary (Boy And Girl), Sports Captain (Boy And Girl), Deputy Sports Captain (Boy And Girl), Public Relations Officer, Deputy Public Relations Officer and the Student Editor. The house captains of the four houses of the school, namely Sanskriti, Satya, Seva and Tapas also received the sashes and flags from the chief guest. The other office members of the student council were adorned with insignias of honour by the vice principals, heads of

the departments, and the house masters respectively.

The much awaited Oath Taking Ceremony was initiated by the Principal, Mr. T Premkumar. He administered the oath of allegiance to the newly inducted young leaders. The Head Boy and the Head Girl delivered their formal acceptance speeches amidst roaring applause. They expressed their happiness in adorning the prestigious posts of the governing body of the school that has drawn its journey from 2006-2016, leaving 10 fine footprints in the field of academic excellence in the sands of Arabia.

The Chief Guest accorded accolades to the highfliers and the students par excellence of the institution for their exemplary achievements. Many a young learner received words of appreciation, infinite number of badges and medals in honour of their outstanding performances in academics, arts, sports, and whatnot.

The Chief Guest, Mr. Amit Sarraf, in his address expressed his delight and pride in being a part of such a programme. He said that the basic foundation is the most important component of a school building. He

urged the students to be disciplined, determined and to possess the willpower to lead a successful life. He urged the young leaders to set examples, take responsibilities, and be selfless in guiding others. He said, "A leader is someone who takes up challenges and carries his subjects along with him/her...In order to be a great leader, consider Determination, Discipline and Willpower as three pillars." He also shared his personal experience of being the football and cricket captain during his school days.

Mr. N.K. Ramachandran Menon, the Chairman, Bhavans Middle East and Mr. T. Premkumar, the Principal, conjointly presented the Chief Guest a memento as a token of gratitude and respect. Arpita Sherry (12 B), the Deputy Head Girl of the academic session 2015-16, proposed the vote of thanks. Raj Bankoda and Megha Varnika Budati of Grade 11 were the emcees of the programme. The inspiring Investiture, another milestone in the saga of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, solemnly concluded with the singing of the Indian National Anthem.

PAKISTAN SPORTS ASSOCIATION KUWAIT ORGANIZES OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

40 Top Local Players from different 8 countries participated; Mr. Rayan of Philippines won the Championship in Nail Biting final with Kuwaiti young player Hussain.

Pakistan Sports Association Kuwait organizes open Table Tennis Championship in one of famous table tennis court in Kuwait. 40 top local players from 8 countries participated in this great contest. Players from Kuwait, Pakistan, Egypt, Indonesia, Philippines, India, Jordan, and Lebanon registered in PSA table Tennis championship. All players shown their

best skills during matches and Mr. Rayan, Mr. Hussain, Mr. Nadeem and Mr. Mehmood Ahmed qualify for the semi finals. Rayan & Hussain won their matches and secured their position for Championship final whereas 3rd & 4th position match was played between Nadeem and Mehmood Ahmed. Nadeem won the match and got 3rd position in championship.

In the final match Mr. Rayan from Philippines won the championship title after nail biting contest with Kuwaiti young player Mr. Hussain. Excellent skills and fan-

tastic game was presented by both players in final and everyone enjoyed and appreciated their best skills in the game.

After the final match prize ceremony was held and many dignitaries graced the session. Mr. Maqbool Ahmed, The President of Pakistan Sports Association Kuwait, Mr. Muhammad Younas Shahid, Vice President of Pakistan Sports Association Kuwait, Mr. Muhammad Irfan Adil, Founder & Director General of PSA, Mr. Muhammad Irfan Shafiq, Advisor of PSA, Mr. Shamshad Khan Tanoli, the Patron of Pakistan Qirrat & Naat Council Kuwait, Mr. Ashraf Zia former Table Tennis Champion, Mr. Ehsan ul Haq, Mr. Khalil ur Rehman, Mr. Shahzad

Qureshi, Mr. Muhammad Riaz, PSA Team Executive members, Mr. Farzan Tariq, Mr. Muhammad Wasim Bajwa, Mr. Sajid Hassan, Mr. Zeeshan, Mr. Sajid, Mr. Saad, Mr. Muhammad Usman, Mr. Yao along with Mr. Irtaza Masoud, Mr. Behram, Mr. Harry, Mr. Arif and all participated players joined the presentation.

Mr. Muhammad Irfan Adil, Founder & Director General of PSA welcomed all the players, honorable guests and congratulate the all the participated players for their best sportsman spirit, cooperation and support. He congratulates the winners.

Mr. Maqbool Ahmed, the President of Pakistan Sports Association Kuwait, said this was a

great tournament where 40 players from different communities participated and shown their best skills in the contest. It reflects their love with the game. He stated that sports is a best mode of developing love, peace, prosperity amongst society and we at PSA will continue to organize such events in future as well. Our message is peace, love and prosperity.

Mr. Muhammad Younas Shahid, Vice President of Pakistan Sports Association Kuwait mentioned at this moment that PSA is promoting sports and healthy activities among youth and society and we will continue to organize different sports events.

Mr. Muhammad Irfan Shafiq,

Advisor of PSA said this championship is a great success of PSA Team and they proved their professionalism by arranging such a quality, disciplined and best event in all aspects which will be always remembered.

Mr. Shamshad Khan Tanoli, the Patron of Pakistan Qirrat & Naat Council Kuwait appreciated the efforts of PSA Team and assured his support in future as well.

Mr. Rayan received winning trophy whereas Mr. Hussain got Runner up trophy along with cash prizes by honorable guests. Mr. Nadeem and Mr. Mehmood received 3rd & 4th position trophies respectively. At the end refreshments was served for all participants.



RADISSON BLU HOTEL KUWAIT CELEBRATES THE 118TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Filipino staff of the Radisson Blu Hotel Kuwait take time amidst the busy schedules to share their spirit of nationalism in celebration of the 118th Independence Day of the Philippines by posing in the facade of the hotel. The proud Filipino team also won the major prize during the year staff gathering with their cultural presentation dance rendition of "Piliin mo ang Pilipinas". Radisson Blu Hotel Kuwait greets all Filipinos a Glorious 118th Day of Heroism and Bravery".





KUWAIT NATIONAL ENGLISH SCHOOL SECONDARY GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Kuwait National English School successfully celebrated the Secondary Graduation Ceremony on Saturday May 28, 2016 at 7:30 pm in the Ebreez Ballroom at the Symphony Style Hotel in Salmiya. Students who have completed their Secondary Education at Kuwait National English School received their Diploma. The Guest of Honour was Mr. Abdullah Ali Al-Basry, General Manager of Private Sector at the Ministry of Education. Two long service members of staff, Mr. Abdul Majeed and Mr. Zenhum Mosbah, received the Chairman's Award in recognition for their good and loyal service to Kuwait National English School.

Eloquent speeches were given by members of the Kuwait National English School Student Council, the Head of Secondary and the School Director Madame Chantal Al Gharabally. Members of the Student Council spoke of their positive experience and successes at Kuwait National English School, they showed their gratitude to the many members of staff who had helped them throughout their life at the school. The Head of Secondary wished all the graduates the best and commended them on their hard work and dedication throughout the years and stressed on the needs to maintain high academic standard. He emphasized that Kuwait National English School would continue

to maintain progress at External Examinations. To that end, the school would keep on working closely with the Council of International Schools (CIS), New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), British Schools in the Middle East (BSME) and British Schools Overseas (BSO). The School Director, Madame Chantal Al Gharabally gave a philosophical approach to a student's future journey through life and explained all the values which are placed in the educational goals at Kuwait National English School and the benefit to school from its intellectual heritage from combining nationalities, ethnicities and beliefs. She concluded by congratulating class 2016

and thanked them for giving a meaning to her life dedicated to students and education.

Music was performed by the Choir of Kuwait National English School.

In addition to the awarding of Diplomas, awards were given in individual subjects for achievement and endeavour. The Prestigious Student of the Year Award 2016 went to Khaleel Al Huwaisel (Yr 12). The Council of International Schools (CIS) Award for International Understanding was given to Hawazan Mohamed Alaj (Yr 11).

The Graduation ceremony concluded with the traditional cutting of the "Class 2016 Graduation Cake" by members of the Student

Council, the School Director, the Chairman and the Guests of Honour. To end the evening, a delicious snack was served to everybody in a very friendly and chic atmosphere in the Hotel.

The Graduation was a very successful event which gave the students and their families a chance to reflect on a successful time at Kuwait National English School, to thank the school's staff and management for all their hard work and to look to the future.

Kuwait National English School would like to wish the Class of 2016 a happy and prosperous future. It has been our privilege watching these students develop over the years and reach their full potential.



KUWAIT UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP CEREMONY

Kuwait University's Faculty of Engineering and Petroleum and Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) organized a strategic partnership ceremony, which was attended by Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa.

AMC

04:00 Stand By Me
05:30 If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium
07:10 Solarbabies
08:45 Crimes And Misdemeanors
10:30 Robinson Crusoe
12:00 Bound For Glory
14:25 Hercules
16:05 Kid Galahad
17:40 Thunderbirds Are Go
19:15 The Magnificent Seven Ride!

ANIMAL PLANET HD

03:25 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
04:15 Biggest And Baddest
05:02 Killer Iq: Lion vs Hyena
05:49 Wild Expectations
06:36 Call Of The Wildman
07:00 Call Of The Wildman

Disney CHANNEL

07:25 Cats 101
08:15 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)

Discovery CHANNEL HD

03:40 Dukes Of Hazzard
04:05 Storage Wars Canada
04:30 Property Wars
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:30 How It's Made: Dream Cars
06:00 Yukon Men
06:50 Wheeler Dealers
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Dukes Of Hazzard
08:55 Storage Wars Canada
09:20 Property Wars
09:45 How Do They Do It?
10:10 How It's Made: Dream Cars
10:35 Driving Wild
11:25 Diesel Brothers
12:15 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
13:05 Dukes Of Hazzard
13:30 Storage Wars Canada
13:55 Property Wars
14:20 Yukon Men
15:10 Wheeler Dealers
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars
17:15 How Do They Do It?
17:40 Gold Rush (Season 6)

Disney JUNIOR

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

ID. INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

03:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
03:48 Tabloid
07:00 Deadly Affairs
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
08:40 California Investigator
09:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
10:20 Tabloid
11:10 Murder Comes To Town
12:00 Deadly Affairs
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:40 California Investigator
14:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
15:20 Tabloid
16:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
17:00 Deadly Affairs
17:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn
18:40 California Investigator
19:30 I Almost Got Away With It
20:20 Tabloid
21:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
22:00 Too Pretty To Live
22:50 Web Of Lies
23:40 Obsession: Dark Desires
00:30 Breaking Point

07:50 Supa Strikas
10:20 How It's Made
10:45 How It's Made
11:10 How The Universe Works
12:00 Mighty Ships
12:50 Mythbusters
13:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
14:30 Food Factory USA
14:55 How It's Made
15:20 How It's Made
15:45 How It's Made
16:10 Mighty Ships
17:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
17:50 How The Universe Works
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 Curiosity: Sun Storm
20:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
21:10 How The Universe Works
22:00 Curiosity: Sun Storm
22:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
23:40 Food Factory USA
00:05 Mythbusters
00:55 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
01:45 How It's Made
02:10 Curiosity: Sun Storm

