

Panel did not recommend raising school fees, says MP



UK polls show momentum for 'In' after MP's murder



Chile thrash Mexico 7-0 to reach Copa semis



Protests as tension at Orlando funerals

Ramadan Timings	
Emsak:	03:03
Fajer:	03:13
Shrooq:	04:48
Dohr:	11:49
Asr:	15:23
Maghreb:	18:50
Eshaa:	20:22

ASSEMBLY PASSES BUDGETS OF EIGHT NEW GOVT BODIES

MPS LASH OUT AT SPORTS OFFICIALS AS THEY AMEND SPORTS LAWS



Min 30°
Max 46°
High Tide 00:35 & 11:07
Low Tide 05:33 & 18:48



150 FILS
NO: 16910
40 PAGES

Ramadan Kareem

GRATITUDE: A LESSON OF HOLY RAMADAN

By Teresa Leshner

By the end of the day, when I finally sit down to a glass of cool water and a few dates, I am overcome with a sense of gratitude. I realize what a blessing food and water are. I realize that many people do not have access to clean water or nutritious food. I realize that many people never feel the satisfaction I do at the end of a balanced and delicious meal. I become aware of how blessed I am, and as I take those first sips and savor the first tastes, I am filled with gratitude. Not only for the food and drink, but for the opportunity to express my devotion to God through fasting in daylight hours, just as He has asked me to do. I feel fortunate that I have been guided to an annual ritual that, despite the feelings of weakness I experience, strengthens me in every way - physically, mentally and spiritually.

Maryam, mother of Jesus, is a fine example of someone grateful for God's many blessings. The holy Quran says that when Zachariah found food with her when he visited her, he asked where she got it from. Her response is quite interesting. Most people probably would have said, "The neighbor sent it to me" or "A caravan has just arrived from Yemen" or "I bought it this morning from the farmers' market." Although any answer would satisfy the most curious person, it didn't satisfy her. She was so devout and so wise that she could see beyond the obvious and the circumstantial - she could see the Truth. So she answered, "This is from Allah. Verily, Allah provides sustenance to whom He wills, without limit." (3:37)

We should respond as wisely as Maryam when asked about our blessings. The holy Quran says, "Whatever good has come to you, it is from God" (4:79). So if someone asks you, "I love your clothes! Where did you get them? You should realize that they are from God. Or if someone remarks that you are so strong, you should acknowledge the source of all strength: "It's from God!" Or if your kids ask, what's for dinner, the best response is "rice and chicken from God." That's the outlook that Maryam had: appreciative, humble, insightful. Look around and start counting your blessings - from the food you expect to eat tonight, to the soft pillow on your bed, to the eyes that are reading these words. If it's good, it's from God.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: Minarets of three different mosques are pictured in Kuwait City. Mosques around Kuwait prepare to welcome worshippers for 'Qiyam' prayers that are performed during the last ten nights of Ramadan, starting from Friday night. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The National Assembly yesterday, meeting in a special session, approved the 2016/2017 budgets and the final accounts of eight new government bodies and voted to approve government-sponsored amendments to sports laws to facilitate lifting of international sanctions. MPs voted by 46 in favor with six against to a new sports law that allows the government to dissolve sports federations and clubs for the sake of public interest. It however gives these bodies the right to challenge the dissolution in court.

It also changes the voting to the single-vote system which allows members of clubs to elect only one member in the board. The previous system allowed members to vote for all the board members. Some MPs strongly criticized Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, chairman of the Olympic Council of Asia and senior member of international sports organizations and his younger brother Sheikh Talal, chairman of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, blaming them for causing the suspension of Kuwaiti sports internationally. MP Abdullah Al-Turaiji asked until when the two brothers will continue to control the Kuwaiti sports and wondered why the international sports bodies do not interfere in other Gulf countries.

He called on the government to dissolve all sports bodies in the country after the amendment. But a number of MPs warned that the amendments will likely bring more government control and interference in sports and accordingly will not help lift the international suspension.

Continued on Page 13

EGYPT, QATAR CLASH OVER MORSI-ERA ESPIONAGE CASE

DUBAI: Qatar and Egypt have renewed their animosity, trading harshly-worded statements over the sentencing to death by a Cairo court of six people, including two Al-Jazeera employees, for allegedly passing Egyptian documents related to national security to Qatar and the Doha-based TV network during the rule of President Mohammed Morsi.

Relations between Egypt and Qatar have been fraught with tension and suspicion since the ouster by the military in 2013 of the Islamist Morsi, who enjoyed the support of the rich Gulf nation throughout his one year in office. Egypt claims that Qatar endangers its national security by supporting Islamist groups, including Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood, which is now banned in Egypt and has been declared a terrorist group by the government.

Continued on Page 13

DUBAI GROUP BUYS MAJORITY STAKE IN KUWAIT'S AMERICANA

KUWAIT: A Dubai-based investor group led by Emaar Properties chairman Mohamed Al-Abbar has agreed to purchase a majority stake in Kuwait's top food company Americana, the firm said yesterday. A binding agreement for the acquisition, estimated at \$2.3 billion, was reached between Abbar's Adeptio group and Al-Khair National for Stocks and Real Estate, a statement on Kuwait's Stock Exchange said.

The new development comes three weeks after the two sides announced that takeover negotiations had collapsed. Al-Khair said in its statement that negotiations were reopened and the binding deal was signed on Saturday to buy the stake for KD 2.65 (\$8.8) per share. Based on the latest official figures, Al-Khair holds a 66.8 percent stake in Americana's 391 million stocks worth around \$2.3 billion. Under Kuwaiti law, Adeptio must make a similar offer to the holders of the remaining 33

percent of the company. Established in 1964, Americana, or Kuwait Food Company, is the parent group that brought to the Middle East more than a dozen major food brands like Pizza Hut, KFC, Costa Coffee and TGI Friday's.

It owns more than 1,690 outlets and employs 63,000 workers in the Middle East and North Africa region. It also has 17 factories in the region and abroad and produces a variety of food products.

