

Khair Al-Kuwait honors Kutayba Alghanim



Orlando gunman was 'radicalized'; FBI hunts for info



Green-less Warriors ousted by the resurgent Cavaliers



Bahrain suspends main Shiite party amid crackdown

Ramadan Timings

Emsak:	03:03
Fajer:	03:13
Shrooq:	04:49
Dohr:	11:48
Asr:	15:22
Maghreb:	18:49
Eshaa:	20:21

150 FILES
NO: 16905
40 PAGES

AMIR VISITS IMAM AL-SADEQ MOSQUE, PERFORMS PRAYERS

'OUR NATIONAL UNITY IS THE IMPREGNABLE FENCE'

Min 30°
Max 44°
High Tide 08:12 & 20:35
Low Tide 13:31 & 14:52

conspiracy theories

SLIPPERS & DEMOCRACY

By Badrya Darwish
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Watching the ugly scenes which took place in the parliament on Monday was really shocking for the nation. It's not the first time, of course, that such rough disputes take place in Majlis Al Umma and for sure it won't be the last. It happens nearly all over the world. We see clashes and lawmakers get overexcited and behave in undemocratic manners in many countries. The irony is that this takes place in the halls of democracy.

I'm not so furious that these parliamentarians lost their temper. But when I looked again this morning at the photos, I was frustrated to see joy and mocking in their eyes when they were exchanging slippers (Al Na'al). They reminded me of the hooligans in Marseille who demolished the pitch and attacked each other and even fought on the street bare-chested and with whatever tools that came to hands. Are these the kind of men that represent the nation in that parliament?

In Marseille they were hooligans, not decision makers, not lawmakers. Not the people who are supposed to stand up for the nation and represent it in the eyes of us and the world - and look after our interests and rights. I don't know if still the Kuwaiti nation - after this, will have any respect for parliament or voting or bother to go for the upcoming elections. These lawmakers don't show us this face when we go to their diwanis and campaign tents. They always talk like honorable gentlemen who are here to represent and protect us and who are sophisticated and well-mannered.

Then what happens once we vote for them as they reach their chairs in the Assembly. They forget all our problems and work for their interests. Show me one serious achievement parliament has made in the last three years in favor of the nation. I think this should be a lesson for all of us in Kuwait. When we go to elect the next parliament, we need to really scrutinize whom we are voting for. I'm sorry to write this during Ramadan because usually I avoid criticizing during the holy month.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visit the Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque in Al-Sawaber area yesterday. — Amiri Diwan (See Page 2)

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, accompanied by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah visited the Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque in Al-Sawaber area yesterday. His Highness the Amir was greeted by Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane.

His Highness toured the mosque after the completion of renovations and repairs for all the damages following the heinous terrorist attack last year. His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince then signed in the guestbook. The Amir and the Crown Prince then met families of the martyrs who were killed by the heinous incident, stressing that "our national unity is the impregnable fence to maintain security, besides the national spirit manifested by the people of Kuwait, as well as love, dedication to their homeland and loyalty to it. With God's help we would fend off all criminal and terrorist acts".

His Highness prayed to Allah Almighty to bestow His mercy on the martyrs and keep Kuwait safe always. His Highness the Crown Prince said that a year after this grave event, "we all thank Allah Almighty for the renovation of the mosque in a record time", praising the return of life to normal and to prove unity of the nation in confronting deviant thoughts and ideologies, asking Allah Almighty to keep Kuwait safe of all evil thoughts.

His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince performed the prayer in the mosque. His Highness the Amir was accompanied during the visit by His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. — KUNA

ASSEMBLY PASSES KEY PUBLIC TENDERS LAW

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The National Assembly yesterday overwhelmingly passed the new public tenders law which governs the awarding of public projects worth billions of dinars every year. The Assembly also began debating the budgets and final accounts of government departments and authorities and approved five of them. It will continue debating budgets today.

The new public tenders law, which was described as historic as the process of its amendment took almost three decades, allows for the first time foreign companies to take part in public projects without a local agent as the case has been for over a half century. The law also

reforms the process of awarding projects by allowing the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) to pick up the second lowest bid if it is technically better. CTC board has been expanded to seven members three of whom will be replaced after two years. The law also exempts oil rigs and exploration from the need for prior supervision and also exempts all military procurements from the same.

MP Saadoun Hammad protested at exempting the oil rigs and exploration saying the matter had already been rejected during the initial debate last week. MP Jamal Al-Omar said the State Audit Bureau should investigate in future Kuwait's investments in Areva, the French nuclear and renewable energy giant, which

Continued on Page 13

MISSING BOY FOUND DEAD

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti boy who had been missing for about 10 days was found dead in a metal scrap yard in Amghara. Security sources said that an unidentified male corpse was found in the area, and after conducting investigations including DNA tests, detectives found that the deceased's DNA matched that of the parents of missing Kuwaiti child Abdul Aziz Al-Azmi.



Abdul Aziz Al-Azmi

JAMES BOND-STYLE GUN FOUND IN ROYAL'S HOME

KUWAIT POLICE RAID SHEIKH ATHBI HOME

KUWAIT: The hunt for a renegade nephew of Kuwait's Amir has turned up a gun disguised as a pen in his home, adding yet another layer of mystery to a bizarre case involving two other ruling family members and others. Police officers who raided the home of Sheikh Athbi Al-Fahad Al-Sabah found the James Bond-style weapon, with what appeared to be a trigger in the pump of the pen, the Interior Ministry said Monday.

The pen, found along with a Kalashnikov rifle, a handgun and ammunition, made the front page across oil-rich Kuwait yesterday, with the prominent newspaper Al-Rai calling it an "assassination device." It's unclear why Sheikh Athbi would own such a weapon, though he once ran Kuwait's National Security Office, the nation's intelligence agency. Sheikh Athbi has been on the run

since May 30, when prosecutors say he, two other ruling family members and four other individuals were found guilty in a plot to publish anonymous Twitter posts sharing fabricated videos of judges receiving bribes. He received a five-year prison sentence, which can be appealed.

The videos appear to be tied to a larger ongoing political scandal involving faked videos suggesting high-ranking officials were planning a coup. Prosecutors imposed a gag order on the case, and ruling family members have apologized on state television. Kuwait's once-assertive parliament has largely been taken over by pro-government lawmakers since Arab Spring-inspired protests in 2011. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, 86, serves as Amir, and the monarchy controls all key government positions. — AP



KUWAIT: Photo shows some weapons and a gun disguised as a pen found in the home of Sheikh Athbi Al-Fahad Al-Sabah.



HYDERABAD: Indian Muslim students recite from the Quran in Jama Masjid Wazeer-un-Nissa during the month of Ramadan at Madrasa Imam Anwaarullah in Hyderabad yesterday. — AFP

KUWAIT ACADEMIC ENTERS GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS 'BIGGEST DIGITAL PHOTO ALBUM'

KUWAIT: Dr Eman Al-Shammari entered Guinness World Records with the biggest digital photo album, adding another entry to Kuwait in the most famous reference book. By organizing an anti-bullying campaign under the slogan (Shame on You), Al-Shammari received late Monday a letter from Guinness World Records after collecting the biggest digital photo album of different people with a sign expressing Kuwait's keenness on fighting sectarian, ethnic, and school bullying.

The voluntary campaign managed to collect more than 13,000 photos of people carrying a sign that read (Shame on You) to help victims of bullying, especially children, to face such conduct, whether in schools or anywhere else, Al-Shammari

said yesterday. The campaign was launched last December until February, while images were collected and sorted out throughout March, she noted.

Al-Shammari's aim was to promote social equality and acceptance of others regardless of nationality, race, religion, gender and personality, as she stressed the importance of rejecting violence and encouraging tolerance and equality amongst society members. She also expressed deep gratitude to Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah for his unlimited support, as well as volunteers, artists and social figures from Kuwait and abroad who took part in the campaign. — KUNA

Ramadan Kareem

THEMES OF QURAN: THE 'SIGNS OF GOD'

By Teresa Leshner

Just like this newspaper is a sign of the intelligence, planning and productive ability of human beings, the universe is a sign of the omniscience, will, and omnipotence of a Creator. The Quran recounts many natural phenomena as 'signs' of the existence and power of God. Many of these phenomena we see on a daily basis and, perhaps for that reason, we don't consider them miraculous. But if we really give thought to these phenomena, we will see a powerful presence behind it.

The following are just a few of the many signs presented in the Quran. "Blessed is He who has placed in the sky great stars and placed therein a [burning] lamp and a luminous moon" (25:61). "It is Allah who made for you the night that you may rest therein and the day giving sight. Indeed, Allah is full of bounty to the people, but most of the people are not grateful." (40:61)

"Do you not see that ships sail through the sea by the favor of Allah and that He may show you of His signs? Indeed, in that are signs for everyone patient and grateful" (31:31). People have stopped wondering how ships that weigh tons can float on the water, even though a mobile phone, when dropped in the water, quickly sinks! Similarly, when we see an airplane flying high or low, we rarely pause to think what a miracle it is. It is, I believe, a mighty sign of a generous Lord.

"And we placed therein gardens of palm trees and grapevines and caused to burst forth therefrom some springs - that they may eat of His fruit. And their hands have not produced it.

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SADEQ MOSQUE ATTACK MARTYRS' FAMILIES COMMEND AMIR'S VISIT



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah arrives to the Imam Al-Sadeq mosque.—Amiri Diwan photos

(From Left) Amiri Diwan Advisor Mohammad Abu Al-Hassan, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah lead worshippers during prayers.

KUWAIT: Imam Al-Sadeq mosque attack martyrs' families yesterday touted His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's visit to the renovated mosque as reflecting national unity between the ruler and the ruled. In separate remarks to Kuwait TV and KUNA, they voiced thanks and appreciation to His Highness the Amir for his visit to the mosque which embodied the firm and historical bond between the leadership and people.

Abdulhameed Al-Refai, highly commended His Highness the Amir's initiative and the government's care, hailing His Highness the Amir as "the kind father" who always patronizes such occasions. He recalled the fact that His Highness the Amir went immediately to the site of the mosque blast was a "spontaneous behavior" that was by everyone in the country. His Highness the Amir's directives and initiatives following the mosque bombing, including the holding of the mourning service at the Grand Mosque, have boosted

national fabric and encouraged everyone in the country to condemn terrorism openly, he added.

Yusuf Al-Hader, son of the martyr Mohammad Al-Hader, expressed belief that the coincidence of the reopening of the Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque with the first anniversary of the terrorist act undoubtedly reflects the heed and care the wise leadership gives to people.

Naif Al-Faili, the martyr Ali Al-Fail's son, said His Highness the Amir's visit to the renovated mosque is a significant day for

the martyrs' families. His Highness the Amir's immediate presence in the site of the mosque bombing had granted the martyrs' families full confidence in the political leadership's great support to them, he added.

Mohammad Al-Khawaja, the martyr Dr Jassem Al-Khawaja's son, said His Highness the Amir has supported the martyrs' families since the terrorist incident took place in June 2015. Ali Al-Sheikh, son of the martyr Hussein Al-Sheikh, expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to His Highness

the Amir for his visit to the mosque as a great paternal gesture.

Waleed Buhamad, son of the martyr Taher Buhamad, said all the martyrs' families were impressed by His Highness the Amir's initiative yesterday. He thanked His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, Kuwaiti government and people for sympathizing with them during this tragedy. A terrorist blast had hit Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque in Kuwait City on June 26, which left 26 worshippers dead and 227 others wounded.—KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah signs the guestbook, as Kuwaiti businessman Jawad BuKhamseen looks on.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah signs the guestbook.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah smiles after signing the guestbook.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah speaks with Kuwaiti businessman Jawad BuKhamseen outside the mosque.



His Highness the Amir is greeted at the mosque.



A relative of one of the martyrs' greets His Highness the Amir.

AMIR EXPRESSES SORROW TO PRESIDENT OBAMA ON DEADLY SHOOTING SPREE

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has cabled US President Barack Obama expressing condolences on death of citizens in shooting rampage in Orlando, Florida. His Highness the Amir affirmed State of Kuwait condemnation of this terrorist act; rejected by all human values and doctrines, targeting "the innocent and security of the friendly country." Their Highnesses the Crown Prince and Premier, respectively Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, addressed identical cables to President Obama. Meanwhile, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem has cabled Chairman of US Congress Paul Ryan and chief of the Senate Mitch McConnell expressing deep condolences victims who had fallen in the shooting spree in Orlando. The Parliament Speaker of the State of Kuwait affirmed in the two cables,

"our strong condemnation of this ugly terrorist attack that is rebuffed by all religions and doctrines." He stressed on full solidarity with the American people against any act intended to undermine security and stability of the United States of America.

In other news, His Highness the Amir sent a cable of condolences Monday to UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. His Highness the Amir expressed his deepest condolences and sympathy over the death of two military pilots when their aircraft crashed while on mission as part of the Saudi-led coalition "Restoration of Hope." His Highness also prayed to Allah Almighty to bestow his mercy and forgiveness upon the deceased, place him in his heaven, and grant their families with patience and solace. His Highness the Crown Prince and His Highness the Prime Minister sent similar cables to the UAE President. — KUNA

JORDANIAN KING WRAPS UP RAMADAN VISIT TO KUWAIT

KUWAIT: King Abdullah II of Jordan, along with his accompanying delegation, on Monday wrapped up a brotherly visit to the State of Kuwait during which he expressed greetings to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the Holy Month of Ramadan. The King and the Jordanian officials were seen off at the airport by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: King Abdullah II of Jordan is seen off by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the airport. — Amiri Diwan photo

YEMENI PEACE TALKS ENTER NEW PHASE: DEPUTY FM

KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah stated that the Kuwait-hosted Yemeni peace talks have entered a new and different phase as several ideas and initiatives have been put forward to reach the aspired progress.

The talks are going in the right direction, Jarallah added in statements to reporters Monday on the sidelines of an iftar banquet for diplomatic missions in Kuwait held by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. He expressed hopes



KUWAIT: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah talks to reporters.
—Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

“that this positive development would help Yemeni parties reach the aspired consensus”. Earlier, the United Nations Special Envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed held a meeting with senior Yemeni negotiators partaking in intra-Yemeni peace talks. Ahmed met the chief delegates of the government, Ansarullah Movement and the General People's Congress to discuss the security a number of key issues, mainly the security arrangements for maintaining the cessation of hostilities agreement, withdrawal of armed groups, handing over of weaponry and releasing of prisoners of war and detainees. Cheikh Ahmed has welcomed the Ansarullah movement's release of 130 detainees in Ibb. In a press statement issued late Monday night, Cheikh Ahmed also urged the Yemeni parties to release as many detainees as possible as soon as possible. He reiterated his strong condem-

nation of all unlawful arrests or detentions, as well as the bombing of houses, which violates international human rights law and Yemeni morals.

The UN official announced that the parties agreed that the Committee on Detainees would also continue to consider the principles and mechanisms necessary to resolve this issue as a matter of urgency. “[Monday's] meeting was positive and the discussion focused on one of the central issues to the resolution of the conflict,” he said. “The path to peace is never easy, and I am confident that the parties remain committed to finding viable solutions that will pave the way for a lasting agreement to end the war and open a new page in the history of Yemen.”

Earlier, the Special envoy had also met His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. His Highness reiterated Kuwait's strong support for the efforts of the United Nations to end the conflict in Yemen. He also convened a meeting with heads of delegations. The discussions focused on security and military issues, including the need to establish military and security committees to oversee any agreed upon security arrangements.

Senior negotiators

Earlier on Monday, Cheikh Ahmad held a meeting with senior Yemeni negotiators partaking in intra-Yemeni peace talks. The UN envoy met the chief delegates of the government, Ansarullah Movement and the General People's Congress to discuss the security of a number of key issues, mainly the security arrangements for maintaining the cessation of hostilities agreement, withdrawal of armed groups, handing over of weaponry and releasing of prisoners of war and detainees. The UN envoy seeks to mediate a compromise deal among Yemeni parties to end the current crisis and help rebuild the state institutions. He received Friday commitments from the Yemeni parties to continue serious talks in the holy month of Ramadan to reach a sustainable peaceful solution to the conflict in Yemen. — KUNA

MAN ARRESTED FOR MOCKING POLICE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti citizen was arrested for mocking security forces, abusing his telephone and filing a fake report. Security sources noted that the suspect was seen in a video clip posted on social media calling the emergency hotline 112 to report a fake accident to mock and disturb the police.

Residency violators caught

Residency detectives arrested seven Filipinas in violation of residency laws, said security sources, noting that the suspects were arrested

during an inspection of a number of cafes in a Hawally shopping mall. The sources added that their sponsors are being summoned.

Food inspection campaign

As part of the ‘Your Health Matters to Us’ campaign, Hawally municipality inspection teams inspected a number of stores and restaurants in the governorate, said security sources, noting that the three-hour inspection campaign resulted in confiscating and destroying 523 kg of food items including expired butter, fillings and frozen chicken, and filing 24 citations.

UNIVERSITY READY TO ABSORB HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Education Minister Dr Bader Al-Essa stressed that Kuwait University colleges are ready to receive new high school graduates who match admission conditions and explained that the police academy's suspension of accepting new cadets would not affect admissions at KU. Responding to a question about suspending the appointment of expatriate teachers at Education Ministry, Al-Essa denied receiving any such instructions from relevant state bodies.

Courts roundup

The cassation court yesterday suspended an earlier ruling that sentenced

six bedoons to one year in prison for illegal congregation and set another hearing on September 22 to pass its verdict. Separately, the administrative court yesterday annulled a decision made by Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih on dissolving Yarmouk Co-op's board of directors.

Automation

Acting Director of the Public Authority for Manpower Ahmad Al-Moussa said that he signed a contract with the National Technology Enterprises Company's (NTEC) CEO Anas Merza to automate the authority's transitions and present outstanding electronic services to the labor sector.

KFH CONTINUES ‘FEEDING A FASTING PERSON’ CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) continued its ‘Feeding a Fasting Person’ campaign as part of its charity activities that underline its Islamic identity and firm belief in its commitment to assume social and humanitarian responsibility towards the society. KFH toured several crowded places to offer breakfast meals for those fasting. The distribution covered industrial areas, gathering places and Nayef Palace that is

teeming with people waiting for Maghrib Azan, in addition to Souk Al-Mubarakiya. It is worth noting that the firing of the iftar cannon at Nayef Palace that is a tradition to mark the end of the day during the fasting month of Ramadan is aired on Kuwait TV. KFH's efforts in Ramadan reinforce bank's role in the field of social responsibility, and keenness to take part in the efforts of easing the suffering of low-income segments.



KHAIR AL-KUWAIT HONORS KUTAYBA ALGHANIM

FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO RENOVATING CHILDREN'S HOME



Chairman of Alghanim Industries Kutayba Yusuf Alghanim



Kutayba Alghanim is pictured with Khair Al-Kuwait representatives.

KUWAIT: The Chairman of Alghanim Industries, Kutayba Yusuf Alghanim met last week with the board members from the charity organization, Khair Al-Kuwait, to discuss the latest developments regarding the restoration of houses for the Children's Home - an orphanage launched by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's Social Welfare Sector. Representatives from Khair Al-Kuwait included Vice Chairperson - Sheikha Maryam Mohammad, Al-Sabah, Secretary General - Nasser Mohammed Al-Ayyar and board member and Head of the Facilities Committee, Engineer Fawzi Al-Rowaished.

The Khair Al-Kuwait Organization awarded Kutayba Alghanim with its medal, in appreciation of his financial and moral support. This is Khair Al-Kuwait's highest honor and the first time that a person gains that recognition. Kutayba Alghanim was also named “Person of the Year” during the “To My Orphan Brother” celebration, organized by the Ministry of Education last April, in recognition for his outstanding work with orphans.

In August of last year, Alghanim Industries, one of the largest, privately-owned companies in the region, announced that it will bear the full cost for the second phase of the Children Home Project. This includes the restoration and renovation of six houses, the construction of an outdoor playground and a central kitchen. Today, the restoration of the houses is complete and back in the care of the Ministry of Social Affairs, while the outdoor playground is under construction. These new houses will be modeled on the United Nation's SOS

Children's Villages system, which is based on the ‘Alternative Mother’ concept, where orphaned children are given the opportunity to live and grow up in independent homes with ‘brothers’ and ‘sisters’ and a self-styled alternative mother. This will replace the old system used previously in the orphanage, where all the children lived in dormitory housing, without the sense of family warmth.

Alghanim Industries made its contribution through Khair Al-Kuwait, a charity organization operating under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor to complete the restoration of The Children Home Project within the Social Welfare Sector in Shuwaikh. The work is being carried out in five phases. The first phase completed, which included the restoration of four homes, a clinic, a theater, and a multi-purpose hall. While the second phase is under construction, with the support of Alghanim Industries.

Important segment

Chairman of Alghanim Industries, Kutayba Yusuf Alghanim said: “I am pleased that I am able to contribute to Khair Al-Kuwait, which supports an important and sensitive segment of our society, and embodies the spirit of the humanitarian work - an inherent trait within the Kuwaiti national identity.” He added, “We have the ability to change the lives of orphaned children, deprived of their loved ones, by placing them in new homes with surrogate mothers. By creating a healthy family atmosphere, just like the rest of the children living with their parents and siblings. All of this prepares and

enables children to engage with society more easily, whether in school or in the workplace when they're older. I would like to extend my appreciation and gratitude to Khair Al-Kuwait for their great efforts in caring for these orphans.”

Chairperson of Khair Al-Kuwait, Sheikha Feryal Duaij Al-Sabah, said: “This recognition of Kutayba Alghanim's humanitarian role is well deserved, for his great contribution which impacts the continuation of our work to provide the best to the orphans. I encourage all residents of this generous country to have an active role in the work of the Khair Al-Kuwait Organization towards all targeted segments, whether it's the orphaned children or the elderly or the disabled or the ill.”

The Children's Home is the only entity in Kuwait that is responsible for housing and taking care of orphans, launched by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor - Social Welfare Sector. It welcomes children of all ages, who are then cared for until the age of 12. After that age, boys are transferred to specialized housing units, while girls are also transferred to specialized housing units. Both buildings are also part of the Social Welfare Sector, within the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor.

This initiative comes as part of Alghanim Industries' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, which is committed to giving back to the community, supporting education and encouraging entrepreneurship. At present-day, the company devotes most of its efforts towards The Children Home Project because of its great impact towards the lives of orphaned children in Kuwait.



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JUMEIRAH MESSILAH BEACH HOTEL AND SPA HOSTS RAMADAN GHABKA IN HONOR OF MEDIA COMMUNITY

KUWAIT: Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa continued its Ramadan traditions during the Holy month and offered a Ghabka dinner for media representatives, editors, TV professionals and their families at the outdoor Al-Sadu tent.

The honored guests were given a taste of true Jumeirah hospitality which began with a welcome by the hotel's General Manager, Hakan Petek. He was accompanied by Director of Business Development and Marketing, Ahmed Jarkass;

Executive Assistant Manager, Food and Beverage, Mohammed Al Khatib; and the hotel's Public Relations and Marketing team.

Director of Public Relations and Communications, Carol Roncoletta, said: "We wanted to express our thanks to the efforts of the media who continuously cover events and activities that take place in Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa. During the Holy month, we seized this opportunity to reconnect with each-other and strengthen our ties."

Media representatives expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the invitation to the Al Sadu tent and relished in the extensive selection of authentic Ramadan dishes, oriental desserts, seasonal drinks and a selection of tea and Arabic coffee. Located on the lobby level, Al-Sadu tent welcomes guests every evening to enjoy a warm Ramadan Ghabka set menu and offers live broadcasts of the UEFA EURO 2016 football games.



Photo

of the day



Water vendors fill up their tin containers with fresh water to sell to houses. Large ships used to import water from Shatt al-Arab to Kuwait. — Photo prepared by Mahmoud Zakaria Abu Alella, Researcher in Heritage, the Ministry of Information. (Source: 'Sons of Sindbad, the Photographs' by Yacoub Hijji and Grace Pundyk)

Ramadan Quiz 2016

ETIHAD AIRWAYS
 Lulu HYPERMARKET
 Ruby Tuesday

Answer & Win Fabulous Prizes

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

'I LIKE BEING WITH MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN RAMADAN'

Young Voices

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

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: Tell me about yourself. How do you see yourself as a grown up?
Adam: I like buildings, and I want to be an architect.

Q: What is your plan for the holiday?
Adam: Reading, getting my black belt in karate and spending time on the beach with my family and friends.

Q: What are the places you go to in Kuwait to have fun?
Adam: I like going to the beach.

Q: What do you like about Kuwait?
Adam: I like that the summer lasts for a long time, so we can go to the beach more often.

Q: Tell us a joke.
Adam: Why did the student eat his homework? Because his teacher told him it was a piece of cake.

Q: What do you like the most about Ramadan?
Adam: Being with my family and friends.

If you would like your child to be interviewed for this special series, please email us at local@kuwait-times.net



10. Is there any prophet after our Holy Prophet Muhammad
 (Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam)?

YES NO

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



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah and a number of Foreign Ministry officials are pictured during the Ghabqa. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



(From left) First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah attend the Ghabqa.

SHEIKH SABAH AL-KHALED HOSTS RAMADAN BANQUET



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah hosted on Monday the annual Ramadan banquet (or Ghabqa in Arabic) in honor of heads of diplomatic missions in Kuwait, and in participation of His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. The banquet was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah, and a number of ministers, members of Al-Sabah family, in addition to several prominent figures, leaders, politicians, journalists, ambassadors, and senior officials at the foreign ministry. — KUNA



First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah receive greetings.



Diplomats attend the Ghabqa.




Foreign Ministry employees take a selfie during the event.



First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah are pictured with a number of Foreign Ministry employees.




A group photo of Foreign Ministry employees.



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Crime

Report

THIEF HAS ACCIDENT AFTER STEALING CAR

KUWAIT: A thief who stole a car parked in front of a pharmacy in Salmiya had an accident and was admitted to the ICU. A security source said a citizen stopped his car in front of the pharmacy and kept it running. A thief then drove off with it, but caused an accident on the same street. The thief was taken by paramedics to Mubarak Hospital and was admitted to the ICU. Police charged him with theft and placed him under guard.

Physical assault

A citizen complained against a friend who broke his teeth and caused him bruises and grazes. The citizen told Rehab police station that the injuries were the result of the beating. Police are investigating.

Drunk drivers arrested

Two Indian men who were drunk lost control over their car and hit a lamppost in Salam. Both were arrested and charged accordingly.

Family row

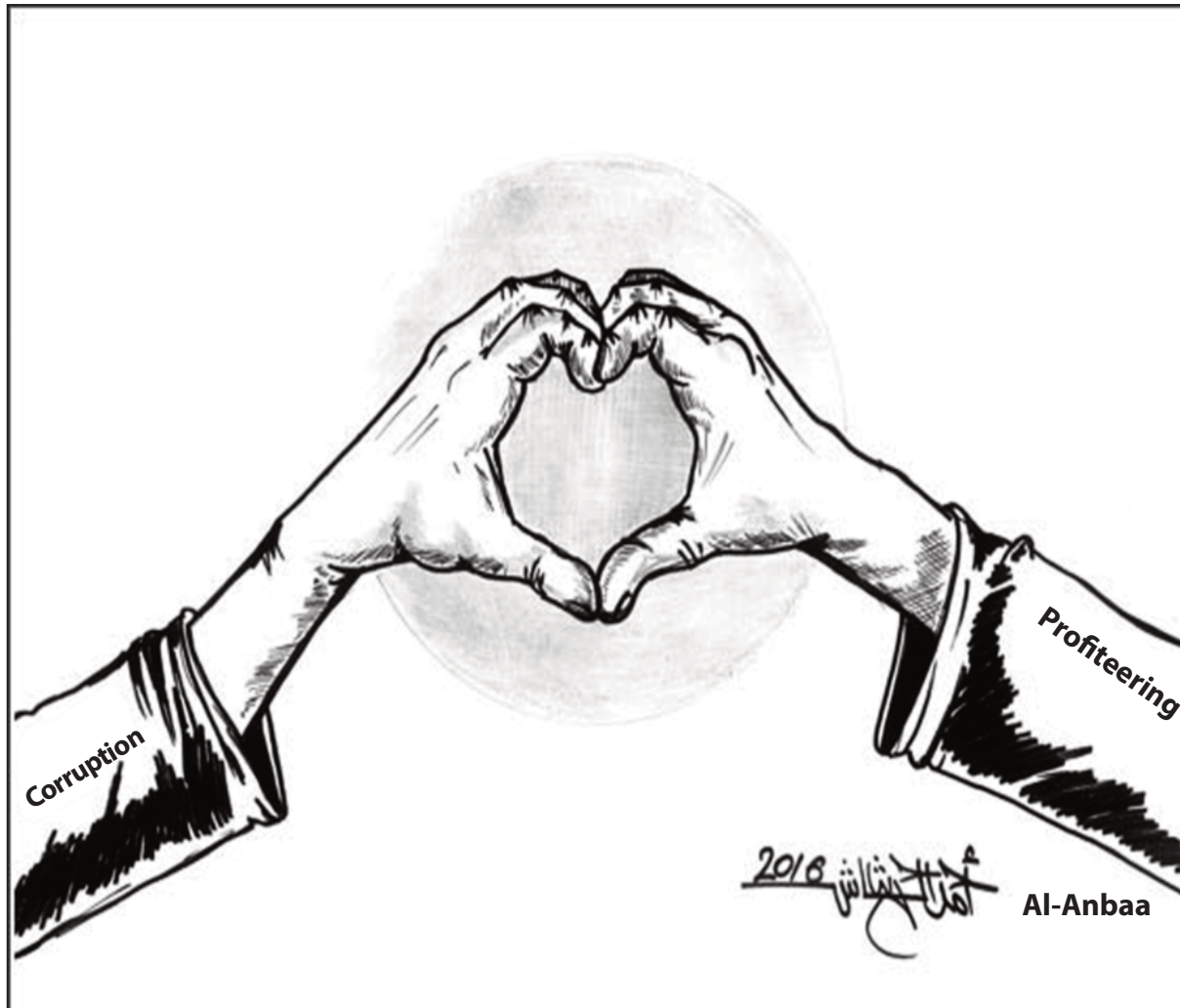
Anger led a citizen to run over his cousin unintentionally when a dispute occurred between them and a group of juveniles. The citizen surrendered to Taima police after learning the victim had died. The fight was between the citizen (28) and his cousin on one side against a group of teenagers, so he drove his car at high speed but hit his 30-year-old cousin. He then fled the area. A bedoon who was also hit was taken to Jahra Hospital. Police are investigating.

Boy injured

A 9-year-old boy sustained a broken leg along with various bruises when he was hit by the car of his neighbor in Fintas. The boy was playing in front of the building where he lives. The neighbor rushed the boy to Adan Hospital, where he was treated. Legal action is being taken.

Drug possession

An Asian man was caught with heroin by police during a routine patrol in Farwaniya. When his ID was checked, he was found with security restrictions against him. Meanwhile, criminal detectives arrested an Asian man for selling drugs and illicit substances. Detectives received tipoffs about him selling drugs in Abdullah Al-Salem. An undercover agent was asked to buy drugs from the suspect, who was arrested during the exchange near his sponsor's house. Police searched the suspect's room and found 150 gm of shabu and heroin. He said he gets the drugs through a central prison inmate for trading. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



القابض

Al-Qabas

WILL CLOSED SESSIONS RETURN?

By Khalid Al-Tarrah

I presented this question a few years back with regards to the procedures that go along with the presentation of the state's investment performance at the council of ministers and the National Assembly. But the issue today has a different dimension and importance from the previous circumstances, especially due to the sharp drop in oil prices and the economic and financial effects on the state.

Every year, coinciding with discussing the budgets, the Kuwait Investment Authority presents its investment performance to the Cabinet with a statement on financial solvency and investment security in a unilateral presentation. The same scenario is repeated, based on the government's request at the National Assembly to make it a closed session, so that the authority can repeat its presentation of the investment performance according to only the authority's view, while no comparative data is presented according to world market as well as sovereign funds indicators.

Also, besides that, can the esteemed MPs give an objective opinion and analysis over what is presented during a few hours and without prior knowledge of investment data? Of course, time does not allow it, no matter how much human and professional facilities are available to the MPs. Prior knowledge allows analysis opportunities and comparison from several angles and aspects according to global investment data and indicators, with the help of neutral experienced people in the investment field.

The budgets committee at the National Assembly has declared its reservations towards the Kuwait Investment Authority's investment policy. The committee limited its reservation over the many comments that were not solved, despite the Assembly's approval in the previous parliamentary term of its budget with a government undertaking to correct the comments of the Audit Bureau. But 53 comments were not resolved.

The committee said most comments are in the investment field, as confirmed by the Audit Bureau, especially in the lack and weakness of supervision and follow up of investment portfolios and fund managers, and this calls for the importance of issuing a legislation to evaluate the investment performance of government entities, as there is no true and effective supervision over them.

The ball now is in the National Assembly's court - either to agree on a foregone conclusion of the investment presentation under "losses and lack of supervision", or to impose a mechanism to stanch the bleeding and the continued lack of supervision, especially that the administration is the one that gave the undertakings to correct matters and make the promised profits, while it is sitting on top of an investment throne of billions since 15 years.

The country is in dire need of diversifying sources of income, and imposing supervision over the people's wealth, and this requires a decisive parliamentary stand. This justifies the Assembly's disapproval of approving the KIA's budget, which is presented unilaterally. The budget should be suspended in preparation to correct the path and put an end to violations and lack of cooperation in correcting things. It is not realistic to have some MPs be partners in keeping silent towards violations, while the economic situation is extremely negative. —Translated by Kuwait Times

الانباء

Al-Anbaa

INT'L INTELLIGENCES' LEAGUE IN THE REGION

By Sami Al-Nisf

Euro 2016 is taking place in the period of June 10-July 10, 2016, where countries like Russia, Britain, Germany, Turkey, France, Belgium, Italy and others are competing to get the European football champion title. The winner will represent Europe in the World Continents Championship to be held in Russia in 2017. All the matches are played in the open and broadcast by satellite TV channels to the entire world.

At the same time, and for years now, other competitions have been going on fiercely on the fields of Middle East countries amongst teams from international intelligences represented by certain local organizations or militias on Arab lands. The destruction, killings, wars, bloodshed and bombings of innocent people we are

currently witnessing is but a reflection of how severe the competition amongst these teams is.

Nobody knows so far the name of the winner or the team closest to winning this bloody championship, though everybody clearly knows the names of the defeated countries and peoples! Major powers' bloody matches have been played for centuries on European countries 'playgrounds and fields' and this concluded in 1945 when the Allies won the match and them took the league to be played in our region. Unfortunately, there is nothing clear on the horizon to tell us when this nasty bloody league might be over. —Translated by Kuwait Time

OOREDOO, ABDULLAH AL-NOURI CHARITY ASSOCIATION AID SYRIAN REFUGEES



KUWAIT: In collaboration with Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Association, Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of international Ooredoo Group, has recently launched a charitable campaign to help aiding the Syrian refugees in different countries around the world. Campaign will be promoted using a dedicated hashtag through Ooredoo's social media channels encouraging the public to donate money to save the lives of those refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.

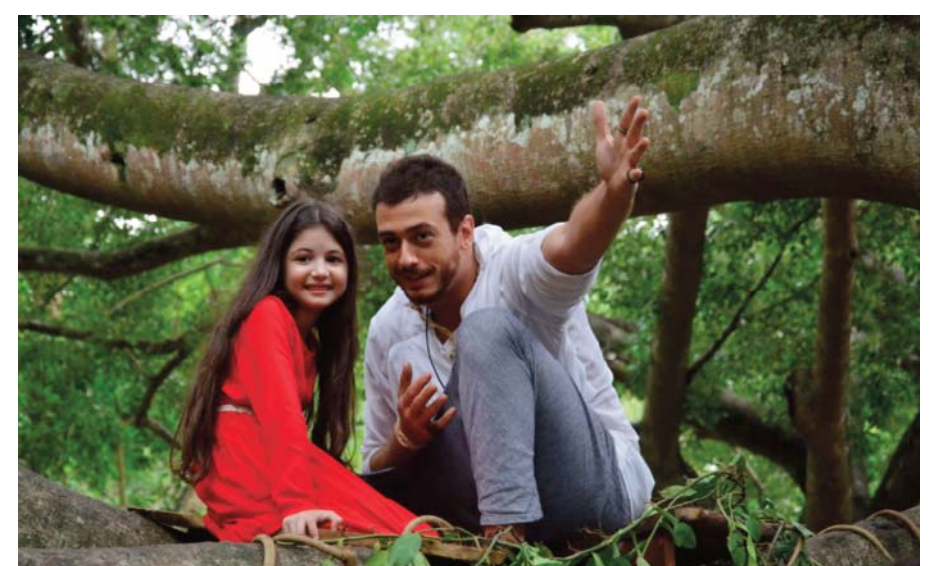
Through this campaign Ooredoo followers and fans will be able to contribute and donate the money through the association's website www.alnouri.org with their debit or credit cards. There are no limits to the donations that can be made while minimal amount is 1 KD.

Commenting on the charitable campaign, Mijbil Alalyoub, Director of Corporate Communication at Ooredoo said: 'Pleased to tie up Abdullah Al-Nouri Charity Association to promote good well during the month of Ramadan, the campaign aims at providing Syrian refugees with the help required to fulfill their minimum needs. Through our corporate social responsibility policy we aim at giving back to the communities and Ramadan the perfect time to do so.'

Ramadan will also witness the second edition of Ooredoo's successful volunteer program. Volunteers will be the main force in planning and executing a number of events running simultaneously across Kuwait, focusing on volunteerism.



LIVE IN PEACE: ZAIN UNVEILS 2016 RAMADAN TV COMMERCIAL FOUR MILLION YOUTUBE VIEWS IN FIVE DAYS



KUWAIT: Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, unveiled its new advertising campaign for the Holy Month of Ramadan, based on a television commercial that looks back to the 'good old days' and spreads a universal message of peace to the region. The 90 second commercial poses the question, "What's the purpose of having everything except peace?" and was unveiled on social media at the beginning of Ramadan, and received over four million views within five days of its posting on Zain's popular YouTube channel.

The commercial's message of peace is at the heart of the concept, and is a message that resonates with everyone. Filming took place in an idyllic rural setting in Sri Lanka, reflecting people living in the past, doing things that today's technology has since made obsolete.

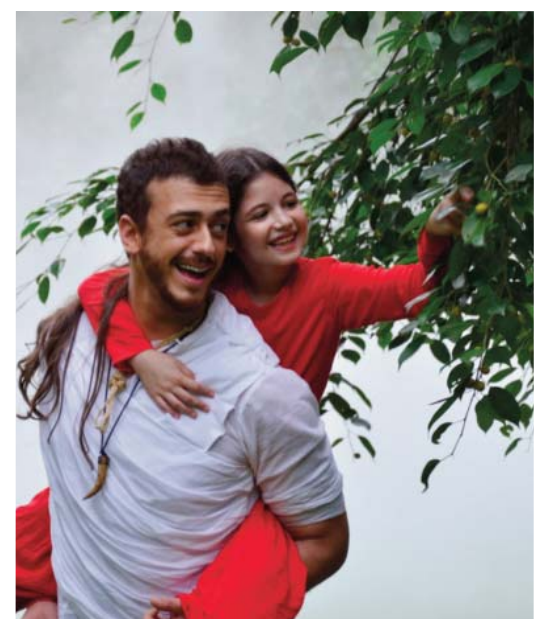
This year, Zain's Ramadan campaign seeks to highlight that with many parts of the region in turmoil and conflict, with people living in poor and insecure conditions. This begs the question: "Why does the past appear to be a much happier time despite humanity possessing very few material things at that time, while today when we have so

much, the world is full of wars and hardship?" In the good old days, people had little but appeared happy, peaceful and satisfied. Nowadays, people across the world have access to technology and entertainment but these do not appear to make us more content. Commenting on the impactful commercial, Scott Gegenheimer, Zain Group CEO said, "Every year the Holy Month of Ramadan offers us a chance to reinforce our credentials as a company whose history and future is tied closely to this region. At a time when there is so much turmoil and insecurity for so many of our citizens, it is necessary for Zain to promote the strong message of peace and we are sure that once again, the Zain Ramadan TVC will have an impact and make many people to reflect and ask and answer the questions we raise."

In the commercial, the actors sing to the 'future' world, drawing a parallel between their present and the current lives we all share. The main hero in the commercial is the renowned Moroccan artist Saad Lamjarred, who happens to be the highest viewed artist in the Arab world with his videos having totaled over 330 million views on YouTube, and who has also broken the Guinness world record for

reaching 100 million YouTube views in under three months across the region. Also featured in the commercial is Indian child superstar, Harshaali Malhotra, who has gained massive popularity after co-starring with renowned artist Salman Khan in the famous Indian film Bajrangi Bhaijaan. The film's message is also about peace, as Zain felt it would be great to use Harshaali to symbolize all the innocence and positivity what a child should experience. The commercial took several months from conception to shooting, as it took place in Sri Lanka. The concept was created by Joy Productions and was produced by All Over Group. The lyrics to the song were written by renowned artist Hiba Mishary Hamada and the music was composed by popular artist Bashar Al-Shatti with the musical mix being created by Rabieh Saydawi.

The commercial reflects how important Corporate Social Responsibility is to Zain, as the activities form part of the company's strategic focus, and amongst other things, have been used to raise awareness of conflict zones and the need for peace within the Arab world. To view Zain's Ramadan 2016 television commercial, please visit: www.youtube.com/zain.





US Muslim leaders condemn massacre, brace for backlash

PAK TRANSGENDERS MOCKED BY MOST, ABHORRED BY MANY

TRUMP HARDENS STANCE ON MUSLIMS

MANCHESTER/WASHINGTON: Republican Donald Trump on Monday placed responsibility for a mass shooting in Florida squarely at the feet of radical Muslims, who he said were entering the country amidst a flood of refugees and "trying to take over our children". The presumptive Republican presidential nominee drew on the country's deadliest mass shooting to sharpen his vow to ban Muslim immigrants, proposing that the United States suspend immigration from areas of the world where there is "a proven history of terrorism".

In his national security speech, Trump said it was time to "tell the truth about radical Islam," the day after 49 people were killed at a gay nightclub in Orlando by a gunman, likely self-radicalized, who had sworn allegiance to the rebel group Islamic State. His comments contrasted sharply to those of Hillary Clinton, the wealthy businessman's likely Democratic rival in the Nov 8 election, who urged increased intelligence gathering and more airstrikes on Islamic State territory, and cautioned against "demonizing" American Muslims. "If we want to protect the quality of life for all Americans - women and children, gay and straight, Jews and Christians and all people - then we need to tell the truth about radical Islam and we need

to do it now," Trump told the crowd in New Hampshire. He went on to lambaste Clinton's policies, saying they would allow "hundreds of thousands of refugees from the Middle East" to enter the United States without adequate security measures. There would be "no system to vet them, or to prevent the radicalization of... their children," he said. "Not only their children, by the way. They're trying to take over our children and convince them how wonderful ISIS is and how wonderful Islam is, and we don't know what's happening."

Trump said that, if elected, he would use the executive authority of the presidency to impose stronger controls on immigration to protect Americans from attacks, fine-tuning his earlier campaign promise to temporarily ban the entry of foreign Muslims to shore up national security. "When I'm elected, I will suspend immigration from areas of the world where there is a proven history of terrorism against the United States, Europe or our allies until we fully understand how to end these threats," he said.

He noted that the parents of the Florida gunman, Omar Mateen, 29, were born in Afghanistan. Pointing to specific incidents such as the Sept 11, 2001, attacks, Trump said threats

were posed by people with roots in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Somalia. The immigration ban, he said would last until "we are in a position to properly screen these people coming into our country. They're pouring in, and we don't know what we're doing."

Trump's hardline proposals on immigration have helped fuel his surge in popularity among some conservative voters. But they have also triggered heavy condemnation from minority and human rights activists, and his political opponents - many of whom have called his rhetoric racist. Trump has rejected the criticism, and has said he is often misunderstood by the media and his opponents.

In her response to the Florida massacre, Clinton, warned against demonizing Muslim Americans and called for increased efforts to remove Islamic State propaganda from the Internet, more air strikes in areas held by the group and better coordination with allies in the region. "The Orlando terrorist may be dead, but the virus that poisoned his mind remains very strong, and we must attack it," she said in a speech in Cleveland. She specifically criticized three US allies - Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait - for allowing its citizens to fund mosques and schools that train jihadists.— Reuters



MANCHESTER, New Hampshire: Republican presidential candidate Donald J Trump speaks at the Saint Anselm College New Hampshire Institute of Politics on Monday.—AFP

GUNMAN 'QUIET', BUT GREW HATEFUL

FORT PIERCE, Florida: The photo from Omar Mateen's high school yearbook is hardly remarkable - a toothy, dimpled smile with a peach-fuzz mustache below a mop of black hair. His transformation from high school football player to perpetrator of America's worst mass shooting raises questions about whether red flags were missed over the depth of his apparent sympathies with Muslim extremists. As families of the victims grieved and the nation recoiled at the scale of yet another mass shooting, a picture began to emerge of the 29-year-old killer as a quiet, devout person who in recent years displayed a hateful and violent streak.

Early on Sunday, he stormed a packed gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, with a handgun and AR-15 semi-automatic rifle, fatally shooting 50 people before police killed him. Fifty-three others were wounded, many critically. His ex-wife, Sitora Yusufiy, described him as "bipolar" and emotionally disturbed with a violent temper. She said she had been beaten and otherwise physically abused by Mateen during outbursts in which he would "express hatred towards everything". She was "rescued" by family members just four months into a stormy marriage that began in 2009 and ended in divorce, she said.

"He would often get into fights with his parents, but as I was the only one in his life most of the violence was directed towards me," she told reporters in Boulder, Colorado outside a home where she was staying. She said he aspired to be a police officer and had worked as a correctional officer at a deten-

tion center for juvenile delinquents in Fort Pierce, Florida, and had once sought admission to a police academy. In Fort Pierce on Florida's southeast coast, 195 km from the shooting, the imam at the mosque that Mateen attended for nearly 10 years described him as a regular worshipper who was quiet and rarely interacted with the congregation. "He hardly had any friends," Syed Shafeeq Rahman, who heads the Islamic Center of Fort Pierce, told Reuters. "He would come with his little son at night to pray and after he would leave."

Rahman said Mateen never approached him regarding any concerns about homosexuals. He usually prayed at the mosque a few times a week, mostly in evenings and as recently as Friday, but he didn't display signs of radicalism, according to fellow worshippers interviewed by Reuters. Mateen was born in New York of Afghan descent but spent most of his life in Florida, attending Martin County High School in Stuart, a small city about a 20-minute drive from the Fort Pierce condominium where he had most recently lived. A classmate described him as a typical teen who played football. A school yearbook image of Mateen was seen by Reuters. Samuel King, who was one year ahead of Mateen, said the two often spoke after Mateen graduated in 2004. King waited tables at Ruby Tuesday's restaurant at Treasure Coast Square, a mall where Mateen worked at GNC, the nutrition store, he said. King, who is openly gay, said the Mateen he knew until 2009 did not appear to be anti-homosexual. "What is shocking to me is that

the majority of the staff at Ruby Tuesday's when I worked there were gay. He clearly was not anti-gay at least not back then. He did not show any hatred to any of us."

While at GNC, Mateen lifted weights and "got really buff", King said, describing Mateen as gregarious and talkative in the immediate years after high school. "Something must have changed" since he last saw him, he added. Mateen's father, Mir Seddique, told NBC News the massacre was not related to religion. He said his son turned angry when he saw two men kissing in Miami a couple of months ago.

FBI Interviews

The FBI twice interviewed Mateen for having suspected ties to Islamist militants. The first investigation took place in 2013 when Mateen made inflammatory comments to co-workers that indicated sympathy for militants, FBI special agent in charge Ron Hopper told a news conference in Orlando. At the time, Mateen worked as a security guard at G4S, a British-owned multinational company that is among the world's largest private security firms. He joined G4S in Sept 2007, carried a gun as part of his duties and was employed with the company at the time of the shooting as an armed security officer, the company said. G4S provides security to federal buildings in Florida. Mateen was investigated and interviewed twice but the FBI was "unable to verify the substance of his comments", Hopper said.—Reuters

DALAI LAMA URGES SUU KYI TO EASE ROHINGYA TENSION

WASHINGTON: Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi has a moral responsibility to try to ease tension between majority Buddhists and minority Rohingya Muslims, her fellow Nobel laureate, the Dalai Lama, said on Monday. The Tibetan spiritual leader said he had stressed the issue in meetings with Suu Kyi, who came to power in April in the newly created role of state counselor in Myanmar's first democratically elected government in five decades.

"She already has the Nobel Peace Prize, a Nobel Laureate, so morally she should ... make efforts to reduce this tension between the Buddhist community and Muslim community," he told Reuters in an interview in Washington. "I actually told her she should speak more openly." Violence between Buddhists and Muslims in recent years has cast a cloud over progress with democratic reforms in Myanmar. Rights groups have sharply criticized Suu Kyi's reluctance to speak out on the Rohingya's plight.

The Dalai Lama said Suu Kyi, who won worldwide acclaim and a Nobel Peace Prize as a champion of democratic change in the face of military persecution, had responded to his calls by saying that the situation was "really complicated". "So I don't know," he said. There is widespread hostility towards Rohingya Muslims in the Buddhist-majority country, including among some within Suu Kyi's party and its supporters.

More than 100 people were killed in violence in western Rakhine state in 2012, and some 125,000 Rohingya Muslims, who are stateless, took refuge in camps where their movements are severely restricted. The Dalai Lama said some Buddhist monks in Myanmar "seem to have some kind of negative attitude to Muslims" and Buddhists who harbored such thoughts "should remember Buddha's face". "If Buddha happened, he certainly would protect those Muslim brothers and sisters," he said.

Suu Kyi said during a visit by US Secretary of State John Kerry last month that the country needed "enough space" to deal with the Rohingya issue and cautioned against the use of "emotive terms", that she said were making the situation more difficult. "It's very important for the international community to realize the sensitive situation of Rakhine State, and avoid doing anything that would make matters worse and more difficult for the new government to handle it," Zaw Htay, a spokesman for Suu Kyi's office, said when asked about Dalai Lama's comments.