Disney XD

03:00 Mighty Ships
06:12 Food Factory USA
07:00 Mythbusters
07:50 Food Factory USA
08:15 How It's Made
08:40 Mighty Ships
09:30 Through The Wormhole With

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

food network

03:00 Mystery Diners
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Chopped
06:00 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 The Pioneer Woman
12:00 Chopped
13:00 Grandma's Secret Cookbook
Special
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Man Fire Food
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 The Pioneer Woman
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Iron Chef America
21:00 The Freshman Class
22:00 Mystery Diners
23:00 Kitchen Inferno
00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 The Freshman Class
02:00 Mystery Diners

HISTORY HD

03:40 American Restoration
04:30 Pawn Stars
06:00 Ax Men
06:50 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
07:40 The Curse Of Oak Island
08:30 Shipping Wars
08:55 American Restoration
10:35 Fifth Gear
11:25 Battle 360
12:15 American Pickers
13:05 Storage Wars Texas
13:55 Pawn Stars
14:45 Pawn Stars South Africa
15:35 Counting Cars
16:00 Ax Men
16:50 The Curse Of Oak Island
17:40 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
19:20 American Pickers
21:25 Storage Wars
21:50 American Pickers
22:40 The Curse Of Oak Island
23:30 Storage Wars Miami
23:55 Storage Wars
00:20 American Pickers
01:10 Storage Wars Texas
02:00 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
02:50 The Curse Of Oak Island

itv HD CHOICE

03:25 Sunday Night At The Palladium
04:20 Pick Me!
05:15 Pick Me!
05:10 Mr Selfridge
07:05 Catchphrase
08:00 Sunday Night At The Palladium
08:55 Doctor Thorne
09:50 The Jonathan Ross Show

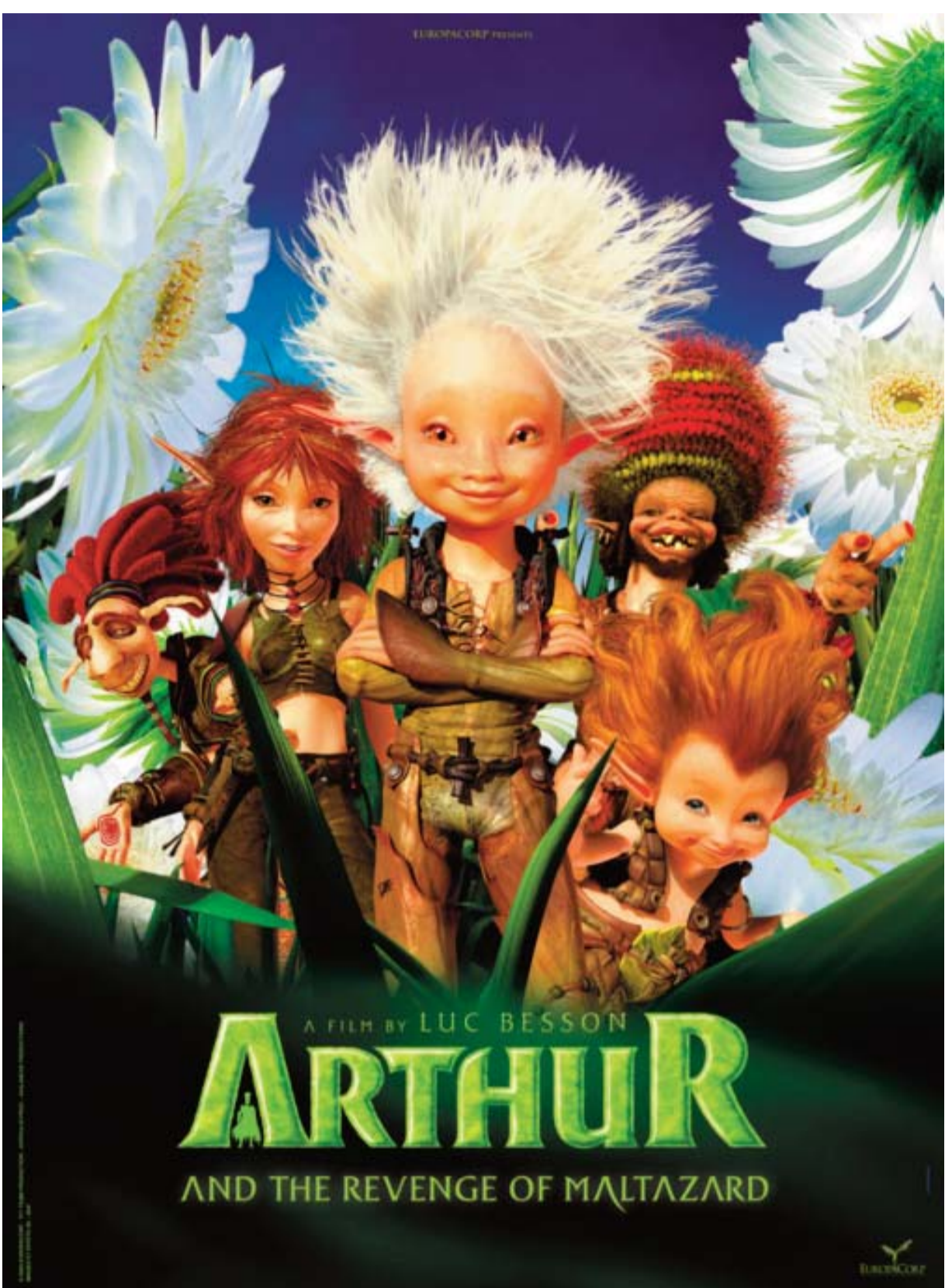
10:40 Pick Me!
11:35 Catchphrase
12:05 James Nesbitt's Ireland
12:30 Mr Selfridge
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Coach Trip
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
15:35 Catchphrase
16:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
16:30 Lewis
17:25 Doc Martin
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Coach Trip
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Catchphrase
20:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
20:30 Lewis
21:25 Doc Martin
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Mr Selfridge
23:50 Catchphrase
00:10 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
00:40 Emmerdale
01:30 Coach Trip
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Jonathan Ross Show

NAT GEO people HD

03:05 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
03:30 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
03:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
04:20 Places We Go
04:45 Places We Go
05:10 A Marriage Of Flavours
05:35 Home Strange Home
06:25 Eat Street
06:50 One Man & His Campervan
07:15 One Man & His Campervan
07:40 Poh & Co.
08:05 World's Best Chefs
08:30 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
08:55 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
09:20 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
09:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
10:10 Places We Go
10:35 Places We Go
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20:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
20:25 Places We Go
20:50 Places We Go
21:15 A Marriage Of Flavours
21:40 Home Strange Home
22:30 Eat Street
22:55 One Man & His Campervan
23:20 One Man & His Campervan
23:45 Poh & Co.
00:10 World's Best Chefs
00:35 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
01:00 This Is Brazil
01:50 Meat v Veg
02:15 Fearless Chef

NAT GEO WILD HD

03:45 1000 Days For The Planet
04:40 Going Wild
05:35 Original Fight Club
06:30 Lion Ranger
07:25 1000 Days For The Planet
08:20 Going Wild
09:15 Africa's Blood River
10:10 Ultimate Predator
11:05 World's Deadliest Snakes
12:00 When Sharks Attack
12:55 The Great Serengeti
13:50 Lion Ranger
14:45 1000 Days For The Planet
15:40 The Amazing Spider House
16:35 Hyena Queen
17:30 Ultimate Predator
18:25 Animal Fight Club
19:20 1000 Days For The Planet
20:10 The Amazing Spider House
21:00 Hyena Queen
21:50 Ultimate Predator
22:40 Animal Fight Club



ARTHUR 2: THE REVENGE OF MALTAZARD ON STAR MOVIES HD

nickelodeon HD

03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:48 Henry Danger
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
05:00 Max & Shred
05:24 Henry Danger
05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:48 Winx Club
08:36 Get Blake
09:24 Rabbids Invasion
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
13:00 Harvey Beaks
13:24 The Loud House
13:48 Get Blake
14:12 Rabbids Invasion
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Game Shakers
15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
17:00 Get Blake
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 The Loud House
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24 Breadwinners
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants

OSN FIRST MORE

03:00 American Crime Story: The People vs O.J. Simpson
04:00 Tracey Ullman In The Trailer Tales
05:00 Sometimes In April
07:15 The Gathering Storm
09:00 Conspiracy
11:00 Cinema Verite
13:00 The Jack Bull
15:00 RKO 281
17:00 Cinema Verite
19:00 HBO Comedy Half-Hour
19:30 Def Poetry Jam
20:00 From The Earth To The Moon
21:00 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
21:30 Veep
22:00 Game Of Thrones
23:15 Silicon Valley
00:00 How To Make It In America
00:30 HBO Comedy Half-Hour
01:00 From The Earth To The Moon
02:00 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver

OSN FIRST HD

03:00 Damien
04:00 Bones
05:00 Good Morning America
06:00 Complications
07:00 Chicago Fire
08:00 Prison Break
09:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
10:00 Bones
11:00 Chicago Fire
12:00 Prison Break
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Live Good Morning America

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

04:00 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine
06:30 The Railway Man
09:00 God Help The Girl
11:00 Beaches
13:30 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine
16:00 A Passage To India
19:00 Get On Up
21:30 When A Man Loves A Woman
23:45 The Brass Teapot
01:30 God Help The Girl

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

04:00 Space Dogs
06:00 Raising Helen
08:00 Bringing Down The House
10:00 Space Dogs
12:00 Raising Helen
14:00 Pitch Perfect
16:00 Bringing Down The House
18:00 Sweet Home Alabama
20:00 Trust Me
22:00 Three Men And A Baby
00:00 Bringing Down The House
02:00 Trust Me

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

03:00 My Favorite Martian
05:00 Coraline
07:00 Ice Age: The Meltdown
09:00 The Kid
11:00 Bolt
13:00 The Princess And The Frog
15:00 Big Hero 6
17:00 101 Dalmatians
19:00 Mr. Magoo
21:00 The Game Plan
23:00 Big Hero 6
01:00 Mr. Magoo

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

03:00 Stonehearst Asylum
05:00 Dolphin Tale 2
07:00 Kon-Tiki
09:00 Stonehearst Asylum
11:00 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes
13:15 A Gift Of Miracles
15:00 Miss Julie
17:15 Boychoir
19:00 Seventh Son
20:45 Blackhat
23:00 Unbroken
01:15 The Zero Theorem

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

04:00 Le Weekend
06:00 Marvel's Hulk vs. Thor & Wolverine
08:00 McFarland, USA
10:15 Shaolin
12:30 Born To Race: Fast Track
14:15 Betrayed
15:45 McFarland, USA
18:00 The Judge
20:30 Break Point
22:15 Miss You Already
00:15 Kristy
01:45 The Judge

STAR MOVIES HD

03:00 There Will Be Blood
05:45 Arthur 2: The Revenge Of Maltazard
07:30 The No Sit List
08:45 The Last Shot
10:15 The Lone Ranger
12:45 Raising Helen
17:15 There Will Be Blood
20:00 Phenomenon
22:15 The Good Shepherd
00:45 The Help
03:00 The Bridge
04:00 House Of DVF
05:00 Scrubs
05:30 Scrubs
06:00 The Simpsons
06:30 The Simpsons

