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Kuwait Times Friday Times

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NO: 16907- Friday, June 17, 2016

The secret forest of Mahboula

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20 Russians thrown out of Euro 2016

46



Gunman raged against 'filthy ways of West'

10

Ramadan Timings

Emsak:	03:03
Fajer:	03:13
Shrooq:	04:48
Dohr:	11:49
Asr:	15:23
Maghreb:	18:49
Eshaa:	20:22

'FAMILY HOUSE' LINKS INMATES WITH FAMILIES

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Local Spotlight

ORLANDO MASSACRE



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

The United States saw the worst shooting incident in its history on Sunday, with 49 people killed at a gay nightclub after a gunman opened fire on them in Orlando in Florida. The perpetrator is a US citizen of Afghan origin. US President Barack Obama said the incident is considered the worst in the history of the United States, but as expected, terrorists, criminals and militants around the world, led by IS, are praising the crime and the killing of innocents.

US presidential candidate Donald Trump found the situation an excellent opportunity to launch an attack against Obama and garner more sympathy for himself. He is known for his extreme stance towards foreigners, especially Arabs and Muslims, so his reaction was no surprise. It is natural that there will be fears that the incident may affect the appetite of American Muslims to vote in the upcoming presidential election. Such crimes boost Trump's chances to win as a strongman who can stop all of this. I do not think so, but there are those who believe in such claims.

Every day terrorist attacks occur in different parts of the Middle East, but despite the condemnations and rejection of terrorism, it does not appear that there is real work to find out how to stop this carnage and find the roots of the problem. The war on terror has become an elastic term that being used by states without a specific framework, and with the spread of jihadist movements and increased terrorism risks, there is a need to adopt an integrated strategy.

There is a growing international consensus that counter-terrorism measures are not adequate to prevent the spread of violent extremism. After all, the recent crimes in the US were at the hands of US citizens with conservative ideas. I understand the feelings of the victims' families and their friends. It is a sad tragedy and loss, but for us Muslims, it damaged and tarnished our reputation in front of the world more than ever, and I completely understand the concerns of Muslim Americans.

In the Arab world, most states have amended terrorism laws to include movements and political groups, and some countries have even released lists of terrorist groups that include the Muslim Brotherhood. No one can deny that they are secure from the threat of terrorism and that it is no longer just a matter of precautionary procedures, especially since the Orlando crime was committed by a US citizen of Muslim background. The war on terrorism must extend to become a confrontation with extremist ideologies which can be transmitted through the media.

While I was preparing this article, I saw comments on Arab social media and was amazed at the level of ignorance at which this part of the world is falling to. There is obviously a lot of ignorance and backwardness in the Arab world, especially over the discussions and comments made about what the Orlando criminal did. I feel sorry for the level of ignorance seen here. No one seems concerned to discuss how we can eliminate such ideas on social media and the spread of extremist ideas among young people.

The crises of the Middle East and efforts to combat terrorism must be clearly surveyed and debated and consensus must be reached by UN agencies and leaders of all countries. The Orlando massacre will leave a dark and shameful mark in our memories.

Photos of the day



A scaled down model of the National Assembly made from wood. — Photo by KUNA/ Jaber Abd Al-Khalek

In My View

BUS OR TAXI?

By Ramona Crasto

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Commuting alone is every teen's dream. Be it to any place or any part of the city for the first time. This excitement dawned on me when I had to go to work on the first day of my job. All set and ready with a big smile I walk towards the door to leave home and there she is standing like a body guard...my mom! It's 2016. Women have made strides in politics, in business, in tech, in culture. I can go on my own. Yet, she had to accompany me.

"How will you go alone, you don't even know the route?" she said. Mom definitely had a point and this continued for a whole week. I wondered why she did that, doesn't she trust me? Am I so careless to get lost? Then it struck me, silly girl.. you are a GIRL! And she is just concerned. Isn't it obvious for parents to act this way, but they cannot be there all the time. So I started travelling alone. I started commuting by the bus. I know what you are thinking...why a bus and not a taxi! Here are my personal pros and cons.

Visiting Kuwait after years has certainly changed many things here. I have forgotten the routes and of course it's my first time without any company. Taking a taxi, is a little crazy for me. It's only you and the driver and one can get lost or be fooled easily if taken to a wrong location. Scary, isn't it? Especially after sunset. Well, this feeling hits me hard every time I think about catching a cab. Just imagine yourself alone not knowing the background of the driver.

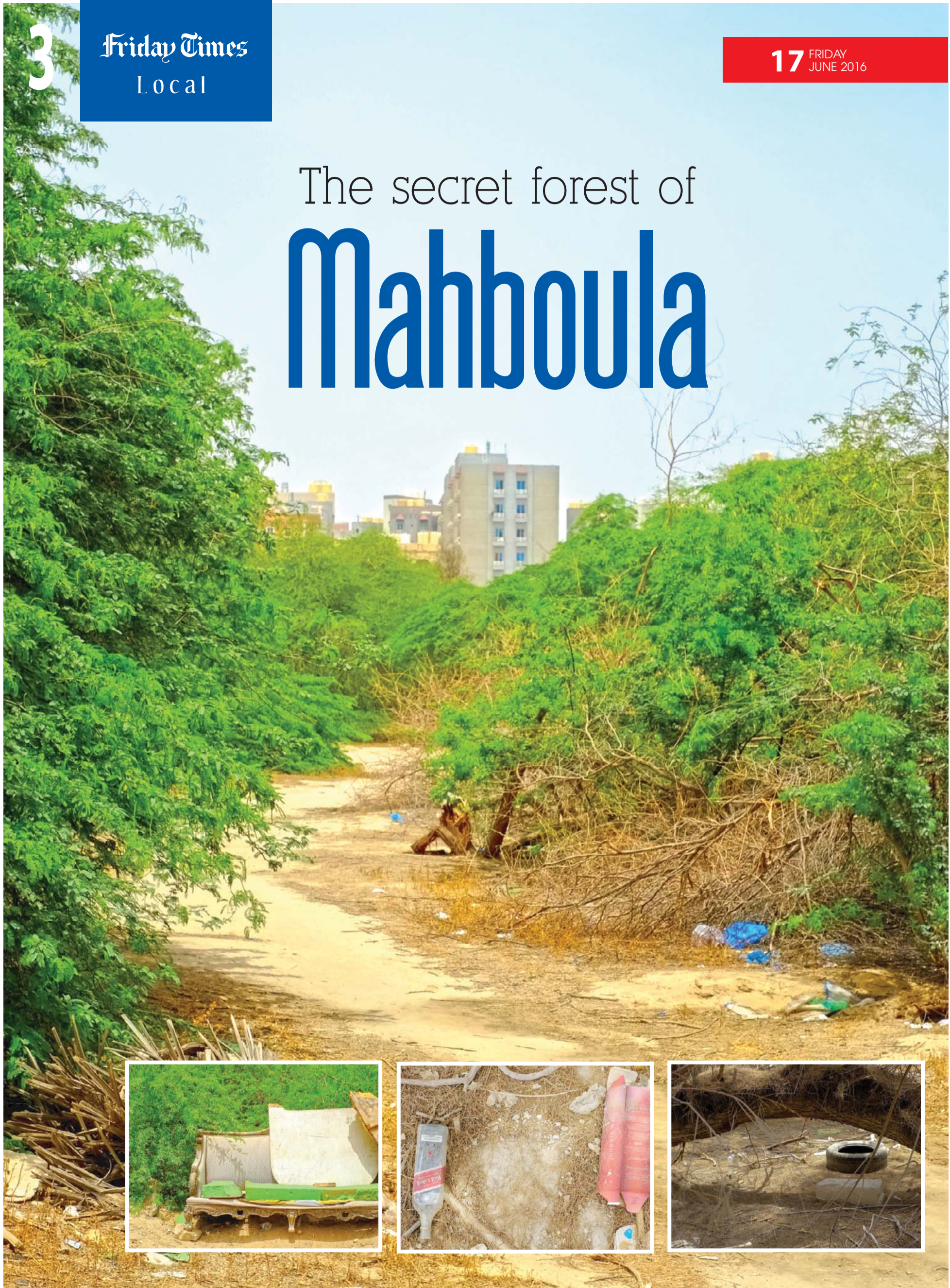
Now I might be wrong but to overcome this feeling it is going to take a while, I guess. On the other side, taxis are fluster free. You can sit comfortably without the stink of the sweat that usually surrounds you while traveling by bus.

Crowded places sometimes make you feel safe, so does the bus. I feel a little safer, being accompanied by people though unknown because if something goes wrong, one out of 10 may help you. You pay less and reach on time. Sometimes it gets really awkward when I am the only female in the whole bus. Women are born with that fear and panic that runs through them during such situations...I feel nauseated at such times. So to escape that feeling, I call my parents or a friend and talk until I reach my destination.

This cannot be done every time so I switch over to music but am alert at the same time, so that I don't miss my stop. The cost is comparatively less and for frequent travelers buses are more reliable. One hears very rare complaints about the buses while the taxis charge you a lot and bargaining with them is another hassle when you are in a hurry.

Commuting is fun and frustrating at the same time. In this heat, especially in Kuwait which seems to be much closer to the sun during the summer, waiting for a bus is just like pre heating yourself in an oven. The whole point is that whether a bus or a taxi, you should feel safe going to work.

The secret forest of Mahboula





People play sports and hang out with friends, notwithstanding the rubbish and construction waste due to a lack of open public spaces.



Ramadan Quiz 2016

الإتihad
ETIHAD AIRWAYS
ABU DHABI

LuLu HYPERMARKET

Ruby Tuesday
Gift Voucher

Ruby Tuesday
Gift Voucher

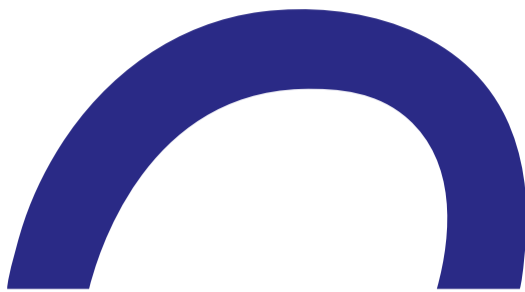
Answer & Win Fabulous Prizes

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

2016/76 ع-ب

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<p>Kuwait Times Ramadan Quiz Answer & Win</p>	<p>Kuwait Times Ramadan Quiz Answer & Win</p>
<p>11. How many months are there in the Islamic calendar? 12 months.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>Date: _____</p>
<p>12. In Arabic history, what is the name of year when our Beloved Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam) was born? The year of the elephant (Am al-Feel) in Rabea Al-Awal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Civil ID.: _____</p> <p>Tel: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>



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17 FRIDAY
JUNE 2016

Story and images by Athoob Al-Shuaibi

The green and open spaces of Mahboula seem to have turned into an illegal landfill. All over the area garbage is being dumped without the slightest sense of responsibility towards this country or possible damage to the natural environment. In older times, locals used to picnic in the tree-filled areas around Mahboula and Fintas, which were famous for their beauty and greenery in arid Kuwait. But now much of the area is covered with trash, discarded furniture and other throwaway items.

Some people are still aware of the beauty and value of this place. In a clearing in Mahboula - which is located near oil refineries - hundreds of trees still stand, despite the rigors of the harsh climate.

People play sports and hang out with friends, notwithstanding the rubbish and construction waste due to a lack of open public spaces. A large group of oil sector employees come here to play volleyball, their favorite game, and meet people. Most of them are Nepalese. They say that they need to play on their day off because sport has always been a great way to get rid of work pressure and raise their productivity levels.

Before sunset, one can find buses of oil companies dropping workers near their homes, which indicates that the area is largely inhabited by those who work there. Mahboula has been witnessing a construction boom in the past three years to house more workers after the announcement of many projects by the Kuwait Oil Company and the government.



The remaining trees will soon be uprooted to be replaced by commercial and residential buildings. It will take a miracle to stop this concrete tide and preserve this land and convert it into a public park. Some pressure groups have been demanding preservation of open public spaces and historic buildings in Kuwait City. So where are they now, when it comes to the outer districts? Why don't they bring their candlelight vigils and banners to protest against the slow death of these trees?





Seagulls fly on seashore at sunset as Kuwait temperature soars to above 46 degree Celsius. — KUNA

News

in brief

CMA launches its e-portal to provide better services

KUWAIT: Capital Markets Authority (CMA) has announced the official launching of its electronic portal to provide an easy access for its services. In a press statement, CMA pointed out that the electronic portal aims at simplifying procedures and enhancing CMA services for its clients. The electronic portal is designed in accordance to international standards, it added. Capital Markets Authority was established in 2010; its main objectives are to regulate activities in a fair, transparent and efficient manner, grow the capital markets, and diversify and develop investment instruments thereof in accordance with best international practice and enhance investor protection.

Kuwait suspends Americana shares after talks revived

KUWAIT: The Kuwait stock exchange said yesterday that it was suspending shares in Kuwait Food Co (Americana) pending clarification of a media report. Reuters reported on Wednesday, quoting sources familiar with the matter, that Americana was back in talks to sell a majority stake to a group of Gulf investors, Adeptio, just days after negotiations collapsed over valuation issues. Americana, Adeptio and Americana's top shareholder did not respond to requests for comment.

KISR obtains US patent for floating breakwater

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) said it has won a US patent for inventing a new type of floating breakwaters aiming at preventing breaches from washing away. The invention is primarily intended to protect the beaches of the countries which are lacking in high-quality rock resources, including the State of Kuwait, the KISR said in a press release. A working team of the KISR has worked for three years to reach a new sort of floating breakwaters, it added. The invented breakwaters will be used in the protection of coastal areas from wave erosion and oil facilities from relevant direct effects, and in the facilitation of marine construction works, according to the release.

ABSCONDER CAUGHT

KUWAIT: An Indian man, who has been absconding for seven years, was arrested by Ahmadi police in Mina Abdallah area, and was sent to concerned authorities for legal action. A police patrol suspected the man when he saw the patrol and started acting confused, so he was asked for his civil ID. The man claimed not to have any, so he was arrested and taken to the area police station. A security source said the Indian, during interrogation, asked a friend to bring his expired passport, and he was found wanted on a seven year old absconding case.

Husband beats wife

A citizen in her 40s accused her husband of beating her hard then kicked her out of the house over a domestic dispute. She lodged a complaint against him at Mubarak Al-Kabeer police station.

The citizen gave police a medical report from Mubarak hospital stating she suffered bruises and grazes, and she said they were caused by her husband. Investigations are underway.

Citizens brawl in Qairawan

Security men broke up a fight between two citizens in Qairawan area over a car accident. Both sides were taken to the police station and charged with exchanging blows and referred for questioning.

Liquor traders busted

Weapons detectives arrested a soldier and a bedoon who sells liquor, as both had unlicensed weapons and ammunition. Both were sent to concerned authorities. The arrest was made following a tip off. The soldier was arrested in

his Salwa house and detectives found an AK-47 and a pistol, both unlicensed. The second suspect was arrested in Salwa as a pistol and liquor were found with him. Both were sent to concerned authorities.

Youth stabbed

A juvenile was taken to Adan hospital for treatment of a deep wound in his shoulder due to a stab, but he refused to file a complaint, because the suspect is his elder brother, and the stab was by mistake. Police recovered the knife.

Two drunks arrested

Horse mounted police arrested two Nepalese in the surrounding of Saad Al-Abdallah academy, and both were suspected of being under the influence of alcohol. They were sent to criminal evidence.

GCC CUSTOMS UNION MULLS UPGRADING ITS GUIDELINES

RIYADH: Heads of the customs departments of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states met on Wednesday to discuss the guidelines for common procedures to be implemented at their departments. The conferees reviewed the draft amendments to the single customs law and its executive statutes raised by the GCC committee on customs law, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

They also dealt with the operating mechanism of the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) regarding cooperation among the GCC customs authorities in implementing the technical regulations on imported commodities.

The conferees discussed the outcomes of the visits of a GCC team to the model customs outlets and the plans for applying the regulations of these outlets on the rest of outlets. The meeting was attended by GCC Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs Abdullah Al-Shibli. — KUNA

KUWAITI AND EGYPTIANS ARRESTED FOR FORGERY

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Residency detectives have arrested a citizen and two Egyptians for forging bank documents and stealing public funds. Manpower Public Authority received information about a company that won a tender from the Ministry - and part of the conditions is to employ Kuwaiti female security officers. The women were forced to open accounts in a bank, and the company took their ATM cards. The company deposited their salaries in the bank and do withdraw money immediately. Assistant Undersecretary for Nationality and Passports Affairs Maj Gen sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah ordered the arrest of the suspects. The company manager and accountant, both Egyptian were arrested and they confessed to forcing the female employees to sign bogus receipts to prove to the MPA that they receive their salaries. The company owner was also summoned.



Representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and other top officials visit the Kuwait Disabled Sport Club.

AMIR'S REPRESENTATIVE VISITS KDSC

KUWAIT: Representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, accompanied by deputy chief of the National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Wednesday visited Kuwait Disabled Sport Club (KDSC) on the occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Upon arrival, the delegation was received by Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Chairman and Director General of Public Authority for Sport Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and KDSC's Chairman Shafi Al-Hajri. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf lauded KDSC's efforts and the various sport awards, championships, and achievements that were attained by the Club's members in regional and international competitions, reiterating Kuwait's keenness on facilitating all ways and providing all support to the disabled in Kuwait.

His Highness Sheikh Nawaf also congratulated the KDSC members on the holy month

of Ramadan, expressing his best wishes for them. Later, the KDSC Chairman delivered a speech - welcoming His Highness the Amir's representative and accompanying visitors. KSCD members then presented a memorial gift to the Representative of His Highness the Amir. The Amiri delegation included Amiri Diwan Affairs Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Director General of His Highness the Amiri Office Ahmad Fahad Al-Fahad, Head of the Protocols and Honorary Missions Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Diwan Undersecretary Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Al-Sabah, and Head of the Amiri Diwan Information and Culture Affairs Yusuf Al-Roumi.

Ismail Isa Karam, board chairman of Kuwait Sport Club for the Deaf, expressed, on behalf of the staff and members of the club, the best wishes and Ramadan greetings for His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He extolled His Highness the

Amir - the Humanitarian Leader, for maintaining "this good tradition" of delegating His Highness the Crown Prince to visit the club at "this blessed night of holy Ramadan." "We consider this annual visit a feast for the deaf that, together with the inspiring instructions of His Highness the Amir, guides us forward," Karam added.

Concluding his speech, he asked for allocating the old premise of club in Al-Faihaa neighborhood for the activities of the female members of the club. The poet Saad Mohammad Al-Kandari read a poem of praise for His Highness the Amir. Similarly, other speakers, including Shafi Al-Hajeri, welcomed the visit of the Representative of His Highness the Amir and promised to do more for integrating the persons with special needs into the society. They recalled the KSCD winning of a Gulf award for excellence in social responsibility on the regional level, saying that this achievement signals that Kuwait is a global center for humanitarian action, peace, love and coexistence. — KUNA



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is honored during his visit to Kuwait Disabled Sport Club. — KUNA Photos

KUWAIT PROMOTES THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

NEW YORK: Kuwait has reiterated its full commitment to the implementation of the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. Kuwait also affirmed continuous efforts to enhance these disabled people's rights and better integrate them in the society to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals within the framework of the Kuwait 2035 Vision towards persons with disability. This came in a statement delivered late Wednesday by Member of the Higher Council of the Public Authority for People with Special Needs Affairs Rehab Bouresli during the 9th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) that kicked off on Tuesday.

The State of Kuwait began adopting the goals of sustainable development pertaining to the disability that announced by the UN last September in the domains of health, education and the economy with the societal partnership between the government sectors and civil society organizations, she said. She added that Kuwait is seeking to promote equality in all social, political, civil and economic rights to enhance the rights of persons with disabilities in general, and



Rehab Bouresli

those with intellectual disabilities in particular. In an unprecedented move on international level, the Kuwaiti parliament received persons with disabilities for the 11th year in a row to discuss their issues and follow up the activation of the international convention in this regard, she noted. She said Kuwait has been exerting efforts to boost rights of disabled persons through integrating their issues in all national and regional policies and strategies. Bouresli pointed out that a special Gulf forum will be held next March to mull in details relevant issues related to services offered to people with special needs. — KUNA

CROWN PRINCE VISITS KBA

KUWAIT: The representative of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, accompanied by deputy chief of the National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Wednesday visited the Kuwait Blind Association (KBA) on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan.



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah chat with a boy during his visit to the Kuwait Blind Association. — KUNA

His Highness the Crown Prince was received by Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Acting Minister of Social Affairs and Minister of State for Planning and Development Affairs Yasser Hassan Abul. His Highness the Crown Prince reiterated Kuwaiti institutions' keenness on providing all services and care for blind sons and daughters, and helping them over challenges obstructing their goals. Chairman of KBA Faiz Al-Azmi welcomed, in a speech, His Highness the Crown Prince, and stated the association's achievements, activities and programs provided to members. He expressed pride of the association for this visit which happens every year, saying it of a huge importance to the association. A film which contains letters of thanks to His Highness the Amir was showcased. During the ceremony, a souvenir was granted to His Highness the Crown Prince on this occasion. His Highness the Crown Prince was also accompanied by Minister of Amir Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director General of His Highness the Amir's Office Ahmad Fahad Al-Fahad, Head of the Protocols and Honorary Missions Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Diwan Undersecretary Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Al-Sabah and Head of the Amiri Diwan Information and Culture Affairs Yusuf Al-Roumi. — KUNA

SHEIKH ABDULLAH MUBARAK GLORIFIED IN A BOOK

KUWAIT: "Abdullah Mubarak Al-Sabah - The Transformation of Kuwait" authored by Dr Souad M Al-Sabah was issued in the English language to celebrate the anniversary of this Sheikh who was one of the most significant figures of Kuwait and who led the Gulf state to modernity. Sheikh Abdullah Mubarak Al-Sabah was largely responsible for the creation of Kuwaiti defense forces and made it priority to see Kuwait national interest in the face of the British, American and Iranian pressures during crucial period of change.

"The inspiration for this book came to my mind in the aftermath of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990," Dr Souad Al-Sabah wrote in her preface to the book, which is published by "I B Taurbis". "The ordeal left a lasting impact on my thinking. It brought home to me the importance of documenting the modern history of my country, which I felt as a sort of moral and ethical duty. I was an insider to many events that I thought should be brought to light," she added.

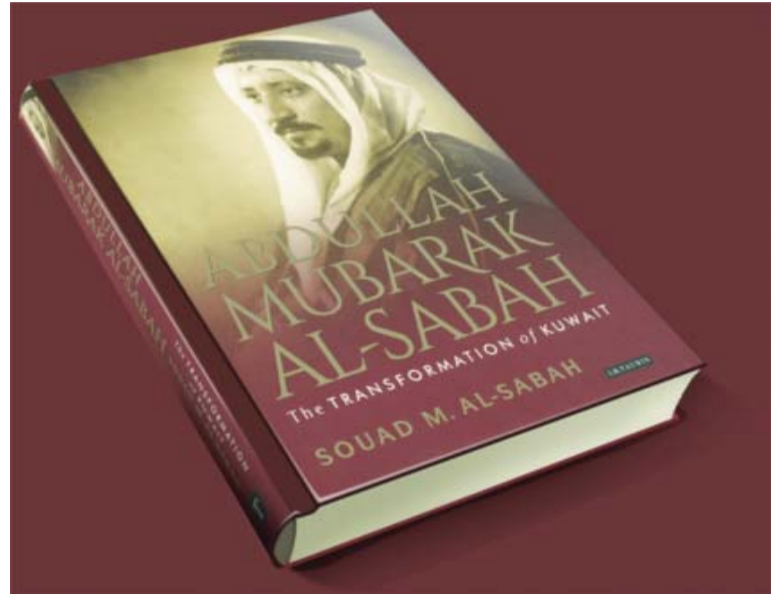
She pointed out that "this book is not a compilation of personal memories and recollections. I stud-

ied carefully almost all previous works in Arabic and English on Kuwait during the lifetime of sheikh Abdullah Mubarak Al-Sabah and I interviewed a lot of people who worked with him or served under his command." Dr Souad Al-Sabah researched British, American, and Kuwaiti archives to compile the facts in this book. The book focuses on the life and history of sheikh Abdullah Mubarak Al-Sabah, who was a prominent Kuwaiti statesman. He served as Deputy Ruler of Kuwait during most of the 1950s until his resignation in 1961.

These times were characterized by rapid social change; a traditional society was shaken from its roots under the impact of the newly founded oil wealth-and during that decade. The book analyses the role of Abdullah's quality of leadership makes a difference, especially in times of turmoil and uncertainty. "I have tried to underline the role of the sheikh in dealing with the accelerated changes that swept Kuwait in all walks of life during that period. At times he initiated the changes, and at others he steered Kuwait and its people into a safe haven," Souad Al-Sabah continued saying in her preface.

Strength of his role

The strength of his role stemmed from three major sources: first, he enjoyed distinguished status within the ruling Al-Sabah family - he was the only living son of Sheikh Mubarak the Great (Mubarak Al-Kabir), the founder of the state (reigned 1896-1915). Thus, he was "uncle" of all rulers and dignitaries of Kuwait from 1915 onwards. Second, over the years, Sheikh Abdullah was trained in different administrative, security and political positions. When he was 14 years old he was tasked with administering one of the "gates" of Kuwait. At that time Kuwait was surrounded by a number of gates that were kept open during daylight and closed by night. Sheikh Abdullah Mubarak fought smuggling, protected the borders and preserved law and order. The book records many details about his role and responsibilities. Third, in the 1950s, he assumed the position of Deputy Ruler and developed excellent working relations with the ruling Sheikh for home he acted as trusted right-hand man. Although Sheikh Abdullah Mubarak grew up in the desert and maintained great respect for Bedouin culture and traditions, he understood the need for



Abdullah Mubarak Al-Sabah - 'The Transformation of Kuwait' by Dr Souad M. Al-Sabah

change. This book demonstrates how he was a pioneer in accepting new ideas and ways of doing things. He spoke out to encourage girls' education and initiated plans to establish a Kuwaiti university. He encouraged young people to enjoy modern

sports. Sheikh Abdullah Mubarak built institutions in which the book states in great details how he had a role the fields of security, army, civil aviation, education, broadcasting and non-governmental associations.—KUNA



First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

KFAED IS 'APT CONDUIT BETWEEN KUWAIT AND THE REST OF WORLD'

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) plays a pivotal role in growing the nation's overseas investments and cementing its relations with world countries, said First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Speaking at a National Assembly session in his capacity as KFAED's chairman of the board, and addressing the session's discussion of KFAED's budget, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled touted the work of the Fund which, he noted, has spiked its initial starting budget from KD 970 to five billion Kuwaiti dinars currently.

Rebuffing charges by the lawmakers of the Fund's lack of performance over the years, he said the Fund has performed well, having "garnered a solid reputation in 105 countries on all the continents of the world." He cited the fact that the Fund "has given 900 loans with a total value of 19 billion Kuwaiti dinars over the past 55 years in its existence." He nixed the idea of allowing the parliamentary committee on budgets and final accounts open monitoring offices in countries where the Fund is carrying out its investments. He showed the government's readiness to work with the lawmakers on improving whatever they feel should be done to bolster the Fund's overall mission and performance. — KUNA

MOI LAUNCHES 'FAMILY HOUSE' FOR INMATES

A HUMANITARIAN, CORRECTIONAL GESTURE

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior has launched a considerable plan primarily aiming at maintaining social and family links and easing out the psychological pain of prison inmates. The Ministry's scheme, dubbed as "Family House", is part of the humanitarian attitude pursued by the Humanitarian Leader, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

By adopting this correctional and humanitarian initiative, the ministry seeks to link inmates with their families and society and to encourage them to exercise appropriate behaviors and to soften their feelings of social isolation. The "Family House" is compliant with the principles of the tolerant Islamic Sharia', international values, charters and conventions, and world agencies' recommendations for inmate human

rights. The scheme provides prison residential units with full living and entertainment services for inmates to spend up to 72 hours with their spouses, children, parents, brothers and sisters. However, inmates can gain access to this new scheme only should they commit themselves to good behaviors, discipline and regulations. Run by an integrated team of academics, social workers and psychiatrists, the fresh prison system is intended to provide appropriate rehabilitation and correction to all inmates so that they could effectively contribute to societal development.

In this context, Assistant Undersecretary for Correctional Institutions and Prisons at the Ministry of Interior Major-General Khalid Al-Deen said the "Family House" mainly aimed at the rehabilitation and correction of

inmates so that they could become good individuals who can serve their own society. Speaking to KUNA, he said over 3,000 inmates in Kuwaiti prisons, including 130 females, can enjoy new prison services purposed to maintain inmates' family and social links in appropriate residential units. He added that this scheme would certainly provide inmates with an atmosphere of psychological and social reassurance and stability just as part of correction measures.

The senior security official went on to say that the plan would also spur inmates to improve their behaviors, give up past negativities, observe prison instructions and join various correctional programs involving vocational, educational, cultural and religious ones. Also speaking to KUNA, Dr Khaled Al-Atrash, a family expert and psychiatrist, said that inmates should not be subject to social isolation since serving prison terms should be meant to rehabilitate them and groom them for better future.

He said that in this regard, the "Family House" is a good step in the right direction for maintaining inmates' social and family links and relationships. Asked about this experiment, a number of inmates hailed the initiative as giving them the hope to get back to the right path and to re-communicate with their family members in a healthy atmosphere aiming at alleviating their imprisonment woes and sufferings. They appreciated the Ministry of Interior's scheme as having great psychological and social reflections on their prison lives. — KUNA



Photo shows the 'Family House'

Friday Times

International

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2016

Can Italy's clown-led party run the circus?