Meanwhile, nutrition giant Americana's shares resumed trading yesterday after the company's clarification about the sale deal between Kuwait's Al-Khair and Dubai's Adeptio. The company's shares received offers worth KD 2,200, but no offers and transactions were made. Both companies will be notified by the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) about all necessary procedures in order to complete the transaction, the statement added. — Agencies

News

in brief

2 workers killed in UAE nuclear plant accident

DUBAI: A state-owned newspaper has reported that two workers have been killed while building the first nuclear power plant in the United Arab Emirates.

The National of Abu Dhabi reported that the workers were killed and three others injured while working in a "man basket held by a crane" on May 12 at the under-construction Barakah nuclear power plant in the UAE's western desert.

The first nuclear reactor at Barakah under construction.

It's unclear why the deaths are being reported more than a month later. The Emirates Nuclear Energy Corp did not respond to a request for comment yesterday. The UAE's Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation issued a statement to The Associated Press saying that the incident occurred in a "non-nuclear related facility" at the site.

Qatar delays \$200bn infrastructure works

DOHA: A \$200 billion infrastructure program launched by Qatar could see higher costs and delays because of the slump in oil prices, the government of the 2022 football World Cup host warned yesterday. A study from the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics (MDPS) said that "continued volatility" on the oil market was likely to have consequences for the vast construction projects underway in the Gulf state. The MDPS predicted that Doha will run budget deficits for at least three years as it adjusts its energy-reliant economy to the fall in oil prices, which have dropped by more than half since 2014. It also confirmed that Qatar will for the first time introduce a value-added tax in 2018, in the form of a five percent levy on certain goods that was agreed by Gulf Cooperation Council finance ministers this month.

TRUMP: US SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER PROFILING MUSLIMS

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump says the country should "seriously" consider profiling Muslims in the United States as a terrorism-fighting tool. The presumptive Republican presidential nominee says other countries use profiling and "it's not the worst thing to do."

In an interview with CBS' "Face the Nation," Trump said, "I hate the concept of profiling, but we have to start using common sense" and "look at it seriously." Profiling is the government practice of targeting people for investigation based factors such as their race, religion or nationality. Civil libertarians have decried the practice as discriminatory.

Trump says that in the age of international terrorism, it's a matter of choosing "common sense" over "political correctness." He's also proposed a temporary ban on foreign Muslims from entering the United States.

"You look at Israel and you look at others, and they do it and they do it successfully. And you know, I hate the concept of profiling, but we have to start using common sense," he added. Trump has drawn criticism from many in his party for his comments on American Muslims after the Orlando attack, in which a US born Muslim man killed 49 people at a gay nightclub.

Continued on Page 13



PHOENIX, Arizona: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks to a crowd of supporters during a campaign rally Saturday in Phoenix, Arizona. — AP



TEHRAN: A Boeing 747 of Iran's national airline on the tarmac of Mehrabad International Airport in Tehran. — AP

IRAN INKS DEAL TO BUY 100 BOEING PLANES

TEHRAN: Iran said yesterday it has reached an agreement with American aerospace giant Boeing to purchase 100 aircraft to renew its ageing fleet, though the deal must still be approved by the US government. The Islamic republic has ordered about 200 planes from three Western manufacturers since mid-January, when economic sanctions were lifted following a deal on Tehran's nuclear program.

Ali Abedzadeh, head of Iran's civil aviation authority said in remarks published by the daily Iran newspaper that an agreement had been reached with Boeing for the purchase but said the deal was contingent on US Treasury permission.

Deputy Transport Minister Asghar

Fakhrieh Kashan however said yesterday that he hoped the initial accord could be completed within a month. He told the Fars news agency that the deal would be "the largest and most important contract" with the United States-barring military deals-since before Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

A nuclear agreement in July with six world powers, including the US, has lifted some of the economic sanctions on Iran in return for limits on the Islamic republic's controversial atomic program. Many of Iran's ageing civil aviation fleet — 230 planes out of 250 according to Abedzadeh-are in desperate need of replacement.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with President of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq Ammar Al-Hakim. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with President of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq Ammar Abdulaziz Al-Hakim and his accompanying delegation.

AMIR RECEIVES IRAQI OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday President of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq Ammar Al-Hakim and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-

Sabah. Later, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Hakim and his delegation.

Welcoming the guest, His Highness the Crown Prince hoped that efforts exerted by the Iraqi leadership to preserve Iraq's unity and stability would be a

success, wishing the Iraqi people more stability and peace and progress for the world. The meeting was attended by His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Head Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Iraq's ambassador in Kuwait.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir received

His Highness the Crown Prince, National Assembly Speaker Marzuq Al-Ghanem, and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem and His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met on Sunday with Bahraini Ambassador to Kuwait Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Khalifa. During the meeting, they discussed Kuwaiti-Bahraini relations and the latest regional and international developments. — KUNA



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

CABINET APPROVES SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PLAN

KUWAIT: The Cabinet yesterday approved a plan by a youth affairs committee to further develop the sports scene in the country, a broad vision that aims to propel Kuwait into the upper echelons of the sporting world.

In its customary weekly meeting at Seif Palace yesterday chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Cabinet agreed to implement the sports development plan and has tasked the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) and the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (SCPD), to take all necessary measures to bring all development projects to fruition.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet reviewed a report by the youth affairs committee concerning violence amongst youth in the country, which also includes suggestions of a wide array of development projects that aim to showcase youth talent. The Cabinet has assigned the office of the Minister of State for Youth Affairs along with other relevant parties, to implement these suggestions in efforts to stifle the rise of violence.

In addition, the Cabinet listened to explanations offered by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Al-Saleh, Undersecretary of the Finance Ministry Khalifa Hamada and Managing Director of Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) Bader Al-Saad. The officials briefed the Cabinet on the country's financial

details for the ongoing year, while drawing comparisons to those of last year's.

At the onset of the meeting, the Cabinet looked over a letter sent to His Highness the Amir by United Nations (UN) Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, which dealt with expediting the global Paris climate deal. In his letter, the UN Secretary General urged nations to join the agreement in order to reap economic benefits and stave off the effects of climate change.