Movie advertisement for Break Point featuring a car crash and the text 'THE ONLY LAW THAT MATTERS IS GRAVITY' and 'BREAK POINT ON OSN MOVIES PREMIERE HD'

ELCON DMC

CLASSIFIEDS



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

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

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Iqbal Hatimbhai Bhinderwala, holder of Indian Passport No: Z1847106, address: 6/8, Taj Mansion, 3rd floor R.N. 33, 1st Sankli Street, Byculla, Mumbai, 400008, hereby change my name Mufaddal Hatimbhai Bhinderwala. **(C 5184) 13-6-2016**

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

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

I, Ande Narasimhulu

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**



Flight Schedule

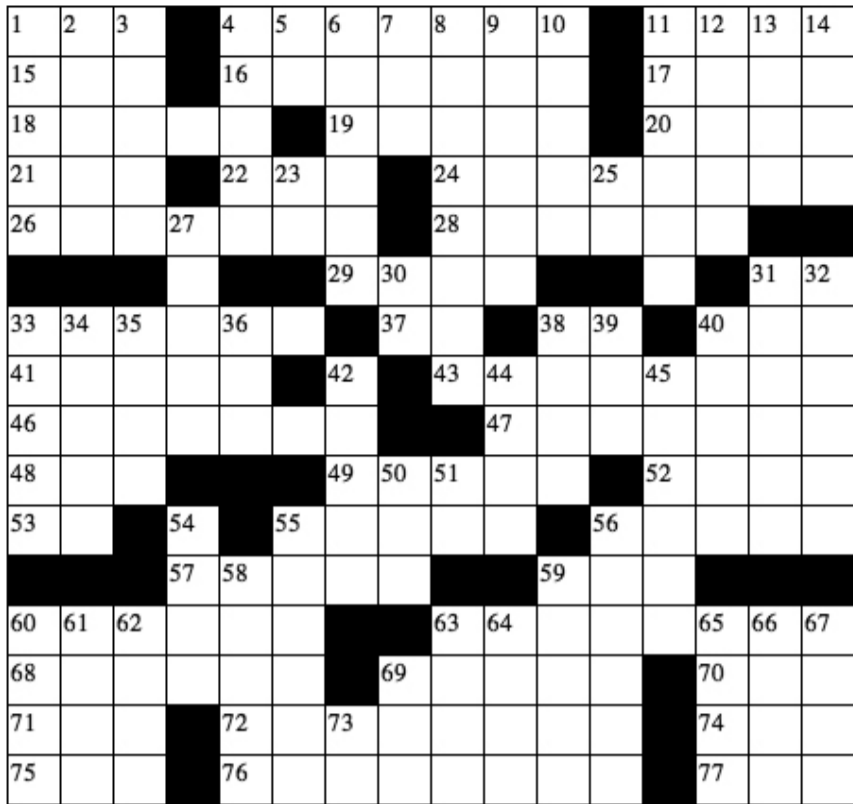
In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Arrival Flights on Monday 13/6/2016				Departure Flights on Monday 13/6/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	MSC	502	Alexandria	00:05
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	MSC	404	Asyut	00:10
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	PIA	206	Lahore	00:40
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	JZR	765	Istanbul	02:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
ETD	919	Abu Dhabi	02:20	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	KAC	417	Manila	03:55
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	GFA	644	Muscat	04:00
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
MSR	612	Cairo	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	ETD	920	Abu Dhabi	04:20
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	CEB	019	Manila	04:50
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	FEG	954	Asyut	06:00
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
PAL	628	Manila/Dubai	06:25	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
BAW	157	London	06:40	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	BAW	156	London	08:25
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	JZR	534	Cairo	09:25
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	JZR	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	IRA	666	Esfahan	10:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
CCE	341	Alexandria	10:00	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	KAC	153	Istanbul	11:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	CCE	346	Sohag	11:10
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
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	AXB	890	Mangalore	11:55
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00	JAI	103	London	12:10
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	23:40

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1283



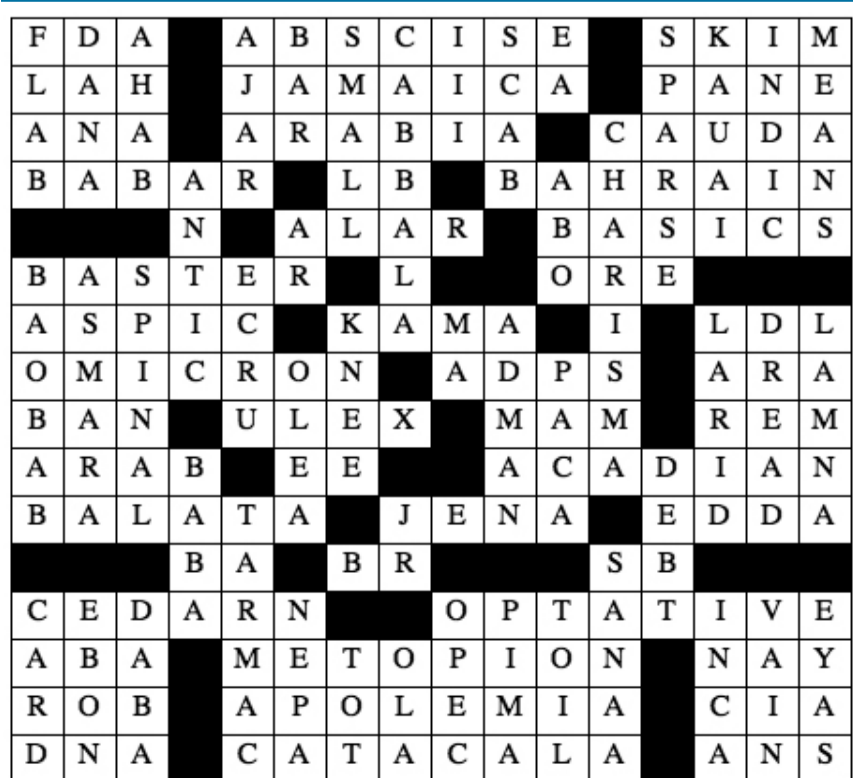
ACROSS

1. A solution containing a phosphate buffer.
4. A bag used for carrying money and small personal items or accessories (especially by women).
11. Expressed without speech.
15. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
16. Bring to light.
17. An ancient Assyrian city on the River Tigris and traditional capital of Assyria.
18. A member of an American Indian peoples of NE South America and the Lesser Antilles.
19. Being of the achromatic color of maximum lightness.
20. A software system that facilitates the creation and maintenance and use of an electronic database.
21. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
22. Electronic warfare undertaken to prevent or reduce an enemy's effective use of the electromagnetic spectrum.
24. A member of a Kannada-speaking group of people living chiefly in Kanara in southern India.
26. A genus of the cactus family with scarlet flowers.
28. A knapsack (usually for a soldier).
29. The compass point that is one point north of northeast.
33. A son of your brother or sister.
37. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
41. Relatively large in size or number or extent.
43. A pipe carrying fumes from the muffler to the rear of a car.
46. An ambitious and aspiring young person.
47. A soft blackish-brown resinous exudate from various rockroses used in perfumes especially as a fixative.
48. Standard time in the 5th time zone west of Greenwich, reckoned at the 75th meridian.
49. A mountain peak in the Andes in Argentina (21,654 feet high).
52. Type genus of the Rutaceae.
53. 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.
57. An anti-TNF compound (trade name Arava) that is given orally.
60. A house of worship (especially one for sailors).
68. A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
70. A unit of electrical power in an AC circuit equal to the power dissipated when 1 volt produces a current of 1 ampere.
71. Fiddler crabs.
72. Of or having to do with or belonging to an abbey or abbot, or abbeys.
74. A city in the European part of Russia.
75. Lacking self-confidence.
76. A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean.
77. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.

DOWN

1. Wood of a pecan tree.
2. A game in which numbered balls are drawn and random and players cover the corresponding numbers on their cards.
3. Disposed of as useless.
4. United States neuroscientist noted for his studies of the neural basis of vision (born in 1926).
5. An associate degree in nursing.
6. United States film actor (born in 1925).
7. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
8. A fragment of brick used as a weapon.
9. To gain with effort.
10. Port city in northwestern Belgium and industrial center.
11. A state in southeastern India on the Bay of Bengal (south of Andhra Pradesh).
12. A member of a Turkic people of Uzbekistan and neighboring areas.
13. (trademark) An antacid.
14. Any of several related languages of the Celts in Ireland and Scotland.
23. A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.
25. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
27. The ninth month of the Hindu calendar.
30. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
31. The state of being held in high esteem and honor.
32. Relating to the blood vessels or blood.
34. Remove from memory or existence.
35. Closely confined.
36. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
38. A city of central China.
39. Late time of life.
40. A herbaceous plant genus of the family Linaceae with small sessile leaves.
42. A desert in southern Israel.
44. By bad luck.
45. A flourish added after or under your signature (originally to protect against forgery).
50. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
51. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
54. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
55. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
56. Stout-bodied insect with large membranous wings.
58. A summary that repeats the substance of a longer discussion.
59. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
61. (used of count nouns) Every one considered individually.
62. An open receptacle for holding or displaying or serving articles or food.
63. Footwear usually with wooden soles.
64. Being three more than fifty.
65. The female reproductive cell.
66. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
67. The biblical name for ancient Syria.
69. Airtight sealed metal container for food or drink or paint etc..
73. A nonmetallic largely pentavalent heavy volatile corrosive dark brown liquid element belonging to the halogens.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You can visualize a straight path in front of you when it comes to reaching your goals today. However, forks in the road begin to appear as the day progresses until there are so many choices you don't know which direction to turn. Somewhere along the line you'll need to let go of your original itinerary. Thankfully, you enjoy the multitude of distractions and don't really care where you end up as long as you're not bored along the way. Happiness is a journey, not a destination.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are a bit disoriented today as your decisiveness fades and is replaced with a question mark. It's as if every road you travel suddenly comes to an end in the middle of nowhere. Although this uncertainty stimulates the flow of adrenaline, you nostalgically long for familiar ground. Instead of trying to firm up reality, accept the fact that there are times when you simply cannot see around the bend. Rather than fixating on a particular goal now, enjoy the moment by dancing with the unknown.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Although the pace of your life has already picked up in the past couple of weeks, you better hang onto your hat since you haven't seen anything yet. Interactive Mercury's shift into your sign now creates a quickening that will last all month. It's as if you are white-water canoeing and there is no way to avoid the rapids. Clinging to the shoreline is not a viable strategy, so paddle into the middle and go with the flow. There's no substitute for the exhilaration you feel when you are in touch with the intensity of the present moment.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

It appears as if the last vestiges of social stability are being peeled away today, freeing you to create new dreams that will lead you into the future. Whether or not your relationship dynamics change with the shifting tide, there is little to prevent you from pursuing fantasies that are a departure from your current reality. Although the mind can go anywhere, it remains to be seen what direction your life will take in the days ahead. Keep your options wide open until you know what your heart wants.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may feel overly restricted by social commitments today, prompting you to hatch an escape plan. There's no time to develop a strategy; you need to act right away if you're going to reclaim your schedule. Thankfully, you're capable of thinking outside of the box, inspiring you to reinvent your day. Instead of limiting your focus to the present moment, extend your planning to include the next few weeks. Just remember your choices have wider ramifications than your current activities because you are also setting the stage for the next act in your play.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