13



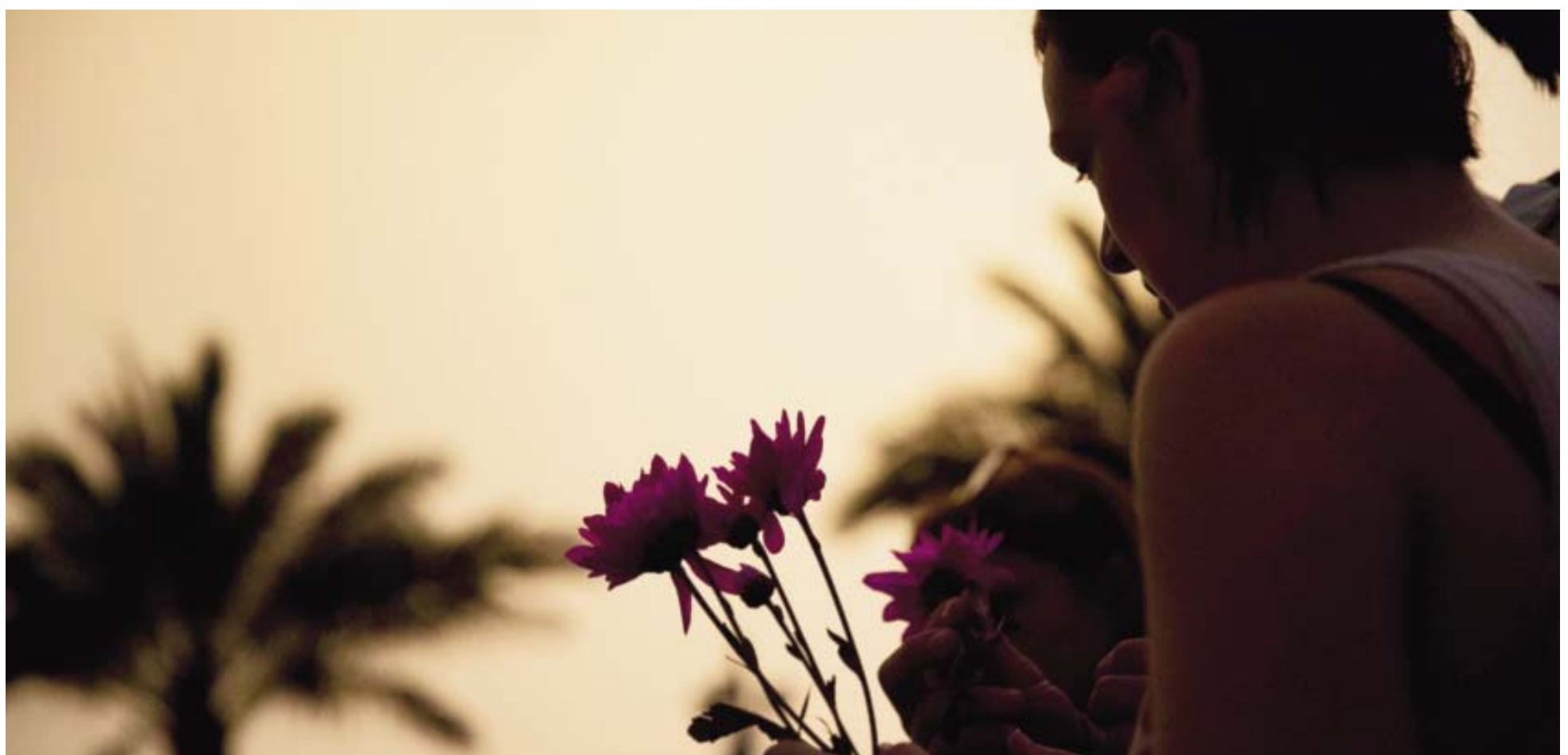
CIA chief: IS working to send operatives to the West

14



Bangladesh police arrest suspect in attack on publisher

16



ORLANDO: Kathleen Kerr, of Orlando, Florida, holds flowers before placing them down at a makeshift memorial for the victims of the mass shooting at the Pulse Orlando nightclub on Tuesday.—AP

ORLANDO GUNMAN RAGED AGAINST 'FILTHY WAYS OF THE WEST' BLAMING THE US FOR THE DEATHS OF 'INNOCENT WOMEN AND CHILDREN'

ORLANDO: Orlando gunman Omar Mateen apparently made a series of Facebook posts and searches before and during his attack on a gay nightclub, raging against the "filthy ways of the west" and blaming the US for the deaths of "innocent women and children," according to a Senate committee letter released Wednesday. The killer whose rampage left 49 people dead also searched for "Pulse Orlando" and "Shooting" online on the morning of the carnage Sunday and said on Facebook: "America and Russia stop bombing the Islamic state," according to the letter.

Homeland Security

The Senate Homeland Security Committee sent the letter to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, asking the company to produce information on Mateen's online activity and to provide a briefing to the panel. The letter illuminating Mateen's state of mind in the final hours of his life was released as the long, sad procession of memorials and funerals for the victims

began in Orlando and as the FBI appealed for the public's help in reconstructing the killer's movements. The FBI is also trying to establish how much Mateen's wife may have known about the attack at Pulse dance club. "We need your help in developing the most complete picture of what he did and why he did it," FBI agent Ron Hopper said at a news conference. In its letter, the committee said staffers have learned that five Facebook accounts were associated with the 29-year-old American-born Muslim.

"The real muslims will never accept the filthy ways of the west," Mateen wrote, according to the letter from committee chairman Sen. Ron Johnson, a Wisconsin Republican. Johnson did not say how he learned of the posts other than to cite "information obtained by my staff."

As he did in his call to a 911 operator during the massacre, Mateen pledged his allegiance on Facebook to the leader of the Islamic State and, in his final post, warned:

"In the next few days you will see attacks from the Islamic state in the USA."

A person familiar with the situation who is not authorized to speak publicly, said the posts came moments before the attack began. Despite his professed loyalty to the extremist group, the Obama administration has said it has seen no evidence that the shooting rampage was directed by the Islamic State. A spokesman for the FBI did not immediately return a call for comment Wednesday evening, and Facebook had no immediate comment.

Mateen's Activities

The three-hour rampage began at 2 a.m. Sunday and ended with Mateen being killed by a police SWAT team. The FBI said it is still gathering evidence at the Pulse and analyzing cellphone location data to piece together Mateen's activities leading up to the massacre, while also interviewing people who had any dealings with him.

On Saturday night, hours before the ram-

page, Mateen visited Disney Springs, an outdoor restaurant, retail and entertainment complex at Walt Disney World, an official who was briefed on the case but insisted on anonymity to discuss the continuing investigation told The Associated Press. The official said it is not clear what Mateen was up to. Meanwhile, drag queens and motorcyclists turned out to pay their respects at an evening visitation at a funeral parlor for Javier Jorge-Reyes, a 40-year-old salesman and makeup artist.

Members of the SWAT team underwent a stress-management debriefing Wednesday, as hundreds of others involved in the response to the shooting have done, Orlando Police Chief John Mina said. Further counseling is being made available.

"These are some of the bravest toughest men I know," Mina said. "No one can prepare you for what those officers encountered that night. They stood toe-to-toe and went face-to-face with a mass murderer, and I'm extremely proud of that."—AP



TEL AVIV: Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman eats a meal as he visits the restaurant targeted during a shooting attack the previous night at a shopping complex in Tel Aviv on June 9, 2016. — AFP

ISRAEL'S NEW HARDLINE DEFENSE MINISTER TO VISIT US

JERUSALEM: Israel's new Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman is to visit the United States this weekend for talks with his US counterpart, his office said yesterday, after Washington raised concerns over the hardliner's appointment.

Lieberman's trip will be his first abroad since being sworn in on May 30, though he is familiar to US officials from an earlier stint as foreign minister. It comes with the United States and Israel in the process of negotiating a new 10-year defense aid pact to replace the current one, which expires in 2018 and grants the Jewish state more than \$3 billion per year.

Lieberman leaves on Saturday and is set to meet US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter on Monday. He will also attend a ceremony in Dallas next Wednesday marking the development of US defense firm Lockheed Martin's F-35 fighter jet, which Israel is purchasing, and tour a factory of Israeli weapons manufacturer Elbit Systems. Israel is to take delivery of its first two F-35s in December. Following Lieberman's nomination, US State Department spokesman Mark Toner, in a rare comment on Israeli internal politics, said the Jewish state's new ruling coalition raised "legitimate questions" over Israel's commitment to a two-state solution in its conflict with the Palestinians.

Lieberman's appointment tilted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet, already seen as among the most right wing in Israeli history, even further to the right. He has in the past spoken of harsh measures against Palestinian "terrorists".

Both Netanyahu and Lieberman have however sought to allay concerns over the appointment, saying they are committed to peace and the two-state solution. Netanyahu himself has also had a rocky relationship with US President Barack Obama's administration, but the two leaders have sought to move past their disagreements in recent months and negotiate the new defense deal. —AFP

REVOLUTIONARY GUARD, KURDISH INSURGENTS BATTLE IN IRAN

BAGHDAD: Iran's Revolutionary Guard has battled armed members of an insurgent Kurdish group, leading to fatalities. A report yesterday by Iran's semi-official Fars news agency quoted Gen. Mohammad Pakpour, the chief of the Guard's ground forces, as saying the clashes happened Wednesday near Oshnavieh, a predominantly Kurdish town in Iran's West Azerbaijan province near its border with Iraq and Turkey.

Pakpour did not identify the insurgents. However, Mohammed Nazif Qadiri, a member of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, told The Associated Press that the fighters belonged to his organization. Both sides gave conflicting death tolls from the fighting. Pakpour said the Guard killed 12 insurgents while three of its members died. — AP

FEDERAL PLAN FOR SYRIA ADVANCES WITH US-BACKED FORCES

A NEW FEDERAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

BEIRUT: As an alliance of US-backed militias advance against Islamic State in northern Syria, their political allies are making progress of their own towards a new federal system of government which they hope will take root in newly captured areas.

The autonomous federation being planned by Syrian Kurdish parties and their allies is taking shape fast: a constitution should be finalized in three months, and possibly sooner, to be followed quickly by elections, a Kurdish official said. While Kurdish groups insist this is no separatist bid, it is set to redraw the map as UN diplomacy fails to make any progress towards ending the war that has splintered Syria into a patchwork of separately-run areas.

In so doing, it is likely to deepen the concerns of NATO member Turkey about growing Kurdish influence in northern Syria, a region whose once unfamiliar Kurdish name - Rojava - has now entered the Middle East's political lexicon. The plan had taken on even greater significance since the Syria Democratic Forces alliance, which is spearheaded by the Kurdish YPG militia, mounted a rapid new advance westwards this month into Islamic State's last foothold at the Turkish border. It holds out the prospect of more areas being included in the federation, plans for which were first unveiled in March. The idea of newly-captured territory joining the "Democratic Federal System for Rojava - Northern Syria" was discussed last week with members of a local council set up to run the IS-held city of Manbij, a target of the campaign. "We gave them an idea about the plan we are working on, and expressed to them our desire for Manbij to be part of the democratic federal area after its liberation," said Hadiya Yousef, a senior Kurdish official who is co-chair of an assembly that is overseeing the project.

"There was an optimistic view towards the matter. They liked the plan," she told Reuters in an interview. But she added that given the temporary nature

of the council, any decision would have to be taken later on by a more permanent one. An official with the Manbij city council, who declined to be named, told Reuters they expected the federal system to be tabled to them but they were not authorised to make such a decision. It would be up to the expanded council to be formed at a later date to decide on such matters, the official in the council's media office said.

Kurds are scattered in Turkey, Syria, Iran, and Iraq, where the Kurdistan Regional Government represents the closest the Kurds have come to a state of their own.

YPG firepower and influence

The political federation for northern Syria builds on three self-ruled regions carved out by the YPG since Syria descended into conflict in 2011 in an uprising to topple President Bashar al-Assad. It has already grown, expanding last year to include the town of Tel Abyad that was captured from Islamic State by the YPG in October.

The YPG has been the most effective partner for the United States against Islamic State in Syria. Yet Turkey views it as a terrorist group due to its ties to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which is waging an insurgency in southeast Turkey. The SDF's establishment last year resulted in Arab militias formally joining the YPG in the US-backed campaign against IS - an important consideration as they push into areas that are majority Arab.

But while the YPG has publicly take a back seat, analysts say it still wields the most firepower and influence. Syrian Kurdish groups have made no secret of their aim to link up their two autonomous regions, or cantons, in northeastern Syria with one further west - Afrin. All that's preventing them is the 80 km stretch of territory at the Turkish border held by IS near Manbij and further west by Turkey-backed rebel groups that are hostile to the YPG. The Kurdish politicians at the heart of the

effort say it will safeguard the rights of all ethnic groups, allowing communities to govern themselves and serving as a model for an eventual solution to the Syrian war. But it has encountered broad opposition, including the United States, the Syrian government in Damascus, and the Syrian opposition to Assad.

No agreement yet on flag

Yousef said meetings had been held in the United States, Russia and Europe to explain the plan, and to assure them that the aim was not to establish an independent state. Letters had also been sent directly to US President Barack Obama and the UN envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, who left the main Syrian Kurdish political party, the PYD, out of peace talks earlier this year in line with Turkey's wishes.

"We expect acceptance of this plan and we are working to win international, domestic, and regional support," Yousef said. Speaking by telephone from Syria, she said the constitution to be known as "the social contract" was nearly complete. Any area wishing to join the federal system would have to agree to this contract, whose features include equal rights for women that will guarantee joint leadership of all administrative bodies - and a form of socialist economy. Pending issues included the design of a new flag to be flown alongside the Syrian flag, the location of the main legislative council - to be known as the Peoples' Conference - and the administrative borders of areas in the new system.

"Within three months we should have finished all preparations and frameworks for the social contract," she said. Once approved by the 151-member assembly which Yousef co-chairs, preparations will start for elections to take place three months later.

They have yet to decide which will be held first - elections for the Peoples' Conference or to regional assemblies. "The entire process will take six months and perhaps less," she said.

BAHRAIN JAILS 8 SHIITES, REVOKES NATIONALITY

DUBAI: A Bahraini court yesterday sentenced eight Shiites to 15-year jail terms for forming a "terror" group, as the authorities crack down on opposition in the Sunni-ruled kingdom, a judicial source said.

The criminal court also stripped the defendants of their citizenship after convicting them of "establishing and raising donations to fund a terror organization named Bahraini Hezbollah", the source said, citing the verdict. The group's name appears to link it to Lebanon's powerful Iran-backed Shiite movement, though the verdict did not specify any connection. The eight defendants were accused of forming the group in 2014, possessing weapons and attempting to kill policemen in Nuwaidrat, a Shiite village east of Manama. They staged an unauthorized demonstration in Nuwaidrat in June 2014 and blocked the streets while one of the defendants opened fire at a police patrol, the judicial source said.

Two other defendants were jailed three years each for participating in the demonstration. In another trial, a Bahraini court jailed 13 people to 15 years each after convicting them of the attempted murder of policemen who came under attack when assailants hurled Molotov cocktails at a patrol.

Twenty two others were jailed for three years each in the same case, while five others were acquitted, a prosecution statement said. The verdicts are the latest in the series of rulings meted out against members of Bahrain's Shiite majority, and it came days after authorities suspended the main opposition Al-Wefaq group.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon voiced concern yesterday over Bahrain's crackdown against the opposition. He is also "dismayed" by reports that human rights activists have been intimidated and stripped of their citizenship, a UN statement said.

Ban said "the current actions against the opposition may undermine the reforms undertaken" and "lessen the prospect of an inclusive national dialogue in the interest of all people of the kingdom." Bahrain re-arrested human rights defender Nabeel Rajab on Monday and in May a court more than doubled the jail sentence passed against Al-Wefaq chief Sheikh Ali Salman.

Home to the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, Bahrain has been shaken by unrest since security forces crushed a 2011 uprising demanding a constitutional monarchy and an elected prime minister. Protesters still frequently clash with police in Shiite villages outside the capital. — AFP

PIECES OF EGYPTAIR PLANE FOUND AT BOTTOM OF MED

DEEP-SEA ROBOT LOCATED THE PIECES

CAIRO: A deep-sea robot has located pieces of the missing EgyptAir plane at the bottom of the Mediterranean as investigators race to find the black boxes that could reveal the cause of the crash. While the wreckage discovered may offer clues about why the Airbus A320 went down with 66 people on board nearly a month ago, its manufacturer said yesterday the flight recorders held the key to unlocking the mystery.

"The first photos of the wreckage do not allow to establish any scenario of the accident," an Airbus statement said. "Only the black boxes could contribute to a full understanding of the chain of events which led to this tragic accident."

Investigators have said it is too soon to determine what caused flight MS804 from Paris to Cairo to crash on May 19, although a terror attack has not been ruled out. The search vessel John Lethbridge, equipped with an underwater robot, arrived in Egypt last week to begin searching an area around 290 kilometres (180 miles) north of the Egyptian coast. The robot discovered pieces of the fuselage at "several sites", the Egyptian board of inquiry said late Wednesday. A source close to the investigation told AFP that the robot, operated by Mauritius-based Deep Ocean Search, had found "small fragments" of the plane. Some wreckage had already been pulled out of the Mediterranean by search teams last month, along with belongings of passengers. The "pings" emitted by the black boxes were detected by French survey ship Laplace on June 1 but the flight recorders' exact location has not yet been established.

Limited battery life

The area where the plane crashed is believed to be about 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) deep and its flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder should have had enough battery power to emit signals for four to five weeks.

Investigators expect the signals to continue until June 24. But the John Lethbridge has equipment capable of locating them even with no pings, according to the source close to the probe. The black boxes of Air France Flight 447, which crashed in 2009 in the Atlantic Ocean, were located nearly two years later and recovered from a depth of almost 4,000 meters. The flight data recorder gathers



EGYPT: Some debris that the search teams found in the sea after the Egyptair Airbus A320 crashed in the Mediterranean. —AFP

information about the speed, altitude and direction of the plane, while the cockpit voice recorder keeps track of conversations and other sounds in the pilots' cabin. France's aviation safety agency has said the EgyptAir plane transmitted automated messages indicating smoke in the cabin and a fault in the flight control unit minutes before disappearing from radar screens.

On Monday, Egyptian investigators confirmed that the aircraft had made a 90-degree left turn followed by a 360-degree turn to the right before hitting the sea.

Investigators were able to narrow down the search site thanks to an emergency signal sent via satellite by the plane's locator transmitter when it hit the Mediterranean.

The passengers on the plane were 30 Egyptians, 15 French citizens, two Iraqis, two Canadians, and citizens from Algeria, Belgium, Britain, Chad, Portugal, Saudi Arabia and Sudan. They included a boy and two babies.

Seven crew and three security personnel were also on board. The crash came after the bombing of a Russian airliner over Egypt's restive Sinai Peninsula last October that

killed all 224 people on board. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for that attack within hours, but there has been no such claim linked to the EgyptAir crash. IS has been waging a deadly insurgency against Egyptian security forces and has claimed attacks in both France and Egypt. In October, foreign governments issued travel warnings for Egypt and demanded a review of security at its airports after IS said it downed the Russian airliner over the Sinai with a bomb concealed in a soda can that had been smuggled onboard. —AFP

ABU DHABI LEVIES AIRPORT, HOTEL TAXES TO BOOST REVENUES

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi is introducing taxes on airline passengers and hotel guests as it seeks to compensate for a hit to government revenues from low oil prices.

Airline passengers departing from or transiting through Abu Dhabi International Airport will be charged an airport tax of 35 dirhams (\$9.53) from June 30, said the Abu Dhabi government's official gazette, seen on Thursday. "Airlines will be responsible for collecting the fee and shall transfer the proceeds to Abu Dhabi Airports Company," it said.

Some 1.96 million passengers travelled through Abu Dhabi International Airport in April. Neighboring Dubai and Sharjah, also part of the United Arab Emirates, have announced similar airport taxes effective from June 30, as they try to compensate

for the impact of an economic slowdown in the region.

Abu Dhabi has also imposed a 4 percent municipality tax on hotel bills, as well as a 15 dirham charge per night per room, from the beginning of this month, the gazette said. Emirates in the UAE have traditionally avoided imposing taxes, presenting their lack of taxation as a competitive advantage for business.

But Abu Dhabi's fiscal balance, which was in a surplus of 6.9 billion irhams in 2014, fell into a deficit of 32.4 billion dirhams in 2015, according to a recent bond prospectus from state-owned Abu Dhabi National Energy Co.

Abu Dhabi's preliminary budget estimates for 2016 show a deficit of 36.9 billion dirhams, assuming an average oil price of \$40 a barrel, the prospectus said. — Reuters

IRAN AIR CLEARED TO FLY IN EU

BRUSSELS: Iranian flag carrier Iran Air has been taken off a safety blacklist and cleared to fly in the European Union, the European Commission said yesterday. "Following my visit to Iran in April, a technical assessment was successfully carried out in May," EU Transport Commissioner Violeta Bulc said in a statement.

"Based on this I am happy to announce that we are now able to allow most aircrafts from Iran Air back into European skies," Bulc said. Previously, only the carrier's EU-manufactured Airbus planes could operate in the bloc. Iran's commercial airlines were badly hit by US and EU sanctions imposed over its contested nuclear program, denying them access to crucial spare parts for their aircraft.

An EU-brokered deal in 2015 ended years of deadlock between the two sides, with sanctions being lifted in return for Iran

committing to not develop nuclear weapons. As a result, Iran earlier this year was able to place a massive order for more than 100 Airbus planes and it is in talks with US aerospace giant Boeing.

Bulc also said the 28-member bloc had removed all Zambian airlines from the safety blacklist after "seven years of work and extensive European technical assistance." In addition, three Indonesian carriers-Citilink, Lion Air and Batik Air plus Air Madagascar were given the all clear to fly in the EU.

The Air Safety List is updated regularly and with yesterday's announcement, it names 214 airlines in 19 countries which fail to meet EU oversight standards. Two other airlines are banned on safety concerns-Iraqi Airways and Suriname's Blue Wing Airlines-while another six are partially restricted in the aircraft types they can fly in the EU. — AFP

CAN ITALY'S CLOWN-LED PARTY RUN THE CIRCUS?

TIPPED TO BECOME ROME'S FIRST FEMALE MAYOR

LIVORNO, ITALY: Their leader has been dubbed the clown prince of Italian politics. And now the Five Star Movement (M5S) looks set to be given the chance to run the circus by taking control of the country's capital. With Virginia Raggi tipped to become Rome's first female mayor after a run-off vote this weekend, the spotlight has turned to M5S's performance in smaller cities where it already holds power.

It is a record that is mixed in Parma (population: 200,000) and Livorno (160,000), both of which have had mayors elected on an M5S slate since the last set of local polls in 2014. "The impression is that the actions of these mayors have led to disappointment. They raised hopes so highly that they were impossible to be fulfill and inevitably a certain disillusionment set in afterwards," said Lorenzo De Sio, a professor of political

sociology at the Luiss university in Rome.

Founded by comedian Beppe Grillo, Five Star has established itself as the primary opposition force in Italian politics against a backdrop of deep divisions on the right between centrist allies of fading figurehead Silvio Berlusconi and a far right tendency led by the Northern League. Grillo's movement insists it belongs to neither left nor right, basing its appeal instead on a call for voters to throw out an established political class it depicts as chronically corrupt and incapable of change.

Legal headaches

That is why the problems encountered by mayors, Federico Pizzarotti, in Parma, and Filippo Nogarini, in Livorno, have presented M5S with a knotty presentational problem and highlighted the scale of the challenge involved in trying to be a "party unlike the others".

"The movement has a major problem, it does not have a stock of experienced people and the two mayors had problems finding officials to appoint to different sections of their respective administrations," said De Sio. M5S activists have split over the different treatment the two mayors have received from the party in reaction to relatively minor legal woes they have encountered. Nogarini is seen as having been let off lightly after prosecutors began looking at the recruitment of new staff at the city's near-bankrupt refuse collection company. — AFP



ROME: This combination of files pictures created on June 06, 2016 shows Virginia Raggi (L), Five Star Movement (M5S) candidate for the election of Rome's mayor, during a campaign meeting on June 3, 2016 at Piazza del Popolo in Rome and Democratic Party candidate Roberto Giachetti (PD) during a public debate on May 3, 2016 in Rome. — AFP

BRITISH MP SHOT AND INJURED

LONDON: A British lawmaker from the opposition Labor Party has been shot and injured in her constituency in northern England, media reported yesterday.

Jo Cox, 41, a mother of two, was left bleeding on the pavement after the incident in Birstall in Yorkshire, the Press Association cited an eyewitness as saying. "At 12.53 today, police were called to a report of an incident on Market Street, Birstall, where a woman in her 40s had suffered serious injuries and is in a critical condition," the police said in a statement.

"A man in his late 40s to early 50s nearby also suffered slight injuries. Armed officers attended and a 52-year-old man was arrested in the area," it said. Channel 4 News quoted Cox's office as saying that the pro-EU MP had been shot and stabbed. The BBC said she was flown by air ambulance to Leeds. Contacted by AFP, her offices in London and Yorkshire could not immediately be reached. "Very concerned about reports Jo Cox has been injured. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jo and her family," Prime Minister David Cameron tweeted. — AFP

KENYA: JUDGE UPHOLDS USE OF ANAL PROBES TO DEFINE SEXUALITY

MOMBASA, KENYA: A Kenyan court has upheld the use of anal examinations to determine a suspect's sexual orientation. Mombasa High Court Judge Mathew Emukule said Thursday he found no violation of rights or the law and dismissed the petition.

Two men had sought a court ruling to stop enforced anal examinations and HIV tests of men accused of being gay after they were subjected to the procedures. The two were arrested in a bar near Ukunda along Kenya's Indian Ocean coast in February 2015 on suspicion of engaging in gay sex, which is a criminal offense in Kenya.

In their petition, they said the anal examinations and HIV and hepatitis B tests they were forced to have amounted to being subjected to torture and degrading treatment. — AP

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WASHINGTON: Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn. speaking on the floor of the Senate on Capitol Hill on Wednesday. —AP

DEM SENATOR WAGES FILIBUSTER, CLAIMS PROGRESS ON GUN CONTROL

'SOME SIGN THAT WE CAN COME TOGETHER'

WASHINGTON: A Democratic senator who mourned the loss of 20 children in his home state of Connecticut waged a roughly 15-hour filibuster into the early hours yesterday, asserting as he yielded the floor that Republican leaders had committed to hold votes on expanded gun background checks and a ban on gun sales to suspected terrorists.

With a compromise on the gun issue still improbable, Sen. Chris Murphy stood on the Senate floor for most of Wednesday and into yesterday. Speaking in the wake of the mass shooting early Sunday at a Florida nightclub, Murphy said he would remain there "until we get some signal, some sign that we can come together." He concluded the filibuster at 2:11 a.m., EDT.

Although Murphy talked optimistically about his cause, it is unlikely the amendments Democrats are seeking will pass the Republican-run Senate. Murphy spent much of the time speaking about the shooting at Newtown, Connecticut's Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012. He finished his filibuster by talking at length about one of the young boys who died there.

As Murphy had been standing on the floor for more than nine hours, his own young sons, ages 4 and 7, briefly appeared in the Senate gallery. "I hope you'll understand some day why we're doing this," Murphy said, addressing his oldest son from the floor. "Trying and trying and trying to do the right thing is ultimately just as important as getting the outcome in the end."

Revival of the gun debate

Democrats have revived the gun debate after 49 people were killed at a nightclub in Orlando, the worst such incident in modern history. The fight pits strong proponents of the Second Amendment right to bear arms against those arguing for greater restrictions on

the ability to obtain weapons. Murphy's call for the two votes came as presumptive Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said he would meet with the National Rifle Association to discuss ways to block people on terrorism watch lists or no-fly lists from buying guns. The same day, Trump told a rally in Georgia: "I'm going to save your Second Amendment."

Murphy was joined by more than 30 Democratic colleagues on the floor, many of whom angrily told stories of mass shootings in their own states and called for action. "The next time someone uses a gun to kill one of us, a gun that we could have kept out of the hands of a terrorist, then members of this Congress will have blood on our hands," said Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., asked: "Where is our spine?"

Attempts at compromise appeared to collapse within hours of surfacing in the Senate Wednesday, underscoring the extreme difficulty of resolving the divisive issue five months from November's election. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who had been involved in talks with Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said there was no resolution. Murphy, 42, began speaking at 11:21 a.m., and was showing few signs of fatigue when the filibuster ended. By Senate rules, he had to stand at his desk the entire time to maintain control of the floor. When asked by another senator how he was feeling just before 7:30 p.m., Murphy said rehabilitation from a back injury in his 20s had helped him build up endurance.

Tourists and staff filled the galleries past midnight, and Democratic Sens. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut and Cory Booker of New Jersey stayed with Murphy on the floor for most of the debate. Like Murphy, Booker did not sit down for the full 15 hours.

Change in gun laws

It's been nearly a decade since Congress made any significant changes to federal gun laws. In April 2007, Congress passed a law to strengthen the instant background check system after a gunman at Virginia Tech who killed 32 people was able to purchase his weapons because his mental health history was not in the instant background check database.

Murphy is seeking a vote on legislation from Feinstein that would let the government bar sales of guns and explosives to people it suspects of being terrorists. Feinstein offered a similar version of the amendment in December, a day after an extremist couple killed 14 people in San Bernardino, California, but the Republican-run Senate rejected the proposal on a near party-line vote.

The Orlando shooter, Omar Mateen, was added to a government watch list of individuals known or suspected of being involved in terrorist activities in 2013, when he was investigated for inflammatory statements to co-workers. But he was pulled from that database when that investigation was closed 10 months later.

In a statement, the NRA reiterated its support for an alternate bill from Cornyn that would let the government delay firearms sales to suspected terrorists for up to 72 hours. Prosecutors would have to persuade a judge to block the transaction permanently, a bar Democrats and gun control activists say is too high. Cornyn and other Republicans argue that Feinstein's bill would deny due process to people who may be on the terror list erroneously. In an attempt at compromise, Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey introduced legislation that would direct the attorney general to create a new list of suspected terrorists who could be barred from buying weapons. But Democrats immediately rejected that idea, saying it would create too much of a backlog. — AP

CIA CHIEF: IS WORKING TO SEND OPERATIVES TO THE WEST

WASHINGTON: CIA Director John Brennan plans to tell Congress that Islamic State militants are training and attempting to deploy operatives for further attacks on the West and will rely more on guerrilla-style tactics to compensate for their territorial losses.

In remarks prepared for the Senate Intelligence Committee, Brennan says IS has been working to build an apparatus to direct and inspire attacks against its foreign enemies, as in the recent attacks in Paris and Brussels - ones the CIA believes were directed by IS leaders.

"ISIL has a large cadre of Western fighters who could potentially serve as operatives for attacks in the West," Brennan said, using another acronym for the group. He said IS probably is working to smuggle them into countries, perhaps among refugee flows or through legitimate means of travel.

Brennan also noted the group's call for followers to conduct so-called lone-wolf attacks in their home countries. He called the attack in Orlando a "heinous act of wanton violence" and an "assault on the values of openness and tolerance" that define the United States as a nation.

He said IS is gradually cultivating its various branches into an interconnected network. The branch in Libya is likely the most advanced and most dangerous, but IS is trying to increase its influence in Africa, Brennan said. The IS branch in the Sinai has become the "most active and capable terrorist group in Egypt," attacking the Egyptian military and government targets in addition to foreigners and tourists, such as the downing of a Russian passenger jet last October.

Other branches have struggled to gain traction, Brennan said. "The Yemen branch, for instance, has been riven with factionalism. And the Afghanistan-Pakistan branch has struggled to maintain its cohesion, in part because of competition with the Taliban."

He called IS a "formidable adversary," but said the US-led coalition has made progress combating the group, which has had to surrender large swaths of territory in Iraq and Syria and has lost some of its leaders in airstrikes. IS has struggled to replenish its ranks of fighters, Brennan said, because fewer of them are traveling to Syria and others have defected.

"The group appears to be a long way from realizing the vision that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi laid out when he declared the caliphate two years ago in Mosul," Iraq, Brennan said.

He said the group's ability to raise money has also been curtailed, although the group still continues to generate at least tens of millions of dollars in revenue each month, mostly from taxation and from sales of crude oil. "Unfortunately, despite all our progress against ISIL on the battlefield and in the financial realm, our efforts have not reduced the group's terrorism capability and global reach," he said. "In fact, as the pressure mounts on ISIL, we judge that it will intensify its global terror campaign to maintain its dominance of the global terrorism agenda." — AP



WASHINGTON: CIA Director John Brennan speaks at a House Intelligence Committee hearing on worldwide threats on Capitol Hill on Feb. 25, 2016. — AP

POLICE CELEBRATE BOY'S BIRTHDAY AFTER NO ONE RSVPs TO PARTY

NORTH PORT, FLORIDA: Police in Florida went above and beyond by surprising a boy at his eighth birthday party after no one responded to his invites.