Investments

The Cabinet also reviewed the first annual report of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) in light of an explanation by Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yusuf Mohamed Ali, containing the role and functions of the body to attract and promote direct domestic and foreign investment, as well as promoting the State of Kuwait as an investment hub.

Ali also spoke about investment opportunities with an added value, as well as achievements of the authority during the period from January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 and the total volume of incoming investment, approved and unapproved investments.

The Cabinet was reassured about Kuwait's strong national economy, especially regarding the ability to attract foreign investment, and voiced satisfaction with the success of the state's policies aimed at economic opening-up and restore the leading role of the State of Kuwait economically and politically in

the region in which the private sector leads development and economic activity in order to raise living standards and create new job opportunities.

The Cabinet also expressed thanks and appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Ministry of Finance and the Kuwait Investment Authority in carrying out their own tasks and role in safeguarding and developing public money. Then, the Cabinet discussed National Assembly Affairs and was briefed on the topics listed on the National Assembly session agenda.

Terrorist act

The Cabinet condemned the recent terrorist act which hit the city of Orlando in the United States, which left scores of innocent people killed or injured, stressing Kuwait's firm position rejecting such terrorist acts which are contrary to all religions and human values and norms, expressing condolences to the families of the victims and speedy recovery for the wounded.

It reiterated its call for the international community to embody global solidarity to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, stressing Kuwait's support for every effort aimed to confront the scourge of terrorism. On the other hand, the Cabinet expressed its full support for all measures taken by the Kingdom of Bahrain aimed at combating extremism and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. — KUNA



BEIRUT: A KRCS worker is pictured with Syrian refugees in the northern Lebanese district of Akkar. — KUNA



IRBIL: Members of the Kuwaiti Consulate in Irbil, Iraq and KRCS pose for a picture after distributing food parcels to refugee and displaced families.

KRCS OFFERS RELIEF AID TO REFUGEES IN LEBANON, IRAQ

BEIRUT/IRBIL: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) distributed yesterday around 300 iftar (fast-breaking) meals to Syrian refugees in the northern Lebanese district of Akkar, the latest in a flow of humanitarian aid. KRCS official

Abdullah Jumaa said that KRCS, in conjunction with the Lebanese Red Cross, handed out iftar meals to Syrian refugee families, in addition to candies and school utensils to children.

Moreover, Jumaa noted that such humanitarian aid doled out by KRCS would persist all year round, as he underscored Kuwait's commitment to humanitarian causes. As part of an annual tradition, KRCS kicked off last week a humanitarian campaign to provide 30 thousand iftar meals to Syrian Syrians in all parts of Lebanon.

Earlier yesterday, the Kuwaiti Consulate in Irbil distributed yesterday food parcels to some 400 refugee and displaced families in cooperation with KRCS. General Consul of Kuwait in Irbil Dr Omar Al-Kandri said that Kuwait would not hold back any efforts needed to aid and ease the suffering of Syrian refugees and displaced Iraqis. Kuwait delivered some 15,000 food parcels ahead of the Holy Month of Ramadan. Iraq's Kurdistan region is taking in around two million displaced and refugees since the threat of the so-called Islamic State (IS) emerged in the area. — KUNA



This file photo shows Kuwait Red Crescent Society workers distribute humanitarian aid to displaced families in Irbil, Iraq. — KUNA photos



KRCS workers distribute aid to Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

KUWAIT'S HUMANITARIAN IMPACT ON REFUGEES PRAISED GLOBALLY

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait has offered robust support to the relief effort for the refugees and the internally-displaced people around the globe, a step earning global praise particularly at a time when the United Nations in 2014 to honor His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as Humanitarian Leader and Kuwait as center of humanitarian action. Kuwait maintained its impressive presence at all regional and international activities and forums relating to humanitarian action and alleviation of the suffering of conflict-hit people.

The Day has been marked on June 20th, ever since the UN General Assembly, on December 4th 2000, adopted resolution 55/76. It coincides this year with the 66th anniversary of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), created in 1950 in the aftermath of the Second World War, to help millions of Europeans who had fled or lost their homes. Kuwait's humanitarian policy is distinguished for its non-discrimination among aid recipients because of their race, nationality, faith or political affiliations.

Since its independence, the country has been known for its relief effort and this role became more crystal clear in the recent year which encouraged the United Nations in 2014 to honor His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as Humanitarian Leader and Kuwait as center of humanitarian action. Kuwait maintained its impressive presence at all regional and international activities and forums relating to humanitarian action and alleviation of the suffering of conflict-hit people.

Humanitarian summit

In May of 2016, His Highness the Amir took part

and delivered a speech to the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey. In his speech, His Highness the Amir said: "Kuwait has long been acclaimed for its deep belief in humanitarian values and helping hand for the needy people."

"The total value of Kuwait's contributions to the relief effort in the last five years exceeded \$2 billion, which made the country the world's biggest aid donor in terms of the ratio of aid to the country's GDP," he pointed out.

Kuwait's humanitarian role is shared by the government and civil society institutions such as Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and the International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO). The Kuwaiti fund-raising agencies responded promptly to the needs of refugees and displaced people in countries that were hit by armed conflicts or natural disasters.

Their aid campaigns ranged between famine relief, medical supplies, and educational, health and housing services inside the refugee camps. The following are examples, in part and in effect, of Kuwait's contributions to the relief efforts.

Donations

For Palestine, His Highness the Amir announced in January, 2009, a Kuwaiti donation of \$34 million to the humanitarian activities for the Palestinian people in response to an appeal by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Besides

that, Kuwait contributed \$15 million to the Agency in 2013 and launched an aid campaign for Gaza Strip in 2014 in the wake of the Israeli aggression in July.

In the aftermath of Iraq war in 2003, Kuwait offered emergency relief for the internally-displaced people; the aid continued to increase until it hit \$200 million last year which made Kuwait the biggest aid donor for Iraq.

In the run-up to the Holy Month of Ramadan, last year KRCS distributed nearly 40,000 food parcels to the displaced families in Kurdistan region, north Iraq, while the Kuwaiti charities distributed more than 12,000 food parcels shortly before Ramadan this year.