Zaw Htay said Suu Kyi had been trying to "sort out this problem to the best of her ability", referring to a newly formed committee led by Suu Kyi to bring peace and development to Rakhine State. The government offered no details on how the new committee would address Rakhine State's problems.— Reuters

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SPOTLIGHT ON LONE WOLF ATTACKERS AFTER MASSACRE

WASHINGTON: FBI agents had Omar Mateen on their radar for years, and long suspected him of jihadist sympathies. But they could never build a case against the man who would go on to conduct the worst mass shooting in US history. The horrific assault highlights the challenges for law enforcement in preventing "lone wolf" attackers, an urgent concern for authorities now that Islamic State-inspired jihadists - many radicalized online - are targeting the United States.

Mateen, a 29-year-old American of Afghan descent, died in a gunfight with police after the shooting rampage early Sunday at Orlando's Pulse nightclub that left 49 dead. He pledged allegiance to IS during the attack - albeit in a jumbled 911 message in which he also vowed support for the Al-Nusra Front, which is battling IS in Syria. The Orlando attack came six months after the mass shooting in San Bernardino, California, where a man and wife opened fire on a Christmas party killing 14 people. The radicalized Muslim couple are believed to have been inspired, if not directed, by the Islamic State group.

Democratic White House hopeful Hillary Clinton vowed Monday to set up a team dedicated to detecting and preventing "lone-wolf" attacks. But experts said the killings in Orlando and San Bernardino raise tough questions about privacy and security, and show just how hard it is to stop radicals who act alone.

The FBI admits it previously investigated the 29-year-old Mateen after he made inflammatory comments to co-workers - but cleared him of extremist ties. FBI chief James Comey vowed Monday to "look hard at our own work" to see whether there is something agents should have done differently. "So far, the honest answer is, I don't think so."

'Free Society'

Steve Pomerantz, a former assistant director and counterterrorism chief for the FBI, said the agency likely has interviewed "thousands" of people who visit extremist websites or have raised other red flags. But such behavior is not necessarily illegal. "As long as I don't cross the line of fundraising for them or

recruiting for them, it's not against the law, so what do you do about that? Do you wiretap that guy, and if so for how long? Do you follow him? The amount of manpower it would take to do that is beyond the realm of reality," Pomerantz told AFP. "Unless they've actually gone over that line, there are a limited number of things in a free society that you can do about that," he added.

Mateen's case is a potent illustration. The FBI first became aware of him in May 2013 when he was flagged for making comments to colleagues that suggested terror ties. "We attempted to determine whether he was a possible terrorist, something we do in hundreds of cases all across the country," Comey told a news conference. The FBI's Miami office opened a preliminary investigation: Introducing sources to him, recording conversations with him, following him, reviewing his communication records, and searching government files.

Interviewed twice, Mateen told agents he made the incendiary comments in anger because he thought his co-workers were

teasing him as a Muslim. After 10 months, the investigation was closed. Agents questioned him again the following year over his connection to Moner Mohammad Abusalha, a fellow Floridian who conducted a suicide bombing in Syria. The two attended the same mosque but again, the probe turned up no ties of any consequence, Comey said.

'Increasing Number' of Attacks

Clinton trained her fire on the ready availability of assault weapons, which compounds the threat from radicalized individuals, saying: "It's essential that we stop terrorists from getting the tools they need to carry out the attack." Mateen legally purchased the weapons used in the Orlando attack, even though he was once included on a terror screening database. In light of the challenges of identifying and stopping "lone wolves," observers say responsibility for thwarting them starts with the people who know them.

"For a large majority of offenders in mass-casualty and active-threat situations, others were aware of the grievances that later

turned into terrorist plots or active shooting situations," said Michael Masters, senior vice president at the New York-based Soufan Group intelligence consultancy. Local cops need to boost outreach to local communities and filter reports of suspicious activity up to state and federal authorities, he suggests. "Unfortunately, I think we are going to see an increasing number of these (attacks), which is why that emphasis on trying to identify individuals and take proactive stances against them is going to be particularly critical at the next stage," Masters told AFP.

Republican White House hopeful Donald Trump has made a similar point - but alarmed critics by singling out the Muslim community, accusing it of failing to report potential terrorists in its midst. Comey noted that the FBI has had positive interactions with many Muslim communities. "Some of our most productive relationships are with people who see things, and tell us things, who happened to be Muslims," he said. "It's at the heart of the FBI effectiveness to have good relationships with those folks." —AFP

US MUSLIM LEADERS CONDEMN MASSACRE, BRACE FOR BACKLASH

MOSQUES TAKE EXTRA SECURITY MEASURES

ORLANDO: On Sunday, June 5, hundreds crowded into a Louisville, Kentucky mosque to celebrate the life of boxer Muhammad Ali in an interfaith service. Dr Muhammad Babar began the service with a poem: "You were the true face of faith," he read. The vibe, he said, was one of peace and compassion. A week later, Babar, a local physician and community leader, attended a vigil for fifty people killed in a gay nightclub in Florida by a 29-year old

against backlash.

On the presidential campaign trail, presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump called for a ban on immigration from countries with a "history of terrorism". "We've got to get smart, and tough, and vigilant, and we've got to do it now, because later is too late," Trump said in a New Hampshire speech on Monday. In her response to the massacre, the presumptive Democratic nominee, Hillary

walls in September, it upgraded security technology, including wirelessly controlled locks, and arranged for an off-duty police officer to keep watch during Friday prayers.

On Sunday, the Islamic Center of Long Island, New York contacted their local precinct chief to arrange police presence at the mosque during the evening prayer service. "We've had backlash before, especially with irresponsible rhetoric from politicians," said

mon during Ramadan, when mosques are often over capacity for evening prayers. Local law enforcement is sending patrols to the neighborhood, and the mosque is hiring extra security at night, according to Fatima Rami, an administrator. The center has called on local congregants to donate blood to victims of the shooting, even if it means breaking their Ramadan fasting for a day. "A broken fast can be made up, a life lost is gone forever," it posted on its website.

Some mosques have been working with federal authorities on assessments to increase their preparedness for attacks, and said they would maintain already higher levels of security implemented after the San Bernardino shootings in December. The Islamic Community Center of Phoenix has received multiple hate emails since the Orlando shooting, its chairman Usama Shami said, and had already been working with local law enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security. One email, from "CJ," said: "Do you also refute the Quran when it tells you to lie to the infidel and pretend to be his friend, so that you can betray him?"

The All Dulles Area Muslim Society in Virginia, which Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson visited in December, had carried out multiple security assessments with national and federal law enforcement agencies in the past few months on how to improve security around the community center. "The sad thing is, we're almost used to it now," said Rizwan Jaka, chairman of the organization.

In Louisville, the LGBT community has been supportive of the Muslim community in its fight against Islamophobia, Babar said. In March, when Donald Trump held a rally in Louisville, LGBT activists and the Muslim community stood together in protest against the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, who has proposed a ban on Muslim immigration. "Racism and bigotry is the same, whether it's against one group or another," Babar said. "We hope our fellow citizens will see us through the lens of Muhammad Ali, rather than this deranged soul, though our hopes are dampened by this senseless tragedy." —Reuters



WASHINGTON: Members of the Congressional Muslim Staff Association, the LGBT Congressional Staff Association and members of Congress begin to assemble for a prayer and moment of silence on the steps of the Capitol to stand in solidarity with the Orlando community and to remember the victims of Sunday's shooting at an LGBT night club in Washington on Monday. —AP

American of Afghan descent.

"It's like somebody has punched us in the gut," he said. "Last week, we thought, finally this monkey is off our back, but now it seems the burden is back on us to prove our innocence for something a criminal who claims to be Muslim has done." Across the country, Muslim Americans were quick to condemn the attack, and some mosques took extra security measures to protect

Clinton, warned against "inflammatory anti-Muslim rhetoric" and said she would make "identifying and stopping 'lone wolves' a top priority."

In Louisville, mosque officials contacted a police officer to provide security at their Ramadan dinners, held every Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the Muslim holy month. After anti-Muslim messages were spray-painted in red on the Louisville Islamic Center's

Isma Chaudhry, president of the Islamic Center of Long Island. After the San Bernardino shooting in December, the community was harassed, she said, with obscenities yelled at students and cars trying to run people over who were crossing the road, she said. "We're hoping this time will be calmer," she said.

The Islamic Center of Orlando on Sunday told congregants to avoid praying outside - a practice that is com-

HISPANICS SHAKEN BY HEAVY TOLL AT MASSACRE

ORLANDO/CHICAGO: It was a carefree "vacilon" - a pumped up party - at Orlando's Pulse nightclub on Saturday night, full of Latinos dancing to salsa, bachata and thumping reggaeton at the gay club's Latin music night. By early Sunday morning, the party was shattered by the biggest mass shooting in modern US history. Most of the 49 people shot dead by a single gunman were Latino, more than half of them of Puerto Rican origin, at least three Mexican citizens and one man from the Dominican Republic, according to officials. For Puerto Rico, it was the latest and most tragic in a litany of hardships to afflict the U.S. territory, ranging from a crippling \$70 billion debt to an exodus of its youth to the United States in search of jobs. For Hispanics throughout the country, it was a shock to see so many Latino names on the list of the dead, and many were concerned that the tragedy affected a vulnerable subset of Latinos in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community. "We are in crisis," said Zoe Colon, director of Florida and Southeast Operations for the Hispanic Federation, a national community service group.

"What happened yesterday was not only an attack on our brothers and sisters of the LGBTQ community, but also an attack on our Hispanic community," she said at a news conference with more than 20

organizations that work with Latinos in and around Orlando. Colon said victims and their families needed services such as hotlines and counseling in Spanish. Some victims would need assistance applying for visas specific to victims of crime. And she expected many families will need help raising funds to bury loved ones back at home, particularly in Puerto Rico.

Close to 30 percent of Orlando's population is Hispanic, and some 300,000 people of Puerto Rican heritage live in the metropolitan area. The Puerto Rican government set up a regional office in Orlando two years ago to support the communi-

ty there. Officials from Puerto Rico said they were working to get support in place for families. Puerto Rican Governor Alejandro Garcia called the shooting hateful and said family members of workers in his administration had been killed. "We are helping to orient families with any paperwork they have to go through to bring home the bodies of the victims to the island," Rolando Padua, deputy secretary of state for the Puerto Rican government, told Reuters by telephone.

One of the victims was a 26-year-old man from the Dominican Republic, that country's foreign relations ministry said in a state-

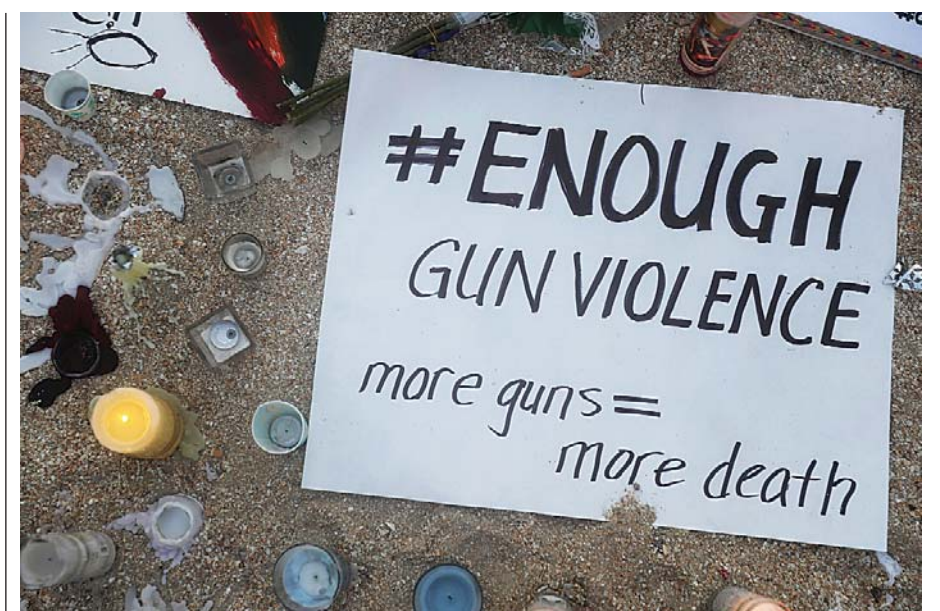
ment on Monday. Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto said his government would help the families of three Mexican men killed in the massacre. Jose Calderon, president of the national Hispanic Federation, noted that many gays migrate to the United States from Latin America to escape discrimination in their home countries where homophobia may be more prevalent. "It happens all the time. People flee Puerto Rico and come to the US because of our greater freedoms. That compounds the tragedy," Calderon said.

JetBlue airline said it is providing free seats on flights to and from Orlando, from any destination they fly to, for immediate family and domestic partners of victims who were killed or injured. Meanwhile, things took a turn for the worse in Puerto Rico on Monday as the US Supreme Court refused to revive a local debt-restructuring law, leaving the island at risk of a messy default unless Congress passes legislation soon to help it survive the crisis.

In Orlando's Latin music community, people said they were at least relieved that one of the Pulse DJs, Ray Rivera or DJ Infinite, got out alive after helping to shield two people in his booth. Ramon Enrique Gomez, an Orlando DJ known as Candy Boy said: "This really hits us Latinos because our music is about celebrating life." —Reuters



LOS ANGELES: A Latino man performs traditional indigenous ceremonies at a vigil on Monday for victims of the worst mass shooting in United States' history. —AFP



ORLANDO: Items are seen in a memorial setup yesterday in front of the Dr Phillips Center for the Performing Arts for the victims of the Pulse gay nightclub shooting where Omar Mateen allegedly killed 49 people. —AFP

US GUN CONTROL DEBATE DEADLOCKS AFTER CARNAGE

The deadliest mass shooting in US history has once again unleashed gun control advocates clamoring for curbs on weapons sales. But the Florida carnage also shows the scale of their challenge in a country where a 29-year-old once flagged on an FBI watchlist was able to commit mass murder with a legally-bought assault rifle. As has become a somber ritual after each of the mass shootings that regularly stun the United States, President Barack Obama came forward to plead for stricter gun laws.

"This massacre is... a further reminder of how easy it is for someone to get their hands on a weapon that lets them shoot people in a school, or in a house of worship, or a movie theater, or in a nightclub," Obama said. "And we have to decide if that's the kind of country we want to be." It was a powerful appeal. And a familiar one. A veteran US reporter estimated on Twitter it was the 20th time he had seen Obama take the podium to deliver the exact same message.

The US president has been stilled in his bid to curb gun violence since taking power in 2008, by a Republican-led congress and the powerful gun lobby that reject any moves to rein in gun ownership in the name of the Constitution's Second Amendment. On Monday the White House demanded that Congress pass legislation blocking extremists from obtaining assault weapons. But experts say the deadlock is unlikely to end anytime soon, with gun control a hot-button election issue for both Republicans and Democrats. "The Republicans that control Congress are adamantly opposed to gun legislation and they will not give Obama this victory in an election year," Adam Winkler, a law professor at the University of California Los Angeles, told AFP.

'Weapons of War'

Omar Mateen, an American of Afghan descent who the FBI believes was radicalized online and who was probed in recent years for suspected extremism, burst into the Pulse nightclub in Orlando early Sunday armed with an AR-15 assault rifle and a handgun. By the time his shooting rampage ended, 49 people were dead and 53 others

injured. Mateen was killed in an exchange of gunfire with police. The AR-15 assault rifle is the same type used in the 2012 Sandy Hook elementary school massacre, the 2012 movie-theater shooting in Aurora, Colorado and the San Bernardino attack last December.

No sooner had news of the carnage hit headlines than politicians jumped into the fray, with Hillary Clinton, the presumptive Democratic White House nominee, training her fire on the ready availability of assault weapons. "I believe weapons of war have no place on our streets," she told supporters in Cleveland, saying the fact Mateen was at one point on an FBI watchlist should have barred him from purchasing weapons. "We may have our disagreements about gun safety regulations, but we should all be able to agree on a few essential things," Clinton said. "If the FBI is watching you for suspected terrorist links, you shouldn't be able to just go buy a gun with no questions asked."

According to Gun Violence Archive, which tracks gun-related deaths in America, 13,429 people were shot dead in 2015 and 5,962 so far this year. Firearm deaths including suicides stand at around 30,000 per year. The fact-checking site Politifact said more Americans have been killed by guns in the United States since 1968 than in all wars in the country's history. And yet, the paradox: with each new massacre, gun sales spike as enthusiasts rush to stock up fearing a clampdown - with the right to bear arms cherished as fundamental by many in the country.

'Make it Harder for Criminals'

According to surveys by Quinnipiac University, between 88 and 93 percent of Americans support universal gun background checks and more than half back a ban on assault weapons. While the gun debate is at a standstill at federal level, some headway is being made at the local and state level, says Laura Cuttiletta, a senior staff attorney at the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. Since the Sandy Hook school massacre, a number of US states have made it harder for people suffering from mental illness or with a history of domestic violence to acquire weapons, she says. —AFP

WANT AN ASSAULT RIFLE IN FLORIDA? NO PROBLEM

TALLAHASSEE, Florida: As in mass shootings elsewhere, the massacre of 49 people at an Orlando nightclub is raising questions about access to guns - assault rifles, in particular. In Florida, buying one is no problem as long as you're 18, a legal resident of the United States, aren't a felon or a domestic abuser and have no documented mental health or substance abuse issues.

Here are the state's basic rules:

- All firearm purchases from federally licensed dealers require a background check, regardless of whether the buyer has a concealed weapons permit.
- There is no waiting period to buy a rifle. There is a three-day waiting period to buy a handgun, and handgun buyers must be 21 or older.
- People charged with or convicted of a felony can't buy guns. Neither can people who have been convicted of two or more DWIs, have been involuntarily committed to a mental health hospital or have a restraining order against them.

Whether Florida gets its gun laws right depends on the perspective. Brian Malte, the national policy director for the Brady Campaign, said getting a gun is far too easy in Florida and pri-

ivate sales don't require a background check. "The corporate gun lobby seems to use Florida as their example, and unfortunately we've seen what that example has produced, including George Zimmerman, who had a history of violence and an arrest record and yet was able to carry a concealed gun," Malte said, referring to the neighborhood watch volunteer who fatally shot unarmed teenager Trayvon Martin in 2012. "Florida is certainly no shining example of gun laws."

But former Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Gerald Bailey believes the state gets it right. He ran the agency that conducts background checks for gun purchases. "I've had an opportunity to look at what a lot of states are doing. Florida is ahead of the pack with what they're doing with firearms," Bailey said. "It works as well in Florida as it does anywhere else."

Of course, some of the disqualifiers, like mental health and substance abuse, would have to be self-reported if there's no record of the problem. Bailey said people can't be denied a gun just because other people think they're mentally ill. "Not in a free society," he said. "There has to be some sort of determination that that person is mentally incompetent." —AP

MADURO SEEKS TO BLOCK RECALL

CARACAS: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's allies asked the Supreme Court on Monday to block a bid to call a referendum on sacking him, accusing the opposition of "fraud". The move casts doubt on the recall vote sought by the opposition, which accuses the high court of pro-Maduro bias and has clashed with it repeatedly since winning control of congress in December. Maduro's opponents warn Venezuela risks exploding into unrest without a vote on sacking the leftist leader, whom they blame for an economic crisis marked by severe shortages of food, medicine and electricity.

The opposition is racing to call a referendum by the end of the year, and has submitted a petition with 1.8 million signatures to start the lengthy process. But Jorge Rodriguez, the head of a panel appointed by Maduro to oversee the recall push, said he had filed a complaint asking the Supreme Court to "protect Venezuelans' constitutional rights" by intervening. Electoral authorities have accepted 1.3 million signatures submitted by the opposition as valid - well above the threshold of 200,000.

Last week, they said they would proceed to the next stage: Verifying those 1.3 million signatories' identity with fingerprint scans from June 20 to 24. Speaking to journalists outside the Supreme Court, Rodriguez said it would be "perpetrating a brutal fraud to authorize (the opposition) to proceed to the next stage". He did not elaborate on the scope of the complaint or the specific action it sought. "What we're seeking is the defense of the constitution. This farce put on (by the opposition)... was trying to create a climate where violence would erupt," he said. The opposition is rushing to complete the recall process by January 10, the cutoff to trigger new elections. After that date, a successful recall vote would simply pass power to Maduro's hand-picked vice president.

Food Protest Death

Home to the world's largest oil reserves, Venezuela has skidded into an economic catastrophe as global crude prices have collapsed over the past two years. The country is running out of cash to import food, medicine and other basic goods, which it largely buys abroad. The crisis is threatening

Maduro and the state-led top-down economic model he inherited from his late predecessor, Hugo Chavez. Maduro faces increasingly violent protests, whether organized by the opposition or spontaneously erupting among Venezuelans sick of standing in long lines for scarce food.

There has also been a sharp increase in looting, violent crime and vigilante justice. A 21-year-old man was killed and 12 people wounded when a food protest turned violent Friday in the eastern town of Cariaco. A video posted online showed police and soldiers threatening protesters when shots rang out, sowing panic among the demonstrators. It was unclear who shot the victims. The government's rights ombudsman, Tarek William Saab, called for "an exhaustive, objective, independent and impartial investigation". Bus drivers meanwhile went on strike Monday in 18 of Venezuela's 24 states, saying the lack of spare parts was making their jobs impossible. The move hits close to home for Maduro, a former bus driver.

International Pressure

A top opposition leader, Henrique Capriles, launched a tour of Latin American countries to rally support for the bid to remove Maduro. "The situation in Venezuela is not a matter for indifference," he told reporters in Paraguay, the first stop on a trip that also includes Argentina and Brazil. "It can affect what happens in Paraguay and in all the countries in the region. Do not abandon us." At the Organization of American States' general assembly in the Dominican Republic, a young Venezuelan man taking part in a youth forum drew his government's ire by urging it to accept food aid.

"We believe in humanitarian aid, but it's different to use it in the way it's being used in this case, to hide an unacceptable interventionist agenda," said Bernardo Alvarez, Venezuela's ambassador to the regional group. Maduro accuses the United States and the Washington-based OAS of conspiring against his government. The OAS permanent council is due to discuss the crisis in Venezuela on June 23. Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez accused OAS chief Luis Almagro of being a "putschist" for calling the meeting. — AFP



LONDON: An arrangement of newspapers yesterday shows the front page of the Sun daily newspaper with a headline urging readers to vote 'Leave' in the June 23 EU referendum. — AFP

SUN BACKING BOOSTS BREXIT MOMENTUM AHEAD OF VOTE

LONDON: An endorsement from the top-selling Sun tabloid boosted the campaign for Britain to leave the EU in next week's referendum yesterday as the increasing prospect of a Brexit weighed on global investor confidence. With the June 23 vote approaching, four out of the last five published opinion polls have put the "Leave" camp ahead. Fears of the potential economic fall-out from Britain becoming the first country to leave the 28-member bloc have spooked investors, sending global stocks sliding and boosting demand for German government bonds, a safe haven.

The decision by Rupert Murdoch's Sun tabloid to endorse a Brexit is a further boost for the "Leave" campaign, although it is not a surprise, given the paper's eurosceptic coverage in recent months. In a front page editorial, the paper urged its 4.5 million readers to "BeLEAVE in Britain", saying: "We must set ourselves free from dictatorial Brussels."

The endorsement, the first such declaration by a major national newspaper, increases the pressure on Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron's "Remain" side, which several reports Tuesday said was now in "panic" mode. The "Remain" camp also published a letter from 60 health experts - former heads of various colleges representing medical staff specialities - warning of the risks that a Brexit presented to the state-run National Health Service.

Opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, his most senior lawmakers and a dozen trade union leaders also warned that 525,000 public sector jobs could be lost if a "leave" vote sparks a recession, as some experts predict. Late yesterday, two of the biggest names on both sides of the debate were to go head-to-head in a debate hosted by the Huffington Post, YouTube and the Daily Telegraph. Former Scottish National Party (SNP) leader Alex Salmond, who is backing "Remain", was to debate with lead Brexit campaigner Boris Johnson, the former Conservative mayor of London tipped as a future prime minister.

Polls Point To a Brexit

A YouGov poll for The Times yesterday gave the "Leave" camp 46 percent, compared to 39 percent for "Remain" - the fourth survey since Friday to put them ahead. However, a new ORB poll for the Daily Telegraph, also published yesterday, put "Remain" on 49 percent, compared to 44 percent for "Leave". A compilation of the six latest polls by the WhatUKThinks research project, which excludes undecided voters, puts the Brexit camp ahead by 51 percent to 49 percent.

Bookmakers Ladbrokes and William Hill are still expecting Britain to stay in the EU, but have slashed their odds from a probability of 85 percent three weeks ago to about 60 percent. A string of financial institutions, including the

IMF, have warned of the economic turmoil that could follow a Brexit, and the pound was at a two-month low yesterday. Asian stock markets extended a global sell-off Tuesday following heavy losses in New York and Europe. Yields on German sovereign bonds, a benchmark of financial security, were pushed into negative territory for the first time, meaning investors were paying to hold them.

Migrant Benefit Changes Upheld

The economic risks of a Brexit have featured heavily in the referendum campaign, alongside immigration, which the "Leave" side says can only be brought under control if Britain frees itself from EU freedom of movement rules. In its editorial, The Sun warned that staying in the bloc left Britain "powerless" to reduce the influx of hundreds of thousands of EU workers every year, which it said put "catastrophic pressure" on public services.

Cameron says that new rules restricting welfare payments to migrants, which he negotiated with other EU leaders before calling the referendum in February, will help limit the numbers by reducing incentives to move to Britain. In a potential boost to his case, the European Court of Justice yesterday backed Britain's right to limit payments for children of European migrants, after a challenge by the bloc's executive arm. — AFP



HOUSTON: Supporters of Venezuela display a banner against their president Nicolas Maduro as they wait for the start of the Copa America Centenario football tournament match against Mexico on Monday. — AP

FBI 'CONFIDENT' THAT ORLANDO GUNMAN WAS 'RADICALIZED'

ORLANDO: The gunman who launched the worst terror attack on US soil since 9/11 at a gay nightclub in Orlando was radicalized by Islamist propaganda, officials said, amid reports he was a club regular. Lone gunman Omar Mateen killed 49 and wounded another 53 before he was killed when police stormed the Pulse, one of Orlando's most prominent gay venues, early Sunday. The attack is reminiscent of the November 13 suicide attack on the Bataclan concert hall in Paris, where 90 people were massacred when jihadist gunmen opened fire on concertgoers.

A total of 130 people died across the French capital that night in a series of shootings and suicide bomb attacks. The FBI said Mateen had been radicalized by Islamist propaganda, but found no evidence - contrary to the Paris attacks - that the shooting had been coordinated from abroad. The Islamic State group claimed that Mateen was acting as "one of the soldiers of the caliphate in America." US investigators believe that Mateen was a "lone wolf" inspired by Islamist propaganda to carry out what President Barack Obama dubbed "an act of terror and an

act of hate." FBI chief James Comey said his agents found no evidence that the attack had been directed from outside the United States, "and we see no indication that he was part of any kind of network." Agents are instead looking into the possible role of anti-gay bigotry. The FBI was "highly confident" Mateen had been "radicalized" while consuming online propaganda, Comey said, adding that he claimed allegiance to Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in a series of calls during the attack.

Mateen a club regular?

In a further twist to the story, four people said Mateen, 29, had been a regular at the gay club, the Orlando Sentinel newspaper reported late Monday. "Sometimes he would go over in the corner and sit and drink by himself, and other times he would get so drunk he was loud and belligerent," Ty Smith told the Sentinel. Smith said he had seen Mateen inside at least a dozen times. "We didn't really talk to him a lot, but I remember him saying things about his dad at times," Smith said. "He told us he had a wife and child." Another Pulse regular, Kevin West, told the Los Angeles Times that Mateen messaged him on and off for a year using a gay chat app. Other club goers told local media and MSNBC News that Mateen had been using multiple gay apps, including Grindr, with mutual acquaintances to "hook up." Mateen's wife, Noor Zahi Salman, was not cooperating in the probe, a law enforcement official told the Sentinel. However agents have talked extensively with Mateen's ex-wife, Sitora Yusufiy, who said he had beat her. Relatives and acquaintances portrayed Mateen as an unstable man prone to violence who expressed homophobic views. The slaughter raised questions about US counterterrorism strategy and gun laws. The FBI said it had investigated Mateen, a US citizen of Afghan descent, but cleared him of extremist ties. Nevertheless Mateen legally bought a rifle and a handgun. — AFP

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BRITAIN WINS EU COURT FIGHT ON MIGRANT CHILD BENEFITS

BRUSSELS: The EU's top court yesterday backed Britain's right to limit child benefits to European migrants, a hot-button issue in Britain's referendum on its future in the European Union next week. The decision comes as a series of opinion polls show a growing lead for the campaign for a "Brexit," despite Prime Minister David Cameron's appeals for people to vote to remain in the 28-nation bloc. The European Court of Justice said it was lawful for Britain to apply a "right-to-reside" rule to EU migrants based on whether they were working or seeking work, and would not be a burden to British taxpayers.

The European Commission, the bloc's powerful executive arm, had taken Britain to court arguing that it had breached EU laws rule granting all European citizens the right to live and work wherever they like in the EU. "The UK can require recipients of child benefit and child tax credit to have a right to reside in the UK," the Luxembourg-based court said in its judgement. "Although that condition is considered to amount to indirect discrimination, it is justified by the need to protect the finances of the host member state."

Britain's right to limit such child benefits was at the heart of a renegotiation deal that Cameron secured at a European Union sum-

mit in February to put before voters in the June 23 referendum. The deal - which will only take effect if Britain votes to stay in the EU - will also limit the amount of child benefits that EU migrants living in Britain can send back to their home countries.

London Welcomes Ruling

In London, the British government welcomed the ruling, saying it "supports our view that we are entitled to ensure only EU migrants who have a right to be in the UK can claim our benefits". In Brussels, the European Commission said the judgement was an "important and welcome clarification" on the rights of EU citizens to clarify benefits in other EU countries. It stressed the case had been brought by the previous Commission run by Jose Manuel Barroso, who stepped down in 2014, and that current chief Jean-Claude Juncker's views were closer to the court's stance. "The way the court clarifies is very close to what this commission thinks and what we're trying to implement in the UK deal," Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas told a news briefing. The ruling in Britain's favor had been largely expected. The top legal adviser to the ECJ had given a similar opinion in October, and a defeat would have been a major blow to the campaign to stay in the EU. — AFP



KALLSTADT, Germany: The former house of the grandparents of the presumptive designated presidential US candidate of the Republican Party Donald Trump is pictured in southern Germany on June 8, 2016. — AFP

TRUMP'S ANCESTRAL HOME SEES FEW REASONS TO BRAG

KALLSTADT, Germany: Kallstadt, a tidy village in Germany's lush wine country, has plenty of things to take pride in if you ask its friendly citizens - but Donald Trump is not one of them. The presumptive US Republican presidential nominee's grandparents grew up in this hamlet nestled in Germany's southwest but left for America more than a century ago fleeing poverty and later, after a brief return, trouble with the law.

Today, no plaque hangs on the modest white houses where they grew up opposite each other on Freinsheimer Strasse, then called Engelsgasse (Angel's Lane), and no street bears the Trump name. But in a year that could wind up with the brash billionaire becoming the leader of the free world, Trump is the talk of Kallstadt, population 1,200. "The Trumps got rich off real estate, that is a major achievement but none of them still live in town. Why should we be proud of that?" Mayor Thomas Jaworek, 48, asks. "If he becomes president, let's see what he does for America and the world. Then maybe we'll hang a plaque." The erstwhile Drumpf family simplified its name around 1700 to Trump, long before Donald's grandfather Friedrich set off for the United States at the age of 16 in 1885, according to biographer Gwendolyn Blair. Leaving only a farewell note on the kitchen table, he joined his sisters in New York, then went out west during the Gold Rush, opening taverns offering food, drink and female companionship to lonely fortune seekers, Blair said.

Friedrich, who anglicized his name to Frederick, shipped gold nuggets back east to his sisters who used the proceeds to buy property, laying the foundations of the family empire. Frederick returned to Kallstadt a wealthy man, married the neighbors' daughter Elisabeth Christ and whisked her off to New York. Her homesickness, however, would soon

bring them back to Kallstadt. But because Frederick had left Germany before completing his obligatory military service, he and his heavily pregnant wife were forced to return to the US in 1905, according to historian Roland Paul.

'Blowing Hot Air'

A quirk of history would have it that two of America's best-known self-made men came from the same small town, as the patriarch of the Heinz ketchup dynasty also hailed from Kallstadt. Retired vintner Hans-Joachim Bender, 74, descends from a grandmother in the Trump clan and a grandfather who was a Heinz but sees little family resemblance. "What do I think of Trump's policies? I'd better not say," he said, sitting in his dining room as the sun set over the vines. "Blowing hot air is not everyone's thing. I think Hillary (Clinton) is a bit less... radical," he added, referring to the rival Democratic presumptive nominee. The Trumps long claimed to be of Swedish stock due to anti-German sentiment in the US during the world wars and in the aftermath of the Holocaust. However, filmmaker Simone Wendel, who made a light-hearted 2014 documentary about her hometown's famous sons called "Kings of Kallstadt", managed to cajole Donald to appear on camera at his Manhattan office in Trump Tower and discuss his German roots. "The people in Kallstadt are very reliable, strong people and I feel that about myself - I'm strong and I'm very reliable. I'm on time, I get things done," he says in the film. Trump also promises to pay his first visit to Kallstadt the next time he's in Germany. "I'm proud to have that German blood, there's no question about it. Great stuff!"

Pig Stomach Paradise

Kallstadt owes its reputation to crisp white wines,

stunning hiking trails and the local delicacy of pig's stomach (Saumagen). Tourists, including many GIs on leave from the nearby US air base Ramstein, can choose from a range of quaint locales such as Pig Stomach Cellar, Pig Stomach Lounge and the Pig Stomach Paradise deli. Working behind the meat counter, Edelgard Kellermann, 62, says the Trump phenomenon has attracted visitors from as far afield as Vietnam. "It keeps things from getting boring around here," she said with a smile.

Her expression darkens, however, when asked about Trump's calls to build a wall on the Mexican border to stop illegal immigration and his attacks on German Chancellor Angela Merkel over her "insane" decision to open the doors last year to more than one million asylum seekers. "Mr Trump is a descendant of a refugee - his forebears left here for economic reasons, to have a better life. He (Donald) has it even better and should give others the same chance," she said, calling him a "demagogue".

One month ago, tiny Kallstadt took in its first refugees, a Syrian family of four. "It's about showing humanity," said Mayor Jaworek, who belongs to Merkel's conservative Christian Democrats, bristling at Trump's "harsh" rhetoric. "The fact that we now have a family who lived in refugee camps for a long time and who has now found a home in Kallstadt - that is a beautiful thing and we are happy about it." But Kallstadt's denizens, known in the regional dialect as "Brulljesmacher" or braggarts for their relative wealth and success, are mostly taking all the Trump hype on the chin. During carnival season in February, the local newspaper ran a tongue-in-cheek article saying Trump would build a giant golden tower to dwarf the village's church steeple, complete with a 55th-floor terrace to host an annual wine festival. — AFP

ITALY'S BERLUSCONI COMES THROUGH CARDIAC SURGERY

ROME: Italy's controversial former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi underwent cardiac surgery yesterday after a heart attack his doctor said could have killed the 79-year-old tycoon. First indications were that the four-hour open-heart operation to replace his aortic valve at the San Raffaele hospital in Milan had been successful. "The operation was finished a little after midday and there were no complications in the operating theatre," a hospital statement said, adding that Berlusconi had been transferred to an intensive care unit. "Everything is okay guys, now I can speak more calmly," Gianni Letta, a close political ally of the billionaire leader of Forza Italia, told the AGI news agency.

The flamboyant media mogul and football club owner, who dominated Italian politics for two decades, is expected to spend several days in intensive care and several weeks in hospital in total. Berlusconi's 30-year-old companion, Francesca Pascale, was seen at the window of his hospital room shortly after the surgery began, looking tearful and clutching a handkerchief. Italian media reports said the twice-divorced Berlusconi's five children were also at San Raffaele hospital.



Silvio Berlusconi

attack. "He arrived at the hospital in a severe state, he risked his life, he risked dying and he knew it," Berlusconi's doctor Alberto Zangrillo told a news conference last Thursday. He said the fault in the valve was "severe" and that without the operation, "the risk of him dying within the year would be 10 percent".

But Zangrillo said he expected Berlusconi to be back to full health within a month, adding that successful surgery would leave him "better than before". The onetime cruise ship singer turned centre-right politician suffered a heart attack 10 years ago and had a pacemaker fitted in the United States. The device was replaced at the end of last year. "Naturally, I am concerned," Berlusconi, who has largely dropped off the political radar in Italy, wrote on his Facebook page on Monday. "But I am also very moved by the very many demonstrations of appreciation, support and affection which I have received from everywhere, even from political rivals." — AFP

'Risky Dying'

The operation was conducted by Ottavio Alfieri, the head of the hospital's cardiac surgery unit. The ageing billionaire, notorious for his brushes with the law and his "bunga bunga" sex parties, was admitted for tests at the hospital on June 7 after suffering a heart

EU ENVOY TO TURKEY QUILTS AFTER ROW WITH ANKARA

ANKARA: The European Union's top diplomat in Ankara has stepped down after a row with Turkey over comments deemed as insulting by the authorities on a landmark migrant deal, his office said yesterday. The departure of Hansjoerg Haber is indicative of the increasingly fractious relationship between Ankara and Brussels, even as both sides try and implement the landmark deal to reduce the flow of migrants to the EU. "We confirm that the ambassador has resigned," the spokesperson told AFP.

Haber, a German diplomat who headed the EU delegation to Ankara, stepped down after he criticized the Turkish government's conduct over the implementation of the landmark deal in comments to the media. He had only been in his post since last October. The Turkish foreign ministry said at the time his comments caused "indignation".

Haber was bitterly critical of Turkey's conduct over the deal to reduce the number of refugees crossing the Aegean Sea to EU territory, at a meeting with some reporters on May 13. Haber said: "We have a saying 'Start like a Turk and end like a German'. But here it is the oth-

er way round", according to Turkish media reports. His comments at the time were seen as deeply insulting inside Turkey, where ambassadors are generally expected to show extreme respect to Turkish culture.

Former EU affairs minister Volkan Bozkir, who was in his job at the time the comments were made, said Haber had broken "the first law of diplomacy". "No ambassador has the right to humiliate the people of the country in which he is working or to say something about its president," he was quoted as saying by the Hürriyet daily. It said the dispute had discomfited the EU's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and she in the end had wanted his resignation. Intervention by Germany was not enough to ease the tensions, it added.

'Visa Deal at Risk?'

Turkey has demanded visa-free travel for its citizens to most of the bloc in return for curbing the refugee flow but the deal is now in limbo as Ankara refuses to meet all the criteria laid down by Brussels. The main sticking point is that Turkey should narrow its definition of ter-

ror in its anti-terror laws that have been used to justify the arrests of academics and journalists.

But Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said Tuesday that Ankara had no intention of shifting on this issue, at a time when the military is waging an offensive against the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). "In these conditions there cannot be any discussion of changing the laws on the fight against terror," Yildirim said in a speech to his parliamentary party. He added: "Even if this means the visa deal is at stake. The visa deal will be or it will not be."

The tension over the visa deal is just one of many issues causing ructions between Ankara and Brussels, including the fight against the PKK, media freedoms and a law stripping Turkish MPs of immunity. Turkey is also increasingly frustrated at the slow progress in its bid to join the EU, which dates back to 1987. The European Commission is due today to publish its second report on the implementation of the EU-Turkey agreement, including elements on the progress regarding the fulfilment of the conditions for visa liberalization. — AFP

UNACCOMPANIED CHILD MIGRANT NUMBERS DOUBLE IN EUROPE: UN

GENEVA: The number of unaccompanied children making the notoriously dangerous Mediterranean crossing aboard unseaworthy boats has more than doubled this year, the UN children's agency said in a new report yesterday. Entitled "Danger every step of the way", the UNICEF report said nine out of every 10 children arriving in Italy were unaccompanied minors, noting that more than 7,000 of them had arrived in the first five months of the year. Unaccompanied and separated children are at particular risk of abuse and exploitation, notably by the smugglers they rely on to get to Europe, UNICEF said.

"Just about every child who arrives on the Italian island of Lampedusa or in Sicily has a harrowing story to tell," the report said. Both boys and girls are subjected to sexual violence and forced into

prostitution. Some of the girls are pregnant by the time they arrive on European shores. "During the crossing, several people fell overboard and drowned, and others inside the boat fainted and died. I was even sitting down with dead bodies and I was scared," 17-year-old Nigerian orphan Peace said in the UNICEF report. She had fled Nigeria to escape an arranged marriage to a 40-year-old. "I wish my friend had told me this is how difficult it is. I would have continued suffering in Nigeria," she added.

There is concern over a sharp increase in Nigerian women and girls leaving Libya for Italy, with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimating 80 percent of them are victims of trafficking. "If you try to run they shoot you and you die. If you stop working, they beat you. It was just like

the slave trade," 16-year-old Aimamo told UNICEF of the farm in Libya where he and his twin brother worked for two months to pay the smugglers.

'Children Bear No Responsibility'

Since the first of the year, 2,859 people have died while attempting to cross the Mediterranean, many of them children, according to the IOM. The IOM figure for the whole of last year was 3,770. "The reason we are seeing more (unaccompanied children) is not clear at this stage," UNICEF's Sarah Crowe told a press conference in Geneva. "We should never forget that children on the move are first and foremost children, who bear no responsibility for their plight, and have every right to a better life," said Marie-Pierre Poirier, UNICEF's special coordinator for Europe's migrant crisis. — AFP

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PHILIPPINES CONFIRMS CANADIAN HOSTAGE BEHEADED

MANILA: Philippine authorities yesterday confirmed that Muslim extremist guerrillas had beheaded a second Canadian hostage, as they defended their inability to save him despite months of pursuit. The Abu Sayyaf, a small group of Islamic militants based on remote and mountainous southern islands that specializes in kidnappings-for-ransom, killed Robert Hall after its demands for 300 million pesos (\$6.5 million) by Monday were not met.

"We strongly condemn the brutal and senseless murder of Mr Robert Hall, a Canadian national, after being held captive by the Abu Sayyaf group in Sulu for the past nine months," presidential spokesman Herminio Coloma said in a statement. A military statement confirmed that a severed head, believed to be Hall's, was found near a cathedral on Jolo, the main island in the Sulu archipelago that is one of the Abu Sayyaf's strongholds.

In announcing on Monday night that he feared Hall had been killed, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed outrage while maintaining that ransoms should not be paid. "The vicious and brutal actions of the hostage-takers have led to a needless death. Canada holds the terrorist group who took him hostage fully responsible for this

cold-blooded and senseless murder," Trudeau said. Hall, a retiree, was among four people abducted last September from aboard yachts at a tourist resort on Samal island, about 500 km to the west of Sulu.

Another Canadian kidnapped with him, John Ridsdel, was beheaded in April after a similar ransom demand of 300 million pesos was not paid. The fates of the two other people abducted at the Samal resort - Hall's Filipina girlfriend Marites Flor and Norwegian resort manager Kjartan Sekkingstad - were unknown yesterday, but the Abu Sayyaf had also previously demanded ransoms for them.

Radical Offshoot

Muslim rebels have been waging a separatist insurgency in the south of the mainly Catholic Philippines since the 1970s, and the conflict has claimed more than 100,000 lives. The Abu Sayyaf is a loose network of a few hundred Islamic militants that broke away from the main rebel groups in the early 1990s, evolving into a radical offshoot focused heavily on kidnapping Filipinos and foreigners in largely successful bids to extort money. Its leaders have in recent years declared allegiance to the Islamic State group that holds territory in Iraq and Syria, but security analysts believe it is chiefly interested in ransom rather

than religious war. While having only a relatively small number of armed followers, it has proved extremely resilient against repeated military offensives. From 2002-2014, the US deployed special forces in the southern Philippines to train Filipino troops to combat the Abu Sayyaf, a move which led to the killing or arrest of many Abu Sayyaf leaders.

Kidnapping Spree

But the Abu Sayyaf went on a sustained kidnapping spree after the Americans left. It has abducted 44 Filipinos and foreigners since the beginning of last year, according to Pacific Strategies and Assessments (PSA), a security intelligence group. Most have been released after ransoms were paid, although it is still believed to be holding at least eight people including a Dutch bird watcher abducted in 2012. After the beheading of Ridsdel, Philippine President Benigno Aquino vowed to "neutralize" the Abu Sayyaf and ordered a fresh offensive that PSA said involved more than 4,000 troops.

Major Filemon Tan, spokesman for military forces in the south, yesterday defended their performance and highlighted difficulties - such as support for the group from the impoverished Muslim residents on Jolo island. "They have relatives in the commu-



MANILA: Philippine National Police Spokesman Wilben Mayor (right) and PNP Crime Laboratory Chief Emmanuel Aranas listen to questions from the media after reading the statement on the alleged beheading of a Canadian hostage yesterday at Camp Crame in suburban Quezon City. — AP

unity. They are the ones that give them a warning when there are soldiers in the area," Tan told radio station DZMM. He also said the island's forested, hilly terrain, a

broad coastline that allows for swift movement by boat and the kidnappers' tactic of breaking up into smaller groups, were all hindering pursuit. — AFP



PESHAWAR: In this May 25, 2016 photo, Pakistani transgenders mourn the death of their colleague Alisha. — AP

PAKISTAN TRANSGENDERS MOCKED BY MOST, ABHORRED BY MANY

MANY LIVE IN FEAR OF BEING ATTACKED

PESHAWAR: Abandoned by family and mocked by their society, the life of a Pakistani transgender is lonely. It can even be deadly. Alisha was just 23 years old when she was shot five times last month, allegedly by a boyfriend who has since been arrested. She died of her wounds three days later. Her friends say she was neglected by doctors and medical professionals who taunted her, rather than treated her, and that three hours passed before Alisha went into surgery after arriving at the hospital.

As she lay bleeding, the hospital's health workers crowded around her, making jokes and ridiculing her, said her friend Paro, herself transgender. "I shouted: 'She is not dancing. She is dying. For God and the Prophet's (PBUH) sake leave her alone, let her breathe,'" Paro recalled, her voice rising as she remembered pushing the crowd away.

Farzana, another friend, said the hospital shuffled Alisha from ward to ward. First they sent her to the male ward, but the other patients and family members ordered her out. She was shunted then to the female ward, but she wasn't welcome there either, said Farzana, who heads an organization devoted to fighting for the rights of transgender people in Pakistan's conservative northwest.

As outcasts, Pakistan's transgender people are often forced into begging, dancing and even prostitution to earn money. They also live in fear of attacks, causing most to either change their names or use only one name to give them anonymity in their society. Paro and Farzana have both changed their names, as had Alisha, abandoning their male names with their gender.

The Pakistani Supreme Court has designated transgender people as a third gender, which under law should afford them protection but in practice,

Kamran Arif, vice president of the independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, said transgender people bear the brunt of some of the worst discrimination. They are sexually abused, assaulted and even murdered.

Intolerance

He said Pakistan has become increasingly intolerant. He blamed the growing intolerance on a proliferation of madrassas or religious schools that propagate a strict Wahhabi sect of Islam, like that practiced in Saudi Arabia. Many of these religious schools get some funding from Saudi Arabia as well. "They have produced an army of young men with very intolerant views," said Arif.

Sedique Mir Mateen, the father of an American of Afghan origin who gunned down 50 people at a Florida gay nightclub Sunday, said his son was enraged after seeing two men kissing, suggesting that might have been why he chose to attack a gay club. Before carrying out the deadly attack, Omar Mateen also announced his allegiance to the Islamic State group, which follows the same strict Wahhabi belief that reviles the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) community as abhorrent to Islam, allowing them to justify their attacks.

So far this year in northwestern Pakistan alone, there have been five attacks against transgender people. According to members of the community, 45 have been killed in the last two years in the northwest province of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, of which Peshawar is the capital. "I am very scared about being publicly visible," says Mani, another transgender, who rarely mixes with anyone but close friends who are either supporters or transgender themselves.

Mani tells of growing up as a girl in Pakistan's central Punjab province, never feeling in his heart like a girl. He would dress and act as a boy. He avoided family weddings so he wouldn't have to dress in fancy clothes, and strapped his chest, desperate to hide any evidence that he was a girl. One day he saw a program on television about a sex change operation. He was surprised. He never thought it possible and blurted out in front of his family: "I will change my sex too when I have enough money."

His mother scolded Mani, telling him that the body assigned by God was unchangeable. He left home. Everyone but his mother has stopped speaking to him "but still she doesn't support my transition," he told AP. Now 31, Mani is saving money and crowd funding on Facebook to raise \$5,000, the cost of a double mastectomy in Pakistan. He has begun the long and potentially dangerous journey to becoming a man - the medicines, endless rounds of blood tests, and regular visits to a psychiatrist.

Fearful

Mani freely discusses the emotional road he has travelled since childhood. But he is reluctant to say anything that will identify him - fearful, he told the AP, of violent attacks by Islamic militants who revile transgender people as against their version of the tenets of Islam. He uses only the name Mani. "In Pakistan, very few people are aware that there are transgender men as well, not only transgender women, so people consider us like tomboy girls," said Mani. While that might afford some safety in a child's early years, Mani says a woman trying to live as a man in Pakistani society is vulnerable to violence because "the men of the society will not tolerate a woman who behaves and acts like a man". — AP

AUSTRALIA REVIEWS VISA OF CLERIC OVER GAY COMMENTS

SYDNEY: Australia is urgently reviewing the visa of a British Islamic scholar who toured Orlando this year and had preached in 2013 that "death is the sentence" for homosexual acts. Farrokh Sekaleshfar, a senior Shiite scholar, is giving a series of lectures at an Islamic center in Sydney on the topic of spirituality. Sekaleshfar said in a lecture in Michigan in 2013 that in an Islamic society, the death penalty should be carried out for homosexuals who engaged in sodomy. "Out of compassion, let's get rid of him now, because he's contaminating society," Sekaleshfar said in a talk at that time, according to a recording available online.

There is no evidence of any link between his comments and the American Muslim man who killed 49 people in a gay nightclub in Orlando on Sunday, the deadliest mass shooting in the United States. Sekaleshfar told Reuters on Monday he condemned the Orlando shooting as a "barbaric act of terror that was in no way justified". Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull told reporters yesterday he has "zero tolerance for people to come to Australia who preach hatred" and his government was reviewing Sekaleshfar's visa "as we speak".