There are conflicting paths to follow now as your personal needs lead you one way and other people's expectations pull another. Normally, you would analyze the current situation until you were able to make a choice as to which direction makes the most sense. However, you're quite content to pursue a dual track today without feeling any conflict at all. Relish the luxury of operating in two realities simultaneously until you are stretched too thin. But don't rush the flow of events; trust your instincts to know when the time is right to make your move.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You are coming to the end of an emotional cycle and are eagerly anticipating moving into new territory now. However, there may be plenty of work to finish before you are freed from the past. In the meantime, savor the fleeting glimpses of your destiny as it appears in bits and pieces. There's not much time left to wrap up loose ends, so get busy while you still have the chance. The future awaits your arrival with open arms.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

The gift of gab is yours today, allowing you to talk about your feelings in ways that are normally uncomfortable. Instead of being consumed by your passions now, you can stand back far enough to gain a wider perspective. Your current emotional detachment is a refreshing change of pace for you and your immediate circle of friends and family. Take a risk and share what's on your mind, even if it's not what others might expect from you. The response you receive from those who really matter touches your heart.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Although you feel particularly nurturing toward friends and relatives today, your actions might not support your desires. In fact, you could come across as cool and detached rather than warm and fuzzy. However, your affection isn't necessarily expressed by sheltering others from the world. Instead, you prefer to encourage people to engage the potential of life as an exhilarating adventure. Don't just push those you love out of the nest; explaining your intentions helps them understand how much you care.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You could be surprised at how much positive feedback you receive at work today. It's not that you don't deserve the accolades; it's just that they are unexpected. However, your need for recognition may be insatiable because of insecurities from the past that you carry into the present situation. Don't let your self-esteem depend on what others say. Instead, measure your worth by the quality of your work. As Eleanor Roosevelt said, "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Although you are highly motivated to achieve extraordinary results at work today, your follow-through may be sorely lacking. Part of the problem is finding a healthy balance between seeking personal pleasure and pursuing success in your chosen profession. Unfortunately, you can't do it all. There aren't enough hours in the day; something has to give. Since emotional satisfaction is transitory now, it's wise to concentrate on building your career. Computer scientist Alan Kay said, "The best way to predict the future is to create it."



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Relationship dynamics can be a conundrum today because you long for security while simultaneously needing your independence. Happily, it's possible to have the best of both worlds. But you might be better off following the course of least resistance until there's a solid foundation in place. Starting a conversation from an emotionally neutral position minimizes the likelihood of conflict. Talking about your desires objectively enables others to do the same. Establishing common ground is the first step toward harmony.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

90's Songs 2 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

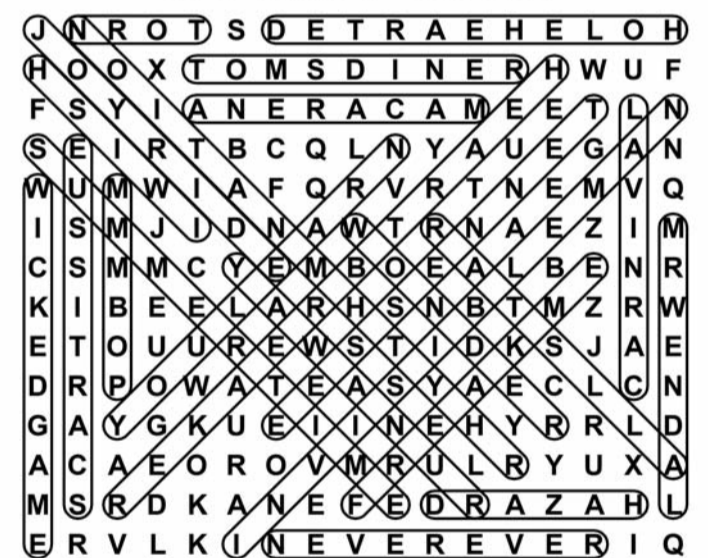


- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| ALWAYS | LITHIUM | ROOSTER |
| BLACK VELVET | LOSER | RUSH RUSH |
| COME UNDONE | MOVE THIS | SENSITIVITY |
| DO ANYTHING | MY ALL | SHOOP |
| GLYCERINE | ONLY YOU | SOMEDAY |
| HEY LOVER | PUSH | THE ONE |
| IESHA | ROAM | VOGUE |
| JUMP | ROMANTIC | |

Yesterday's Solution

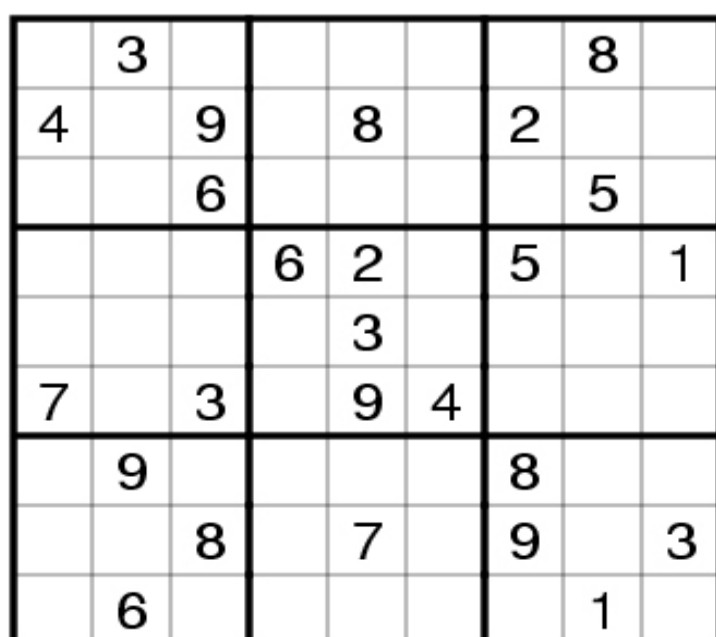
Large Print Word Search Puzzles

90's Songs 1 - Solution



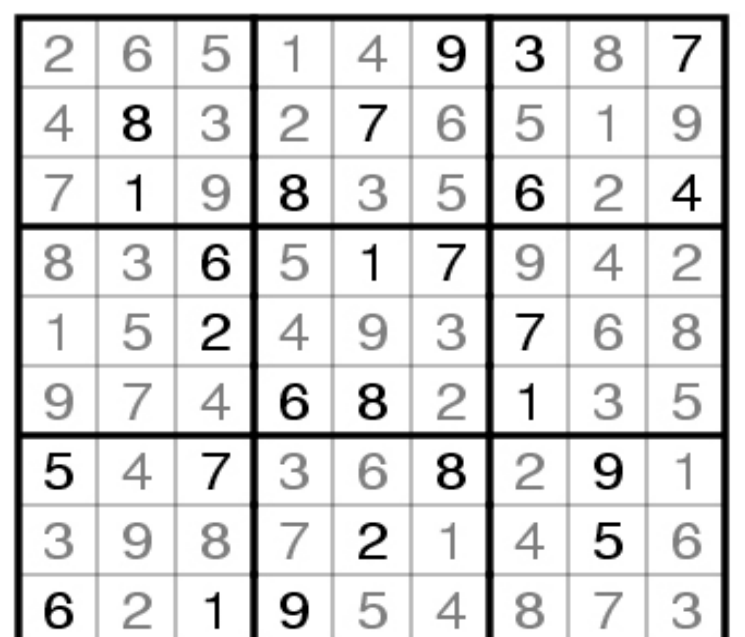
- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| ALL STAR | JOYRIDE | SUMMERTIME |
| CARNIVAL | MACARENA | TENNESSEE |
| FREAK ME | MMMBOP | TOM'S DINER |
| HAZARD | MR. WENDAL | TORN |
| HEARTBREAKER | NEVER EVER | WICKED GAME |
| HOLE HEARTED | RHYTHM NATION | WONDER |
| I WISH | RUN AWAY | YOU LEARN |
| INVISIBLE MAN | SCAR TISSUE | |

Daily SuDoku



hard

Yesterday's Solution



medium



Fingal's Cave, Scotland



Fingal's Cave is a sea cave on the uninhabited island of Staffa, in the Inner Hebrides of Scotland, known for its natural acoustics. The National Trust for Scotland owns the cave as part of a National Nature Reserve. It became known as Fingal's Cave after the eponymous hero of an epic poem by 18th-century Scots poet-historian James Macpherson.

Formation

Fingal's Cave is formed entirely from hexagonally jointed basalt columns within a Paleocene lava flow, similar in structure to the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland and those of nearby Ulva. In all these cases, cooling on the upper and lower surfaces of the solidified lava resulted in contraction and fracturing, starting in a blocky tetragonal pattern and transitioning to a regular hexagonal fracture pattern with fractures perpendicular to the cooling surfaces. As cooling continued these cracks gradually extended toward the centre of the flow, forming the long hexagonal columns we see in the wave-eroded cross-section today. Similar hexagonal fracture patterns are found in desiccation cracks in mud where contraction is due to loss of water instead of cooling.

History

Little is known of the early history of Staffa, although the Swiss town of Stafa on Lake Zurich was named after the island by a monk from nearby Iona. Part of the Ulva estate of the Clan MacQuarrie from an early date until 1777, the cave was brought to the

attention of the English-speaking world by 18th-century naturalist Sir Joseph Banks in 1772.

It became known as Fingal's Cave after the eponymous hero of an epic poem by 18th century Scots poet-historian James Macpherson. It formed part of his Ossian cycle of poems claimed to have been based on old Scottish Gaelic poems. In Irish mythology, the hero Fingal is known as Fionn mac Cumhaill, and it is suggested that Macpherson rendered the name as Fingal (meaning "white stranger") through a misapprehension of the name which in old Gaelic would appear as Finn. The legend of the Giant's Causeway has Fionn or Finn building the causeway between Ireland and Scotland.

Sightseeing

The cave has a large arched entrance and is filled by the sea. Several sightseeing cruises organized from April to September by local companies pass the entrance to the cave. It is also possible to land elsewhere on the island (as some of these cruises permit) and walk overland to the cave, where a row of fractured columns forms a walkway just above high-water level permitting exploration on foot. From the inside, the entrance seems to frame the island of Iona across the water.

Acoustics

The cave's size and naturally arched roof, and the eerie sounds produced by the echoes of waves, give it the atmosphere of a natural cathedral. The cave's Gaelic name, An Uaimh Bhinn, means "the melodious cave."



SUDOKU

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

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

GRILLED CHEESE AND PEAR SANDWICH

KIDS RECIPE

What you need:

- * 2 slices of whole-grain bread
- * 1/2 tablespoon butter
- * 1 teaspoon of mustard
- * 1 slice of Swiss cheese
- * 1/2 pear, sliced

What to do:

1. Spread butter on one side of each bread slice. These sides will be on the outside of your sandwich.
2. Spread the other sides with mustard. They will be on the inside.
3. Place one slice of bread, butter side down, on the cool skillet.
4. Add the Swiss cheese.
5. Add the sliced pears on top of the cheese.
6. Top with the other bread slice, mustard-side down.
7. Heat the skillet on low to medium heat.
8. Cook, flipping once, until the edges are golden and the cheese is melted.