As for Syria, Kuwait hosted three international humanitarian pledging conferences, the first of which took place in January, 2013, when His Highness the Amir donated \$300 million. The second conference in the following saw the Kuwaiti aid pledges rising to \$500 million and in the third, held in March, 2015, Kuwait contributed additional \$500 million. The State of Kuwait was also present in fourth similar gathering titled 'Supporting Syria and the Region Conference', in London, last February. His Highness the Amir announced additional aid of \$300 million for the Syrian refugees over the coming three years. Regarding Yemen, Kuwait contributed \$100 million to the humanitarian action in response to the raging conflict last year. — KUNA

CONDOLENCES



S.V. Hussain Koya
(Ex-Senior Accountant)
01/04/1943 - 19/06/2016

The Management and Staff of
Al Rashed International Travel Co w.l.l
expresses their heartfelt condolences
to the family members of
S.V. Hussain Koya
on his sad demise.

May God Almighty rest his soul in peace

Legalese

STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

As a young Kuwaiti myself (relatively young to be honest), it is only normal that I have been surrounded by other young Kuwaitis, especially since I have been brought up and lived most of my life in Kuwait.

I have watched my generation go through trends and phases, trying to balance the interesting dynamics of Kuwait with our multicultural population and our traditions, yet I can proudly say that my generation in the past few years has been extremely brave and talented and has contributed to the progression of this country and the region in so many ways. How? From F & B chains that have franchises in the GCC (like Slider Station, Pick Yo, Luscious and many more) to magazines that are also leading in the GCC industry (Khaleejessque) to fashion designers, sportspeople, writers, innovators photographers and artists. The list goes on and on - what a creative generation!

The government has fortunately realized how important it is to have regulations that can assist young Kuwaitis and make the process of obtaining a commercial license easier, lessening bureaucratic and legal hurdles. So today not only do I want to answer common questions I get from SMEs, but also say that I am willing to support SMEs in any way possible, because I believe they are a vital part of our economy.

Minimum capital

Question: Is it true that the minimum capital for establishing a company has gone down to KD 1,000? And what exactly is minimum capital?

Fajer: Yes, it is true the minimum capital for starting a Limited Liability Company (WLL) is now KD 1,000. As I have said before, I try to make my writing as simple as possible because I want as many people as possible to understand the law. I believe in making the law easy. Once the amount is deposited in the bank, the amount will be frozen until you have obtained the commercial license.

Steps needed

Question: What are the steps that I need to carry out to obtain a commercial license?

Fajer: The answer to this question depends on the type of license, which also depends on the type of activity and the relationship you want to have with your partners. But I will go ahead and describe the process for a Limited Liability Company.

1. Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

You need to register at the department designated for companies at the ministry. You will need a copy of your civil ID, a paper from the Social Security Authority confirming that both of the partners work in the private sector, the lease contract, a receipt of rent payment and a paper from the Public Authority of Civil Information confirming the use of the space for commercial activities. You should also be able to obtain a paper from the department addressed to your bank so that you can deposit the minimum capital. Different papers will also be issued according to the activity that the company will undertake.

2. Copyright of the company name

You will need to reserve a commercial name for your company that has not been used or is not in use by any other company. This should be according to the commercial register guidelines. The name is then published in the official gazette to confirm that no one else is using the said name.

3. Inspection

The Municipality will come and check that the location complies with the Municipality's health and safety regulations. The Fire Department will also carry out an inspection.

4. Memorandum of Association

A Memorandum of Association in simple terms is an official document that lays out the company's relationship with any third parties. It's a very important document and should be drafted with care, although in Kuwait it is very common to "copy/paste" an MOA, and this is because the Ministry of Commerce has a standard draft. It has to be approved by the Ministry of Commerce and it has to also be notarized by the Ministry of Justice.

5. Commercial License

The commercial license is then issued and a membership to the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry is issued, as well as registers at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

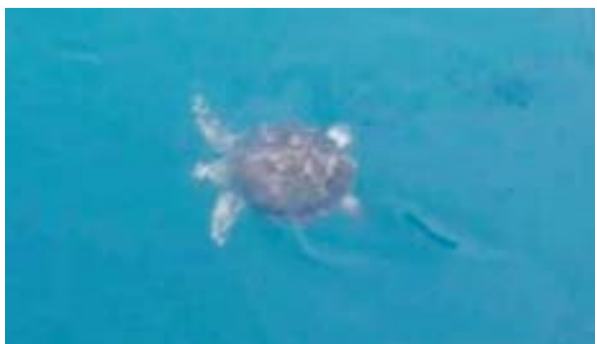
The process can take as little as three weeks and up to a few months depending on the circumstances. I really hope that you get inspired to start your own company, a company that will contribute to the Kuwaiti society hopefully by resolving a social issue. We are blessed to have a supportive system in Kuwait and many young talents, so start with the ideas you have and ask for the support around you.

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

TURTLE TRAPPED AT PLANT'S BASIN

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: A turtle was found trapped inside a Shuaiba Plant basin, a Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) official said yesterday. Arrangements were made with the Kuwait Dive Team to free the marine animal, said Fouad Al-Oun, Assistant Undersecretary for Operating and Maintaining Power and Water Plants. The incident did not affect production at the plant, Oun said. The official made reference to an incident that happened nearly ten years ago when a turtle was trapped at the same site, and later freed safely.



PANEL DID NOT RECOMMEND RAISING SCHOOL FEES: MP

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Chairman of the parliament's educational affairs committee MP Oudah Al-Rowaei stressed yesterday that the committee had not recommended any tuition fee increases for private schools. Meanwhile, Minister of Education Dr Bader Al-Essa issued a decision yesterday, officially increasing fees collected by private schools by three percent for the school year 2016-2017 and by another three percent for the following year (2017-2018). The increases would be then be reconsidered and reviewed. Essa also made a decision to allow grandchildren of retired or serving bedoons working for the army or the police to be accepted in public schools starting from 2016-2017.