The Immigration Office did not directly respond to a query on how long that review would take or what it would involve, but referred Reuters to comments made by Immigration Minister Peter Dutton earlier in the day. Dutton said he was advised on

Monday of Sekaleshfar's presence in Australia and his previous comments, and he would look at all the facts before making a decision. "People who come to our country, regardless of what visa category they come on, they will abide by Australian law or their visa will be cancelled and they will be deported from our country," Dutton said. Sekaleshfar could not be reached for comment yesterday. He arrived at the Imam Husain Islamic Centre just after nightfall to give his scheduled lecture, and declined to speak to waiting media. Calls and emails to the centre were not returned. Sekaleshfar said on Monday that his comments in 2013 were made in the context of a lecture on Islamic law and homosexuality and should "not have been interpreted as a call for any Tom, Dick, or Harry to carry out a sentence wherever, whenever they like." "In the context it was right," he said of the Michigan speech. "It wasn't inciting, nor saying to everyone to kill homosexuals, that it's open to everyone to do that, that's not the case."

He also said that in the speech he was referring to homosexual acts in public. "Even in an Islamic country, what they do in the privacy of their house, no one can say anything about," he said. In his 2013 lecture, Sekaleshfar said: "There is nothing to be embarrassed about this. Death is the sentence. Islam doesn't accept people's faith to be compromised, to be threatened and it has to be taken seriously. With homosexuals it is the same." — Reuters



NEW DELHI: Members of Hindu nationalist party 'Hindu Sena' or Hindu Army, celebrates the birthday of US presidential candidate Donald Trump yesterday. — AP

HINDU GROUP CELEBRATES TRUMP BIRTHDAY WITH CAKE

NEW DELHI: A small group of Donald Trump fans in India celebrated the presumptive Republican presidential nominee's 70th birthday yesterday with a cake and balloons in a New Delhi park. About 20 members of the right-wing Hindu Sena political group cut the three-tiered cake and held a piece up to a photo of Trump while singing "Happy Birthday to You". They invited journalists to the gathering under a tent decorated with balloons and

posters of Trump, including one showing him wearing a suit and holding a rifle.

Sena leader Vishnu Gupta said they were inspired by Trump's hard talk against Islamist militants, and called him the future "king of the United States". This is the second event the group has staged for Trump in New Delhi. Last month, a dozen members lit a ritual fire and chanted mantras asking Hindu gods to help Trump win the US presidential election. — AP

BANGLADESH CLERICS ISSUE FATWA ON ISLAMIST KILLINGS

DHAKA: Bangladeshi clerics said Monday they have issued a fatwa against the killings of minorities and secular campaigners in the mainly Muslim country, where police have arrested over 10,000 people in a crackdown on militancy. Nearly 50 people have been killed over the last three years in a wave of gruesome attacks by Islamist militants targeting Hindus, Christians, Sufi Muslims, activists and foreigners. Many were hacked to death with machetes.

Farid Uddin Masuod, who heads the Council of Bangladesh Clerics, said over 100,000 clerics had signed the fatwa, or religious edict, which will be made public on June 18. "The fatwa unequivocally said these killings of non-Muslims, minorities and secular activists are forbidden in Islam," he told AFP. "We've said these killings are illegal and are crimes against humanity," Masuod added. Last week an elderly Hindu priest was found nearly decapitated in a rice field and a Hindu monastery worker was hacked to

death, while a Christian grocer was murdered near a church. Other victims have included liberal activists and secular bloggers along with two foreigners and two gay rights activists.

The Islamic State (IS) group and a South Asian branch of Al-Qaeda have claimed responsibilities for many of the murders. But the police and the government say they have no presence in the country. The fatwa announcement came as police said they had detained 3,115 people on the fourth day of a nationwide anti-militant drive aimed at stopping the killings, taking the total number to 11,307. Bangladeshi authorities had faced criticism for failing to tackle the violence, but Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina vowed at the weekend to catch "each and every killer". She has accused the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its Islamist party ally, Jamaat-e-Islami, of orchestrating the killings to destabilise the country. — AFP

'BUNGLING SAILORS' IN RECORD NZ METH BUST

WELLINGTON: Some bungling boating by a group of landlubber drug smugglers led to New Zealand's largest ever haul of methamphetamine, with their fumbling efforts arousing the suspicion of locals, police said yesterday. The 494 kg haul, with a street value of \$347 million, is the largest ever in New

Zealand, eclipsing in a single swoop the entire amount of ice seized in the South Pacific nation last year (334 kg).

Police said locals found an abandoned boat at remote 90 Mile Beach on Sunday and also reported a group of men had been acting suspiciously in the

area in recent weeks. They said the men, whose nationalities were not given, had been unsuccessfully trying to launch boats off the beach, then offering locals large amounts of cash to help them. When police went to recover the boat, a vehicle used by the group drove past and was stopped after a brief chase. Two men, aged 26 and 31, were arrested.

A short time later, a campervan driven by a third man, aged 19, was stopped and a search found multiple suitcases containing zip-lock bags full of drugs totalling 448 kg. Police also found a handheld GPS device in the first vehicle which had coordinates leading to some sand dunes, where officers on Monday dug up a further 46 kg of drugs.

"What is so great about this is that it's not only the result of hard work by the Northland police, but it's the result of information we got from the community," Superintendent Russell Le Prou said in a statement. "We received notification of several cases of suspicious behaviour in the past few weeks, and that has allowed us to get to this point." Police said they were working with customs to determine where the methamphetamine came from. Many of the bags showed signs of saltwater. The three men appeared in court yesterday charged with importing and possessing class A drugs for supply. — FP



An undated handout photo received yesterday shows the 448 kg haul of ice seized. — AFP



MANAMA: Bahrainis walk near the shops at the old Manama Market in the Bahrain capital city during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. — AFP

BAHRAIN SUSPENDS MAIN SHIITE OPPOSITION PARTY

DUBAI: Bahrain suspended the tiny island kingdom's largest Shiite political group and froze its assets yesterday as part of a widening crackdown on activists and dissent five years after the country's Arab Spring protests. The Al-Wefaq opposition group has been suspended before as Bahrain has been embroiled in turmoil over the protests and lingering unrest that followed in the years since the demonstrations. However, Bahrain's Sunni-ruled government increasingly has targeted activists in recent days, which has seen one flee for Denmark and another, previously pardoned by its king, detained again.

A statement from the Justice and Islamic Affairs Ministry carried on the state-run Bahrain News Agency said a court made the decision to suspend Al-Wefaq to "safeguard the security of the kingdom." Abdulla Al-Shamlawi, the lawyer who represented Al-Wefaq in court, said he was served the court papers for the hearing yesterday morning and had to argue to be allowed to offer any sort of rebuttal. He said the complaint alleged Al-Wefaq had damaged Bahrain's national security since its inception in 2001 and also included allegations about it causing unrest during the 2011 protests.

"It was out of the blue," Al-Shamlawi said. He said the court set an Oct 6 hearing to decide whether to "liquidate" the party - meaning the island's biggest opposition group could be entirely dismantled. He said Al-Wefaq "presumably" would appeal the court's ruling, though the order suspending the party would stand unless an appeals court specifically rules to halt it. The sudden court case came a day after authorities detained Nabeel Rajab, a prominent activist and the president of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights. Zainab Al-Khawaja, another prominent activist, fled for Denmark in recent days over fears of being imprisoned again.

In May, a Bahraini appeals court more than doubled a prison sentence for Al-Wefaq's secretary-general, Sheikh Ali Salman. Salman now faces nine years behind bars, up from an earlier four, following his conviction last year on charges that included incitement and insulting the Interior Ministry. Bahrain's 2011 demonstrations saw the island's majority Shiite population and others demand more political freedoms from its Sunni rulers. The protests on the island, home to the US Navy's 5th Fleet, were crushed by the government with the help of troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Since then, the island has faced low-level unrest, protests and attacks on police. Other prominent opposition figures and human rights activists remain imprisoned. Some have been stripped of their citizenship and deported. In a speech Monday, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al-Hussein, said at least 250 people lost their citizenship in Bahrain in recent years "because of their alleged disloyalty to the interests of the kingdom." "Repression will not eliminate people's grievances; it will increase them," he warned. However, rights groups say Bahrain refused to allow activists to leave the country to attend the conference that Al-Hussein spoke at in Geneva.

Bahrain's Foreign Minister Khalid Al Khalifa responded to Al-Hussein's remarks on Twitter by writing: "We will not allow the undermining of our security and stability and will not waste our time listening to the words of a high commissioner who is powerless." Yesterday's court decision shows Bahrain "is bulldozing its civil society," said Sayed Ahmed Al-Wadaei, the director of advocacy at the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy. "Bahrain is only reforming itself into a state of silence and terror," Al-Wadaei said in a statement. — AP

THEMES OF QURAN: THE 'SIGNS OF GOD'

Continued from Page 1

So will they not be grateful?" (36:34-35). The fact that a fruit-bearing tree can sprout from a tiny seed is a sign of Allah's power and care. Even though we may create the best conditions for a plant's growth, we have no real power over it when it withers and dies.

"And it is He who produced for you hearing and vision and intellect. Little are you grateful." (23:78) If I asked you to sell me your eyes, you would refuse, knowing that your sight is priceless, as are your abilities to hear and reason. Doesn't the granter such precious things deserve our gratitude? "And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy.

Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought." (30:21) Our Creator has not only given us a comfortable environment, nutritious foods to eat, the ability to travel far and wide, and abilities so that we can acquire and share knowledge, He has also satisfied our social needs for love, family and belonging. His inten-

tion for our relationships is clear: tranquility, affection and mercy.

These are just a few of the 'signs' of a powerful, generous, caring Creator. Compared to these great feats, there is little we can do to return such favors and blessings. However, as the verses imply, we should at least be grateful and, by doing so, acknowledge God and believe in Him. If you need a little help along the way, the Quran will guide you. It is described at the outset of chapter 14 as 'A Book We have send down to you so that you [Muhammad (PBUH)] may bring humanity out of darkness into the light by the permission of their Lord.' The Quran is one of the greatest signs of God - truly a miracle of miracles.

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.

'IS-LINKED' RADICAL HITS FRENCH POLICE; 2 KILLED

POLICEMAN STABBED REPEATEDLY

PARIS: A suspected Islamist attacker stabbed a French police commander to death outside his home and later killed his companion, a police-woman, in an attack claimed by Islamic State and denounced by the government as "an abject act of terrorism". The assailant, a 25-year-old Frenchman of Moroccan origin, was jailed in 2013 for helping Islamist militants go to Pakistan and had been under security service surveillance, including wiretaps, at the time of the attack, police sources said.

The attacker filmed part of the assault live on the social network Facebook, according to David Thomson, a journalist specialized in radical Islamists. In his Facebook message, he linked the attack to the Euro 2016 soccer tournament now under way in France, saying: "The Euros will be a graveyard." The attacker, named by police and justice sources as Larossi Abballa, knifed the 42-year-old commander repeatedly in the stomach on Monday evening.

He then barricaded himself inside the house in Magnanville, a suburb some 60 km west of Paris, taking the man's 36-year-old partner and their three-year-old son hostage. Police commandos shot Abballa dead when they stormed the house after negotiations failed but they found the woman, a secretary at a police station in a nearby suburb, killed with a knife, a source close to the investigation said. The boy was unharmed but in a state of shock. "An abject act of terrorism was carried out yesterday in Magnanville," Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said after an emergency government meeting, before visiting Les Mureaux, where the police commander worked.

President Francois Hollande said the killings were "undeniably a terrorist act" and that the terrorist threat in France was very high. Police searched Abballa's home and other locations yesterday and detained two people



Larossi Abballa

close to him for questioning, a police source said. The killings came as France, which has been under a state of emergency since Islamic State gunmen and bombers killed 130 people in Paris last November, was on high security alert for the Euro 2016, which began last Friday. Police are under "extreme pressure" and "close to burn-out," the head of FO labour union Jean-Claude Mailly told France 2 television.

Islamic State

Islamic State claimed the attack. "God has enabled one of the caliphate's soldiers in city of Les Mureaux near Paris to stab to death the deputy police chief and his wife," an official broadcast on its Al-Bayan Radio said. If it is confirmed that the group was behind the killing, it would be the first militant strike on French soil since the multiple attacks on bars, restaurants, a concert hall and the national soccer stadium in Paris in November. Details started to emerge on the profile of the attacker. Abballa was born in the nearby town of Meulan and lived in Mantes-la-Jolie, where he had set up a fast food outlet in April, documents from the Versailles court showed.

He was given a three-year prison

sentence in 2013 for helping Islamist militants go to Pakistan. His name appeared in a separate ongoing investigation into a man who went to Syria, but he was not considered a threat, a source close to the probe said. "He wanted to do jihad (holy war), that was clear," Marc Trevidic, a former anti-terrorism judge who was in charge of the 2013 investigation told Le Figaro newspaper. But he was seen as having a minor role in that case, he said.

Abballa had also been convicted three times on charges of aggravated theft and driving without a licence, a source close to the investigation said. "Many things are being analyzed," a justice source said, including messages posted on social networks. Thomson, an RFI radio journalist specialized in Islamic radicalism, wrote on his Twitter page that Abballa had filmed himself on Facebook live during the attack. With the couple's boy behind him he said: "I don't know yet what I'm going to do with him," Thomson wrote. Islamic State's claim of responsibility came after the Islamist militant group said it was responsible for the shooting that killed 49 people in a massacre at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida. — Reuters

ASSEMBLY PASSES KEY PUBLIC TENDERS LAW

Continued from Page 1

Omar claimed Kuwait's losses amounted to half a billion euros. Some reports have said that Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) was considering pulling out of the investment.

Budgets

The assembly then began debating the budgets of a large number of government departments and authorities and later the state budget before going into summer recess early next month. Head of the assembly Budgets Committee MP Adnan Abdulsamad said as a result of the sharp drop in oil prices, the budget deficit for the 2016/2017 fiscal year soared to around KD 12 billion. He said the committee tried to cut budget allocations but the cuts have been way below ambitions because of the lack of cooperation from ministries and departments and because the finance ministry did not make extra effort.

Later, MPs debated and approved the budgets and final accounts for the Development Bank, Public Authority for Housing Welfare, the Central Bank, Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS) and the newly-established Transport and Roads Authority. A number of MPs criticized the budget and management of PIFSS

whose previous director is facing legal action in a corruption scandal. MP Hamdan Al-Azemi said the Institution has been holding a huge amount of cash which does not serve its investments. He also said the current director worked under the previous one and as a result should not remain in his position.

Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh said PIFSS is holding plenty of cash because of its conservative investment policy. He also said that the Public Prosecution informed him that none of the current PIFSS officials are involved in the corruption scandal. A number of MPs also criticized the government's failure to make any progress in diversifying sources of income away from oil.

Mega projects

In a related development, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih said yesterday that the five year plan 2016-2020 has 32 mega projects costing KD 23.5 billion. She said that oil projects account for 42 percent of the cost of mega projects followed by 32.4 percent for transport. Subaih said the council of ministers has approved the development plan for the 2017/2018 fiscal year which has 165 projects costing KD 4.7 billion, in addition to 121 projects continuing from the previous years at a cost of KD 4.3 billion.

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Issues

5-STAR MOVEMENT
THRIVES WITHOUT
GRILLO IN ITALY

By Gavin Jones

The unruly comedian who founded Italy's anti-establishment 5-Star Movement is no longer whipping crowds into a frenzy at political rallies, but 5-Star, against all predictions, has proved it can outlive its creator. Beppe Grillo's fiery rhetoric, which almost got the movement into power in a 2013 national election, frightened off many moderate voters and his retreat to the theatrical stage the following year marked 5-Star's coming of age, not its demise.

It paved the way for a more serious makeover that has appealed to the centre of Italian politics, positioning the party a close second to Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's Democratic Party and favourite to win the mayor's job in Rome on Sunday. Scepticism was widespread when Grillo, now 67, announced he was stepping back in a blog portraying himself as Forrest Gump, the slow-witted, athletic character played by Tom Hanks in the eponymous 1994 movie.

Grillo and the movement he founded in 2009 were seen as virtually the same thing. His supporters, elected to parliament with no political experience, were known simply as "Grillini," meaning "little Grillos." "I'm pretty tired, as Forrest Gump would say," he wrote in November 2014 beneath a mock-up of himself as Gump telling an enthusiastic group of followers he will stop running to and fro across the United States.

Most commentators assumed it was another of his jokes, but Barbara Lezzi, an influential 5-Star senator, said the blog post did not take its parliamentarians by surprise. "Beppe had come to see several times in the Senate and let us know what he had in mind," she said. "He always wanted the movement to be able to stand on its own feet." Grillo set up a more formal leadership structure, with a five-member committee, or "directorate," approved by an online poll, taking over day-to-day running of the movement.

"5-Star is evolving from a 'movement,' made up of followers of a charismatic leader into a 'party' with an organisation and an internal structure," said Raffaele De Mucci, a political science professor at Rome's LUISS university. "Rome will be a fundamental test if its mayor is elected, because it offers the chance to disprove the theory that it is too inexperienced to govern."

Setbacks

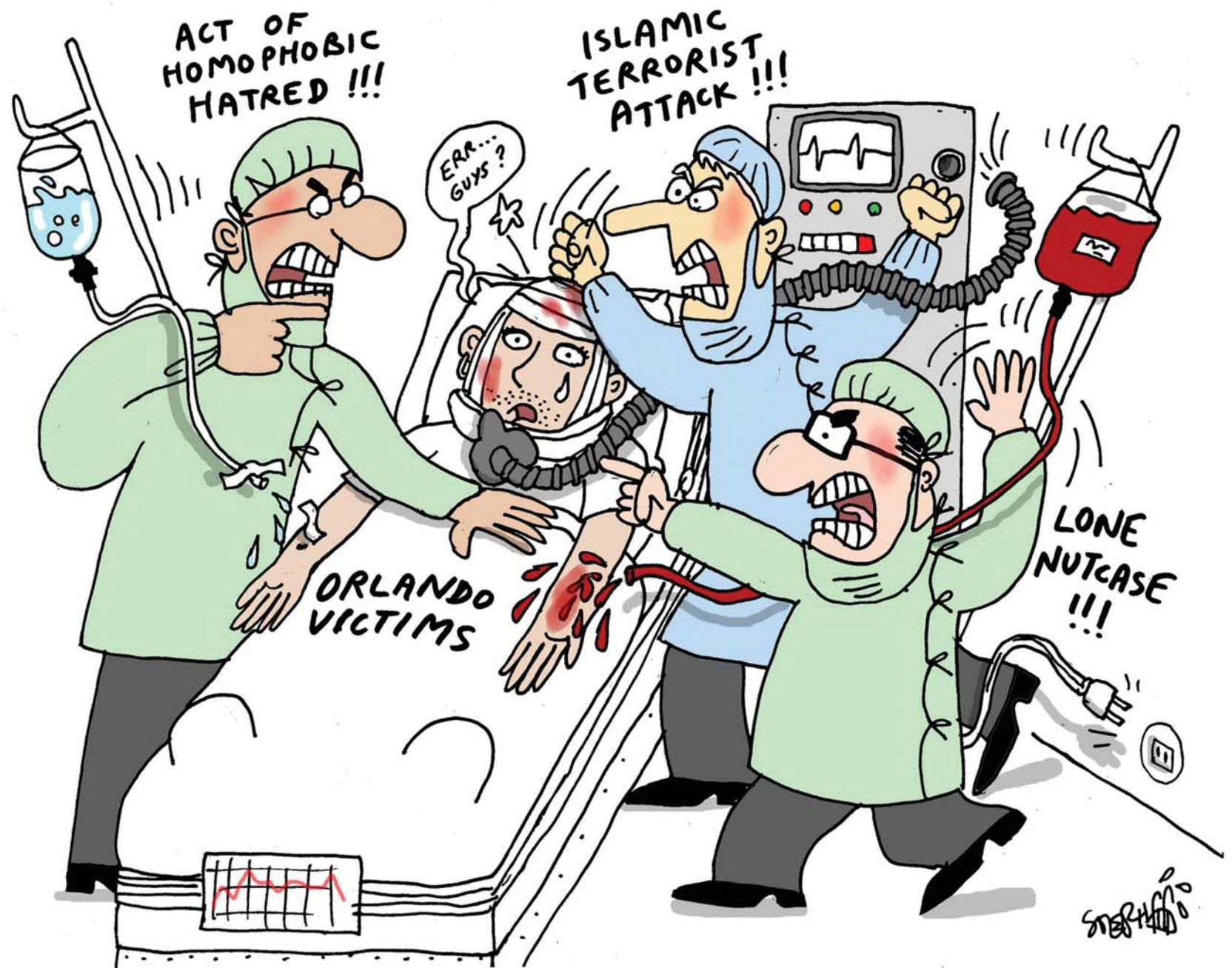
Its candidate Virginia Raggi, a softly-spoken, 37-year-old lawyer, is about as far from Grillo, personality-wise, as is possible and while she adheres to his anti-establishment message, her campaign is focused on everyday city issues such as transport and rubbish collection. Many of the party's ideas appeal to left and right-wing voters alike, something that sets 5-Star apart from other European anti-system parties such as the leftist Syriza in Greece and Podemos in Spain, or the far-right National Front in France.

But its progress has been anything but smooth since its 2013 breakthrough. It has had setbacks at European and local elections and been so beset by internal divisions that 37 of its original 163 parliamentarians have left to join other parties. It is widely criticized for an alleged lack of internal democracy and, in the handful of towns and cities it controls, several of its inexperienced mayors have run into trouble. So why has its appeal continued to grow? Weak economic and jobs growth, and a stream of corruption scandals affecting the established parties have certainly helped. Its trademark call for "honesty" in public life continues to resonate, and remains its chief asset.

But analysts say it has outgrown its image as purely a party of protest and its proposals are now also being taken seriously. These include universal income support for the poor, tougher penalties on white collar crime and tax evasion, building more prisons, closing down or privatizing many publicly owned companies and cutting taxes for small businesses. It wants to cut state generous pensions that are not fully funded by contributions and says the Bank of Italy should be owned by the state instead of the private banks it supervises.

Most controversially, it proposes a referendum on whether Italy should remain in the euro zone, though it has sharply cut its anti-euro rhetoric since Grillo's role declined and now seldom addresses the issue. "We have other priorities at the moment," said senator Lezzi. The party's support comes mainly from the young and well-educated, data shows, while it has little following among pensioners. It gets a generally hostile press in Italian media. "They dismiss us as populist as a way to avoid discussing our proposals," said Luigi Di Maio, the 29-year-old deputy speaker of the Chamber of Deputies who is tipped to be 5-Star's candidate for prime minister at the next election, due in 2018.

"We are not populist. Our policies, from welfare to spending cuts and justice reform, are detailed and fully funded." Grillo maintains a behind-the-scenes role as "guarantor" of the party's internal rules. Its new, less aggressive leaders like Di Maio, offer voters a more reassuring public face. Francesco Galietti, of Rome-based consultancy Policy Sonar, said 5-Star will have trouble maintaining its anti-establishment image if it assumes more positions of power. "Italy's establishment has a long history of making peace with odd political bedfellows and if it tires of Renzi it may well seek to favour the normalisation of the 5-Star Movement," he said. —Reuters



BATTLE-HARDENED FANS CAUSE NEW CRISIS FOR RUSSIAN SPORT

By Anais Llobet

Rampaging football fans have opened up a new sporting crisis for Russia as it battles doping scandals and doubts about the World Cup that it will host in two years. Sanctions that UEFA is considering against Russia over pitched fights, racist chants and fireworks hurled around the European Championship game against England have been a new blow to Russia's reputation. Images of fans preparing for battle with gun shields and batons, charging through Marseille's old town with chairs over their heads ready to throw have gone around the world.

Women and children were among the England supporters who had to flee over barriers when Russian fans launched a charge inside the Stade Velodrome stadium at the end of the 1-1 draw. UEFA have threatened England and Russia with disqualification from Euro 2016 if there is a repeat of the unrest. Only Russia faces formal charges however. Europe's governing body is to announce a first punishment today. Russia's Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko has predicted his country will merely be fined.

But there is a lot of damage limitation to be done. Mutko is already struggling with international enquiries into doping in Russian athletics and other sports. The International Association of Athletics Federations is to decide on Friday whether to readmit Russia into international competition so it can take part in the Rio Olympics in August. Following accusa-

tions of "state-sponsored" doping in athletics, Russia is also under investigation by the World Anti-Doping Agency over allegations that doping samples were fixed at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.

Swiss prosecutors are also still probing how Russia was awarded the 2018 World Cup as part of their look at FIFA's affairs. Mutko knows he has a job on his hands to convince the football world that all will be well in 2018. Russia's fans "are disgracing the country and think this is normal," he said. "As hosts of the future world championship, we must preserve our image and people shouldn't spoil it," he added. Racism is commonplace at Russian football matches. Fans have thrown bananas at black players and Zenit St Petersburg's Brazilian striker Hulk, has repeatedly complained of being a target of racial insults at Russian league matches, including monkey chants.

A 2014 law punishes fan violence with up to eight years in prison. A draft law submitted to parliament last month that would set up a blacklist of violent fans who would be barred from sporting events. "Some people won't like this of course, it is extra money for stadiums, but security is the most important thing," the head of the Russian lower house of parliament's sports committee, Dmitry Svishchev told R-Sport news agency.

He added that the events in Marseille had forced Russia "to think seriously: how will things go in our country, what do we have to do to avoid a repeat of this?" However some Russian fans and officials have indicated they do not care what foreign bodies do

or think. Igor Lebedev, a member of the Russian Football Union executive and a deputy speaker of the Russian parliament, encouraged the country's fans to fight England rivals. Lebedev, a member of the ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party, said on Twitter: "I don't see anything wrong with fans fighting. "Quite the opposite, the guys did well. Keep it up!"

Sports commentator and former player Yevgeny Lovchev told AFP that the 2018 World Cup "is not just Russia's problem," and that other countries will have to be involved in security. Hooliganism experts in Europe have worries about the World Cup. John Williams, a sociology professor and expert on hooliganism at Leicester University in England, said the lack of control on access to match tickets in Russia was a serious problem in its fight with hardcore troublemakers. "Of course, what happened in Marseille is very negative publicity for the prospects of the World Cup in Russia."

But he said there would be fewer foreign visitors in Russia in 2018 than at Euro 2016. Short trips to Russia would be "more expensive and less seductive" for European fans. "I would also expect the Russian authorities to come down very hard at home on domestic hooligans, both before and, if necessary, during the finals," Williams said. "Intense monitoring and policing at home may well reduce the impact of local gangs," he said. "However, 'selling' the World Cup in Russia now to visiting supporters, without concerted home action, may be increasingly difficult." —AFP

VENEZUELAN BARTER DIAPERS FOR FOOD ON SMARTPHONES

By Maria Isabel Sanchez

A kilo of pasta gets you a packet of diapers. A bag of flour buys a bottle of shampoo. Short on basic supplies, Venezuelans have reverted to ancient shopping habits: bartering whatever they have. But the tools of the trade are right out of the 21st century: WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram. With food and toiletries in ever shorter supply, their smartphones are helping them survive. "I have diapers, I will exchange them for a kilo of pasta," says a message on one group in the messaging app WhatsApp.

It is one of hundreds on the "Puerta del Bosque Swap Shop," a group of 250 neighbors in Guatire, east of Caracas. Countless groups like it buzz with messages on various online networks. "I only have flour. I'll swap it for sanitary napkins," reads one message. Another says: "My baby has no milk, I need some." Teaching assistant Plalla Alvarez, 34, says she shares groups with about 400 neighbors on WhatsApp and a further 600 on Facebook. "We have forgotten what it was like to chat about other matters. All we talk about now is how to get hold of food, toiletries and medicine," she said. "People are bartering like this all around the country."

Diapers for sugar

Venezuela's economy has plunged in line with the price of the crude oil exports on which it relies, as the government's state-led economy sputters from shortage to shortage. The situation has worsened in recent months due to inflation and the devaluation of its bolivar currency. For the best part of two years citizens have had to queue at supermarkets to buy rations of subsidized goods. "I don't have children, but when I queue up and find there are diapers that day, I buy them and exchange them for things I need, like sugar and soap," said Jophelin Primera, organizer of one online bartering group.

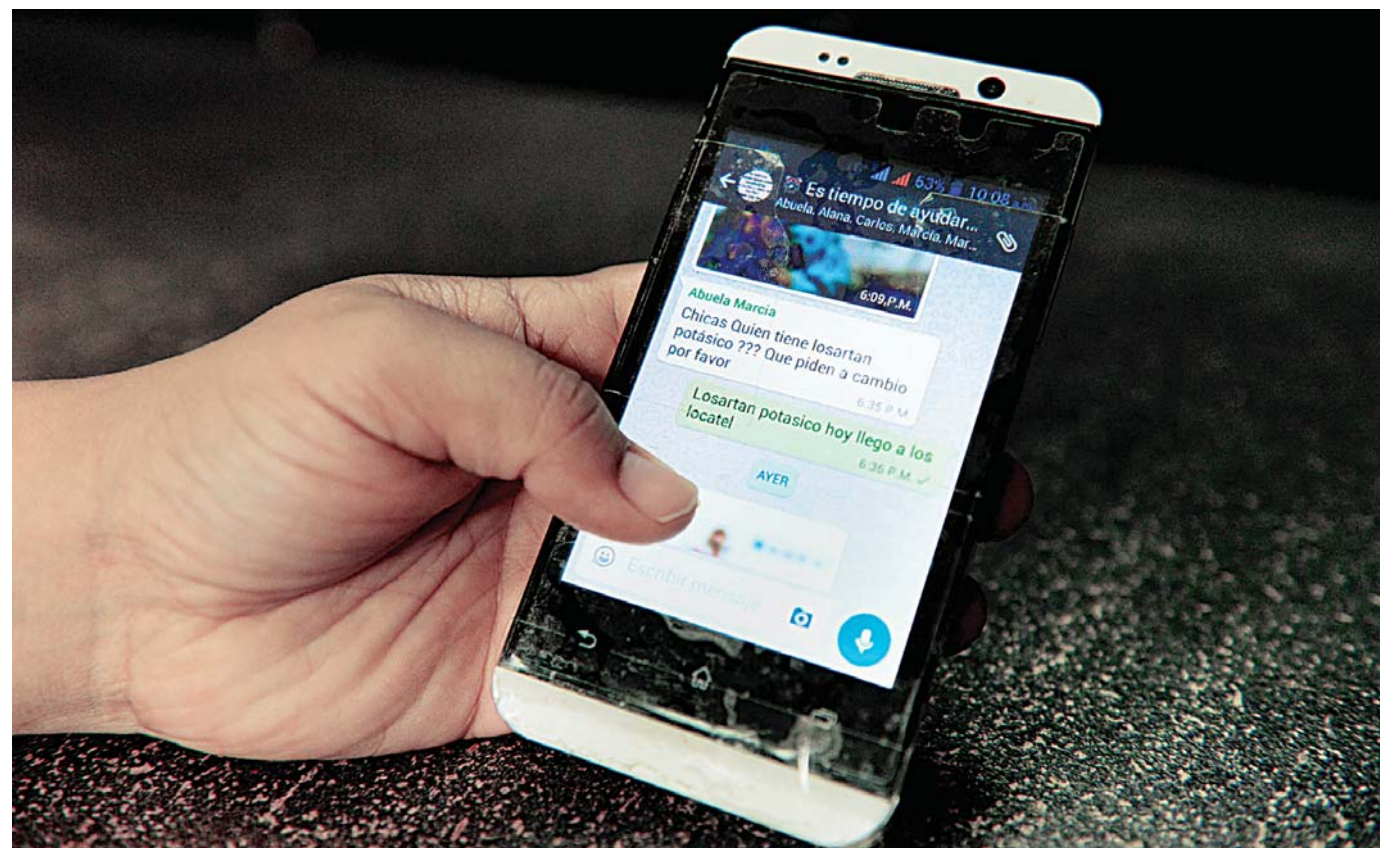
A survey last month by polling firm Datanalisis estimated 80 percent of food goods were in short supply. As scarcity has risen, so has the black market. Rogue retailers buy up rationed goods and sell them at a markup. That practice is banned in the online bartering groups. "The idea is not to make money but to keep yourself supplied," said Primera, a 30-year-old computer specialist. There are also set hours for exchanging messages so members are not disturbed by the constant beeping of their phones. "The administrator of the group watches that no one breaks the rules," Primera said.

Cake without eggs

One Facebook group, "United Moms," specializes in baby bottles, formula milk, wet wipes and the like. In others, users swap hardship cooking tips. "We have to improvise so we also share recipes: homemade tomato sauce, how to make a cake without flour or eggs or butter," says Primera. Venezuela's minimum wage is 35,000 bolivars-around \$60 at the official exchange rate or \$35 at black market rates. A bag of flour from a black market retailer costs 2,000 bolivars. Maduro blames the crisis on an "economic war." He accuses business of hoarding goods to provoke unrest in the hope of top-

pling his government.

The opposition is pushing for a referendum on removing him from power. Looting and riots have surged in recent weeks as scarcity and political tension have soared. Users of the online swap shops tend to hand over their goods in public to avoid being tricked and robbed. "We make an agreement on WhatsApp or Facebook, we send each other photos or tell each other how we will be dressed" at the meet-up, Primera said. "It's all very well to barter, but it's bad that we should have to resort to that to subsist," she said. "That's disappointing, and sad." —AFP



CARACAS: A person holds a mobile phone showing a Whatsapp group chat for the exchange of scarce products in Caracas. —AFP

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MUSTAFI OFFERS ICE CREAM TO SHKODRAN

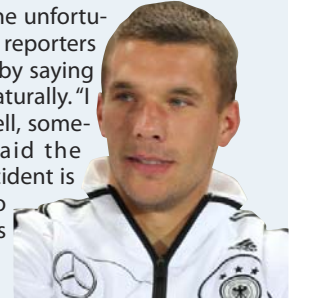
EVIAN: Germany defender Shkodran Mustafi is so pleased that he is going to have a baby boy named after him following his Euro 2016 heroics that he promised yesterday to buy his young namesake an ice cream. A Germany fan had said before the world champions' opening game against Ukraine on Sunday that he would name his son, whose birth is imminent, after the team's first goalscorer. Yet the supporter had also predicted that, as Mustafi was unlikely to score, he would not have to call his boy Shkodran, an Albanian name which is extremely rare in Germany. The 24-year-old central defender, though, defied the odds to head in the opening goal in their 2-0 win over Ukraine, his first goal for Germany. Mustafi, who is of Albanian descent, said he had heard about the fan's planned tribute and was prepared to reward the little boy with an ice cream should he take his name. "I don't know what he will be called now," Mustafi told reporters amid laughter. — Reuters

JUVENTUS SIGN ROMA MIDFIELDER PJANIC

ROME: Italian champions Juventus have signed creative midfielder Miralem Pjanic for 32 million euros (\$36.14 million) from Serie A rivals Roma on a five-year contract, the Turin-based club said yesterday. The Bosnia international joined Roma from Lyon in 2011 and scored 10 goals and set up 12 more in 33 league appearances to help his team finish third in Serie A this past season. He is considered the leading playmaker in Serie A with a league-leading 28 assists over the past three seasons and is also a free-kick specialist. "Juventus Football Club can today confirm that Miralem Pjanic has completed a permanent switch from Roma for a fee of 32 million euros," the Italian champions said on their website. (www.juventus.com) "The 26-year-old has signed a five-year contract with the club." Pjanic handed in an official transfer request on Saturday, which Roma confirmed on their website. (www.asroma.com) The player informed his former club that he wished to activate a release clause in his contract that allowed him to leave for a pre-agreed amount, adding that he would pay 20 percent of the fee himself with Juventus making up the balance. — Reuters

PODOLSKI DEFENDS LOEW OVER 'TROUSERS-GATE'

EVIAN: Germany forward Lukas Podolski has defended head coach Joachim Loew's indiscreet scratch of his genitals, caught live by television cameras and seized on by social media, during the world champions' opening Euro 2016 match. The 54-year-old Loew has been widely ridiculed on social media by Germany fans for absent-mindedly slipping his hands into the front of his trousers on the sidelines during Germany's 2-0 win over Ukraine on Sunday. The German media has subtly dubbed the unfortunate incident in Lille 'Trousers-gate'. But Podolski left reporters roaring with laughter at Tuesday's press conference by saying the German boss had just been doing what comes naturally. "I believe 80 percent of you (journalists) and me as well, sometimes scratch your nuts from time to time," said the Galatasaray forward in Evian with a grin. The Lille incident is just the latest sideline indiscretion from Loew, who has in the past been caught by cameras picking his nose during Germany games. — AFP



Abdallah Al-Haddan (fencing).



Nizar Ramadhan during the match.



Abdallah Bouland handles the basketball.



Fencer Faisal Al-Kandari being honored.

8TH RAMADAN SPORTS DISABLED TOURNAMENT CONCLUDES

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The 8th Ramadan Sports Disabled Tournament concluded on Monday night at the Kuwait Disabled Sports Club and included four games, wheelchair basketball, table tennis, fencing and bocci.

Al-Nawakhitha basketball team won the tournament after defeating Kuwait with the score of 46-36, making it its second win, while Kuwait ended in second place with a win and a loss while Al-Ittihad ended in third place without a win.

In the Bocci, BC2 category player Shireen Fahad won first place followed by Bassam Al-Mutairi and Hani Hussein. In the BC3 Athari Al-Mutairi won first place, defeating Ayesha Al-Hashash and Khalid Saad ended in third place.

Nadia Al-Marhoon was the winner of the BC4 category, while Amani Ismail ended in second and her sister Tahani ended

in third place. KDSC president Shafi Al-Hajiri lauded the technical and ethical behavior of the athletes in various games, and considered the continuation of the tournament for the eighth consecutive year, and the notable increase in the number of participating players, particularly younger generations, and this is a true success. He said the club is keen on holding such sports events regularly to keep the athletes prepared for the upcoming tournaments abroad, besides its promotional benefits during the holy month.

Al-Hajiri lauded the support of the Public Authority for Sports (PAS), under the leadership of Director General Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Sabah for all activities and programs of the club, which contributed to club athletes making many achievements. He also thanked the Club's Honorary President Al-Sheikha Sheikhha Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah for her continued support.



Al-Nawakhitha team receives the Basketball Championship Cup.



Shireen Fahad being honored.



Shafi Al-Hajiri hands the cup to Nawakhitha basketball team.



Abdallah Ashour being honored (T. Tennis).



Ali Al-Sane winner of table tennis championship.



Athari Al-Mutairi.



Part of the basketball match between Nawakhitha and Kuwait teams.



Khalifa Al-Khalifa, table tennis.



Head of Nawakhitha team holding the championship cup.

SPAIN DOPING SCANDAL THREATENS TO EXPOSE MORE SPORTSPEOPLE

MADRID: A Spanish court yesterday reversed a decision to destroy blood bags seized as part of the Operation Puerto doping scandal, which may allow authorities to identify more sportspeople implicated in the high-profile case.

A major embarrassment for Spain, the case centres on disgraced doctor Eufemiano Fuentes who was found guilty of giving performance-enhancing blood transfusions to top cyclists, and also admitted to having worked with unidentified footballers, tennis players and boxers.

Fuentes was found guilty of endangering public health in a 2013 trial, but the judge at the time refused to give anti-dop-

ing authorities access to the 211 blood bags seized in 2006 from his apartments, and ordered them destroyed on privacy grounds. On Tuesday, a court in Madrid reversed that decision, ruling that the bags be handed over to entities such as the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

"The stated aim is to fight doping," the court said in a statement, adding that there was "a risk that other sportspeople could be tempted by doping."

So far only cyclists, including 1997 Tour de France winner Jan Ullrich, have been publicly named as being Fuentes clients.

But former cyclist Jesus Manzano, a whistleblower in the case, claims to have

seen prominent footballers being treated by Fuentes. Yesterday's decision means that WADA, the International Cycling Union (UCI) and other anti-doping entities will be able to analyse the blood bags and identify other sportspeople who may have used the performance-enhancing transfusions.

DISGRACED DOCTOR ABSOLVED

Separately, the Madrid court also absolved Fuentes of endangering public health, on the grounds that the blood he used for transfusions was not medicine and thus did not come under the remit of that offence. Fuentes had been given a one-year suspended prison sentence and

was banned from practising as a sports doctor for four years.

He had been accused of endangering public health but not incitement to doping, which was not a crime in Spain at the time of his arrest in 2006.

The case and the judge's decision to destroy the blood bags caused severe reputational damage to Madrid's ultimately failed bid for the 2020 Olympic Games and did little to dismiss accusations that Spain is a soft touch on doping.

"It is unfortunate that the evidence used in this proceeding is not now being made available to anti-doping organisations to further the fight against doping,"

the International Olympic Committee said in a statement at the time.

A lawyer representing cycling governing body UCI described the operation as "the biggest doping network the world has ever seen". Even tennis star Andy Murray waded in.

"Operation Puerto case is beyond a joke...biggest cover up in sports history? Why would court order blood bags to be destroyed? #coverup," he tweeted at the time. "It's embarrassing for Spain," added former WADA head Dick Pound. "Everybody knows we will be able to uncover quite a bit more doping if the examples are made available." — AFP

PISTORIUS 'MUST PAY', SAYS STEENKAMP'S FATHER

PRETORIA: Steenkamp's father broke down in court yesterday as he told a dramatic sentencing hearing that Oscar Pistorius must "pay for his crime" of murdering his daughter three years ago.

It was the first time that 73-year-old Barry Steenkamp testified in court and directly addressed Pistorius.

The Paralympic athlete killed Reeve Steenkamp in the early hours of Valentine's Day in 2013, saying he mistook her for a burglar when he fired four times through the door of his bedroom toilet.

In March, Pistorius's lawyers lost an appeal judgement that upgraded his original conviction from culpable homicide-the equivalent of manslaughter-to murder.

"It has been very difficult for me to forgive... I feel that Oscar has to pay for what he did. He has to pay for his crime," Barry Steenkamp said, tears streaming down his face. Reliving how his daughter, 29, died, Steenkamp said: "What she must have gone through in those split seconds-she must have been in so much fear and pain. That is what I think of, all the time."

"It must have been absolutely awful." He also said that he believed the couple had argued on the night of the murder-disputing Pistorius's claims.

Pistorius held his head in his hands, sobbing during the testimony at the High Court in the South African capital Pretoria.

Barry Steenkamp, a former racehorse trainer, described the chaos and panic when his wife June rang him at work early in the morning after Reeve, a model and law graduate, was shot. "June grieves like I do, all the time. I hear her at night, I hear her crying, I hear her talking to Reeve," he added, saying that June had tried to forgive Pistorius to help her cope with the loss of her daughter. "You must still understand that he must pay for that, although June has forgiven," he said.

MURDER TERM

The original trial judge Thokozile Masipa is due to hand down a new sentence for murder after arguments from both prosecution and defence.

The hearing-held in the same courtroom as the original trial-was adjourned until Wednesday morning. It is scheduled to last until Friday. Pistorius faces a minimum 15-year jail term for murder, but his sentence could be reduced due to time already spent in prison and mitigating factors, including his disability. He was released from jail last October to live under



PRETORIA: Reeve Steenkamp father Barry (L) leaves the Pretoria High Court yesterday on the second day of the pre sentencing hearing of South African Paralympian Oscar Pistorius set to send him back to jail for murdering his girlfriend three years ago. — AFP

house arrest at his uncle's mansion in Pretoria after serving one year of his five-year sentence for culpable homicide. Earlier Tuesday, the mother of a disabled child and Pistorius's pastor gave evidence

as character witnesses for his defence. Ebba Gudmundsdottir, from Iceland, told how Pistorius had befriended her family when she was pregnant with a child who would be born without legs.

"He gave us his phone number for us to ask him or consult with him anytime we needed it, which we did and that was lovely," she told the court.

Gudmundsdottir said Pistorius has been an "inspiration" to her son, and they had gone to see him compete three times in the Paralympics. Pistorius once gave her son a gold medal and said "This is for you champion". Marius Nel, Pistorius's pastor, told the court that Pistorius was "very excited and positive" about becoming involved in the church's education projects.

Another witness, prison nurse Charlotte Mashabane, alleged that Pistorius had been a difficult inmate and had argued with officials, shouting and banging her desk in a dispute over medication.

Barry Roux, defence lawyer, accused her of giving contradictory evidence and exaggerating Pistorius's behaviour due to a personality clash. Pistorius has always denied killing Steenkamp in a rage and, during his seven-month trial in 2014, vomited in the dock as details of his lover's death were examined in excruciating detail.

The year before he killed Steenkamp, Pistorius became the first double-amputee to race at Olympic level when he appeared at the London 2012 games. — AFP

THREE DEFENSIVE GEMS HELP PRESERVE DIAMOND BACKS WIN

PHOENIX: Arizona's Paul Goldschmidt and Jake Lamb homered, and Zack Greinke won his sixth consecutive start in the Diamondbacks' 3-2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers at Chase Field on Monday. Greinke (9-3) gave up two runs and seven hits in seven innings in his first appearance against the Dodgers since leaving them for a \$206.5 million free agent contract with the Diamondbacks last winter. Greinke also sparked the Diamondbacks' go-ahead rally with a one-out single in the sixth inning. He was forced out at second base on Nick Ahmed's grounder to second base, but Ahmed stole second and scored on Jean Segura's single to make it 3-2.

Arizona right-hander Brad Ziegler recorded a five-out save after entering with the bases loaded and one out in the eighth inning. Ziegler has 13 saves this season and has converted his last 41 chances, tied for the seventh-longest streak in major league history.

NATIONALS 4, CUBS 1

Max Scherzer took a perfect game into the top of the sixth inning, and Wilson Ramos hit a tiebreaking homer in the last of the sixth as Washington beat Chicago. Scherzer (8-4) gave up one run on two hits in seven innings with 11 strikeouts and no walks. Oliver Perez retired the only batter he faced in the eighth, then Shawn Kelley came on to get the last five outs-four via strikeout-for his first save. Ramos hit a solo homer to lead off the sixth-just out of reach from right fielder Jason Heyward-to give the Nationals a 2-1 lead off Cubs starter Kyle Hendricks (4-6). Anthony Rendon followed with a double and scored on a single to left by hot-hitting Danny Espinosa, which gave him nine hits in his last 18 at-bats. Ben Revere's single scored Espinosa to build the margin to 4-1.

REDS 9, BRAVES 8

Cincinnati continued its rebound from an 11-game losing streak by adding to Atlanta's miseries. Tyler Holt drew a bases-loaded walk with two outs in the ninth inning to force in the decisive run as the Reds improved to 10-6 since the losing skid with a victory over the Braves. Joey Votto opened the winning rally with a bloop double off Braves closer Aroldys Vizcaino (1-2) and three walks, one intentional followed. The loss dropped the Braves to 7-26 at home, including 1-8 in one-run decisions.

PHILLIES 7, BLUE JAYS 0

Odubel Herrera hit a home run and had three RBIs, Ryan Howard homered, Jerad Eickhoff pitched six scoreless innings and Philadelphia defeated Toronto. The Phillies ended a four-game skid with the win while stopping a three-game winning streak by the Blue Jays. Eickhoff (4-8) allowed three hits and four walks to win his second straight start. The right-hander struck out five before David Hernandez took over in the seventh.

ROYALS 2, INDIANS 1

Edinson Volquez allowed two hits over seven scoreless innings, while rookie Whit Merrifield homered, tripled and scored both runs as Kansas City defeated division-leading Cleveland. The Royals had lost six of seven to the Indians, all in Cleveland, before opening this seven-game homestand with a victory. The victory moved the Royals within two games of the Indians. The Royals and Detroit Tigers are tied for second in the American League Central. The Indians lost for only the fourth time in 13 June games and had their seven-game winning streak against division opponents snapped. While Volquez permitted just two hits, he walked four, including three in the first inning, and hit a batter. He threw 59 strikes in 95 pitches. Volquez (6-6) had allowed nine runs on 11 hits and six walks over 11 innings in losing his previous two starts.

WHITE SOX 10, TIGERS 9 (12 INNINGS)

Adam Eaton looped a base hit to center to drive in J.B. Shuck with the winning run as Chicago beat Detroit. Shuck led off the 12th with a double down the first base line and advanced to third on Tim Anderson's groundout. The RBI single-Eaton's third career game-ending hit-came with one out off Tigers reliever Anibal Sanchez in a game that lasted 4 hours, 34 minutes. The White Sox battled back from an early 7-0 deficit and trailed by two runs in the ninth before forcing a 9-9 tie to send the game into extra innings.

TWINS 9, ANGELS 4

Minnesota got home runs from Trevor Plouffe, Byron Buxton and Robbie Grossman and a serviceable performance from starting pitcher Ricky Nolasco to beat Los Angeles. Nolasco (3-4) was far from dominant, but he kept the Angels hitters at bay, giving up three runs on seven hits and one walk in six innings. Grossman, Joe Mauer and Kurt Suzuki each had two hits for the Twins. Mauer has reached base safely by hit or walk in a major-league-leading 25 consecutive games.

A'S 14, RANGERS 5

Khrist Davis and Josh Phegley hit three-run homers, powering Oakland past Texas. A's rookie left-hander Sean Manaea gave up only two runs on four hits but left the game after 4 1/3 innings with a strain of his left pronator muscle in his forearm. Manaea was rubbing his left forearm as he talked to an A's trainer and manager Bob Melvin on the mound before exiting after giving up a home run to Shin-Soo Choo. Davis hit his 15th home run of the season in the third inning, and Phegley had his first blast of the year in the fourth. Davis went 2-for-4, drove in five runs and scored three times. Marcus Semien and Jake Smolinski each had three hits, and every A's starter except Yonder Alonso had at least one hit.



PHOENIX: Jean Segura #2 of the Arizona Diamondbacks is tagged out at second base by Corey Seager #5 of the Los Angeles Dodgers during the fifth inning at Chase Field on Monday in Phoenix, Arizona. — AFP

MARLINS 13, PADRES 4

Adeiny Hechavarria drove in four runs with a bases-loaded triple and a double, and Martin Prado had three RBIs off a homer and two singles as Miami defeated San Diego. Wei-Yin Chen (4-2) got the win despite yielding four solo homers in six innings.

He gave up six hits and one walk while striking out seven. The Marlins had 19 hits, including three by Ichiro Suzuki, who is one hit shy of tying Pete Rose's all-time professional record of 4,256 hits.

Suzuki-who was 3-for-4 with two walks, three runs and a RBI in the game-also drew to with 23 hits of 3,000 for his major league career.

GIANTS 11, BREWERS 5

Denard Span homered and finished 3-for-5 with three runs as San Francisco blasted Milwaukee. Matt Duffy added three hits for the Giants, and Brandon Crawford knocked in three runs.