DID YOU KNOW?



Frogs are fascinating animals that feature unique behaviors and characteristics.

- A frog is an amphibian. They lay their eggs in water. The eggs hatch into a tadpole which lives in water until it metamorphoses into an adult frog.
- Tadpoles look more like fish than frogs, they have long finned tails and breathe through gills.
- An amphibian can live both on land and in water.
- Although frogs live on land their habitat must be near swamps, ponds or in a damp place. This is because they will die if their skin dries out.
- Instead of drinking water, frogs soak it into their body through their skin.
- Frogs breathe through their nostrils while also absorbing about half the air they need through their skin.
- Frogs use their sticky, muscular tongue to catch and swallow food. Unlike humans, their tongue is not attached to the back of its mouth. Instead it is attached to the front, enabling the frog to stick its tongue out much further.
- The common pond frog is ready to breed when it is only three years old.
- Frogs in the wild face many dangers and are lucky to survive several years. In captivity however, frogs can live for much longer.
- Frogs can see forwards, sideways and upwards all at the same time. They never close their eyes, even when they sleep.

JOKES

Q: What time does a duck wake up?

A: At the quack of dawn!

Q: What do ducks get after they eat?

A: A bill!

Q: What do you call a crate full of ducks?

A: A box of quackers!

Q: Who stole the soap?

A: The robber ducky!

Q: What do you get if you cross fireworks with a duck?

A: A firequacker!

Q: What has fangs and webbed feet?

A: Count Duckula

Q: What was the goal of the detective duck?

A: To quack the case

Q: Why was the duck put into the basketball game?

A: To make a fowl shot!

Q: What did the duck do after he read all these jokes?

A: He quacked up!



Ghostly finger puppets

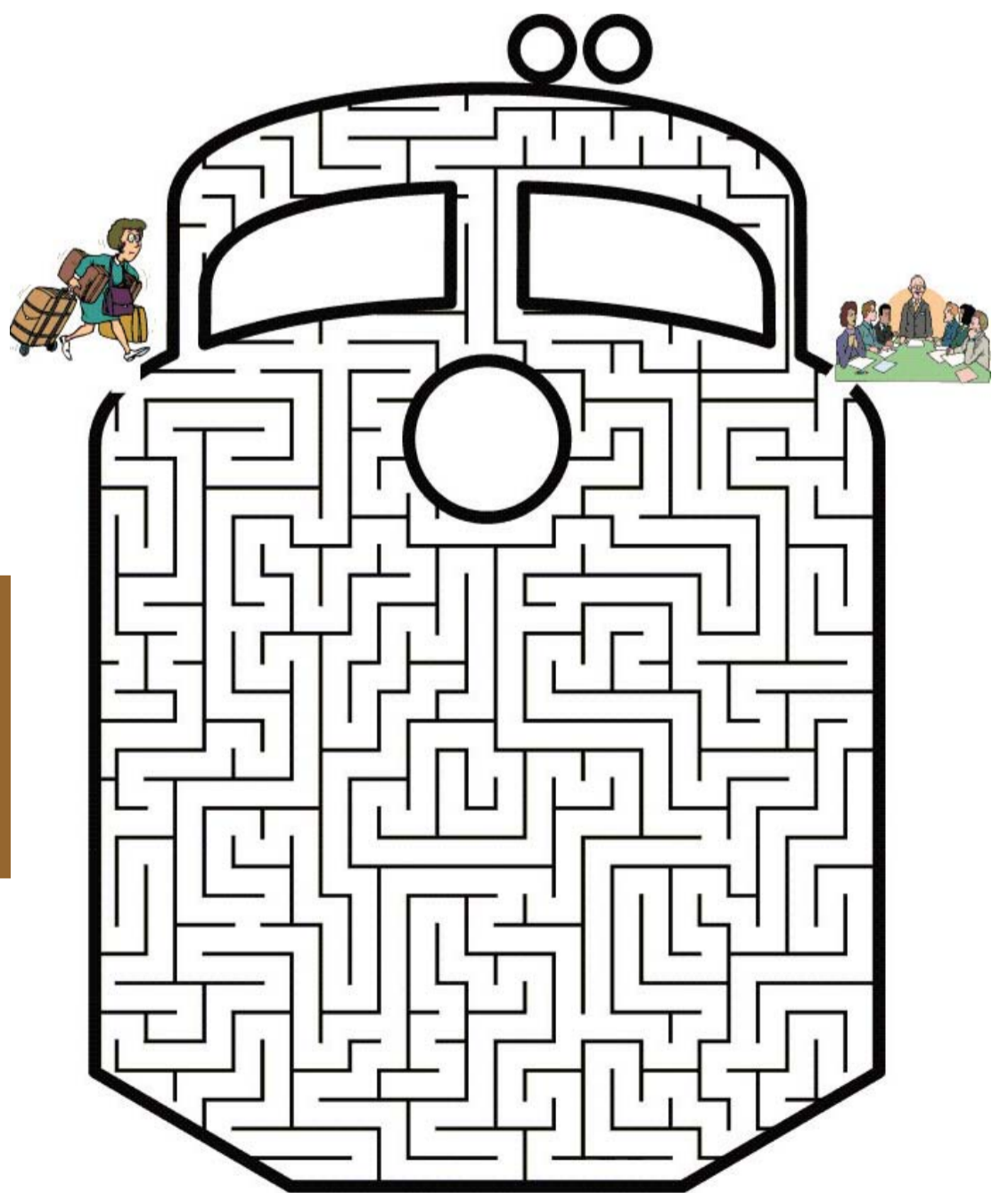
What you need:

- craft paddle pop sticks
- 2 x googly eyes per finger puppet
- white felt for ghost bodies PLUS colored felt for decorating
- pipe cleaners
- scraps of wool
- white craft glue
- scissors

Activity:

Cut out simple ghost bodies from the white felt and glue them to the craft sticks. Leave half of the stick poking out the bottom - this is where you'll hold your finished finger puppets. Use your imagination to decorate your puppets with bow ties, eye brows, buttons and hair bows. Use glue to secure them to your ghost. Allow everything to lay flat to dry, then your ghostly finger puppets will be ready to play!

MAZE





'Saq Al Bambo' and 'Been Galbin': Episodes 4, 5 and 6

By Nawara Fattahova

Kuwait Times is publishing daily recaps of two Kuwaiti soap operas airing on Al Rai TV and MBC Drama. Here are the recaps of the 4th, 5th and 6th episodes:

'Saq Al Bambo' (Bamboo Stalk)

Ghasan tells Hind that Eisa has arrived in Kuwait, and she tries to convince her mother Ghanima to meet Eisa. Ghasan and Eisa meet Hind at the mall, and while sitting in a restaurant, the son of Nooriya, Eisa's aunt, sees them and sits with them, before Ghasan takes him shopping. His name is also Eisa, after their grandfather. He tells Ghanima he saw Hind with a Filipino guy, and she finds out he's Eisa, the son of Rashid. Hind asks her mother to meet him, but she refuses.

Josephine tells her son Eisa all the stories of

the house and even about Rashid's friends, as she wanted him to come back to his father's homeland. Ghanima's friend finds a potential husband for Hind, and Hind agrees to see this man under one condition - if Ghanima meets Eisa, so she agrees. Ghasan takes Eisa to Ghanima's house and lets him wait in the car outside. Ghanima tells Ghasan she changed her mind and will not meet him. The neighbor sees Eisa looking out the window, so he fights with him.

Eisa has a sister Khawla, who lives in Ghanima's house as Rashid is missing since the invasion and her mother just left him. So Hind is sure that only Khawla may convince Ghanima to see Eisa, so she sets a plan to make Ghasan meet Eisa accidentally during the national celebrations.

Khawla is shocked when they tell her that Eisa is her brother, especially since she didn't

know about this story, since he looks like a Filipino. She convinces her grandmother to meet him, and Ghasan brings him to the house. She only looks at him and refuses to let him kiss her head. Hind's sisters Awatif and Nooriya come to the house to meet Eisa.

Been Galbin (Between Two Hearts)

Aryam lets Bashar drive her home from work, and Marzouq's mother sees her, asking her who is this man and Aryam says he is her colleague. Marzouq's mother tells her husband Aryam doesn't love their son, and he warns her against interfering in this issue. Aryam tells her father that she doesn't love Marzouq as she loves somebody else, asking him to get a divorce from Marzouq as they are still married on paper, and the wedding hasn't been consummated yet. Her father refuses and warns her that he will disown her.

Aryam's father then calls Marzouq, telling him to come back quickly to Kuwait to get married with Aryam as she is sad and depressed of being far from him. He calls his brother to convince Marzouq to come back soon. Aryam tells Bashar her father refused to let her divorce, so he tells her to forget about him and continue with her life, but Aryam said she will never stop loving him. Her father goes to submit Aryam's resignation and collects her belongings from the office. Aryam's mother arrives and tries to convince the father not to force their daughter to marry Marzouq, but she doesn't succeed. Aryam then calls Bashar telling him she will love him till the end of her life.

Farida, the wife of Dana's father, leaves him, as she is not able to live with the memories and photos of his late wife, Dana's mother. Yasmin is sick and her mother-in-law finds out she is

pregnant. When she tells Yasmin she's going to be a mother, she cries. Bashar comes with Noora and convinces her it's nice to be a mother. After a few months, she delivers her baby.

A few years later...

Aryam's father suffers from cancer in the last phases and dies in hospital. Aryam has a son, and tells her husband she is not ready to have more children. She stays at her father's house for a few days and then travels alone. Bashar is married to Dana but doesn't have any children. After a few years of getting fertility treatment, the doctor finally tells her she is pregnant.

Noora gets married to Zeid. She is not happy, as her husband is rude, and is also cheating on her and talking to another woman on the phone. Yasmin has two other children, but it seems she is not excited to be a mother and is not taking care of them.