In a different concern, Essa said the delay in the Shadadiya university project was due to several changes and called for shifting the responsibility of the project to the Ministry of Public Works (MPW), because the university did not have enough technical staff to supervise and follow up the construc-



MP Oudah Al-Rowaei



Minister of Education Dr Bader Al-Essa

tion process. Responding to a question about scholarships, Essa denied they were reduced this year, and stressed that the numbers are still the same - 6,000 foreign and 4,000 local scholarships. In other news, Kuwait University employees syndicate expressed criticized the 'sudden decision' in issuing the government universities law separating Kuwait University from the new Sabah Al-

Salem University in Shadadiya. In this regard, syndicate chairman Haitham Al-Hajri said that the decision was shocking to all employees, especially those who had supervised some of the construction works at the new project and dream of working there. Hajri called for reconsidering the government universities bill while it was still at the Cabinet and before submitting it to the parliament.



Firefighters stand outside a building in Bneid Al-Gar where a fire was reported.

MAID PUSHED OUT OF MOVING VEHICLE

SPONSOR ARGUED WITH MAID ON WAY BACK TO OFFICE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: An Asian woman was rushed to Jahra Hospital with cuts and bruises on her body after she was pushed out of a moving vehicle, said security sources. Eyewitnesses said that the woman, who works as a maid, had an argument with her sponsor, who fought with her and asked her to get into the vehicle to return her to the recruitment office. The witness said that the sponsor pushed the maid out of the moving vehicle and fled the scene. A case was filed and the sponsor is being summoned for further investigations.

Drunk woman caught

A British woman was arrested in Ahmadi for drinking, said security sources, noting that on stopping her, the woman was extremely drunk and had a plastic bottle with a yellowish liquid. A case was filed.

Drug dealer arrested

A citizen was arrested in Mubarak Al-Kabeer with half a kilogram of hashish divided into small bars. He was in the process of selling the drugs to an undercover agent for KD 900.

Body found

The corpse of a 29-year-old Indian man was found hanging by a rope tied to the neck inside a bathroom at his sponsor's house in Salwa, said security sources. A suicide investigation was opened in the case.

Woman arrested for begging

Ahmadi detectives arrested a Jordanian woman and her minor daughter while begging at Reaqa Co-op Society, said security sources. They noted that they are both dependents sponsored by the girl's father, who will be summoned and legally held accountable for allowing his wife and daughter to go out begging.

Absconding maids detained

Eight absconding Filipina maids were arrested in Hawally after a citizen reported seeing his absconding maid in Hawally, said security sources, noting that the suspects used to provide private nursing and day-to-day housemaid services. A case was filed and the suspects were referred to relevant authorities. Separately, residency affairs department detectives arrested 11 people in violation of residency laws in Jahra and Ardhiya industrial area, said security sources, noting that all those arrested were Asians.

No injuries in fires

Hilali and Shuhada firefighters controlled a fire that broke out in an 11-storey building under construction in Bneid Al-Gar, said security sources, noting that the fire was on the third floor. No injuries were reported. Separately, a vehicle caught fire in Maidan Hawally, said security sources, noting that firemen from Hawally rushed to the scene and managed to control the fire without any casualties.

Fines collected

The Ministry of Interior's relations and security media department announced that the decision to unblock traffic fines committed in 2015 and earlier would remain in effect during Ramadan, except those related to driving without driving licenses for non-Kuwaitis, speeding and violations committed in 2016. The department added that fines could be paid online at the ministry's website, various traffic departments and at citizen



This photo provided by the Interior Ministry shows a sports car involved in an illegal race.



A Kuwait Municipality inspector checks the quality of meat during a campaign in Farwaniya.

In my view

COMBATING TERRORISM IS A GLOBAL DUTY



By Labeed Abdal

local@kuwaittimes.net

Condemnation by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan over the recent explosion in Istanbul and the promises he made to continue combating terrorism has become a duty of all countries around the world. Erdogan described the attack as one against humanity and stressed that there would be no tolerance for such attacks. He vowed to tirelessly fight terrorism all the way to the end, which is a very hard choice to make at such a critical time when friends are turning into foes and vice versa.

This terrorist attack killed seven policemen and four civilians and injured 36 others, when a car bomb went off while a riot police bus was going past, which once more proves how brainwashed the executors of such attacks are. The fact that the attack was made on the second day of Ramadan proves that terrorism can happen anytime and anywhere, because the executors do not only go through 'zero hour' to kill themselves and other innocent people, but also have other goals greater than dying in small pieces.

This calls for uniting world efforts to counter the destruction taking place in Syria, Iraq, UK, India, Egypt, France or here in Kuwait last Ramadan by considering the message culprits may have wanted to convey by their crimes. The explosions in Turkey that destroyed several university buildings, the Istanbul municipality headquarters and mosques that go back to the Ottoman era involve political competition. The age of information, the Internet and other such matrices call for comprehensive international readiness and fully constructive cooperation instead of establishing more clubs, especially by countries that have accidentally or deliberately forgotten all about the concepts of international equality and justice.

Crimes

report

'Homeless' citizen arrested

KUWAIT: Responding to reports about a man and a dog sleeping in the toilets of the beach near the Scientific Center in Salmiya, detectives rushed to the scene and found that the man is a 41-year-old homeless citizen wanted for second degree murder. The man was arrested and referred to the relevant authorities for further action.

Driver arrested for selling liquor

An Asian driver working for a female ruling family member was arrested with 77 bottles of homebrewed liquor hidden in a vehicle owned by the 'sheikha', said security sources. Case papers indicate that a police patrol saw the vehicle driven in an unsteady course in Salmiya, and on asking the driver to pull over, he tried to force the patrol car off the road. However, on stopping the Asian driver and searching the vehicle, policemen found the liquor and that the vehicle belonged to a sheikha. Security sources said Salmiya police station received several calls requesting releasing the driver, before they were told that he was carrying alcohol in the vehicle. Separately, an Asian man was arrested when he was spotted walking around Fahaheel market while heavily drunk, said security sources.