Joe Panik, Brandon Belt and Buster Posey contributed two hits apiece. Giants starter Matt Cain allowed three runs in 3 2/3 innings. Albert Suarez (2-1) got the win in relief, pitching 3 2/3 innings and yielding two runs. — Reuters

MLB results/standings

Washington 4, Chicago Cubs 1; Philadelphia 7, Toronto 0; Cincinnati 9, Atlanta 8; Chicago White Sox 10, Detroit 9 (12 innings); Kansas City 2, Cleveland 1; Arizona 3, LA Dodgers 2; Minnesota 9, LA Angels 4; Oakland 14, Texas 5; Miami 13, San Diego 4; San Francisco 11, Milwaukee 5.

American League Eastern Division

Baltimore	36	26	.581	-
Boston	36	26	.581	-
Toronto	35	31	.530	3
NY Yankees	31	32	.492	5.5
Tampa Bay	29	32	.475	6.5

Central Division

Cleveland	35	28	.556	-
Kansas City	33	30	.524	2
Detroit	32	31	.508	3
Chicago WSox	32	32	.500	3.5
Minnesota	20	43	.317	15

Western Division

Texas	39	25	.609	-
Seattle	34	29	.540	4.5
Houston	30	35	.462	9.5
Oakland	27	36	.429	11.5
LA Angels	27	37	.422	12

National League Eastern Division

Washington	40	24	.625	-
NY Mets	34	28	.548	5
Miami	33	31	.516	7
Philadelphia	30	34	.469	10
Atlanta	18	45	.286	21.5

Central Division

Chicago Cubs	43	19	.694	-
St. Louis	35	28	.556	8.5
Pittsburgh	32	31	.508	11.5
Milwaukee	30	34	.469	14
Cincinnati	25	39	.391	19

Western Division

San Francisco	39	26	.600	-
LA Dodgers	33	32	.508	6
Colorado	30	33	.476	8
Arizona	29	37	.439	10.5
San Diego	26	39	.400	13



CBK CO-SPONSORS ATOM SPORTING ACADEMY

KUWAIT: Out of its policy of encouraging youth and students in the field of sports, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently took part in sponsoring the Atom

Sporting Academy indoor soccer summer training course for the age category of 6-15, said CBK's assistant director for PR and publicity, Amani Al-Wer'a.

KENYAN POLITICIAN READIES TO RUN IN OLYMPIC MARATHON

KAPTAGAT: Dawn comes misty and cold on the steep sides of the Nyaru escarpment as Kenya's Olympic men's marathon team begin their training run, a line-up of veteran athletes including a current lawmaker.

With the Rio Olympics Games less than two months away, the team with two-time London marathon winner Eliud Kipchoge and 2012 Boston marathon champ Wesley Korir, have stepped up their preparations in a bid to reclaim the title they last won eight years ago.

The 32-year-old Korir is also a serving member of the Kenyan parliament, well known as an anti-doping campaigner.

A surprise inclusion in the squad, he joined the team for the first time to run the 40-kilometre (25-mile) course and was left bruised after the workout near Eldoret in Kenya's north-west region. "The key now is to train hard, stay focused and remain healthy. I think we are going to take the top three positions in Rio," Korir, taking a break from politics to train, told AFP.

Korir says he is "excited to be the first-ever sitting Member of Parliament anywhere in the world to get the opportunity to run at the Olympics". He has been training alone around the Ngong Hills outside the capital Nairobi. "I was scared at the beginning because I have nev-

er done a 40K here in Kenya," he told AFP.

"What I learnt today is that I need to do more hill work to build the strength in my legs. Today proved that I am on the right track-so what I need to do is stay healthy and continue the training with my teammates."

Kenya won its first-ever Olympic men's marathon medal in 2008, when the late Samuel Wanjiru powered his way through the streets of the Chinese capital Beijing, to become the youngest champion at age 21.

'RUNNING AS A TEAM'

At the 2012 Olympics in London, a relatively unknown Ugandan, Stephen Kiprotich, capitalized on the benefits of training at altitude in Kenya to steal the Kenyan thunder and become his country's first Olympic marathon champion.

Kiprotich, 27, continues to base his training in Kenya and was part of the group doing the hilly workout under Kenyan Olympic marathon coach Richard Metto.

Kiprotich, who added a World title to his Olympic crown in Moscow in 2013, is well aware of the tough competition that awaits him in Rio.

"Rio is saying I should defend my title, but the Kenyans and Ethiopians will be my biggest opponents," the Ugandan athlete told AFP.

Among the Kenyans, Kipchoge, who won a 5,000m silver medal in Beijing behind Ethiopia's Kenenisa Bekele is considered the favourite to win the Olympic marathon title.

Unbeaten in the six races since making a successful transition from the track to the marathon, Kipchoge has twice come close to breaking the world record of 2 hours two minutes and 57 seconds currently held by compatriot Dennis Kimetto.

But a world record will not be on the mind of the 31-year-old in Rio. "I know many people see me as the favourite in Rio but I don't have any pressure. I will just go and enjoy running my own race. I always make sure I hit the target all the time," he said. "It is great and a big boost to train with the current Olympic champion and one of our political leaders in this country."

"I will not focus on time in Rio, but we will be running as a team. My main focus will be to run good race and aim to finish in the top three positions," said Kipchoge.

Kenya has also named one of the strongest line-ups in the women's team, including Helah Kiprop, the reigning world marathon silver-medallist, and London marathon champion Jemima Sumgong. Kenya is yet to win the Olympic women's gold medal. — AFP

US TEAM HAPPY TO HAVE WOODS ALONG FOR RYDER CUP RIDE

LONDON: Tiger Woods will be a welcome presence as a vice-captain on the US Ryder Cup team for this year's edition of the biennial event, eminent sports psychologist Dr Bob Rotella told AFP.

The 14-time major winner—who will miss this week's US Open as he continues his recovery from back surgery he underwent last September—will be listened to with equal respect by the seasoned veterans as well as the newcomers to the team, according to Rotella.

Rotella, who is primarily known for his work with top golfers and is helping US captain Davis Love III with the psycholog-

ical demands of being skipper, said Woods would be a huge help in spurring on the US team given his enthusiastic support for Australian golfer Jason Day.

"The US team is happy at the very least that he is an assistant to the captain," said Rotella, speaking in his role for Standard Life Investments, Worldwide Partner of The Ryder Cup, and for whom he has made a film on what it takes to be a world class performer.

"He will be listened to attentively in equal measure by the veterans as well as the young players (for the Cup which takes place at the Hazeltine National in

Minnesota from September 30 to October 2). "No finer example of his generosity in helping other golfers is than over the past six months he has been texting Jason Day encouraging and supporting him.

"Jason has had a lot of talent for a while but now he looks as if he could win every tournament he competes in," added Rotella, who was speaking by phone from Oakmont where the US Open is being held.

Rotella, who has helped among others both Love and European skipper Darren Clarke in the past, said his belief

was Woods would not return to the Tour until he had sorted out two problems. "His return, which no one knows for sure when that will be, will be based on two factors," said Rotella.

"Firstly that the physical scars of his surgery will have disappeared and his short game is back in shape.

"With regard to the first factor it seems like he is being really smart and making sure that when he returns he is back for good and there is no chance of any more surgery.

"On the second his short game, when he left the Tour he was really struggling

with his chipping and putting and he won't want to return unless he has rectified that part of his game."

Rotella, who has written over 10 books on the subject of psychology and sports, said he had seen golfers come back too quickly from back problems.

"The mind and the body are very intimately linked," he said.

"An example of that is I know a lot of times golfers who have had back problems and are back playing have bent down to line up a putt and felt pain. "This places doubt in their mind and upsets their focus on the job in hand." — AFP

SAMUELS SPARKS WEST INDIES OVER AUSTRALIA

BASSETTERE: Marlon Samuels produced his best batting effort in One-Day International cricket against Australia to lead the West Indies to a six-wicket victory in the fifth match of the Tri-Nation series at Warner Park in St Kitts on Monday. Set a challenging target after Usman Khawaja's 98 and supporting half-centuries from skipper Steve Smith (74) and George Bailey (55) lifted the visitors to 265 for seven batting first, the enigmatic Samuels stroked 92 to ensure that the target was reached with 20 deliveries to spare. "It's all about delivering for the team and keeping us in contention in the competition," Man of the Match Samuels said.

With a previous best of 63 from 27 ODIs against the most dominant team in this form of the game, the Jamaican right-hander made an important deposit on a significant overdrive against the World Cup-holders, his innings spanning 87 deliveries and decorated with eight fours and four sixes — the last three of which came off consecutive balls from leg-spinner Adam Zampa over long-off. In keeping with his mercurial nature, he was run out off the very next delivery to have the West Indies at 240 for four in the 41st over. Two more wickets fell to Nathan Coulter-Nile with the score at 254 before Kieron Pollard and Carlos Brathwaite formalised victory in the 46th over. Denesh Ramdin also played a key role in the run-chase. He supported Samuels in a 73-run fourth-wicket stand and continued to play sensibly following the demise of his senior partner before being bowled by Coulter-Nile for 29.

WEST INDIES NARROW THE GAP

Victory pulled the West Indies within a point of leaders Australia in the three-team standings.

West Indies next play South Africa on Wednesday at the same venue. Samuels had joined Darren Bravo at the crease fol-

lowing a rollicking opening stand of 74 in ten overs from Johnson Charles and Andre Fletcher. Both benefited from dropped chances by Khawaja before all-rounder James Faulker removed Fletcher for 27 while Zampa trapped Charles in front for 48. Bravo and Samuels then steadied the West Indies chase, keeping them well on course in an 82-run third-wicket partnership that was broken when Zampa was summoned back into the attack and removed Bravo for 39 via a bat-pad catch that lobbed comfortably to wicketkeeper Matthew Wade.

Earlier, Khawaja's promotion to open the batting in the absence of the injured David Warner paid immediate dividends. He lost Aaron Finch in the very first over to West Indies captain Jason Holder but then featured in a 170-run second-wicket partnership with Smith, who overcame the nagging discomfort of a right leg injury to help put his team in a commanding position by the time he departed in the 35th over, the victim of a clever change of pace from all-rounder Carlos Brathwaite.

Khawaja was on the verge of a maiden ODI hundred but, becalmed in the nineties, he took on the challenge of a third run for his third-wicket partner, Bailey, and was found short of his ground by Jerome Taylor's return from the boundary to stand-in wicketkeeper Fletcher.

His innings occupied 123 deliveries and was embellished by three sixes and four fours. Fletcher's position behind the stumps was the result of an injury to Ramdin who fell heavily on his right shoulder when attempting to effect a run out a few overs earlier. He returned for the final overs, taking two catches to dismiss Travis Head and Bailey off Pollard.

Head earned his selection after Warner was ruled out of the rest of the tournament with a broken finger sustained against South Africa on Saturday. — AFP



OAKLAND: Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James, bottom, dunks past Golden State Warriors forward Harrison Barnes during the second half of Game 5 of basketball's NBA Finals in Oakland, Calif., Monday. The Cavaliers won 112-97. — AP

IRVING, LEBRON POWER CAVALIERS OVER WARRIORS TO EXTEND FINALS

OAKLAND: Kyrie Irving and LeBron James each scored 41 points Monday to power Cleveland over defending champion Golden State 112-97, keeping the Cavaliers' championship hopes alive in the NBA Finals.

Faced with a must-win game, the Cavaliers stars became the first teammates to crack 40 points in the same finals game and scored more than any players facing NBA Finals elimination in 20 years. Golden State still leads the best-of-seven series 3-2 with game six tomorrow at Cleveland. A seventh game if needed would be Sunday back in California. The Warriors, playing without suspended forward Draymond Green, were undone when a left knee injury sidelined Australian center Andrew Bogut early in the third quarter. James, who became the ninth player in NBA history with 1,000 career NBA Finals points, and Irving each scored 11 points in the third quarter. Irving netted 12 more in the fourth. Golden State trimmed an 11-point deficit to 102-96 on a Curry basket with 6:39 to play, but Irving scored the next seven points, James added a 3-pointer for a 112-96 Cleveland lead, the Warriors going more than five minutes without scoring to seal their fate.

Klay Thompson led Golden State with 37

points while NBA Most Valuable Player Stephen Curry added 25. The Warriors were without Green after the NBA issued a one-game ban to the forward on Sunday. Green was given a flagrant foul for striking James in the groin with a flailing hand in game four and was banned based on accumulation of such fouls.

Green was the only Warrior to play in every Golden State regular season and playoff victory this season.

BOGUT STRUCK

No team has ever recovered from a 3-1 deficit to win the NBA Finals, but the Cavaliers could become the first. James, in his sixth consecutive NBA Finals and seventh overall, extended a personal streak with at least one road win in an NBA record 26 consecutive playoff series.

Bogut was struck by Cleveland's J.R. Smith as he drove to the basket early in the third quarter and the Aussie big man landed awkwardly on his left leg, writhing in pain on the court. He had to be helped to the locker room with what appeared to be a severe left knee injury.

With Green gone and Bogut out, the Warriors went with a smaller and faster lineup, but more space inside was open for James to drive to the

basket. Leading 74-71 after Golden State's Klay Thompson made five points in a row, the Cavaliers went on a 19-11 run, with James and Tristan Thompson each scoring six in the spurt for a 93-82 Cleveland edge.

James entered the fourth quarter with 36 points, 12 rebounds and six assists—the best three-quarter figures of his NBA career. In a physical and fast-paced first half, Klay Thompson scored 26 points while James had 25, his most in any half in this year's playoffs or any of his seven finals appearances, as the teams were deadlocked 61-61 at half-time. Hot-handed Thompson, who had 18 points in the second period alone, made 6-of-8 3-pointers, 3-of-4 from 2-point range and 4-of-4 from the free throw line to power the Warriors.

James connected on 10-of-18 from the floor, including 2-of-4 3-pointers, and grabbed nine rebounds in the first half while Irving added 18 points, hitting 8-of-10 from the floor.

Fans chanted "Free Draymond" and booed James as the Warriors jumped ahead 9-3, aided by four Cavaliers turnovers, but James and J.R. Smith sank back-to-back 3-pointers to lift Cleveland level at 22-22 and the first half stayed tight from there. — AFP



BASSETTERE: West Indies cricketer Marlon Samuels plays a shot off Australian bowler Adam Zampa during their One Day International match of the Tri-nation Series at the Warner Park stadium in Basseterre, Saint Kitts, on Monday. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play in the fifth Triangular Series match between West Indies and Australia on Monday in Basseterre, St Kitts and Nevis.

Australia Innings:		West Indies Innings:	
U. Khawaja run out (Taylor, Fletcher)	98	J. Charles lbw b Zampa	48
A. Finch c Benn b Holder	0	A. Fletcher c Bailey b Faulkner	27
S. Smith c&b C. Brathwaite	74	Da. Bravo c Wade b Zampa	39
G. Bailey c Ramdin b Pollard	55	M. Samuels run out (Wade)	92
M. Marsh c Holder b C. Brathwaite	16	D. Ramdin b Coulter-Nile	29
T. Head c Ramdin b Pollard	1	K. Pollard not out	16
M. Wade b Holder	5	J. Holder c Wade b Coulter-Nile	0
J. Faulkner not out	4	C. Brathwaite not out	3
N. Coulter-Nile not out	1	Extras (lb-3 w-9)	12
Extras (lb-2 w-9)	11	Total (for 6 wickets, 45.4 overs)	266
Total (for 7 wickets, 50 overs)	265	Fall of wickets: 1-74 A. Fletcher, 2-85 J. Charles, 3-167 Da. Bravo, 4-240 M. Samuels, 5-254 D. Ramdin, 6-254 J. Holder.	
Fall of wickets: 1-1 A. Finch, 2-171 S. Smith, 3-196 U. Khawaja, 4-245 M. Marsh, 5-249 T. Head, 6-257 M.Wade, 7-259 G. Bailey		Did not bat: S. Narine, S. Benn, J. Taylor.	
Did not bat: A. Zampa, J. Hazlewood		Bowling: J. Hazlewood 9-0-46-0, N. Coulter-Nile 9.4-0-67-2 (w-4), J. Faulkner 6-0-31-1, T. Head 6-0-29-0 (w-1), M. Marsh 8-0-30-0, A. Zampa 7-0-60-2	
Bowling: J. Holder 10-0-44-2 (w-1), J. Taylor 5-0-31-0, S. Narine 10-0-44-0, C. Brathwaite 10-0-60-2, S. Benn 9-0-52-0 (w-2), K. Pollard 6-0-32-2 (w-2).		Result: West Indies won by 4 wickets.	

KUMBLE APPLIES FOR INDIA COACHING JOB

NEW DELHI: Spin bowling great Anil Kumble is among the biggest names to have applied for the high-profile job as India head coach, according to media reports.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said Sunday that it had received 57 applications for the post but did not reveal any names. Former team director Ravi Shastri, current chief selector Sandeep Patil and ex-pace bowler Venkatesh Prasad were among a few top former players who made their coaching intentions public.

But on Monday Kumble, who has mentored Indian Premier League sides such as Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bangalore, was reported to have also thrown his hat in the ring. "Yes, I have applied," the former India skipper was quoted as saying by The Indian Express newspaper.

The 45-year-old bagged 619 Test wickets in 132 matches and is only the second bowler in cricket history after England's Jim Laker to have taken all 10 in a Test innings.

Kumble has previously served as the president of his state association in Karnataka and headed BCCI's technical committee. He is currently the chairman of the ICC cricket committee. However Kumble does not fit the BCCI criteria of having "coached a cricket team of any of the member countries of the ICC (International Cricket Council), at the first class or at the International level".

Overseas coaches such as Australia's Stuart Law and Dav Whatmore, who was

recently sacked by Zimbabwe, are also being floated by India's media as possible applicants.

The list will now be pruned by board secretary Ajay Shirke and the appointment of the new coach is expected to be made before India's tour to the West Indies in July. — AFP



Anil Kumble

COOK SAYS ENGLAND READY FOR PAKISTAN, HAILS HALES

LONDON: England test skipper Alastair Cook believes his batsmen are well-prepared to deal with Pakistan's fiery attack next month after getting plenty of practice in the middle against a weakened Sri Lanka side.

England crushed Sri Lanka 2-0 in the three-test home series that concluded on Monday, facing little resistance from a team shorn of frontline pacemen Dushmantha Chameera and Dhammika Prasad through injury at different stages during the tour.

However, Cook's side can expect a far bigger challenge from a formidable Pakistani pace attack spearheaded by left-armers Mohammad Amir and Wahab Riaz, supplemented by tricky leg-spinner Yasir Shah.

"They've got a very good pace attack, backed up with spinners," Cook said after the rain-hit final test against Sri Lanka ended in a tame draw at Lord's. "But we're ready for them. We scored a lot of runs against Australia's attack here last year. I think it's going to be a brilliant series."

Amir will be returning to test cricket after serving a five-year ban following a spot-fixing scandal in England, while the four-test series will be Shah's first since he served a three-month suspension for a doping violation.

Cook will also be delighted to have finally found a stable opening partner in Alex Hales, who finished the series against Sri Lanka as the second highest scorer on 292 runs from five innings. His performance marked a significant improvement by the 27-year-old Hales, who averaged just 17 in his debut test series in South Africa earlier this year as he struggled to make the transition from limited-overs cricket.

"Three scores of 80 and above from Alex Hales was really pleasing," Cook said of his eighth opening partner since Andrew Strauss retired in 2012.

"He's certainly tightened up his game from South Africa and probably just learned about test cricket."

It was a satisfying series for Jonny Bairstow too, the English wicketkeeper-batsman emerging as the top-scorer and walking away with the man-of-the-series award. Cook hailed Bairstow's batting prowess but admitted the 26-year-old had room for improvement behind the stumps. "It's great to have an attacking batsman coming in and taking it to the opposition." — Reuters

FORMER REBEL EVRA NOW FRANCE'S WISE OLD MAN

FAN FERVOR



PARIS: It has been a tortuous journey for France's Patrice Evra, once blamed for playing a dark role in the worst scandal in the history of the national team but now in the limelight as the wise old man of a team with high hopes.

Leading by example and always careful to send out a positive message, Evra, the oldest player in the France squad at 35, offers protection to the youngsters and his experience to all.

"He is very important to us because he's been through many things, has won big titles and played for big clubs", said midfielder Moussa Sissoko. "When he talks, you listen".

Playing in his fifth major tournament, Evra has an impressive resume, featuring five Premier League titles and a Champions League win with Manchester United as well as two Serie A titles with Juventus, his current club.

So vital is Evra to France that there was no debate on whether he should remain in the starting lineup despite giving away a penalty in a dismal performance in Les Bleus' opening 2-1 win over Romania at Euro 2016 on Friday.

"I had the feeling there were 12 Romanians out there," he said afterwards, "not sounding a bit worried about his immediate future. It was tough because

we were under a great deal of pressure but this will allow us to play more freely now."

France coach Didier Deschamps, who had Evra in his team when he coached AS Monaco in the 2004 Champions League final, has the inexperienced Lucas Digne as his only other option at left back.

It would thus be surprising if Evra did not start France's second Group A game against Albania on Wednesday in Marseille before they face Switzerland in their final game in the section.

WORLD CUP FIASCO

It was a very different story six years ago at the World Cup in South Africa, when Evra was captain of the team who went to their bus, pulled the curtains shut and refused to train at their base which had the misnomer of the "Field of dreams".

The unprecedented strike was aimed at protesting against a decision by the French Football Federation (FFF) to kick striker Nicolas Anelka out of the squad after he insulted then coach Raymond Domenech at halftime of a game against Mexico.

Evra's first comments after that were to blame the "traitor" inside the squad who had leaked Anelka's crude words to the press. His behaviour during that fiasco resulted in a five-match ban handed down by

the disciplinary committee of the FFF.

The traumatic events that unfolded on the shores of the Knysna lagoon prompted a nationwide debate about what it meant to wear the France colours.

It took years for the wounds to heal and for the France team to redeem themselves but now the fans are back behind Les Bleus and Evra can be seen chatting with them and cheerfully signing autographs.

Once reluctant to talk to the media, he shows up at news conferences in a relaxed mood and, after the game against Romania, he was one of few France players to make a lengthy stop in the mixed zone where journalists meet players.

"I always said I was ready to take blows if it could protect the other players," said Evra, who had used a similar formula to explain his attitude during the Knysna scandal. "When I feel that one of the players is not feeling well, it hurts me."

Evra said his approach to life had changed at the World Cup in Brazil two years ago after he read a book about the power of mindfulness by NBA coach Phil Jackson.

"It helped me a lot," he told Le Parisien newspaper. "I see things differently, I see people differently. You may laugh but I also see trees differently. I can feel they're alive". — Reuters

RUSSIA HANDED SUSPENDED EURO 2016 DISQUALIFICATION

PARIS: Russia could be thrown out of Euro 2016 if their fans cause further trouble inside a stadium after UEFA imposed a suspended disqualification and a 150,000 euro (\$168,300.00) fine on the Russian Football Union (RFU) yesterday. Masked Russia supporters charged at England fans, punching and kicking them, after the final whistle of the 1-1 Group B draw at the Stade Velodrome in Marseille on Saturday. Russia's fans were also involved in violent clashes with England supporters in the port city before and after the match. "Charges relating to crowd disturbances, use of fireworks and racist behaviour had been brought against the RFU (Russian Football Union)," UEFA said in a statement, adding its ethics committee had imposed a suspended disqualification and fine. "Such suspension will be lifted if incidents of a similar nature (crowd disturbances) happen inside the stadium at any of the remaining matches of the Russian team during the tournament," it added.

Sports minister Vitaly Mutko told the R-Sport news agency that Russia, who have been chosen to stage the 2018 World Cup, would not appeal against the sanction.

"This decision (to fine Russia) was pre-determined. There was the decision of the executive committee, now they just confirmed this decision," said Mutko.

"The punishment is excessive, but we cannot influence it. The fine is enormous as the Russian Football Union is a non-commercial organisation. There is no sense to appeal. But what (has) the team has to do with that? It is not guilty."

STRONG RESPONSE

The violence in the stadium followed three days of clashes between English, Russian and French fans in the Mediterranean port city that drew a strong response from riot police. French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said on Tuesday that some football fans will be deported from France after violent clashes marred the start of the Euro 2016 tournament, and a group of Russia fans was detained near Cannes on the French Riviera. While UEFA's sanctions announced on Tuesday relate to incidents inside stadiums, the governing body warned last Sunday that it could throw England or Russia out of the



MARSEILLE: In this Saturday, June 11, 2016 file photo, stewards speak to Russian supporters after clashes broke out in the stands during the Euro 2016 Group B soccer match between England and Russia, at the Velodrome stadium in Marseille, France. UEFA's disciplinary body says yesterday Russia will be disqualified from the European Championship if there is more fan violence inside stadiums in France. — AP

tournament "irrespective of any decisions taken by the independent disciplinary bodies relating to incidents inside the stadium" if violence continues in areas outside.

Russia next face Slovakia in Group B in Lille, while England take on Wales in neighbouring Lens on Thursday. Wales are top with three points followed by England and Russia with a point apiece and Slovakia who are yet to get off the mark. Security has been beefed up for the two games, UEFA said. "We will implement additional corrective measures for the games com-

ing up in Lens and Lille and we hope that those measures will be sufficient to avoid any other crowd trouble during the matches," a spokesman said. It is the second time in as many European Championship tournaments that the Russian federation has faced sanctions because of the behaviour of its supporters. The RFU was fined and given a suspended six-point deduction for its Euro 2016 qualifying campaign after fans assaulted stadium security staff and displayed illicit banners at the 2012 tournament in Poland and Ukraine. — Reuters

WALES VERSUS ENGLAND, A TALE OF FRATERNAL FRICTION

CHANTILLY: Exchanges this week between Wales star Gareth Bale and England manager Roy Hodgson represented the latest potshots in an uneven football rivalry that stretches back 137 years.

Speaking ahead of his side's 2-1 win over Slovakia in their Euro 2016 opener, Bale said that England, who Wales face in Lens on Thursday, "big themselves up before they've done anything".

It prompted Hodgson to shoot back that the Real Madrid forward had been "disrespectful". England midfielder Jack Wilshere upped the ante by declaring that the dislike between the countries was mutual.

England's 1-1 draw with Russia in their first Group B game means that Wales will go into the match with the upper hand, which is not a position to which they are accustomed. A goal by Thomas Heathcote Sorby earned England a 2-1 victory over Wales when the teams first met at London's Kennington Oval in January 1879. It set the tone for much of what was to follow. In 101 meetings between the teams, England have lost on only 14 occasions. Between 1946 and 1976 they tasted defeat just once in 33 encounters. Wales's few wins have been celebrated exuberantly, most notably in the 1980 edition of the now-defunct British Home Championship, when an England team that had beaten world champions Argentina four days earlier was thrashed 4-1 at Wrexham's Racecourse Ground. In the main, however, England have had things their way. This century, the teams have only met four times and England have won all four games without conceding a goal.

Historically, the relationship between the two nations has been one of English incursions and Welsh resentment, from King Edward I's invasion of Wales in the 13th century to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's war on striking Welsh coalminers in the 1980s. Today, Wales answers to the British government in London, although it was given a degree of political autonomy by the creation of the Welsh Assembly in 1999. "Wales is administratively part of England and so Welsh national identity is a rather contested area," Huw Richards, a Welsh journalist and academic, told AFP. "An awful lot of Welsh national identity is tied into the relationship with England and



LENS: A combination of two file pictures made on June 13, 2016 shows Wales' forward Gareth Bale (L) on June 8, 2016, in Dinard, western France, and England's forward Harry Kane (R), on March 29, 2016, in London. England will face Wales in their Euro 2016 group B football match tomorrow in Lens. — AFP

is about not being England, being different."

Welsh mistrust of England was encapsulated by former Wales rugby player Phil Bennett in a speech to his team-mates prior to a game against England in 1977. "Look what these bastards have done to Wales," Bennett is reputed to have bellowed in the Cardiff Arms Park changing room. "They've taken our coal, our water, our steel. They buy our homes and only live in them for a fortnight every year. What have they given us? Absolutely nothing." Wales won the game that followed, but while the rugby pitches of London and

Cardiff have long been level playing fields, competing on a par with England in football is a novelty. "On the football pitch, they're the ones we want to beat above all others," says Christian Mason, a 46-year-old Wales fan from Gwent in southeast Wales. "It's about proving who we are. If they don't beat us, they're going to get absolutely hammered by their press and their supporters because they just see us as a nothing." Whereas England see Germany and Argentina as their biggest football rivals, Wales only have eyes for their neighbours. — AFP

ENGLAND FANS ARE NO ANGELS, SAYS RUSSIA STRIKER DZYUBA

FAN FERVOR



LILLE: Russia striker Artem Dzyuba yesterday hit out at English fans following trouble in Marseille, saying that they were being depicted as "angels" and that there were political motivations for blaming Russian supporters. The Zenit St Petersburg forward spoke after UEFA warned Russia they would be kicked out of Euro 2016 if their fans caused one more incident of stadium trouble during the tournament.

Fighting marred Saturday's 1-1 draw between Russia and England at Marseille's Stade Velodrome, which followed confrontations on the streets of the southern French city.

"I don't really understand this kind of reaction of the British media. We have this impression that English supporters are like angels coming to this country and behaving themselves," Dzyuba said, angrily refuting claims from England that Russian hooligans were to blame.

Russian fans crossed security barriers inside the Stade Velodrome and attacked England fans. Dozens of English supporters, including women and children, had to flee across security barriers to escape.

But Dzyuba indicated that England fans were equally to blame for the violence and that there was a campaign to take the 2018 World Cup away from the country. "I cannot affirm it, but it is possible, it is probable. We see the things that the British media are talking about, about the 2018 World Cup and that it should be taken away from Russia, so these are thoughts I have sometimes.

"It is 50-50 and in every conflict there are two parts. I am not saying only Russians are at fault," added Dzyuba, who spoke in Lille, where Russia face Slovakia in their second Group B game on Wednesday. Local authorities are fearful of more trouble in the northern city, especially as England fans are set to gather there ahead of their match with Wales on Thursday in the much smaller town of Lens, just down the road. "Please can we talk about the game," he appealed. "This is not a street-fighting championship, this is football. We have already said several times that we hope the fans will behave properly.

"Our supporters have to focus on just supporting us and we will try to show our best qualities. We want

to play this competition. "We are happy to be here and it will be a big disappointment if we go out."

ENGLISH FANS 'UNETHICAL'

Russia coach Leonid Slutsky appeared unwilling to overtly condemn any involvement of Russian fans in last weekend's violence. He was also confident that UEFA would not follow through on any threat to kick them out of the tournament.

"We are sure that we are not going to be kicked out. There is not going to be any injustice," said Slutsky. "We would like to repeat we are sure that our supporters will not do the same and will not give any reasons to disqualify our team.

"We do not know what happened on the streets of course, but when the Russian national anthem was played there were England supporters shouting.

"This was unethical as were all the gestures we received from England fans on the way to the stadium. "There are some people who come to the game to watch and others who come to behave as badly as possible." — AFP

ITALY CELEBRATE ON ROAD TO REDEMPTION AT EURO 2016

LYON: Emanuele Giaccherini and Graziano Pelle sparked wild celebrations by Italy after scoring the goals in a 2-0 win over world number two side Belgium in their opening Euro 2016 match.

Defending champions Spain, seeking an unprecedented third triumph, also started with a hard fought 1-0 win over Czech Republic. Zlatan Ibrahimovic's Sweden and Irish Republic drew 1-1.

Belgium's Red Devils were punished by a ruthless Italian performance despite dominating for long spells of the Group E clash in Lyon. Italy's coach said the team's first round failure at the 2014 World Cup should inspire the Azzurri to success at the European Championship.

"That open wound from two years ago needs to burn in the players," Conte said. Giaccherini's strike just after the half hour put future Chelsea manager Conte's men in front before Southampton striker Pelle sealed the win with a thumping finish from Antonio Candreva's cross. Veteran goalkeeper and captain Gianluigi Buffon sprinted the length of the pitch to join in the celebrations. Pelle also jumped as though he had won the tournament.

Belgium now face a crucial clash with Ireland on Saturday in Bordeaux if they are to avoid an embarrassing early exit.

A star-studded Belgian attack containing Eden Hazard, Kevin de Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku were frustrated throughout by Italy's 'BBC' defence of Andre Barzagli, Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini. "The defence was fantastic, I think we have the best back line in the competition, they made the difference," said goalscorer Giaccherini. At the other end, the Belgians were exposed when Bonucci's long floated pass found Giaccherini in behind the Belgium defence to stroke his shot past the exposed Thibaut Courtois.

Belgium upped the intensity after the break and twice came close when Lukaku clipped the post before his replacement Divock Origi headed over when unmarked from close range.

But Italy continued to pose a threat on the counter-attack and sealed a massive three points when Pelle volleyed into an unguarded goal from Candreva's unselfish cross.

PIQUE TO THE RESCUE

Spain's quest to win an unprecedented third consecutive European championship got off to a winning start as Barcelona defender Gerard Pique overcame dogged Czech defence to seal a 1-0 win in Toulouse.

Pique, a target of abuse from Spain fans this season due to unflattering comments about Barca's rivals Real Madrid, was the unlikely hero as he powered home man-of-the-match Andres Iniesta's cross at the far post three minutes from time.

"It is very important to start well," said Pique.



LYON: Belgium's Divock Origi, center, heads the ball during the Euro 2016 Group E soccer match between Belgium and Italy at the Grand Stade in Decines-Charpieu, near Lyon, France, Monday. — AP

"We played well, controlled the game, created chances, but the ball didn't want to go in. In the end I had the luck to score the goal." Spain's build-up to the tournament was rocked by reports last week claiming goalkeeper David de Gea had been involved in a sex scandal. But coach Vicente del Bosque kept faith in the Manchester United shot-stopper by handing him the gloves ahead of the legendary Iker Casillas.

De Gea's opposite number was much busier. Arsenal's Petr Cech kept the European champions at bay with fine saves to deny Alvaro Morata, Jordi Alba and David Silva. Cech's resistance was finally broken in uncharacteristic fashion when Pique was on hand to turn home Iniesta's inch-perfect cross at the back post. However, there was still time for De Gea to justify his inclusion as he parried Vladimir Darida's thunderous volley to safety.

SWEDEN FIGHTBACK

Ireland and Sweden remain in the fight to make the last 16 after Ciaran Clark's own goal cancelled out

Wes Hoolahan's brilliant finish for the Irish in Paris. Hoolahan met Seamus Coleman's flighted ball with a controlled first-time strike three minutes into the second-half at the Stade de France to give Ireland a lead they fully deserved.

However, having been kept quiet for long spells by the Irish defence, Sweden captain Zlatan Ibrahimovic created the equaliser in the 71st minute when his cut-back was turned into his own net by Aston Villa defender Clark. "Of course the goal deflates you and there is disappointment in the dressing room, but I don't think the players should be downhearted with their performance," said Ireland manager Martin O'Neill. "I think they should be absolutely thrilled with the way we played."

By contrast, Sweden boss Erik Hamren admitted his side need to improve drastically if they are to reach the knockout stages. "Even though we managed to come back and equalise, I am disappointed. We will need to play at 300 percent to get through," he said. — AFP

GERMANY TO SHORE UP DEFENSE AHEAD OF POLAND CLASH

Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

UEFA EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Russia v Slovakia 16:00
beIN MAX 2 HD
beIN MAX 3 HD EN
beIN MAX 1 HD
beIN MAX 4 HD FR

Romania v Switzerland 19:00
beIN MAX 2 HD
beIN MAX 3 HD EN
beIN MAX 1 HD
beIN MAX 4 HD FR

France v Albania 22:00
beIN MAX 2 HD
beIN MAX 3 HD EN
beIN MAX 1 HD
beIN MAX 4 HD FR

COPA AMERICA CENTENARIO

Chile v Panama 3:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD FR
beIN MAX 2 HD
beIN MAX 3 HD EN
beIN MAX 4 HD FR

Argentina v Bolivia 5:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD FR
beIN MAX 2 HD
beIN MAX 3 HD EN
beIN MAX 4 HD FR

EVIAN-LES-BAINS: Germany needs to focus on its defensive weaknesses as it prepares to play Poland, the top-scorers in qualifying for the European Championship. The world champions opened their campaign Sunday with a 2-0 win against Ukraine but were grateful to goalkeeper Manuel Neuer for three outstanding saves and Jerome Boateng for a goal-line clearance.

Poland, which is led by qualifying top scorer Robert Lewandowski, will present a bigger challenge for Germany's defense with both sides eyeing first place in Group C on Thursday at the Stade de France. Poland also won its first match, beating Northern Ireland 1-1. "We have to be careful," Boateng said at the team's tournament base at Evian-les-Bains on Tuesday. "They have good offensive people and not just Lewandowski." One positive development for Germany is that defender Mats Hummels is fit after recovering from a calf injury he sustained in the German Cup final last month in his last game for Borussia Dortmund.

Germany coach Joachim Loew needs to decide whether to risk Hummels, who hasn't played in almost four weeks, or continue with his stop-gap solution of Shkodran Mustafi partnering Boateng in central defense. Mustafi opened the scoring against Ukraine but looked vulnerable at times against speedy wingers Andriy Yarmolenko and Yevhen Konoplyanka, and the Valencia defender almost gifted a late equalizer in a mix-up with Neuer.

Bayern Munich midfielder Joshua Kimmich could also fill in, as could Bayer Leverkusen's Jonathan Tah, though both players are short of experience. The 20-year-old Tah was a late call up for original Hummels-replacement Antonio Ruediger, who tore a cruciate ligament in his right knee in training.

Poland's victory over Northern Ireland in Nice on Sunday was the country's first victory at a European Championship. The team is unlikely to be overawed after beating Germany in qualifying — its first win over

its neighbor in 19 games. Lewandowski said it is "the best Polish team in which I have ever played." Lewandowski is partnered in attack by Ajax striker Arkadiusz Milik, familiar to Bundesliga fans from his time at Leverkusen and Augsburg. Though Lewandowski was quiet against the Northern Irish — no shots on goal and only 49 touches of the ball — he created space for Milik to score the only goal.

"The goal was important, I'm really happy about it," the 22-year-old Milik said. "But even more important are the three points. We still have a few steps ahead of us; this is not the end of the journey."

The game will see Germany return to the Stade de France for the first time since the stadium was targeted during its friendly with France in the attacks that killed 130 people in Paris on Nov. 13.

Boateng said the players were not thinking of the security arrangements. "We're concentrating on the sporting aspects," Boateng said. "We're traveling tomorrow as normal and we'll be well-prepared for the game." Boateng had previously said his family and children would not attend games because "the risk is too great for me."

"It's not for one reason," the Bayern Munich defender said yesterday, "but for many from the last tournaments, from the traveling. Because I have two small daughters, I decided this time that they shouldn't travel here and there for the whole tournament and come to every stadium."

It promises to be a special game for Germany forward Lukas Podolski, who was born in Poland and still maintains strong links with the country.

"The Poles have made great strides in recent years," said Podolski, appearing at his seventh major tournament. "Players are playing abroad and they have lots of young players coming through. It's the most dangerous opponent in the group for us. I hope we're first and the Poles second coming out of the group." — AP

Sports

Pistorius 'must pay', says Steenkamp's father



Irving, LeBron power Cavaliers over Warriors



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BORDEAUX: Austria's Martin Hinteregger, left, and Hungary's Zoltan Gera, right, go for the ball during the Euro 2016 Group F soccer match between Austria and Hungary at the Nouveau Stade in Bordeaux, France, yesterday. — AP

HUNGARY STUN 10-MAN AUSTRIA

BORDEAUX: Adam Szalai and Zoltan Stieber scored second-half goals as Hungary stunned highly-fancied Austria 2-0 in their Group F opener in Bordeaux yesterday. Austria, tipped as tournament dark horses, dominated the opening period but Szalai fired Hungary ahead on 62 minutes with Stieber wrapping up a shock victory over their old rivals late on in the 138th meeting between the sides. Aleksandar Dragovic was sent off for Austria shortly after Szalai ended an 18-month goal drought as Hungary made a triumphant return to a major tournament having last featured at the 1986 World Cup.

Hungary goalkeeper Gabor Kiraly kept a clean sheet as he became the first 40-year-old to feature at the European Championship, surpassing Germany's Lothar

Matthaus as the oldest player in tournament history. Austria captain Christian Fuchs and winger Martin Harnik were the only two survivors from the country's debut campaign eight years ago named in Marcel Koller's starting line-up.

However, they were inches away from the perfect start when Bayern Munich star David Alaba went agonisingly close to justifying his billing as one of the potential stars of the tournament when his dipping left-footed strike from outside the area crashed against the post. The versatile Alaba, operating in his customary central midfield with Austria, soon fired another warning to Hungary with a first-time strike at Kiraly after a threaded pass through from Marko Arnautovic. Szalai

miscued a header from a Balazs Dzsudzsak free-kick in a rare opening for Hungary, while Kiraly showed his reflexes remain sharp despite his advancing years to claw behind a low strike from Zlatko Junuzovic. Arnautovic then slid a dangerous low ball across the face of goal as Austria continued to threaten, but Harnik lost his footing as he tried to slide home at the far post.

Hungary captain Dzsudzsak wasted arguably the best chance of the opening 45 minutes, though, as he screwed his shot wide of goal after he was picked out by Laszlo Kleinheisler on the right-hand side of the penalty area. Dzsudzsak again took aim 10 minutes into the second period, his stinging 30-yard shot forcing Austria keeper Robert Almer to fist the punch behind

for a corner. And Hungary grabbed a surprise lead just beyond the hour when Kleinheisler slipped in Szalai, who was played inside by Fuchs, with the powerful striker poking the ball underneath Almer for his first goal at any level since December 2014.

Austria appeared to have levelled when Martin Hinteregger rifled in from the edge of the area, but referee Clement Turpin disallowed the goal for a foul on Tamas Kadar with Dragovic dismissed for a second booking. And Stieber triggered delirious celebrations when he raced from just inside the Austria half to beat Almer three minutes from time with a sublime chip as Hungary completed a stunning upset for their first European Championship win since 1964. — AFP

JESUS 'TECATITO' RESCUES MEXICO IN VENEZUELA DRAW

HOUSTON: Porto midfielder Jesus Manuel "Tecatito" Corona scored a superb individual goal as Mexico snatched a 1-1 draw with Venezuela to qualify for the Copa America Centenario quarter-finals as group winners here Monday.

Mexico appeared to be heading for an embarrassing defeat against the Venezuelans, who led through a 10th minute overhead kick by defender Jose Manuel Velazquez at Houston's NRG Stadium.

A risky gamble by Mexico manager Juan Carlos Osorio looked to have backfired disastrously after he decided to bench most of his first-choice side for a game his team only needed to draw to top Group C.

However with time running out substitute Corona picked up the ball from around 40 yards from goal and embarked on a mazy dribble that took him past five Venezuela players before he blasted his shot past goalkeeper Dani Hernandez.

The goal gave Mexico a draw which was enough to see them take top spot in Group C on goal difference from Venezuela, who were already assured of a place in the last eight after a shock win over Uruguay in their second match.

More importantly, Mexico's first place finish means they will likely avoid tournament favorites Argentina, who are expected to clinch top spot in Group D when they play Bolivia yesterday.

Osorio later defended his decision to pick an untested starting line-up. "Rotation is part of life when you have a squad of players," Osorio said. "We give opportunities to all players because we believe that they are all important. We selected a good group to compete against Venezuela," he said. For long periods, however, it looked as if Mexico were heading for a quarter-final date with the Argentines as a well organized Venezuela side frustrated 'El Tri'.

Mexico could have few complaints after a fired-up Venezuela took the lead early on through a well-worked goal.

Alejandro Guerra swung a curling free-kick into the box and Christian Santos rose at the far post to head back across the face of goal. Velazquez was falling away but twisted his body acrobatically to hook in a wonderful volley that flew into the roof of the net past Mexico goalkeeper Jesus Corona.

Mexico dominated for the remainder of the half, but were unable to find a breakthrough as their makeshift starting line-up struggled to generate any fluidity in attack.



HOUSTON: Venezuela's Adalberto Penaranda (C) controls the ball during the Copa America Centenario football tournament match against Mexico in Houston, Texas, United States, on Monday. — AFP

Venezuela were lucky to avoid a penalty decision late in the first half when Wilker Angel looked to have handled in the area after Hector Moreno's header. Mexico made a spirited start to the second half, with Corona shooting well wide of the post early on.

Jesus Molina screwed a shot wide on 65 minutes for Mexico and a minute later Venezuela squandered a golden chance to go 2-0 up when substitute Josef Martinez went clean through only to shoot tamely at Corona. Venezuela looked to have fate on their side after an incredible double save from Dani Hernandez in the 74th minute.

But six minutes later "Tecatito" produced his sublime run to save Mexico's blushes. In Monday's dead rubber in Group C, Uruguay beat Jamaica 3-0 in Santa Clara in a match between two sides who had already been eliminated. Uruguay secured their first win of the tournament with goals from Abel Hernandez and Mathias Corujo, either side of an own goal from Jamaican defender Je-Vaughn Watson. — AFP

KOEMAN LEAVES SAINTS FOR EVERTON MILLIONS

LIVERPOOL: Dutchman Ronald Koeman became the new manager of English Premier League club Everton yesterday after his previous club Southampton reluctantly agreed to release him a year early from his contract.

The 53-year-old who guided Southampton to their highest finish in the Premier League of sixth last term and a place in the Europa League signed a three-year contract with Everton and replaces Roberto Martinez, who was sacked just before the end of the Premier League campaign.

Koeman—who had said earlier this year he would see out the last year of his three-year contract with the Saints—has been lured to Everton by the promise by the club's major shareholder, Iranian billionaire Farhad Moshiri, of more than £100 million (125 million euros, \$141 million) for new signings.

Koeman, who has previously coached the big Dutch league trio of PSV, Feyenoord and Ajax, said it was a proud moment for him to take over the reins despite their disappointing Premier League campaign which saw them finish 11th. "I am very excited to be Everton manager," said Koeman, who was part of the outstanding Dutch side that won the Euro 1988 title. "I believe in the club, in the team, in the fans and in our ability to achieve things in the future."

"Everton is a club with a great history and real ambition and it is a proud feeling for me to be part of what we want to

go and do, together with the chairman (Bill Kenwright) and Farhad Moshiri.

"I am looking forward to meeting everyone at the club and to preparing for a big season in the Premier League." Theatre impresario Kenwright said it was a huge moment for the club, having managed to wrest their top target away from their Premier League rivals.

STRONG TRACK RECORD

"We are really pleased to have secured the man who was our No.1 target from the moment we set out to appoint a new manager," said Kenwright.

"Ronald has such a strong track record in the game, instantly commanding respect for what he achieved as a player and for his qualities and accomplishments as a manager."

"The hopes and aspirations that we all have as Evertonians are with him, as is our total support at board, shareholder and fan level." Koeman, who it is reported will be paid £7million a year, had appeared keen to remain in charge of Saints when he addressed the media prior to their final game of the season.

"Everybody knows I have one year left on my contract and we will sit together and analyse this season and we will talk about the future and that is what the news is today," he said on May 13. "What is good is that the club are happy with the work, together with the technical staff and the players, that we have done," said Koeman. — AFP

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

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PARIS: The Eiffel Tower is seen in the background as smoke rises around press photographers wearing helmets during a demonstration against proposed labor reforms in Paris yesterday.—AFP

FRENCH DEMO AGAINST REFORMS TURNS VIOLENT

'SEVERAL HUNDRED' MASKED PROTESTERS HURL OBJECTS AT POLICE

PARIS: Several hundred masked protesters hurled objects at police in Paris yesterday as the latest demonstration against disputed labor reforms in France descended into violence. The clashes erupted as the international spotlight was turned on France as the host of the Euro 2016 football championships, which have also been marred by violence between fans.

Strikes closed the Eiffel Tower and disrupted transport links as tens of thousands of fans pour into the country for Europe's showcase football event. Authorities made six arrests and at least two people were hurt in the Paris unrest, according to an AFP reporter at the scene, as demonstrators stormed a building site and began to hurl wooden palettes at riot police.

Pictures showed one man being led away by officers in riot gear with blood streaming from a wound above his eye, his white T-shirt splattered with blood.

The strike is the latest in months of industrial action that has seen air and rail transport severely disrupted, fuel shortages and rubbish piled up on the streets of Paris. "I've been to all the demos since March because I want to live in dignity, not just survive," said Aurelien Boukelmoune, a 26-year-old technician marching in Paris. "I

want the reforms to be withdrawn, pure and simple. Only then will it stop. For the government's sake, they should withdraw the law, otherwise we'll block the economy."

High alert

With France on high alert due to the threat of terrorism during Euro 2016, overstretched security authorities feared the demonstrations could turn violent and banned 130 known troublemakers from taking part. The terrorism threat was thrust back into the spotlight after a man claiming allegiance to Islamic State jihadists killed a policeman and his partner at their home in a northwestern Paris suburb late Monday. The latest in a wave of protests that began in March coincides with a French Senate debate on the reforms, which are aimed at making the job market more flexible and reducing high unemployment but which critics see as too pro-business. President Francois Hollande's Socialist government has voiced hope the latest day of protest will be a last stand for the movement. But Philippe Martinez, head of the far-left CGT union that spearheaded last month's blockades of fuel depots and an ongoing rail strike, predicted a "very strong mobilization".

The CGT laid on more than 600 buses to transport demonstrators to Paris and said it hoped to attract more support than in March, when it claimed 1.2 million people took to the streets.

Authorities put the March figure at 390,000. For yesterday's protest, Paris police chief Michel Cadot said he expected "maybe more than 50,000 demonstrators" in the capital alone. Two further protest days are set for later this month.

Tourism hit

At a time when the French capital would normally be reaping the benefits of high-season tourism boosted by the football, the demonstrations have dampened the flow to the world's most-visited city. Several staff at the Eiffel Tower went on strike, leaving insufficient numbers to open the monument safely, according to its operator, SETE. Adding to the climate of discontent, rail workers continued strike action to protest working conditions. They were joined at the weekend by a minority of Air France pilots. The pilots' strike, which affected about one in five flights according to the airline, was set to end yesterday but the rolling strike at national rail company SNCF was in its 14th day. The actions have further depressed

France's tourism sector, already hit by the November jihadist attacks in Paris.

Watered down

The government sparked fury when it forced the contentious reforms through parliament without a vote. The opposition-dominated Senate is expected to push for changes more favourable to employers and will wrap up its debate on June 24, with a vote four days later. If the two houses of parliament fail to agree on the legislation, the lower house will have the final say and Prime Minister Manuel Valls could again ram the bill through. While rejecting union demands to withdraw the bill, the government has watered it down, notably by scrapping a cap on severance pay. The CGT has signalled it may drop its demand for an outright withdrawal of the bill.