Led Zeppelin on trial over 'Stairway to Heaven' theft claim

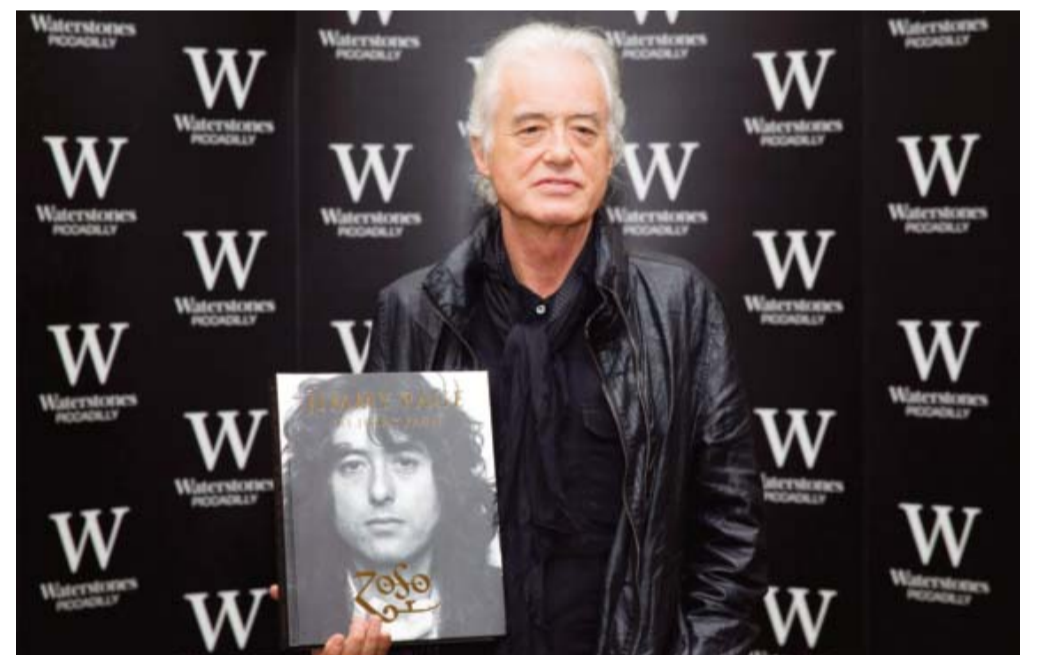
Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page and Robert Plant will appear in court on Tuesday to defend "Stairway to Heaven," one of the most recognizable songs in rock history, from accusations of plagiarism. Spirit, a psychedelic band from Los Angeles that enjoyed a niche following but never the superstardom of Zeppelin, claim the iconic melancholic guitar that opens the song was lifted from its instrumental track "Taurus." Spirit's guitarist Randy Wolfe—who went by the nickname Randy California never took legal action and died in 1997, but a lawsuit was filed by his trustee Michael Skidmore.

"Well, if you listen to the two songs, you can make your own judgment. It's an exact... I'd say it was a rip-off," California said in a magazine interview just before his death, quoted in the lawsuit. "And the guys made millions of bucks on it and never said 'Thank you,' never said, 'Can we pay you some money for it?' It's kind of a sore point with me." After two years of legal proceedings, a judge stopped short of agreeing that the song was copied but said there was enough of a case for a jury trial in Los Angeles.

Spirit's representative "failed to proffer evidence of striking similarity, but he has successfully created a triable issue of fact as to access and substantial similarity," US District Court Judge Gary Klausner said in a ruling in May. The judge said the two sides had "vehemently contested" the question of whether Led Zeppelin had access to 1967's "Taurus" before recording "Stairway to Heaven" in London in December 1970 and January 1971. Led Zeppelin was the opening act for Spirit when the hard British rockers Plant, Page, John Paul Jones and the since deceased John Bonham made their US debut on December 26, 1968 in Denver. But surviving members of Led Zeppelin submitted testimony to the court that they never had substantive interaction with Spirit or listened to the band's music.

'Rock's greatest song'

Once thought unlikely to appear, guitarist Page and singer Plant have already sat for filmed depositions and are expected to attend the opening of the trial in Los Angeles on Tuesday. Opening statements are expected to be heard



File photo shows British musician Jimmy Page poses for pictures before signing his new book entitled 'Jimmy Page by Jimmy Page' at a Waterstones book shop in central London.—AFP

after the jury is sworn in. Led Zeppelin argued that the opening of "Stairway to Heaven"—a descending sequence mostly in A-minor—had been used in music for centuries and that the lawsuit ignored the rest of the song, which builds over eight minutes.

The judge disagreed, writing that the two songs had additional similarities including the bass line. Skidmore has not specified the total in damages he is seeking but various stories in the music press have posited a possible settlement at anywhere between a symbolic \$1 plus a writing credit to as much as \$40 million. The lawsuit, originally filed in Pennsylvania, says Led Zeppelin have "a deep-rooted history of lifting composition from blues artists and other songwriters who they have repeatedly failed to credit."

It lists disputes over 16 other Led Zeppelin songs, many of which were settled by giving the complainant a songwriting credit and royalties,

including classics "Whole Lotta Love" and "Babe I'm Gonna Leave You." Randy California deserves writing credit for "Stairway to Heaven" and to take his place as an author of rock's greatest song," the lawsuit asserts. The case comes amid a rise in such copyright hearings, with the family of Marvin Gaye last year controversially winning more than \$7 million from a jury over the song "Blurred Lines" by Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams. The judge rejected Led Zeppelin's argument that it was too late to file a lawsuit, pointing out that the band released a remastered version of "Stairway to Heaven" in 2014. But he said Skidmore would be entitled only to half of any amount in damages as California had signed a contract giving 50 percent of royalties to his music publisher.—AFP



Shawn Colvin and Steve Earle pose for a portrait in New York.—AP

Perfect harmony: Earle, Colvin handle duets album

The idea that they would someday record a duets album seemed inconceivable to Shawn Colvin and Steve Earle when they met in 1987, sharing a bill at a club in western Massachusetts. Each burned with ambition, consumed with establishing themselves. Besides, "I was more neurotic back then," Colvin said. "And I shot dope and smoked crack," Earle recalled.

All righty, then. Grammy Awards and fame for "Sunny Came Home" were in Colvin's future. Prison time and a spectacular creative resurgence were ahead for Earle. They followed each other's work, though, and when Colvin suggested a tour performing together a few years back, Earle happily signed up. Each liked the experience so much they recorded a duets album, "Colvin & Earle," with veteran musician and producer Buddy Miller. They wrote six new songs together, and each chose two covers. With the exception of a couple of verses on one song, their voices intertwine on every line. The disc is out Friday, and Colvin and Earle talked The Associated Press about the experience. This interview has been edited for brevity.

AP: How is working in a duet rewarding in ways that you don't get in your solo careers?

Earle: The audience gets two or three acts at the same time, you don't have to work quite as hard, you get to split the expenses. It's a cool thing. And it's fun. What we discovered is that we sing really well together and that's why the record got made. That was my idea. When I heard us singing together, I wanted to write songs for that group.

AP: What did you learn about the other's work that you didn't know before?

Colvin: I knew his work pretty well. I learned his writing process. I got a window into that because we co-wrote. I learned that he's quick and that he trusts himself very much, which isn't surprising. There isn't a lot of laboring over this participate or that.

Earle: Especially now with the Internet. I get on the phone and if I need a research item, I can get it. I try to get 'em written. There are other songs to write and other deadlines. That's my

attitude.

AP: Did your songwriting methods mesh?

Colvin: We liked what each other did. There's a kind of a short-hand, I guess, for several reasons. I'd throw something out and I'm just a little more chicken and I'd be afraid that he wouldn't like it. He nearly always did.

Earle: That's the thing about songwriting that intimidates people, even me. It's doing a very intimate thing in front of someone you don't know when you co-write for the first time. I always feel like I write fast and I'm leaving people in the dust - writing more of the song and getting less money, basically. But it didn't work out that way with this.

AP: What's your favorite song that the other has written?

Colvin: It changes. I recorded "Someday" many years ago.

Earle: And we do that together, that's a connection we have.

Colvin: But since then, he has a song called "Burnin' it Down" that we nearly always do together.

Earle: My favorite song of hers is ... "That Don't Worry Me Now." It's gorgeous in harmony. I found out I could do things as a harmony singer that I didn't know I could do from doing that song.

AP: The first single, "You're Right (I'm Wrong)," is pretty dark. Where did that come from?

Colvin: There was a moment where I had this line, "maybe the truth is neither one of us loved each other at all," and he goes, "maybe the truth is that neither one of us ever loved anybody at all." I was like, yeah!

Earle: My therapist says that I constantly involve myself with women that I couldn't possibly succeed in a relationship with because I really want to be alone, and I'm starting to believe her.

AP: Do you see this as the first of several duet records?

Earle: Absolutely.

Colvin: I don't see why it couldn't be.—AP

Goldblum doesn't like to be attached to something

Jeff Goldblum hates the idea of being emotionally attached to something. The 63-year-old actor, who stars in "Independence Day: Resurgence," has lived in the same house in Los Angeles for the last 28 years of his life, but has revealed he wouldn't miss anything about the property even if it were to burn down. The Hollywood star - who has an 11-month-old son called Charlie - explained: "I used to have a recurring dream where there's an aspect of a house that I've left undiscovered, with a witches' coven on the other side of the door. The thing I like about nesting and Charlie is that more of the house, my life and my person is getting used." "But if the house burned down, I wouldn't miss anything. I'm like one of these yogis who wanders the Earth with a diaper and a loin cloth, a bowl and a spoon.

I like not to be attached to anything." On the flip side, Jeff remains very attached to his chosen profession, revealing that during his youth, he even wrote the words "please God make me an actor" on the shower door every day. Jeff said he had been drawn to the idea of becoming an actor ever since his parents took him to the theatre at the age of nine. He told the Observer newspaper: "There was something in me that was just intrigued. I remember thinking, 'Who are they?' 'Where do they come from? What are they doing? What goes on backstage?'" —Bang Showbiz



Jeff Goldblum

Singers vie to play Shkreli, America's 'most hated man,' in musical

Fourteen fame-hungry young men tried to out-smug each other at a small studio in Manhattan's Theater District on Saturday to prove they could play America's most hated man in a new musical comedy about pilloried former drug executive Martin Shkreli. The hour-long production, titled "Martin Shkreli's Game: How Bill Murray Joined the Wu-Tang Clan," is based on Shkreli's controversial \$2 million purchase last year of the sole copy of the hip-hop group's latest album.

Set to open in July, it is a fictionalized account of comedian Bill Murray joining forces with the rappers to steal the album back. Shkreli, the 33-year-old former chief of Turing Pharmaceuticals, sparked outrage last year and earned the title of the country's most-hated man on the internet when he raised the price of the life-saving anti-parasitic infection drug Daraprim by more than 5,000 percent.

In December, US authorities arrested him on fraud charges unrelated to Daraprim, saying he ran his investment funds and companies almost like a Ponzi scheme. "We thought, 'What kind of world is this where Martin Shkreli and Wu-Tang are thrown together?'" said the show's co-producer and lyricist Lauren Gundrum. "It seemed like such a ridiculous thing," added Joel Esher, fellow producer and composer of the play. "Truth is crazier than fiction sometimes and we said, 'That might be a great thing to turn into a musical!'"

So did the 14 hopefuls who came to Ripley-Grier Studios on Saturday afternoon prepared to audition for the lead roles of Shkreli and Murray. A casting call for the character of Shkreli described him as "a pharmaceutical executive; extremely wealthy and likes to flaunt it; enjoys screwing people over; outwardly on a quest for power, inwardly insecure and immature." —Reuters



Costumed artists perform with fire during International Kiev Fire Fest show in Kiev yesterday. Teams from Greece, Belarus, Lithuania, Slovakia, USA, Czech Republic, Scotland and Ukraine, take part with their fire-shows in the two-day "Kiev Fire Fest" in Kiev. —AFP photos

'Kiev Fire Fest'



In this photo provided by Decor Aid, co-founder and designer Sean Juneja used home design blogs and other online resources to help design a bright, yet rustic living room with industrial accents in a home in Greenwich, Conn.—AP photos



In this photo provided by Decor Aid, co-founder and designer Sean Juneja used home design blogs and other online resources to help design a clutter-free, serene retreat from the bright lights and busy streets of New York City in a high-rise apartment on the Upper East Side.