Women fight

An Indian woman filed a case against a compatriot accusing her of breaking her nose and front teeth during a fight in a Rumaithiya street. A case was filed and the other woman is being summoned for further investigations.

Armed robbery

A Filipino man reported that an armed robber stole KD 300 and his mobile phone in Maidan Hawally, said security sources, noting that the man said that he had just withdrawn the money from an ATM when someone dressed in a dishdasha and driving a vehicle stopped, assaulted him and used a knife to threaten to harm him unless he handed over his wallet and mobile phone. A case was filed.

Motorist injured

A citizen sustained various fractures and injuries when his vehicle collided into another along Gulf Road and then hit a concrete barrier, said security sources. They noted that the man was rushed to Amiri Hospital for treatment, while the other driver was unharmed.

Murder threat

A female citizen called police reporting that she had received a call from her ex-husband telling her that he was on his way to 'kill her', said security sources, noting that policemen were dispatched to the woman's house in Salwa, but the man did not show up. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Domestic violence

Another Kuwaiti woman called the police reporting that her brother was attacking her and that she had locked herself in her room to escape his rage. Rushing to the house in Firdous, the brother opened the front door, claiming that he was angry because his sister always challenged and disobeyed his orders. A case was filed and both siblings were taken to the police station pending further investigations.

Caravan stolen

A citizen recently reported that someone stole a caravan he had parked in his garden, said security sources, noting that the man said that the janitor told him that while he was out of the house, someone driving an SUV towed the caravan out of the garden and that he failed to jot down the vehicle's license plate number.

Officer insulted

A police colonel reported that he spotted someone driving in a suspicious way in Mansouriya and that on stopping him and showing his ID, the suspect made fun of him, pushed him and sped off. However, the colonel provided detectives with the suspect's vehicle license plate number and a search is on.

Search for armed suspect

A search is on for an unidentified person in a car who had fired several shots at a citizen's house in Saad Al-Abdullah, said security sources.

Smokers fined

Four people were recently fined by the environment police on the spot for smoking inside a shopping mall, said security sources. — Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa

SHEIKH MALEK WELCOMES RAMADAN WELL-WISHERS



KUWAIT: Sheikh Malek Al-Humoud Al-Faisal Al-Sabah received Ramadan well-wishers during a 'Ghabqa' he hosted at Hilton Al-Mangaf recently. A large number of citizens and residents attended the reception. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Ramadan Quiz 2016

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Answer & Win Fabulous Prizes

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



Kuwait Times Ramadan Quiz Answer & Win

15) After migration from Makkah to Madinah, how many years our Holy Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam) live in the city of Madinah?
Ten years

YES NO

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

Espresso Ramadan Kareem Baby sebamed





KUWAIT: Adnan Saad (fifth from left) poses with IAA and Crowne Plaza officials during the event.



Tareq Al-Mezrem, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information (center) poses with other officials.

IAA, CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL HOST GHABQA

KUWAIT: The International Advertising Association (IAA) and Crowne Plaza hotel hosted their annual 'Ghabqa' recently in Al-Baraka Grand Ballroom under the patronage of the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al Sabah. The event was attended by Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah, Governor of Farwaniya, Tareq Al-Mezrem, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, Adnan Al-Rashed, Honorary IAA President, Rami Haykal, General Manager of Crowne Plaza and board member of IAA Kuwait Chapter. It was also attended by top VIP officials from the Media,

Advertising agencies, PR companies, Consultancy firms, Market research companies and Crowne Plaza guests.

Over 600 guests attended the event and were welcomed by Marwan Farah, IAA board member, as he apologized on behalf of Walid Kanafani, the president of IAA Kuwait Chapter for being unable to attend the event as he is outside of the country. Iqbal Al-Haddad, Vice President of the IAA Kuwait Chapter, extended her Ramadan wishes to everybody. Haddad furnished in a full presentation of the major IAA achievements and activities last year. She highlighted the participation of IAA Kuwait

Chapter in IAA Leadership, and their participation in the Cannes Lions Festival and Dubai Lynx as a major achievement. Furthermore, she announce the IAA world Congress that will be held in October 2016 in Abu Dhabi.

The IAA Conference was conceived to contribute to the much talked about challenges for the marketing and communications industry in attracting the best and brightest young men and women. Haddad encouraged the audience to join the IAA Kuwait Chapter and reap the benefits of the organization. She also highlighted the new board elections set to take place at Holiday Inn Salmiya at 9:30 pm

this evening, and encouraged all IAA member to renew their membership and to attend the elections. Meanwhile, Haddad honored Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud, Tareq Al-Mezrem and Adnan Al-Rashed for their support to IAA. The honored guests expressed their happiness for participating in the event, and encouraged all to work as one hand and as a team to improve productivity in Kuwait.

IAA also honored the former IAA presidents, in addition to Rami Haikal for his hard work during his presence with Crowne Plaza, as he will join intercontinental hotel in Abu Dhabi. Also, Hani Kafafi presented an appreci-

ated message from the owner company. Haykal in his speech thanked all for their support during his four years working in Crowne Plaza, and then presented the new general manager of Crowne Plaza Antoine Flouty as the new manager of Althuraia City (Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Hotels). In the meantime, Sheikh Faisal thanked IAA and Crowne Plaza by wishing all a Happy Ramadan, and wishing Rami Haikal all the best in his new post. He also thanked Arab Net and Vigore establishment for their presentation. A generous raffle draw by Adnan Saad and Marwan Farah was also among the highlights of the event.



Rami Haykal, General Manager of Crowne Plaza (left), Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah, Governor of Farwaniya (second left) and Tareq Al-Mezrem, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information (third left) attend the event.



Guests awarded during the event.



Adnan Al-Rashed, Honorary IAA President is pictured with some of the awarded guests.