News outlets report Daniel Nicastro's parents say this wasn't the first time no one has called to say they were coming to their son's party in North Port. The Nicastro say making friends is difficult for Daniel, who has autism.

So his parents decided to invite the police officers, who Daniel considers "superheroes," to the party. They were hoping a few officers would show up, but instead, an assembly of officers arrived, even bringing gifts.

Police Sgt. Paul Neugebauer says they wanted to attend and let Daniel know that he's appreciated. A photo of Daniel with the officers shared online has drawn attention from around the world. — AP

OBAMA'S ORLANDO MISSION: OFFER SOLACE TO GRIEVING COMMUNITY

WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama was undertaking a grim and delicate mission to Orlando, Florida on Thursday, offering solace after the worst mass shooting in modern US history while the political world bickers over terrorism and gun control.

Even as the families of 49 victims bury their loved ones, it's unclear what led a 29-year-old Muslim born in New York to open fire in a gay nightclub early Sunday where he may have been a frequent patron.

In earlier instances where Obama has visited a community in mourning, the president has urged the nation to reject the attacker's ideology and do what it can to prevent such incidents. White House press secretary Josh Earnest said Obama would deal with the ambiguity in the Florida shooting by focusing on the victims. "The president's visit to Orlando has nothing to do with the individual who perpetrated this terrible attack," Earnest said Wednesday. He said Obama intended to tell residents "that they're not alone, even as they endure what surely have been several dark nights." The White House released few details in advance about how Obama would spend his afternoon in Orlando, and aides said the trip had been hurriedly arranged in a fraction of the time usually required to plan a presidential trip. But Obama planned to meet with families of the victims, as well as with the doctors, paramedics and other first responders who came to their aid. Obama also planned to speak publicly during his visit "to make clear that the country stands with the people of Orlando, stands with the LGBT community in Orlando, as they grieve for their loss," Earnest said. Vice President Joe Biden was to join Obama in Orlando.



WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama speaks at the Treasury Department on Tuesday. —AP

The president's call for rejecting bigotry against gays and lesbians is complicated by the possibility that the gunman, Omar Mateen, may have been wrestling with his own sexuality. The FBI has been looking into reports that Mateen frequented the nightclub and reached out to men on gay dating apps.

Since the shooting, presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has expanded his call for temporarily barring foreign Muslims from entering the U.S., even though the attacker was an American, and insinuated that Obama sympathized with or even supported terrorists.

Obama denounced both Trump and the GOP leaders who are still supporting him. Many of those Republican leaders also denounced Trump's rhetoric. In Congress, the attack has spurred another bitter fight over gun control, exposing deep frustration among supporters of stricter gun laws that no level of mass casualty seems to be enough to force gun control opponents to reconsider. Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy, whose state of Connecticut shouldered the killing of 20 children in Newtown in 2012, undertook a roughly 15-hour filibuster that lasted into the early hours of Thursday. As he yielded the floor, Murphy said GOP leaders had committed to hold votes on expanded gun background checks and a ban on gun sales to suspected terrorists. — AP



NEW YORK: Eman Abdelhadi, a lesbian doctoral student at New York University, poses near the campus. — AP

MUSLIM VIEW OF LGBT PEOPLE IN SPOTLIGHT AFTER ORLANDO ATTACK

REMARKS BEYOND THE EXPECTED CONDEMNATIONS

NEW YORK: After the massacre in Orlando, the head of a prominent Muslim advocacy group stood before a bank of microphones and made remarks beyond the expected condemnations.

Along with denouncing the attack by gunman Omar Mateen as a violation of Islam, and offering prayers for the victims at the gay nightclub Pulse, Nihad Awad of the Council on American-Islamic Relations expressed unequivocal support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights.

"For many years, members of the (LGBT) community have stood shoulder to shoulder with the Muslim community against any acts of hate crimes, Islamophobia, marginalization and discrimination. Today, we stand with them, shoulder to shoulder," Awad said at a Washington news conference. "We cannot fight injustice against some group and not against others."

Omid Safi, director of the Duke University Islamic Studies Center, called the comments, and similar statements from other major Muslim groups, a "shocking development" from leaders who until last Sunday's tragedy "would probably have never been seen uttering the words gay and lesbian publicly."

The mass shooting, perpetrated by an American Muslim in a communal space for gays, has brought to the forefront Muslim attitudes toward homosexuality and the plight of LGBT Muslims.

A spokesman for Awad played down the director's remarks as nothing new. But Faisal Alam, who is gay and a founder of the support and advocacy group Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity, said such comments have opened "a historic opportunity for us to talk to one another." Eman Abdelhadi, a doctoral student at New York University who came out in college, said the attention could provide some much-needed visibility for LGBT

Muslims who are "often erased."

"The vast majority of American Muslims are illiterate as it relates to queer issues," said Ahmed Younis, an author who specializes in Islamic law and advocates acceptance of gays and equal treatment for women. He said he hoped for some real soul-searching beyond expressions of solidarity toward fully integrating gays and lesbians into Muslim life.

LGBT Muslims said the shooting sparked a complex set of emotions. They were devastated for their fellow gays and lesbians, while deeply concerned about anti-Muslim bias the shooting would generate. At the same time, they were caught at the intersection of two mutually wary groups: LGBT people who consider Islam uniquely anti-gay, and Muslims prejudiced against gays and lesbians.

Abdelhadi said she feared "Islam and queerness being pitted against each other in a sort of battle and that just making it impossible for me to exist as I am."

The day after the shooting, more than 50 LGBT advocacy groups made an appeal for the gay community to reject anti-Muslim rhetoric. "We know what it looks like and feels like to be scapegoated and isolated in the midst of a crisis," the groups said. But Younis said the relationship between Muslims and LGBT advocates "is not a natural or deep alliance."

Many US Muslim immigrants come from countries and cultures where gays are often violently persecuted, and harbor a deep antipathy toward LGBT people. But younger generations of American Muslims generally don't share these views, Younis said. Last year, after the Supreme Court legalized gay marriage, author Reza Aslan and actor Hasan Minhaj published a letter to "our fellow American Muslims," urging them to support civil rights for gays, even if Muslims are uncomfortable with, or outright

opposed to, same-gender relationships. "Rejecting the right to same-sex marriage, but then expecting empathy for our community's struggle, is hypocritical," Aslan and Minhaj wrote on ReligionDispatches.org. "We have to fight for the right of others to live their lives as freely as we want to live ours." A survey last year by the Public Religion Research Institute found four in 10 US Muslims support same-sex marriage - compared with 53 percent of all Americans who said the same. About two-thirds of Muslims in the survey favored civil rights protections for LGBT people in jobs, housing and public accommodations, compared to seven in 10 of all Americans.

Scott Siraj al-Haq Kugle, an Emory University professor and author of "Homosexuality in Islam: Critical Reflection on Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Muslims," said he first began writing about LGBT issues and Islam 14 years ago.

At the time, he said Muslims generally rejected or ignored his work challenging the overwhelming Islamic consensus that same-gender sex is to be condemned. But over the years, Kugle has noted a growing openness in the US and elsewhere to discussing the topic. He sees evidence of this shift in the new films, books, articles and blogs about gay Muslims.

The Duke Islamic Studies Center is in the midst of a year-long project examining Islam and sexuality, including same-sex relationships, part of a wider scholarly re-examination of Muslim teachings on the subject, according to Safi. The research is mostly occurring in the West, but Muslims from South Africa, Malaysia and other countries participate in the work.

"So many Muslims - especially professionals, university students, and families dealing with LGBT issues - are searching for alternative ways of practicing Islam that are inclusive and just. —AP



DHAKA: Members of Bangladesh Police Detective Branch escort Mohammed Sumon Hossain yesterday. — AP

BANGLADESH POLICE ARREST SUSPECT IN ATTACK ON PUBLISHER

DETENTIONS OF THOUSANDS OF SUSPECTED CRIMINALS LED TO ARREST

DHAKA: The detentions of thousands of suspected criminals across Bangladesh led to the arrest of a suspected member of a banned Islamist group accused of violently attacking a publisher last year, police said yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the raids are part of an effort to root out Islamic militants blamed for a wave of deadly attacks against atheists and religious minorities, even though the vast majority of those detained are accused of petty crimes and not radicalism. The raids have been criticized as a pretext for intimidating political opponents, with the main opposition party saying thousands of its members were rounded up.

Mohammed Sumon Hossain, a suspect presented before court yesterday, was suspected of participating in an attack against publisher Ahmed Rashid Tutul in his Dhaka office in October, the head of police counter-terrorism operations told reporters. Tutul survived the attack, in which two of his friends were also injured, and later was given asylum in Norway.

Authorities identified Hossain as a suspect while questioning two others picked up Monday on the outskirts of Dhaka, according to the counter-terrorism chief, Monirul Islam. "Information that we got from them led to his arrest last night," Islam said Thursday. "We acted upon specific information we got from them."

Islam said Hossain used several

names while operating as a member of the banned Ansarullah Bangla Team, which has claimed responsibility for killing several atheist bloggers and threatened to target more.

The suspect had worked in a private company in the southeastern city of Chittagong. Last month, police had included Hossain's name on a list of suspected militants believed to have been involved in the deadly attacks on atheist bloggers, online activists, writers, members of religious minorities and foreign aid workers.

Islam said Hossain provided information to police during questioning that could help in apprehending those who killed another publisher, Faisal Arefin Deepan, on the same day Tutul was attacked.

Both Tutul and Deepan had published works by Bangladeshi-American blogger and writer Avijit Roy, who was hacked to death in February 2015 while walking with his wife on the Dhaka University campus. ABT claimed responsibility for the attack.

Another jihadist group, Ansar al-Islam, the Bangladesh division of al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, issued a statement claiming responsibility for the attacks on Deepan and Tutul, according to the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadist online postings. The claim of responsibility could not be independently verified. At the time, Ansar al-Islam accused the "secular and atheist publishers" of putting out books by blasphemers that dis-

honored the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and also threatened more attacks. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for many of the attacks since last year, but Bangladesh's government has repeatedly dismissed the idea that the extremist Sunni group has any presence in the country.

Hasina's government has instead blamed domestic terrorists along with Islamist political parties - especially main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its main ally, Jamaat-e-Islami - of orchestrating the violence in order to destabilize the nation.

A London-based spokesman for the BNP again dismissed the allegation this week as an effort by Hasina's government to divert attention from the worsening security situation in Bangladesh. He said the latest crackdown was a hard-handed effort to stomp out political dissent.

"What we are seeing now is how the Sheikh Hasina regime has lost control over the agenda of tackling extremism," said Humaiun Kobir. "It has concentrated for far too long on crushing the political opposition, and using terrorism as an excuse." The home minister denied such motivations in detaining more than 12,600 since June 9.

"We arrested no one out of ill motive or for harassing anyone politically," Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal was quoted as saying in the Prothom Alo newspaper. "The drive is being conducted to arrest the suspected militants and wanted accused." — AP

US MAN COMMITS SUICIDE IN TAIWAN COURT ROOM

TAIPEI: An American man fatally stabbed himself with a pair of scissors in a Taiwan courtroom yesterday during his sentencing on drug possession charges, raising questions over security failings. The man, named as 41-year-old Tyrel Martin Marhanka, is thought to have hidden the dismantled scissors inside a magazine to get past a metal detecting door, Changhua district court said.

The court vowed to beef up its security control by adding two X-ray scanners when it moves to a new building. There is not enough room for the scanners at its current facility, it said.

When the judge handed down a four-year prison sentence for smuggling poppy and marijuana seeds and for growing marijuana, Marhanka stabbed himself in the neck before bailiffs could stop him. He was rushed to a hospital but emergency treatment failed to revive him.

"We deeply regret that Tyrel Martin Marhanka killed himself during the sentencing," the court said in a statement. "He was cooperative during the investigation and the trial. His attitude was mild and he did not show any signs that he would commit suicide."

Marhanka was married to a Taiwanese woman with two children and had been living on the island for many years, according to the court. — AFP

JAPANESE CITY OFFERS TO PAY FOR WOMEN TO FREEZE EGGS

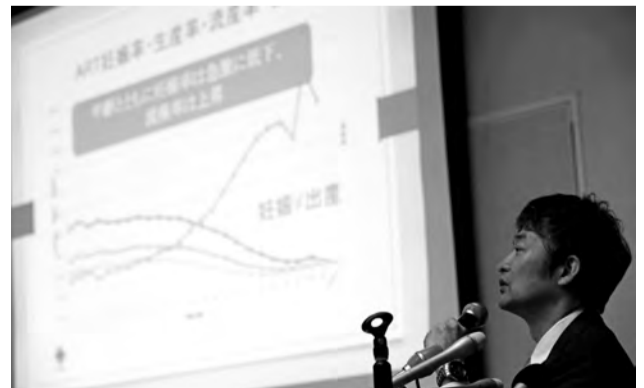
URAYASU, Japan: A Tokyo suburb will help women cover the cost of freezing their eggs in a pilot program aimed at tackling the nation's declining birth rate. The Japanese city of Urayasu, about 14 kilometers (9 miles) east of Tokyo, is allocating 90 million yen (\$850,000) over three years to fund the research project conducted by Juntendo University Urayasu Hospital.

The hospital hopes that preserving the eggs would encourage women to give birth when they are ready instead of giving up having children. Dr. Iwaho Kikuchi of the hospital said yesterday that using public funds to support this kind of study may be a first in the world.

The average cost of such procedure is around 500,000 to 600,000 yen (\$4,700 to \$5,700), but a woman will only pay 20 percent of the cost with the subsidy. Women between the age of 25 and 34 who live in Urayasu, also home to Tokyo Disneyland, are eligible to participate. Kikuchi said 12 women are in the process of starting the freezing process, and about two-thirds of them or their husbands have some sort of health issue.

Slim success rate

The success rate of pregnancy from frozen eggs is slim. If a woman freezes eggs at the age of 25, the chance of successfully giving birth is 30 percent. At the age of 34, it drops to 20 percent. Japan has been struggling to boost the nation's declining birth rate, which would depress the working population and increase the financial burden on them as the baby boomer generation retires. Urayasu mayor Hideaki Matsuzaki called the low birthrate a national problem. "In general, pregnancy and childbirth is an individual issue. But when the situation has become this far, I consider it a social problem," Matsuzaki said. "I view using public expenditure as the right thing to do." — AP



JAPAN: Dr. Iwaho Kikuchi of Juntendo University Urayasu Hospital speaks during a press conference regarding the city's pilot project that will help women freeze their eggs in Urayasu near Tokyo, yesterday. The suburb will become the first city in Japan to offer public funding to the pilot program to tackle the nation's declining birth rate. — AP

THAIS NEEDS 'MORE TIME' TO FEND OFF EU FISHING BAN

BANGKOK: Thailand's fisheries director said yesterday his department needs more time to clean up the kingdom's scandal-mired seafood sector and avoid a looming European threat to ban its fish products.

The kingdom is the world's third largest seafood exporter, a status that rights groups say is achieved through illegal overfishing and a reliance on low-paid trafficked workers from neighboring countries.

But the sector has fallen under intense pressure to overhaul the lucrative and largely unregulated industry. Last year the European Union threatened to ban all Thai seafood products unless the military government tackled rampant illegal fishing among its fleets.

EU officials affirmed last week that the boycott is still on the table and called on Thailand to present "robust measures" of improvement in Bangkok talks next month. But the director of the kingdom's fishing department, Adisorn Promthep, told AFP Thursday more time is needed to restructure a sector that has long operated as a free-for-all.

"Right now what I need is more time," he said, stressing that key legislation has been passed but efficient law enforcement remains a challenge. "Not everything is functioning at 100 percent yet," he said. A ban on seafood exports could cost Thailand up to \$1 billion a year at a time when the current junta is struggling to revive the economy. Thanks to a new vessel monitoring system, fisheries staff are now able to track the movements of some 7,000 vessels from their Bangkok control room equipped with wall-to-wall screens. "When they cross into neighboring countries' (territory) we get an alert," said Pholphisin Suvanachai, the director of the department's technology centre.

His staff then notify any stray ships-around three or four per day-by phone or text message. But more stringent regulations that would set quotas for the catch of specific species remain a long way off, said Adisorn.

"We need more scientific data. We don't know what we're going to do next," he told AFP. He said previous efforts to address the industry's ills were stymied by frequent changes in Thailand's government, which led to a backlog in the bills put before successive parliaments.

The politically tumultuous country has seen democratically elected governments toppled by two military coups in the past 10 years, a period analysts refer to as the "lost decade". But the threat of a costly EU ban has spurred the military government into action, with the ruling junta desperate to avoid any further hits to the kingdom's slumping economy. "The yellow card was like an alarm bell ringing," said Adisorn. The kingdom's fishing industry has also been battered in recent years by allegations of fleets staffed by trafficked slave and child labor from neighboring countries. — AFP



LAHORE, PAKISTAN: People protest on Wednesday against Afghanistan carrying placards paying tribute to a Pakistani soldier who was killed during a recent clash with Afghan forces. — AP

PAKISTAN, AFGHAN OFFICIAL IN TALKS TO EASE BORDER TENSIONS FOLLOWING THIS WEEK'S DEADLY CLASHES

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's foreign ministry says Islamabad and Kabul are engaged in talks to deescalate tensions at a main border crossing between the two neighboring countries following this week's deadly clashes.

Outbreaks of shooting at the Torkham crossing have killed two

Afghan and one Pakistani border guard and wounded at least 20 on both sides. Spokesman Nafees Zakaria with Pakistan's foreign ministry told reporters in Islamabad on Thursday that he hopes the matter will be resolved soon.

He says the shooting first erupted after Pakistan started building a gate

on its side of the Torkham border to curb illegal cross-border movement. He says Pakistan plans to build seven more such gates along the porous 2,200 kilometer (1,375 mile)-long border. Torkham, a usually busy crossing, has remained closed because of continuing tensions. — AP

INDIA TURNS TO VOLUNTEERS AS SCHOOLS SUFFER TEACHING GAPS

NEW DELHI: India is calling for volunteers to hold workshops for children, a minister said yesterday, as state-run schools around the country struggle with absentee teachers. Launching the initiative, education minister Smriti Irani said people from varying professions could teach classes on creative writing, art, storytelling and public speaking. "It is the best example of participative citizenry," Irani said in New Delhi as she launched a website where volunteers can register and connect with schools in their area. "The world over, community engagement has led to better quality education...I am hopeful by December every school in the country will be connected to this program," she said.

Volunteers can connect to the pilot program through an app on their smart phones. Irani said the initiative, initially offered in 2,200 schools nationwide, was aimed at supplementing formal education. But it comes as the government grapples with teacher shortages in schools due to extended absences or under-recruitment.

Access to education has improved significantly in recent years with thousands of new government-run schools in rural and remote areas for India's tens of millions of young people. But experts say standards of teaching in many schools is below par,

leading to poor reading and writing levels among students.

A survey by academics and the World Bank in 2010 found more than 20 percent of state primary school teachers were

absent at any one time. Many children in fifth year cannot read a second-year book in their own language, an annual survey by Indian education research group Pratham has consistently showed. — AFP

GUN BATTLE IN INDIAN KASHMIR KILLS FIVE

SRINAGAR, INDIA: A soldier and four suspected rebels were killed in a gun battle in Indian-administered Kashmir yesterday, an army spokesman said.

Soldiers intercepted a group of militants trying to cross the heavily militarised de-facto border from Pakistan into India at daybreak, triggering a fierce fire fight, the spokesman, N. N. Joshi said.

"Four terrorists were killed in the operation and a soldier who was injured in the firefight later succumbed," Joshi told AFP. "This was the second infiltration bid in three days." A militant and a soldier were killed on Wednesday in a gun battle in the mountainous region that lasted 24 hours. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since 1947 but both countries claim the Muslim-majority territory in its entirety.

Rebel groups have for decades been fighting Indian troops deployed in the region, seeking independence or a merger with Pakistan. The fighting has killed tens of thousands of people, most of them civilians. India regularly accuses Pakistan of arming rebels to launch attacks in Indian-administered Kashmir.

Islamabad refutes the allegation, saying it only provides diplomatic support. Overall violence levels have fallen since the 1990s when militancy was at its peak, but there have been a number of attacks on government forces in recent weeks. — AFP

PAKISTANI WOMAN 'THROWS ACID ON BOYFRIEND FOR REFUSING MARRIAGE'

MULTAN, PAKISTAN: A Pakistani woman who allegedly threw acid on her boyfriend causing life-threatening injuries after he refused to marry her, officials said yesterday, and was arrested in a rare case of a woman attacking a man. Momil Mai, a married mother-of-four, had been in a relationship with 25-year-old Saddaqt Ali, who was also married, for several years, police near Multan city in Punjab province told AFP.

Mai was demanding Ali make her his second wife, officials said. Polygamy is legal though rare for men in conservative Muslim Pakistan, however a woman would have to divorce before being allowed to marry again. "On Wednesday night, Ali went to see Mai as usual and she threw acid on his body after he once again refused to

marry her," Bashir Ahmed, a local police official, told AFP.

Ali had time to turn, he said, with the acid burning his back but not his face. Ashiq Malik, medical superintendent at the government hospital in Multan where Ali is being treated, said that the victim received burns to around 60 percent of his body.

Doctors are fighting to save Ali's life, he said. A criminal case was registered against Mai, whose current husband is a laborer, after a complaint by Ali's family. Acid attacks, which disfigure and often blind their overwhelmingly female victims, have long been used to settle personal or family scores in Pakistan, with hundreds of cases reported each year. It is rare for a woman to attack a man. — AFP

CHINA AXES TAIWANESE CHILDREN'S CHOIR TRIP

TAIPEI: China has axed a visit by a popular Taiwanese children's choir after they sang the national anthem at the inauguration of the island's new president, as ties between the rivals grow increasingly frosty. The choir is the latest casualty since Beijing-sceptic Tsai Ing-wen won the presidency in January, bringing an end to an eight-year rapprochement with China. Her inauguration in May centered around Taiwan's unique history and culture a theme likely to have irked Beijing which still sees the self-ruling island as part of its territory. The aboriginal Puzangalan Choir made a name for itself island-wide after singing a moving rendition of the national anthem on stage during the celebrations.

Concert canceled

But Chinese authorities seem to have been less impressed. Choir organizers say city officials have cancelled their performance at a children's choral festival in Zhongshan, in the southern province of Guangdong, due to take place in July. "The invitation from the mainland is gone," said a post on the choir's Facebook page. "The kids can hardly understand how this happened." Choir executive Tsai Yi-fang confirmed the concert had been cancelled. "This has badly hurt our children," he said.

The choir had been hoping to raise funds through the Guangdong performance to travel to a singing competition in Hungary in August. President Tsai pledged Tw\$500,000 (\$15,430) to their cause after learning of the cancellation. "This is the voice of Taiwan. Together, we will let the children sing to the whole world," she said in a statement on her Facebook page. Local media reported choir leaders as saying they had been told by city officials that the cancellation was due to political "sensitivities". Comments posted on the choir's Facebook page pledged help and support. "Every one of us on the island who think he or she is Taiwanese would feel proud of you. You represent the roots of Taiwan culture," said one post.

Banned musicians

"The more the Chinese on the other side suppress, the more it shows that you have been doing the right thing," said another. This is not the first time Chinese authorities have banned musical performers from Taiwan for political reasons. Taiwan's pop diva A-Mei was blacklisted by China for several years after she sang the island's national anthem at the 2000 inauguration of then-president Chen Shui-bian, known for promoting the island's independence. Taiwan is a fully fledged democracy but has never formally declared independence since splitting from the mainland in 1949 after a civil war. Tensions eased markedly under Tsai's Beijing-friendly predecessor Ma Ying-jeou.

But warming ties left voters increasingly wary that Beijing was seeking to erode Taiwan's sovereignty, leading to a landslide victory for Tsai. —AFP

MAN FEARED SNATCHED BY N KOREA FOUND IN JAPAN

TOKYO: A Japanese man feared snatched by North Korea after he went missing almost two decades ago was found alive in Japan earlier this month, police said yesterday.

The issue of abductions to North Korea is a highly-charged one in Japan, where there are suspicions dozens of people were kidnapped by agents from the isolated country. That fate is also seen a possibility for hundreds of others.

Kazuya Miyauchi, who went missing aged 32 in Fukui prefecture, on Japan's west coast opposite North Korea, was found in early June, a Fukui Police Department official said. "We have concluded that he wasn't involved in any criminal case or abduction by North Korea," the official said.

The official, who said that 51-year-old Miyauchi was found "outside the prefecture" of Fukui, declined to provide further details, including where he had been or what he had been doing since 1997, the year he went missing. Miyauchi was not among 17 Japanese formally listed by the government as abducted by Pyongyang. Rather, he was considered as one of more than 800 missing people for whom the possibility of being kidnapped by the isolated state cannot be ruled out. But there are strong suspicions in Japan that dozens of other citizens were also snatched by the North. North Korea caused outrage in Japan when it admitted in 2002 that it had kidnapped 13 Japanese in the 1970s and 1980s to train its spies in the country's language and customs. —AFP



BANGKOK: Buddhist devotees sit outside the Wat Phra Dhammakaya temple as police serve an arrest warrant for its abbot in Pathum Thani province yesterday.—AP

POLICE FAIL TO ARREST POPULAR THAI MONK AFTER TENSE SHOWDOWN

MONK ACCUSED OF EMBEZZLING \$40 MILLION

BANGKOK: Thai police raided a Buddhist temple complex yesterday to arrest a popular abbot accused of embezzling \$40 million but were thwarted by thousands of his followers who said he is too ill to be taken into custody. The operation at Wat Dhammakaya, a monastery north of Bangkok known as one of the wealthiest in Thailand, began at 5am and was broadcast live on TV in a dramatic twist to a months-old standoff. But hours later police couldn't arrest the abbot, Phra Dhammachayo, after searching all the areas in the complex but one. "There is a last area we could not enter because the followers would not allow us," said police Maj. Suriya Singhakamol, the deputy chief of the Department of Special Investigations.

Scandals and sagas

Dhammachayo's case has enthralled the nation with its twists and turns and the conflict between law and religion it has posed. Several scandals in recent years have cast a shadow over the Buddhist clergy in Thailand.

Although the police withdrew for the day after the fruitless raid, Suriya said "our operation has not ended. The (arrest) warrant is still valid so we will have authority to carry out the operation. According to our information, he is still inside."

Money laundering

Dhammachayo is accused of money laundering and links to embezzling 1.4 billion baht (\$40 million) from a now-defunct credit union. He has barricaded himself inside his temple, ignoring three police summonses and an arrest warrant. He has avoided arrest for over two months, claiming he was too ill to report to police for questioning.

Outside of Thailand it may seem odd that a monk should be able to defy law-enforcement officials so brazenly. But a law which forbids arrest of a monk in his robes, for fear it would mar the sanctity of the clergy, has repeatedly put police in an awkward position. Authorities are also reluctant to force a showdown with the monk's thousands of supporters, fearing violence.

Buddhism is the national religion and one of three core pillars of Thai society along with the monarchy and nationhood. Monks occupy a privileged position and are granted many concessions, including not paying taxes and being exempt from arrest until they are defrocked.

Their position in Thai society was reflected in the police operation - they paused the raid to allow the monks to eat their once-a-day meal at 11am. "Since this morning, we have given full cooperation to the police," temple spokesman Phra Sanitwong Wuttiwangso told an afternoon news conference on the temple grounds. But

he said groups of followers were refusing to let police enter certain areas. "A number of followers, no matter what we tell them, they will not listen. They are asking (police) for consideration, because the abbot is ill. He has not fled the temple."

The main gates to the temple, a futuristic construction resembling a golden UFO-like dome, were blocked with shuttle buses brought in by the monk's followers. Police still managed to enter in as thousands of devotees held up signs condemning the police for what the devotees say is a politically motivated investigation.

Dhammachayo leads the largest religious sect in Thailand and has a cult-like following. He first got into trouble two years ago when it became known that the former head of the Klongchan Credit Union Cooperative, a Dhammakaya devotee, had donated such large sums to the temple that it sent his business into insolvency. The official was convicted of embezzlement and sentenced to 16 years in prison. — AP



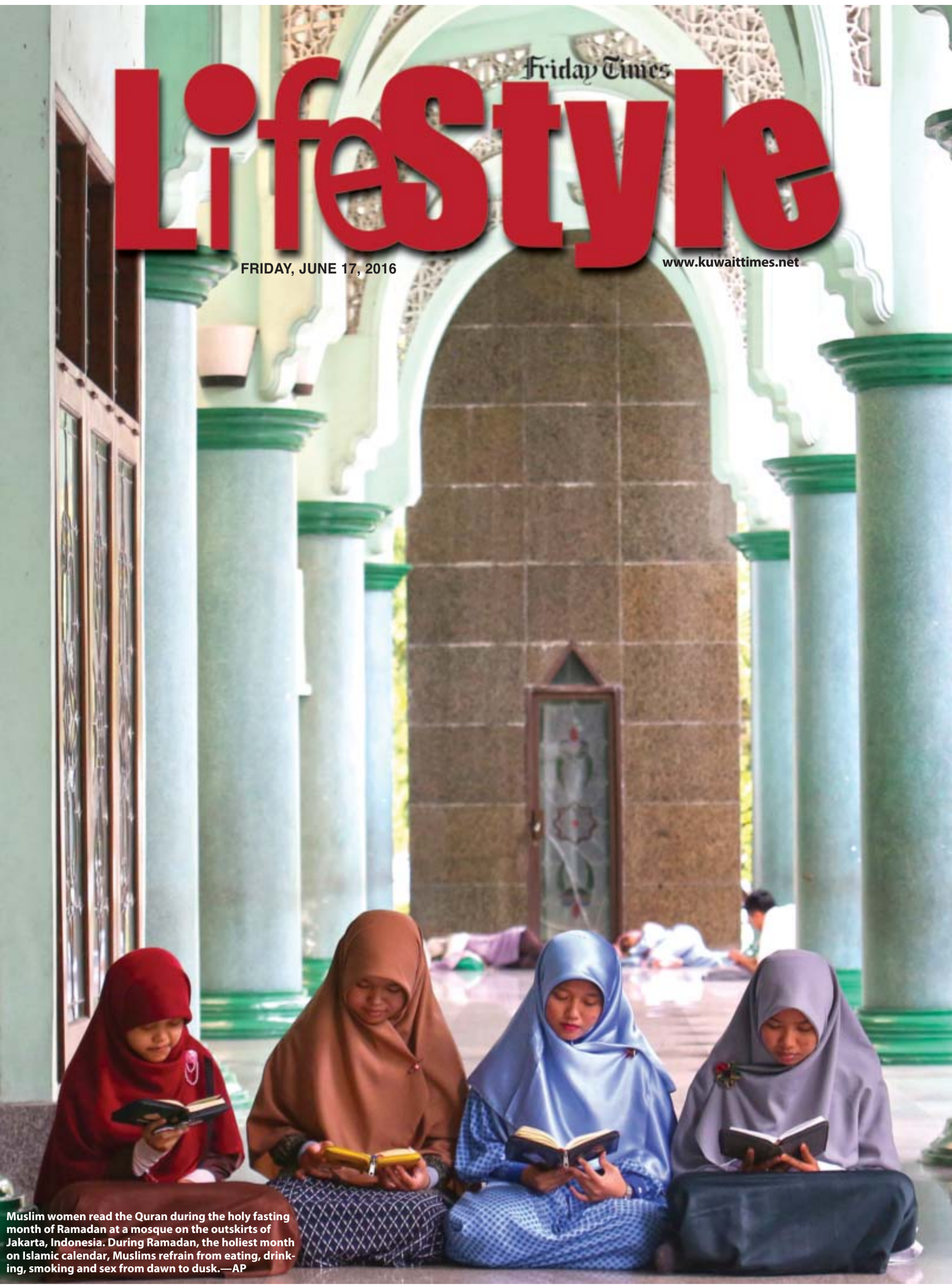
BANGKOK: A monk from the controversial Wat Dhammakaya temple is seen through the closed and netted gate as supporters gather at the temple grounds yesterday.—AFP

Friday Times

Lifestyle

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2016

www.kuwaittimes.net



Muslim women read the Quran during the holy fasting month of Ramadan at a mosque on the outskirts of Jakarta, Indonesia. During Ramadan, the holiest month on Islamic calendar, Muslims refrain from eating, drinking, smoking and sex from dawn to dusk.—AP

To order or not to order: Chinese Food

By Nathalie Basma

How do you maintain a healthy lifestyle but also enjoy a healthy social life? You're probably wondering how the two are related, right? What do my eating habits have anything to do with my friends? Most social interactions and outings involve food. We meet up at the coffee shop, where we're faced with deliciously sweet frappachinos with triple shots of caramel and double the whipped cream. Or we'll get lunch at the healthy vegetarian restaurant where we end up drowning our not so tasty oil free, sodium free, fat free chicken with extra dressing that has more calories in it than a whole chicken. So how do we enjoy a meal with friends but also avoid making 'making' mistakes or indulging in really unhealthy food choices?