Hollande, who faces a re-election bid next April, had hoped the signature reform would reverse his approval ratings, which are among the worst of a modern French leader. Polls show public opinion could be turning against the union action. A survey published Sunday showed that 54 percent of people did not agree with the strikes. A similar poll three weeks ago suggested that a majority was in favor.—AFP

GULF FIRMS BUT VOLUMES DROP

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Gulf stock markets rose yesterday but many investors stood on the sidelines before MSCI's decision later in the day on whether it would consider Saudi Arabia for inclusion in its emerging markets index. International index compiler MSCI is to announce after the close yesterday whether it will put Saudi Arabia on review for possible inclusion as early as mid-2017. Inclusion would bring billions of dollars of passive foreign funds into the market, but fund managers are split on whether Saudi Arabia is likely to be put on review this year. Some managers believe the possibility is strong because of an easing of foreign ownership restrictions and reforms to the trading environment announced in early May by the regulatory body, but others think inclusion will not come before mid-2018. The Saudi index climbed 0.6 percent on Tuesday as Saudi Electricity Co (SEC), the state-controlled utility, jumped its 10 percent daily limit to 20.05 riyals, its highest close since the end of May 2015. SEC said at the weekend that it was inviting expressions of interest from companies to build two solar power plants; the firms would invest in the plants and sell electricity to SEC in deals that could become models for future infrastructure projects under Saudi Arabia's economic reform plan.

But property developer Dar Al-Argan dropped 3.2 percent as investors booked profits on gains that were triggered by expectations it would benefit from housing construction plans in Saudi Arabia's economic reform plan, announced last week. Emaar the Economic City, another potential beneficiary, fell back 2.0 percent. In Dubai the main index added 0.2 percent to 3,330 points as Dubai Islamic Bank climbed 2.4 percent and Emaar Properties recovered from early losses to close up 0.3 percent. "Dubai's stock market witnessed selective buying, heading higher to retest the 3,380 resistance level," said a note by Abu Dhabi's NBAD Securities. The benchmark tested that barrier late last week but failed to break above it. At current low trading volumes, a breakout above the resistance remains unlikely in the near term, added the note.

ABU DHABI, EGYPT

The two largest listed stocks on Abu Dhabi's exchange, Etisalat and First Gulf Bank, helped pull the index up 0.5 percent. Etisalat, which rose 0.8 percent, and First Gulf, which added 0.4 percent, are constituents of the MSCI emerging market index, may see a small outflow of funds if MSCI decides on Tuesday to include China A-shares in the index, which would dilute the weightings of Gulf constituents. In Doha, some members of MSCI's benchmark also gained. Developer Ezzan Holding jumped 2.3 percent and lender Masraf Al-Rayan rose 1.0 percent.

Cairo's main index dropped 1.0 percent as Orascom Telecom retreated a further 3.1 percent. Shares in the conglomerate have now fallen 11.4 percent since Sunday after a plan by its unit Beltone to acquire CI Capital from Commercial International Bank (CIB) was called off because it failed to win regulatory approval. CIB, a constituent of the MSCI emerging market index, fell 1.5 percent yesterday.—Reuters

'ENORMOUS' INVENTORIES TO KEEP LID ON OIL PRICE: IEA

PARIS: A huge overhang in oil stocks lingering across the world will keep a cap on any further oil price rises, the IEA said yesterday, even as supply and demand move towards balance by the end of the year.

Global demand for oil is steadily rising thanks to solid economic growth, and supply

has been curbed by unexpected production cuts due to wildfires in Canada and rebel attacks in Nigeria, as well as falling US shale production, the International Energy Agency said in its monthly oil market report.

These factors recently pushed the oil price above the key level of \$50 as supply

came closer to matching demand, a process known as rebalancing which the IEA expects to be fully in place in the second half of this year. But while market forces play out to help the oil price to continue climbing from its low point of close to \$25 at the start of the year, there are still large oil inventories waiting to feed into the market, causing a supply glut that is likely to keep a lid on gains for some time.

"There is an enormous inventory overhang to clear," the IEA said. "This is likely to dampen prospects of a significant increase in oil prices." Worries about big stocks have caused the oil price to fall back from this year's high of around \$51 reached early last month, the agency said, echoing Monday's report from the OPEC oil cartel which said that "speculators became somewhat less interested in long positions" because of the overhang in inventories.

Many moving parts

The benchmark Brent crude contract lost ground Tuesday, slipping to \$49.83 in late afternoon European business while US's WTI contract eased to \$48.46. "Oil prices are due a short-term breather given the recent run up, as the market takes stock of broader macroeconomic developments," analysts at Energy Aspects said. The IEA said there is a "huge number of moving parts" in the current oil market environ-

ment, making accurate predictions hazardous. On the supply side, these involve a surprisingly strong return of Iran to the oil market after Western countries lifted sanctions which had been imposed over Tehran's nuclear program, and questions over the timing of any full resumption of production in Nigeria once Niger Delta security issues are resolved. Iran has emerged as "OPEC's fastest source of supply growth this year", pumping oil at its highest level in five years, the IEA said.

OPEC, meanwhile, has done little to correct the market's imbalance, failing earlier this month to agree on any production ceiling at a key meeting and deciding instead to keep oil gushing as the moderate recovery in the oil price eased pressure to limit output. Kingpin Saudi Arabia said at the time that the cartel was "very satisfied" with the market. This stance had at least "provided some clarity to the market", the IEA observed in its report.

'Mixed messages'

On the demand side, the IEA said relatively weak oil prices will bring more buyers into the market, leading the agency to raise its forecast for 2016 demand growth to 1.3 million barrels per day (mb/d) from a previous 1.2 mb/d estimate. Countries outside the OECD club of highly-developed nations will provide the bulk of fresh demand, with India the world's growth leader, the IEA said.—AFP

SAUDI OPENS RETAIL SECTOR TO MORE FOREIGN INVESTMENT

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has approved rules opening its retail sector to greater foreign investment, official media said yesterday, as part of wide-ranging economic reforms. The cabinet approved rules "for foreign companies to invest in (the) wholesale and retail trade sector with 100 percent ownership," the Saudi Press Agency said. It added that the decision is in line with the Vision 2030 plan to wean the kingdom off oil. The previous foreign investment limit was up to 75 percent.

Crude oil has dropped in price by about half since 2014 but is still Saudi Arabia's biggest revenue source. Vision 2030 and the National Transformation Program (NTP), which sets targets for implementing it, seek to boost non-oil revenues and employ more Saudis. As part of the effort, Vision 2030 talks of

"attracting both regional and international retail investors and... easing restrictions on ownership and foreign investment." The plan calls for an additional one million Saudi jobs by 2020 in a growing retail sector, while increasing the relatively low proportion of e-commerce.

Cabinet also approved rules for implementing a 2.5 percent tax on undeveloped urban land. Revenue will go to the ministry of housing which, under the NTP, wants 52 percent of Saudis to own their own homes by 2020.

The current home ownership level is 47 percent. At an NTP press conference last week in Jeddah, Housing Minister Majed Al-Hogail said he wants both local and foreign investors to develop the housing sector, which has traditionally depended on government spending.—AFP

ECONOMISTS SPLIT ABOUT EGYPT'S RATE DECISION

CONSUMER PRICE INFLATION JUMPS TO 12.3% IN MAY

CAIRO: Economists are roughly evenly split on whether Egypt's central bank will raise interest rates at its monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting on June 16, after a jump in inflation in May. Six out of 11 economists in the Reuters poll expect the bank to hold rates while five expect a hike ranging from 25 basis points to a full percentage point.

"Whilst a rise in interest rates might, in other scenarios, prove an efficient policy response, at the moment, given the increasingly heavy burden on the budget from rising debt payments, we do not expect a rise in interest rates this month," Cairo-based think-tank Signet Institute's head, Angus Blair, said. Urban consumer price inflation jumped two percentage points to 12.3 percent in May, and core inflation - excluding items with volatile prices, such as fruit and vegetables - rose to a yearly 12.23 percent last month,

up from 9.51 percent in April. The central bank kept its overnight deposit rate at 10.75 percent at its last meeting on April 28 and held the overnight lending rate at 11.75 percent.

One economist expected the central bank to hike rates by 25 basis points tomorrow, three others expected a 50-basis-point hike and one expected a 100-basis-point hike.

"Given the rapid rise in core inflation since the last MPC meeting, we think it will be hard for the central bank to keep a lid on inflation expectations without enacting at least a token interest rate hike", Exotix's Alan Cameron said. He expects a 50-basis-point hike.

Economic and political instability since the popular uprising in 2011 that toppled Hosni Mubarak contributed to comparatively slow growth of about 4.2 percent in the

last fiscal year. The government expects growth of about 5 percent this fiscal year. Egypt has had foreign currency shortages since the uprising drove away tourists and foreign investors, and it devalued the pound to 8.78 per dollar in March then hiked interest rates by 150 basis points just days later, to control inflation.

President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi is under increasing pressure to revive the economy and keep prices under control to avoid any backlash from the public whose mantras in the revolution included "bread, freedom and social justice". "With May inflation numbers showing headline inflation at a year high and more importantly core inflation at seven-year high, we see the situation warranting a rate hike by the central bank," EFG-Hermes economist, Mohamed Abu Basha, said. He expects a 25-basis-point hike. —Reuters

News

in brief

Kuwait oil price down \$1.03 to \$44.72 pb

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwait oil went down \$1.03 to settle at \$44.72 per barrel (pb) on Monday as against \$45.75 pb last Friday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. Meanwhile, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said yesterday that its basket price stood at \$46.25 a barrel Monday, compared with \$47.05 the previous Friday. Meanwhile, the annual rate of the basket was recorded at \$49.64 pb in 2015. Last Thursday, OPEC ministers agreed to keep the production rate stable at 32 million barrel per day, without imposing any production limit on member countries. The new OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Oriente (Ecuador), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Qatar Marine (Qatar), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Merey (Venezuela).

ENOC secures \$230m loan from China's ICBC

DUBAI: Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC) has secured a \$230 million unsecured loan from Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, it said yesterday. The five-year loan will help ENOC fund new projects and expansion plans, it said in a statement. ENOC, a downstream-focused firm owned by sovereign fund Investment Corporation of Dubai, operates service stations, fuel terminals and oil tankers and operates in the Middle East, North Africa and Asia.

Emirates NBD set to sign increased \$1.25bn loan

LONDON: Dubai's largest bank, Emirates NBD, is expected to sign a three-year syndicated loan next week, banking sources said. The loan, arranged by Bank of America Merrill Lynch and Emirates NBD Capital, launched at \$1.25 billion but could be increased to as much as \$1.5 billion, the sources said. Proceeds of the deal will refinance an existing \$800m loan that matures in December. That deal was signed in December 2013 and priced at 140bp over Libor, according to Thomson Reuters LPC data. The bank group for the deal comprised Bank of America Merrill Lynch, BNP Paribas, Commerzbank, Deutsche Bank, HSBC, ING, Societe Generale and Standard Chartered. Emirates NBD did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Egypt's EGAS wins case over gas cuts

CAIRO: The Paris-based International Court of Arbitration has ruled that Egypt's state gas board EGAS will not have to pay a \$270 fine related to gas cuts at its foreign-owned liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant, the petroleum ministry said yesterday. The Damietta LNG plant filed a complaint with the International Chamber of Commerce in 2013 alleging that its state partner had failed to comply with contracts by halting gas supplies in 2012 and not making payments. The plant was demanding EGAS pay \$270 million plus interest for contracted LNG capacity. The plant, which is 80 percent-owned by Union Fenosa Gas(UFG), a joint venture between Spain's Gas Natural and Italy's Eni. The remaining 20 percent is split evenly between state-owned companies EGAS and EGPC.



LAGOS: A vendor holding a tray of tomatoes for sale in the Obalende district of Lagos. Inflation in Nigeria rose to a more than six-year high in May, hitting 15.6 percent, the National Bureau of Statistics said yesterday. —AFP

NIGERIA INFLATION HITS SIX-YEAR HIGH

ABUJA: Inflation in Nigeria rose to a more than six-year high in May, hitting 15.6 percent, the National Bureau of Statistics said yesterday. The rise in the headline consumer price index, which measures inflation, accelerated by 1.9 points from its April year-on-year level of 13.7 percent, the NBS said in an emailed statement.

The rate is the highest since February 2010, when inflation also stood at 15.6 percent, according to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). The NBS attributed the rise to "an overall increase in general price level across the economy", which has been battered by the global fall in oil prices since mid-2014.

Food continued to be more expensive, with overall prices rising 14.9 percent year-on-year from 13.2 percent in April. The NBS blamed "a drawdown of inventories across the country".

Imported food was up 18.6 percent, indicating persistent difficulties for

importers to source foreign exchange because of the weak naira. The CBN has pegged the naira at 199 to the US dollar since March last year but has come under pressure to devalue the currency further.

Black market rates have seen the naira slump to as low as 365 to the dollar this week. A decision on a possible dual exchange-rate system is expected in the coming days.

Yesterday, President Muhammadu Buhari said he backed the move to "greater flexibility" in forex policy, calling it "a down payment on our people's ability to succeed".

He is keen to wean Nigeria off its dependency on oil, which normally accounts for 70 percent of government revenue, as well as imports. But with the CBN governor Godwin Emefiele warning of an imminent recession and crude production hit by militancy in the Niger delta, he faces a challenge to get the economy moving again. —AFP

ABU DHABI SEEKS \$6.5BN IN ROW WITH MALAYSIA'S 1MDB

KUALA LUMPUR: Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth fund is seeking \$6.5 billion from Malaysia's troubled state investment vehicle 1MDB, as it moves to settle a debt dispute through international arbitration.

The fund, International Petroleum Investment Co (IPIC), yesterday said it had submitted its request to the London Court of International Arbitration. In April, 1MDB, or 1Malaysia Development Berhad, defaulted on \$1.75 billion in company bonds after missing an interest payment of \$50 million.

1MDB and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak are battling allegations that billions were looted from the company in complex overseas deals that are being investigated by authorities in several countries.

IPIC has accused 1MDB of failing to pay back a \$1 billion loan from the Abu Dhabi fund. IPIC's arbitration request accuses 1MDB and Malaysia's finance ministry-Najib is also finance minister-of failing to stick to its financial agreements with IPIC. "The failure of 1MDB and (Malaysia's finance ministry) to perform their obligations, cure their defaults or put forward

acceptable proposals has left IPIC in the position where it must pursue its claims in arbitration," IPIC said in a filing to the London Stock Exchange.

1MDB insists it repaid the loan but IPIC says the money instead went to a company with which it has no relations. IPIC is refusing to guarantee the bonds until the loan is repaid.

Malaysia's finance ministry took over 1MDB's assets recently after dissolving the board of advisors. 1MDB said it will "review the request for arbitration once it has been served with a copy".

Both 1MDB and Najib, who launched the company in 2009, vehemently deny wrongdoing. In April, a Malaysian parliamentary committee said at least \$4.2 billion in questionable overseas money transfers were made by 1MDB.

Najib was plunged into the crisis last year when it was revealed that \$681 million in transfers were made to his personal bank accounts in 2013. In May, Swiss financial regulators approved the dissolution of Switzerland-based BSI Bank over "serious breaches" of money-laundering regulations in its dealings with 1MDB. —AFP

OIL DECLINES AS BREXIT THREAT RATTLES MARKETS

LONDON: Oil fell yesterday, as investor nervousness over next week's vote on Britain's possible European Union exit swept financial markets, eclipsing signs of a return to health for crude prices. Perceived safe-haven assets such as the Swiss franc and German Bunds rallied, while industrial commodities and equity markets, seen as more vulnerable to economic risk, fell after polls showed Britain's "Leave" campaign leading before a referendum on EU membership. This overshadowed a more upbeat forecast for oil demand growth from the International Energy Agency, which said the oil market is essentially balanced after two years of surpluses. Brent crude oil futures fell by 66 cents to \$49.69 a barrel by 1039 GMT, dropping for a fourth day in a row, while U.S. crude futures dropped 65 cents to \$48.23 a barrel. "Basically, safe havens are back in fashion," PVM Oil Associates analyst Tamas Varga said. "The thought process is that if the UK leaves the EU, then the EU might slip back into recession and ... that might negatively impact oil demand," he said.

Britain's "Out" campaign has increased its lead over the "In" camp before the June 23 referendum, according to two opinion polls published by ICM on Monday. "The risk-off mood that has been pervasive in the markets in the last few days has taken hold of oil prices, with weakness in Asian markets and a strong dollar contributing to Brent crude dripping back below \$50," said Mihir Kapadia, CEO at Sun Global Investments, which has assets under management totalling \$500 million. —Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.			DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD		BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY			INDONESIAN RUPIAH		
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL	Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate	CURRENCY	BUY	SELL	CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
ASIAN COUNTRIES					Europe					
Japanese Yen	2.825		US Dollar	302.500	British Pound	0.431464	0.441464	Bahraini Dinar	0.794890	0.803390
Indian Rupees	4.513		Canadian Dollar	236.915	Czech Korune	0.004674	0.016674	Egyptian Pound	0.027923	0.033041
Pakistani Rupees	2.885		Sterling Pound	431.760	Danish Krone	0.042045	0.047045	Iranian Rial	0.000084	0.000085
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.051		Euro	341.250	Euro	0.0337538	0.0346538	Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Nepali Rupees	2.826		Bahrain Dinar	800.270	Norwegian Krone	0.032900	0.038100	Jordanian Dinar	0.422155	0.431155
Singapore Dollar	222.820		UAE Dirhams	82.600	Romanian Leu	0.075871	0.075871	Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Hongkong Dollar	38.900		Qatar Riyals	83.815	Slovakia	0.008995	0.018995	Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Bangladesh Taka	3.852		Saudi Riyals	81.345	Slovenia	0.033074	0.038074	Moroccan Dirhams	0.020069	0.044069
Philippine Peso	6.540		Jordanian Dinar	426.130	Swiss Krona	0.304581	0.315581	Nigerian Naira	0.001245	0.001880
Thai Baht	8.553		Egyptian Pound	33.968	Swiss Franc	0.098508	0.108808	Omani Rial	0.778385	0.784065
GCC COUNTRIES					Australasia					
Saudi Riyal	80.616		Sri Lankan Rupees	2.092	Australian Dollar	0.216219	0.228219	Qatar Riyal	0.082182	0.083632
Qatari Riyal	83.042		Indian Rupees	4.508	New Zealand Dollar	0.202875	0.212375	Saudi Riyal	0.079487	0.080787
UAE Dirham	82.307		Pakistani Rupees	2.894				Syrian Pound	0.001280	0.001500
ARAB COUNTRIES					America					
Egyptian Pound - Cash	31.900		Bangladesh Taka	3.849	Canadian Dollar	0.2230251	0.239251	Tunisian Dinar	0.139062	0.147062
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.416		Philippines Peso	6.555	US Dollars	0.298050	0.302750	Turkish Lira	0.098508	0.108808
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.214		Cyprus pound	576.165	US Dollars Mint	0.298550	0.302750	UAE Dirhams	0.080839	0.082539
Tunisian Dinar	143.200		Japanese Yen	3.830				Yemeni Riyal	0.001365	0.001445
Jordanian Dinar	425.890		Syrian Pound	2.375						
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.014		Nepalese Rupees	3.825						
Syrian Lira	2.154		Malaysian Ringgit	74.720						
Morocco Dirham	31.805									
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES										
US Dollar Transfer	302.150									
Euro	344.450									
Sterling Pound	436.610									

INSURERS GUARD GERMAN BANKS HOARDING BILLIONS IN CASH

FRANKFURT: Europe's top insurers are selling protection to German banks that hoard billions of euros of cash in vaults to avoid paying a penalty by parking it at the European Central Bank, company executives told Reuters. The sums are so big they are also setting up consortia to insure cash storage spaces, responding to banks' growing desire to escape the negative deposit rate introduced by the ECB to encourage banks to lend money, executives said.

Allianz, the region's largest insurer, and Ergo, Germany's second biggest player, told Reuters they are seeing an upsurge in enquiries for cash insurance by German banks. Germany's Talanx and France's Axa said they offer similar policies.

On large amounts, these can cost less

than half the price of keeping the money at the ECB and executives said banks and insurers are striking deals to underwrite holdings of 2 billion (\$2.3 billion) to 4 billion euros. "In recent months, we've seen an increased interest from financial institutions such as banks for higher limits for cash coverage in secure facilities," said Philip Beblo of Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty in Munich.

Storing cash is particularly popular in Germany, where Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble and banks have been critical of the ECB. The executives said they were not aware of similar requests for cash protection so far from banks from other European countries and Switzerland, where the central bank has also set negative interest rates, has not seen such a trend.

Last week, two officials told Reuters that Germany's second-biggest lender, Commerzbank, was mulling holding billions of euros in vaults.

CHEAPER COSTS

The ECB introduced the penalty charge to encourage banks to lend their money to help stimulate the economy rather than parking it at the central bank. But with economic prospects dim, banks are either unwilling to take the risk of lending or companies and consumers are reluctant to borrow. Compounding this problem, there is ever more cash in circulation, due to ECB money printing. The extra cash has flowed towards the core of the euro zone and Germany, leading to a glut of liquidity.

Compared to the more common electronic transfer of money, storing and moving billions of euros of banknotes presents a logistical challenge because banknotes are heavy to move in large quantities.

Two billion euros in 200 euro notes, for example, weighs roughly 11 tons. The cash may also be stolen or catch fire, two of the chief risks that insurers protect banks against. The steep penalty from central banks, however, makes keeping physical cash a more attractive alternative.

The negative deposit rate of 0.4 percent translates into a charge of 4 euros a year on each 1,000 deposit at the central bank, making it expensive for German banks which have access to large amounts of cash.

A second insurance industry executive,

who asked not to be named, said that the cost of storing and insuring the cash against catching fire or theft could be as little as half that amount.

He calculated that the cost of security as well as insuring against loss of the cash would amount to between 0.2 and 0.25 percentage points less than the ECB's penalty rate. The risk of insuring large amounts of cash is typically distributed so that no single insurer is on the hook for the whole amount.

The lead insurer arranging a deal with a bank may have four to six co-insurers to cover 1 billion euros. That panel could expand to 10 or more for larger amounts, with insurers typically seeking to limit individual exposure to \$300-\$400 million. —Reuters



MARSEILLE: Protesters are seen in sunglasses during a demonstration against the French government's planned labor law reforms, yesterday in Marseille, southern France. —AFP

US DATA POINT TO STRONG DEMAND, STIRRING INFLATION

RETAIL SALES GAIN, BUT BUILDING MATERIALS FALL

WASHINGTON: US retail sales rose more than expected in May as Americans bought automobiles and a range of other goods, even as they paid more for gasoline, suggesting that economic growth was gaining steam despite a sharp slowdown in job creation. Other data yesterday hinted at a steady build-up of inflation pressures, with import prices recording their largest increase in just over four years in May as the drag from a strong dollar and lower oil prices fades.

The signs of fairly healthy domestic demand and rising imported inflation could attract the attention of officials at the Federal Reserve, who were due to gather for two-day meeting yesterday. While May's weak employment report has all but ruled out an interest rate increase at this meeting, the steady flow of upbeat economic reports keeps a hike in July on the table. "This won't spur the Fed to raise interest rates tomorrow, but it could cast a more positive tone on the statement... setting the stage for an increase in July," said Sal Guatieri, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets in Toronto.

The Commerce Department said retail sales increased 0.5 percent last month after surging by an unrevised 1.3 percent in April. The second straight month of gains boosted sales 2.5 percent from a year ago. Excluding automobiles, gasoline, building materials and food services, retail sales rose a solid 0.4 percent last month after an upwardly revised 1.0 percent increase in April.

These so-called core retail sales correspond most closely with the consumer spending component of gross domestic product. They were previously reported to have risen 0.9 percent in April. Economists had forecast both overall retail and core sales gaining 0.3 percent last month.

The dollar pared losses against the yen and extended gains versus

the euro on the data. Prices for US government prices were up marginally, while US stock index future pared losses.

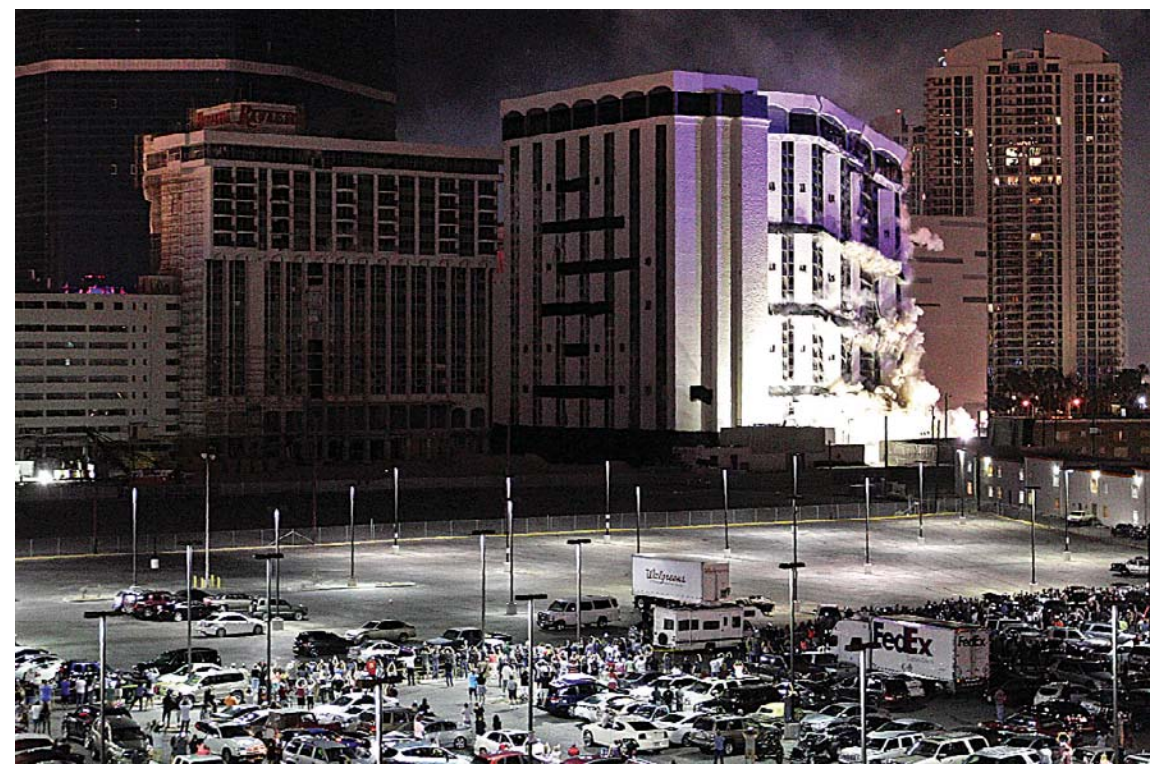
BOOST TO SECOND-QUARTER GROWTH

The fairly strong May retail sales report could see economists lifting their second-quarter GDP growth

April. Receipts at service stations increased 2.1 percent, reflecting recent increases in gasoline prices. Sales at clothing retailers increased 0.8 percent, the largest gain since November. Online retail sales shot up 1.3 percent. Receipts at sporting goods and hobby stores jumped 1.3 percent last month.

the largest rise since March 2012, after advancing 0.7 percent in April. In the 12 months through May, import prices fell 5.0 percent, the smallest decline since November 2014.

The dollar's surge and a plunge in oil prices between June 2014 and December 2015 had dampened inflation. But with the dollar



LAS VEGAS: The 24-story Monaco Tower at the closed Riviera Hotel & Casino is imploded yesterday Las Vegas, Nevada. The 60-year old Las Vegas Strip resort closed in May 2015, purchased by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, which plans to use the site for more convention space as part of its \$1.4 billion Las Vegas Convention Center District project. —AFP

estimates, which are currently around a 2.5 percent annualized rate. The economy grew at a 0.8 percent rate in the first quarter. Tepid employment gains in May stirred concerns about the health of the economy. But so far, data on first-time applications for unemployment benefits suggests labor market strength remains intact.

In May, auto sales rose 0.5 percent after racing 3.1 percent in

Americans also ate out, boosting sales at restaurants and bars 0.8 percent. They also bought electronics and appliances. But sales at building materials and garden equipment stores fell 1.8 percent after declining 2.0 percent in April. Furniture store sales dipped 0.1 percent.

In a separate report, the Labor Department said import prices increased 1.4 percent last month,

weakening 1.5 percent against the currencies of the United States' main trading partners this year and oil prices near \$50 per barrel, that drag is starting to lift. Export prices jumped 1.1 percent in May, the biggest gain since March 2011, after rising 0.5 percent in April. Export prices fell 4.5 percent from a year ago, the smallest drop since December 2014. —Reuters

CHINA FACES GROWING VULNERABILITIES: IMF

BEIJING: China needs to implement reforms with more urgency as the economy faces growing vulnerabilities and there are fewer buffers to deal with any shocks, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) official said yesterday. "The near-term growth outlook has turned more buoyant due to recent policy support," David Lipton said, according to a copy of his prepared remarks provided to Reuters.

"The medium-term outlook, however, is more uncertain due to rapidly rising credit, structural excess capacity, and the increasingly large, opaque, and interconnected financial sector," Lipton, first deputy managing director of the IMF, said at the end of a visit to Beijing.

China's economy grew at its slowest pace in a quarter of a century last year, weighed down by weak demand at home and abroad, cooling investment and overcapacity, particularly in industries such as steel and coal. Analysts say continued government efforts to stimulate activity and hit growth targets are driving up debt levels, raising concerns about dangers to the country's banking system, which has seen non-performing loans hit 11-year highs.

"Corporate debt, though still manageable, is high and rising fast," Lipton said, adding that China needed a comprehensive plan and concrete action - especially for state-owned enterprises - to avoid serious problems down the road. The IMF expects China's economy to grow by around 6 per-

cent in 2017. Beijing has set a goal of at least 6.5 percent growth over the next five years, though some analysts believe real growth levels are already much weaker than official data suggest.

NEED FOR FISCAL REFORMS

China also needs to align local government revenue and expenditure responsibilities, expand social security, implement new budget laws and make the tax system more progressive, Lipton said. The IMF suggested implementing a carbon or coal tax, which would significantly reduce China's serious air pollution problem and could prevent 4-5 million premature deaths in 2030.

In addition to fiscal reform, Lipton said China needs to guard against growing risks in its increasingly complex financial system by increasing coordination between different regulators and markets and strengthening funding resilience for both banks and other financial institutions. Turning to China's foreign exchange policy, which is high on global investors' worry lists after a surprise yuan devaluation last year, Lipton said the exchange rate is becoming "more flexible and market-based".

The IMF encouraged China to set "a goal of achieving an effective float within the next couple of years." Lipton also noted China had improved its data and communication of policies to markets and the public, and said further improvement would help China with its economic transition. —Reuters

ACTIVISTS PRESS FOR OUSTER OF SRI LANKA BANK CHIEF

COLOMBO: An influential group of Sri Lankan academics and professionals yesterday called on the president to remove the country's controversial central bank chief over long-running insider trading allegations. The powerful Anti-Corruption Front, credited with aiding President Maithripala Sirisena's election victory last year, said it would "take to the streets" if he

did not terminate Arjuna Mahendran's governorship of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

Mahendran, whose tenure is up for renewal at the end of June, was accused last year of leaking inside information to his son-in-law's firm, allowing it to allegedly make millions of dollars in profits from a central bank bond auction. An ad-hoc ruling party committee cleared him of direct involvement but pointed to unusual activity and called for a more thorough investigation, which has yet to be held.

"Don't allow Arjuna Mahendran to bleed the country," ACF convenor Keerthi Tennakoon told reporters in Colombo. "Through the bond scam, he has caused billions of rupees in losses to the state."

Mahendran has consistently maintained his innocence. Tennakoon said Sirisena should dismiss Mahendran, a Singaporean national of Sri Lankan origin, at the end of this month and launch a fresh investigation. "If the president ignores our call and the demand of all reasonable thinking people of this country, we will not hesitate to take to the streets," he said.

Despite the claims and the pending investigation, Mahendran was again accused of favouring his son-in-law's firm in another bond auction in April this year.

The Anti-Corruption Front is also credited with leading a campaign to topple former strongman president Mahinda Rajapakse, who was accused of nepotism and corruption. Sri Lanka's economy is under stress, and earlier this month began receiving the first tranche of a \$1.5 billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund. —AFP



COLOMBO: Sri Lankan head of the Anti-Corruption Front Keerthi Tennakoon addresses reporters in Colombo yesterday, demanding the sacking of controversial Central Bank of Sri Lanka Governor Arjuna Mahendran. —AFP



PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak (left) gives a thumbs up as he poses for pictures along with a new 4th generation Proton Perdana sedan car during the launch of the Malaysian car manufacturer's latest generations in Putrajaya yesterday. —AFP

NO MORE 'BLANK CHEQUES' FOR MALAYSIA'S PROTON: PM

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's troubled national automaker Proton can no longer rely on a "blank cheque" from the government, Prime Minister Najib Razak warned yesterday, saying it must address serious flaws in its business model. Najib also took a swipe at his political rival, former premier Mahathir Mohamad-declaring that "Mahathir's era of political interference (in Proton) has come to an end".

In April the government approved a bailout package of 1.5 billion ringgit (\$384 million) to help the struggling state-owned company with its debts. "The loan was not a blank cheque," Najib said in a statement after launching a new Proton model. The package was conditional on the firm drawing up comprehensive plans to reverse falling sales.

Najib said the government had provided

Proton with 14 billion ringgit over three decades but its share of the domestic automotive market had plunged to 15 percent now from 74 percent in 1993.

He said two factories were built, capable of producing 400,000 units a year, but Proton managed to sell only 102,000 cars last year. "Proton is not currently in the position that it should be," the premier said. The urgent need for the cash injection exposed serious structural flaws and the need to end political meddling, he said, while pledging continued support for the manufacturer. Najib also announced the formation of a task force to help Proton find a foreign partner to ensure it remains viable. "There has been too much political interference in Proton's strategy, management-including of personnel-and business model," he said, singling out Mahathir. —AFP

INDIA INFLATION QUICKENS ON HIGHER FOOD PRICES

NEW DELHI: India's consumer prices rose faster than expected in May due to higher food costs, official figures showed yesterday, which will likely lead the central bank to hold off lowering interest rates.

The inflation rate increased to 5.76 percent from a year earlier, substantially higher than the 4.8 percent recorded in March and 5.4 percent in April, reported the statistics ministry. The jump was mostly driven by higher food prices, economists said, after two back-to-back droughts. A survey of 28 economists by Bloomberg had forecast the May inflation rate would be 5.6 percent.

"The recent pickup in Indian inflation is due to higher food prices, not a pickup in overall inflationary pressures," Bill Adams, senior international economist at PNC Financial Services Group, said in a statement. "Nevertheless, the Reserve Bank of India is likely to leave interest rates on hold for the rest of 2016 after its 25 basis point cut in the repo rate to 6.5 percent on April 5," Adams added.

Central bank governor Raghuram Rajan, who has made taming India's once-runaway prices a priority of his tenure, has set a medium-term goal of limiting inflation to five percent by March 2017. The April rate cut, designed to lower the cost of borrowing and provide a boost to the economy, took the key interest rate to its lowest level since early 2011. —AFP

IRAN REACHES DEAL TO BUY BOEING PLANES

DUBAI/PARIS: Iran has reached a deal to buy jetliners from US planemaker Boeing, the country's minister of roads and urban development was quoted yesterday as saying. "In coming days details of the deal with this company will be announced," Abbas Akhoundi said, according to the semi-official Mehr news agency.

Boeing's Middle East headquarters said it did not have any immediate comment. Reuters reported last week that Iran was edging towards a historic deal to buy jetliners from Boeing for the first time since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, potentially matching an order for over 100 jets from Europe's Airbus. The chairman of flag carrier Iranair told Reuters it was also talking to Boeing about providing support for its fleet under a deal between Tehran and six major powers to ease sanctions in return for curbs on Iran's nuclear activities. —Reuters

WORLD STOCKS UNRAVEL ON GROWING BREXIT FEARS

LONDON: Global stock markets extended a global sell-off yesterday on rising prospects of Britain next week voting to leave the European Union. Investors meanwhile started paying for the privilege of owning rock-solid German government bonds as fears of a possible Brexit and economic worries caused a rush to the safety of German debt. Strong demand for German sovereign bonds, known as "Bunds", caused prices to peak, in turn pushing their yields into negative territory for the first time ever.

"The nervousness around the Brexit story

increased the volatility in global bond markets," said Ipek Ozkardeska, market analyst at traders London Capital Group. In a bid to seek safety, traders are piling also into the yen and gold, or alternative haven investments. Yesterday, the euro hit a 3.5-year low at 118.52 yen. Asian stocks slipped yesterday ahead of the US Federal Reserve's two-day meeting that begins later in the day, amid growing worries this month's referendum in Britain could see it exit the European Union. The pound and euro have suffered in recent sessions as economists fear a so-called Brexit would tip Europe back

into recession. Voters appear divided ahead of the June 23 referendum, with the "Out" campaign widening its lead over the "In" camp, according to two opinion polls published by ICM on Monday.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was down 0.6 percent, after Wall Street lost ground for the third straight session. Japan's Nikkei stock index skidded 1.5 percent after tumbling 3.5 percent on Monday. "Short-term hedge funds have started betting on Brexit, and futures players will likely dominate the market's move today," said Norihiro Fujito,

senior investment strategist at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities.

The benchmark 10-year Japanese government bond yield fell to as low as minus-0.175 percent, a fresh record, before edging back to minus-0.170 percent.

Uncertainty over this week's Federal Reserve policy meeting has weighed on markets, though the US central bank is widely expected to leave rates unchanged after the much weaker-than-expected May nonfarm payrolls report. "The committee was actively preparing markets for a June-July rate hike until the release of the May employment report and is unlikely to give up its tightening bias absent additional information that labour markets are weakening," analysts at Barclays wrote.

"Nevertheless, the abrupt slowing in employment and falling long-run inflation expectations should raise alarm bells, and risk management concerns suggest delaying action until after the outcome of the UK referendum," they said.

Caution across markets was reinforced also by policy meetings of the US, Japanese and British central banks taking place this week. The Federal Reserve will conclude a two-day meeting Wednesday and while it is not expected to hike interest rates for several months, investors hope it will give some guidance on monetary policy.

Opinion is divided on whether the Bank of Japan will add to its stimulus when it finishes its own gathering tomorrow, while the same day the Bank of England is widely expected to hold

rates at 0.5 percent. "Expectations of weak global growth and ever-enduring easy monetary policy, likely to be reinforced at central bank meetings this week, is seeing a mass exit from equities and feeding demand for bonds, sending yields to record lows," said Jasper Lawler, analyst at traders CMC Markets.

Around 1030 GMT in stock market trades, London's benchmark FTSE 100 index was down 1.3 percent compared with Monday's close. In the eurozone, Frankfurt's DAX 30 lost 0.7 percent and the Paris CAC 40 slid 1.4 percent.

Elsewhere on currency markets, the British pound dropped against the dollar and was steady versus the euro after Britain's most-read newspaper The Sun urged readers to vote to leave the European Union in an editorial yesterday. On Monday, the pound had hit two-month lows against the dollar and European single currency. With just over a week to go until Britain's referendum, a series of polls have put the pro-leave camp in front, raising the possibility that its four-decade ties to the bloc could be cut.

The prospect of one of the biggest economies in the EU breaking away has led to warnings of a new wave of world market turmoil as they struggle to recover from the panic that wiped trillions off valuations at the start of the year. The Bank of England, Swiss National Bank and the Bank of Japan will also meet this week, and are similarly expected to stand pat on policy with the Brexit vote looming. —Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Tuesday 14 June 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▼ -0.17	5,412.14	5,412.31	5,417.47	5,400.95
Weighted Index	▼ -0.39	353.91	354.30	355.54	353.65
KSX 15	▼ -0.34	810.80	811.14	816.96	810.02

Volume	73,196,131
Value (KWD)	7,930,501
Number of Trades	1,636

Security	Trades		Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
	High	Low					
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	0.0
IKARUS	41.5	40.0	852,562	34,762	22	40.0	▲ 0.5
IPG	320	320	10,000	3,200	1	320	0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	0.0
ENERGYH	59	50	596,150	32,677	48	51	▼ -4.0
GPI	44.0	43.5	376,000	16,361	9	43.5	▼ 0.0
ARAR	93	93	200	19	1	93	▲ 5.0
Oil & Gas			1,834,912	87,019	81	753.55	▼ -0.97

Security	Trades		Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
	High	Low					
SOKOUK	36.0	36.0	90824	3,270	3	36.0	0.0
KRE	55	55	124,700	6,859	3	55	▼ -1.0
URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	0.0
NRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	0.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	560	0.0
AREEC	138	138	500	69	1	138	0.0
MASGALIH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	44.0	0.0
ARABREC	31.5	31.0	160,178	4,967	7	31.0	0.0
ERESCO	52	51	567,027	28,919	22	52	0.0
MADANEC	790	790	25,544	20,970	2	790	▼ -10.0
INJAZZAT	74	73	20,110	1,468	3	74	0.0
INVESTORS	22.5	21.5	1,630,910	30,012	24	22.0	0.0
IRC	33.5	31.5	230,111	7,404	11	32.5	▼ -0.5
ALTUJARIA	76	75	124,963	9,494	6	76	0.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	32.0	0.0
AAYANRE	64	62	645,000	40,735	12	63	0.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	0.0
ALADARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	25.0	0.0
MAZAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	120	0.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	0.0
TUARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	36.5	0.0
TAAMEER	23.0	22.5	95,500	2,149	4	23.0	0.0
ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	0.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	144	0.0
ABYAAR	23.5	23.5	420,000	9,870	10	23.5	▼ -0.5
MUNSHAAT	55	55	17,800	979	2	55	▲ 1.0
FIRSTDUBAI	70	68	744,383	51,224	33	68	0.0
KBT	40.5	40.5	375,600	15,212	11	40.5	0.0
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	146	0.0
MENA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	21.0	0.0
ALMUDON	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	28.5	0.0
MARAKEZ	21.0	20.5	12,400	255	7	21.0	▼ -2.0
REMAIL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	33.5	0.0
AWJ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	0.0
Real Estate			5,292,550	239,854	161	844.80	▼ -1.46

Security	Trades		Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
	High	Low					
KFOUC	178	178	346	62	1	178	0.0
DFCC	560	530	1,459,941	797,538	129	550	▲ 20.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	630	0.0
ALQURAIN	212	200	64,384	13,424	12	212	▲ 2.0
Basic Materials			1,524,671	811,024	142	989.80	▲ 12.29

Security	Trades		Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
	High	Low					
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	375	0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305	0.0
CABLE	400	395	10,000	3,990	3	400	0.0
SHIP	166	160	200,432	32,516	25	166	0.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,000	0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	275	0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	59	0.0
ACICO	305	305	3,800	1,159	3	305	▲ 10.0
GGMC	275	275	991	273	1	275	▲ 10.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	142	0.0
KBMM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62	0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	0.0
SALBOOKH	73	73	83,000	6,059	6	73	0.0
AGLTY	485	480	306,943	148,393	15	485	0.0
EDLU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	0.0
CLEANING	40.0	39.0	245,550	9,686	9	39.5	▼ -0.5
CITYGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	630	0.0
KGL	48.5	47.5	110,001	5,236	8	48.5	0.0
KPCPC	214	212	23,219	4,923	5	214	▲ 4.0
HUMANISOFT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,380	0.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	174	0.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305	0.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	34.0	0.0
MAYADEEN	26.0	25.5	7,651,949	196,740	74	26.0	▲ 0.5
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	780	0.0
MTCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	68	0.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	0.0
ALAFCO	204	200	130	26	2	204	0.0
MUBARRAD	62	61	250,739	15,536	4	61	▼ -1.0
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	0.0
SCEM	79	79	90,000	7,110	2	79	▲ 1.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	73	0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	72	0.0
FCEM	74	73	1,625,015	120,041	35	74	0.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	94	0.0
SPEC	76	72	2,500	190	2	76	0.0
Industrials			10,004,269	551,886	194	1066.72	▲ 2.01

KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	0.0
CATTL	202	184	106,280	19,872	5	202	▲ 8.0
DANAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	124	0.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	0.0
FOOD	2,100	2,060	104,582	218,235	15	2,100	▲ 40.0
Consumer Goods			210,862	238,106	20	1133.06	▲ 9.85

KINV	85	85	4,000	340	1	85	▼ -3.0
FACIL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	182	0.0
IFA	30.5	30.0	718,500	21,556	28	30.0	0.0
NINV	94	91	7,485,973	689,486	94	92	0.0
KPROJ	510	500	197,308	100,364	7	510	▼ -10.0
COAST	40.0	38.5	3,224,896	126,976	49	39.0	0.0
SECH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	48.5	0.0
SGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	0.0
ARZAN	33.5	32.5	3,439	113	2	32.5	0.0
MARKAZ	83	83	3,000	249	1	83	▼ -1.0
KMEFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	26.0	0.0
ALAMAN	51	50	278,417	14,021	8	50	0.0
ALOLA	47.5	47.0	20,000	946	3	47.0	0.0
ALMAL	28.0	27.0	1,917,532	54,378	27	27.5	0.0
GIH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	27.0	0.0
AAYAN	37.0	36.5	50,010	1,825	2	37.0	0.0
BAYANINV	34.5	34.5	38,000	1,311	1	34.5	▲ 0.5
OSOUL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	45.5	0.0
KPIC	38.5	38.0	163,000	6,201	7	38.0	▲ 0.5
KAMCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	0.0
NIH	57	54	70,750	3,862	6	55	▼ -2.0
ISKAN	31.5	31.					

AL MULLA GROUP LAUNCHES THE NEW 'FUSO DAIMLER' TRUCKS

A SPECIAL CEREMONY HELD IN THE PRESENCE OF BUSINESS CLIENTS

- Al Mulla: The new "Fuso" category will strengthen its position in the Kuwaiti market in order to remain the brand of choice for clients.
- Schneider: Fuso brand has been in the market for more than 80 years and is present today in more than 160 markets worldwide.
- Fuso offers an addition in space and size for the transport of goods and a more comfortable driving position similar to regular car.

KUWAIT: Believing in the need to build a successful partnership between them and their customers, Al Mulla Group, the exclusive agents of Fuso brand for commercial vehicles and buses in Kuwait, invited its business customers to the launching ceremony of the new 2016 Fuso trucks, which were manufactured in a modern manufacturing facility in the Daimler factory in India.

The ceremony was attended by more than 300 customers, senior officials of the Japanese Fuso company, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Al Mulla Group Talal Al Mulla, Head of the Automotive Group Imad Flayhan, and General Manager of the Automotive Sector Hisham Fakhri, as well as by executives in the Group.

At the beginning of the ceremony, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer Talal Al Mulla held his speech and welcomed the attendees and thanked them for accepting the invitation and for participating in this prestigious event during which the 2016 amazing Fuso trucks category are launched.

He said: "We are proud to be part of the Daimler family manufacturing elite trucks in the world. Al Mulla Group, since its establishment by the late Abdullah Al Mulla in 1938, sought to look for opportunities for growth by providing the best products and services to consumers in the Kuwaiti market."

He pointed out that under the guidance of Al Mulla Board of Directors, and thanks to the efforts exerted by the dedicated team, the Group grew to become one of the major companies in the region, through a diversified portfolio operating in different fields in eight states with 40 business activities including the automotive sector, the financing services, engineering, manufacturing, real estate, health and education.

He explained that this growth would not have been possible without the partners knowing that Fuso is one of the strategic partners, where Al Mulla Group obtained the rights to distribute Fuso products in the local market in 1977. Thus, Al Mulla was able to provide a wider range of different products to its clients. He stressed that the dedication of this partnership through continuous investment and the ongoing support of Fuso enabled Al Mulla Group to grow in this area and to achieve a market share of 53 percent in 2015 for light trucks sector. Talal Al Mulla continued: "Today, we celebrate with you the launch of an exciting line of new products that will enhance our products in the local market. He added that Daimler India Commercial Vehicles will produce several new models with a capacity load of 9.5 tons to 25 tons, all of which are based on the Mercedes-Benz technology. There is no doubt that this new line will enable us to meet all the needs of our customers."

He explained that in order to ensure the best ownership experience for customers, the Group was keen to invest in sales and after sales services. He added that sophisticated and modern sales facilities and services related to Fuso products have been allocated, in addition to providing effective special programs such as "Let's Grow Together", which in turn ensures lower cost of ownership through 5 years enhanced warranty or a 200 thousand kilometers drive (whichever occurs first), and finally special prices on service and spare parts. Al Mulla resumed that with the introduction of the new class of Fuso trucks, we are confident that Fuso will grow dramatically in the Kuwaiti market to remain the favorite brand for a lot of customers who will get the best purchase experience possible for the products of this leading brand.

The New Category

For his part, the CEO of Daimler



Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Al Mulla Group Talal Al Mulla.



CEO of Daimler Commercial Vehicles for MENA Roland Schneider.



Commercial Vehicles for the Middle East and North Africa Roland Schneider stated that the new Fuso class has been manufactured in a modern manufacturing facility in India - Daimler factory India Commercial Vehicles, and that the new category features a new Fuso logo. He pointed out that today, after more than 80 years later; Fuso brand has developed itself as the first Daimler trucks, with a presence in more than 160 markets around the world, including the prominent high growth markets in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. Schneider pursued that Fuso offers the same reliability, quality and accurate customer service trucks, along with a wide range of trucks to meet the continuing needs of customers worldwide, starting from the globally known model of trucks, such as Canter and light bus model like Rosa up to the heavy-duty Fuso category on major roads. He further explained that Fuso has always been Fuso at the front place in the light truck sector through the sale of iconic Canter truck since more than 50 years.

He concluded that Fuso directs its focus on the dedication to customer service as the customer service department is considered the most important for clients in order to maintain, operate and use the vehicles for a longer period with high reliability.

Extensive Products

Fuso Daimler Middle East Head of Sales Murali, said: "The new Fuso category offers a wide range of high and medium reliability products, and that compared with the previous generation of Fuso, the new model takes a

more aggressive and pneumatic shape with sharp carving of the structure lines and a bolder front. Moreover, the smooth front lines determine the shape of the multiple-reflections headlights of the HDT category. He explained that the front lower inclined bumper that is heading up gives Fuso a stylish and attractive look. In addition to the softness of the exterior design, there is the aerodynamic vehicle design".