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In Brief

UN ENVOY MEETS YEMENI DELEGATION

KUWAIT: The UN Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmad on Saturday held talks with the delegation of the Yemeni government taking part in the Kuwait consultations, that has been in progress since April 21. The session discussed practical ideas and proposals on the major issues of the coming period and the mechanisms necessary to bridge differences over the political, humanitarian, and economic aspects of the period. —KUNA



NEWS BULLETIN IN NEW LOOK

KUWAIT: The news of the Kuwait TV witnessed an overall revamp in terms of content and form as of yesterday, said a senior official at Ministry of Information Saturday. This revamp is in line with the studio (160) which has been recently provided with the state-of-art equipment, Mohammad bin Naji, assistant undersecretary of the news sector and political programs at the ministry, added in a statement. —KUNA



KSC DIVERS RETRIEVE SUNKEN BOAT

KUWAIT: A diving team from Kuwait Science Club (KSC) managed to retrieve a 22-foot long boat that capsized near the fishermen's Diwaniya at Al-Kut marina on Saturday. Soon after being notified of the accident, the divers rushed to the scene and managed to bring back the boat, said Mohammad Al-Rashed, director of the KSC marine ecology department and head of the team, noting that the team was able to control a petrol leak from the boat. —KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti parliament speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem takes a selfie with fans ahead of the start of a friendly indoors football match in Kuwait City on June 18, 2016. A friendly football match between two teams comprising of members of Kuwait's Cabinet and Parliament takes place every year in Kuwait during Ramadan as a way to melt the ice between the two authorities. Practicing sports, including football has become an increasingly popular leisure time activity during Ramadan in Kuwait. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

ZAIN SHARES JOYS OF GIRGEAAN WITH CARE CENTERS



KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, shared the joys of the blessings of the holy month and the tradition of Girgeaan with orphans, the elderly, and people with special needs, by visiting the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's Care Centers. The initiative came under the company's extensive CSSR campaign during the Holy Month of Ramadan. Every Ramadan, Zain is keen to reach out to the many segments of the community, including orphaned children, the elderly, and people with special needs to share the joyful blessings of the Holy Month with them. Zain believes in the importance of embracing the beautiful values of the Islamic religion as well as the noble traditions of the

Kuwaiti heritage, all year round and especially in the Holy Month of Ramadan. Zain's team, consisting of staff and volunteers, participated in distributing gifts and Girgeaan candy to care centers in an atmosphere filled with joy and happiness. The company believes the Holy Month of Ramadan is a special time of the year, and it is always keen on sharing the blessings of this time with those who are less fortunate in the community. Zain's continuous participation with different segments of society is a testament to the company's belief that improving the lives of communities in which it operates is central to its overall activities. Ramadan presents a special occasion for Zain to com-



municate and interact with the Kuwaiti community through its extensive CSSR campaign. Zain's Ramadan contributions included the distribution of essential food supplies (Machla boxes) to multiple charitable organizations based in Kuwait, the Iftar Halls initiative which provides daily Iftar meals through two main halls, visiting children in hospitals, as well as organizing a special event for Al Amal children with cancer. Zain's social and CSSR campaign during the Holy Month of Ramadan includes an extensive array of initiatives and programs that will focus on helping less fortunate people to enjoy Ramadan happily, as well as celebrating the true spirit of the Holy month brings.

Young Voices

'KUWAIT IS AN AMAZING PLACE'

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

Nearly a quarter of Kuwait's entire population is under the age of 14 and yet with the exception of school assemblies, we never hear their voices. During Ramadan, Kuwait Times likes to publish a special series that engages with its readership in a more direct, personal way to learn their concerns, issues and viewpoints. This Ramadan, we will chat with some of our youngest readers about their lives in Kuwait, in an attempt to see the world through their eyes. What do they see for the future of our beautiful country? What would they improve and how would they change it? By listening to their future plans, stories, and experience in Ramadan, we can remind ourselves and hopefully our readers of the ties that bind us all together as a species. These are the voice of Kuwait's future and we invite them to share their thoughts with us here.

Alifa Iqbal is a 10-year-old girl who is passionate about baking. She is creative in art and craft and likes bicycling. "I am very friendly - I like making new friends; I enjoy playing with babies; I love shopping and travelling and exploring new places around the world. My dream is to go on a world tour," she stated.

Alifa is planning to spend Ramadan and Eid in Kuwait, then she might travel. In August, she has a family wedding to attend. "I like Kuwait because I have my family here and I like going to the variety of restaurants in Kuwait. I have a lot of Kuwaiti friends - they are really kind to me. Kuwait is an amazing place - may Allah bless it more," she said.

Alifa likes to go to Kidzania, Aqua Park, Magic Planet and Cartoon Network World for fun. However, she believes that Kuwait could be a more beautiful and better place if we plant more trees to make the country look greener and fresher. Fasting during Ramadan is something she began doing when she was younger. Her favorite thing about Ramadan is spending more time with her family, playing and fasting together. She also prefers to eat shrimps, Chinese food and fruit salads.

In the holy month, she recalls the most recent funny incident that happened on the first day of Ramadan. "My youngest brother was eating an ice cream and I had a craving as well, so I rushed to the freezer and took one out and had a bite or two. Then I realized I was fasting and I ran to the sink to rinse my mouth," she said. If you would like your child to be interviewed for this special series, please email us at local@kuwaittimes.net

AHLI UNITED BANK LAUNCHES CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES IN COLLABORATION WITH LOYAC

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced the launch of a number of social engagement activities that are set to take place throughout the Holy Month of Ramadan, in partnership with LoYAC Kuwait. The Bank's latest initiative aims at strengthening the bonds and compassion among society and spreading joy during the Holy Month.

As part of its social program in Ramadan with LoYAC, the Bank has conducted visits to the elderly in care centers across Kuwait with an objective of connecting with the elderly citizens, accommodating their needs and sharing joyful moments. Other activities included AUB's contribution to providing clothes and food for 10 needy families at this time.

AUB is to reinforce its social engagement activities throughout the Holy Month of Ramadan by visiting the members of the Down Syndrome Society and distributing gifts as well as Girgeaan packs to around 80 children. The Bank will also visit the Al-Kharafi Special Needs Center where gifts and Girgeaan packs will also be given to around 50 special needs children.