Let's take Chinese restaurants for example. They are notorious for having items that are battered and deep-fried, loaded with salty, sugary sauces. Many dishes feature hefty amounts of oily noodles or fried rice along with fatty meats. For example, some of the unhealthiest Chinese dishes include crab rangoon, fried egg rolls, fried rice, lo mein, sweet and sour chicken and general tso's chicken. However, if you're wanting to maintain a healthier lifestyle, while also enjoy the occasional Chinese dish, there are some lighter options and suggestions for you to pick from.

Appetizers:

1. Fill up with soup
 - a. Most Chinese restaurants have delicious hot soups that you can start off with, and that will help fill you up. A cup of either hot and sour soup or wonton soup is generally around 80-100 calories. Research has found that if you eat a broth based soup before a meal, you end up eating less food total. So maybe skip the fried crab rangoons and have a cup of soup as appetizer instead.
 2. But I really want that egg roll...
 - a. So if you are really, really craving a deep fried egg roll, and there is absolutely no talking you out of it, choose a spring roll

instead. They're lighter, and can have up to 60 calories less than an egg roll. If possible, and/or available at the restaurant, try to order a fresh summer roll with a rice paper wrapper instead.

3. Steamed Vegetable Dumplings
 - a. Always a good, light option. One steamed veggie dumpling contains around 40 calories, so you can definitely enjoy two before your main meal.

Main Meal:

1. The Buddhas Delight
 - a. This is generally one of the lowest-calorie dishes you can get at a Chinese restaurant. It's loaded with steamed veggies, has protein-packed tofu, and no rice, leaving you full and satisfied with as little as 200 calories.
2. Chicken with Broccoli
 - a. If you're not a fan of tofu, you can always try this dish. One cup of chicken and broccoli has a reasonable 280 calories. To lower the calorie count even further, don't feel shy about requesting the sauce on the side and only using a little of it. The broccoli is always a bonus.
3. Moo Goo Gai Pan
 - a. This super-tasty dish is made from lightly-sautéed vegetables, button mushrooms, spices and sliced/cubed chicken. A whole cup of this fiber-filled dish has about 275 calories. Even if you were hungry and ate two cups, you would still be only consuming 550 calories!
4. Shrimp with Garlic Sauce
 - a. While this can be a very healthy dish, you have to consume with caution. Garlic sauces are generally very high in fat and calories, and a full order of this dish can oush up to 700 calories, if not more. Ask for the sauce on the side and use sparingly.
5. Always choose steamed shrimp or chicken instead of deep-fried or breaded. Both shrimp and chicken are lean sources of high-quality protein and can help you stay full for longer.



6. Try substituting rice (even brown rice) for extra vegetables!

Dessert

1. Unfortunately, healthy desserts are not an option here. BUT - never skip your fortune cookie (for only 30 calories)!

With all that being said, portion control is a huge factor here. Notice I suggested you eat 1-2 cups of your meal; most restaurants will give you much more than 2 servings of food, so be careful with that. Make wise choices and always be intentional about what you're consuming.

'Saq Al bamboo' and 'Been Galbin': Episode 10



By Nawara Fattahova

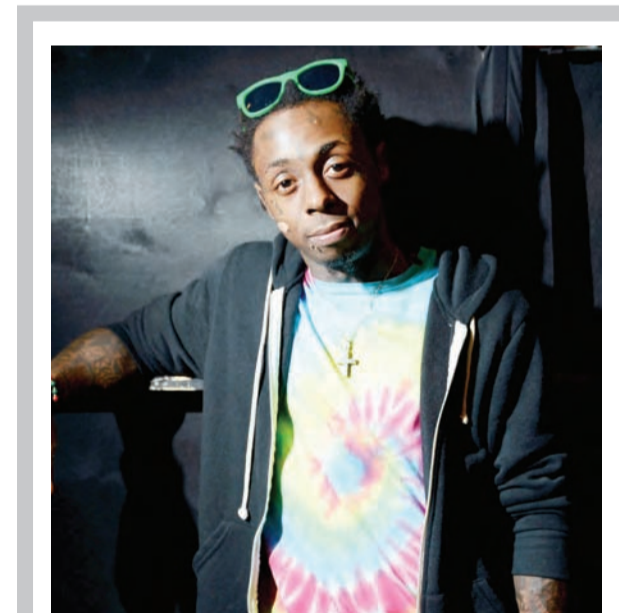
KUWAIT: The Kuwait Times is publishing daily review of two of the Kuwaiti soap operas showing on Al Rai TV and MBC Drama. Here is the review of the tenth episode:

'Saq Al bamboo' (Bamboo stalk)
Khawla asks Hind if she still loves Ghasan and Hind admits. So she wanted to know why they are not married even though things have changed, but Hind says it didn't change much - especially for her family. Ghasan brought Eisa's belongings from his house to Ghanima's house, and was disappointed to know that they let Eisa stay at the room which is outside of the house - their old Diwaniya. This reminds Ghasan of his old memories. Eisa says his mom also told him about their meetings here. He told Ghasan that he doesn't like the place and he felt more comfortable in his house, so Ghasan gives him the key of his house in case he wants to go back - any time.

Eisa meets the Filipina maid working in Ghanima's house while eating his breakfast in the kitchen. She told him that all the servants in this house know his story although the family thinks that the servants don't know anything. Awatif doesn't want Hind to talk or to meet Ghasan because of Eisa - so she suggested a mobile line for Eisa so that Ghasan can talk to him directly. He makes his first call from the new mobile to the Philippines to call his girlfriend Mirla who told him she lost her job - and feels bad. Khawla came back to Eisa (who was still on the phone) and told him to meet him inside their father's office. Eisa sees it as a museum and tells Khawla he has some memories there, but she says he was only few weeks old when he left, but Eisa told her that his mother told him all the stories about the room. Is in this room she (his mom) fell in love with my father, Eisa said. She showed him their father's novel, which she read more than 100 times. Ghanima came in, and kicked them out of the room - telling them she wants to stay alone in this room to talk to Rashid's spirit and photos.

Been Galbin (between two hearts)

When Dana was going to the saloon, she saw Yasmin entering a building with a suitcase and asks the Haris about her, and he told her that Yasmin has moved to the flat from two years. When Yasmin comes home, her husband blames her for going out every day. She told him that she rented a flat and wants to live alone and get divorced.
Dana goes to Noora's house to tell her about seeing Yasmin in the building. Zeid starts flirting with her and abusing her - so she left their house. Aryam goes to Marzouq'a house and he asks her to think again about the divorce and admitted he did some mistakes, but she insisted on getting a divorce. So he finally divorced her. She feels happy that she is free. The second day, she went to her old office and to meet Bashar and they went out for lunch. She says that she didn't stop loving him and that she will wait for him till he solves his family issues.



In this Feb 1, 2013 file photo, recording artist Lil Wayne poses for a photo in New Orleans. — AP

Lil Wayne leaves hospital; he's called 'all good'

A publicist says rapper Lil Wayne has left an Omaha hospital and intends to perform Saturday night as scheduled. The 33-year-old New Orleans native was hospitalized after his private jet was forced by a medical emergency to land Monday at Omaha's Eppley Airfield. He was later described in stable condition after suffering what his publicist says were two minor seizures.
Publicity director Derek Sherron of The Chamber Group said Wednesday that Lil Wayne, whose real name is Dwayne Michael Carter Jr., was "all good." The Grammy winner is booked into the Sprint Center for a Saturday night show with 2 Chainz. In March 2013 Lil Wayne was hospitalized in Los Angeles for seizures. He told a Los Angeles radio station that he has epilepsy. — AP

Neil Young continues revolutionary streak with 'Earth' album

When Neil Young turned his 1959 Lincoln Continental into an electric car, developed a high-tech digital music system and mixed animal sounds into his latest album, he didn't think it was revolutionary. They were just cool ideas he wanted to try. "I just consider myself as a person who wants to do things, you know," Young said from beneath a floppy black hat as he sat in the living room of his manager's "office house" in the tony hills of Calabasas, California. As when he wrote the protest song "Ohio" days after the 1970 shooting at Kent State, Young lets inspiration guide him. He trusts the moment so much that he says he never makes a set list before live shows and embarked on his latest album without knowing what it would be. "Earth," available June 24, is a collection of 13 live songs interspersed with the sounds of crickets, frogs, crows, bees and other animals Young recorded in his backyard. The 70-year-old singer-songwriter said he didn't set out to make an album about the planet. The theme just emerged as he chose the best performances from his past year on

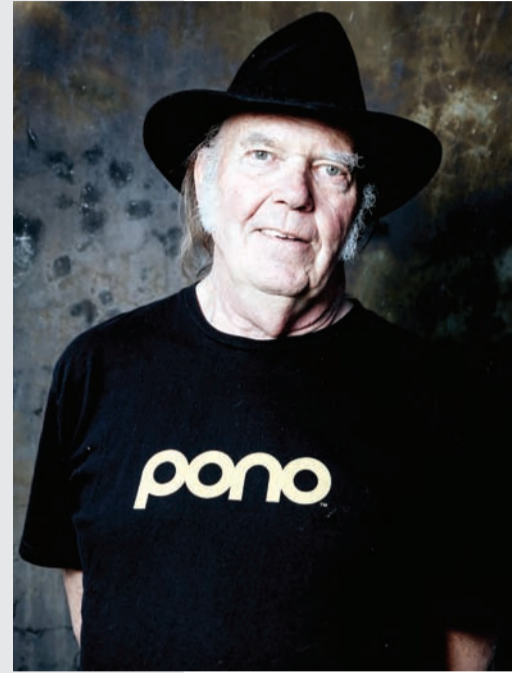
tour. "Those songs rose to the top," he said. "They said who they were and we made the record." He added the animals' voices as an experiment. "The animals give off a great vibe. There's nothing about them that's - they're not lying to you and they're not selling you something," he said. Young has been on the road with Promise of the Real, a band that features Willie Nelson's sons Lukas Nelson and Micah Nelson on vocals and guitar. Playing with them has energized his performances, Young said, which gave life to the album.

Creative energy

"(They) know over 100 of my songs," he said. "So I can choose all these songs anywhere at any time. That's very freeing." It also eliminates the need for set lists. They go with the flow. "Everything's in real time. The people are there. We're there. ... It'll be all of us together creating the moment," he said. He'll take the same approach at California's Desert Trip concert festival in the fall, where Young shares the bill with the Rolling

Stones, Bob Dylan, Paul McCartney, Roger Waters and the Who.

"The audience is going to be really stoked," Young said. "They're going to feel real special about being able to see all this at once. ... It's a celebration of music and history." Still, he said, "I'm going to play whatever I feel like playing that day." He tries to stay open to the whims of creative energy and "not be unavailable because I've made my mind up." "A made-up mind is like a jail," he said. "You can't get out of it." So when he got the notion to turn his beloved classic Lincoln into an electric vehicle, he just went for it instead of considering it unnecessary or impossible. "I don't think it's revolutionary to want to build an electric car when there's so much pollution on the planet," he said. — AP



Neil Young poses for a portrait in Calabasas, Calif., to promote his new album, "Earth." — AP



File photo shows Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page, left, and singer Robert Plant appear at a press conference ahead of the worldwide theatrical release of "Celebration Day," a concert film of their 2007 London O2 arena reunion show, in New York. — AP

Page to give more testimony in Led Zeppelin copyright trial

Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page is expected to give more testimony in a copyright infringement trial on Thursday where the British band is accused of stealing the opening chords of its classic "Stairway to Heaven" from another band's song. The lawsuit alleges that Led Zeppelin lifted the opening chords for "Stairway to Heaven" from the 1967 instrumental "Taurus" by the American band Spirit. Page, 72, took the witness stand in federal court in Los Angeles on Wednesday, where he said he did not recall hearing "Taurus" until recently, after he had been made aware of comparisons being made between the two songs.

The British musician also testified that he did not recall opening for Spirit at Led Zeppelin's first U.S. show in Denver in 1968, and said he had never seen Spirit perform live. Page was joined in court by Led Zeppelin singer Robert Plant, who is also expected to testify in the case. The

lawsuit was brought by Michael Skidmore, a trustee for the late Randy Wolfe, Spirit's guitarist and the composer of "Taurus." Wolfe, also known as Randy California, drowned in the Pacific Ocean in 1997.

The case comes just over a year after a federal jury in Los Angeles found recording stars Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams had plagiarized Motown great Marvin Gaye in creating their hit single "Blurred Lines," and awarded Gaye's family \$7.4 million. Skidmore has said Page may have been inspired to write "Stairway to Heaven" after hearing Spirit perform "Taurus" while the bands toured together in 1968 and 1969, but that Wolfe never received credit. Attorney Francis Alexander Malofiy, representing Skidmore, told a jury in opening arguments on Wednesday that the case centers on an infringement by Led Zeppelin of copyright law, which protects artistic creation. — Reuters

Review: Kristofferson hits 80 with new album of beloved hits

The title had some Kris Kristofferson fans fearing his 2013 album "Feeling Mortal" was his last. Now, entering his ninth decade, Kristofferson is feeling sentimental, with a new offering that's like a living epitaph. "The Cedar Creek Sessions," recorded live, features 25 of his best known songs in a collection that celebrates the legendary singer-songwriter's enduring mark on American music in the last half century. Released five days before his 80th birthday, it's a hit parade of honest, unadorned country music and a welcome reminder of his contributions to a genre now sometimes confused with overwrought pop.

There's "Me and Bobby McGee," "Help Me Make It Through the Night," "Sunday Mornin' Comin' Down" and "For the Good Times." And with help from good friend Sheryl Crow, there's his first recording of "The Loving Gift," a Kristofferson song made famous by Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash. The baritone is still unmistakably Kristofferson, somehow even deeper and more gravelly than in his prime, but also less defiant. Wistful, too, when he struggles with the lowest notes but still carries on. The album was recorded over three days at Cedar Creek Studios in Austin, Texas, and the Brownsville native sounds right at



This CD cover image released by KK Records shows, "The Cedar Creek Sessions," a release by Kris Kristofferson. — AP

home. He gets help on guitar from Shawn Camp, Kevin Smith on bass, Michael Ramos on keys and Mike Meadows on drums. — AP



This CD cover image released by Interscope Records shows "Why Are You OK," by Band of Horses. — AP

Review: Band of Horses takes it easy on 'Why Are You OK'

Band of Horses takes it easy on "Why Are You OK," wordy songs rooted in domestic situations that pleasantly glide but rarely soar. Producer Jason Lytle from Granddaddy gives Ben Bridwell's tunes a treble treatment, adding sonic minutiae without causing clutter, sometimes resembling carefully arranged, faux low-fi. Bridwell spent the years since 2012's "Mirage Rock" helping to raise four daughters and there are plenty of lyrical references to life at home - idyllic ("sitting on a bearskin rug, listening to grandpa talk"), nearly welcoming ("let me put you up in the guesthouse, we got a great couch, I found it sitting on the sidewalk") or more troubled ("getting me arrested was the strangest way of showing me that you're mine.") "Dull Times/The Moon" is the Floydish extended opener and takes care of most of the distortion on the album, which then veers between other spacey landscapes and country-pop combinations with indie sheens. A return of sorts to sounds from their beginnings, "Why Are You OK" may be the start of Band of Horses' transition to a different phase. — AP

Autumn Fashion Show





Models present creations during a fashion show on a tourist river boat cruising the Seine, as part of the J Autumn Fashion Show 2016 by Vietnamese-born model and global fashion show organizer Jessica Minh Anh in Paris. — AFP photos

Fashion mogul **Berge** to sell second part of famed library

Fashion mogul Pierre Berge said Wednesday he will put the second part of his famed library—one of the most valuable in private hands—up for auction in November. The French philanthropist, who co-founded the Yves Saint Laurent fashion empire with his lover the late designer, raised 11.7 million euros (\$12.8 million) from the sale of the first part of his collection last year. He now intends to put 380 works that include some of the cream of 19th-century European literature under the hammer, a statement said.

They include the manuscripts of the Marquis de Sade's last novel, "The Secret History of Isabella of Bavaria" and Gustave Flaubert's "Over the Fields and over the Shores"—an account of his tour of France's Loire and Brittany regions in 1886. Although the full catalogue of the Paris sales will not be released until September, it will also include signed books exchanged between such greats as Balzac, Hugo, Stendhal and Baudelaire.

English-language, German and Russian classics will also fea-

ture strongly with rare editions of work by the poets Byron, Shelley and Wordsworth, Oscar Wilde, Tolstoy, Turgenev, Kleist and Goethe. "You have to know how to get rid of things," Berge, 85, told AFP before the last sale. The proceeds of the auction on November 8 and 9 run by Sotheby's in Paris will go to a foundation Berge set up with Saint Laurent which helps support AIDS research. — AFP



Potato salad, with a South Indian twist

By Meera Sodha

Picnicking has long been a tradition for my family, generations ago on the shores of the Arabian Sea, then on the banks of Nile. When they moved to England, they picnicked at seaside at Cleethorpes — still in their saris, stoic in the face of the cold weather, wearing three sweaters each.

Although the landscape and weather changed when they

moved here, the food remained the same. The key was always simple food that could travel well and was, most importantly, big on flavor. It's no surprise, then, that potatoes were always on the menu. They take flavor so well, are inexpensive and can be eaten either hot or cold. Over time these South Indian picnic potatoes, which found their way into my kitchen after a trip to the state of Kerala, India many years ago, have become a family picnic staple. They are a distant, more tropical cousin

of the classic potato salad but embellished with coastal Indian ingredients: crispy shallots, a few spices, crunchy golden cashews and a little coconut milk.

Because they are so rich and flavorful, they are best served with simple accompaniments: Some leftover chicken, chapattis, a tub of lime pickles (available online and in some supermarkets) and a simple salad that won't wilt in the heat.



Ingredients

2 pounds baby new potatoes, washed
2 tablespoons coconut oil
1 teaspoon black mustard seeds (substitute yellow or brown mustard seeds if you can't find black)
1 teaspoon cumin seeds
10 fresh curry leaves
5 large shallots, diced
1-inch knob of ginger, peeled and grated
3 garlic cloves garlic, crushed
2 green chilies, finely sliced
1 large handful of cashews
3/4 teaspoon salt (or to taste)
1/2 cup coconut milk

Preparation

Place the potatoes in a pan of water and bring to a boil. Simmer for around 10 minutes or until the potatoes are tender. Drain and leave to one side to cool. When cool enough to handle, halve the biggest potatoes.

In a large frying pan, heat the oil over a medium heat and when hot add the mustard seeds, cumin seeds and curry leaves. When the seeds start to wriggle and the curry leaves crisp, add the shallots and cook until they turn golden, then add the garlic, ginger, chilies and cashews.

Cook the mixture for another 2 minutes then add the potatoes and salt. Turn up the heat to high and fry the potatoes for a few minutes until they brown slightly then add the coconut milk and keep stirring until the coconut milk evaporates to a form a sticky glaze. Can be eaten hot or cold. Nutrition information per serving: 410 calories. Servings: 4 - 6.

Creamy Buffalo Potato Salad:

A great dish for a hot summer

By Sara Moulton

Chicken wings are wonderful, but Buffalo Chicken Wings are on another level and that's thanks to the sauce. Defined by blue cheese, celery and hot sauce, Buffalo sauce could glorify any number of dishes. (Imagine how luscious it would be on a steak!)

There are two main kinds of potatoes: Baking and boiling. Baking potatoes (aka russets, the most famous of which is the Idaho) are higher in starch than boiling potatoes and fluffier in texture, falling apart when cooked. Excellent sponges for such flavorful ingredients as cream and butter, baking potatoes are your go-to choice when the ultimate plan is to mash them. Boiling potatoes, by contrast, hold their shape when cooked. They're sweeter than baking potatoes and boast a more assertive potato taste.

The best potato for a potato salad? Boiling potatoes are the usual choice. You want a salad with texture and integrity, not a mealy mess. But for this recipe, you also want the russet's ability to absorb flavor. So I opted for both. As predicted, the baking potatoes fell apart and generously absorbed the blue cheese and hot sauce. Unpredictably, but happily, they also helped make the salad's texture extra creamy. The boiling potatoes likewise

did their part, acting as bricks to the baking potatoes' mortar.

To "pre-season" the potatoes, toss them with vinegar and salt while they're still hot, just after you've boiled them but before adding the dressing. Fifteen minutes later the potatoes will have fully absorbed the pre-seasonings and become that much more flavorful and you're then free to slather them in the mayo and sour cream.

Potatoes, like pasta, not only absorb liquid, they also keep absorbing it until there's none left. That means the potato salad that was so nice and creamy when you first dressed it may have dried out 15 minutes later. If that happens, just stir in a little cold water and the silkiness will return. As is, this recipe may strike some folks as overly rich. If you want to slim it down, swap in light mayonnaise for the regular kind and Greek yogurt for the sour cream. The flavor will still be plenty large and you likely won't miss the extra calories.



CREAMY BUFFALO POTATO SALAD

Ingredients

1 lb. medium boiling potatoes, scrubbed and sliced 1/2-inch thick
 1 small baking potato (about 1/2 pound), peeled and sliced
 1/2 cup cider vinegar
 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
 1/3rd cup mayonnaise
 1/2 cup sour cream or plain no-fat Greek yogurt
 2 ounces crumbled blue cheese (preferably the soft creamy kind)
 1 to 2 teaspoons hot sauce or to taste
 1/2 cup finely chopped celery plus celery leaves for garnish
 Black pepper

Preparation

In a medium saucepan combine the potatoes with cold lightly salted water to cover by 2 inches and bring the water to a boil. Simmer the potatoes until they are just tender when pierced with the tip of a knife, about 5 to 7 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a large bowl, whisk together the vinegar and the salt until the salt is dissolved. When the potatoes are tender, drain and add them immediately to the bowl with the vinegar mixture. Toss the potatoes well with the vinegar mixture and let cool to room temperature, about 30 minutes.

Add the mayonnaise, sour cream, blue cheese, hot sauce, chopped celery and pepper to taste to the potatoes and toss well. If the potato salad seems dry, stir in some cold water and toss again. Transfer to a serving bowl and garnish with the celery leaves. Makes 6 servings.

Nutrition information per serving: 215 calories; 124 calories from fat; 14 g fat (4 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 19 mg cholesterol; 655 mg sodium; 18 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 2 g sugar; 5 g protein.

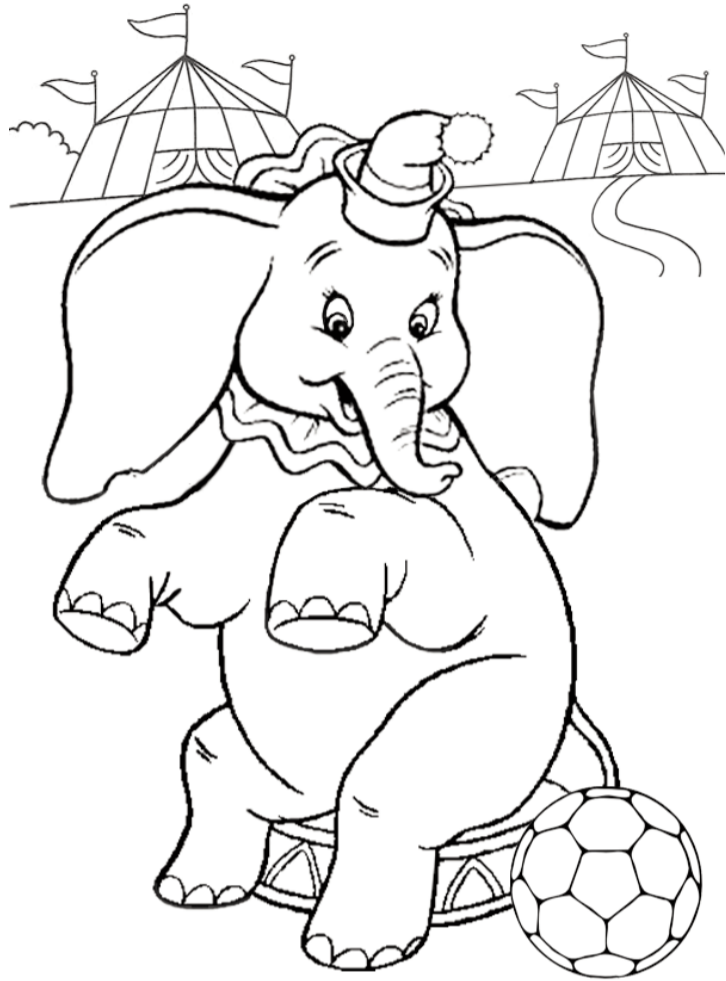


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Friday Times

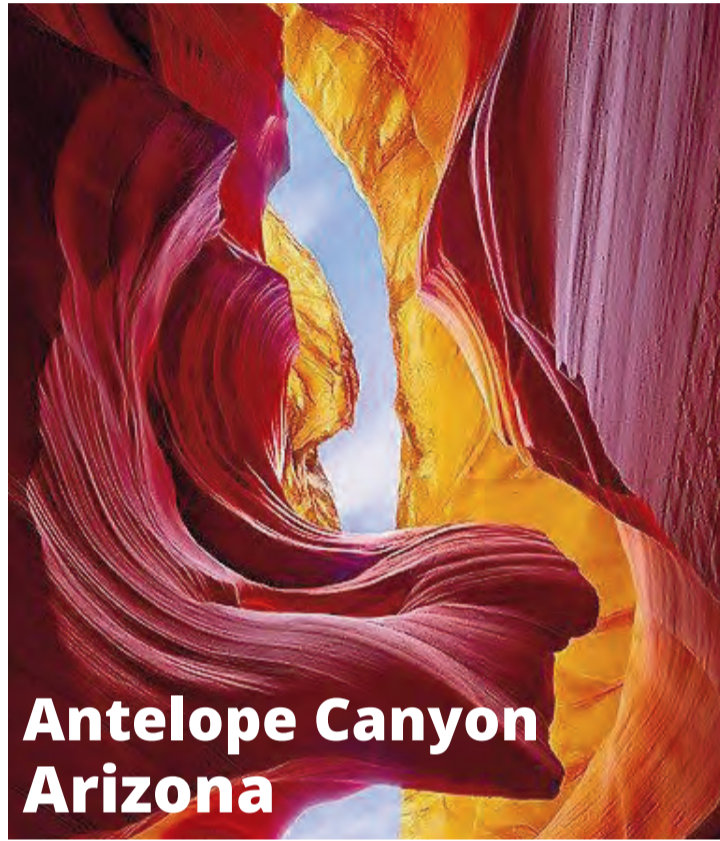
FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2016

Kids



Color me!

Antelope Canyon Arizona



Antelope Canyon is a slot canyon in the American Southwest. It is located on Navajo land east of Page, Arizona. Antelope Canyon includes two separate, photogenic slot canyon sections, referred to individually as Upper Antelope Canyon or The Crack; and Antelope Canyon or The Corkscrew.

Geology

Antelope Canyon was formed by erosion of Navajo Sandstone, primarily due to flash flooding and secondarily due to other sub-aerial processes. Rainwater, especially during monsoon season, runs into the extensive basin above the slot canyon sections, picking up speed and sand as it rushes into the narrow passageways. Over time the passageways eroded away, making the corridors deeper and smoothing hard edges in such a way as to form characteristic 'flowing' shapes in the rock.

Flooding in the canyon still occurs. A flood occurred on October 30, 2006, that lasted 36 hours, and caused the Tribal Park Authorities to close Lower Antelope Canyon for five months.

Tourism and photography

Antelope Canyon is a popular location for photographers and sightseers, and a source of tourism business for the Navajo Nation. Private tour companies have been permitted to offer tours since 1987. It has been accessible by tour only since 1997, when the Navajo Tribe made it a Navajo Tribal Park. Photography within the canyons is difficult due to the wide exposure range made by light reflecting off the canyon walls.

Upper Antelope Canyon is "the place where water runs through rocks" by the Navajo. It is the most frequently visited by tourists for two reasons. First, its entrance and entire length are at ground level, requiring no climbing. Second, beams (shafts of direct sunlight radiating down from openings in the top of the canyon) are much more common in Upper than in Lower. Beams occur most often in the summer months, as they require the sun to be high in the sky. Winter colors are a little more muted like the photo displayed here. Summer months provide two types of lighting. Light beams start to peek into the canyon March 20 and disappear October 7 each year.

Lower Antelope Canyon

Lower Antelope Canyon, called *Hazdistaz?*, or "spiral rock arches" by the Navajo Indians, are located a few miles away. Prior to the installation of metal stairways, visiting the canyon required climbing along pre-installed ladders in certain areas. Even following the installation of stairways, it is a more difficult hike than Upper Antelope.

It is longer, narrower in spots, and even footing is not available in all areas. At the end, the climb out requires several flights of stairs. Despite these limitations, Lower Antelope Canyon draws a considerable number of photographers, though casual sightseers are much less common there than in Upper. The lower canyon is in the shape of a "V" and shallower than the Upper Antelope. Lighting is better in the early hours and late morning.

DID YOU KNOW?



Whales are huge, warm-blooded, air breathing mammals that live in the sea. There are many different species including the blue whale, killer whale, humpback whale and minke.

- Many whales are toothless. They use a plate of comb-like fibre called baleen to filter small crustaceans and other creatures from the water.
- There are 79 to 84 different species of whale. They came in many different shapes and sizes!
- A baby whale is called a calf. Whales form groups to look after calves and feed together. These groups are often made up of all female or all male whales.
- Whales that are found in both Northern and Southern hemisphere never meet or breed together. Their migration is timed so that they are never in breeding areas at the same time.
- The arched lower lip of a whale can often make it look like it is smiling! However, this isn't a "real" smile as the blubber in the head of the whale prevents the muscles of the face from reaching the surface.
- You can tell the age of a whale by looking at the wax plug in its ear. This plug in the ear has a pattern of layers when cut lengthwise that scientists can count to estimate the age of the whale.

SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION

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





KIDS RECIPES



Crunchy Veggie Wrap

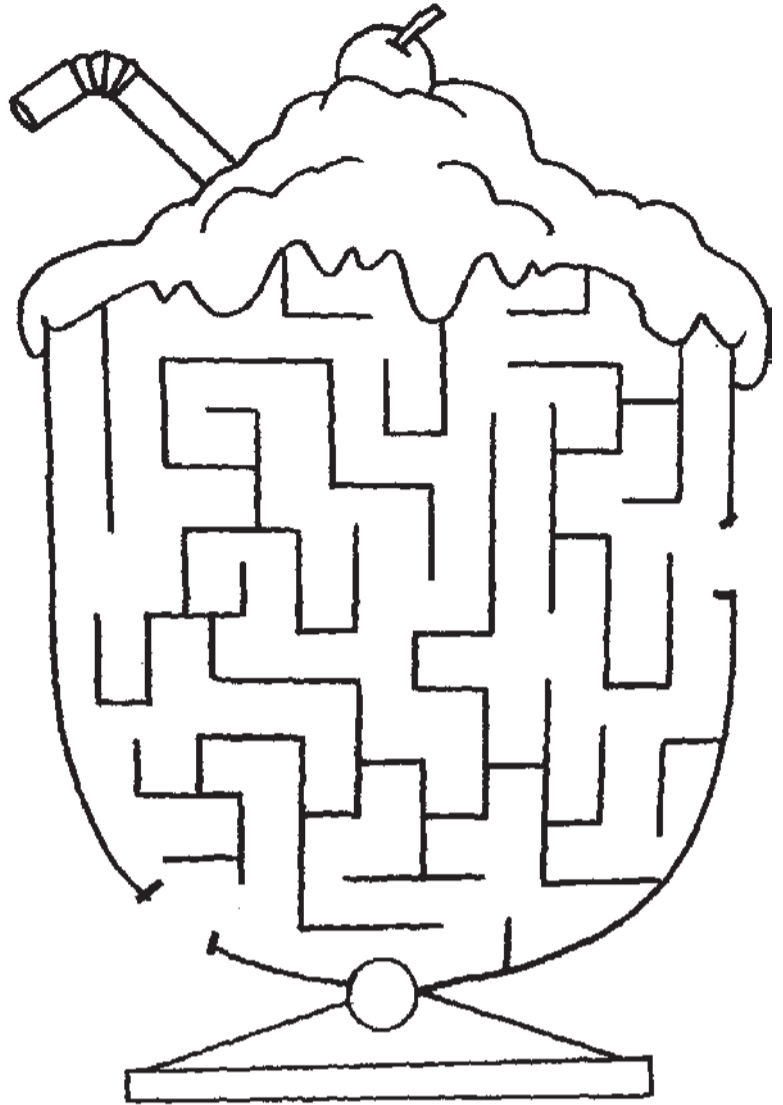
Ingredients:

- 1/2 c. fat-free cream cheese
- 4 8-inch flour tortillas
- 2/3 c. romaine lettuce, shredded
- 2/3 c. red cabbage, shredded
- 1 red tomato, diced
- 1/4 c. red onions, sliced
- 1/3 c. carrots, grated
- 1/4 c. blue cheese
- 1 c. alfalfa sprouts

Directions:

- Spread 2 tbsp. cream cheese over one side of each tortilla.
- Divide remaining ingredients evenly among tortillas.
- Roll up each tortilla.
- Cut each rolled wrap in half diagonally.

MAZE

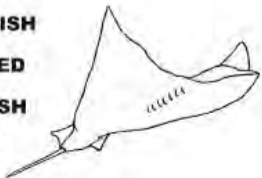


WORD SEARCH

Ocean Animal Word Search

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

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| ANEMONE | CLAM | CRAB |
| DOLPHIN | EEL | JELLYFISH |
| LOBSTER | OCTOPUS | SEAWEED |
| SHARK | SQUID | STARFISH |
| STINGRAY | SWORDFISH | WHALE |



Jokes for Kids



Q: A man rode his horse to town on Friday. The next day he rode back on Friday. How is this possible?

A: The horse's name was Friday.

Q: Why did the pony have to gargle?

A: Because it was a little horse!

Q: What did the horse say when it fell?

A: I've fallen and I can't giddyup!

Q: What did the teacher say when the horse walked into the class?

A: Why the long face?

Q: What do you call a horse that lives next door?

A: A neigh-bor!

Q: When does a horse talk?

A: Whinney wants to!

Tin-Can Wind Chime



Materials:

- 5 or 6 tin cans in different sizes
- Acrylic paint or latex wall paint
- Paintbrushes
- Painter's tape
- Hammer
- Nail
- Twine
- Scissors
- 10"-wide embroidery hoop
- Hot-glue gun

Directions:

1. Rinse cans in hot water and remove any labels. Let dry. Paint cans a solid color, applying two coats (TIP: Semi- or high-gloss paint gives cans a great shine.) Paint geometric designs on cans. For stripes, use painter's tape to mask off sections. Let dry.
2. Using a hammer and a nail, tap a small hole through center of a can bottom. Cut a 3' length of twine and thread through hole. Knot end inside of can. Repeat for remaining cans.
3. Tie cans to embroidery hoop using simple square knots. Space evenly around hoop. Vary lengths so they can hang at different heights. Make sure they are close enough to one another to collide when wind blows, so they will make a sound. Apply glue to each knot to keep it in place.





Friday Times
Travel

ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES TO FULFILL YOUR SUMMER



Summer is the best time for a good adventure. Whether you're into extreme sports or volunteering in a remote part of the world, there is a little something for everyone. Below is a list of the top summer adventures. Some are right out your front door and others require a full tank of gas. Try one, two, or them all. Regardless you will have a great time and have an adventure this summer that will bring lots of lifelong memories.

Rock climbing **M**any gyms are now offering rock climbing, and it's possible to enjoy this adventure sport both indoors and outdoors without living at the base of a mountain. Rock climbing looks scary from a distance, and if you're not crazy about heights, this might not be for you. If the proper safety steps are followed, however, rock climbing can be perfectly safe and, at the same time, a real rush.



Surfing

Surfing is one of the toughest activities to master, but it'll offer a workout that will have you feeling good from your toes to your head-after the initial shock to your muscles, of course. Obviously, it helps if you live by an ocean, but this awesome sport is something you can work away at mastering over a lifetime. In addition to building a rock-hard core, surfing will build your arms, chest and back as you paddle out to the waves.

Mountain biking

Street cycling is a great exercise, but taking your game to a mountain-or a hilly trail, if a mountain's not readily available-should raise your adrenaline levels. It's loads of fun to explore new terrain, especially when surprises may lie around each corner. The elevation changes will keep you in top shape, and you'll burn calories and add muscle without constantly inhaling diesel fumes from the nearest city bus.



Kayaking

Kayaking is a sport that you can tailor to exactly the way you want. If you're looking for a workout and some tranquility, rent a kayak at the nearest beach and paddle down the river, away from the crowd. If you want to step up the intensity (after you're experienced, of course) a beginner's rapids course can provide a big-time shot of adrenaline, not the mention an exhausting workout for your upper body.

Orienteering

A great social sport and perfect for the nature lover, orienteering offers a unique physical and mental workout. Many sports are mostly physical in nature, but this activity is sure to test the gray matter as well. It's challenging to identify key points in the terrain and navigate around them, while it's physically demanding to get to those points in the required amount of time.



Scuba diving

If you love the water but want to move beyond dips in the lake at the cottage, scuba diving could be the answer. Many cities offer training courses at pools, so by the time you go south for a holiday, you'll be up to speed on what to do below the water. Scuba diving is a quiet, peaceful activity, yet the thought of not knowing what sights-and creatures-you'll discover around the next corner offers sheer adventure.



Bungee jumping Bungee jumping is like no other sport, and while it's over in a matter of seconds, the adrenaline rush you experience will last much longer than that. The memories, of course, will last a lifetime, and this adventure sport is certainly not for the faint of heart. If you're up for something that is truly the epitome of an adventure sport, this might be right up your alley.



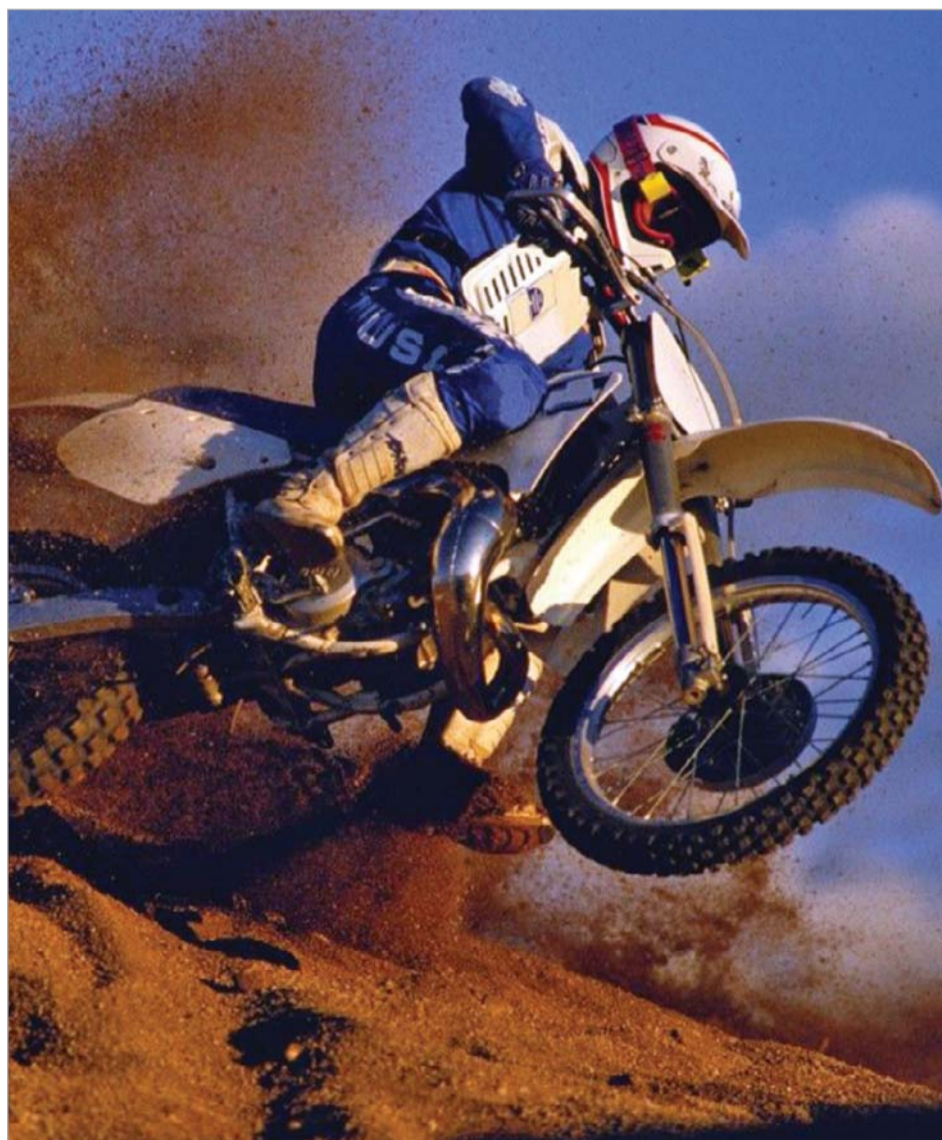
SKIING

Skiing provides impressive sights and a great workout as you navigate your way through the course. Now, imagine enjoying those same benefits while soaring through the air. Hang gliding is one of the top daredevil sports, but is supremely addictive once you give it a shot. It's exciting to be among the 1% of individuals who have seen the world through a bird's-eye view.



Hiking

If you're a fan of simple walking or jogging, you'll enjoy hiking and the challenges it offers. It's nice to get off the beaten path while at the same time experiencing elevation changes and different sights. The changes in elevation—short climbs and descents—will work the muscles in ways that walking cannot, and eventually, you can graduate to steeper climbs and more challenging terrain.



Dirt biking

If you've graduated from cycling to mountain biking and are still looking for a physical challenge, dirt biking might be next on your list. True, you won't get the leg work out that you would on a bike with pedals, but it requires good upper-body strength to steer a heavy motorized bike around a course. Don't automatically picture yourself doing motocross, complete with 360s and back flips; a beginner's course should give you quite a test until you master the machine.



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Your feelings need to be stirred before you can throw yourself completely into any venture. Love, ideals and a strong sense of your own worth are vital to your well-being. If there is something that the majority wants to do this day, consider that you could bail out if you decided not to continue the activity later-just hang with the guys for a bit; you might decide to stay. You enjoy life yourself and you value enthusiasm in those around you. Your appetite for action is probably well known and well noted. Sports, outdoor activities and everything physical are high on your list of favorites. A love relationship has every opportunity to be strengthened and you have the strong feeling that there is smooth sailing ahead.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

With so many employees away from the workplace at this time, some employees of one department will be traded to another department. These employees may be senior employees but many will be traded to another department because they have been in the business for a while and it would be fairly simple to pick up where another left off. You may find yourself in just such a position soon. If you are not in that situation yet, speak up and choose where you might like to be temporarily moved, so as to be helpful. You will make lots of points toward getting what you want later, particularly when you perform well. You have a wonderful way of working with others, helping them to sense and feel the unity of life. Family is your main focus this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This day is full of the effort to pack so much work into one period of time. Around late afternoon you may be able to stop for a snack and a rethink about how you want to play your cards for a possible climb up the corporate ladder. It may be your birthday but it is not your professional reassessment time. However, when you are given attention for your birthday, you will be able to lightly gravitate toward goals and some small ways of how you want to achieve and grow. If you are volunteering in a group situation after work today, ask your family members first about their plans; they will appreciate your consideration. Young people may find it fascinating to create an unusual environment for you, particularly in order to surprise you.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Getting your message across to others takes little time or explanation-others seem to understand just what you mean. Your timing should be perfect and those around you will find you most spontaneous and flexible to go wherever you are needed. Your management and supervisory abilities are in high gear. You are not moved by the pretended emotions of another and you prefer concrete subjects to flights of fancy. Your love of groups and the social scene may find you interested in relationships of all kinds. After work you have errands and repairs and kids and eventually you are home. Don't forget about your vehicle. Make sure the upkeep is kept up on and schedule appointments when necessary. A take home dinner may be helpful tonight.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You will want to examine ideas, thoughts and concepts in order to eliminate the things that do not work. Searching, research and detective work may be what is necessary now. You may find that both your personal growth and your career may depend upon how you can handle the very sensitive material now. When you love, you love with passion. You value personal contact, cutting through all the externals and getting to the heart of things. You understand and appreciate vulnerability and have no qualm about presenting your own sensitive spots to others. You enjoy working behind the scenes, getting at any secrets and hidden areas of the mind and psyche. News reporter or detective would be an ideal profession for you to consider, perhaps as a freelancer.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Be open to the suggestions of others today. This is a day of exploring your feelings-a kind of restlessness for a new emotional experience. Your most essential quality has to do with the very real love and compassion you radiate for the issues of this day. Your sense of values and sheer appreciation for life is connected to all who come to know you. People will value you for your warmth and dynamic qualities as much as for your ideas. You may be able to help in some community effort this evening. A neighbor that has always been hard to interact with finally opens up to you in positive ways. You can relate to almost all types of people with equal ease and find this is another one of those days filled with lots of interesting people.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a good time for making amends, making peace with the past and meditating on things that you would like to understand better. Philosophy and religion are subjects that fascinate and occupy your mind. Your ideas are always to the point and candid, never florid or superficial. You are an expert at working with words that depict mystical and mythological ideas. You are at home in these realms and can always manage to bring otherworldly ideas into the practical realms. You might consider working at an island retreat. This sort of profession is beginning to look profitable for you. This afternoon you may enjoy coaching young people in outdoor sports. You are a natural in this arena and enjoy participating. Sing or hum an old tune; just for fun!



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Be satisfied with the ordinary and usual for now. Novel ideas or insights could be more damaging than useful. There is hectic emotional energy prevailing. There is a greater appreciation for things of value and the idea of value itself is in order. This could be a period of great material gain; it is certainly a time when material things have a great deal of importance for you. People may be asking you for advice regarding very personal and emotional issues. You are understanding of the situation and are able to find the real truth in order to help another understand. This evening is for you; stop fidgeting! You are allowed some time for yourself. If there is not a hot tub, pool or lake to dive into, a good book or movie can be fun.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Anyone who tries to get you to play with words is in for a big surprise. Your mind cuts right through all the window dressing. Before anyone knows it, you have the important aspects out front for everyone to see. You would make a great investigator, either in scientific research or undercover work. Your ability to get to the point is all but phenomenal. You can talk and put into words areas of the psychological that others would not go near. Your drive to make dreams real keeps you working for your vision. You put your whole heart into making your dreams and ideals a reality. You would appreciate that Voltaire once said, "the great and only serious business of life is to live happily." home and family hold your attention this evening.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

There is optimism, hope and faith in what is yet to be experienced or accomplished. Family, home, relatives and real estate play a bigger part in your life. You may decide on certain property or an area in which to move. You experience life mostly through your emotions and how you feel about someone or something. Your intuition is strong and can guide you accurately in making forecasts or decisions. Your sensitivity makes you recoil from aggressive types. You will be concerned with maintaining and strengthening your position, rather than pushing outward. This afternoon you relax with loved ones and play with new recipe ideas. These next few months should be easy and filled with opportunities and a variety of friendships.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your passion in discovering the answer to mysteries is strong and you may find that even as you guess at hidden truths, you will usually be moving in the right direction. Your career and life direction are putting some real pressure on your home and emotional life. Obviously, you cannot live without both, so some kind of self-control or agreement may be indicated. You can relate to almost all types of people with equal ease and should not have any trouble in settling the problems of today. All things pale beside your basic drive and the emotions you so freely exhibit. You are a good friend and tonight is a good time to help one particular friend stay on a rational path. Afterward, dinner together is a nice way to get to know a friend better.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Much can be accomplished this day. You are very creative when it comes to your business as well as your home and surroundings. Ideas of decorating or redecorating may be on your mind. You may enjoy involvement in any mental efforts or like forms of discipline. You will work long and hard at whatever you put your mind to-results will be positive. You could present or teach your knowledge to others. You have such an outpouring of insights that having a conversation with you can be a real experience. Your mind works like lightning. Your words and thoughts come quickly and are illuminating whatever the subject. You are an inspiration and driving force in the lives of others. A very wealthy client may help you to expand your vocation.

COUNTRY CODES

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



04:40 The Bed Sitting Room
06:10 Robinson Crusoe
07:40 Little Sister
09:15 Still Life: A Three Pines Mystery
10:45 One More Time
12:20 Island Of The Lost
13:50 Lords Of Dogtown
15:30 What Did You Do In The War Daddy?
17:25 Sharks' Treasure
19:00 Crimes And Misdemeanors
20:45 Big Screen
21:00 State Of Grace
23:15 Venom
00:40 I Love Your Work
02:35 State Of Grace



03:25 Into The Pride
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
06:12 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
06:36 Call Of The Wildman
07:00 Call Of The Wildman
07:25 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
08:15 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
08:40 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Dogs/Cats/Pets 101
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
13:15 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
13:45 Gator Boys
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Into The Pride
17:25 River Monsters
18:20 River Monsters
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Lion Man: One World African Safari
20:40 Lion Man: One World African Safari
21:05 Treehouse Masters
22:00 River Monsters
22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 River Monsters
00:45 I'm Alive
01:40 River Monsters
02:35 Tanked



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



03:00 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
03:50 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol

04:40 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
08:05 Hungry Investors
12:15 Catch A Contractor
12:40 Catch A Contractor
13:05 Catch A Contractor
13:30 Catch A Contractor
13:55 Catch A Contractor
14:20 Catch A Contractor
14:45 Hungry Investors
15:35 Catch A Contractor
16:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
17:25 Nathan For You
17:50 Nathan For You
18:15 Hungry Investors
19:03 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
20:13 Frankenfood
20:37 Frankenfood
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Hungry Investors
22:30 Catch A Contractor
23:00 Catch A Contractor
23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
00:00 Lip Sync Battle
00:25 Lip Sync Battle
00:50 Hungry Investors
01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
02:05 Catch A Contractor
02:30 Catch A Contractor



03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer

04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Gravity Falls
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:40 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
08:05 Shake It Up
08:30 Shake It Up
08:55 Jessie
09:20 Jessie
09:45 Girl Meets World
10:10 Girl Meets World
10:35 How To Build A Better Boy
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
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 Teen Beach Movie
19:20 The 7D
19:30 Liv And Maddie
19:55 Liv And Maddie
20:20 Backstage
20:45 Starstruck
22:15 Mouk
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost

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



03:00 Untamed & Uncut
03:50 Marooned With Ed Stafford
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
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
09:55 How It's Made
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bondi Vet
12:00 Too Cute!
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 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 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
17:50 Bionic Builders
18:40 You Have Been Warned
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 How It's Made
20:45 How It's Made
21:10 Dynamo: Magician Impossible

22:00 Bionic Builders
22:50 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
00:30 Mythbusters
01:20 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
02:10 Bionic Builders



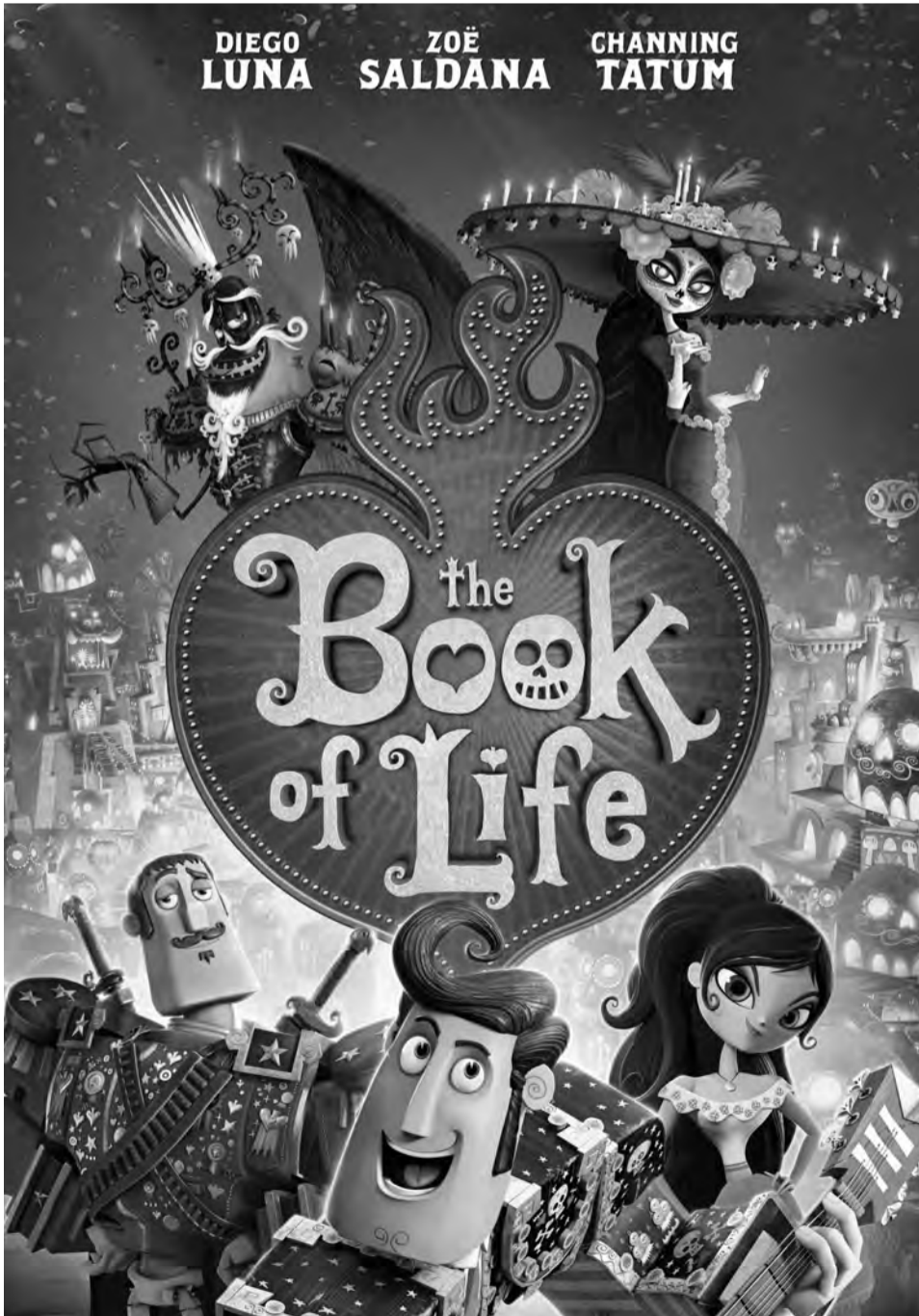
03:00 Discovery ID
09:00 Discovery ID
15:00 Discovery ID
21:00 Discovery ID
Discovery ID Xtra
03:00 Murder Among Friends
03:48 Breaking Point
04:36 Deadly Affairs
05:24 The Perfect Murder
06:12 Tabloid
07:00 Deadly Affairs
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
08:40 The Perfect Murder
09:30 On The Case With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

06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopdidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopdidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:45 PJ Masks
09:10 The Lion Guard
09:35 Doc McStuffins
10:00 Sofia The First
10:25 Unbungalievable
10:30 Goldie & Bear
11:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:25 The Lion Guard
11:50 Doc McStuffins
12:15 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
12:45 The Hive
12:55 Unbungalievable
13:00 Sofia The First
13:25 Doc McStuffins
13:50 Miles From Tomorrow
14:15 The Lion Guard
14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:10 Doc McStuffins
15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:00 Sofia The First
16:25 Jungle Cubs
16:50 Aladdin
17:15 The Lion Guard
17:40 Goldie & Bear
18:05 Miles From Tomorrow
18:30 Sofia The First
19:00 PJ Masks
19:25 Unbungalievable
19:30 The Lion Guard
20:00 Goldie & Bear
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
21:25 PJ Masks
21:50 Jungle Cubs
22:20 Aladdin
22:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopdidoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopdidoo
01:30 Art Attack
02:05 Calimero
02:20 Zou
02:30 Loopdidoo
02:45 Art Attack



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

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 Lab Rats
10:25 Lab Rats
10:50 K.C. Undercover
11:20 K.C. Undercover
11:45 Supa Strikas
12:10 Supa Strikas
12:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
13:00 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
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



THE BOOK OF LIFE ON OSN MOVIES HD



03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopdidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopdidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero

06:00 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 Lab Rats
10:25 Lab Rats
10:50 K.C. Undercover
11:20 K.C. Undercover
11:45 Supa Strikas
12:10 Supa Strikas
12:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
13:00 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
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



- 03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 04:00 Man Fire Food
- 04:30 Man Fire Food
- 05:00 Chopped
- 06:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 07:00 Man Fire Food
- 07:30 Man Fire Food
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 09:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 10:00 The Kitchen
- 11:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 11:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 12:00 Chopped
- 13:00 Grandma's Secret Cookbook Special
- 13:30 Grandma's Secret Cookbook Special
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Man Fire Food
- 15:30 Man Fire Food
- 16:00 Chopped
- 17:00 The Kitchen
- 18:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 18:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 19:00 Chopped
- 20:00 Iron Chef America
- 21:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 22:00 Chopped South Africa
- 23:00 Kitchen Inferno
- 00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 01:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 02:00 Chopped South Africa



WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD ON OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 17:25 The Great Fire
- 18:20 Coach Trip
- 18:45 Coach Trip
- 19:10 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
- 19:35 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
- 20:05 Catchphrase
- 20:30 Don't Tell The Bride
- 21:25 The Great Fire
- 22:20 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
- 22:50 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
- 23:15 Mr Selfridge
- 00:10 Pick Me!
- 01:05 Coach Trip
- 01:30 Coach Trip
- 02:00 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
- 02:30 Emmerdale
- 02:55 Emmerdale

- 20:50 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 21:15 World's Best Chefs
- 21:40 World's Best Chefs
- 22:05 A Model Adventure
- 22:55 Cesar To The Rescue
- 23:45 Chefs Run Wild
- 00:10 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 00:35 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 01:00 Glamour Puds
- 01:25 Home Strange Home
- 02:15 Meat v Veg
- 02:40 American Food Battle

- 19:00 Secrets Of The Tang Treasure Ship
- 20:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 20:50 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
- 21:40 The Great Human Race
- 22:30 Secrets Of The Tang Treasure Ship
- 23:20 Science Of Stupid
- 23:45 Science Of Stupid
- 00:10 Locked Up Abroad
- 01:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
- 02:00 The Great Human Race
- 02:55 Nazi Megastructures

- 11:00 Tinker Bell And The Legend Of The NeverBeast
- 13:00 Aladdin
- 15:00 Night At The Museum: Battle Of The Smithsonian
- 17:00 Toy Story 2
- 19:00 White Fang
- 21:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean: At World's End
- 23:45 Night At The Museum: Battle Of The Smithsonian
- 01:30 White Fang



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



- 03:05 Lucky Chow
- 03:30 Places We Go
- 03:55 One Man & His Campervan
- 04:20 One Man & His Campervan
- 04:45 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 05:10 World's Best Chefs
- 05:35 World's Best Chefs
- 06:00 A Model Adventure
- 06:50 Cesar To The Rescue
- 07:40 Chefs Run Wild
- 08:05 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 08:30 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 08:55 Lucky Chow
- 09:20 Places We Go
- 09:45 One Man & His Campervan
- 10:10 One Man & His Campervan
- 10:35 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 11:00 World's Best Chefs
- 11:25 World's Best Chefs
- 11:50 A Model Adventure
- 12:40 Cesar To The Rescue
- 13:35 Chefs Run Wild
- 14:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 14:55 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 15:25 Places We Go
- 15:50 One Man & His Campervan
- 16:20 One Man & His Campervan
- 16:45 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 17:15 World's Best Chefs
- 17:40 World's Best Chefs
- 18:10 A Model Adventure
- 19:05 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 19:30 Places We Go
- 20:00 One Man & His Campervan
- 20:25 One Man & His Campervan



- 03:45 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
- 04:40 1000 Days For The Planet
- 05:35 Ultimate Predators GPU
- 06:30 Animals Gone Wild
- 07:25 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
- 08:20 1000 Days For The Planet
- 09:15 World's Deadliest Snakes
- 10:10 Legends Of Lemur Island
- 11:05 Africa's Blood River
- 12:00 Shark Men
- 12:55 Ultimate Predators GPU
- 13:50 Africa's Deadliest
- 14:45 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
- 15:40 1000 Days For The Planet
- 16:35 Ultimate Animal Countdown
- 17:30 Cuba's Secret Reef
- 18:25 Hyena Queen
- 19:20 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
- 20:10 1000 Days For The Planet
- 21:00 Ultimate Animal Countdown
- 21:50 Cuba's Secret Reef
- 22:40 Hyena Queen
- 23:30 Shark Men
- 00:20 Ultimate Predators GPU
- 01:10 Africa's Deadliest
- 02:00 Dangerous Encounters
- 02:50 Natural Born Monsters
- National Geo HD
- 03:50 Nazi Megastructures
- 04:45 X: The Generation That Changed The World
- 05:40 Science Of Stupid
- 06:05 Science Of Stupid
- 06:35 Kung Fu Motion
- 07:30 Test Your Brain
- 08:25 Wicked Tuna
- 09:20 X: The Generation That Changed The World
- 10:15 Locked Up Abroad
- 11:10 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
- 12:05 Megastructures
- 13:00 Wicked Tuna
- 14:00 Brain Games
- 14:30 Brain Games
- 15:00 Secrets Of The Tang Treasure Ship
- 16:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 17:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
- 18:00 The Great Human Race