Murali pointed out that this new category features thickness of the laminated springs of the rear suspension system which promotes both endurance and durability. However, the aerodynamic design of the vehicle thereby reduces the wind resistance. At a time when the fuel efficiency is increased, it reduces the noise for quieter and more comfortable drive. He explained that the new Fuso offers additional space for passengers and extra size for transport of goods. Fuso also provides a driving position similar to the normal car with more comfort and confidence. Every surface, all the interior door handles, steering wheel and other parts were designed to be easily used and operated.

Prestigious Prizes

On the same note, he said that the comfortable cabin lessens the driver's fatigue and increases his productivity. However, the steering wheel and the three adjustable seats allow the driver to run a wide range of features without having to raise his hand off the steering wheel, thus avoiding potential distractions. Additionally, the double light LED panel in smart meters makes the vital information clearer while hearing the warning alarm as the engine overheats.

Additionally, he said that the new category from Fuso has sophisticated and reliable technologies, high flexibility and a distinctive high and economic performance. He explained that the new category, which has been displayed in 20 markets around the world, includes both the FA, FI, FJ, FO and FZ trucks and offers a wide choice for customers, of five models ranging from the 9-16 tons of FA / FI medium-heavy-duty trucks to the 25-49 tons of FJ, FO and FZ medium-heavy-duty trucks.

The FA / FI model, which recently joined the Fuso family in Kuwait, and as is the case with all Fuso trucks, the new truck that belongs to the medium and heavy duty trucks features convenience and higher economic performance, along with a set of new exclusive features of this model. All types of this model are available with direct injection engine and provide sufficient energy, fuel consumption efficiency and overall operating cost discount. It is also equipped with six-speed transmission with high flexibility, which works on reducing driver's fatigue. Moreover, these types are

technicians. Additionally, the program allows the sixth periodic maintenance for free after each five periodical maintenance practices. Customers will be able through this program to obtain special discounts on all spare parts starting from 25 percent and additional discounts on electrical parts, air conditioning parts and parts to repair external damage up to 35 percent. This is in addition to the fact that the program offers incentives for spare parts up to 5 percent.

The program also grants Fuso customers more comfort and efficiency, a mobile service unit ready to serve the truck at any time and any place. In addition to the fact that the program allows the conclusion of annual maintenance contracts in accordance with the customer needs with flexible payment methods commensurate with the nature of their business. He added that out of Al Mulla Group's belief in Fuso commercial vehicles, considered absolutely one of the best and most reliable vehicles in the construction and transport sectors, the Group guarantees the best purchase cost at all, the best after sales value, the lowest maintenance and repair cost, the lowest spare parts cost, the best consumption fuel in its category, and the most suitable maintenance contracts, in addition to the best durability and reliability.

Integrated Solutions

As a conclusion, Al Mulla Group is considered a leading service provider company in construction and other industries in Kuwait, with demand and service at the scale of heavy vehicles and machinery, including trucks, buses and cars. Moreover, the Group offers customers an unrivaled choice from among the best brands with exceptional standards of customer service and after-sales service.

The Group offers today a variety of services from industries and commercial projects covering transport, construction, oil and gas, manufacturing, warehousing, public sector and individuals.

The Group confirms that the Fuso trucks are one of the favorite trucks in the Kuwaiti market thanks to the brilliant features, the innovative technology and the value for money. Al Mulla is confident that the new trucks will have Fuso be on top of the sales in the local market. Mitsubishi Fuso, over the past years and in partnership with Al Mulla Group, has been able to put itself on top of the Kuwaiti market providers of leading commercial vehicles where Mitsubishi Fuso has a number of the best models of these commercial vehicles ranging from light, medium and heavy, as well as buses that are commensurate with all commercial requirements".

Quality and Competence

As for Fuso brand, it is known for its quality, economic efficiency, robust and functional design and for its committed customer service. The Japanese leading brand is known for its record full of technological innovations and high customer satisfaction on the basis of lower total cost of ownership.

The new category has been manufactured in Daimler India commercial vehicles in Chennai, from where the vehicles are exported to the Middle East. Daimler India Commercial Vehicles is a 100 percent subsidiary of Daimler AG, Stuttgart, Germany, and is working with Mitsubishi Fuso Company for trucks and buses under the umbrella of Daimler Asia for trucks. Both companies are an integral part of Daimler Trucks Asia, the global manufacturer of trucks. Daimler Trucks also develops and produces vehicles globally for brands like Mercedes-Benz, Freightliner, Western Star, and Thomas Bewold Buses, Fuso and BharatBenz.

Let's Grow Together

For his part, the Fuso Assistant Sales Manager Bassem Sader reveals the advantages of "Let's Grow Together" program special to Fuso vehicles, which aims at maintaining the Fuso vehicles for a longer period with high reliability. He indicates that the new program offers a comprehensive warranty of 5 years or 200 thousand kilometers (whichever occurs first), and provides drivers with training courses for environmentally friendly driving along with technical courses for maintenance



WARBA BANK COMMITS TO CB'S NEW SECURITY STANDARDS ON CHEQUES

KUWAIT: Warba Bank is keen to prompt transparency in the communication with the customers in order to domain their interests and keep them aware of the banking transactions latest decisions., Warba bank, the fastest growing bank which provides a series of banking and investment services compatible with Islamic Sharia according to local and international levels, announced that it will not receive nor pass any checks in Kuwaiti Dinars that is not compatible with the Central Bank's regulations that is correspondent with the security standards.

Warba Bank explained further, that customers will be invited to Warba branches in order to receive the new checks, and that none of the branches will accept any checks that is not compatible with the Central Bank's regulations that is correspondent with the security standards.

Warba Bank assured that it will fully comply with the new checks instructions conformity to Kuwait's system for clearing Electronic Checks standard and

reducing the period of old check collection to three days to some cases, yet collect other cases on the same day or the next working day.

The checks include security standards i.e. the magnetic ink line to avoid writing or signing on the bottom of the check. The checks should be kept in good condition and not to be folded, destroyed, stapled nor torn. Avoid keeping checks in places exposed to the sun or warm places, which may cause damage to the checks and thus will become unacceptable by the competent authorities. On the other hand, the customer need to make sure that the financial



value required is available before issuing checks, since bounced checks could lead to criminal prosecution.

Warba Bank is also keen to inform its customers about the latest developments related to banking operations that is issued by the Central Bank of Kuwait in order to always be on the safe side due to the banking sector official instructions to ensure security and confidence to the customers' dealings to prevent any undesirable actions.

Warba Bank was established pursuant to Amiri decree and officially registered as an Islamic bank by the Kuwaiti central bank on 5 April, 2010. It offers a bundle of comprehensive integrated services and banking solutions that comply with the Islamic sharia jurisdiction, and such services are offered through three groups or services, namely, the Banking Group, the Company Financing Group and the Investment and Treasury Group. The bank has eight branches in strategic locations with over 300 employees working under its umbrella.



Make sure that all cheques adhere to the standards and guidelines defined by the Central Bank of Kuwait. Replace your cheques with new ones today.



AUB IMPLEMENTS NEW ELECTRONIC CHEQUE CLEARING SYSTEM

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced yesterday that it will soon stop receiving and processing cheques in Kuwaiti Dinars that are not in line with the latest standards and security features outlined by the Central Bank of Kuwait. The Bank's latest initiative reflects its commitment to the Central Bank of Kuwait's regulations which aim at protecting and safeguarding customers' rights and overall interest.

AUB has requested from its clients that process cheques from general press companies and not through the bank, to begin printing their personal cheques from authorized entities only as soon as possible, taking into consideration that customers, will need to refer back to AUB to provide them with the latest standards and security features before printing the cheques.

Moreover, it is crucial to abide by the new

regulations to guarantee the acceptance of the cheques through the Kuwait Electronic Cheque Clearing System (KECCS), which has minimized the approval cycle of cheques from 3 days to the same day for specific cases or to the next working day in other cases.

In addition to, AUB has emphasized the importance of maintaining the overall security of customers' cheques. Customers need to ensure that the MICR line is printed at the bottom of their cheques, while also avoiding writing or signing over the MICR line. Cheques must be kept in good conditions by avoiding folding, damaging, stapling or tearing them and storing them away from direct sunlight and increased temperatures which may damage them. AUB is committed to further developing all requirements and enhancing regulatory procedures in an effort to serve the best interest of its customers.

POLITICAL DIFFERENCES HOLD UP INDIA'S BIGGEST TAX REFORM

KOLKATA: For India's Finance Minister Arun Jaitley a nationwide goods services tax (GST) is a transformative idea that cannot wait any longer. But he will have to do some more spadework to get states on board if he is to introduce it next April.

While support has broadened among states for the sales tax, differences persist on key details, in particular pitching the tax at the right level to offset possible revenue losses. A government-appointed panel has suggested a standard GST rate of 17-18 percent. But India's states are reluctant to accept it.

On Tuesday, Jaitley met his state counterparts in a renewed attempt to forge a compromise. The meeting, however, failed to achieve a breakthrough. "There is no consensus on the rate," said Parminder Singh Dhindsa, finance minister of the state of Punjab. "We want a detailed study to ensure there are no revenue losses." State finance ministers will meet again in the second week of July to break the deadlock on the measure that, two years into Prime Minister Narendra Modi's term, remains blocked in the upper house of parliament. Jaitley has threatened to take the GST to a vote in July's monsoon session of parliament.

SILVER BULLET

Investors have billed the GST as a 'silver bullet'

for Asia's third-largest economy that would supplant multiple federal and state levies - a chaotic structure that inflates costs for businesses. Jaitley calls it the biggest reform since 1947 that would for the first time create a single market for one-sixth of the world's population and could boost the rate of growth by 2 percentage points.

For the measure to become a reality, Jaitley needs not only the backing of states but also of the opposition Congress party to secure the required two-thirds majority needed to pass a key constitutional enabling amendment in parliament's upper house. But pleasing one runs the risk of antagonizing the other. For example, the GST is globally known as a consumption-based tax, but Jaitley has agreed to allow states to impose a 1 percent additional levy on the cross-border transport of goods. This proposal is anathema to the Congress party. The Congress, the original author of the tax reform, wants the proposed levy to be scrapped - a position the government-appointed panel has also backed. States are ready to forgo the tax, provided Jaitley offers higher compensation from the national budget. The principal opposition party has also asked for capping the GST at 18 percent and setting up an independent mechanism to resolve disputes on revenue sharing between states. — Reuters

ASSTEAD TO BUY BACK SHARES, PROFIT BEATS ESTIMATES

LONDON: Ashtead Group Plc announced a share buyback of up to 200 million pounds (\$284 million) for the current financial year, after strong North American growth helped the industrial equipment hire group beat full-year profit estimates. The company also raised its full-year dividend by 48 percent to 22.5 pence, citing expectations of significant free cash flow generation due to strong margins and lower costs for fleet replacement in the current year.

Shares in Ashtead, which hires out diggers and tools on short-term contracts, rose almost 4 percent, making it the top percentage gainer on London's bluechip index. The company said it expected "good" earnings growth, as seasonally higher demand for fleet on rent seen during spring had continued into the new financial year.

Chief Executive Geoff Drabble told Reuters that the company expected capital expenditure to grow by double digits to mid-teens in North America and by mid-to-high-single digits in the UK.

"Two-thirds of our growth continues to be structural growth, not market growth, so we will grow as we open new locations, take market share and as our customers choose

to rent rather than own," he said. The London-listed firm has greatly benefited from the rebound in U.S. construction markets, particularly in the private sector.

That has helped it outperform rivals with more exposure to the struggling oil and gas sectors, including US peer United Rentals Inc, which forecast adjusted core earnings lower than some analysts' estimates, citing concerns over its oil and gas and Canada businesses.

However, US construction spending recorded its biggest decline in more than five years in April. Ashtead makes about half of its revenue from the construction sector. "I think the end market growth will be a percent or two less than it was, but it will still be good growth," Geoff said, declining to give specifics about an earnings target.

Brokerage Jefferies retained its pretax profit estimate of 691 million pounds for the current year ending April 2017. Yesterday, Ashtead also reported a 24 percent rise in pretax profit at constant currency to 645.3 million pounds for the year ended April 30. This came in ahead of analysts' estimate of 620.1 million pounds, according to a company-compiled consensus. — Reuters

ABK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF ITS 'DOUBLE YOUR SALARY' DRAWS

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its seventh 'Double Your Salary' weekly draw on 14 June, 2016 at the Bank's Head Office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners for this week. The new promotion includes weekly draws, with two winners per draw and will run from 1 May to 30 September, 2016.

The winners this week are:

- 1) Mohammed Mustufa Abdulmajeed, Salmiya Branch.
- 2) Saud Sulaiman Al-Otaibi, Andalus Branch.

New customers who transfer their salary to ABK will receive KD 100 and automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries. Existing customers who are already transferring their salary to ABK will be entered into a separate draw.

The Bank's next draw will be held on 21 June, 2016 where two new lucky winners will be announced subsequently. All winners will be contacted personally and a weekly announcement will be made through the media with the winners' names.

For more information on Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit www.eahl.com or contact an ABK a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.

ETIHAD CARGO STARTS TWICE WEEKLY FLIGHT TO BRUSSELS

KUWAIT: Etihad Cargo has commenced a new twice weekly A330 freighter service to Brussels Airport in Belgium further strengthening the connectivity options and economic ties between Abu Dhabi and Brussels, and adding freighter capacity to its existing passenger service.

The airline already flies a daily passenger service to Brussels with its supporting bellyhold cargo, and the addition of the freighter underlines Belgium's importance to its European network. David Kerr, Vice President of Etihad Cargo, said: "Brussels is an important route into Europe with the freight operation returning to full strength, so as part of our plans to expand further this year, we are pleased to begin operating in and out of the city.

"Brussels provides vital connections across Europe and is also a key connector into Africa so we know that it will be another important route on our global freighter network."

As a leading European gateway, Brussels Airport will further benefit Etihad Cargo's operations with its dedicated infrastructure for the transport and handling of products that require an unbroken cold chain, particularly pharmaceutical products and perishables.

Etihad Cargo launched its own specialised product for the pharmaceutical industry, TempCheck, in March 2015. Its service ensures that all temperature-sensitive pharmaceutical products including blood plasma, tablets, medicines and anaesthetics are transported in compliance with industry and regulatory guidelines. TempCheck incorporates the latest equipment, processes and operating procedures to keep all pharmaceutical products within a temperature controlled environment at every stage of the journey. The program is supervised by experienced Etihad Cargo teams and supporting ground handling staff. The new freighter connection for Etihad Cargo will provide seamless connectivity over the Abu Dhabi hub to 58 destinations in the carrier's global network and over 1000 weekly connections.

BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES NEW KUWAIT ELECTRONIC CHEQUE CLEARING SYSTEM

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank would like to draw the attention of its client that in the near future the bank will no longer accept processing cheques, issued in Kuwaiti Dinars that do not conform to the standards and security features as prescribed by the Central Bank of Kuwait. Burgan Bank advises its client's beneficiary of these types of cheques to go to their issuer Bank to cash their cheque or deposit it in their accounts - if available with the issuer Bank.

Accordingly, Burgan Bank would like to advise its clients who print their cheques directly through press companies and not through their bank; to print their cheques at the earliest only through authorized entities and by taking into consideration that they need to refer back to their bank to provide them with the mandated standards and security features before printing these cheques.

In addition to the cheques conforming to the standards and security features, Burgan Bank advises its clients to follow The Central Bank of Kuwait instructions to facilitate the clearing of their cheques through the new Kuwait Electronic Cheque Clearing System (KECCS), in which the clearing cycle of cheques has been reduced from 3 days to the same day for certain cases or to be the next working day in other cases .

To ensure the acceptance and processing of the cheques under KECCS and to highly benefit from the system , customers need to have the MICR line printed on the cheques , avoid writing or signing over the MICR line , keep the cheques in a good



condition by avoiding folding, damaging, stapling or tearing cheques . Avoid storing cheques in places that are warm or under direct sunlight as it can damage the cheques and will not be accepted for processing and also ensure the availability of sufficient funds in the account before issuing the cheques (cheques returned due to insufficient funds may lead to criminal persecutions).

To find out more about Burgan Bank's new cheques guidelines, customers are required to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch or contact the call center on 1804080. For more information, customers can visit the bank's website on www.burgan.com.



VIVA LAUNCHES SPECIAL RAMADAN OFFER FOR KD7

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, launched a special offer on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan for KD 7 for postpaid customers. This new monthly package allows customers to enjoy unlimited on net minutes, 5 GB data. A vanity number is available at

two years commitment; in addition, customers can have the latest devices of iPhone or Samsung if they pay extra fees. To find out more about Ramadan offer, visit one of the 70 VIVA branches, or the VIVA website at www.viva.com.kw , or call VIVA's 24-hour call center on 102.



SINGAPORE: An amphibious tour vehicle travels past the Garden by the Bay domes along the Marina bay in Singapore yesterday. — AFP



Artwork by Kayla Yi titled (Flight of Mind) on display at the Red Bull Art of Can - Chicago 2014



1st prize art of work in 2011



Event guests enjoy the Red Bull Art of Can Kuwait at the 360 Exhibition Hall in Kuwait in 2011

TAKING CREATIVITY BEYOND BOUNDARIES THE ART OF CAN EXHIBITION OPENS TOMORROW

A great line of colorful, eye-catching and creative artworks will mark the opening of the Art of Can Exhibition by Red Bull at 360 mall tomorrow. The awaited exhibition is now well underway to reveal more than 100 artworks when the gallery opens its doors for VIP invitees on 15th June and to announce the winners during that night, then to receive visitors starting 16 June until 25th June. The prestigious gallery is set to feature a variety of art pieces that depict the talent and artistry of the participants, along with their incredible skills in creating a unique piece of art where the Red Bull can is its sole point of inspiration.

The Red Bull Art of Can is a true

expression of one's imagination, with little or no restrictions placed on the budding artist. The physical pieces of art includes the actual Red Bull can as the primary material in the final work. However, the digital displayed art includes a digital version of the Red Bull can in the final piece.

Significant prizes for the winners

The selected pieces will be displayed and the top three pieces will be awarded prizes. The judges will select the winners who will be announced on the opening night of the exhibition in order to win cash prizes, categorized in the physical category, the 1st place prize is 1,000 KD, the 2nd place prize 750 KD and 3rd place prize is 500 KD.

As for the displayed digital category, the 1st place is 1,000 KD.

The organizers will shortlist the entrants qualified to participate in "The Art of Can" exhibition based on creativity, theme and final presentation.

Introducing the Digital Category for the First Time in Kuwait

This year, a new category was featured; in addition to the physical art, the digital displayed art was introduced to the competition for the first time. The digital displayed art can be a work of art that can be displayed on a screen and should include a digital version of the Red Bull can in the final piece and submissions could take the form of an animation, a digital short



film, stop motion, or GIF.

The primary material/inspiration must be a Red Bull can, but plenty of imagination and creativity is necessary

too. Be it a sculpture, a picture, a 3D model, a mobile, digital illustration or a piece of modern art, as long as it is beautiful, colorful, clever and amusing.



BEIJING: US Homeland Security Department Undersecretary Suzanne Spaulding, speaks during the Second US-China High-Level Joint Dialogue on Cybercrime and Related Issues at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse yesterday.—AP

CHINA, US HOLD TALKS TO BRIDGE CYBER SECURITY DIFFERENCES

BEIJING: Chinese and American officials said yesterday that they're committed to bridging their differences on cyber security and moving to implement recent agreements, as they held talks amid complaints over China-based hacking operations that the US says may have already cost US companies tens of billions of dollars.

Repeated meetings between the sides on cyber security indicate the seriousness with which the Obama administration regards the issue, the US ambassador to China, Max Baucus, said at the start of the two-day talks in western Beijing.

US officials have been particularly eager to build on an agreement forged during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to the White House in September that says neither government will support commercial cyber-theft. The deal was viewed by Washington as a diplomatic breakthrough, although US officials have not conclusively determined that it has led to a decline in hacks against US companies.

"We're here today to ensure implementation of agreements made by the two presidents, commitments that illustrate that we can work through areas of differences to reach areas of cooperation," Baucus said, referring to the agreement, which he called a "major advancement."

Cyber issues are "an important element in our bilateral relationship," the ambassador said. "Each step that we take enables us to have greater trust. We're prepared to work hard with you to narrow our differences."

Chinese Minister of Public Security Guo

Shengkun said China wants to "bring the discussions from policies on paper to actual implementation."

"Both sides will continue to cooperate on cyber cases," Guo said. "I believe the leadership on both sides places emphasis on the issue and values participation. Xi Jinping has personally been involved."

US Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and Attorney General Loretta Lynch were scheduled to attend the meetings, but withdrew following the mass shooting in Orlando, Florida.

In a meeting with Suzanne Spaulding, an undersecretary at the Department of Homeland Security, Meng Jianzhu, secretary of the Communist Party's Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission, said China wants to make progress on talks in the final half year of the Obama administration. "We hope that both sides can work to enrich our cooperation in the remaining six months and leave more of a political legacy for President Obama, and lay a strong foundation for our cooperation for the next administration," said Meng, who as China's de facto security chief has been closely involved in cybersecurity discussions.

Although China denies sponsoring or permitting hacking attacks, a US congressional advisory body said last year that China's increasing use of cyber espionage has already cost US companies tens of billions of dollars in lost sales and expenses in repairing the damage from hacking. It said that in many cases, stolen trade secrets had been turned over to Chinese government-owned companies.—AP

THE APPLE WATCH WILL SOON TRACK FITNESS FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS

NEW YORK: Fitness trackers routinely measure physical activity such as running and cycling and encourage people to stand up and walk around throughout the day. But if you're in a wheelchair, you're out of luck.

Apple wants to change that with an upcoming Apple Watch feature announced Monday. Instead of standing breaks, people in wheelchairs will be prompted to wheel or spin their chairs around regularly. Apple will also start tracking distance, speed and calories burned during wheelchair use, just as it does for walking or running.

The efforts could give Apple's smartwatch an image boost over stand-alone fitness trackers such as Fitbit, though the target market isn't likely large enough to significantly lift sales. In the first three months of the year, three Fitbits shipped worldwide for every Apple Watch, according to research group IDC. Apple hasn't released sales figures for its watch.

Jeff Williams, Apple's chief operating officer, said the feature isn't about market opportunities. "We want to make products that serve every walk of life," Williams said in an interview. "We realize that while it was great for messages on the wrist, we wanted to offer this group of people the same opportunity to get healthier using Apple Watch."

Apple partnered with two groups that promote physical fitness in disability populations, the Lakeshore Foundation of Birmingham, Alabama, and the Challenged Athletes Foundation of San Diego. The two groups recruited about 300 people in wheelchairs for more than 3,000 hours of activity research.

Jeff Underwood, Lakeshore's president and CEO, said wheelchair users tend to be more sedentary than the general population because they face more barriers to physical activity.



Although having a fitness device alone won't make someone fit, he said, having one sends a message that inactivity shouldn't be the norm.

The feature is part of a free software update, watchOS 3.0, expected later this year. No new hardware is required. The \$300-and-up Apple Watch appears to be the first fitness device to offer extensive wheelchair capabilities. GPS wristwatches can measure distance and speed fairly accurately, but calorie measurements assume moving the entire body, said Dawna Callahan, a four-time wheelchair finisher in the Boston Marathon and director of programs at Challenged Athletes. In addition, GPS devices aren't good for all-day tracking because of battery constraints.

Apple largely had to start from scratch because past scientific studies on burning calories weren't designed with wheelchair subjects. The company couldn't simply translate formulas

meant for walking and running.

For one thing, people push their wheelchairs differently when approaching a ramp or circumventing an obstacle. Apple also had to factor in different seat and wheel heights and different surfaces, like carpeting or asphalt. And some formulas change depending on whether the disability is from a spinal-cord injury or muscular dystrophy.

"The more you look into it, the harder and more challenging you realize it was," said Ron Huang, Apple's director of software engineering for location and motion technologies.

The Apple Watch already has larger watch faces for the sight-impaired and a mono audio mode for those with hearing difficulties in one ear. The upcoming watch OS 3.0 update will also have an option for "displaying" the time using Morse code and other tactile feedback.—AP

GLANCE: APPLE UNVEILS MESSAGING APP, IMPROVEMENTS TO SIRI

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple unveiled improvements to maps, messaging and its Siri voice assistant. It's also bringing an "SOS" feature to its watch to automatically call for help in an emergency. The company previewed new features for its iPhone, iPad, Apple TV, Apple Watch and Mac software as the weeklong Apple Worldwide Developers Conference opened in San Francisco on Monday.

Here is a look at some of Apple's announcements:

Better messaging

Apple is trying to make its messaging app smarter, more versatile and more engaging as part of an upcoming update to its iPhone and

iPad software. Users will be able to change the size of the bubbles surrounding the text to help convey the feelings underlying the words. For instance, an expression of love might be displayed in a large bubble while a message of condolence might be shown in a very small bubble.

The updated app will also automatically suggest emojis to place alongside texts using machine learning.

Siri on computers, other upgrades

The digital assistant, first introduced on iPhones in 2011, will now be available on Mac computers.

That follows a trend in which Microsoft and Google have built similar voice services to their

operating systems for computers. Microsoft added its digital assistant, Cortana, to the Windows 10 operating system released last year.

Apple is also letting Siri work with applications made by other companies. The change will open up new ways for Siri to help iPhone owners get things done more quickly.

Apple wants to make Siri smarter by using what it calls differential privacy. Patrick Moorhead of Moor Insights & Strategy explains it as Apple using non-personal information in aggregate to teach Siri new tricks, then having all the personalization take place on the individual device. It's in contrast to Google's approach of doing everything over the internet.

Redesigned maps

Apple has opened its once-maligned Maps app to developers. The company says that will enable you to find a restaurant, book a reservation, request a car from Uber or Lyft and pay for it using Apple Pay, all without leaving the Maps app.

Music to your ears

Apple is unveiling a redesign of its music service, Apple Music, aimed at simplicity and making it easier to find music stored on the device as opposed to streamed from the Internet. It also has lyrics now, as well as personalized, daily curated playlists and a "discovery mix" to help users find new music.

The service now has 15 million paying subscribers, 2 million more than in April.

Web payments

Apple's payment system, Apple Pay, is coming to the web.

The service already lets people pay in stores without opening a separate app, by holding their phone or watch near a reader.—AP



SAN FRANCISCO: Craig Federighi, Apple senior vice president of software engineering, demos iOS 10 at the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference in the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium on Monday.—AP

UBER OFFERS HELICOPTERS TO ESCAPE SAO PAULO GRIDLOCK

SAO PAULO: For commuters who imagine soaring above Sao Paulo's notorious traffic jams, ride-hailing app Uber is offering to make that daydream a reality, starting at around \$20.

Brazil's biggest city on Monday became the first in the world where Uber Technologies Inc offers on-demand chopper rides between airports, hotels and convention centers. With more than 400 aircraft and nearly as many helipads, Sao Paulo has a helicopter fleet that rivals those of New York and Tokyo, but commuting by air remains an option mostly for millionaires. Uber aims to change that with a month-long pilot program. Promotional prices through Thursday start at 66 reais (\$19) per seat for a lift from Helicentro Morumbi, in one of Sao Paulo's richest neighborhoods, to the Blue Tree hotel across the river. The distance is nearly four miles (6 km), as the chopper flies.

A ride from the Blue Tree Faria Lima onward to Guarulhos International Airport costs 271 reais during the promotion. A car

can take one to three hours to make that trip, depending on traffic. Uber media representatives declined to say how much prices would rise after Thursday or how many helicopters would be made available by the three companies operating the flights. Uber aims to get as much as five times the flight time out of each helicopter compared to standard use, according to a spokeswoman.

The Sao Paulo pilot program, connecting four airports and five other helipads, is Uber's biggest step yet in a partnership with Airbus Group, announced in January. Uber experimented in recent years with helicopter rides to the Coachella and Bonnaroo music festivals from nearby US airports that cost as much as \$3,000 to book a full helicopter and door-to-door SUV rides.

Spanish rival Cabify, which launched its Sao Paulo car service on Monday, is also in talks with three flight providers and plans to offer helicopter rides in the city by the end of the year, as it already does in Mexico City. (\$1 = 3.48 Brazilian reais).—Reuters

DROUGHT HEIGHTENS SEASONAL FOOD SCARCITY IN GUATEMALA

SAN JUAN ERMITA, GUATEMALA: A prolonged drought has worsened the hunger problem among Guatemala's heavily indigenous population. In a country where about 60 percent of the people live on less than \$3.50 per day, hunger is always a concern. But now, it has hit especially hard in areas like Chiquimula, one of the provinces where meager rainfalls limit farmers to one crop per year.

The victims are like 2-year-old Narcisca, who is being treated for severe malnutrition at a Chiquimula clinic. Her father, Samuel de Jesus, doesn't leave her bedside, but he couldn't feed her either. A farmer, Samuel de Jesus hasn't been able to get the work he needs to tide him over between harvests for four months. With a wife and two other children, there was no way to make ends meet.

It is part of what experts call "seasonal hunger," the period between June and September when the previous harvest runs out and the Guatemalan government has to provide food assistance for about one million people before the crops come in.

The farmers, many of them Chorti Indians, live off corn, beans and coffee, but don't grow enough to make it through the year. Jovita Vasquez says she needs a 110-pound (50-kilogram) sack of corn each week to feed her 11 children. They live in a shack with no running water or electricity in the mountains near the border with Honduras.

"Last year we planted corn, but it didn't rain and we lost everything," Vasquez says. "There is no work here, and my husband has to really hustle to get even tortillas for the kids."

The Jupilingo river is one of the few sources of fresh water in the area, but its level has dropped and the surrounding hillsides have been largely deforested. "We walk three hours a day to get water, and after that we go out to look for firewood," said local resident Elda Perez Recinos.

Farmer Enario Martinez said it has been four years since there was enough rain to bring in a decent crop of corn and beans. Martinez said he had been able to get some day labor jobs, but they weren't enough to even keep his family fed. — AP



SAN JUAN ERMITA, GUATEMALA: 16-year-old Claudia Noelia Lopez holds her malnourished daughter inside a public health clinic. — AP



MIAMI: This artist rendering provided by Studio Gang, shows the proposed seaside dolphin sanctuary by the National Aquarium in Baltimore. — AP

NATIONAL AQUARIUM TO MOVE DOLPHINS INTO REFUGE

MIAMI: Eight dolphins that have spent their lives swimming in tanks will be retired from the National Aquarium in Baltimore into a seaside sanctuary. By announcing plans to move its dolphins into a protected habitat by the end of 2020, the aquarium sails into uncharted waters for the marine mammal industry. SeaWorld, which earlier this year ended its orca breeding and hinted at similar changes for its dolphins someday, has balked at similar proposals from activists who want its animals released into natural waters.

"There's no model anywhere, that we're aware of, for this," aquarium CEO John Racanelli told The Associated Press in an interview ahead of Tuesday's announcement. "We're pioneering here, and we know it's neither the easiest nor the cheapest option." Potential sites in the Florida Keys and the Caribbean have been explored, Racanelli said. The Atlantic bottlenose dolphins won't simply be released into open seas.

The aquarium's criteria for a sanctuary include a full-time staff, "excellent water quality" in a temperate climate, isolation pools for medical care or temporary refuge from harmful conditions and barriers to stop breeding among the dolphins or mingling with wild dolphins, Racanelli said. Only the oldest dolphin in the group has ever swum in ocean water: A female

captured in 1972. Six were born at the aquarium and one was born at SeaWorld in Orlando.

Ranging in age from 7 to 44, they stopped performing scheduled shows in 2012 but remain on display in 25-year-old facilities. "We've learned a lot, obviously, about how to take care of them, about how to ensure that they thrive," Racanelli said. "As that learning evolution has continued, it's become clear to us we can go even further in terms of their health and welfare by taking this kind of step."

The aquarium has been considering new options for its dolphins, including moving them to other institutions or renovating their tanks, for several years amid growing public distaste for live animal shows. Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus sped up the retirement of its touring elephants to a Florida refuge under increasing scrutiny and restrictions prompted by concerns over animal cruelty.

SeaWorld's decision to phase out its signature animal followed years of declining attendance, cancellations by entertainers, the loss of a marketing partnership with Southwest Airlines and protests that continued through now-abandoned plans to build larger tanks for its orcas. Three animal advocacy groups, including the leader of campaigns to make commercial tuna fishing "dolphin safe" and release the killer whale from the movie "Free Willy," have announced

intentions to jointly create a seaside sanctuary for captive orcas, belugas and dolphins.

Until the Baltimore aquarium's announcement Tuesday, institutions keeping marine mammals have argued against such proposals. Critics of "sea pens" or other sanctuaries say such efforts fail and have harmed the animals, including Keiko from "Free Willy" and two dolphins set free off Key West in 1996 by the activist featured in the documentary "The Cove."

Racanelli said the National Aquarium's dolphins will remain in human care throughout their lives in the new habitat. Initial costs for building the sanctuary depend on seaside land values, but the costs of dolphin care should fall in ocean waters that don't need regulating the way they do in the aquarium, Racanelli said. Decisions about access for researchers and visitors will come later.

A brief closure of the marine mammal facility and negative publicity after the 2011 deaths of two newborn dolphins lost the aquarium \$1.9 million, according to an internal document. An informal dolphin program was launched with higher general admission fees, and revenue grew from \$45.9 million that year to \$53.5 million in 2014 before dipping last year, according to its annual reports. A previous version of this story misspelled the name of aquarium CEO John Racanelli. — AP

AVIAN BRAINS PACKED WITH NEURONS: STUDY

WASHINGTON: Scientists have long been baffled by the smarts displayed by some birds with tiny brains. But a new explanation may turn the term "bird brain" on its head: Birds have more densely packed neurons in their brains than other animals, contributing to cognitive ability on par with that of primates, researchers said on Monday.

A macaw's brain may be the size of a shelled walnut, far smaller than that of a macaque monkey—which has a brain the size of a lemon—but the parrot has many more neurons, or brain nerve cells, in its forebrain, a region crucial for intelligence, according to a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

'Bird brain'

The researchers were the first to systematically measure neurons in the brains of 20 bird species ranging in size from the tiny finch to the six-foot emu. "For a long time having a 'bird brain' was considered to be a bad thing," said senior author Suzanaerculano-Houzel, a neuroscientist at Vanderbilt University. "Now it turns out that it should be a compliment."

Parrots and crows have cognitive abilities similar to those of primates, the study

found. The birds can make tools and use them to obtain food and solve other problems. They can also recognize themselves in mirrors and plan for future needs, cognitive capabilities only primates were previously thought to have enjoyed.

That is possible because the neurons in birds' brains are smaller and more densely packed than those in mammalian brains, the researchers said. "We found that birds, especially songbirds and parrots, have surprisingly large numbers of neurons in their pallium: the part of the brain that corresponds to the cerebral cortex, which supports higher cognition functions such as planning for the future or finding patterns," Herculano-Houzel said.

"That explains why they exhibit levels of cognition at least as complex as primates." The brains of parrots and songbirds contain twice as many neurons as those of primates of the same size and two to four times more than those of rats and mice. Although the link between intelligence and the number of neurons has not been firmly established, the scientists believe that the brains of birds with the same number of neurons as much larger mammal brains can potentially produce higher "cognitive power" per pound. — AFP



RENNES, WESTERN FRANCE: The logo of the Biotrial laboratory. — AFP

FRENCH PROSECUTORS OPEN PROBE INTO FATAL DRUG TRIAL

PARIS: Paris prosecutors said yesterday they have begun an involuntary manslaughter investigation into a failed drug trial that left one dead and five hospitalized in January.

The prosecutors' office said the investigation had been opened to determine whether there was a criminal element in any mistakes made or whether it was simply the result of clinical risks involved.

France's Health Ministry said last

month that Portuguese drugmaker Bial and French laboratory Biotrial were at fault "on several counts" for the drug trial.

Participants in the phase I trial were given the experimental drug made by Bial at a private facility in the city of Rennes run by France's Biotrial. All trials of the drug, designed to treat mood and anxiety issues as well as coordination disorders linked to neurological issues, have been suspended. — Reuters

MALNUTRITION BECOMING 'NEW NORMAL' AMID OBESITY BOOM

NEW DELHI: Malnutrition is becoming the "new normal" as rising rates of obesity across the world coincide with persistent under nutrition in many poorer countries, according to a major study released Tuesday. The Global Nutrition Report says the number of people who are obese or overweight is rising almost everywhere, fuelling an increase in diabetes and other diseases.

Malnutrition covers a range of problems—from deficiencies in important vitamins and minerals for the undernourished to excessive levels of sugar, salt, fat or cholesterol in the blood for the obese. At least 57 of the 129 countries studied were experiencing serious levels of both under nutrition and adult obesity, putting huge pressure on health services, said the study.

"We now live in a world where being malnourished is the new normal," said Lawrence Haddad, senior research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute and co-author of the report. "It is a world that we must all claim as totally unacceptable." The study found some progress was being made, with the number of stunted children under five declining on every continent except Africa and Oceania.

'Burden of disease'

Stunted children grow up to be weaker than their well-nourished counterparts, with their brains and immune systems compromised. But the report's authors said there had been too little progress in the fight against all forms of malnutrition. Almost every country studied was falling

behind in reducing levels of diabetes and of anemia in women, for example.

One in 12 people globally now has diabetes and nearly two billion people are obese or overweight, according to the authors, who called for more funding for government initiatives on nutrition. Their analysis found a \$70 billion global funding shortfall to meet 2025 mile-

stones to tackle stunting, severe acute malnutrition and anemia.

The report highlighted the cost of malnutrition, which it said was "the number one driver of the global burden of disease." Africa and Asia lose 11 percent of gross domestic product every year due to malnutrition, it said. Haddad said the key to success was political commitment.

"Where leaders in government, civil society, academia and business are committed and willing to be held accountable—anything is possible," he said. "Despite the challenges, malnutrition is not inevitable—ultimately, it is a political choice." The Global Nutrition Report is an annual assessment of countries' progress in meeting global nutrition targets established by the World

Health Assembly—the world's highest health policy body—in 2013.

These include a 40 percent reduction in the number of children under five who are stunted; a 50 percent reduction of anemia in women of reproductive age; and a halt in the rise in the number of adults who are overweight, obese or suffering from type two diabetes. — AFP



SOUTH SUDAN: A woman holding a child with severe malnutrition at a clinic run by Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in Lankien, Jonglei State, South Sudan. — AFP



TIANJIN, CHINA: A nurse taking the blood pressure of an overweight boy during his acupuncture and exercise treatment at the Aimin (Love the People) Fat Reduction Hospital. — AFP

SCIENTIFIC ROBOTS TO SWIM IN BAY OF BENGAL IN MONSOON STUDY

NEW DELHI: In an effort to better understand and predict South Asia's seasonal monsoon, British scientists are getting ready to release robots into the Bay of Bengal in a study of how ocean conditions might affect rainfall patterns. The seasonal monsoon, which hits the region between June and September, delivers more than 70 percent of India's annual rainfall. Its arrival is eagerly awaited by hundreds of millions of subsistence farmers across the country, and delays can ruin crops or exacerbate drought. Yet, the rains are hard to predict, and

depend on a complex interplay between global atmospheric and oceanic movements that is not yet fully understood. They can be affected by weather phenomena such as El Nino. And scientists say they may also become even more erratic with increasing climate change and even air pollution.

"We are aiming for a better understanding of the actual physical processes," said lead researcher Adrian Matthews of the University of East Anglia's School of Environmental Sciences, in a statement released Tuesday. "Ultimately, the

goal is to improve the prediction of monsoon rainfall over India." As part of the newly launched \$11 million study, scientists from British university will spend a month at sea releasing seven underwater robots from an Indian research ship across a 400-kilometer stretch of water. The torpedo-shaped robots will glide through the water, monitoring its salinity, temperature and current before surfacing and transmitting data to a satellite. At the same time, scientists from the University of Reading and the Indian government in a related study will take atmospheric

measurements at the same time.

By comparing the two sets of data, scientists hope to better understand how ocean conditions affect monsoon patterns. This year's monsoon arrived at the southernmost tip of the subcontinent on June 8 - a week later than usual - and has been slow in moving north and providing relief amid a devastating drought that has hit wide swathes of central, eastern and northern India. The Indian Meteorological Department had projected the rains will reach the capital of New Delhi around July 1. — AP

AUSTRALIAN RODENTS FIRST VICTIM OF CLIMATE CHANGE

SYDNEY: Climate change appears to have driven to extinction an Australian Great Barrier Reef rodent, according to a new study, which suggests the species may be the first mammal lost to the global phenomenon. Extensive searches for the Bramble Cay melomys, a small rat-like animal, have failed to find a single specimen from its only known habitat on a sandy island in far northern Australia. Researchers said the key factor behind the extinction was "almost certainly" ocean inundation of the low-lying cay, likely on several occasions, over the last decade which resulted in dramatic habitat loss.

Available data on sea-level rise and weather events in the Torres Strait region "point to human-induced climate change being the root cause of the loss of the Bramble Cay melomys", added the Queensland state government and University of Queensland study. The Melomys rubicola, considered the Great Barrier Reef's only endemic (found nowhere else) mammal species, was first discovered on the cay in 1845 by Europeans who shot the "large rats" for sport.

But the last known sighting, by a professional fisherman, was in 2009. When a 2014 study found no sign of the species, researchers decided to conduct the most extensive survey possible in the hope of conserving the species. That survey using traps, cameras and searches "produced no records of the species, confirming that the

only known population of this rodent is now extinct," said the report.

The 2015 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species implicated climate change in the extinction of another mammal, the Little Swan Island hutia (*Geococcyx thoracatus*), a rodent previously found on a coral atoll in Honduras. But it found the main driver of its demise was an introduced cat, the report said. "Consequently, the conclusion here that the extirpation of the Bramble Cay melomys from Bramble Cay occurred because of rising sea levels and an increased incidence of extreme weather events over preceding years is significant in that it probably represents the first documented mammalian extinction due solely (or primarily) to anthropogenic climate change," it said.

The study added that the main hope for the species was that another population existed in neighboring Papua New Guinea. "Consequently, at this stage, it may be premature to declare the Bramble Cay melomys extinct on a global scale," it added. Environment group WWF-Australia said the fate of the species was a sad reminder of the nation's extinction crisis. "Australia officially has the worst rate of mammal extinction in the world," said spokesperson Darren Grover. Unless governments commit significant funding towards protecting Australia's threatened species, "we can expect to see more native critters go extinct on our watch," he added. — AFP



ROME: Deers are seen at the veterinary clinic "Our Animal Kingdom" in the Appia Antica park. — AFP

EXOTIC ANIMALS FROM ITALY'S UNDERWORLD GET SECOND CHANCE

ROME: In ancient Rome, they would have been pitted against gladiators or served up at banquets. Now a caiman, a python and a troop of monkeys that have been confiscated from mobsters, drug dealers or collectors find safe haven at a rescue centre in the Eternal City.

Inside the majestic Appia Antica park near the historic city centre, a veterinary clinic called "Our Animal Kingdom" is now home to exotic turtles, deer, boars, parrots, vultures, eagles and even a group of excitable lemurs.

Every year, Italy's police and forest guard rescue around 400 exotic animals, according to Raffaele Manicone, head of the local branch of CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

The sharp-toothed caiman was rescued from the back garden of a drug dealer in Rome, who kept him in a small greenhouse. Lively, long-haired gibbons Tai and Martedi, who swing from ropes as they cross their pen, hail from Thailand and were confiscated separately from women who claimed they had simply found the monkeys on the streets of Italy and taken them home.

"Given my passion for wild animals, I began collaborating with the security forces about 10 years ago to save them," clinic head Umberto Cara told AFP, explaining how hard it is for spaces to be made for such animals at local zoos.

Chatty gibbons

Cara, a man with a ready smile who drives a jeep around the grounds to check on his prized creatures, works for free, paying for both the animal's medical care and their food and shelter by means of his day job as a vet for domestic pets. "We transformed the clinic to help the wild animals, to cure them, to oper-

ate where necessary. The cages have been adjusted and reinforced to be able to hold dangerous animals," he said, as the caiman gave a lazy yawn nearby.

While the turtles may mind their own business, Cara has formed strong bonds with many of his charges, especially the gibbons. "Tai, where is Martedi?" he calls to the male, who tilts his white-ringed head immediately to nod towards his female companion. And here they will stay as returning the animals to their original countries is complicated, and releasing them into the wild in Italy is a no-go. "It would be ecological madness because it would compromise the existing eco-system."

Some of the animals are rescued by customs officers in Italy's airports and ports, hubs in which smugglers are also regularly caught with valuable animal parts or skins stowed in false suitcase bottoms or stashed inside everyday objects.

"Wildlife and nature crime", which includes the trafficking of elephant tusks, rhinoceros horns, tiger skins or rare woods, is the fourth most lucrative crime business worldwide after weapons, drugs and human smuggling.

More than cocaine, gold

It is a common early source of income for "the big African and South American crime groups", including Nigeria's Boko Haram and the East African militant group Al-Shabaab, Manicone said. The earnings are then reinvested in other illegal businesses.

While Europe has largely fallen out of love with ivory, it is still prized by Southeast Asian communities, as is rhinoceros horn, which when ground is considered a sort of "cure-all" medicine, particularly in Vietnam.

And the price of rhino horn has soared, now estimated to be up to \$60,000 a kilogram (2.2 pounds),



ROME: Italian doctor Umberto Cara who specializes in the recovery of animals brought by police officers as part of the fight against animal trafficking or confiscated from mobsters, drug dealers or collectors. — AFP

according to experts in South Africa where 80 percent of the world's rhino population lives. "This year we seized five rhino horns at Milan airport. It is the most precious natural asset..." Manicone said. The horns were hidden inside cheap wooden statues.

"One horn alone can weigh up to seven kilograms. They are worth more than cocaine, more than gold," he added. Despite the efforts of border police and CITES' anti-poacher army, the global trafficking of animals, plants or parts is worth some \$30 billion a year and is a fate from which Tai, Martedi and friends are lucky to have escaped. — AFP

WHOLE GRAIN CONSUMPTION COULD LEAD TO LONGER LIFE

WASHINGTON: A diet that includes three daily servings of whole grains appears to help people live longer, including by reducing the rates of death from heart disease and cancer, according to findings released Monday.

For each 16-gram serving of whole grains, public health researchers at Harvard University noted a seven percent decrease in overall risk of death, including a nine percent decline in risk of heart disease death and five percent decline in risk of cancer-related death.

Upping whole grain intake to three servings per day, or 48 grams, brought about a 20 percent drop in overall risk of death, including a 25 percent decline in risk of heart disease death and 14 percent decline in risk of cancer-related death.

For their research, scientists analyzed results of more than 12 previous studies conducted between 1970 and 2010 in the United States, Britain and Scandinavian countries, involving 786,076 male and female participants.

"These findings further support current dietary guidelines that recommend at least three daily servings (or 48 grams) of whole grains to improve long-term health and prevent prema-

ture death," senior author Qi Sun of Harvard's Department of Nutrition said in a statement.

He warned against popular low-carbohydrate diets that ignore the benefits of whole grains, saying they should be "adopted with caution" because they may be linked to higher risk of heart disease and death.

Whole grains include foods such as whole wheat, oats, brown rice and quinoa. They contain fiber, which may improve cholesterol levels and lower the risk of heart disease, stroke, obesity and type two diabetes.

Whole grains also provide nutrients like B vitamins and minerals that are lost during the refining process. The American Heart Association recommends a diet rich in fruit and vegetables, and says least half of grain consumption should be whole grains.

Among the participants in the combined studies, there was a total of 97,867 deaths, including 23,597 deaths from cardiovascular disease and 37,492 deaths from cancer.

The study was published online in *Circulation*, the journal of the American Heart Association. — AFP

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EDITORIAL FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA EMBASSY IN KUWAIT KIM JONG IL'S EXPLOITS IN PARTY BUILDING

On June 19, 1964, Kim Jong Il (1942-2011) started working at the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. In the whole period of leading the WPK he raised as the principal task its strengthening into the party of Kim Il Sung (1912-1994), its founder, both in name and reality, and put it into effect.

He formulated the revolutionary idea, Juche idea, authored by Kim Il Sung as the only guiding ideology of the WPK, and proclaimed the modeling of the whole society on the Juche idea as its highest program.

Thanks to his guidance, the WPK has developed into a body ideologically pure, organizationally integrated and unified in action, into a body in which the monolithic ideological system and monolithic leadership system of the leader are firmly established.

In those days, owing to the maneuvers of modern revisionists, the authority of the leaders was undermined in the ruling parties in several socialist countries, and the socialist movement of the world was undergoing twists and turns. However, the WPK consolidated as firm as a rock its organizational and ideological unity and cohesion with Kim Il Sung at the centre true to his cause of party building, and this was a valuable fruit of Kim Jong Il's thoroughgoing outlook on the leader, unparalleled insight, principled and resolute political decision and seasoned leadership ability.

Kim Jong Il built the WPK into a party which had formed an integral whole with the masses of the people, bears full responsibility for people's destiny and faithfully serves them.

Raising the strengthening of the blood-sealed ties between the WPK and the people and the consolidation of its mass foundation as an impor-

tant principle in its building and a matter that has bearing on its very existence, he saw to it that all its organizations and officials thoroughly implemented its mass line and always went among the people to live and work as their servants.

True to his benevolent politics and all-embracing politics, the WPK successfully achieved the single-hearted unity of the leader, the Party and the masses for the first time in history in the midst of



Great leader Kim Jong Il's Photo

worldwide political upheavals, turned the whole society into a great harmonious socialist family, and displayed the might of an invincible party which leads to victory the cause of socialist construction enjoying the absolute support and trust of the broad sections of the masses at all times.

Kim Jong Il developed the WPK into a powerful political force that leads the revolutionary cause of Songun.

He was on the road of Songun-based revolu-

tionary leadership with Kim Il Sung in his early years and was deeply interested in the development of the Korean People's Army. He realized definite leadership of the WPK over the army and led the latter to carry out the line of modelling itself on the Juche idea.

Noteworthy is that he formulated Songun politics as the main mode of socialist politics in the 1990s as demanded by the changed environment and the developing situation, and further developed the WPK into a political organization that leads the Songun revolution.

Having identified Songun as the lifeline of the Party and the revolution and solved all the problems based on the principle of giving precedence to military affairs, he raised the KPA as the main force for the socialist cause and led it energetically to the successful fulfilment of its mission and role as the standard-bearer of the Songun revolution as he continued the long march of Songun.

He ensured that all Party members learned from the political and ideological traits of the service personnel and the revolutionary and militant working spirit, the method of Party's political work in the army and its living examples of cooperation between military and political officers were popularized among Party organizations and its officials, thus markedly improving the spirit of the revolution, organization, discipline and unity of the WPK and enhancing its leading authority and role in the revolution and construction.