Digital decor: Harnessing the riches of online design sites

There's Houzz. Remodelista. Home design Twitter feeds. Tumblr accounts. And of course, the granddaddy of all online decor depositories - Pinterest. It's easy to get overwhelmed by online resources when remodeling or redecorating. Where should you start? For homeowner Sarah Schuster Canahuati, creating an "ideabook" on Houzz was the perfect way to mesh her rustic, farmhouse style with her husband's more modern tastes when they began renovating their Los Gatos, California, home recently.

"It was a very helpful way to give our architect and designer very clear ideas of what we wanted in our remodel, from paint colors to appliances to overall style," she says. Home design experts and contractors echo those thoughts, and offer the following tips on how to harness the bounty of the Internet for your next project:

Get organized

First, figure out the scope of your project and your goals. Redoing your kitchen, for example, is a lot different and more involved than finding a few natural accents for your living room mantle. Are you going to do the

work yourself? How-to blogs and sites like All Things Thrifty, DIY Network and This Old House are your new BFFs. Looking more for ideas to pass on to a contractor or designer? Head over to Houzz or Pinterest. Don't overlook retailers though. Paint company websites are an underutilized home-design resource, says New York designer Karen Gray Plaisted.

"Many times, clients have problems with colors," she says. "Benjamin Moore, Sherwin Williams and PPG Paints all have fantastic interactive sites to allow them to 'try' a color out, or find a palette virtually first. It also helps me as a decorator to then narrow down the array of colors to find the right one for them." Annalisa Nash Fernandez, a Connecticut business owner and self-described "serial mover," started a Facebook group with friends who are also into decorating. "I post all my design quandaries there, and get instant feedback," she says.

Find your style

Figure out what you love. Are you a boho-chic kind of girl or do you gravitate more toward the clean, traditional lines of craftsman-style homes? "To use home-design

websites to find your own style, I'd advise you to pin or bookmark photos of every single room you love," says Amy Bell, owner of Red Chair Home Interiors in Cary, North Carolina. "The more rooms you save, the larger your 'data sample' will be. Once you have collected many images, take a step back and look for common themes that the images share."

Are there recurring colors or color combinations? Are you drawn to dramatic contrasts, like white cabinets paired with dark floors? Are the rooms sparsely or heavily furnished and accessorized? What do you notice about architectural elements like windows, doors, fireplaces and ceiling height? "Having a theme and palette in mind really helps narrow down the infinite options on design sites and blogs," says Patricia Leitao, marketing manager and blogger for the Boston-based site homeyou, which matches homeowners with area contractors.

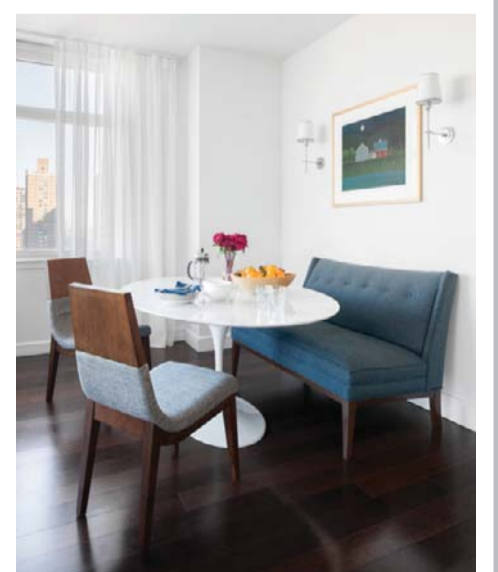
Create a project page or board

"Collection" sites like Houzz and Pinterest allow users to create an unlimited number of boards or "ideabooks." Go big and create one board for your entire project, or go smaller

with more specific boards like "paint colors," "accessories"/"furniture," etc. As a way to keep track of ideas, these are easier and more visual than a list of bookmarks or a scrapbook of pages ripped from books and magazines. They're also a great resource if you decide to hire a contractor or home designer. "We love going through our clients' inspiration boards on content-rich sites. It gives us an immediate look into their personal style and preferences, and we can help them narrow down exactly what will fit into their space and budget," says Margo Nathanson, a designer with San Francisco-based InteriorCrowd.

Design it yourself

If you're looking for the ultimate in control, IKEA, Lowe's and smaller sites like Roomstyler let you design your own rooms from scratch with a virtual planner. Type in your room's dimensions, then drag and drop furnishings, windows and other elements where you want. Try an unlimited variety of cabinet and countertop combinations when remodeling your kitchen. Or see what your living room would look like with wooden floors. Then tile. Maybe concrete. Don't like it? Simply press delete.—AP



In this photo provided by Decor Aid, co-founder and designer Sean Juneja used home design blogs and other online resources to help design a light and airy breakfast nook in an apartment on New York's Upper East Side.



In this May 2, 2016 file photo, Carnival's Fathom cruise line ship Adonia arrives from Miami in Havana, Cuba. — AP photos

Growing pains for Fathom cruises to Cuba, Dominican Republic

Carnival's new Fathom brand cruises to Cuba and the Dominican Republic, launched in May, appear to be experiencing growing pains. Both offerings are different than anything else in the industry: The Cuba trips are the first US cruises to the island nation in 40 years, and initially generated tremendous excitement. But travelers are giving them mixed reviews, complaining of confusion over how the tours are organized.

The cruises to the Dominican Republic, meanwhile, which invite passengers to volunteer on projects like reforestation and teaching English, are proving to be a hard sell and have been steeply discounted, with the initial \$1,540 ticket price cut to as low as \$249. "People don't know why they would want to go and pay to work somewhere," said travel agent Gloria Hanson. "People want a vacation."

Over 700 passengers

Hanson sailed Fathom's other itinerary to Havana in May and said that while it was a fascinating experience, that trip was different from standard cruises too. "This cruise is not for everybody," she said. "It's a tiring cruise. You're walking, walking, walking. You're not coming back to the ship to have drinks and party. It's not that kind of a cruise." Even Fathom's ship, Adonia, is different from the glitzy megaships that have become standard in the US cruise industry. Adonia is smaller than many ships, carrying just over 700 passengers. It also has no casino and doesn't offer the comedy clubs and Broadway-style productions that cruise passengers have come to expect.

Tara Russell, who heads the Fathom brand

and has been on several of the cruises, says she's not worried. "We are pioneering two products the world has never seen," said Russell in an interview. She said bookings have increased daily, many passengers have booked second trips, and the company is expanding marketing efforts, especially for the volunteerism trips, by reaching out to faith-based and alumni groups. But travel agents say Fathom's reception has been lukewarm. "Fathom seems to be having a slow start and the agent members of CruiseCompete are not 100 percent certain the ship will ever sell out," said Heidi Allison-Shane, editor-at-large for CruiseCompete.com.

Historic sites

She said CruiseCompete has had a number of requests for information about Fathom, "but very few bookings." Hanson said passengers to Cuba were confused about how the tours are organized. Many signed up for excursions organized by the ship, not realizing they could have created their own itineraries without violating US rules that limit Americans visiting Cuba to certain types of activities like cultural exchanges. "I was under the impression you had to do everything with the cruise line," Hanson said. "That part was very confusing." In addition, Fathom randomly assigned passengers to visit museums, historic sites or performance venues without giving them a choice. And while Hanson raved about a meal she had in an excellent private restaurant in Cuba, other passengers had mediocre food in state-run eateries. The Cuba cruise Hanson took also lacked "crucial talks about the ports you're going to. Every



File photo shows passengers from Carnival's Fathom cruise line ship Adonia, pose with Cuban dancers after their arrival from Miami, in Havana, Cuba.

cruise I've ever gone on always had a seminar talking about tomorrow's port and the things to do." Hanson said that type of information is especially important for Cuba because Americans have been cut off from the country for so long. Russell said Fathom has already tweaked some programs with additional changes coming to give passengers more information, flexibility and customization in tour options. Some tour guides are also being given

more training to upgrade their skills.

Russell added that because US policies on Cuba "are changing every day," the company had a hard time adjusting programs to keep pace. "It would be crazy to think that everything would have gone perfectly. We were negotiating policy last minute," she said. Sharon Kenny, a writer for Porthole Cruise Magazine, took Fathom to Cuba and the Dominican Republic and said both experiences

were worthwhile. But she said travelers need to understand that this is "not the traditional cruise in that you're not going to be drinking hard, you're not going to be in a bathing suit."

Different idea

Kenny recalled crowds in Havana greeting them with shouts and high-fives, and said she still gets teary remembering a woman who told her: "We're so glad you're here. We've been waiting for you so long." Kenny's experience in the Dominican Republic was also meaningful. "I have volunteered on other worthy causes before, but I'm often left wondering if what I did really mattered," she said. But she was certain that the work her Fathom group did - replacing a dirt floor in a family's home with concrete - made an impact. Others who volunteered with Fathom in the Dominican Republic agreed, speaking glowingly of their experiences planting trees, teaching English and sorting cocoa beans in a chocolate factory.

Colleen McDaniel, managing editor of CruiseCritic.com, was on the first sailing to the Dominican Republic and said "it's a radically different idea." "They've launched a brand new product nobody's ever attempted before," she said. "They are still fine-tuning and doing some tweaking and they'll be the first to tell you that. They're very open to feedback. After every excursion you are given a survey to give your immediate feedback, what did you think of this and how would you make improvements. They're really listening and trying to make changes." Russell acknowledged that "Fathom is not for everyone." But she added: "We're very pleased with the progress we're making." — AP



In this 2012 photo released by the National Park Service is a Pearl Harbor bungalow that was demolished in Honolulu. — AP

Park Service tears down historic Navy home at Pearl Harbor

The National Park Service said Thursday it demolished a historic home at Pearl Harbor without consulting historic preservation authorities as required. A contractor hired by the park service tore down the home as part of a project to preserve and restore six bungalows the Navy built in the 1920s and '30s. A building similar style to the original now stands in its place. Jacqueline Ashwell, superintendent of the national park that includes Pearl Harbor historic sites, said in an interview the park service failed to provide appropriate oversight.

She said work on the other bungalows has been put on hold while a team reviews why the demolition occurred and recommends actions so it doesn't happen again. "I want us to learn from this and I want make sure that we do the right thing for the remaining five bungalows," Ashwell said. The Navy built the single-story wooden homes as housing for chief petty officers. They were used as residences until the 1990s.

The homes are close to the shore on Ford Island, where many of the battleships bombed by Japanese planes on Dec 7, 1941, were moored. Some of the bungalows sustained minor damage from smoke and

fire during the attack. An environmental assessment conducted for the project in 2012 called the homes unique examples of historic Navy housing in Hawaii.

The report said all six bungalows were in poor condition. It called for the work on the homes to "retain as much historic fabric through rehabilitation as possible." The homes are expected to be used by visitors and for office and storage space. The building that was torn down was built in 1923.

Ashwell assumed leadership of Pearl Harbor's historic sites in October after serving as superintendent of national parks in the Seattle area. She said she knew the renovation work was occurring but didn't know until last month that it was done without proper consultation.