- 03:00 Odyssey
- 04:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 07:00 Chicago Fire
- 08:00 Prison Break
- 09:00 Supergirl
- 10:00 Odyssey
- 11:00 Chicago Fire
- 12:00 Prison Break
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 The Night Shift
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Prison Break
- 19:00 Supergirl
- 20:00 Shark Tank
- 21:00 The Night Shift
- 22:00 Downton Abbey
- 23:00 Sleepy Hollow
- 00:00 Chicago Fire
- 01:00 The Night Shift
- 02:00 Downton Abbey



- 04:00 Bubble Boy
- 06:00 The Bounty Hunter
- 08:00 Father Of The Bride Part II
- 10:00 Bubble Boy
- 12:00 The Bounty Hunter
- 14:00 Bad Parents
- 16:00 Father Of The Bride Part II
- 18:00 Julie And Julia
- 20:15 At Middleton
- 22:00 Identity Thief
- 00:00 Father Of The Bride Part II
- 02:00 Julie And Julia



- 03:00 Beverly Hills Chihuahua
- 05:00 Brave
- 07:00 Strange Magic
- 09:00 D2: The Mighty Ducks



- 03:00 What Maisie Knew
- 05:00 Happiness
- 06:30 Legends Of The Fall
- 09:00 Won't Back Down
- 11:00 Happiness
- 13:00 Where Angels Fear To Tread
- 15:00 Blackfish
- 16:45 Won't Back Down
- 19:00 The Guardian
- 21:30 Out Of The Furnace
- 23:30 Low Down
- 01:30 Won't Back Down



- 03:00 The Book Of Life
- 05:00 The 7th Dwarf
- 07:00 Run All Night
- 09:00 The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out Of Water
- 11:00 The 7th Dwarf
- 12:30 Streetdance: All Stars
- 14:15 Make Your Move
- 16:15 The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
- 18:30 Divergent
- 21:00 Peter Pan Live!
- 23:15 Brick Mansions
- 01:00 The Forger
- 02:45 Divergent



- 03:00 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels
- 04:30 Daddy I'm A Zombie
- 06:00 Kikoriki: Team Invincible
- 08:00 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 09:45 Tom And Jerry: Spy Quest
- 11:15 Tarzan
- 13:00 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels
- 14:30 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 16:00 Echo Planet
- 18:00 Tom And Jerry: Spy Quest
- 20:00 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby

- 22:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 23:30 Echo Planet
- 01:15 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 02:45 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby



- 04:00 Still Alice
- 06:00 The Mark
- 08:00 Love, Rosie
- 10:00 Son Of Batman
- 12:00 The Imitation Game
- 14:00 Dragonheart 3: The Sorcerer's Curse
- 16:00 Love, Rosie
- 18:00 Jupiter Ascending
- 20:15 Penthouse North
- 22:00 6 Ways To Sundown
- 00:00 Little Accidents
- 02:00 Jupiter Ascending



- 03:15 Arthur Newman
- 05:00 The Good Shepherd
- 07:15 Shanghai Noon
- 09:15 Closed Circuit
- 11:00 Henry's Crime
- 12:45 Sister Act
- 14:30 The King's Speech
- 16:30 The Stone Council
- 18:14 02:22
- 20:00 Monsters University
- 22:00 Reign Of Fire
- 23:45 Mrs. Miracle
- 01:30 Amphibious



- 03:00 Private Practice
- 04:00 Da Vinci's Demons
- 05:00 How I Met Your Mother
- 05:30 How I Met Your Mother
- 06:00 The Simpsons
- 06:30 The Simpsons
- 07:00 Switched At Birth
- 08:00 American Idol
- 09:00 American Idol
- 10:00 Private Practice
- 11:00 Private Practice
- 12:00 Da Vinci's Demons
- 13:00 How I Met Your Mother
- 13:30 How I Met Your Mother
- 14:00 The Simpsons
- 14:30 The Simpsons
- 15:00 Switched At Birth
- 16:00 Lost
- 17:00 Melissa & Joey
- 17:30 Cougar Town
- 18:00 Desperate Housewives
- 19:00 Desperate Housewives
- 20:00 Fit For Fashion
- 21:00 Melissa & Joey
- 21:30 Cougar Town
- 22:00 American Idol
- 23:00 American Idol
- 00:00 Private Practice
- 01:00 Da Vinci's Demons
- 02:00 Desperate Housewives



- 03:06 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 03:30 Craft Wars
- 04:20 Little People, Big World...
- 05:10 Cake Boss
- 05:35 Something Borrowed, Something New
- 06:00 Our Little Family
- 06:49 Cake Boss
- 07:12 Cake Boss
- 07:35 Cake Boss
- 07:58 Cake Boss
- 08:22 Food Hospital
- 09:10 Food Hospital
- 09:57 Ugly House To Lovely House
- 10:45 Single Dad Seeking...
- 11:35 Say Yes To The Dress
- 12:00 Say Yes To The Dress
- 12:25 Say Yes To The Dress
- 12:48 Say Yes To The Dress
- 13:12 Say Yes To The Dress
- 13:35 Oprah Prime
- 14:25 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
- 15:15 Little People, Big World: Wedding Farm
- 16:05 Little People, Big World...
- 16:52 Love At First Swipe

WORD SEARCH

90's Songs 7 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| ALRIGHT | I KNOW | MR. JONES |
| ANGEL | I SWEAR | NO RAIN |
| BIG POPPA | INFORMER | RUNAWAY TRAIN |
| BLACK CAT | JUMPER | SAVE TONIGHT |
| CREEP | LAST KISS | TELL ME |
| DECEMBER | LATELY | TOO CLOSE |
| FOOLISH GAMES | LOUNGIN | TWO PRINCES |
| HERO | | WHO DAT |

Yesterday's Solution

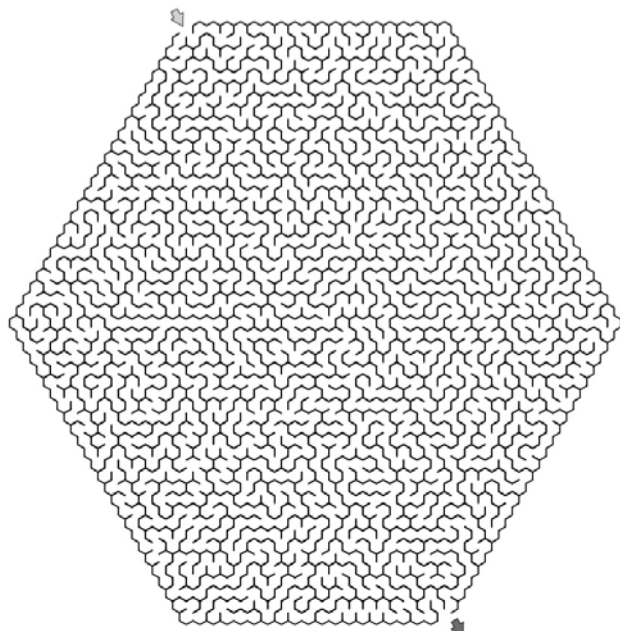
Large Print Word Search Puzzles

90's Songs 6 - Solution

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

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|
| BABY | INSENSITIVE | TEMPTATION |
| BLACK | LULLABY | THIS HOUSE |
| DREAMLOVER | ONE WEEK | TOO MUCH |
| EVERY MORNING | POISON | UNPRETTY |
| HIGH ENOUGH | REGULATE | WATERFALLS |
| HYPNOTIZE | SABOTAGE | WHATTA MAN |
| I BELIEVE | SHINE | WILD NIGHT |
| IMPULSIVE | | ZOMBIE |

CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1287

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15			16								17		
18			19						20	21			
22		23		24			25	26					
27						28							
29	30	31								32	33	34	35
36				37		38		39		40		41	
42				43		44			45				
46				47		48			49			50	
51			52			53					54		
55					56				57	58			
59	60							61					
62	63	64					65				66	67	68
69						70	71	72			73		
74						75				76		77	
78						79						80	

ACROSS

- (usually followed by 'to' or 'for') On the point of or strongly disposed.
- A genus of Portunidae.
- How long something has existed.
- An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
- Relating to or of the nature of a legal trust (i.e. the holding of something in trust for another).
- (slang) A gangster's pistol.
- A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- A man who is engaged to be married.
- American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
- A pale rose-colored variety of the ruby spinel.
- A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
- An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
- Bushy aromatic European perennial herb having clusters of buttonlike white-rayed flower heads.
- Strong wrapping paper made from pulp processed with a sulfur solution.
- A large round wicker basket (used on farms).
- A Loloish language.
- Black tropical American cuckoo.
- Lacking motor coordination.
- Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
- The brightly colored garments of a jockey.
- A unit of length equal to one thousandth of an inch.
- A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
- An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
- A form of entertainment that enacts a story by a sequence of images giving the illusion of continuous movement.
- A blast of a horn.
- Any tree or shrub of the genus Inga having pinnate leaves and showy usually white flowers.
- 1 species.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- Generator consisting of a coil (the armature) that rotates between the poles of an electromagnet (the field magnet) causing a current to flow in the armature.
- The cry made by sheep.
- A consortium of companies formed to limit competition.
- Yellow-fever mosquito.
- One millionth of a gram.
- Igneous rock produced by eruption and solidified on or near the earth's surface.
- Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
- Narrow wood or metal or plastic runners used for gliding over snow.
- Order of mammals having few or no teeth including.
- (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.

DOWN

- Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- A genus of Mustelidae.
- An official language of the Republic of South Africa.
- The time at which something begins.

- Being one more than six.
- A condensed but memorable saying embodying some important fact of experience that is taken as true by many people.
- Of or relating to or associated with the moon.
- A federal agency that supervises carriers that transport goods and people between states.
- A separate part of a whole.
- (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- Block consisting of a thick piece of something.
- A city in northern India.
- A correctional institution used to detain persons who are in the lawful custody of the government (either accused persons awaiting trial or convicted persons serving a sentence).
- An inactive volcano in Sicily.
- The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
- A linguistic element added to a word to produce an inflected or derived form v 1.
- Inspired by a feeling of fearful wonderment or reverence.
- A light plain-weave or twill-weave silk or silklike fabric (usually with a printed design).
- The food allowance for one day (especially for service personnel).
- (electronics) Of a circuit or device having an output that is proportional to the input.
- A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
- (Sumerian) Legendary friend of Gilgamesh.
- The twelfth sign of the zodiac.
- Fiddler crabs.
- A small cake leavened with yeast.
- The part of an organism that connects the head to the rest of the body.
- North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
- Being nine more than ninety.
- Tropical American tree producing cacao beans.
- The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
- Perennial herb of East India to Polynesia and Australia cultivated for its large edible root yielding Otaheite arrowroot starch.
- Cause a floating log to rotate by treading.
- On a ship, train, plane or other vehicle.
- 1 species.
- A person who acts as host at formal occasions (makes an introductory speech and introduces other speakers).
- Type genus of the Meliaceae.
- Noisy talk.
- Medium-sized tree having glossy lanceolate leaves.
- Remaining after all deductions.
- (Old Testament) In Judeo-Christian mythology.
- Stalk of a moss capsule.
- One thousandth of a second.
- European strong-scented perennial herb with gray-green bitter-tasting leaves.
- Administration of a nutritionally adequate solution through a catheter into the vena cava.
- A state in New England.

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

PILOT WHALES STRANDED IN INDONESIA, EIGHT DEAD

PROBOLINGGO: Eight pilot whales have died after a mass stranding on the coast of Indonesia's main island of Java that sparked a major rescue operation, an official said yesterday. Thirty-two of the short-finned pilot whales came ashore during high tide early Wednesday in Probolinggo, East Java province. "At first there were just one or two whales swimming near the shore, and the nature of whales is that if they are sick they will come near the shore," Dedy Isfandi, the head of the local maritime and fisheries office, told AFP.

"But whales have such high social interaction-when one fell ill, they approach the sick one to swim back to sea... when the tide fell all of them were trapped," Isfandi added. Hundreds of local fishermen and government officials tried to take them back out to sea overnight, but in the morning eight whales had returned to shore and died, Isfandi said. About 23 others were already out at sea while one disoriented whale was accompanied by some rescuers to make sure it did not return to shore.

Rescuers used tarps to wrap around the beached sea mammals and pull them out to sea while swimmers plunged into the water to drive others out of the area. Vets and scientists conducted autopsies on the dead whales to find out why they were stranded, but fishery officials said it could be due to turbulent waters in the Indian Ocean or they had eaten something poisonous.

Over the last decade or so, whale sharks and orcas were also found stranded in the area, Isfandi said. Conservation group International Union for Conservation of Nature said there was insufficient data to classify the risk of extinction of short-finned pilot whales, which are found in warm temperate to tropical waters.—AFP



INDONESIA: Rescuers pull dead whales ashore in Probolinggo, East Java, Indonesia, yesterday, during a mass rescue operation of stranded whales.—AP

NO BIRTH DEFECTS SEEN IN BABIES EXPOSED TO ZIKA

CHICAGO: A study of Zika infections in Colombia has found no obvious birth defects among women infected during the third trimester of pregnancy, raising hopes that Zika may not cause serious harm to the fetus when mothers are infected later in pregnancy. "It's somewhat reassuring that it looks like third-trimester infections aren't posing a major risk of that very serious outcome," said Dr. Margaret Honein, chief of the birth defects branch at the US

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who was one of several authors of the study published online on Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

She stressed that the findings are preliminary, saying "it is critically important" to continue following these babies to look for other effects from exposure to Zika. Honein said the infants in Colombia need to be watched for other potential effects of

Zika infection, such as hearing loss or vision problems, or any other developmental problems.

The mosquito-borne Zika virus has been shown to attack fetal brain cells and cause microcephaly, a birth defect marked by small head size and underdeveloped brains. In Brazil, authorities have confirmed more than 1,400 cases of microcephaly in babies whose mothers were exposed to Zika during pregnancy.—Reuters

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Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

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AMRITSAR: Indian laborers fill sacks with onions after sorting them at a wholesale vegetable and fruit market on the outskirts of Amritsar on June 16, 2016. India's consumer prices rose faster than expected in May due to higher food costs, official figures showed, 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. — AFP

FUNDING CHALLENGES SAUDI PRIVATE SECTOR DRIVE LOW OIL PRICES PROMPT THATCHER-STYLE POLICY CHANGE

JEDDAH: After decades of government-led growth, Saudi Arabia is handing over much of the responsibility for the economy to private firms - a prospect which both pleases and worries businessmen, who wonder how they can finance new projects in an age of austerity.

As more than a dozen Saudi ministers outlined the kingdom's economic reform plan in late-night news conferences last week, they praised the private sector in terms that would have suited right-of-centre Western politicians rather than those from a state-dominated economy.

The economy minister said removing obstacles to private firms was a priority. The health and education ministers called for flows of private money into their sectors. The minister of municipal and rural affairs said his officials would become "regulators, planners and controllers", leaving private capital to develop Saudi cities.

Such events would be a sea change for Saudi Arabia, which for decades has relied on lavish government spending of petrodollars for growth. Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, now promoting the reform plan on a visit to the United States, compared it in a magazine interview early this year to the free-market revolution overseen by 1980s British prime minister Margaret Thatcher.

The prospect excites some Saudi investors -

the share prices of several local companies that could benefit from opportunities created by the plan have jumped since last week. "It will be a positive challenge and will bring a big change even if only 60 or 50 percent of the plan is achieved," Muhammad Al-Agil, chairman of major Saudi retail chain Jarir Marketing Co, told Reuters. "For the private sector, it will multiply the opportunities where private capital and private sector resources will be deployed."

Others, however, worry about whether officials can make the regulatory environment for private firms attractive enough, the risk of waste and corruption as the government opens tens of billions of dollars of projects to the private sector, and private investors' ability to finance their projects.

"When it comes to the strategy I am optimistic about the opportunities that are being presented...But when it comes to implementation, this is where I am uneasy," said the chief operating officer of a Saudi conglomerate, declining to be named because of the sensitivity of his remarks.

Ihsan Bu Hulaiga, a prominent Saudi economist, said that until the government gave crucial details of the terms on which private companies would be invited to invest, it would be hard to tell whether the private sector push would succeed. "The private sector is opportunistic by nature - it needs to be convinced that investments are

worth the money. So far the opportunity the government is presenting is not clear," he said.

Spending

Saudi Arabia is turning to the private sector because the government can no longer afford to keep increasing spending rapidly in an era of cheap oil and shrunken state revenues. It posted a record budget deficit of nearly \$100 billion last year.

The reform plan envisages state spending of around 270 billion riyals (\$72 billion) in the next five years on projects to diversify the economy beyond oil, from industrial zones and power stations to housing, schools and communications. The private sector would provide 40 percent of funding for the projects, or about \$48 billion.

This is not impossible in an economy where the private sector's output was \$320 billion last year alone. But with domestic money market rates rising sharply because of reduced flows of oil money into the banking system, it is not clear that local firms can raise funding at economic rates.

Another Saudi economist, Fadl Alboainain, said the local private sector probably did not have the capacity to take on some of the biggest projects by itself. "Looking at the local banking sector you will find it suffering from shrinking liquidity, which leads to high margins and tight

lending conditions - this will limit private sector financing capabilities," he said.

That implies Saudi Arabia will have to rely much more heavily on foreign investment in coming years - one reason why Prince Mohammed's delegation will meet business leaders on its visit to the United States. The reform plan aims to more than double annual foreign direct investment to \$19 billion by 2020 from \$8 billion last year, partly by making it simpler to do business in the kingdom. That will depend on a shake-up of sluggish state bureaucracies.

Since last week's reform announcement, two models for private sector investment have emerged. One is the outright sale of state assets; Riyadh is likely to start privatizing the postal system by early 2017, the communications minister said. These sales may run into some of the same issues as Thatcher's privatizations. Saudi Postal Corp has over 10,000 staff; curbing employees' wages or staff numbers to make it attractive for privatization could be politically sensitive.

The other model is a partnership with the government in which private firms would stump up money for projects and earn revenues from operating them. State utility Saudi Electricity Co said it was inviting expressions of interest from firms to build two solar power plants and sell the electricity generated by them to it under long-term deals. — Reuters

QATAR TO LURE OVERSEAS MONEY WITH TAX INCENTIVES

DOHA: Qatar is seeking to draw in more foreign investors and cut its dependence on gas revenues by setting up special economic zones that will allow for 100 percent overseas ownership. The world's top LNG exporter is one of the richest countries per capita but faces a projected 46.5 billion riyal (\$12.8 billion) budget deficit this year and like other Gulf states has had to borrow abroad to shore up its finances.

A draft law approved by Qatar's cabinet allows for the creation of an airport or sea port in the economic zones which will

allow companies "unrestricted transfer of capital out of the country", state news agency QNA reported yesterday. Foreign firms looking to expand into the Gulf state have typically required a local partner to own at least a 51 percent stake, though different rules apply for Qatar's Science and Technology Park and the Qatar Financial Center.

Under the draft law, approved on Wednesday, Qatar plans three economic zones. These are warehousing and logistics hub specialising in airfreight and

technology, close to Hamad International Airport; a light manufacturing site for petrochemical and food processing firms; and a zone near the Saudi border that would focus on businesses involved in construction materials and machinery. The first phase of the warehousing hub will be completed in early 2017, Fahad Rashid Al-Kaabi, the chief executive of Manateq, which will develop and run the zones, said in November. Kaabi said that in addition to allowing full foreign ownership, the zones would get work visas for

expatriates, provide competitively priced power, water and gas supplies, and allow duty-free import of some goods and machinery.

Qatar's gas wealth, infrastructure projects underway before it hosts the 2022 soccer World Cup, and the resources of its sovereign wealth fund give it strength as a business centre.

But it will face tough competition to lure foreign capital with Dubai, which has a more open and longer-established business culture. — Reuters

GULF MAY REMAIN SOFT ON OIL, GLOBAL SHARES

DUBAI: Stock markets in the Gulf look set to remain soft yesterday after international bourses and oil markets slipped, partly because of fears that Britain might leave the European Union in next week's referendum. Brent oil futures are trading at \$48.57 per barrel, down 0.8 percent from their last close, while MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was last down 0.9 percent.

On Wednesday, some investors in Saudi Arabia's stock markets sold after index compiler MSCI's decision not to include Saudi shares in its emerging markets index at its annual classification review - despite market reforms announced in May by the Saudi regulator.

"The changes from the Capital Market Authority need first to be implemented, then the investment community needs to see them working before MSCI may consider adding Saudi to its EM benchmark," said Mohammad al-Shammasi, head of asset management at Riyadh's Derayah Financial. In Cairo, the stock index sank 2.1 percent on Wednesday and may remain weak before a central bank meeting later in the day that could decide to hike interest rates. A Reuters poll found economists roughly evenly split on whether there will be a hike at the meeting. — Reuters

CHINA'S MIDEA TRIES TO CALM BID FEARS

HONG KONG: Chinese appliance maker Midea promised yesterday that German industrial robot maker Kuka will remain independent, seeking to allay fears about its takeover bid for the company. In a document outlining the share offer announced last month, Midea said it "fully supports" Kuka's operational independence and current strategy.

The Chinese company already owns 13.5 percent of Kuka shares and is offering to buy the rest, as required under German law. It wants to raise its stake to at least 30 percent, making it the largest shareholder, and is offering 115 Euros for each share, valuing Kuka at 4.6 billion Euros (\$5.2 billion). The company last traded at 109 euros a share. "We want to support Kuka's growth and plan to jointly realize the vast growth potential in China," Chairman Paul Fang said in a statement. "We do not aim to dominate Kuka or delist the business." Midea said it wouldn't force Kuka to make changes to its brand, move its headquarters from Augsburg, Germany or share its intellectual property or sensitive customer data. It also promised preserve Kuka's staff of 12,300.

The offer is part of a wave of Chinese investments overseas but it also raised doubts in Germany about Chinese purchases of local companies. Midea, based in the southern province of Guangdong, has 93,200 employees. It's one of China's biggest air conditioner makers and also produces fridges, washing machines and other consumer appliances.

By working with Kuka, Midea said it hopes to expand distribution of industrial robots to other Chinese industrial firms, which are increasing factory automation as China's workforce shrinks and wages soar. The Chinese company said its bigger stake in Kuka could also help it develop new smart home devices and service robots, product lines expected to grow quickly on rising demand from China's swelling middle class. — AP



TOKYO: Pedestrians walk past an electronic indicator of the Tokyo stock market displayed in the window of a securities company. — AFP

ASIA, EU STOCKS SINK ON BREXIT FEAR, YEN SOARS

HONG KONG: Asian and European markets sank yesterday after Federal Reserve boss Janet Yellen sounded a warning over a possible British exit from the EU, while the yen soared to a 22-month dollar high as the Bank of Japan refused to pump up its stimulus.

The Fed on Wednesday lowered its growth forecasts for this year and the following two, and flagged interest rates rises to be lower and slower, highlighting increasing concern about the US and global economic outlook. Her comments dragged New York stocks lower and sent the dollar tumbling against the yen and even the British pound despite fears of Britain leaving the EU.

In a news conference after the Fed kept interest rates unchanged, Yellen voiced confidence in the US economy but said there were concerns about the impact a British exit would have across the world. "Clearly, this is a very important decision for the United Kingdom and for Europe," she told reporters. "It is a decision that could have consequences for economic and financial conditions in global financial markets. If it

does so, it could have consequences in turn for the US economic outlook."

The news put downward pressure on the dollar, and that was compounded Thursday when Japan's central bank held off boosting its stimulus program, despite stuttering economic growth at home and uncertainty overseas. The dollar fell to 103.72 yen after the BoJ wrapped up its two-day policy meeting - its lowest since August 2014. The euro fell to 116.92 yen, a three-and-a-half-year low.

That hammered Japan's exporters, sending the Nikkei stock index diving more than three percent. "People were expecting the BoJ to increase (monetary) easing... with growth deteriorating," Tim Condon, head of Asian research at ING Groep NV in Singapore, told Bloomberg News.

Oil extends slide

Ryutaro Kono, chief economist for BNP Paribas in Tokyo, said policymakers may have taken a wait-and-see approach, blaming the high yen on EU vote jitters. Among other markets

Hong Kong was down 2.1 percent, Shanghai ended 0.5 percent lower, Seoul sank 0.9 percent and Sydney was also marginally lower. In morning European trade London tumbled one percent, while Frankfurt and Paris each shed 1.3 percent. World markets have been in turmoil over the past week on worries about the global economic outlook and, in recent days, a growing sense that the June 23 referendum will see Britons vote to break away from the European Union.

Despite jitters over next week's vote, the pound edged down against the dollar Thursday morning, sitting at 1.4170 but is still up from a two-month low below \$1.41 touched earlier in the week. Oil prices extended their losses as unrest in Nigeria and wildfires in Canada, which had helped limit output, begin to ease. US benchmark West Texas Intermediate was down 1.3 percent at \$47.39 and Brent also shed 1.3 percent to \$48.35. WTI is down eight percent from last week's 11-month high, while Brent has lost more than six percent from an eight-month peak. — AFP

THAIS NEEDS 'MORE TIME' TO FEND OFF FISHING BAN

BANGKOK: Thailand's fisheries director said yesterday his department needs more time to clean up the kingdom's scandal-mired seafood sector and avoid a looming European threat to ban its fish products. The kingdom is the world's third largest seafood exporter, a status that rights groups say is achieved through illegal overfishing and a reliance on low-paid trafficked workers from neighboring countries.

But the sector has fallen under intense pressure to overhaul the lucrative and largely unregulated industry. Last year the European Union threatened to ban all Thai seafood products unless the military government tackled rampant illegal fishing among its fleets. EU officials affirmed last week that the boycott is still on the table and called on Thailand to present "robust measures" of improvement in Bangkok talks next month.

But the director of the kingdom's fishing department, Adisorn Promthep, told AFP Thursday more time is needed to restructure a sector that has long operated as a free-for-all. "Right now what I need is more time," he said, stressing that key legislation has been passed but efficient law enforcement remains a challenge.

\$1 billion a year

"Not everything is functioning at 100 percent yet," he said. A ban on seafood exports could cost Thailand up to \$1 billion a year at a time when the current junta is struggling to revive the economy. Thanks to a new vessel monitoring system, fisheries staff are now able to track the movements of some 7,000 vessels from their Bangkok control room equipped with wall-to-wall screens.

"When they cross into neighbouring countries' (territory) we get an alert," said Pholphisin Suvanachai, the director of the department's technology centre. His staff then notifies any stray ships-around three or four per day-by phone or text message.

But more stringent regulations that would set quotas for the catch of specific species remain a long way off, said Adisorn. "We need more scientific data. We don't know what we're going to do next," he told AFP.

He said previous efforts to address the industry's ills were stymied by frequent changes in Thailand's government, which led to a backlog in the bills put before successive parliaments. The politically tumultuous country has seen democratically elected governments toppled by two military coups in the past 10 years, a period analysts refer to as the "lost decade". But the threat of a costly EU ban has spurred the military government into action, with the ruling junta desperate to avoid any further hits to the kingdom's slumping economy. "The yellow card was like an alarm bell ringing," said Adisorn. The kingdom's fishing industry has also been battered in recent years by allegations of fleets staffed by trafficked slave and child labor from neighboring countries. — AFP



LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron (L) talks with television presenters Jeremy Clarkson (R) during a visit to W Chump & Sons Ltd TV studio. — AFP

INVESTORS SCRAMBLE TO FEND OFF BREXIT RISKS

COULD REDRAW THE POLITICAL MAP OF EUROPE

PARIS: A surge in support for Brexit has sent investors racing for financial shelter a week ahead of a referendum that could redraw the political map of Europe. Many people were taken by surprise when a clutch of polls this month showed support for a British pullout taking the lead in the runup to the tightly fought June 23 vote, analysts said.

The polls triggered a rush to offset the risks of a possible British breakaway from the European Union, they said, with incalculable consequences for a project born out of a determination to forge lasting peace on the continent after two world wars.

Germany's Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Wednesday even raised the prospect of a Brexit vote eventually leading to the "disintegration" of the bloc, ending a decades-long effort to forge closer relations across Europe. With no historic precedent, investors found it difficult to assess the risks, said Pascale Seivy, head of investment advisory services at Pictet in Paris, France.

Investors are trying to position themselves to profit in case Britons vote to remain in the EU while at the same time buying "massively" in instruments that will protect them against market declines in case Brexit prevails, Seivy said. Some speculative funds have ordered their own exit polls on the day

of the referendum so as to react before the official results.

'Inconceivable'

"Just a few weeks ago, an exit was inconceivable for many investors," said Renaud Murail, manager at Barclays Bourse brokerage. But after the latest British opinion polls, European stock markets had declined by seven-to-eight percent on average, Murail said. "The economic stakes that should be at the centre of the debate in the United Kingdom have been swept away by purely emotional thinking," he said.

Investors had been relaxed about the impending referendum until this month when polls began to show significant gains for the Brexit camp, said Maxime Alimi, economist at AXA Investment Managers. "The readjustment has been fairly drastic," he said. On Tuesday, investors for the first time ever accepted negative returns for the privilege of holding Germany's rock-solid benchmark 10-year government bonds, one of the safest investments. The British pound swooned meanwhile as bookmakers put the chances of Britain leaving the EU at about 42 percent, a sharp rise from just a few weeks earlier. "It is a classic phenomenon that involves avoiding any risky position," said Franck Dixmier, global director of bond management at Allianz GI.

'Harm has been done'

In any case, Britain's decision to hold a vote on EU membership had in itself had broken a taboo, Dixmier warned. "The harm has been done." Polls ahead of the British referendum have now become masters of market sentiment, said Greg Jones, managing director at Henderson Global Investors.

"As we come closer to the referendum vote, market reaction really depends on where the polls go with volatility likely rising on any prospect of a leave outcome," he said. Markets are likely to be volatile throughout 2016, he said, as concern over a Chinese economic slowdown are overtaken by Brexit concerns and later the uncertainty prompted by US presidential elections.

Investors are avoiding risk across Europe, he said. "People are also expecting a rally if the outcome to the referendum is to remain within the European Union," Jones said. "I personally do not see that." Rather, a British vote to remain the European Union is likely to mirror the reaction to the Conservative Party's election victory in Britain last year, he predicted. "The effect of the general election outcome was that markets rose for half a day and then settled again. There was far less 'feel good' factor from the result than anticipated. Instead, there was the realization there are a number of issues affecting markets at global level." — AFP

DEADLINE LOOMS FOR VW IN 'DIESELGATE' SCANDAL

FRANKFURT: Authorities have again extended a deadline for embattled German carmaker Volkswagen to present the details of its plan to compensate US car owners affected by the massive engine-rigging scandal, a court said yesterday.

"Given the highly technical nature of the proposed settlements in these complex proceedings," the district court in San Francisco handling the case said in a statement that it had decided to "extend the deadline" from June 21 until June 28. It had already been pushed back from April until June.