Kim Jong Il led the service personnel and people of the DPRK to acquire formidable spiritual strength so that they could bring about an epoch-making changes and miracles in imple-

menting the cause of the WPK, the cause of building a thriving socialist country.

Having turned Party work definitely into work with people, work with their thoughts and feelings, in his early years, he led the WPK to hold fast to people's thinking as the key in the revolution and construction, raised the political and ideological work as the first process of all undertakings to enhance in every way the revolutionary zeal and creative activeness of the masses and, by relying on them, vigorously advanced the gigantic historic cause of transforming nature, society and man as required by the Juche idea.

In the mid-1990s he made public Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is Essential for Accomplishing Socialism, Socialism Is a Science and other works and kindled more fiercely the flames of ideological revolution to make the service personnel and people cherish a conviction in the sure victory of socialism. It provided a powerful guarantee for win victory defending socialism and building a thriving country.

Thanks to the far-sighted leadership of Kim Jong Il who devoted primary efforts to the strengthening of the ideological position in the revolution and construction, the service personnel and people of the DPRK, with indomitable mental strength, could completely change the looks of the country, accelerate putting the national economy on a modern and informatic footing and ushered in a heyday in developing the country's science and technology and building socialist culture under difficult conditions.

The exploits Kim Jong Il performed for building the WPK will shine forever together with socialist Korea which is winning victory after victory.



ASSE KUWAIT COMMEMORATED WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

American Society of Safety Engineers - Kuwait Chapter Commemorated World Environment Day 2016 (WED 2016) on 04th June 2015 at Safir Hotel, Fintas, Kuwait. This event was co-sponsored by Wataniya Environmental Services (WES), Kuwait. The celebration began with a welcome note by Mr. Jignesh Shah - Secretary ASSE Kuwait Chapter. He briefed about the program agenda and highlighted in his address about 14th Successive year of Chapter celebrating WED. Subsequently, Mr. Sampath Reddy Golamari - President of ASSE Kuwait Chapter welcomed key speakers, guests, all the participants and thanked Ms. Shahad Dashti - CEO of WES for co-sponsoring this event. He specified various initiatives taken by ASSE Kuwait Chapter during the past 14 years to enhance environmental protection awareness among the Society Members, School Children and General Public. Mr. Fadahel Ali - Chairman ASSE Kuwait Chapter, in his address highlighted the importance of the day to the world and in particular to state of Kuwait. He emphasized that environment protection is everyone's responsibility, everywhere and throughout the year.

Mr. Muhammad Alamgir - Head of Health & Environmental Committee put emphasis on the significance of WED - 2016 literally with the Theme of the year "Go Wild for Life, ZERO TOLERANCE FOR THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE." Mr. Muhammad shared the "UNEP - ILLEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE FACTS AND FIGURES" with the participants. A Video message from Achim Steiner - UN



Under Secretary, General and Executive Director of the UN Environment Program, was shared with the viewers of the event.

Later, Mr. Muhammad Alamgir introduced both the speakers to the audience. The first speaker Mr. Walid Amin - Consulting Manager of WES Kuwait, a qualified professional introduced WES services & its Contribution to Environmental Protection in the state of Kuwait.

Further as part of the agenda, the Speaker of the Day, Dr. Ali M. Khuraibet - General Manager - ECO Environmental Consultants, Kuwait, delivered a technical presentation on the topic "EPA - New EIA Regulation" where he shared the implementation process of New EIA Regulation from June 2016 onwards. The presentation focused on new additions, difference between old and new regulations with the responsibilities and requirements under the new regulation.

To create environmental awareness among the members and to encourage their participation in such events, a spot quiz competition was organized for all participants. WES and ASSE KC



sponsored the prizes and winners were appreciated with prizes.

In addition, ASSE Kuwait chapter, on the occasion of WED 2016 celebration, in the month of May 2016 initiated "WED-2016 Theme Based Photography and Poster Competition" among ASSE KC members, their families and for School children in Kuwait under different age category. Numerous entries were received and evaluated in the meantime by Health & Environment Committee. Winners were recognized with prizes and appreciation certificates which were distributed to them during the WED event.

Most importantly, Ms. Eman M. Ezzat - PR Manager Clovemedi, on behalf of EPA of Kuwait provided booklets and pamphlets about EPA New Regulation and Requirements. Each participant was given a booklet and pamphlet.

Finally, as a token of appreciation EC, AC Members presented plaques to the Speakers of the Day. The meeting was concluded with the dinner sponsored by ASSE Kuwait Chapter and WES. Around 90 ASSE members and their family members attended this program.

THE SULTAN CENTER LAUNCHES THE "TASTE OF IFTAR" COOKING LEARNING SESSIONS AT SHARQ STORE



مطبخ سلطان لتعليم فنون الطهي أطباق ووصفات شهية يحضرها نخبة من مشاهير طهاة ديرة شيفس



In inspiration of the generosity meaning of the Holy month of Ramadan, The Sultan Center is hosting a Taste of iftar cooking learning sessions at its store in Souk Sharq throughout the month.

TSC cooking sessions will host aspiring chefs to demonstrate how to easily prepare delicious dishes with the "Ultimate Cooking Lesson", every Thursday and Friday in Ramadan from 9-11pm. The much anticipated epicurean takeover will feature a dynamic group of engaging, experienced chefs who will prepare delicious dishes inspired from international cuisine in collaboration with the participants.

Commenting on TSC initiative, Lisa Al Gharib/ Marketing Manager at TSC said: "our cooking sessions are about more than a list of ingredients and how

to cook them, alternatively, they are about sharing the generosity of the month with the Kuwaiti community while educating the participants on preparing dishes that are healthy and delicious. We wish to introduce this philosophy into the cooking experi-

ence at TSC for a memorable and valuable cooking lesson".

TSC aims to show guests how to cook recipes that can translate into extraordinary meals. The chefs will provide suggestions on how to approach food, the use of cooking techniques that that will help in preparing recipes. TSC lessons are

totally interactive so questions are welcome and the cooking techniques used are shared by the chefs.

Elite chefs are hosting the cooking sessions at TSC including: Jamila Al Naqawi, Tasnim Nasr Allah, Asmaa Al Bahr and Hanouf Al Balhan whereas in each event 10 participants will compete in preparing selected dishes catering to Ramadan Iftar recipes.

As part of its ongoing commitment to the community during the month of Ramadan TSC has been active within the community through numerous initiatives underscoring its social commitments to the society in which it operates.

The Sultan Center celebrates the Holy Month of Ramadan with its customers and is committed to providing them with all their shopping needs.

EMBASSY OF INDIA KUWAIT

A system is in place for most immediate repatriation of mortal remains of Indian nationals. The Community Welfare section of the Embassy has a dedicated team which make daily visits to hospitals, Police Stations, Detention Cell/Deportation Centers etc to enquire about unfortunate death incidents and to ensure that mortal remains of Indian nationals are sent to their native town/village in the shortest possible time. The Embassy contact details are available on its Website.

2. In case of natural deaths (heart attack, sickness, old age etc.), the mortal remains are airlifted to India most quickly depending on the efforts of relatives/ employer/ friends as well as availability of

flights. In case of unnatural deaths (such as suicide, drowning, fire, traumatic injury, inhalation of gases etc.) and after clearing all formalities required by Kuwaiti law, the mortal remains of Indian Nationals are airlifted to the nearest airport in about 1-4 weeks time from intimation of death. The Embassy's website has the latest position on disposal of mortal remains of Indian Nationals since July 2014. The table below provides a break-up figures with regard to deaths gender-wise along with its causes for the period 2013 to March 2016.

3. In cases where sponsor in Kuwait of the deceased Indian refuses to pay for the aforesaid expenses and the family members of deceased are deemed destitutes, the Embassy

pays for airlifting of mortal remains by Air India (or other airlines, if the National Carrier does not operate on that sector). The expenditure is such cases are met out of ICWF. The cremation of mortal remains is not allowed in Kuwait.

4. In case of unnatural deaths, the Embassy has been advising to the legal heirs of the deceased to appoint Embassy as their Attorney and send Power of Attorney and Legal Heirship Certificate, duly attested by the concerned authorities in India for filing a claim of death compensation on behalf of the legal successor. Death compensation cases related to work-site accidents & traffic accidents should be filed within one-year & three-year periods respectively, otherwise it

becomes time barred. In this regard, the table below from 2014 to March 2016 may also be seen.

Compensation provided to the legal heirs of the deceased Indian nationals

Year	Number of cases settled by the Embassy	Amount remitted to the legal heirs of the deceased through District authorities.
2014	34	Rs. 6,19,93,507/-
2015	42	Rs. 6,33,84,616/-
2016 (upto 31-03-2016)	9	Rs. 1,97,89,972/-

5. The details of repatriation of mortal remains to India during the last two years are as follows. In 2014, a total of 559 Indians died in Kuwait, out of which mortal remains of 434

nationals were sent to India, with local burial in 125 cases. The Embassy paid for transportation in 29 destitute cases. The Embassy spent KD 4,013 on air freight and coffin box etc from the ICWF. Similarly, during the year 2015, there were a total of 611 deaths of Indian nationals. While mortal remains of 504 persons were sent to India, local burial was done in 107 cases after taking due consent from their family members. Free transportation of mortal remains was done in 35 destitute cases. The Embassy spent KD 4,456 on air freight charges and coffin box expenses. The table below shows the details of the repatriation of mortal remains of deceased Indian Nationals to India during the period from 2005 to 31 March 2016.



Dr Reem Al Radwan giving her speech



Dr Hanan Alawadhi and Dr. Reem Al Radwan



Dr Jamal giving his speech

JOIN CRISTIANO RONALDO AND SAVE A LIFE WITH THE KUWAIT BLOOD BANK

The Central Kuwait Blood Bank launches Global Be The 1 Campaign in conjunction with World Blood Donor Day

Under the patronage of H.E Dr Ali Al Obaidi, Minister of Health in Kuwait, The Central Kuwait Blood Bank officially launched the global blood donation awareness campaign, Be The 1 at Prestige Ballroom, The Avenues in conjunction with World Blood Donor Day, which takes place on June 14th annually.

The global campaign is executed by various government entities across the world is the brainchild of Abbott Laboratories who developed the campaign mechanics and framework. The BeThe1 campaign is endorsed by football icon and Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo and his role as the official ambassador of the campaign sees him actively encourage blood and plasma donations amongst the youth by inspiring them to become lifelong blood donors.

In her speech during the event, Dr. Reem Al Radwan, Medical Director of the Kuwait Blood Bank, outlined the importance of being part of energetic campaigns that empower the youth in Kuwait to actively donate blood. She said:

"The Central Kuwait Blood Bank has always had active donors who have supported us in the past and present and have ingrained a sense of duty within themselves to donate blood regularly. Today, we launch a campaign that looks towards engaging with the youth and instilling the spirit of blood donation amongst the future generation in the country.

Today, we also honor our long-standing donors who have donated regularly with us over many decades. These unsung heroes who we call donors also serve as an inspiration to the future generation in our country in empowering them to donate blood.

This year alone, we have collected a total

of 75,000 units of blood and 8,000 units of platelets from generous donors so far, both Kuwaitis and residing expats of over 75 different nationalities, a reflection of how blood donations contribute to the greater good of the community. We have targeted donors



through the Central Blood Bank and our four main branches in Jahra Hospital, Amiri Hospital, Al-Adan Hospital, and the National Guard & Shuwaikh Hospital, in addition to various external campaigns to widen the reach of potential donors country-wide.

Many are not aware that each blood donation which lasts about 15 minutes has the power to potentially save three lives. We urge the public at large to donate particularly during the Holy Month of Ramadan which is a time when our blood bank has the lowest supply of blood. This simple act of donating blood will be able to save a life in need and you can be that person, so be the one today."

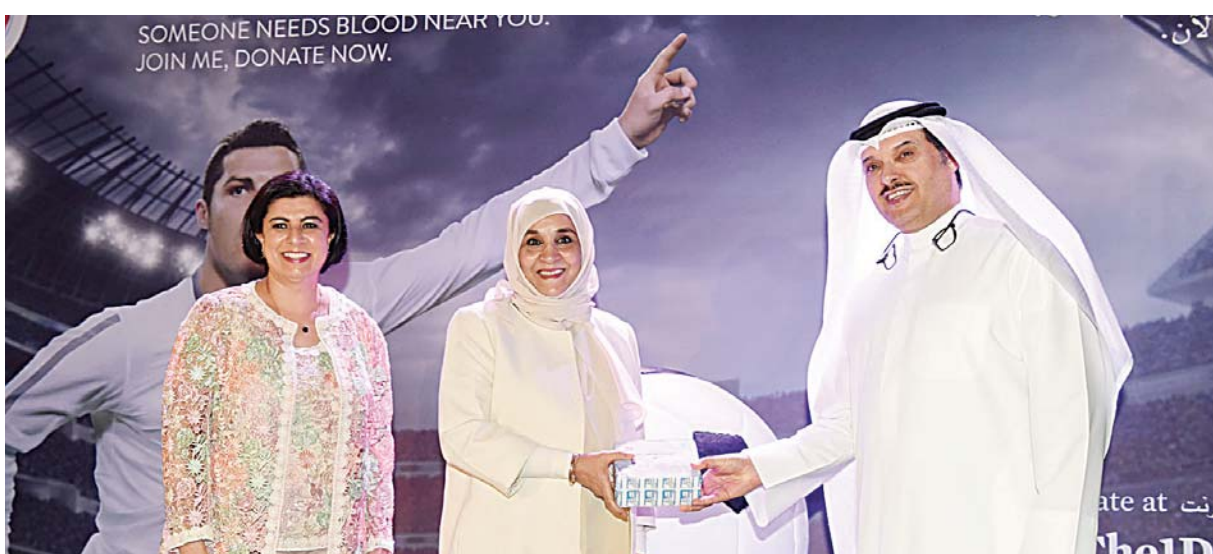
The Kuwait Blood Bank has launched an extensive advertising and media campaign across various media channels and social media platforms targeting the youth in Kuwait. The Be The 1 campaign in Kuwait is

supported by the following sponsors: Al Mojil Pharmaceuticals, Roche Pharmaceuticals, Advanced Technology Company, Central Circle Company, YIACO Medical Company, Ahli United Bank, Mabaneer Real Estate Company, Al Anba Newspaper - Media Sponsor, and Paul & John Rodiz Production, who have kindly donated towards spreading awareness on the campaign over the next few months.

The public is encouraged to donate blood over the next week till the 18th of June at The Prestige Ballroom, The Avenues Mall from 9pm till 12am and can visit the Kuwait Blood Bank in Jabriya from 10am to 2pm and 9pm to 1am on weekdays and 9pm to 1am on weekends during Ramadan and 7am to 8pm from Saturday to Thursday and 1pm to 7pm on Fridays after Ramadan to donate blood and help a life in need.



Dr Reem and Dr Jamal signing the pledge to be the 1 and donate blood.



AMC

03:30 The Beautiful Country
05:30 The Tender
07:00 Les Miserables (1998)
09:10 Earthbound
10:45 Kiss Before Dying, A
12:15 Mannequin
13:45 Big Screen
14:00 Late For Dinner
15:35 Teen Witch
17:05 The Kentuckian
18:50 The Manhattan Project
20:45 Big Screen
21:00 Behind Enemy Lines
22:30 Silent Witness
00:00 Strange Wilderness

ANIMAL PLANET HD

03:25 Natural World
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 Restoration Wild
06:36 Call Of The Wildman
07:00 Call Of The Wildman
07:25 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
08:15 Restoration Wild
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 Restoration Wild
13:45 Gator Boys
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Natural World
17:25 River Monsters
18:20 Village Vets
18:50 Village Vets
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Natural World
21:05 Treehouse Masters
22:00 Village Vets
22:30 Village Vets
22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 River Monsters
00:45 After The Attack
01:40 Village Vets
02:10 Village Vets
02:35 Tanked

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 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
11:25 Deadliest Job Interview
12:15 Dive Wars Australia
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?
18:30 The Carbonaro Effect
19:20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
20:10 Storage Wars Canada
20:35 Property Wars
21:00 You Have Been Warned
21:50 The Carbonaro Effect
22:40 What Happened Next?
23:30 Fast N' Loud
00:20 Wheeler Dealers
01:10 You Have Been Warned
02:00 The Carbonaro Effect

Discovery Family

03:00 Untamed & Uncut
03:50 Marooned With Ed Stafford
04:40 How It's Made
05:30 Morgan Freeman's Through The Wormhole
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
07:25 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
07:50 Too Cute!
08:40 You Have Been Warned
09:30 How It's Made
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bondi Vet
12:00 Too Cute!
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Marooned With Ed Stafford
14:30 Dirty Jobs
15:20 Mythbusters
16:10 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
16:35 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
17:00 Wildest Africa
17:50 Biggest And Baddest
18:40 You Have Been Warned
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 How It's Made
21:10 Wildest Africa
22:00 Biggest And Baddest
22:50 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Through The Wormhole
With Morgan Freeman
00:30 Mythbusters
01:20 Wildest Africa
02:10 Biggest And Baddest

ID. INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

03:00 Disappeared
03:48 Breaking Point
04:36 Deadly Affairs
05:24 California Investigator
06:12 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 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
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 California Investigator
17:00 Deadly Affairs
17:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn
18:40 The Perfect Murder
19:30 I Almost Got Away With It
20:20 Tabloid
21:10 Southern Fried Homicide
22:00 Deadly Sins
22:50 Obsession: Dark Desires
23:40 Too Pretty To Live
00:30 Breaking Point

Discovery Science

03:00 Mighty Ships
03:48 How The Universe Works
04:36 Mythbusters

05:24 Food Factory USA
05:48 Food Factory USA
06:12 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
07:00 Mythbusters
07:50 Food Factory USA
08:15 How It's Made
08:40 Mighty Ships
09:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
10:20 Food Factory USA
10:45 Food Factory USA
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 Food Factory USA
15:45 Food Factory USA
16:10 Mighty Ships
17:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
17:50 How The Universe Works
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 Strangest Weather On Earth
20:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
21:10 How The Universe Works
22:00 Strangest Weather On Earth
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 Strangest Weather On Earth

Disney Channel

03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
08:05 Shake It Up
08:55 Hannah Montana
09:45 Wizards Of Waverly Place
10:35 Good Luck Charlie
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Jessie
12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Hank Zipzer
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 Liv And Maddie
14:50 Dog With A Blog
15:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:20 Gravity Falls
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:10 Violetta
17:00 Backstage
17:25 Austin & Ally
17:50 Jessie
18:15 Best Friends Whenever
18:40 Girl Meets World
19:05 Evermoor Chronicles
19:30 Liv And Maddie
19:55 Liv And Maddie
20:20 Backstage
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta

Disney Junior

03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopedidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopedidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopedidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 Zou
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopedidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:45 PJ Masks
09:10 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 Pirates
11:25 The Lion Guard
11:50 Doc McStuffins
12:15 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
12:45 The Hive
12:55 Unbungalievable
13:00 Sofia The First
13:25 Doc McStuffins
13:50 Miles From Tomorrow
14:15 The Lion Guard
14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:10 Doc McStuffins
15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:00 Sofia The First
16:25 Jungle Cubs
16:50 Aladdin
17:15 The Lion Guard
17:40 Goldie & Bear
18:05 Miles From Tomorrow
18:30 Sofia The First
19:00 PJ Masks
19:25 Unbungalievable
19:30 The Lion Guard
20:00 Goldie & Bear
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
21:25 PJ Masks
21:50 Jungle Cubs
22:20 Aladdin
22:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopedidoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero

Disney XD

06:00 Boyster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak
07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:25 K.C. Undercover

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

food network

03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:00 Man Fire Food
05:00 Chopped
06:00 Guy's Grocery Games
07:00 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 Chopped
22:00 All Star Academy
23:00 Kitchen Inferno
00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Chopped
02:00 All Star Academy

History HD

03:40 American Restoration
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
06:00 Ax Men
06:50 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
07:40 The Curse Of Oak Island
08:30 Shipping Wars
08:55 American Restoration
09:45 Lost In Transmission
10:35 Fifth Gear
11:25 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
12:15 American Pickers
13:05 Storage Wars Texas
13:55 Mountain Men - Closest Calls
14:45 Swamp People
15:35 Counting Cars
16:00 Ax Men
16:50 The Curse Of Oak Island
17:40 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
18:30 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
19:20 American Pickers
20:10 Pawn Stars
20:50 Counting Cars: Best Of
21:25 Counting Cars
21:50 American Restoration
22:40 Time Team
23:30 Counting Cars: Best Of
23:55 Counting Cars
00:20 American Restoration
01:10 Banger Boys
02:00 Big Rig Bounty Hunters

itv HD CHOICE

03:25 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
04:20 Sunday Night At The Palladium
05:15 Pick Me!
06:10 Mr Selfridge
07:05 Catchphrase

07:35 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
08:00 Doctor Thorne
08:55 Sunday Night At The Palladium
09:50 The Jonathan Ross Show
10:40 Pick Me!
11:35 Catchphrase
12:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
12:30 Mr Selfridge
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Coach Trip
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
15:35 Catchphrase
16:30 Midsomer Murders
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Coach Trip
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Catchphrase
20:30 Midsomer Murders
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Mr Selfridge
23:50 Catchphrase
00:10 Emmerdale
01:30 Coach Trip
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Jonathan Ross Show

NAT GEO people HD

03:05 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
03:30 East Bites West
03:55 Food School
04:20 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
04:45 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
05:10 The Food Files
05:35 The Food Files
06:00 Cesar To The Rescue
06:50 World's Best Chefs
07:15 Miguel's Feasts
07:40 Maverick Chef
08:05 Dream Cruises
08:55 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
09:20 East Bites West
09:45 Food School
10:10 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
10:35 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
11:00 The Food Files
11:25 The Food Files
11:50 Cesar To The Rescue
12:40 World's Best Chefs
13:05 Miguel's Feasts
13:35 Maverick Chef
14:00 Dream Cruises
14:55 Meat v Veg
15:25 Meat v Veg
15:50 Food School
16:20 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
16:45 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
17:10 The Food Files
17:35 The Food Files
18:00 Cesar To The Rescue
19:00 Meat v Veg
19:30 Meat v Veg
20:00 Food School
20:25 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
20:50 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
21:15 The Food Files
21:40 The Food Files
22:05 Cesar To The Rescue
22:50 World's Best Chefs
23:20 Miguel's Feasts
23:45 Maverick Chef
00:10 Dream Cruises
01:00 Tales From The Bush Larder
01:25 Tales From The Bush Larder
01:50 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
02:15 The Great Food Revolution

NAT GEO WILD HD

03:45 Dangerous Encounters
04:40 Animals Gone Wild
05:35 Africa's Creative Killers
06:30 1000 Days For The Planet
07:25 Dangerous Encounters
08:20 Animals Gone Wild
09:15 Natural Born Monsters
10:10 Ultimate Animal Countdown
11:05 World's Deadliest Killers
12:00 Alaska Fish Wars
12:55 Africa's Creative Killers
13:50 1000 Days For The Planet
14:45 Dangerous Encounters
15:40 Ultimate Animal Countdown
16:35 Natural Born Monsters
17:30 Ultimate Animal Countdown
18:25 Africa's Deadliest
19:20 Dangerous Encounters
20:10 Ultimate Animal Countdown
21:00 Natural Born Monsters
21:50 Ultimate Animal Countdown
22:40 Africa's Deadliest
23:30 Alaska Fish Wars
00:20 Africa's Creative Killers
01:10 1000 Days For The Planet
02:00 Africa's Deadliest
02:50 Africa's Blood River



JURASSIC ATAC ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

AM MOVIES HD ACTION
04:15 Jack The Giant Killer
06:00 The Berlin File
08:15 Mega Shark vs. Mecha Shark
10:00 Jurassic Attack
12:00 Pompeii
14:00 The Berlin File
16:15 Non-Stop
18:15 Dying Of The Light
20:00 Stranded
22:00 The Gauntlet
00:00 Sharknado 2: The Second One
02:00 Dying Of The Light

AM MOVIES HD FAMILY
03:00 Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey
05:00 Atlantis: The Lost Empire
06:45 The Parent Trap
09:00 102 Dalmatians
11:00 Ratatouille
13:00 The Gabby Douglas Story
15:00 Treasure Planet
17:00 Enchanted
19:00 Blank Check
21:00 Marvel's Thor: Tales Of Asgaard
23:00 Treasure Planet
01:00 Blank Check

AM MOVIES HD COMEDY
04:00 Planet 51
06:00 Cas & Dylan
08:00 Hook
10:30 The Misadventures Of The Dunderheads
12:15 Cas & Dylan
14:00 Krippendorf's Tribe
15:45 Hook
18:15 Mr. Destiny
20:15 A Night At The Roxbury
22:00 What We Do In The Shadows
00:00 Krippendorf's Tribe
01:45 Hook

AM MOVIES HD FESTIVAL
03:15 Testament Of Youth
05:30 Romeo & Juliet
07:30 A Beautiful Mind
10:00 Little Man Tate
12:00 The Doctor
14:30 A Beautiful Mind
17:00 Little Man Tate
19:00 The Savages
21:00 Two Men In Town
23:00 The Truth About Emanuel
01:00 Masaan

AM MOVIES HD DRAMA
03:00 Foxcatcher
05:15 The Fold
07:00 Escape
09:00 A Valentine's Date
11:00 The Fold
12:45 Foxcatcher
15:00 Before I Go To Sleep
17:00 A Valentine's Date
19:00 The Silent Storm

AM MOVIES HD PREMIERE
04:00 One Chance
06:00 Believe
08:00 The Rewrite
10:00 Shadow Witness
12:00 500 mph Storm
14:00 Cuban Fury
16:00 The Rewrite
18:00 The Single Moms Club
20:00 The Hundred-Foot Journey
22:15 Tammy
00:00 Last Knights

AM MOVIES HD MORE
03:00 Five Days
04:00 Entourage
04:30 Entourage
05:00 Dirty War
07:00 Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight
09:00 The Enemy Within
11:00 You Don't Know Jack
13:30 Prison Night In Mississippi
15:00 The Late Shift
16:45 You Don't Know Jack
19:00 HBO Comedy Half-Hour
19:30 Def Poetry Jam
20:00 The Sopranos
21:00 True Blood
22:00 Strike Back
23:00 Rome
00:00 HBO Comedy Half-Hour
00:30 Def Poetry Jam
01:00 The Sopranos
02:00 True Blood

AM MOVIES HD MORE
03:00 The Player
04:00 Good Morning America
06:00 Complications
07:00 Chicago Fire
08:00 Prison Break
09:00 Royal Pains
10:00 Castle
11:00 Chicago Fire
12:00 Prison Break
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Complications
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Prison Break
19:00 Royal Pains
20:00 Once Upon A Time
21:00 The Night Shift
22:00 Rush Hour
23:00 The Player
23:50 The Player

AM MOVIES HD MORE
04:20 Iconoclasm
05:25 Zombie Girl
07:00 The Love We Make
08:35 Life Itself
10:35 Just Like The Son
12:00 All On The Line
13:00 Theatreland
13:30 Mikey And Nicky
15:10 Five Star
16:30 My Effortless Brilliance

sundance CHANNEL

04:20 Iconoclasm
05:25 Zombie Girl
07:00 The Love We Make
08:35 Life Itself
10:35 Just Like The Son
12:00 All On The Line
13:00 Theatreland
13:30 Mikey And Nicky
15:10 Five Star
16:30 My Effortless Brilliance



PAUL BLART- MALL COP 2 ON OSN MOVIES HD

CLASSIFIEDS



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

Channel	Time	Programme	Channel	Time	Programme	Channel	Time	Programme
SHARQIA-1	9:30 PM	TE3N (Hindi)	MARINA-1	10:00 PM	THE ASIAN CONNECTION	AVENUES-10	9:45 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
WARCRAFT	12:15 AM	UN HOMME A LA HAUTEUR	12:05 AM	UN HOMME A LA HAUTEUR	12:05 AM	BAIRAQ-1	9:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
SHARQIA-2	9:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	MARINA-2	9:30 PM	WARCRAFT	WARCRAFT	11:45 PM	NO MON
HASAN WA BOQLOZ	11:45 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	12:05 AM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	12:30 AM	WARCRAFT	NO MON	NO MON
SHARQIA-3	10:00 PM	THE ASIAN CONNECTION	MARINA-3	9:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	360° 1	9:30 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
THE ASIAN CONNECTION	12:05 AM	Hepta	12:15 AM	Hepta	12:15 AM	NO THU	GO WITH ME	12:30 AM
MUHALAB-1	9:45 PM	TE3N (Hindi)	AVENUES-1	10:00 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	360° 2	10:00 PM	THE CODE OF CAIN
Hepta	12:30 AM	Hepta	12:15 AM	THE CODE OF CAIN	12:15 AM	NO WED	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	12:15 AM
MUHALAB-2	10:15 PM	THE ASIAN CONNECTION	AVENUES-3	9:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	360° 3	9:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
THE ASIAN CONNECTION	12:15 AM	THE ASIAN CONNECTION	11:45 PM	TE3N (Hindi)	11:45 PM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ	11:45 PM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ
MUHALAB-3	9:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	AVENUES-4	10:00 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	360° 4	10:45 PM	UN HOMME A LA HAUTEUR
WARCRAFT	11:45 PM	WARCRAFT	12:05 AM	THE ASIAN CONNECTION	12:05 AM	UN HOMME A LA HAUTEUR	12:45 AM	UN HOMME A LA HAUTEUR
FANAR-1	9:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	AVENUES-5	9:45 PM	WARCRAFT	AL-KOUT.1	9:30 PM	WARCRAFT
X-MEN: Apocalypse	11:45 PM	WARCRAFT	12:15 AM	WARCRAFT	12:05 AM	WARCRAFT	12:05 AM	WARCRAFT
FANAR-2	9:45 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	AVENUES-6	9:30 PM	Hepta	AL-KOUT.2	10:00 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
Hepta	12:05 AM	Hepta	12:05 AM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	12:05 AM	GO WITH ME	12:15 AM	GO WITH ME
FANAR-3	10:00 PM	TE3N (Hindi)	AVENUES-7	9:45 PM	THE ASIAN CONNECTION	AL-KOUT.3	10:30 PM	THE ASIAN CONNECTION
THE ASIAN CONNECTION	1:00 AM	THE ASIAN CONNECTION	11:45 PM	THE ASIAN CONNECTION	11:45 PM	THE ASIAN CONNECTION	12:30 AM	THE ASIAN CONNECTION
FANAR-4	9:45 PM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ	AVENUES-8	10:00 PM	TE3N (Hindi)	AL-KOUT.4	9:45 PM	Hepta
WARCRAFT	11:45 PM	WARCRAFT	12:45 AM	GO WITH ME	12:45 AM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:05 AM	X-MEN: Apocalypse
FANAR-5	9:30 PM	HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi)	AVENUES-9	12:30 AM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ			
THE ASIAN CONNECTION	12:15 AM	THE ASIAN CONNECTION	12:30 AM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ	12:30 AM			

INVESTOR OR PARTNER WANTED

For woman's clothing company in charge of five large stored and clothing factory

call: **55651562**

URGENT REQUIRED

For reputable company in Kuwait the following post.

- Store Keeper
- Pastry Helper
- Call Center agent
- Pastry Decorator
- Delivery Drivers
- Crew Staff

Interested Candidates please sent your update cv to **jobsfair1@gmail.com**
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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kotakonda Manohar (Passport No: Z3017614) S/o Kotakonda Ramachandra, age 33 years, R/o bearing K Vaddipalli, Obulavaripalli, Kadapa Dist, AP, India, is 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)**

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)**



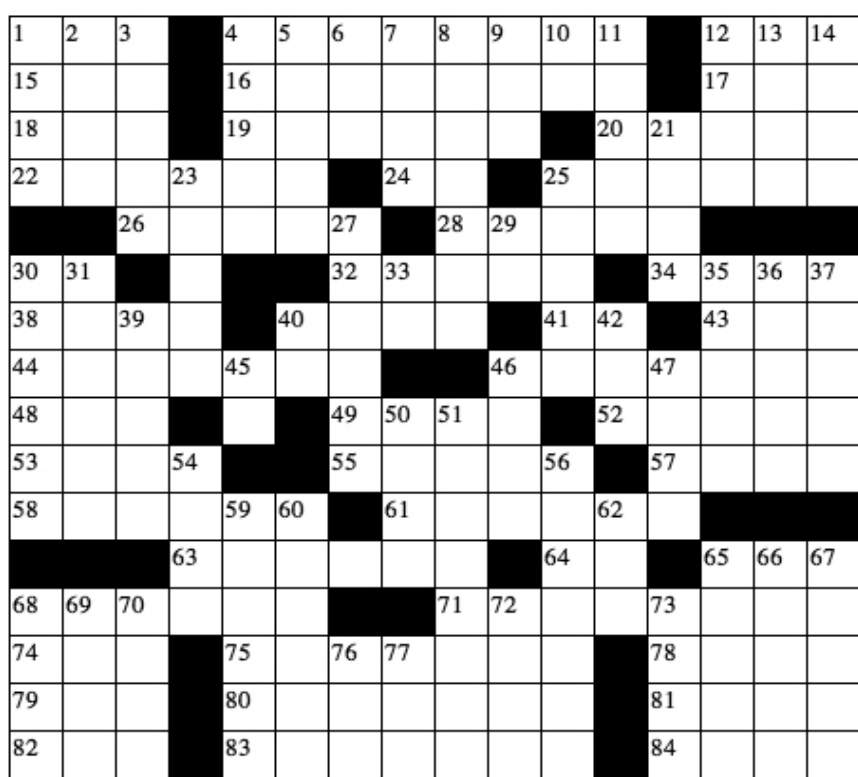
In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 15/6/2016				Departure Flights on Wednesday 15/6/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	MSC	404	Asyut	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	JAD	302	Amman	00:25
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:25	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	THY	765	Doha	02:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	417	Manila	03:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	OMA	644	Muscat	04:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	CEB	019	Manila	04:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	FEG	954	Asyut	06:00
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
BAW	157	London	06:40	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	BAW	156	London	08:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	KAC	511	Mashhad	08:40
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	JZR	1770	Jeddah	08:40
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	791	Madinah	08:55
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	KAC	117	New York	09:00
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	JZR	534	Cairo	09:25
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	IRC	6522	Lamerd	10:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
IRC	6511	ABD	09:15	KAC	153	Istanbul	11:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	CCE	342	Sharm el-Sheikh	11:10
FDB	055	Dubai	09:50	KAC	175	Frankfurt/Geneva	11:15
CCE	341	Alexandria	10:00	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	JZR	356	Mashhad	11:40
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	UAE	890	Mangalore	11:55
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00
ETD	9819	Abu Dhabi	12:10	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	KAC	103	London	12:10
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:15	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
IRC	6521	Lamerd	13:35	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:20
KAC	792	Madinah	13:45	SAW	702	Damascus	13:35
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
KNE	529	Jeddah	14:05	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	ETD	9819	Cairo	14:10
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15	IRC	6512	ABD	14:25
JZR	1771	Jeddah	14:15	FDB	792	Hanoi	14:30
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	14:55

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1285



ACROSS

1. Lacking self-confidence.
4. Taken before a meal as an appetizer.
12. A police officer who investigates crimes.
15. The seat within a bishop's diocese where his cathedral is located adv.
16. A famous chief of the Shawnee who tried to unite Indian tribes against the increasing white settlement (1768-1813).
17. An extension at the end and at right angles to the main building.
18. The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
19. (Scotland) Made of sheep's or calf's viscera minced with oatmeal and suet and onions and boiled in the animal's stomach.
20. The sacred city of Lamaism.
22. A medicinal drug used to evoke vomiting (especially in cases of drug overdose or poisoning).
24. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
26. A constitutional monarchy in northern Europe on the western side of the Scandinavian Peninsula.
28. In a murderous frenzy as if possessed by a demon.
30. Being ten more than one hundred forty.
32. Nocturnal badger-like carnivore of wooded regions of Africa and southern Asia.
34. Open to or abounding in fresh air.
38. An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
41. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
43. A unit of length of thread or yarn.
44. Outermost layer of the pericarp of fruits as the skin of a peach or grape.
48. Term of address for a man.
49. A major god.
52. An anti-TNF compound (trade name Arava) that is given orally.
53. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
55. A unit of dry measure used in Egypt.
57. Chief port of Yemen.
58. The process of remembering (especially the process of recovering information by mental effort).
61. Border consisting of anything placed on the edge to finish something (such as a fringe on clothing or on a rug).
63. A branch of the Tai languages.
64. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
68. All of the inhabitants of the earth.
71. Dressed in a tuxedo.
74. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
75. Small Asiatic wild bird.
78. Any loose flowing garment.
79. A user interface in which you type commands instead of choosing them from a menu or selecting an icon.
80. Scandinavian liquor usually flavored with caraway seeds.
81. Type genus of the Anatidae.
82. Related by blood.
83. Lack of sophistication or worldliness.
84. A small cake leavened with yeast.

4. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
5. The state prevailing during the absence of war.
6. A graphical recording of the cardiac cycle produced by an electrocardiograph.
7. (anatomy) A fold or wrinkle or crease.
8. Reproduce someone's behavior or looks.
9. Syndrome resulting from a serious acute (sometimes fatal) infection associated with the presence of staphylococcus.
10. That is to say.
11. A corporation authorized by Congress to provide a secondary market for residential mortgages.
12. Hard strong durable yellowish-brown wood of oak trees.
13. Other than what is under consideration or implied.
14. Wearing or provided with clothing.
21. A member of a North American Indian people speaking one of the Hokan language.
23. Ratio of the hypotenuse to the opposite side.
25. Perennial of southern Europe cultivated for forage and for its nectar-rich pink flowers that make it an important honey crop.
27. Italian brandy made from residue of grapes after pressing.
29. A state in New England.
31. Any oily organic compound insoluble in water but soluble in organic solvents.
33. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
35. A Greek epic poem (attributed to Homer) describing the siege of Troy.
36. Steal goods.
37. A language group of the Hoka family.
39. English theoretical physicist who applied relativity theory to quantum mechanics and predicted the existence of antimatter and the positron (1902-1984).
40. A radioactive element of the alkali-metal group discovered as a disintegration product of actinium.
42. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
45. A public promotion of some product or service.
46. The dialect of Albanian spoken in northern Albania and Yugoslavia.
47. (informal) Exceptionally good.
50. A tall perennial woody plant having a main trunk and branches forming a distinct elevated crown.
51. Characterized or produced by addition.
54. A Chadid language spoken south of Lake Chad.
56. Having two axes.
59. Tree of southeastern Asia to Australia grown primarily for its sweet edible fruit resembling litchi nuts.
60. The capital and largest city of Zambia.
62. The compass point that is one point east (clockwise) of due north.
65. Formerly included in genus Cedrela.
66. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
67. A port city of south central Ukraine on an arm of the Black Sea.
69. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
70. Most important element.
72. Any division of quantity accepted as a standard of measurement or exchange.
73. Lacking in liveliness or charm or surprise.
76. Being six more than fifty.
77. A room equipped with toilet facilities.

DOWN

1. An antidepressant drug that acts by blocking the reuptake of serotonin so that more serotonin is available to act on receptors in the brain.
2. A collection of objects laid on top of each other.
3. A republic on the southwestern corner of the Arabian Peninsula on the Indian Ocean.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Learning what makes people tick interests you. Your instinctive orientation at this time is to cut to the basics and perhaps start over again-healing comes from destroying the roots of a disturbance. If you are interested in traveling to faraway places, travel by water is possible at this time. You may seek to understand and improve situations, finding new but secure ways to gain better conditions around you. Inventions and discoveries-in particular in communications, computers and electronics-may be possible now. You bring order to emergencies and organization to areas where new development is taking place. You teach and help others when teaching is needed. This is a good time for enjoying your friends.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your ideas and images about the environment around you make it easy for you to work with and teach others. You will understand and perform well with young people today. You seem to know what it takes to create a support group. You handle words and tell stories with accomplished skill and others love to hear you speak or entertain. It is easy for you to flatter others or to stretch a good story. You may find that you need to help settle a dispute that by any other means could get out of hand. You are fair-minded and aboveboard, always direct and honest in thought. Theatrical work may be a possibility soon and would be just the thing for you to enjoy some notoriety, laughter, new friends and an escape from the everyday humdrums.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You could be on the international space station this day; learning the techniques of sky diving, testing the coral near a coral reef or helping birth a child or animal. You are at a point in your life where there is increased responsibility and accountability and you love it. There is much more independence and confidence now. Your talents are many and you have excellent skills at building strategy. A passion for inventions, electronics, etc., can also be expected. If you need time to prepare some sort of work or case, you will be wise to stop and outline your options. Writing down what you need to do will force you to slow down and focus. Whatever you are doing, stop from time to time to acknowledge and enjoy.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

An easy, calm day should find everything running in a smooth manner. There is no reason to use anything other than your own resources to be successful. Ideas and interaction with authority figures or older people may take priority. Working with-rather than against-the flow should be easy to do. There are opportunities for self-expression through a cause or purpose today. You could be most persuasive with others and eloquent in all your communication. You appreciate what is fair and democratic and feel most happy in a group or community. Some fun and economically rewarding family interactions are coming up now through group art, a garage sale or a real-estate transaction. There are many opportunities to enhance a love relationship.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are understanding of others' plights and can show much sensitivity in order to listen and be helpful when possible. You are in a good position this day to network or speak on matters concerning groups and society matters. You may find it is easy to teach rewarding classes for those that have a special need. You may discover new and different reasons or ways to enjoy and appreciate life. A kind of mini-revolution may find you altering your value system, allowing you to like new things. There is a new approach available to love and express compassion. A natural transformation of your values-the way you appreciate and love yourself and others-is taking place. There is a search for new goals and a new focus at this time.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is a good time for promoting yourself and for letting others know what you have to offer. Right now, the key to career moves involves attending to nagging details-whatsoever you have neglected before. This is a time during which you may be able to break through and move ahead with your ambitions. You would make an excellent leader or teacher of philosophy or religion-you cannot help but speak on these subjects to others and enchant all who come to know you. Your understanding of the unity behind appearances is a rare gift. You would make a good director, photographer, choreographer, etc. You like working with mental images. Your inner resources and emotions are accented. Trust your intuition, testing it if you like.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You might like to ignore responsibilities and do some socializing, but realities demand that you tend to business and forget your friends for the moment. This is the best of times to make progress, push forward and rise to prominence. It will be hard for you to do wrong, for all the cycles are working in your favor. Your career always seems to get the support you need and this is one area of life that runs smoothly. You seem to understand what the public wants and mass marketing is a natural. This is also a time when you could marry or perhaps take on a new role in the community or with other people. Your mind is ever on communication, how you present yourself and you are very convincing. Everything seems to work out for you now.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Circumstances may press you and bring out the rebel in you. You could feel frustrated and dissatisfied by events. Self-control is the accepted and admired behavior; you will get an opportunity to see things become better balanced. A phone call from a customer or past co-worker will give you some information that you have been longing to know. You are very original when it comes to home and surroundings-the environment you build around you. This could also manifest today in unusual ways of supporting yourself. Your mother may have been quite eccentric or your upbringing somehow different. Get outside and be with friends this afternoon-enjoy nature. A bike ride before the evening meal will bring about pleasant times.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Opportunities may go against your own sense of security and responsibility. Career choices may require that you take a chance and dive into something new at full speed ahead. You may need to neglect the home front for a short while, at least until you gain some understanding of new equipment or what is expected. You can be assertive and can move forward in your career decisions. You have all the energy you could want and it should be easy to channel it. You are driven when it comes to fulfilling your ambitions and carving out a career. There is no lack of energy or drive here and nothing can stand in your way. Everything is poured into making the right moves. You are outgoing, enthusiastic and always diplomatic-everybody's favorite.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This lucky day is good for making plans or decisions and finding your way through just about any situation that may occur. Good advice from a guide or older person may be forthcoming. You relate with accomplished skill and it is stimulating just being with you, especially today. Your high degree of mental concentration makes you an excellent student-able to excel in speaking, writing and all types of communication skills. Your ambitions go hand in hand with communication and using the mind and the two should never be far apart. Obtaining and exchanging information is important to you now. Being more involved with neighbors or siblings satisfies a deep emotional need. A long-lasting friendship is enjoyed this evening.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You like other people and they can tell. Others value you for your sense of discrimination and kindness. You will be working with groups of people. Perhaps lecturing, teaching or making plans together. You always manage to bring the searing truth to group situations. Penetrating psychological analyses are your expertise. You are perceived as so focused and helpful that your presence in a group has a very decided effect. Others may feel that nothing is a secret from you. You will find it easier today to accept the ideas of others. You are considerate, helpful and courteous. You enjoy communication in all its forms. You may have a political influence or you could successfully handle other people's money this afternoon.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is a productive day, especially with group-related projects. You will receive a little boost today through some extra support or recognition from those around you. You may feel that you are in touch and in harmony with others and the lines of communication are open. The support you need is available. You have an innate love of truth, essentials and even adversity. There is a fierce sense of loyalty for loved ones. You are protective and security-minded. You are very skilled at implementing change and improving existing circumstances. You will seek to understand and improve a difficult situation by finding new but secure ways to better working conditions. You bring order and organization to difficult areas.

Wordsearch Puzzle

90's Songs 4 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

- | | | |
|------------|------------|--------------|
| AGAIN | FANTASY | NOBODY |
| BABY, BABY | FUNKDAFIED | REAL LOVE |
| BAILAMOS | IRIS | RUNAWAY |
| BELIEVE | LOVE IS | SLAM |
| BOOMBASTIC | MOUTH | SPOONMAN |
| EMOTIONS | NAME | SUMMER GIRLS |
| EPIC | NO SCRUBS | TODAY |
| | | UNSKINNY BOP |
| | | WEAK |

Yesterday's Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles
90's Songs 3 - Solution

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

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| BARBIE GIRL | HONEY | STAY |
| CAN'T STOP | LET'S RIDE | STRONG ENOUGH |
| CRUSH | LINGER | THE SIGN |
| DANGEROUS | LONGVIEW | THIS KISS |
| ENDLESS LOVE | MOTOWNPHILLY | TOO FUNKY |
| ESCAPADE | MY WAY | TWISTED |
| GETTO JAM | PLUSH | UNDERSTANDING |
| | SMOOTH | WONDERWALL |

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

2	1	5	8	9	7	4	6	3
9	7	4	6	5	3	1	2	8
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20 Fun things

Kids in Kuwait

to do with the kids this summer in Kuwait'

By Jamie Etheridge

Lots of folks are spending part or even the whole summer in Kuwait. If you have kids this can be challenging because school is out and the weather is too hot to spend much time outside. Thankfully there are about a zillion summer camps available this summer with everything from art to soccer, swimming to English lessons.

But if you still need ideas to keep the kiddos busy, we've come up with some ideas for summer fun.

1. Ice skating, bowling, swimming or any indoor sport activity (karate, zumba, ballet, soccer, dance, etc.) Choose just one activity or sport for the kids to focus on learning well this summer. Some of these can be challenging so please make sure to wear appropriate safety gear or to have qualified instructors/coaches/lifeguards available.

2. Hire a tutor or enroll them in a class to learn an instrument or language. Summer is the best time to start as they can practice three or four times a week and get the foundation of the new information before being loaded down again in the fall with school work/activities. Check out the Kuwait Music Academy, LAPALoyac, Art Center in Shuwaikh, InstitutFrancais, TheraSpanishPlay or www.kuwaitmomsguide.com for resources.

3. Tour the play places. For younger kids, Play at Discovery and Promenade malls, or Future Kids, Magic Planet. For older ones, the new Trampo / Clip & Climb in Murouj. There's also Sirbb Circuit in the evenings for go-carting.

4. Read books. Take the kids to the book shop (see www.kuwaitmomsguide.com for a full list of bookstores and libraries in Kuwait) and let them choose books for themselves. Sign up for a reading challenge (http://www.scholastic.com/ups/campaigns/src-2016, you will need a US address) or let the kids set up their own reading challenge.

5. Rearrange / redecorate their bedrooms or even the living room. (This will require help from an adult to move around the furniture.) You don't have to keep it that way forever, maybe just a week or so but see what ideas they come up with. To make it educational, let them draw out the room first with all the pieces of furniture and then let them work from their own drawing, taking note not only of furnishings but also decorations, curtains, windows, doorways, pathways, etc. They can get really creative and use a cardboard box, tissues, paint chips, sticky

Everything moms in Kuwait need to know.

KUWAIT MOMS GUIDE

notes and other items to recreate their room the way they want to rearrange/redecorate it.

6. If possible, take them to work to spend a day with you. Plenty of offices allow a 'work with mom or dad day' and you can give them some small tasks and things to do. It's good for children to see what their parents do for a living and you can explain to them the idea of work, the different types of jobs there are and maybe open a discussion (depending on their age) about what they might want to do when they grow up.

7. Learn to code. There are tons of free or low cost resources online for learning to code and even summer camps here that offer it. Introduce them to the concept and see if they want to take a class - online or in a camp. <https://code.org/learn>, <https://www.codeavengers.com/> <http://lightbot.com/> (Kuwait Moms Guide's children use this on our smart phone and iPad and its both fun and educational)

8. Let the whole family learn a new skill. Push yourself and the kids out of your comfort zone by taking a class or looking online to learn a new language or skill. You can also take a class in a subject that interests the whole family. There are heaps of great websites for lifelong learning: <https://www.diygenius.com/100-self-education-resources-for-lifelong-learners/> <http://www.craftsy.com/classes/free> <http://craftartedu.com/free-classes-category/> <http://gettingsmart.com/2012/09/50-top-sources-of-free-elearning-courses/>

9. Help an elderly neighbor or relative for the day. This could involve helping the neighbor fix stuff around their house or do the grocery shop. Preferably someone you know well and live close to.

10. Create an imaginary land, draw it and then write a story about the place/people in the land. This is a fun collaborative project for older kids. Get large poster boards and let the kids draw several worlds/sections. Don't forget the 'action' what happens in the story?

11. Organize a community game for the neighborhood kids (soccer, water balloons, etc.) This will take some organization and requires that you know a few of the people in the neighborhood or apartment building.

12. Learn to juggle. Yes I know that sounds mundane but trust me, kids can spend hours on this and it's great for gross motor skills, hand-eye coordination and serious fun. Once the kids are good, hold juggling competitions and give out small prizes. Here's a few places to help: http://www.frontiernet.net/~steve_glimpse/juggle.html <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxzSHRBLAx4>

13. Have a Yes Day. One of Kuwait Moms Guide's favorite



summer activities is to give the kids a 'Yes' Day. The rules are simple: From daylight to dusk, anything they ask, the answer is always Yes (within reason and as long as it's not dangerous). Want chocolate cake for breakfast? Yes! Stay up late and watch cartoons? Yes! Color mom's hair purple? Well, we can chalk it. My girls love their Yes Day and look forward to it all year long.