An archaeologist by training, Ashwell said she takes the park service's role as stewards of historic resources seriously. She said the agency failed to consult the State Historic Preservation Division, Advisory Council for Historic Preservation and others to the extent it was supposed to before work started. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is another stakeholder that should have been consulted, she said. — AP



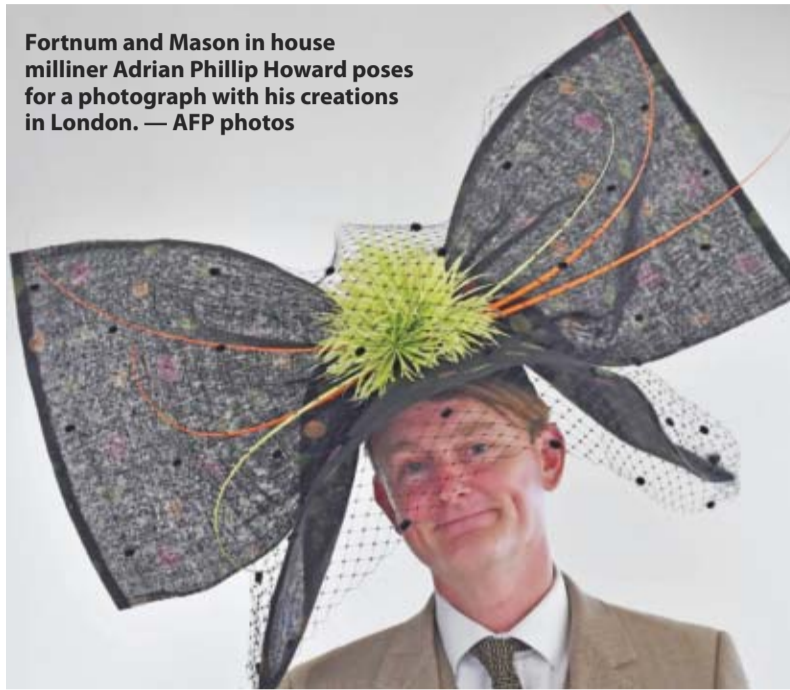
Festival of Colors in Moscow



Youth people throw powdered paint during the Festival of Colors in Moscow, Russia, yesterday. The festival, which is mainly celebrated during the Hindu spring festival Holi in some regions of India and Nepal, has become popular among people in other communities. — AP photos



British hat maker turns heads with 'outrageous' creations



Fortnum and Mason in house milliner Adrian Phillip Howard poses for a photograph with his creations in London. — AFP photos



From racing at Royal Ascot to high society weddings, summer is the busiest time of year for British hat maker Adrian Phillip Hoard, who says he revels in the "outrageous and outlandish". Howard is the in-house milliner at distinguished London department store Fortnum and Mason, where on the second floor only the hum of his sewing machine interrupts the atmosphere of genteel calm. Smartly dressed in a light suit and with hair swept to one side, the forty-something hat maker, who has previously worked with members of Britain's royal family, is full of passion for a job which started as a hobby.

"The summer is the busiest season—the racing season, Ascot, the Derby, all those things," he tells AFP in an interview. "Ascot's fun is my favorite time because the hats are a little bit more outrageous and outlandish. 'A lady may come in and she has a dress with perhaps six or seven colors and she would say: 'Can you incorporate more into the hat?' and for me, that's like a dream."

His clients' husbands, however, are sometimes less keen. "One gentleman came in to me that I hadn't met before and he said: 'All my golf clubs have had to be moved of my room to accommodate your hats.' He said 'you're not my favorite person' because his wife had so many," Howard adds. One recent creation which the milliner shows off features a huge black tulle bow, which he hopes to sell before Ascot. One of the highlights of the horse racing calendar which is known for its flamboyant parade of hats, the five-day event west of London starts on Tuesday.



'A hat for everybody'

Howard spends most of his time at a workshop in his garden in East Sussex, in southern England. But he travels to the British capital twice a week to carry out fittings and meet clients at Fortnum and Mason, where he has worked since 2009. "I'm the first in-house milliner here since 1958 so it's a great honor. It's my favorite shop, too—I'm a lucky boy," he says. He says his clients come "from all walks of life". "It might be a wedding or something where hats are required, which is happening more and more in Britain, thankfully," he explains.

"Brides are now saying hats are compulsory, which is great for us milliners." Taking inspiration from the classic Hollywood glamour of stars like Audrey Hepburn, his hats take from



one day to two weeks to create and do not come cheap. Prices start at £300 (380 euros, \$430) but can be significantly more expensive depending on what kind of extras the client wants. "The sky's the limit, depending on what



Fortnum and Mason in house milliner Adrian Phillip Howard at work on his sewing machine in London.

detail goes into them and what they're embellished with," Howard says. "Some ladies might have fine jewels they want on their hats."

Although some women insist that hats do not suit them, Howard believes this is not the case—it is simply a question of finding the right style. "I think there is a hat for everybody," he says. "There are a few ground rules regarding

ladies' face shapes. For instance, if a lady has quite a long face, it's normally advisable for her not to wear a tall, thin hat because it just accentuates the fact." He adds: "Short ladies generally steer clear of large, downturned brims because, as my millinery teacher used to say to me, it makes them look like mushrooms." — AFP



India Fashion Week



Indian models showcase creations by designer Pernia Qureshi during a fashion show in Mumbai. — AFP photos



Lifestyle

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2016

British hat maker turns heads with 'outrageous' creations



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A Bahraini vendor poses for the picture in his lantern shop at the old Manama market in the Bahrain capital city of Manama, late on June 10, 2016 during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.—AFP

Tug-of-war draws rival Estonian islands closer



Residents on Estonia's two biggest islands took their age old rivalry to a whole new level this weekend by staging their first tug-of-war using a 10-kilometre (6.2-mile) long rope across the part of the Baltic sea which separates them. For centuries, the islanders of Hiiumaa and Saaremaa, off Estonia's west coast, have revelled in poking fun at each other. But on Saturday night, they decided to finally let bygones be bygones and pull the islands closer together—at least symbolically.

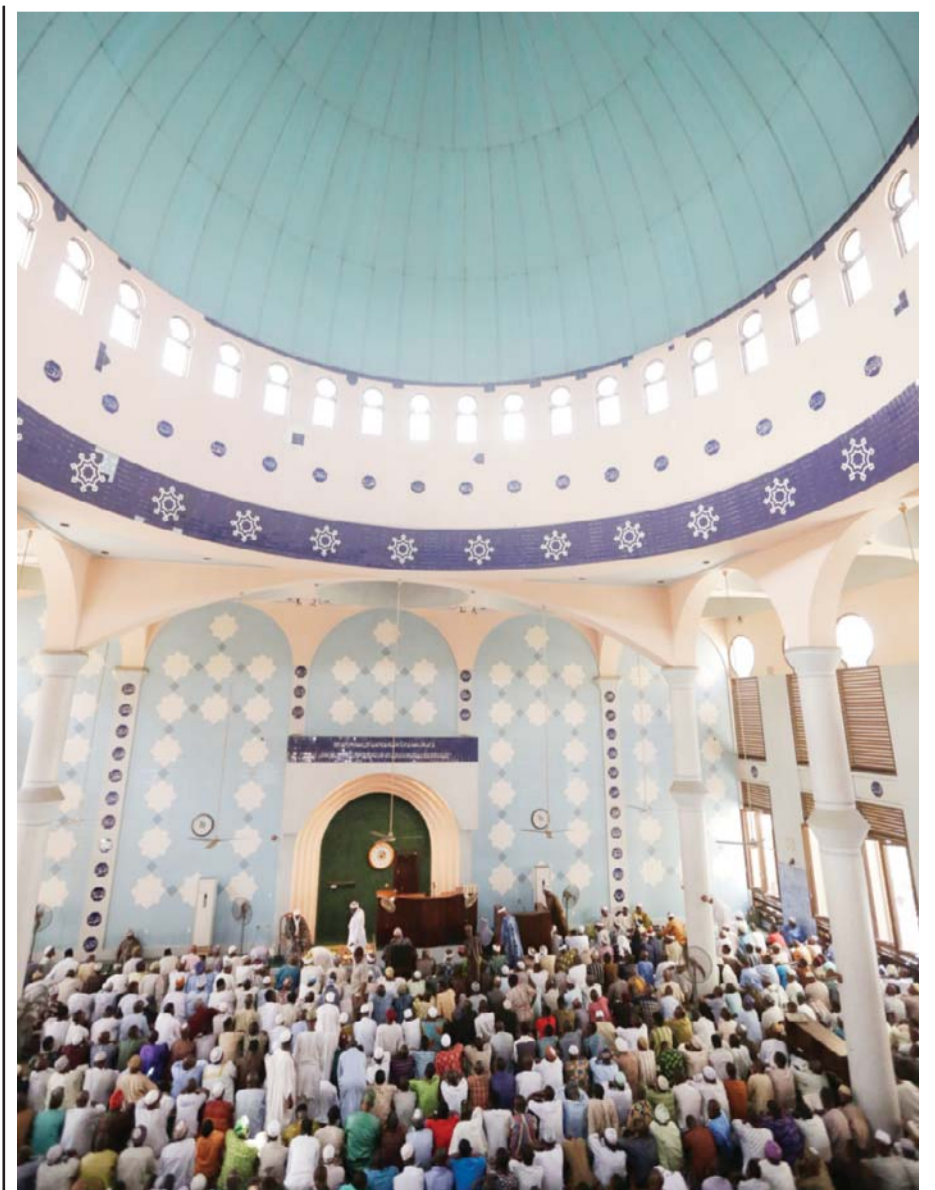
Over 500 people grabbed the rope at Hiiumaa's Soru marina, while over 600 competitors pulled its other end at the Soela marina on Saaremaa, an AFP photographer saw. It took just 10 minutes for the rope to break, forcing referees from the "neutral" smaller island of Vormsi to declare a tie. This prompted both Hiiumaa and Saaremaa islanders to declare victory. Helja Kaptein, who helped to pull from the Hiiumaa side, told AFP: "You can never really trust these Saaremaa people."

Tanel Lips, the Organisers on Hiiumaa, which at just under 1,000 square kilometers (620 square miles) is the smaller of the two islands and home to around 8000 people, said the idea for the mammoth tug-of-war emerged last year, mainly to promote both islands as tourist destinations. Lips told AFP that the 10 kilometer-long rope was ordered from neighboring Latvia and held in place thanks to a string of buoys between the two islands. "Hiiumaa people always pull together when really needed, so we won in any case," he told AFP.

Villi Pihl, who organized the event on the larger Saaremaa—triple the size of Hiiumaa—said that it was also meant to focus attention on safety at sea in a humorous way. "Hiiumaa people have just one thing better than us—they have better neighbours," Pihl joked. Helja Kaptein said the event triggered several wild ideas for future competitions, including an attempt to bail-out the strait between the two islands using buckets. However, after a late night of revelry on both islands, the consensus appears to be to simply order a stronger rope for the next tug-of-war.—AFP



People take part in a tug-of-war between the Estonian islands Hiiumaa and Saaremaa at the port of Soela (on Saaremaa island), Estonia.—AFP photos



Nigerian Muslims offer prayers on the first Friday of Ramadan at the central Mosque in Lagos, Nigeria. Muslims throughout the world are marking the holy month of Ramadan, during which observants fast from dawn till dusk.—AP