A hearing will be held on July 26 to approve VW's proposed deal, the court added. VW was plunged into its deepest-ever crisis when it came to light last September that it had installed emissions-cheating software into 11 million diesel engines worldwide. And it is currently trying to reach agreement with the US authorities over the modalities for rectifying the problem and compensating car owners of the 500,000 vehicles affected in the US.

The carmaker reached an agreement in principle in April offering US owners of some 480,000 illegally polluting diesel cars options of "substantial compensation" and to fix the cars, or to buy them back. The offer, which will likely cost Volkswagen billions of dollars, also included the creation of a fund for environmental protection. VW, which owns 12 different brands ranging from Volkswagen and Audi to Porsche and SEAT, has already started recalling the affected vehicles in Europe, but is not offering owners financial compensation. The group has set aside 16.2 billion Euros (\$18.2 billion) in provisions so far to cover the costs of the scandal, with seven billion Euros earmarked for legal costs alone. — AFP

SWISS CENTRAL BANK BRACE FOR BREXIT 'TURBULENCE'

GENEVA: The head of Switzerland's central bank warned yesterday that the Swiss economy could face turbulence if Britain opts to exit the EU in next week's referendum, vowing to "take measures if required". "As a small open economy, Switzerland is highly exposed to developments abroad," Thomas Jordan told reporters following the Swiss National Bank's quarterly policy meeting.

"Next week's UK referendum on whether to remain in the EU may cause uncertainty and turbulence to increase," he said, stressing that "we will be monitoring the situation closely and will take measures if required." The Swiss franc, long considered a safe haven currency, has already seen its value surge since the publication at the weekend of polls suggesting the so-called Brexit could win the day in the June 23 vote.

A stronger franc hits Swiss exporters, which are forced to squeeze costs and cut prices to remain competitive on an international market. The Swiss central bank introduced a negative deposit rate early last year after it abruptly abandoned its three-year effort to hold down the franc's exchange rate to protect exports. The bank said yesterday it was maintaining the -0.75 percent rate, which is meant to dissuade foreign investors buying and holding Swiss francs as a safe haven investment. The target range for the three-month Libor also remained unchanged at between -1.25 and -0.25 percent.

"Our monetary policy thus continues to be based on two key elements: the negative interest rate and our willingness to take an active role in the foreign exchange market," Jordan explained. "Both are intended to make Swiss franc investments less attractive, thereby easing pressure on the franc," he said, pointing out that "the franc remains significantly overvalued."

Capital Economics analyst Jennifer McKeown said the Swiss central bank's decision to leave its interest rates unchanged was expected. "An actual Brexit would most probably prompt the SNB to cut interest rates further into negative territory," she predicted in a note to clients, but warning that even cutting the deposit rate to -1.0 percent "would be unlikely to prevent a significant appreciation of the franc."—AFP

ECB TO LAUNCH NEW 50-EURO BANKNOTE

FRANKFURT: The European Central Bank said yesterday it plans to issue a new 50-euro banknote early next year, as it gradually replaces all of its different notes currently in use. "The ECB and the national central banks of the euro area will unveil the new 'Europa' series 50-euro banknote to the public on July 5. The new note is planned to be brought into circulation in spring 2017," the central bank said in a statement.

All of the different denominations of the new banknotes contain a portrait of Europa, a figure from Greek mythology. The ECB already replaced the five-euro note in May 2013, the 10-euro note in September 2014 and the 20-euro note in November 2015.

"The 50-euro banknote is the most widely used of all euro banknote denominations. More than eight billion banknotes in circulation are 50-euro banknotes, representing about 45 percent of the total," the statement said. The 100- and 200-euro banknotes will also eventually be replaced, but the ECB recently decided to withdraw the 500-euro banknote from circulation amid fears the bills are favored by criminals for money laundering and even terrorist financing. The ECB is in charge of issuing euro banknotes, while the national central banks of the 19 member countries are responsible for minting the euro coins. —AFP



BERN: The President of the Swiss National Bank Thomas Jordan gestures during a press conference. — AFP



ST PETERSBURG: Vladimir Putin, Ben van Beurden, Alexei Miller Russian President Vladimir Putin, second left, meets with Ben van Beurden, second right, CEO of Royal Dutch Shell at the St Petersburg International Economic Forum. —AP

FACING STAGNATION THREAT, RUSSIA PROMISES REFORMS

REDOUBLING EFFORTS TO PERSUADE INVESTORS

SAINT PETERSBURG: Russian authorities, increasingly concerned that the current recession will be followed by prolonged economic stagnation, are redoubling efforts to persuade investors that much-needed reforms will be pushed through.

The Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum which runs from Thursday to Saturday will be dominated by discussion of ways to breathe new life into the Russian economy. The Kremlin will use the so-called "Russian Davos" to insist that the longest crisis of President Vladimir Putin's rule is winding down, but forecasts remain gloomy while the economy remains under Western sanctions.

Here are four key questions for Russia and its investors.

Where is the economy now?

A fall in the price of oil, which is a major source of revenue for the government, and Western sanctions over the Ukraine crisis led to Russia's GDP contracting by 3.7 percent last year and continuing to fall in early 2016. The dismal start to the year made analysts fear the worst after the oil price fell further along with the ruble, but the last few weeks have brought more positive news. The economy seems to have withstood the shock of January—when oil prices hit a 12-year low and the ruble hit a record low against the dollar—better than expected however, notably seeing an easing of inflation. And oil prices have since more than doubled from their lows, which should make austerity measures less painful. Russia is set for "imminent

growth recovery," the central bank estimated last week.

What is the scenario for economic recovery?

In an opinion piece in early June, economy minister Alexei Ulyukayev wrote that Russia is experiencing "stagnation" and it is "almost impossible" to return to the spectacular growth rate of the boom times during Putin's first two terms, from 2000 to 2008. For many years economic international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have warned Moscow of the risk of a slowdown due to its ageing population and the disincentives to investment such as bureaucracy and corruption. In late May, Putin himself summoned his Economic Council for the first time in two years and asked former finance minister Alexei Kudrin, who is respected by liberals, to give him suggestions for reforms ahead of the 2018 presidential elections. Putin warned that without "structural reforms" growth will stay close to zero and there will be less room for maneuver on social and military spending.

What are the proposed reforms?

The reforms under discussion are close to the IMF recommendations; budgetary rigour to keep inflation under control as well as liberalization to tackle demographic challenges and to stimulate the private sector to make the economy less dependent on energy. To encourage investment, the economy minister has proposed spending on infrastructure and meas-

ures to support exports. He wants to make the job market more flexible, particularly making it easier to lay off people and to increase the retirement age. This last point is seen as particularly urgent by experts since the current system is a ticking bomb. The current retirement age — 55 for women and 60 for men—has not changed for over 80 years. Ex-minister Kudrin has also urged the authorities to put less pressure on businesses which have to submit to multiple checks by law enforcement agencies, breeding corruption and uncertainty.

What is the chance of success?

The adoption of major reforms will be slow due to the upcoming parliamentary elections in September and presidential polls in 2018, Kudrin said in a recent interview with the Russian edition of the Harvard Business Review. The authorities "will pass them slowly because the electoral cycle reduces the radicalness of reforms," he said.

Another reason for skepticism is that oil prices are rising again, even though this is good news for Russia. "Far from giving the government more comfort to implement unpopular reforms, higher oil prices will instead blunt their sense of urgency," political risk research firm Eurasia Group analysts said in a note. The Kremlin's business ombudsman Boris Titov warned in turn that reforms are "impossible" without normalizing relations with the West, since "access to technology and financing is to a large extent barred" by the sanctions.— AFP

NOKIA TELECOM MOVES TO FINALIZE ACQUISITION

HELSINKI: Finnish telecom equipment giant Nokia announced yesterday a plan to complete the acquisition of its former rival, French-American Alcatel-Lucent during the third quarter. The world's former top mobile phone maker had gained control of 80 percent of Alcatel-Lucent's shares by January but has struggled to mop up the remaining shareholders to gain full control of the company.

Nokia said yesterday it was settling the ownership issue "through privately negotiated transactions". "Nokia expects to cross 95 percent ownership thresholds in Alcatel-Lucent and announces intention to file a public buy-out offer in cash for the remaining Alcatel-Lucent securities followed by a squeeze-out," the company said in a statement.

France's stock market regulator will still have to approve the transaction, as its rules require Nokia to cross a 95-percent threshold in order to make a clean sweep by delisting all remaining shares from the Paris stock exchange. "Following these transactions, Nokia will own 95.33 percent of the share capital and 95.26 percent of the voting rights of Alcatel-Lucent, corresponding to 95.16 percent of the Alcatel-Lucent shares," Nokia concluded. Nokia has just gone through two and half years of radical transformation.

In 2013 it bought 50 percent of its network activities from Germany's Siemens; in 2014 it divested its mobile phone business where it had been the world's number one brand; and in 2015 it sold its mapping unit Here and took control of Alcatel-Lucent. But in its first earnings announcement since the Alcatel-Lucent deal, Nokia reported a first-quarter net loss of 513 million Euros (\$583 million) in May. Nokia's shareholders were to convene for the annual general assembly later yesterday. — AFP



MEMPHIS: In this June 1, 2016 photo, vacant buildings stand near the Pyramid which houses a Bass Pro Shops megastore that opened in 2015. — AP

DIVIDED AMERICA: ROSY ECONOMIC AVERAGES BYPASS MANY IN US

A TALE OF TWO CITIES, ALL IN ONE PLACE

MEMPHIS: Dozens of FedEx jets queue up for takeoff at the airport here. Beale Street, the heart of the music district, hums with tourists. Yet the empty storefronts in Memphis' moribund downtown and the cash-advance shops strewn near its highways tell another story. It's a tale of two cities, all in one place. And it's a tale of two Americas: The one that national averages indicate has all but recovered from the Great Recession and the one lost in the statistics.

The pattern is evident in cities and towns across America, from Memphis to Colorado Springs, Colorado, from Wichita to Jacksonville: The national numbers aren't capturing the experience of many typical people in typical communities.

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

Economically distressed

Again and again, primary voters who were most worried about the economy told pollsters that they had cast their ballots for Trump or Sanders, according to Edison Research, which conducted the surveys on behalf of The Associated Press and television networks.

Trump's candidacy, in particular, has been driven by support in some of the most economically distressed regions in the country, where jobs have been automated, eliminated, or moved to other states and countries. It's in these places that the outsider message of an unconventional candidate promising a return to the way things used to be resonates most.

Mike Williams earns \$22 an hour as a

maintenance worker at an Owens-Corning factory, along with health care and retirement benefits. But after a recent raise, his hourly pay has only recently returned to where it was a decade ago, when he worked as a welder. "I feel like I'm going backward rather than forward," Williams, 51, said on a recent afternoon after finishing his shift. In March, Williams voted for Trump in the state's primary, which the real estate billionaire won easily. One reason he backed Trump, he said, is he feels less secure than in the past, when more manufacturing work was available.

"I remember when you could quit a job today and go to work somewhere else tomorrow," Williams said. After seven years of national economic expansion - to the point where the Federal Reserve is raising interest rates again - the depth of such insecurity across America has caught many observers off guard.

Said Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at Northern Trust and former economist at the Federal Reserve: "The averages certainly don't tell the whole story." Consider incomes for the average US household. They ticked up 0.7 percent from 2008 to 2014, after taking inflation into account. But even that scant increase reflected mainly the rise in income for the richest tenth of households, which pulled up the average. For most others, incomes actually decreased - as much as 6 percent for the bottom 20 percent, at a time when the economy was mostly recovering.

Recession and unemployment

In Memphis, hiring resumed after the recession and the unemployment rate has declined to match the national figure of 5 percent. Yet those figures, too, obscure as much as they reveal: Many of the new jobs, in Memphis and elsewhere, are in lower-paying industries and are more likely to be part time or temporary.

In Millington, a Memphis suburb where Trump held a rally in February at a military airfield, residents complain that most of the available jobs are in the fast-food chains that dot Highway 51, the main thoroughfare. The US economy has added a healthy average of roughly 200,000 jobs a month since 2011. Yet most have been either high-paying or low-paying positions. By the end of 2015, the nation still had fewer middle-income jobs than it did before the recession, according to the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

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

In Memphis, jobs in the one-third lowest-paying industries, such as retail, restaurants and hotels, are the only category to have fully recovered from the recession, according to Moody's Analytics. Higher- and middle-paying jobs still trail their pre-recession levels. In the first half of the recovery, jobs grew 5.6 percent nationwide. Yet in the wealthiest one-fifth of zip codes, hiring jumped 11.2 percent, according to the Economic Innovation Group think tank. For the rest of the country, total jobs increased just 3.3 percent.

"It's hard to find an average city," Tannenbaum says. The same is true for households. These data suggest that the post-World War II trend of a steadily growing middle class, lifted by broader national prosperity, is reversing. Slightly fewer than half of adults now fall in the middle-class camp, according to the Pew Research Center, a shift that followed four decades of decline. In 1971, 61 percent of households were middle class, according to Pew, which defines middle class as income between two-thirds and double the median household income. — AP

SAMSUNG TO ACQUIRE CLOUD SERVICE FIRM

SEOUL: Samsung Electronics has agreed to buy a US cloud service startup to boost its software and internet services. The South Korean company said yesterday that its acquisition of Joyent Inc. will enable Samsung to access its own cloud platform to run its internet-based services, apart from renting other companies' data centers. The company did not disclose financial terms.

The move will likely accelerate Samsung's push to develop services that rely on external computing power for quick and large-scale data analysis. Software has been a traditional weakness for Samsung, one of the largest tech hardware manufacturers and the world's top supplier of smartphones, television sets and memory chips. The Korean company opened its Global Innovation Center in Silicon Valley in 2013 to help fortify its software and services. The company has been buying US-based startups, responding to suggestions that it use outside expertise and technologies to more quickly adapt to the changing business environment. Demand for cloud computing is growing as more smartphones and internet-connected devices run apps and software that process data, such as photos, on the internet, with many companies relying on remote data centers operated by companies like Amazon.

Among other notable acquisitions, Samsung bought mobile payment technology developer LoopPay last year. Using LoopPay's technology, it launched mobile payment services in the US, China and South Korea, among other countries. Analysts say the new services have helped Samsung's sales of mobile devices as consumers ditched plastic cards for smartphones. — AP



SEOUL: A logo of Samsung Electronics is seen at its showroom. — AP

4 OLYMPIC WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONS FAIL DOPING RETESTS

BUDAPEST: Four Olympic weightlifting gold medalists from Kazakhstan have been provisionally suspended after their doping samples were positive in retests from the 2012 London Games. The four champions were among 10 athletes from five former Soviet countries whose samples revealed banned substances, the International Weightlifting Federation said late Wednesday.

The Kazakhs were men's 94-kilogram champion Ilya Ilyin, and women's gold medalists Zulfiya Chinshanlo (53kg), Maiya

Maneza (63kg) and Svetlana Podobedova (75kg).

If all four are disqualified, Kazakhstan would drop from 12th to 23rd in the 2012 medal standings.

Kazakhstan's Olympic committee, which revealed earlier that its athletes recorded five positives in retests from Beijing and London, said on Thursday that the four lifters' participation at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics "remains an open question" pending an IWF investigation and the completion of sample

retests. "We will conduct our own investigation of the possible misconduct of our athletes and violation of anti-doping rules," the committee said, adding that the four lifters have been suspended last Friday.

Three more medalists tested positive: Russia's Apti Aukhadov, who won silver at 85kgs, Ukraine's Yuliya Kalina, bronze at 58kgs, and Belarus' Marina Shkermankova, bronze at 69kgs. Completing the group of doping positives were Boyanka Kostova from Azerbaijan, and Dzina Sazanavets and

Yauheni Zharnasek of Belarus.

The IWF said more information about the IOC retesting of samples taken at the 2008 Beijing Games, where 10 cases were "presumed" positives that required B sample analyses, would be released "as soon as possible." The 20 weightlifting cases were among 55 total positives which the IOC has reported so far, including 32 from Beijing and 23 from London. The IOC is retesting samples to catch cheats who might be competing at the Rio Olympics. —AP

KOC TURNS DOWN BANNED PARK'S RIO APPEAL

SEOUL: The Korea Olympic Committee has turned down Park Tae-hwan's appeal to overturn a controversial doping suspension, leaving the swimmer's hopes of competing at the Rio Games in the hands of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

The former Olympic champion has already served an 18-month ban imposed by swimming's world governing body FINA but is fighting to repeal a KOC regulation that imposed an additional three-year suspension, effectively ruling him out of Rio. The 26-year-old South Korean lodged a case with CAS but had hoped the KOC might re-consider its hard-line position before going to trial. The KOC poured cold water on such hopes today, saying the rule would remain in force.

"The regulation for the selection of national team representatives was made with the aim of demanding a high level of morality of our national team athletes and considering the dignity required of a public figure," the KOC said in a statement carried on South Korean television.

"Doping is against the fair play spirit, a basic requirement of athletes, and we decided that a rigorous response was needed for educational purposes to young athletes."

Park, who won gold in the 400 metres freestyle and silver in the 200 at the 2008 Beijing Games, was expected to respond to the KOC's ruling at a media conference later on Thursday. The first Korean to win an Olympic swimming medal, Park's breakthrough in the Beijing pool made him a huge celebrity at home and a magnet for corporate sponsors.

He finished runner-up in both the 200 and 400 at the London Games four years ago but his reputation was shattered when he tested positive for testosterone ahead of the 2014 Asian Games. Park attributed the failed test to an injection he received at a local clinic, where he said he was being treated for a skin complaint. Despite the KOC ban, Park entered national swimming trials in April and won all four of his races in times quick enough for Olympic qualification. Critics of the KOC's anti-doping regulation say it punishes an athlete twice for the same offence. CAS has previously struck out double-barrelled punishments for athletes banned for doping-related offences. In 2011, the Swiss-based tribunal ruled that the International Olympic Committee's 'Osaka Rule', which banned athletes serving suspensions of at least six months from competing at the next Games, violated of its own statutes.—Reuters



GWANGJU: File photo taken on April 25, 2016 shows South Korea's Park Tae-Hwan competing in the final of the men's 1500 metre freestyle during the 88th Dong-A swimming competition in the southern city of Gwangju on April 25, 2016. South Korea's national Olympic committee said yesterday its ban on disgraced swim star Park Tae-Hwan competing at the Rio Olympics would stand, rejecting the swimmer's emotional plea for reinstatement. — AFP



MOSCOW: In this Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015 file photo, Russia's pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva attends a press conference in Moscow, Russia. Russia will learn today if its track and field athletes will be allowed to compete at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, as more damning evidence of doping irregularities pour in. — AP

FOUR RUSSIAN TRACK AND FIELD STARS WHO COULD MISS RIO

MOSCOW: World athletics governing body IAAF meets today to decide if Russia, suspended in November over a report on state-sponsored doping, will be allowed to compete at the Rio Olympics. If the IAAF rules to uphold Russia's suspension, some key track and field stars will miss the Games.

ISINBAYEVA, THE POLE VAULT TSARINA

The grande dame of Russian athletics, star pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva has her sights set on ending her stellar career with a third Olympic gold medal at her fourth and final games in Rio.

The pole vault tsarina, the first woman to clear the 5-metre bar, has not been implicated in the doping scandals that have engulfed many of her teammates. Isinbayeva, 34, has furiously lobbied against Russia's suspension, pleading in a letter to IAAF for clean Russian athletes not to be punished for the cheating of others and complaining that only Russia was being sanctioned for an international problem. "Athletes from another country whose doping tests are negative have the right to compete at the Olympics," Isinbayeva told reporters last month.

"But I am not allowed even though I am in the same situation. This is discrimination."

CHICHEROVA, THE HIGH JUMP VETERAN

Anna Chicherova, 33, is the defending high jump Olympic champion, having won gold at the London Games after clearing 2.05 metres on her second attempt.

The two-time Olympic medallist admitted last month that one of her samples from the 2008 Beijing Games—where she won bronze—showed traces of a banned substance. "For me it's the most complete shock," Chicherova told AFP about her positive doping test, vowing to clear her name. "I can't explain how it could have happened." Russia's Olympic Committee (ROC) said that 14 Russian athletes had failed doping tests during the re-testing of samples from the Beijing Games.

Chicherova told AFP she had turned to a lawyer who would defend her interests until the B-sample results come through. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) said last month that new samples taken during the 2012 London Games have returned positive for eight Russian athletes. Chicherova told TASS news agency earlier this month that her B-sample from the London Games had turned out to be negative.

SHUBENKOV, THE SIBERIAN SENSATION

The Rio Games could offer redemption for 25-year-old world champion hurdler Sergey Shubenkov, who was eliminated in

the semi-finals of his first Olympics last time round in London. "Nothing worked out for me in London," Shubenkov told AFP. "Things should be different now."

Shubenkov, who clocked 12.98 seconds to win gold in the 110m hurdles at the 2015 World Championships, trains at a run-down facility in his Siberian hometown of Barnaul even though he has been offered to relocate to Los Angeles.

The exclusion of Russian athletes from Rio would see Shubenkov become the second member of his family to miss the chance of Olympic glory.

His mother, Soviet heptathlete Natalya Shubenkova, was sidelined from the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics after the Soviet Union and its Communist allies boycotted the Games—a tit-for-tat move for the West's snub of the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

KUCHINA, THE FUTURE OF RUSSIAN ATHLETICS

High jumper Mariya Kuchina, 23, has an impressive medal collection—golds from the 2015 World Championships and the 2014 World Indoor Championships, and a silver from the 2014 European championships—but has yet to compete in an Olympic Games.

At the 2015 World Championships Kuchina defeated her more senior competitors, including Anna Chicherova, who walked away with a bronze medal. —AFP

SUZUKI PASSES ROSE'S TOTAL AS MARLINS LOSE TO PADRES 6-3

LOS ANGELES: Miami Marlins outfielder Ichiro Suzuki etched his own piece of baseball history on Wednesday, surpassing Pete Rose's fabled record for hits during a 6-3 defeat against the San Diego Padres. The 42-year-old Japanese star took his hit count in professional baseball to 4,257, one past Rose's longstanding Major League Baseball mark of 4,256 set between 1963 and 1986. Suzuki's pursuit of Rose's total has been followed avidly in his native Japan. However the significance of his milestone has not generated the same level of attention in the United States, mostly because 1,278 of Suzuki's hits came while playing in Japan. Rose himself had played down Suzuki's achievement in comments to US media this week, saying the total did not deserve to be ranked alongside his own record. Suzuki, meanwhile, shrugged off the controversial nature of Rose's comments. "Obviously, I've heard Pete Rose's comments that he wasn't very happy about me and the record," Suzuki said. "But this wasn't some kind of a goal. It was just a weird situation to be in," added Suzuki, who is now closing in on 3,000 major league hits with his total at 2,979. "The 3,000 hits is a no-doubter ... that is a goal I want to achieve," he said. He tagged closing relief pitcher Fernando Rodney of the host San Diego Padres for his 4,257th combined professional hit in North American and Japanese top-level games.

BRAVES 9, REDS 8

Chase d'Arnaud drove in the winning run with a single and the Atlanta Braves scored three times in the 13th inning to stun the Cincinnati Reds and score a 9-8 win on Wednesday at Turner Field. With Alfredo Simon pitching (2-7), Adonis Garcia and Nick Markakis singled to lead off the inning. Garcia scored on a double by Jace Peterson and Flowers tied the game with a single through the drawn-in infield. After an intentional walk to Erick Aybar to load the bases, d'Arnaud hit a fly ball to center field that went over the head of the drawn-in outfield to score Peterson with the winning run. The winning pitcher was Alexi Ogando (2-1). The Reds scored twice in the top of the 13th against Ogando on a bases-loaded walk to Jose Peraza and a single by Joe Votto. Atlanta first baseman Freddie Freeman became the seventh player in Braves franchise history to hit for the cycle and the first since Mark Kotsay on Aug. 14, 2008 against the Chicago Cubs.

RAYS 3, MARINERS 2 (13 INNINGS)

Logan Forsythe tripled in the bottom of the 13th, then scored on a bases-loaded walk by Logan Morrison as Tampa Bay won its longest game of the season over Seattle at Tropicana Field. Rays starter Drew Smyly had his best start since April, striking out a career-high 12 batters and holding Seattle to two runs on four hits in his 6.2 innings. Seattle held a 2-0 lead on Nelson Cruz's two-run home run in the fourth inning. The Rays scored their first run in the bottom of the inning on Dickerson's sacrifice fly.

DODGERS 3, DIAMONDBACKS 2

Scott Van Slyke hit a three-run homer and Clayton Kershaw won his eighth straight decision for Los Angeles. Adrian Gonzalez and Howie Kendrick singled with two outs in the sixth inning before Van Slyke hit his first homer of the season off Patrick Corbin for a 3-1 lead. Kershaw (10-1) gave up five hits, including a second-inning homer by Rickie Weeks Jr., while tying Jake Arrieta, Stephen Strasburg and Chris Sale for the major league lead in victories. Kershaw struck out 11 and walked one in 7 1/3 innings.

GIANTS 10, BREWERS 1

Johnny Cueto went seven innings to beat Milwaukee for the eighth consecutive time, giv-

ing San Francisco a three-game series sweep. Gregor Blanco, Joe Panik, Matt Duffy and Angel Pagan had three hits apiece as the Giants beat the Brewers for the fifth time in six meetings this season. Cueto (10-1) limited the Brewers to one run and seven hits in seven innings. He walked one and struck out nine. He hasn't lost to Milwaukee since Aug. 2, 2012.

ROCKIES 6, YANKEES 3

Chad Bettis returned to form and Nolan Arenado hit a two-run homer as Colorado beat New York to sweep a two-game series. The Rockies equaled a season best with their fourth straight victory and went 5-1 on a just-concluded homestand, giving it six wins in its past seven games. The loss was the fourth straight for the

ning pitcher was Yusmeiro Petit, who gave up an RBI single in the top of the 12th to Addison Russell that gave the Cubs a 4-3 lead. Michael A. Taylor tied the game at 4 in the 12th with an RBI single off loser Trevor Cahill (0-2). Werth smashed a hit to right-center to score Taylor, who was running on the pitch.

BLUE JAYS 7, PHILLIES 2

Marco Estrada ran his personal winning streak to four and Edwin Encarnacion homered for the fifth time in as many games as Toronto beat Philadelphia. Josh Donaldson also homered for the Blue Jays, who won for the fifth time in six games, and Ryan Goins and Devon Travis each contributed two hits and two RBIs. Cody Asche went 3-for-4 and drove in both of the

game 13-1 against Houston in his career, fired seven shutout innings. He gave up four hits, walking three and fanning six.

RED SOX 6, ORIOLES 4

Steven Wright continued his marvelous first half, helping Boston back into a tie with Baltimore atop the American League with a victory. The knuckleballer, who made the Red Sox rotation out of spring training only because of an injury to Eduardo Rodriguez, won his fifth straight start and raised his record to 8-4 with 7 1/3 strong innings as Boston evened the early first-place showdown at a game apiece. Hanley Ramirez hit his first home run in a span of 105 at-bats since May 10, a three-run shot that left Fenway Park entirely in a five-run third inning.

METS 11, PIRATES 2

Noah Syndergaard carried a shutout into the ninth inning and New York snapped out of an offensive funk by delivering a season-high 19 hits in a win over Pittsburgh at Citi Field. The Mets, who were limited to three hits in a 4-0 loss to the Pirates on Tuesday, snapped a three-game losing streak. The 11 runs were more than New York scored in the last four games combined (nine). The Pirates lost six of seven.

WHITE SOX 5, TIGERS 3

Chris Sale became baseball's first 11-game winner after Todd Frazier snapped a seventh-inning tie with a sacrifice fly and Chicago held off Detroit at US Cellular Field. Sale struck out seven over his seven innings and allowed three runs and six hits. Washington's Stephen Strasburg failed to pick up his 11th victory after getting a no-decision Wednesday against the Chicago Cubs.

ROYALS 9, INDIANS 4

Salvador Perez hit a three-run homer and Ian Kennedy pitched effectively into the seventh inning as Kansas City topped Cleveland to sweep the three-game series. The Royals have won five straight games to move into a first-place tie with the Indians in the American League Central after enduring an eight-game losing streak. Perez's three-run homer capped off a four-run fifth. Kennedy allowed four runs on five hits, including a pair of two-run homers, in 6 2/3 innings. He struck out six and walked two before Luke Hochevar relieved him after 113 pitches.

ANGELS 10, TWINS 2

C.J. Cron had three hits, three RBIs and two runs scored to lead a big night at the plate for Los Angeles in its win over Minnesota at Angel Stadium. The win was the second in a row for the Angels, marking the first time they've won consecutive games since they beat Detroit May 30 and 31. For the Twins, it was business as usual. They have lost 11 of their last 16 and at 20-45, have the worst record in the American League. The lone bright spot for the Twins was Joe Mauer's eighth-inning single. It extended his streak to 27 consecutive games in which he reached base either by hit, walk or hit-by-pitch.

RANGERS 7, A'S 5

Texas struck for four home runs-two each by Rougned Odor and catcher Robinson Chirinos-to rally from deficit and to a win over Oakland. Reliever Nick Martinez earned the win while closer Sam Dyson picked up his 11th save as Texas moved a season-high 16 games over .500 in handing the Athletics their ninth loss in 11 games. The Rangers have hit 17 home runs in the first six games of their season-high 10-game road trip. With 10 homers in the first three games of the series, Texas is the first team to hit at least three long balls in three straight games in Oakland, home of the A's franchise since 1968. — Reuters



SAN DIEGO: Miami Marlins' Ichiro Suzuki hits a single during the first inning of a baseball game Wednesday, in San Diego. Suzuki singled in the first inning to match Pete Rose's Major League hit record of 4,256. —AP

MLB results/standings

Colorado 6, NY Yankees 3; LA Dodgers 3, Arizona 2; San Diego 6, Miami 3; San Francisco 10, Milwaukee 1; Washington 5, Chicago Cubs 4 (12 innings); Toronto 7, Philadelphia 2; Boston 6, Baltimore 4; Atlanta 9, Cincinnati 8 (13 innings); NY Mets 11, Pittsburgh 2; Tampa Bay 3, Seattle 2 (13 innings); Houston 4, St. Louis 1; Chicago White Sox 5, Detroit 3; Kansas City 9, Cleveland 4; LA Angels 10, Minnesota 2; Texas 7, Oakland 5.

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	37	27	.578	-	Washington	41	25	.621	-
Boston	37	27	.578	-	NY Mets	35	29	.547	5
Toronto	37	31	.544	2	Miami	34	32	.515	7
Tampa Bay	31	32	.492	5.5	Philadelphia	30	36	.455	11
NY Yankees	31	34	.477	6.5	Atlanta	19	46	.292	21.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	35	30	.538	-	Chicago Cubs	44	20	.688	-
Kansas City	35	30	.538	-	St. Louis	35	30	.538	9.5
Detroit	33	32	.508	2	Pittsburgh	33	32	.508	11.5
Chicago White Sox	33	33	.500	2.5	Milwaukee	30	36	.455	15
Minnesota	20	45	.308	15	Cincinnati	26	40	.394	19
Western Division					Western Division				
Texas	41	25	.621	-	San Francisco	41	26	.612	-
Seattle	34	31	.523	6.5	LA Dodgers	35	32	.522	6
Houston	32	35	.478	9.5	Colorado	32	33	.492	8
LA Angels	29	37	.439	12	Arizona	29	39	.426	12.5
Oakland	27	38	.415	13.5	San Diego	27	40	.403	14

Yankees. DJ LeMahieu finished a home run shy of the cycle and drove in two runs. Bettis allowed three runs (two earned), seven singles and no walks with five strikeouts in six innings. He got 10 outs on ground balls, including the first two outs in the sixth.