14. Create a comic book. This is a great one for middle school kids and they can take several days to finish it. Help them develop a basic story line and the main characters and then leave them to figure out the rest. Read a few graphic novels or comic books to them beforehand to help them understand the concept. You can download free printable comic book templates here: <http://kidsactivitiesblog.com/59444/comic-book-templates>

15. Take a yoga class as a family. A great way to introduce the kids to a lifelong healthy practice while also helping yourself get in shape.

16. Learn to knit, crochet, weave or sew and teach the kids. All three of the most common textile arts/crafts are foundationally simple techniques that children as young as six or seven can learn easily. The only supplies required are yarn, hooks and needles and (if you are weaving, a frame). There are several places in Kuwait to learn textile arts (Sadu House, Khayt Group, Fakhri Arts, Craft Center, Barakat, etc.) and literally thousands of beginning videos on YouTube for knitting, crochet and weaving including instructions for kids and lefties. Check out these:

<http://www.fakhriarts.com/>
<http://www.instructables.com/id/Knitting-Instructions-Learn-to-Knit/>
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL69F5A7FE3F95232F>
<http://www.instructables.com/id/how-to-weave-on-a-cardboard-loom/7ALLSTEPS>

17. Bridge activities. It's a good idea to keep the kids reading, writing and doing maths over the summer and you can find 'summer bridge' books that help kids transition up from their previous grade to one they will enter in the fall. Set aside an hour each morning (when they are fresh and less likely to be tired or cranky) and have them do some bridge work to keep their academic juices flowing.

18. Set up simple science experiments or better yet let older kids set up science experiments. Check out HooplaKidzLab or WhizKidScienceor <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/40-cool-science-experiments-webto-get-started>. Be sure to have them print out and read through the Scientific Method (simple kids version) first and use a notebook to keep track of their experiments.

19. Take a round robin tour of the local museums. The classic car museum in Shuwaikh is a sure fire hit and its air conditioned. The local maritime museum in Kuwait City and the modern museum of art are both worth a visit (check timings during Ramadan and summer). There is also the Arab Fund building in Shuwaikh which has an incredibly beautiful interior and will amaze even younger kids. The Mirror House is a kid favorite and well worth the visit.

20. The malls of Kuwait can be a bit claustrophobic during the summer months, especially if you visit them often. Instead of going at the normal times, mix it up with an early morning marathon walk with the kids. Lace up your sneakers and walk from one end to the other. (There are lots of people who walk the malls for exercise as well as shopping and dining.)

Kids don't need to be entertained the entire summer. In fact it is important to leave them to their own devices and give them a chance to combat boredom with creativity. The more they are on their own, the more likely they will come up with games and ideas and things to do that you haven't even thought of.

Give them control over their own summer plans. Ask what they want to learn or do over the summer. Tell them to make a plan or search online for solutions of how they can achieve these goals. For younger kids that require closer supervision, ask them to choose among a selection of ideas (learning how to make pancakes, to build a fort, to learn an instrument, etc.). Help them be responsible for their own summer.


Follow Kuwait Moms Guide on Instagram @kuwaitmomsguide or Facebook for more ideas and daily updates.

Or visit our website, www.kuwaitmomsguide.com

BANANA CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

What you need:
2 cups uncooked regular oats
1/2 cup chocolate chips
1 cup chopped walnuts
1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups mashed banana
1/3 cup vegetable oil
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

What to do:
Preheat oven to 350°F (176°C).
Combine the first 5 ingredients in a large bowl and stir well.
In a separate bowl, combine the banana, oil, and vanilla and stir well.
Add the banana mixture to dry ingredients, stirring as you add.
Let the mixture sit for 15 minutes.
Place rounded tablespoon-size scoops of dough onto ungreased baking sheet.
Bake for 15 minutes or until lightly golden.
Transfer the cookies to wire racks. Cool completely before serving.

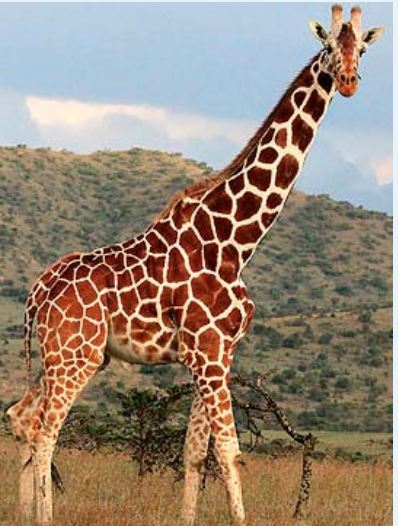


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DID YOU KNOW?



Giraffes are the tallest land animals on earth thanks in part to their distinctive necks which alone can reach almost 2 meters in height.

- A male giraffe can weigh as much as a pickup truck! That's about 1400 kilograms.
- Although a giraffe's neck is 1.5 - 1.8 meters, it contains the same number of vertebrae at a human neck.
- A giraffe's habitat is usually found in African savannas, grasslands or open woodlands.
- The hair that makes up a giraffe's tail is about 10 times thicker than the average strand of human hair.
- The distinctive spots that cover a giraffe's fur act as a good camouflage to protect the giraffe from predators. When the giraffe stands in front of trees and bushes the light and dark coloring of its fur blends in with the shadows and sunlight.
- It is possible to identify the sex of the giraffe from the horns on its head. Both males and females have horns but the females are smaller and covered with hair at the top. Male giraffes may have up to 3 additional horns.
- Giraffes are ruminants. This means that they have more than one stomach. In fact, giraffes have four stomachs, the extra stomachs assisting with digesting food.
- Drinking is one of the most dangerous times for a giraffe. While it is getting a drink it cannot keep a look out for predators and is vulnerable to attack.
- Male giraffes sometimes fight with their necks over female giraffes. This is called "necking". The two giraffes stand side by side and one giraffe swings his head and neck, hitting his head against the other giraffe. Sometimes one giraffe is hit to the ground during a combat.
- A female giraffe gives birth while standing up. The calf drops approximately 6 feet to the ground, but it is not hurt from the fall.
- Giraffes have bluish-purple tongues which are tough and covered in bristly hair to help them with eating the thorny Acacia trees.

ACTIVITY

Famous finger puppets



What you need:
A piece of cardboard about 6cm x 10cm
Old magazines
Scissors
Glue

Activity:
Find pictures of famous people in your magazines where the torso and head is about the size of your piece of cardboard.
Cut out the torso and head of the famous person and stick it onto the cardboard. Trim the cardboard to fit the famous person's outline. Cut two holes in the bottom of the torso. These are for your first and second fingers to be the 'legs'. Stick your fingers through the holes and... hello! It's a famous person finger puppet!

Color me!




Mara Wilson has come out as 'bi/queer' on Twitter

The 28-year-old actress - who was a child star with movies including 'Matilda' and 'Mrs Doubtfire' - took to social media to reveal her sexuality in the wake of the Orlando mass shooting in which 49 people were killed at gay nightclub Pulse on Saturday. She wrote: "I used to identify as mostly straight. I've embraced the Bi/Queer label lately (sic)." Earlier Mara had shared a picture of herself on her first visit to a gay club at the age of 18 and hinted at her sexuality, saying the LGBTQ community felt like home when she "learned something about myself". She wrote: "Me at a gay club when I was eighteen. I feel embarrassed looking at it now..." "Being a 'straight girl' where I clearly didn't belong, but I will say, I felt so welcomed there. I have never had a better experience at a club than I did then. Great music and people. And one of my friends met his partner that

night! "I haven't been to one since college, except once when a friend brought me along. I didn't feel like I belonged there." But the LGBTQ community has always felt like home, especially a few years later when I, uh, learned something about myself (sic)." However, she insisted that despite her decision to reveal her sexuality on Twitter, she still planned to remain "pretty private" about her relationships. She said: "Your support is much appreciated. I will say, though, I'm still gonna be pretty private about my relationships, as I always have been." Mara recently wrote a memoir, 'Where Am I Now? - True Stories of Girlhood and Accidental Fame' which tells of her time as a child star and her life afterwards.



Amber Heard withdraws request for temporary spousal support

Amber Heard has reportedly withdrawn her request for temporary spousal support from Johnny Depp. The 30-year-old actress has filed a declaration stating she's no longer interested in receiving maintenance payouts from her estranged husband during their divorce process because she feels the 'Black Mass' star's team are using it against her. In the legal documents, obtained by TMZ, the blonde beauty stated her request for temporary spousal support is being used "to distract and divert the public away from the very real issue of domestic violence." The issue of temporary spousal support was set to be handled during Amber's restraining order hearing on Friday at the family court after she claimed Johnny made \$30 million last year and she could be entitled to almost \$1 million per month in maintenance. However, her lawyer has claimed the 'Danish Girl' star only asked for the short-term monthly payouts as she thought it was standard operating procedure in a divorce case. And, although she's decided to scrap her request for the time being, Amber, according to the documents, has reserved the right to apply for spousal support during their divorce once the restraining

order has been handled. Amber obtained a temporary domestic violence restraining order against Johnny, which means he has to stay at least 100 yards away from her and her home, last month after she accused him of physically and verbally abusing her throughout their 15-month marriage. At the hearing later this week, the judge will decide whether to extend Amber's temporary restraining order while the finer details of their divorce are being finalized. Meanwhile, it's believed Amber was forced to call the police on Monday when members of the 53-year-old star's team entered her home, which she previously shared with the actor, in Los Angeles and began removing items from the property that belonged to him. Although Johnny wasn't present, Amber's representatives still felt the need to call law enforcement officers as they believed the action was possibly a violation of the restraining order. Amber filed for divorce from Johnny, whom she married last year, four weeks ago, citing irreconcilable differences. It's believed the couple don't have a pre-nuptial agreement.



Brewster has welcomed a second baby boy

Jordana Brewster has welcomed a second baby boy into the world through a gestational surrogate. The 'Fast & Furious' star and her husband Andrew Form - who already have two-year-old son, Julian, who was also conceived via a surrogate - became parents for the second time on Thursday when little Rowan was born via an unnamed carrier. While the couple haven't directly confirmed the news themselves yet Jordana shared People magazine's article about the new arrival on her Twitter page. The 36-year-old actress previously shared how she hoped to expand her brood and that she was open to having two or three children, three if she had twins. Asked how many kids she'd like to have, she previously said: "I say two or three. Because there's always the possibility of twins." Shortly after her first child was born in 2013, the brunette beauty said that motherhood has changed her and she has become very protective and a bit of "hypochondriac". Speaking while working on the set of 'Dallas', she said: "I didn't realise I'd be such a hypochondriac as a mom. "It's flu season in Texas, so I haven't taken him [Julian] out that much on set." However, Jordana - who has been married to Andrew since 2007 admits that she loves being a "busy" working mum. She said: "What's so wonderful about motherhood is that you're constantly busy. There's so much to do and I don't miss idle time at all."

Peter Andre's daughter has broken her arm

The 'Mysterious Girl' hitmaker has assured fans eight-year-old Princess is "all laughs and giggles" after she successfully underwent emergency surgery on Monday to repair the nasty crack in her forearm. Taking to his Twitter account, the 43-year-old hunk - who is currently on an overseas trip - responded to concerned fans, writing: "She is fine now thank you. It was her arm. She was all laughs and giggles when I spoke to her yesterday. She's def a clutz like her dad (sic)." The blonde youngster will be forced to spend the next few weeks in a plaster cast to ensure the break heals properly but she's not too bothered as she can't wait for her friends to scribble little messages on the brightly-coloured mould. He added: "She broke her arm. She is fine now. Has her arm in a cast. She's excited about people signing it." Princess was rushed to hospital via ambulance on Sunday night but her mother Katie Price - who split from Peter in 2009 following five years of marriage - refused to disclose what was wrong with the youngster at the time. She tweeted: "After a hour for ambulance to arrive at home earlier I still in hospital so shocked what's happened my poor little baby being do strong (sic)." It's not known how Princess sustained the break in her arm but it's thought it could have something to do with falling off a horse as she and her 11-year-old brother Junior are currently filming for Katie's new equestrian show. The new six-part series titled 'Katie Price's Pony Club' will follow the former glamour model as she creates her own horse school - comprised of Princess, Junior and four of their friends - as the six novice riders take on the elitist world of pony clubs. Katie, 38, also has son Harvey, 13, from a past relationship, and Jett, two, and Bunny, 22 months, with her husband Kieran Hayler.



Leonardo DiCaprio dating Nina Agdal

Leonardo DiCaprio has reportedly rekindled his romance with Nina Agdal. The 41-year-old actor was first linked to the 24-year-old Victoria's Secret model in 2014 but the pair were spotted together in Montauk, New York over the weekend where they paid a low-key visit to Goldberg's Famous Bagels and the Montauk Point Lighthouse. According to the New York Post's Page Six, the pair "are dating again and spent a romantic weekend in the Hamptons". However, a source close to Leonardo told Gossip Cop that it was not a "romantic weekend" and denied they are a couple. This is not the first time they have been linked recently as last month Leonardo and Nina were spotted partying at Up&Down nightclub in New York. And in 2014, they were spotted leaving a club together not long after Nina's split from singer Max George. However, they never confirmed they were dating. The reported romance is likely to come as a surprise to Essex model Roxy Horner, as it was recently claimed that she and Leonardo are "smitten" with each other. A source said "Roxy is a really sweet, caring normal girl. She's naturally stunning and she has a lot in common with Leo. They're smitten and enjoy spending time together." The actor and the model are said to have spent time together at the Coachella Festival in California in April before meeting up at the Cannes Film Festival in France last month and later reuniting in London.

Halle Berry undercut hair tattoo

Halle Berry has unveiled her new undercut hair tattoo. The 49-year-old actress took to Instagram to show off the new look, which features a lotus flower shaved into the hair at the nape of neck. She captioned the picture: "And for my next trick..." Meanwhile, celebrity hairstylist and Mizani global artistic director Cesar Ramirez, insisted that Halle's new cut would have taken a lot of work. Cesar told PeopleStyle: "This technique takes a lot of skill and talent. After buzzing the area a straight razor is used to etch out the pattern. A stencil can be used or the pattern can be drawn on the scalp with an eyeliner pencil to get a really clean outcome. We often do these styles at Dop Dop Salon in Soho NY." Halle recently chopped off her flowing tresses for a new role. She posted a picture of her new bob on Instagram and wrote: "I am not my hair. exploring my new film character (sic)." Halle joined the picture-sharing site in March and uses it to keep her fans updated on her life. She captioned her first picture, which sees her walking through a picturesque forest with no clothes on: "Hi everyone. Welcome! Today is a very exciting day for me... I'm looking forward to sharing our world through images that reflect my emotions and perceptions. "I am in awe of photography and its ability to capture and reflect this extraordinary world that we live in. "I'm excited to share with you my love of nature, the arts, fashion and much more in the hopes that the images will inspire, promote conversation and bring you joy. (sic)" — Bang Showbiz



Paris Hilton: Social media is 'amazing'

Paris Hilton says social media is "amazing" and has had a positive effect on her life. The 35-year-old DJ-and-businessman is a committed Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram user and although many celebrities complain about trolls abusing them, Paris' experience has mainly been wonderful and has brought her closer to her fans. In an interview with Prestige Hong Kong magazine, she said: "Social media is amazing! It has given me a way to directly connect and chat to fans in a way I never could have done before. I often launch contests or ask fans questions or even meet up with fans when I travel - all through connecting on social media. I also enjoy sharing some of my happiest times and moments and letting fans experience them with me. Paris has 13.7 followers on Twitter and 5.9 million fans on Instagram making her one of the most popular people on both platforms. Although she has embraced social media she doesn't want to try online dating because she is too scared of attracting stalkers. The blonde beauty - who split from her boyfriend, Swiss millionaire Thomas Gross, earlier this year - said: "I never have tried dating sites or apps. I would be too scared of stalkers. I've heard some crazy stories from my friends!"





'Saq Al Bambo' and 'Been Galbin': Episode 8

By Nawara Fattahova

Kuwait Times is publishing a daily recap of two Kuwaiti soap operas aired on Al Rai TV and MBC Drama. Here are the recaps of the eight episodes:

'Saq Al Bambo' (Bamboo Stalk)

Ghanima is rude to Ghasan, so he fights with her and leaves the house without Eisa. Meanwhile, Ghanima falls into a coma and Noor tells Eisa to leave the house, which he does crying, and walks from Qurtuba to Mubarakiya, where he finds Ghasan.

Noor regrets listening to her aunt Hind by kicking Eisa out, so along with Khawla, they suggest visiting him. Hind calls Ghasan but he hangs up. Awatef asks Hind if she still loves him, but she denies it and says that she only talks to him because of Eisa.

Noor and Khawla ask their grandmother to visit Eisa, but she refuses and allows them to call Ghasan and ask about him. They then go with their aunt Hind to visit Eisa. Hind again tries talking to Ghasan, but he leaves the house. Awatef tells her mother that Eisa will be an excuse for Ghasan to meet Hind, so she should allow Eisa to come and live in their house as she is

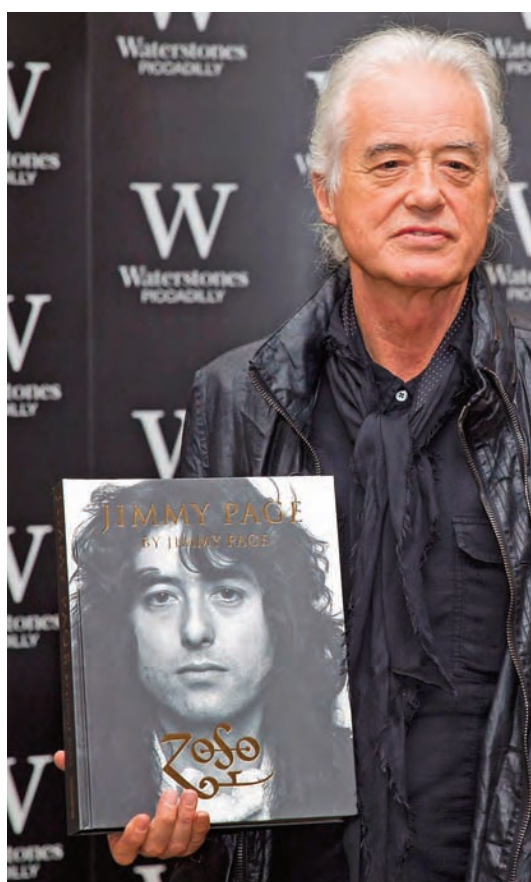
his grandmother. Noor asks Hind if she loves Ghasan, but Hind says it's over and does not want to talk about this matter again. When they come home, they find that Ghanima has locked herself in her room and is not responding.

Been Galbin (Between Two Hearts)

Aryam is not answering Marzouq's messages asking her to come back to Kuwait. He tells his mother to be nice to Aryam when she comes back, so she doesn't leave the house. Dana is excited about her pregnancy. Yasmin is not taking care of her children and doesn't like to play with them or take them out.

Marzouq calls Aryam's mother as Aryam is not answering his calls, and she tells him that Aryam is flying back to Kuwait. He waits for her at the airport, but she tells him she wants to stay at her father's house. She tells him that she was forced to marry him and asks him to divorce her.

When Marzouq tells his parents about it, his father tells him to call her to come and talk. Noora finds she is pregnant but doesn't tell her husband. She doesn't feel happy as she doesn't feel secure with him.



This 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

Led Zeppelin's 'Stairway to Heaven' goes on trial

A civil lawsuit accusing Led Zeppelin's lead singer Robert Plant and guitarist Jimmy Page of stealing the opening chords for their 1971 rock classic "Stairway to Heaven" from another band heads to trial yesterday in federal court in Los Angeles. US District Judge Gary Klausner in Los Angeles in a decision in April said "Stairway" and the 1967 instrumental "Taurus" by the band Spirit were similar enough to let a jury decide whether Plant and Page were liable for copyright infringement.

The lawsuit was brought by Michael Skidmore, a trustee for the late Randy Wolfe, also known as Randy California, who was Spirit's guitarist and the composer of "Taurus." Skidmore said Page may have been inspired to write "Stairway" for Led Zeppelin after hearing Spirit perform "Taurus" while the bands toured together in 1968 and 1969, but that Wolfe never got credit.

"Stairway to Heaven" is considered one of the most widely heard compositions in rock history and is the signature song of Led Zeppelin. Trial in the case began yesterday in federal court in Los Angeles, Marc Landis, a managing partner at the firm of Phillips Nizer which is representing Led Zeppelin, said in an email. The case will begin with jury selection, followed by opening arguments. It was not immediately clear when Plant and Paige might testify.

Larry Iser, an attorney who has represented the Beatles and Michael Jackson and is not directly involved in the case, said in a phone interview the opening riff in dispute, which features a minor key and a descending base line, is a common musical device used on other hit songs. Those include the Beatles piece "While My Guitar Gently Weeps," Chicago's "25 or 6 to 4" and Led Zeppelin's own recording "Babe I'm Gonna Leave You," Iser said.

Attorneys for Led Zeppelin have argued the chord progressions cited in the civil lawsuit were so clichéd that they did not deserve copyright protection. But Judge Klausner, in his decision in April, said a jury could find "substantial" similarity between the first two minutes of "Stairway" and "Taurus." "While it is true that a descending chromatic four-chord progression is a common convention that abounds in the music industry, the similarities here transcend this core structure," Klausner wrote. He added that a jury would need to assess the "concept and feel" of the two works. — Reuters

Rap star Lil Wayne suffers minor seizure

Rap star Lil Wayne suffered a minor seizure on Monday but is in stable condition, his spokesman said after media reports that the Grammy winner was forced to make an emergency landing in Omaha, Nebraska. The incident came three years after Lil Wayne spent several days at a Los Angeles hospital, soon after which he told radio station Power 106 he was epileptic and prone to seizures. "As Wayne's reps we can confirm that he did experience a minor seizure earlier this afternoon," the rap star's spokesman Derek Sherron said in an email.

"Under the guidance of his own doctors, he is now in stable condition and good spirits. He thanks his fans for their everlasting support, prayers and well wishes," Sherron said. Celebrity website TMZ reported that he suffered a seizure during a flight in his private jet and that the pilot was forced to make an emergency landing in Omaha. Omaha television station KETV reported that Lil Wayne, whose given name is

Dwayne Michael Carter Jr, was taken to CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center. A hospital spokeswoman said in an email: "We have no information to release."

Sherron declined to respond to a question about whether Lil Wayne was treated at a hospital in Omaha. The New Orleans-born rapper began his professional career at the age of nine, when he became the youngest artist to be signed by Cash Money Records. Lil Wayne, 33, has become one of the biggest names in rap music over a two-decade career. His Grammy wins include the award for best rap album in 2008 for "The Carter III." — Reuters

In this file photo Lil Wayne (AKA Dwayne Michael Carter, Jr) performs as a part of the America's Most Wanted Tour at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheater in Irvine, Calif. — AP



Kanye West

Kanye West announces major N America tour

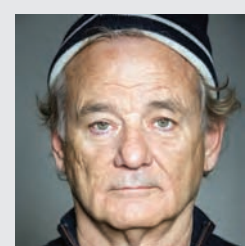
Rap superstar Kanye West, who earlier this year topped music charts with his latest album "The Life of Pablo," yesterday announced a major North American tour, which will begin in August. "The Saint Pablo Tour" will hit nearly 40 cities across the United States and Canada, including New York, Los Angeles, Toronto, Chicago, Montreal, Detroit, Washington and Miami, among others, according to Live Nation, which is promoting the event.

West made history earlier this year when "The Life of Pablo" became the first album to debut at the top of the

Billboard 200 album chart based exclusively on streaming—the seventh number one album for the enigmatic music star. West, who is married to reality television star Kim Kardashian, continues to pursue a side career in fashion design, in addition to his announced plans to run for president in 2020. He also said earlier this year that he was \$53 million in debt and asked his legions of fans to subscribe to Tidal, because he needed money to bring his "beautiful ideas to the world." — AFP

Bill Murray to receive Mark Twain Prize for Humor

Bill Murray will become the 19th recipient of the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor when he receives the award at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC on Oct 23. "I'm honored by this award and by its timing," Murray said in a statement. "I believe Mark Twain has rolled over in his grave so much for so long, that this news won't disturb his peace." Murray has starred in such hits as "Ghostbusters," "Groundhog Day" and "Caddyshack" over the course of his four-decade career, adding dozens of comedy films to his name.



Related Marrakech: Bill Murray Talks About Reteaming With Coppola, Anderson & Directing Kennedy Center president Deborah F. Rutter said in a statement, "since his first performances on 'Saturday Night Live' more than three decades ago," Murray "has charmed us with unforgettable performances from an eclectic cast of characters." "His brilliant wit and infectious spirit continue to inspire our laughter across generations both on and off the screen. His unique brand of humor seems to defy time itself—always remaining relevant and relatable to new audiences—much like our award's namesake," said Rutter.

In receiving the award, Murray joins past honorees including Steve Martin, Ellen DeGeneres, Will Ferrell and Tina Fey, among others. The award recognizes those who have had an impact on American society in ways similar to the 19th-century novelist, essayist, social commentator and satirist who was born Samuel Clemens. — Reuters



Bollywood actors Shahid Kapoor (left), Alia Bhatt (center) and Diljit Dosanjh (right) pose during a news conference for their upcoming film 'Udta Punjab' in Mumbai. A top court told India's film censor board on June 13 not to act "like a grandmother" as it overturned a controversial demand by the notoriously strict body for 13 cuts to a film depicting drug addiction. — AFP

Macaron maestro Herme named world's best pastry maker

They call him the "Picasso of patisserie," the man who has made his melt-in-the-mouth macarons an international object of desire. Pierre Herme, who the "World's 50 Best Restaurants" classification crowned best pastry chef Monday, has elevated the simple but delicate French specialty into an artform. But the larger than life creator, the fourth generation of a family of master bakers from the Alsace region of eastern France, started out not liking macarons at all.



French pastry chef Pierre Herme poses in Paris on June 9, 2016.— AFP

"I found them too sweet," Herme—who dreamed of being a cake maker since he was nine—told AFP. That's why he dedicated himself to making the soft little meringue-like biscuits made of almond flour, egg whites and sugar, a great deal more exciting. "What prompted me to work on macarons was that before there were just coffee, chocolate and vanilla flavors," he added. "So it gave me great latitude for creativity." Astonishing inventiveness quickly became Herme's trademark.

He married unlikely ingredients and fillings such as olive oil and vanilla, or wild rose hip, fig and foie gras to exquisite effect, insisting that sugar should be used as a "seasoning and not a principal ingredient." Instead, his famous laboratory near Parc Monceau in central Paris works on the intensity of taste, turning out such classics as the "Ispahan"—made with raspberries, lychee and rosewater—and the "Mogador," a sublime combination of passion fruit and milk chocolate.

'Dior of desserts'

Despite his mother's protestations, Herme apprenticed himself to the great Parisian patissier Gaston Lenotre at the age 14 before leaving to join the rival house Fauchon a few years later. Having spent the 1980s developing his art—during which time he also worked for Laduree, famous for its pastel-coloured macarons—he went out on his own in 1997. The following year, he opened his first shop in Japan, and soon his creations were becoming objects of conspicuous consumption, often given as presents in beautifully designed boxes.

Herme insisted constant experimentation is the root of his success. He begins each new creation with a drawing and by writing out the recipe, often inspired by "something I have tasted, something I have read or maybe an image," he told AFP. He then calls in his team of patisserie chefs who work in his laboratory, which is housed in the 19th-century Parisian mansion where he has his office.

But not all of his ideas are successful. "For example, we worked on a pear and chestnut macaron. But after three attempts, we had to admit that we were never going to make one that had both the true taste of pear and of chestnut at the same time," he said. "So I decided to make a chestnut one and a pear one and sell them together."

Herme, 54, who keeps all the notes from his experiments in his archive, is also a longtime collaborator with artists and perfumiers, including Jean-Michel Duriez, the "nose" of the Rochas brand of perfume. The French artist Nicolas Buffe has decorated his new chocolate boxes with drawings in his "fairytale Manga" style.

Although Herme long ago expanded into tarts, cakes, chocolates and jams, the core of his business remains macarons, which cost 2.10 euros (\$2.36) each in his Paris boutiques. "I consider the creation of pastries as an Art with a capital 'A'... just like music, painting or sculpture," Herme proclaims on his website.

And the "Dior of desserts" also rejoices in the revival of high-end patisserie in France, which he has to some degree inspired.

"There are more and more talented patissiers out there opening shops and doing great things in hotels and restaurants. The profession is very much alive and there are lots of people eager to learn, which is wonderful," he said. "Twenty years ago when you said that you wanted to be a patissier, people would say, 'Really?'" Herme added. "From the age of nine I wanted to be a patissier. My mother tried to talk me out of it, but it didn't work." — AFP



This file photo taken on October 27, 2011 shows Italian award winning chef, Massimo Bottura, during the food and wine event "Semana Mesa SP" in Sao Paulo, Brazil. — AFP

Italy's 'Osteria Francescana' crowned best restaurant

Italy's "Osteria Francescana" was crowned world's best restaurant of 2016 at an awards ceremony in New York on Monday, the first Italian establishment to win the annual accolade. Run by chef Massimo Bottura, "Osteria Francescana" pipped last year's winner, Spain's "El Celler de Can Roca," in the World's 50 Best Restaurants awards, after coming second in 2015. The Italian chef, whose world-famous restaurant in Modena came number three in 2013 and 2014, was emotional in accepting his award.

"I want to thank everyone because it's been so hard, our job is all about art work," an ecstatic Bottura told the ceremony. "It's all about our work, in the kitchen every day to work and succeed." With Spain's "El Celler de Can Roca" knocked down to second place, the third spot went to New York's "Eleven Madison Park." The top 10 was rounded out by restaurants in Peru, Denmark—former four-time winner "Noma"—France, Spain, Japan and Austria. Three French chefs won individual honors, with Alain Passard of Arpege given a lifetime achievement award, French-born Dominique Crenn named best female chef and Pierre Herme best pastry chef.

The accolades came after critics complained last year that the system was open to abuse since the jury do not have to offer physical evidence of having actually visited any particular restaurant. The bulk of those complaints came from France, which in 2016 made it into the top 10 for the first time in three years but has never managed to win first prize. The board praised Bottura for his twists on traditional ingredients and his "Five Ages of Parmigiano Reggiano" in particular.

Half in Europe

The awards said he crafted the world-famous cheese into "forms and textures most diners will never have previously experienced." "The chef's ambitious creations perfectly balance the demands of honoring heritage while embracing modernity," the board added. They praised his menu of "deliciously executed classics" such as tagliatelle with hand-chopped ragu and risotto cooked with veal jus. The 2016 list included restaurants in 23 countries on six continents—but half were in Europe. Asia and the United States each had six in the top 50, while South America and Scandinavia each had five.

Spain had seven restaurants on the list, including three in the top 10. The awards, run by trade magazine Restaurant, began in 2002 and have become a reference for the world's foodies, but were hit last year by allegations of cosy deals between restaurants and jury members. The contest is run by British media company William Reed, and criticism has focused on the methodology used to select the best restaurants. Its jury is made up of 972 experts, including food writers, chefs, restaurant owners and gourmets. Members list their choices in order of preference, based on where they have eaten in the past 18 months.

There is no pre-determined checklist of criteria, but there are strict voting rules. In the face of complaints, the organizers say consultancy firm Deloitte oversees voting, to ensure the "integrity and authenticity" of the process. — AFP



Photo shows visitors at Meiji Jingu, a Shinto shrine in Tokyo. — AP photos



Visitors at Meiji Jingu, a Shinto shrine in Tokyo.



Worshippers pray for good luck after throwing coins during their first visit of the year to the Meiji Jingu Shinto shrine in Tokyo on New Year's Day.

A woodland forest and Shinto shrine in busy Tokyo

Just steps from one of the busiest, most modern parts of Tokyo, it's a soothing surprise to feel like you're in the heart of a primeval forest. It's maybe a bigger surprise to learn that the trees are not at all as ancient as they feel. Slip out of the crowds in Tokyo's Harajuku neighborhood and head into the grounds of Meiji Jingu shrine and you'll immediately find yourself walking through a woodland of enormous trees. At first, the raucous bird cries and the sound of the wind in the branches competes with noise from the nearby Yamanote Line train station.

Gradually, though, the sounds of the modern world fade as you walk along the wide path. With lots of broadleaf evergreens, there's green here even in cold seasons. If this forest doesn't convert you to the ancient Japanese belief that spirits

dwell in features of nature like large trees, at least you'll understand why they felt that way.

Meiji Jingu shrine is no secret as a tourist attraction, but the history of the grounds is less well known. It's hard to imagine it when looking at the huge mature trees, but a hundred or so years ago, this was all essentially bare ground. It was planted carefully by experts to give a natural succession of tree species and is now a functioning ecosystem, home to many birds and other animals and native plants. The shrine itself, dedicated to Emperor Meiji and Empress Shoken who died in 1912 and 1914, is not so much serene as solemn. It's also generally quite full of people. If the mood doesn't suit, move along, because what we're here for is really the grounds.

Full service

The route from Harajuku is always well populated, although the broad, long path can swallow up quite a number of people without feeling too crowded. But other paths leading out from the shrine tend to be relatively empty even a short walk from the shrine precincts. The site is not a place where you sit and contemplate so much as a place where you walk and meditate. There are some benches in the shrine precincts but generally not along the paths.

There are also places to sit and rest in the small inner garden, a more typically manicured Japanese garden with a pond, for an admission fee of 500 yen. The pond has water lilies and the garden is famous for irises that bloom in early summer. If all of that walking leaves you calm but too hungry

to make it all the way back to Harajuku, sustenance is available on your way out at a full service restaurant and a small food court offering ramen, curry and other casual Japanese favorites. Note that shrine visits are traditional on certain Japanese holidays and these days are probably not a good time to visit unless your idea of serenity includes crowds like what you'd find in Times Square on New Year's Eve. In fact New Year's in Japan is one of those holidays. — AP



Photo shows visitors at Meiji Jingu, a Shinto shrine in Tokyo.



Ise Shrine



A black plaque at 82 Jane St in New York marking the site where Alexander Hamilton died in 1804. — AP photos



Photo shows Alexander Hamilton's tomb in the graveyard at Trinity Church in Lower Manhattan.



Photo shows the Alexander Hamilton Room at the Museum of American Finance in Lower Manhattan.

Historic sites get more visitors, thanks to 'Hamilton' fans



A visitor to the cemetery of Trinity Church, stops at the grave of Alexander Hamilton, in New York's Financial District.



The dining room at the Morris-Jumel Mansion in New York.



Photo shows the grave of Alexander Hamilton in the cemetery of Trinity Church, in New York's Financial District.

Historic sites connected to Alexander Hamilton are getting a lot more visitors than they used to, thanks to a little Broadway show you might have heard about. Fans of the musical "Hamilton," which won 11 Tony Awards Sunday, are hunting down every Hamilton spot they can think of, from his home in Harlem, to his burial site in Lower Manhattan, to Hamilton Park in Weehawken, New Jersey, near the dueling grounds where he was shot by Aaron Burr.

Kerissa Bearce, 25, an instructional technology coach from Fort Worth, Texas, visited all those sites and many more when she came to New York to see the show with two friends. "I pretty much don't remember anything about the founding of my country, but now I'm learning all of it," Bearce said. Bearce is among thousands of "Hamilton" fans boosting visitor numbers at historic sites that in the past were barely on tourists' radars. Hamilton Grange, his Harlem home and a National Park site, had as many visitors in the first five months of this year as it did in all of 2015 - more than 35,000 people. And that's a 75 percent increase over the 21,000 visitors who toured the Grange in 2014, the year before "Hamilton" opened.

They're questioning us

Artifacts at the site include a piano that Hamilton's daughter Angelica played. A replica of the instrument is featured in the show. But fans are also finding their way to more obscure spots, like the Schuyler-Hamilton House in Morristown, New Jersey, where Hamilton courted his wife Eliza. "We have 5-year-olds, 16-year-olds, 30-year-olds coming here now," said Pat Sanftner, who gives tours of the Schuyler-Hamilton House. "We did not have that audience in our museum before. We had 60-year-olds. It's wonderful to have these conversations now with visitors. We're not just teaching. They're questioning us and they're thinking."

Tourists have always visited Hamilton's tomb in the graveyard at Trinity Church in Lower Manhattan. But now, not only are more people paying their respects, but they're also looking for the graves of Hamilton's wife, sister-in-law, son and his buddy Hercules Mulligan. "Visitors also now leave flowers, stones, coins, notes, even a potted plant, at Hamilton's monument and on Eliza's stone just in front of it," said Trinity spokeswoman Lynn Goswick.

The show's star and creator, Lin-Manuel Miranda, wrote part of "Hamilton" at the Morris-Jumel Mansion in Manhattan's Washington Heights. The mansion's executive director Carol Ward estimates that half of their visitors now come because of the show. "We've been riding the wave," Ward said. "The show has gotten people interested in history in a completely new, fresh way."

The Morris-Jumel Mansion is known for a dinner party hosted there by President George Washington for his cabinet, attended by Hamilton, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. (A different dinner party depicted in the show's song "The Room Where It Happens" took place at Jefferson's residence, now marked with a plaque at 57 Maiden Lane in Lower Manhattan.) But the mansion has a Burr connection too: Burr married the rich widow

who owned the house. She later divorced Burr, and her lawyer was Hamilton's son.

Spring Street

A truly obscure spot on the Hamilton trail is a well where a woman's body was found in 1800, located in Manhattan's SoHo neighborhood. Hamilton and Burr defended the woman's lover against a murder charge, and while the well isn't mentioned in the musical, the trial is referenced in one song. That was enough to send Bearce and her friends looking for the well, now located inside the COS clothing store on Spring Street. "We were in pursuit of that well," said Bearce. Other pilgrimage sites include Hamilton statues in Central Park and at Columbia University. A sign outside 82 Jane St in Greenwich Village marks the site where Hamilton was taken to die after the duel left him mortally wounded.

Some destinations are advertising in the Broadway Playbill for "Hamilton," including the Caribbean island of Nevis, where Hamilton was born, and the Museum of American Finance on Wall Street, where Hamilton founded the Bank of New York. The museum has an Alexander Hamilton Room. The Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society (AHA) has been holding Hamilton celebrations since 2012, but bigger turnouts are expected this year for AHA's Celebrate Hamilton programs.

'I Love NY'

Events scheduled for July include the "Young Immigrant Hamilton Tour," July 7-8, in Elizabeth, New Jersey, where Hamilton attended prep school, and a July 7 talk about Hamilton as "Spymaster," focusing on his espionage work, at Fraunces Tavern in Lower Manhattan. The New-York Historical Society launches "Summer of Hamilton" July 4 with a variety of programs plus artifacts like the pamphlet admitting Hamilton's affair with Maria Reynolds. Hamilton items already on display at the society include a pair of statues depicting him and Burr facing off in the duel, along with replicas of their pistols.

The "I Love NY" tourism campaign is pitching sites from a "Path Through History" trail using lyrics from the show. For example, as Washington's "right-hand man," Hamilton was a guest at the Van Wyck Homestead in Fishkill, New York. Eliza's sister Angelica sings she's "always by your side" at Eliza's wedding to Hamilton at the Schuyler Mansion in Albany. And at the Dutchess County Courthouse in Poughkeepsie, Hamilton argued for ratification of the Constitution, as in, "We're making history." — AP



Photo shows The Grange, the home that Alexander Hamilton moved his family into in 1802 in the Harlem section of New York City.



File photo taken in the Schuyler-Hamilton House in Morristown, NJ, shows curator Patricia Sanftner holding pictures of Alexander Hamilton and his wife, Elizabeth Schuyler.

Studio 'Job Mad House'

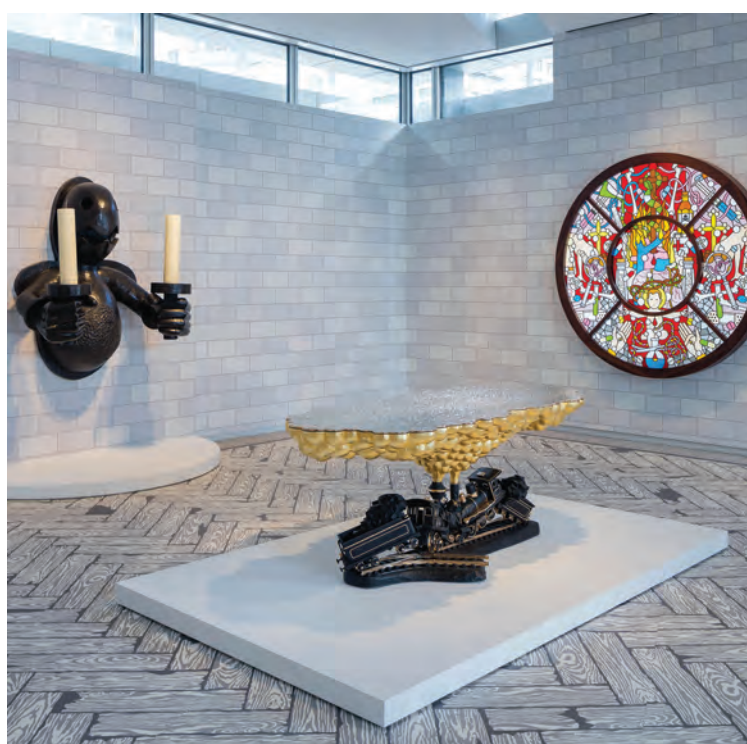
Studio 'Job Mad House' is the first American solo museum exhibition of the work of collaborators Job Smeets (Belgian, b 1970) and Nynke Tynagel (Dutch, b 1977), who established their atelier, Studio Job, in Antwerp in 2000. Since then, they have developed a distinctive body of highly expressive and opulent work, characterized by pattern, ornament, humor, and historical, sociocultural, and personal narrative.

Smeets and Tynagel draw inspiration from an itinerant education, traveling throughout Europe and studying important historical collections of art and decorative arts. Their commitment to craftsmanship reflects an ongoing interest in the revival of traditional applied arts practices, such as bronze casting, gilding, marquetry, stained glass, and faience, but with a contemporary approach. The atelier operates in the manner of an Old Master artist studio by engaging the skills of the most talented artisans in the production of their work.

The interdisciplinary nature of Studio Job's oeuvre makes it difficult to categorize. Their work is deliberately provocative and unconventional, giving them the reputation of enfants terribles of the art and design world.

This exhibition will feature a variety of media and forms, including art objects, furniture, sculpture, lighting, interiors, and wall and floor coverings in an immersive installation conceived by the artists uniquely for MAD. Studio 'Job Mad House' is organized by the Museum of Arts and Design's Marcia Docter Senior Curator, Ronald T Labaco, with Project Managers Riva Arnold and Angelik Vizcarrondo-Laboy.

Major support for Studio 'Job Mad House' is provided by Marian C Burke and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, the Official Airline of MAD. Additional support is generously provided by the Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York as part of the Dutch Culture USA program; Swarovski; Creative Industries Fund NL; Marcia and Richard Mishaan; Amy Gold and Brett Gorvy; and the Director's Circle and the International Council, two leading Museum support groups. MAD gratefully acknowledges the in-kind support of Carpenters Workshop Gallery, Exposize, NLXL, and Chamber-madmuseum.org



This undated installations view show part of the exhibit 'Studio Job Mad House' at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York. The museum is the first in the US to focus solely on the eye-popping works of Belgian art and design duo Studio Job and runs through August 21. — AP photos



People offer evening prayers at Jamia Mosque after breaking their fast during the Islamic month of Ramadan, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. Muslims across the world are observing the holy fasting month of Ramadan, when they refrain from eating, drinking and smoking from dawn to dusk. — AP

Ready to rumble: Asian pro wrestlers dream of stardom



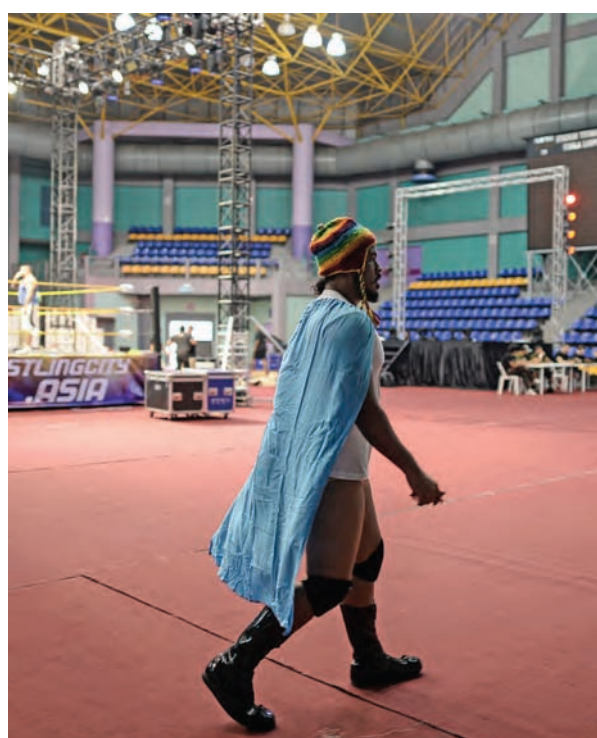
A pro wrestler whose ring name is 'Joker' applying hair spray before the Wrestling City Asia organized by Singapore Pro Wrestling at a stadium in Kuala Lumpur. — AFP photos



Kenneth Thexeira whose ring name is 'The Eurasian Dragon' working with his laptop at a hotel before the Wrestling City Asia organized by Singapore Pro Wrestling at a stadium in Kuala Lumpur.



Malaysia's Alydia Abdul Wahab, whose ring name is 'Scarlet Lyd' posing for pictures with her ring costume before the Wrestling City Asia organized by Singapore Pro Wrestling at a stadium in Kuala Lumpur.



Kenneth Thexeira whose ring name is "The Eurasian Dragon" walking before the Wrestling City Asia.

Kenneth Thexeira is a mild-mannered writer for an interior-design magazine by day, but on certain nights his alter ego bursts forth in golden tights and a baby-blue cape: Enter "The Eurasian Dragon." The 27-year-old Singaporean is part of a small but growing community of Southeast Asians who drop-kicks and body-slams in hopes of building a "pro wrestling" scene similar to the pretend battles of the US's World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE).

"To me, it is one of the most challenging mediums of live entertainment," said Thexeira, who got hooked as a kid in Singapore watching broadcasts of stars like "The Rock"—known today as Hollywood actor Dwayne Johnson. "The pressure, the high standards of fitness and showmanship required—it is an absolute rush. I love the rush. I love entertaining the fans," he adds. The American WWE spectacles, with their pre-determined outcomes, tongue-in-cheek "hero-vs-villain" storylines and acrobatic smackdowns, have had a modest Southeast Asian fan base since the 1980s.

While Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) and other true combat sports have taken off worldwide, including in Asia, WWE-style wrestling entertainment has largely failed to gain a regional foothold aside from an established circuit in Japan. But over the last four years, fledgling wrestling schools, national federations and amateurish tournaments have mushroomed, mainly in Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, allowing fans like Thexeira to leap from the bleachers and into the ring.

Jarring smackdowns

Thexeira, whose nickname references his Portuguese-

Chinese roots, is a jovial character who packs a beefy 98 kg (216 lbs) onto his 179-cm (5-foot, 10-inch) frame. One of the "good guys," he burst into a small Kuala Lumpur arena during a regional event last month with a wide grin and his trademark high-fives around the audience, as lights flashed and music blared. His scheduled bout soon degenerated into a rehearsed WWE-style free-for-all, in which Thexeira and some allies exchanged jarring smackdowns with adversaries including "King Michael" and "Bitman", drawing cheers and jeers from the small yet vocal audience of about 130 fans.

Attendance at locally-organized events is typically sparse. But a handful of recently formed associations in the region have begun cooperating on international tournaments like the Malaysia gathering, which also brought a few pro wrestlers from as far as Russia and the United States. Attendance has climbed into the hundreds at some of these events, say wrestlers, who hope more international gatherings can generate greater exposure. "A lot of people in Malaysia don't know there's professional wrestling in Malaysia, they don't know where to go," said Ayez Shaikat Fonseka, a wrestler who in 2014 founded Malaysia Pro Wrestling, the country's association.

Wrestlers and organizers, often one and the same under the movement's DIY ethic, hope to eventually land the big prize of a television broadcast deal, though none is yet in sight. "If everybody plays their cards right and there are people behind the scenes that really know what they're doing, the next big territory in pro wrestling is going to be Southeast Asia," said Sonjay Dutt, an Indian-American professional US wrestler who calls himself "The Playa from Himalaya."

'Like no other sport'

But much work remains, said Vadim Koryagin, a Russian who co-founded Singapore Pro Wrestling four years ago. "Even 'The Rock' wasn't 'The Rock' immediately. It took some time for him to really develop and produce his talent," he said. A few women in the region also are getting into the act. Malaysia's Alydia Abdul Wahab, whose ring name is "Scarlet Lyd", interrupted one of the Kuala Lumpur matches between two male competitors only to be lifted off her feet and slammed head-first into the mat.

A local media company employee, she dreams of stardom in the WWE. "Wrestling is different. It's like a performance unlike other sports, and I wanted to do something a normal girl wouldn't do," she said. Insiders said established Asian wrestlers can make between \$100-\$500 per match. But many do it largely to live out their ring fantasies, performing for little or no pay. Injuries are not uncommon despite the choreographed sequences.

Organizers and wrestlers are harnessing social media to reach fans by uploading videos of matches, the over-the-top trash talk, and "good vs bad" shtick, which sometimes bear a uniquely Southeast Asian flavor. Thexeira once shoved a durian—the pungent fruit popular in the region and which is encased in a painfully spiky shell—into an opponent's backside. "This is Southeast Asian wrestling. We all have our local spins on it," he said with a grin. — AFP



Professional wrestlers fighting each other during the Wrestling City Asia organized by Singapore Pro Wrestling at a stadium in Kuala Lumpur.



Malaysia's Alydia Abdul Wahab (left), whose ring name is 'Scarlet Lyd' and Singapore professional wrestler Greg Glorious (right), fighting during the Wrestling City Asia organized by Singapore Pro Wrestling.



Kenneth Thexeira whose ring name is "The Eurasian Dragon" (center) fighting during the Wrestling City Asia organized by Singapore Pro Wrestling.