Nationals 5, Cubs 4

Jayson Werth had an RBI single in the last of the 12th inning off Adam Warren as Washington scored two in the frame to beat Chicago, taking two of three games in the series between the top two teams in the National League. The win-

Phillies' runs, with a solo homer and a double. Philadelphia lost for the sixth time in seven games, and is 6-19 since May 18.

Astros 4, Cardinals 1

George Springer's two-out, two-run homer in the eighth inning gave Houston the lead for good as it completed a two-game interleague sweep over St. Louis. Tony Sipp picked up the final out of the seventh for the win. Ken Giles worked a scoreless eighth and Will Harris pitched the ninth for his fifth save. Cardinals right-hander Adam Wainwright, who entered

LEBRON, CAVALIERS PUSHING FOR 'BEST GAME 7'

CLEVELAND: LeBron James has watched "The Godfather" trilogy over and over during these playoffs. The Oscar-winning films about crime, family, honor - and revenge - soothe and motivate him. He can't get enough. But while he's not tired of the classic films, there's a final scene in the NBA Finals he has witnessed too many times, and if he can avoid it again Thursday night, there will be an offer he and the Cleveland Cavaliers can't refuse.

"Two of the best words ever," James said, "Game 7." On the strength of a historic performance by James and Kyrie Irving in Game 5, the Cavs saved their season and are home with a second chance to even this unpredictable series against the defending champion Golden State Warriors, who will have forward Draymond Green back from his one-game suspension for bad behavior. James has been in this spot before.

So have the Warriors. It was on June 16 last year when they closed out a short-handed Cavaliers squad in six games to win their first title since 1975. The Warriors, their families and friends partied into the early morning hours in Quicken Loans Arena, spraying champagne around their small locker room and adding another close-but-no-title entry to Cleveland's 52-year-old list of sports misery.

The Cavs, who are trying to become the first team in history to overcome a 3-1 deficit in the finals, can't bear the thought of Stephen Curry and Co. doing it to them a second time. "No matter where it gets done, stopping them is the point," J.R. Smith said. "If they win it here, it's going to hurt. If they get it there, it's going to hurt." To avoid any pain whatsoever, and pack this series up for a third trip to Northern California, the Cavs can't count on James and Irving to duplicate their effort in Game 5, when they scored 41 points apiece and had a hand in 97 as Cleveland won 112-97. —AP

TENDULKAR TO HELP PICK INDIA COACH BY VIDEO LINK

NEW DELHI: Sachin Tendulkar will tune in from abroad by video link to help choose India's new coach after he was handed the task alongside fellow batting greats Sourav Ganguly and VVS Laxman. Tendulkar, Ganguly and Laxman, dubbed the "holy trinity" by Indian media, together with senior official Sanjay Jagdale, will get to work after the flood of 57 applications was whittled down to 21, a statement said on Thursday. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) release added that Tendulkar, who is out of the country, "has confirmed his availability as and when required through video conference facilities".

The high-powered committee has less than a week to pick a coach, with their choice expected to be submitted for approval by June 22. The new coach is likely to be appointed before India's tour of the West Indies in July. "The said committee... will process and scrutinise all the applications, conduct interviews and seek presentations from candidates as the committee deems fit," BCCI secretary Ajay Shirke said in the statement. "Should the committee desire to look at all the 57 applications as well, the said will be made available to them." The BCCI hasn't named any of the candidates, but media reports suggest that the front-runners are former team director Ravi Shastri and current chief selector Sandeep Patil. — AFP



MUMBAI: This file photograph taken on November 5, 2014, shows (L/R): Former Indian cricketers Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly, VVS Laxman as they laugh along with compatriot Sachin Tendulkar (R) at the launch event of his autobiography "Playing It My Way", in Mumbai. —AFP



ST KITTS: South African cricketer Imran Tahir delivers a ball during the 6th One Day International match of the Tri-nation Series between West Indies and South Africa at the Warner Park stadium in Basseterre, Saint Kitts, on Wednesday. — AFP

TAHIR SPINS SOUTH AFRICA TO VICTORY OVER WEST INDIES

ST KITTS: Leg-spinner Imran Tahir became the first South African to claim seven wickets in a one-day international as the Proteas demolished West Indies in St Kitts on Wednesday. Tahir served up a rich variety of deliveries to claim 7-45 from nine overs as the Proteas won by 139 runs, dismissing the bewildered West Indies for 204 in 38 overs at Warner Park. Earlier, Hashim Amla scored 110 off 99 balls to notch his 23rd career ODI century, sharing an opening partnership of 182 with Quinton de Kock (71) to set the visitors on their way to a formidable 343-4. West Indies made a bright start in reply with openers Johnson Charles and Andrew Fletcher compiling a quickfire 69 before the latter holed out at deep mid-wicket for 21 from the last ball of the ninth over to give Tahir his first wicket. The result was never in doubt once Charles, who scored 49, was sent packing in the 13th over.

Tahir's haul included the scalp of World Twenty20 hero Carlos Brathwaite, who was clean bowled by a wicked googly for a golden duck. In his 58th match, Tahir became the fastest South African bowler to reach 100 ODI wickets, and the fourth quickest overall.

Tahir said he had not realised he needed only two wickets to crack the century until a pre-match phone call from his wife. "I'm grateful she reminded me," the 37-year-old said. "I'm really pleased." West Indies captain Jason

Holder offered no excuses. "We weren't good enough today and were totally outplayed. We didn't bowl well, especially the first 10 overs," he said.

South Africa's victory leaves the triangular series evenly poised, with the Proteas, West Indies and Australia all on two wins from four matches.

South Africa, thanks to two bonus points, lead the standings with 10

points, followed by Australia on nine and West Indies on eight.

The series shifts to Barbados for three more matches from Sunday and the hosts face the biggest challenge if they are to make the June 25 final.

"Probably one (victory) out of two games will be enough for us to go to the final," said South African captain AB de Villiers. —Reuters

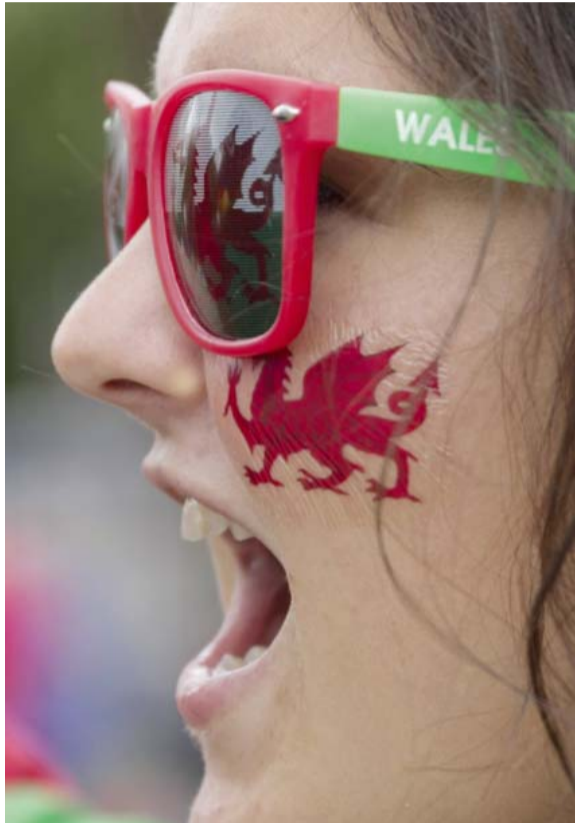
SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play in the sixth Triangular Series match between West Indies and South Africa on Wednesday in Basseterre, St Kitts and Nevis.

South Africa Innings:		West Indies Innings:	
H. Amla c Narine b Pollard	110	A. Fletcher c Behardien b Tahir	21
Q. de Kock b Taylor	71	J. Charles c du Plessis b Shamsi	49
C. Morris c sub b C. Brathwaite	40		
F. du Plessis not out	73		
A. de Villiers c Charles b Pollard	27		
J. Duminy not out	10		
Extras (b-4 lb-2 nb-2 w-4)	12		
Total (for 4 wickets, 50 overs)	343		
Fall of wickets: 1-182 H. Amla, 2-185 Q. de Kock, 3-245 C. Morris, 4-309 A. de Villiers.			
Did not bat: F. Behardien, W. Parnell, K. Rabada, I. Tahir, T. Shamsi			
Bowling: J. Taylor 8-0-72-1 (nb-2 w-1), J. Holder 6-0-51-0, S. Narine 10-0-46-0, C. Brathwaite 10-0-69-1, S. Benn 7-0-35-0, K. Pollard 9-0-64-2 (w-3).			
		D. Bravo b Parnell	11
		M. Samuels c de Kock b Tahir	24
		D. Ramdin c Morris b Shamsi	11
		K. Pollard c Behardien b Tahir	20
		J. Holder lbw b Tahir	19
		C. Brathwaite b Tahir	0
		S. Narine not out	18
		S. Benn c Shamsi b Tahir	0
		J. Taylor b Tahir	16
		Extras (b-1 lb-2 nb-2 w-10)	15
		Total (all out, 38 overs)	204
		Fall of wickets: 1-69 A. Fletcher, 2-82 J. Charles, 3-90 Da. Bravo, 4-121 D. Ramdin, 5-128 M. Samuels, 6-169 J. Holder, 7-169 C. Brathwaite, 8-170 K. Pollard, 9-182 S. Benn, 10-204 J. Taylor.	
		Bowling: W. Parnell 6-0-43-1 (nb-2), K. Rabada 7-0-46-0 (w-2), I. Tahir 9-0-45-7, C. Morris 7-0-26-0 (w-1), T. Shamsi 9-0-41-2 (w-3).	
		Result: South Africa won by 139 runs.	

FRENCH CITY SWAMPED BY ENGLISH AND WELSH

FAN FERVOR



LENS: Schools were shut and many shops were shuttered yesterday in Lens as England and Wales fans invaded the northern French city for a highly anticipated Europe 2016 game taking place under massive security.

A police helicopter overflew the former mining town of red-brick houses as thousands of fans, many of them wearing their teams' colours, congregated outside pubs clutching plastic glasses of beers. Seeking to avoid any repetition of the violence between English and Russian fans in Marseille, hundreds of riot police were stationed throughout the town which had been given an English-themed makeover by fans.

The banners of their favourite clubs were hanging from windows and slung across the facades of pubs.

At the Le Corner bar, England and Wales fans who had been drinking together since morning said they felt safe in each other's company and certain there would be no repeat of the clashes in Marseille that marred the start of the tournament last weekend.

Kevin English, a 53-year-old plumber from the northeast English city of Durham, was on his second pint of day at around 11:00 am (0900 GMT).

His right eye was still bruised and he had a cut above his left eye after a beating by Russian supporters in Marseille's Old Port. "I was by myself having a drink when a group of Russians came out of nowhere and attacked me. They stamped on me. I have bruises all over my body," he said. Fearing more violence in nearby Lille on Wednesday where Russian and England fans en route to separate games again came face to face, he said he had decided to travel straight to Lens. "I feel safer here. The rivalry is there but I don't think there will be trouble." As for the Russians, he said, if they crossed paths again: "It's been and gone. I wouldn't go looking for revenge. "But the sense of nervousness in the town was palpable with most shops on the main high street closed, some with their shutters down after isolated clashes between police and mostly English fans over the last two days in Lille.

BLACK EYES

In Lens, locals appeared to be staying indoors with the streets mainly occupied by swarms of singing fans. Jon Hebbes, 45, from Glastonbury, said there was no cause for concern, assuring

that England and Wales fans had bonded over what they saw as the common threat: the Russians. Drunken English and Wales fans have joined together in Lille to sing expletive-laced songs against the Russians. "England and Wales have been united by the Russian violence," Hebbes who is half English, half Welsh but was rooting for England, told AFP. At least three England fans in their fifties seen by AFP were sporting black eyes suffered in Marseille. "I'm 53, fat and slow and I'd had too much to drink, which is why they targeted me," one man with a tanned lined face who gave his name only as Rob said, laughing. "But I got a few (punches) in myself," he said proudly. Many fans in Lens complained of the draconian security measures. Stephen Bond from the Welsh capital of Cardiff—who admitted reporting his 13-year son sick so he could play truant to travel with him to the game—said: "The over-zealous police presence does dampen things a bit."

Bond, 47, who was kitted out in a red Wales jersey, said he feared most for Wales next game, against Russia in Toulouse on Monday. "I'm hoping they will all have been deported before we get there," he joked. — AFP

GRIEVING CROATIA READY TO SEAL LAST-16 BERTH

ST ETIENNE: Rocked by a second family bereavement in three days, Croatia will be determined to seal a last-16 berth when they meet the Czech Republic in their Euro 2016 Group D clash today, defender Domagoj Vida said.

Following the death of captain Darijo Srna's father on Sunday during Croatia's 1-0 win over Turkey, the team's media officer Tomislav Pacak said goalkeeping coach Marijan Mrmic's father had also died during Tuesday night.

Srna, accompanied by coach Ante Cacic, went to his father's funeral on Monday and returned to the team's Deauville base camp in northern France ready to face the Czechs. Vida, a tough-tackling centre back personifying Croatia's willpower in the face of adversity, said the team would go the extra

mile for their skipper and Mrmic, who travelled home early on Wednesday.

"We all mourn when someone here suffers a loss because we are one big family," Vida told a news conference on Wednesday. "We will be galvanised to play for our captain and put him straight back on the rails. He is a great character and I am totally convinced he will be at his best today."

"If we perform like we did against Turkey and show the same fighting spirit we should come out on top, although the Czechs are tougher opposition. "I don't think they will throw caution to the wind despite being under more pressure than us (after their opening 1-0 defeat by holders Spain). They are more likely to sit back and rely on fast breaks because that's their style."

However, the Czechs must come up with a bolder approach, having conceded a late goal against the Spaniards after working hard to contain the champions.

Striker Tomas Necid, who cut a lonely figure up front, said he hoped coach Pavel Vrba would field a more adventurous formation to haul them back into the race for a knockout stage berth.

"We haven't discussed the tactics yet but I expect a more attacking set-up because only a win will do," Necid told reporters at the team's Tours base in western France. "Croatia already have three points in the bag and if we are to advance, we simply have to win this game. "They have top quality in midfield with Luka Modric and Ivan Rakitic giving them attacking power but we will be ready." — Reuters

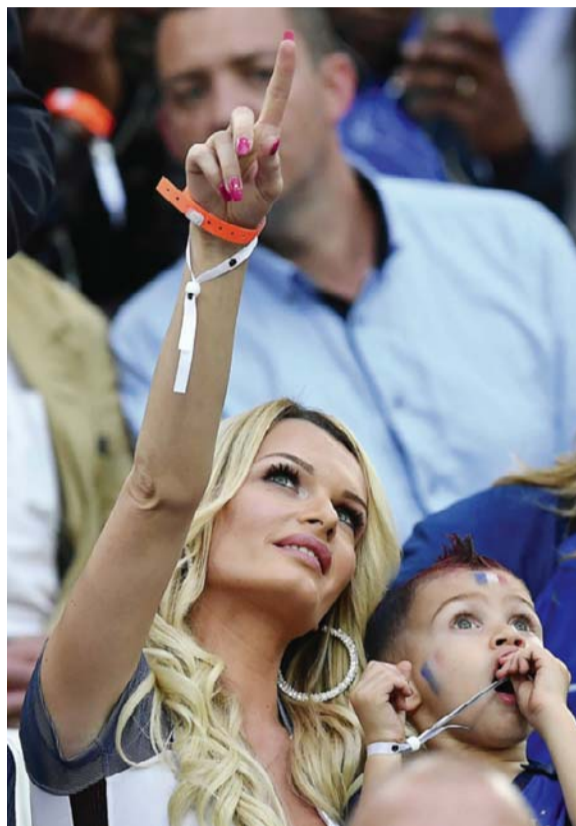


MARCOUSSIS: Portugal's forward Cristiano Ronaldo (C) takes part in a training session at the team's base camp in Marcoussis, south of Paris, on Wednesday, during the Euro 2016 football tournament. — AFP



INIESTA STILL THE DIFFERENCE-MAKER FOR SPAIN

FAN FERVOR



SAINT-MARTIN-DE-RE: Andres Iniesta is the piece keeping Spain together. With impeccable passes, great finishes and smart defending, Iniesta remains in charge of Spain's midfield at the European Championship, the player everyone turns to in times of trouble.

"Thirty years from now I'll be able to say that I played with Iniesta," Spain striker Manuel "Nolito" Agudo said. "He is one of the best players in the world, the very best in his position." Iniesta showed some of his prowess in Spain's difficult first game at Euro 2016, when it looked like the two-time defending champions were set for a scoreless debut against the Czech Republic. With three minutes left, the Barcelona playmaker came through with a well-placed cross for Gerard Piquet's winner. Piquet called it an "incredible" cross, and Spain coach Vicente Del Bosque said it was a "perfect" assist.

"I always try to take responsibility

when I play," said the 32-year-old Iniesta, who was voted the man of the match in Toulouse. "That's how I enjoy my football and it's no different now. It's all about the collective, and in that sense having responsibility isn't something I try to shirk."

Effective as ever, Iniesta converted 85 of his 93 passes against the Czechs, and became the tournament's most successful player with 10 victories, along with teammate Cesc Fabregas.

"Iniesta is a unique player," Spain defender Jordi Alba said. "It's a luxury to have him in the team. In key moments, he steps up." Spain's second Group D game is Friday against Turkey in Nice. Iniesta played a major role when Spain won its two consecutive European Championship titles in 2008 and 2012. At the 2010 World Cup, the Barcelona playmaker scored the winning goal against the Netherlands in the final.

"Iniesta gave us a world title and many more great things," Spain midfielder Thiago Alcantara said. "It doesn't surprise me to see him playing well like this." Iniesta has been running the show ever since Xavi Hernandez retired from the national team following Spain's disappointing elimination from the group stage of the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. Sergio Busquets remains alongside him in midfield, but little by little Del Bosque has been bringing in younger players to replace the aging winners from the previous generation. Striker Fernando Torres didn't even make it to Euro 2016 and goalkeeper Iker Casillas lost his starting spot to David de Gea. Iniesta is an indisputable starter, and will certainly remain so for as long as he continues to control the Spanish midfield. "It's a privilege to be able to play with someone like Iniesta," teammate David Silva said. "What a great player he is." — AP



LENS: Football supporters walk past a piece of street art as they walk in heavy rain in Lens, northern France, yesterday, on the day England plays against Wales in their Euro 2016 group B football match. — AFP

20 RUSSIANS THROWN OUT OF FRANCE AMID NEW EURO 2016 HOOLIGAN ALERT

MARSEILLE: Twenty Russians including a far-right agitator were to be thrown out of France yesterday as the city of Lens went into lockdown ahead of England's next Euro 2016 match. Amid diplomatic tensions over the case, three Russian supporters will also be tried in Marseille, the first from their country to face justice for their role in violence around the England-Russia match in the city on Saturday. French police swooped on a group of 43 Russian fans in southern France on Tuesday and carried out identity checks as part of the investigation into the football violence.

Far-right figure Alexander Shprygin, who heads a Russian football supporters' association, is among the 20 fans from the detained group who will be expelled from France.

"He is among the group," an investigation source told AFP, while the Russian supporters' association that

Shprygin heads also confirmed he was to be expelled. The other 20 supporters in the group will be freed. The arrest of the Russians turned into a diplomatic incident on Wednesday when Moscow summoned France's ambassador in protest. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov described the arrests as "absolutely unacceptable".

ALERT IN LENS

Thousands of riot police were on high alert in Lens, the industrial northern city where up to 50,000 supporters gathered as England face British rivals Wales at 1300 GMT. Security forces watched English fans closely after 36 people were arrested Wednesday in nearby Lille where riot police carrying shields fired teargas in a standoff with rival fans. The atmosphere in Lens was good-natured before kickoff, but schools in the city were closed because of fan

trouble fears. Kevin English, a 53-year-old plumber, was drinking beer and still nursing a bruised and cut eye after a fight with Russian fans in Marseille. "I was by myself having a drink in the Old Port when a group of Russians came out of nowhere and attacked me. They stamped on me. I have bruises all over my body," he told AFP.

But he said he would not look for confrontation with Russians. "It's been and gone. I wouldn't go looking for revenge," he said. On Wednesday, brawling erupted when tens of thousands of fans from the Russia-Slovakia match in Lille joined English and Welsh supporters gathering in the city. Riot police staged several tear gas assaults and baton charges. There are 20 British police 'spotters' mingling with the crowds. The Germany-Poland game in Paris on Thursday night is also considered a hooligan risk.—AFP

FRANCE STRIKE LATE TO BEAT ALBANIA

MARSEILLE: A 90th-minute header by substitute striker Antoine Griezmann and a stoppage-time special by Dimitri Payet secured France a heartstopping 2-0 win over Albania on Wednesday that sent the hosts through as the first team into the last 16 of Euro 2016. France had struggled to make any impression on a determined Albanian defence and as the clock ticked into the last minute neither team had managed a single shot on target-though both had hit a post.

France had needed an 89th-minute Payet goal to beat Romania in their first game and it was even later this time when centre back Adil Rami swung in a hopeful cross that Griezmann guided expertly home.

The 67,000 Stade Velodrome crowd-minus 20,000 stunned Albanians-erupted in a wave of noise, which was repeated five minutes later when Payet cut inside to smash in the second. With six points France are guaranteed to finish in the top two of Group A, with Switzerland, on four points after drawing with Romania earlier, favourites to join them in the knockout phase.

Once the euphoria of the moment had elapsed, Payet was able to take a broad view. "It would be good if we could avoid that type of crazy scenario," he said after picking up his second successive man of the match award.

"What we have to do is start matches the way we started the second half. With Paul (Pogba) and Griezou (Griezmann) coming on and a different system, it worked a lot better." It needed to.

France were hesitant and risk-averse in a forgettable first half as the ploy of using the speed of Kingsley Coman and Anthony Martial out wide failed to come off. Albania, desperate to make their mark in their first major tournament after an early red card scuppered their chances in their opening game against Switzerland, defended with gusto and almost went ahead early in the second half when French full back Bacary Sagna bundled the ball against his own post. With the half-time introduction of Pogba and then Griezmann France eventually got moving as Olivier Giroud sent a header wide then thumped another against a post. However, with Albania taking every opportunity to slow the game-half the team taking it in turns to go down with cramp-it was looking as if France were going to have to settle for a point.

Griezmann, however, who had a fantastic season for Atletico Madrid, showed Giroud how to connect with a header, with Payet capping another enterprising display by adding the icing after a quickfire break.

Relieved France coach Didier Deschamps accepted his original approach had not worked but was pleased that the tactical switches paid off.

Live Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

UEFA EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Italy v Sweden 16:00
beIN MAX 2 HD
beIN MAX 3 HD EN
beIN MAX 1 HD
beIN MAX 4 HD FR

Czech Republic v Croatia 19:00
beIN MAX 2 HD
beIN MAX 3 HD EN
beIN MAX 1 HD
beIN MAX 4 HD FR

Spain v Turkey 22:00
beIN MAX 2 HD
beIN MAX 3 HD EN
beIN MAX 1 HD
beIN MAX 4 HD FR

COPA AMERICA CENTENARIO

United States v Ecuador 4:30
beIN SPORTS 1 HD FR
beIN MAX 2 HD
beIN MAX 3 HD EN

Tomorrow

Peru v Colombia 3:00
beIN SPORTS

"We didn't do enough in the first half but the second half was a lot better," he said.

"The players who came on made a difference. We are not stuck with one format we can switch things, we had a much better balance in the second half.

"The big teams here are having problems. There are no easy opponents, as you could see again tonight." That was certainly true of Albania, who grew in confidence as the night went on.

"We didn't just defend-we had clear-cut chances," said their coach Gianni De Biasi. "But if you don't score, you don't win." — Reuters



LENS: England's Daniel Sturridge celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during the Euro 2016 Group B soccer match between England and Wales at the Bollaert stadium in Lens, France, yesterday. — AP

VARDY, STURRIDGE RESCUE ENGLAND

LENS: Jamie Vardy and Daniel Sturridge rose from the bench to score as England came from behind to defeat neighbours Wales 2-1 in yesterday's all-British Euro 2016 clash in Lens.

Just as he had in Wales's opening 2-1 win over Slovakia, Gareth Bale put Chris Coleman's side ahead with a long-range free-kick that England goalkeeper Joe Hart could only fumble into the net.

But Vardy and Sturridge came on at half-time and after the former had equalised in the 56th minute, the latter smuggled in a stoppage-time winner that fired Roy Hodgson's men to the top of the group. Wales are a point back in second place, above Slovakia on head-to-head record, and need to beat Russia in Toulouse on Monday to guarantee one of the two automatic qualifying berths.

A draw against Slovakia in Saint-Etienne will suffice for England and they will approach the game with renewed optimism after belatedly kicking their tournament into gear.

It was the 102nd meeting between the teams, but the first at a major championship, and the boxy, British-style Stade Bollaert-Delelis provided an ideal setting on a day when fears of fan violence failed to materialise.

Wales recalled first-choice goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey after he missed the win over Slovakia owing to a back spasm, as well as Joe Ledley and Hal Robson-Kanu, who came off the bench in Bordeaux to score the winner.

While it meant that Wales were at full strength, they were content to let England, who were unchanged, force the issue and it was Hodgson's men

who bossed the first half on a sunny afternoon in northern France.

They should have taken the lead in the seventh minute when Harry Kane freed Adam Lallana to cross for Raheem Sterling, but from seven yards out the Manchester City man could only slide the ball over the bar.

Gary Cahill and Chris Smalling threatened with headers, while the most contentious incident of the first period saw Kane deny a penalty when his close-range header struck Ben Davies's outstretched left hand.

HART BLUNDER

Bale, Welsh antagonist-in-chief in the build-up to the game, had been a peripheral figure, save for a shot that was blocked by Cahill, but three minutes before half-time he strode onto centre-stage.

Wayne Rooney's foul on Robson-Kanu gave Wales a free-kick 35 yards out in a central position. Though Bale's shot had vicious pace and dip, Hart should have done better than palm it inside his left-hand post.

It made the Real Madrid forward the first Wales player to score against England since Mark Hughes, on his

debut, in May 1984.

When the half-time whistle came, it drew a cascade of boos from the England end.

Hodgson was quick to react, sending on Vardy and Sturridge for Kane and Sterling at the break, and after Rooney had seen a low curler palmed behind by Hennessey, his side equalised.

Sturridge's flighted cross from the left was knocked down at the back post and Vardy swivelled to tuck away his fourth international goal. He was standing around four yards offside, but replays showed that the previous touch had come from Wales captain Ashley Williams.

The on-pitch scene soon resembled the Alamo as Hodgson threw on teenage Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford for Lallana, leaving England with four of their five named forwards on the pitch.

Despite the charge it seemed Wales would hold out, only for Sturridge to collect Dele Alli's clever flick and steer a shot past Hennessey in the first minute of stoppage time, silencing the Welsh hordes. —AFP

EURO 2016 STANDINGS

Group B

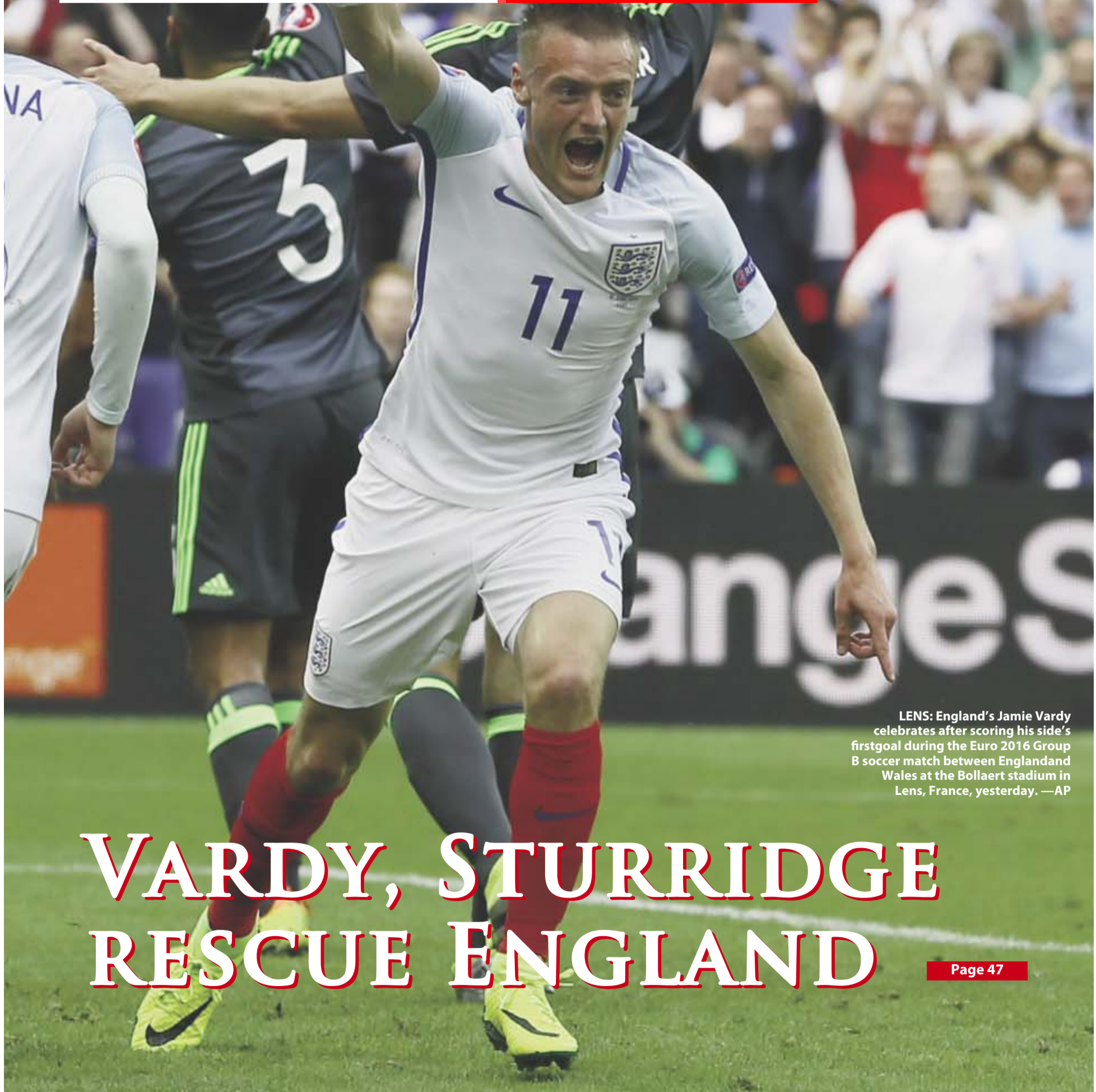
(Played, won, drawn, lost, for, against, points):

England	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Wales	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Slovakia	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Russia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2016

Friday Times

www.kuwaittimes.net



LENS: England's Jamie Vardy celebrates after scoring his side's firstgoal during the Euro 2016 Group B soccer match between Englandand Wales at the Bollaert stadium in Lens, France, yesterday. —AP

VARDY, STURRIDGE RESCUE ENGLAND