AUB announced in a press release: "the Bank continues to increase its social contri-

butions on a continuous basis throughout the year, especially throughout Ramadan, in an effort to reflect upon the Holy Month's values of mercy and spirituality."

"AUB continues to move towards imple-



menting its social responsibility approach by direct participation and interaction, including the help of volunteer work of employees, and not just with financial support across a number of social initiatives." The



Bank's approach mirrors its commitment towards the local Kuwaiti society, stressing that the Bank will spare no effort to strengthen their participation in the various initiatives that are in the interest of society.

Moreover, AUB said "We are proud with the collaboration between AUB and LoYAC. These activities are only the initial results of this fruitful collaboration. We plan to increase and diversify our activities in the near future and are hopeful that this new tie up will extend to achieving its long term objectives, of supporting the local Kuwaiti society through partnership and cooperation between financial institutions and the youth community who can provide meaningful initiatives."

LoYAC is a nonprofit organization and was established in 2002 as a positive initiative that aims at encouraging positive change amongst the youth as a proactive response to violence around the world. The founding members of LoYAC recognized that youth can be led towards peace by providing them with opportunities for personal growth; experience the joy of service and developing their professional skills to qualify and enable them to join the workforce.



Protesters rally against US military on Okinawa

TRUMP: 'IT WOULD BE HELPFUL' IF REPS HELP HIM



SPECIAL REPORT

TARIN KOT, Afghanistan: In this photograph taken on April 28, 2016, Afghan police commander Seddiqullah, 30, (left) sits alongside his subordinates as he speaks during an interview at a checkpoint in the capital of southern Uruzgan province. —AFP

CHILD SEX SLAVES KILLING AFGHAN POLICE

TALEBAN SEND ABUSED BOYS TO ATTACK CHECKPOINTS

TARIN KOT, Afghanistan: The Taliban are using child sex slaves to mount crippling insider attacks on police in southern Afghanistan, exploiting the pervasive practice of "bacha bazi" - pedophilic boy play - to infiltrate security ranks, multiple officials and survivors of such assaults told AFP. The ancient custom is prevalent across Afghanistan, but nowhere does it seem as entrenched as in the province of Uruzgan, where "bacha bereesh" - or boys without beards - widely become objects of lustful attraction for powerful police commanders.

The Taliban over nearly two years have used them to mount a wave of Trojan Horse attacks - at least six between January and April alone - that have killed hundreds of policemen, according to security and judicial officials in the province. "The Taliban are sending boys - beautiful boys, handsome boys - to penetrate checkpoints and kill, drug and poison policemen," said Ghulam Sakhi Rogh Lewanai, who was Uruzgan's police chief until he was removed in a security reshuffle in April amid worsening violence. "They have figured out the biggest weakness of police forces - bacha bazi," he told AFP.

The assaults, signifying abuse of children by both parties in the conflict, have left authorities rattled, with one senior provincial official who echoed Rogh Lewanai's view saying "it's easier tackling suicide bombers than bacha attackers". The killings illustrate how bacha bazi is aggravating insecurity in Uruzgan, a remote province which officials warn is teetering on the brink of collapse, unraveling hard-won gains by US, Australian and Dutch troops who fought there for years. "These bacha attacks have fuelled deep mistrust within police ranks," Seddiqullah, a police commander at a checkpoint near the provincial capital Tarin Kot, told AFP.

The insurgents are using boys as honey traps, said 21-year-old Matiullah, a policeman who was the only survivor from an insider attack in Dehrawud district in spring last year. He said the attacker was the checkpoint commander's own sex slave, a teenager called Zabihullah. Late one night, he went on a shooting spree, killing seven policemen including the commander as they slept. "He brought the Taliban inside and poked all the bodies with rifle butts to see if anyone was alive. I pretended to be dead," said Matiullah, who now works as a tailor, pointing out a gash on his forehead. "As his Taliban accomplices gathered our weapons and ammunition, Zabihullah declared: 'Everyone is dead.'"

'Addiction' to Boys

The Taliban, who banned bacha bazi during their 1996-2001 rule, roundly denied deploying any underage boys for insider attacks. "We have a special

mujahideen brigade for such operations - all grown men with beards," a Taliban spokesman told AFP. The insurgents have long denied using children in combat, a claim repeatedly debunked by rights groups and the government. Survivors of insider attacks who spoke to AFP, including Matiullah, suggest the Taliban are exploiting the institutionalization of bacha bazi in police ranks for military gain.

Practically all of Uruzgan's 370 local and national police checkpoints have bachas - some up to four - who are illegally recruited not just for sexual companionship but also to bear arms, multiple officials said. Some policemen, they said, demand bachas like a perk of the job, refusing to join outposts where they are not available. Horrifying abuse at checkpoints makes the boys, many unpaid and unregistered, hungry for revenge and easy prey for Taliban recruitment - often because there is no other escape from exploitative commanders.

Many who have tried to escape have been dragged back with trumped up charges of Taliban links, two senior provincial judges told AFP. Boys have also spurred a deadly rivalry between policemen, with officials reporting incidents such as a public gunfight this year between two commanders in Gezab district as one of them angrily accused the other of "stealing" his bacha. "To restore security in Uruzgan, we will first have to separate policemen from their bachas," one of the judges said. "But if they are told to reform their ways, a common reply is: 'If you force me to abandon my boy lover, I will also abandon the checkpoint'. The Taliban are not blind to notice that this addiction is worse than opium."

'Male Rape'

Bacha bazi, which the US State Department has called a "culturally sanctioned form of male rape", peels away the masculine identity of boys in a society where the sexes are tightly segregated. In conservative areas women are mostly invisible in public - and often unattainable due to steep bride prices. Bachas supplant the role of women, adopting a feminine gait and sometimes wearing makeup and bells on their feet.

Many in Uruzgan see bacha bazi neither as pedophilia nor homosexuality, which is forbidden in Islam. If social norms had a pecking order, violating boys would be seen as far more ethical than violating women. "Bacha bazi is pervasive sexual slavery of children, seen widely as a cultural practice and not a crime," Charu Lata Hogg, a director at London-based charity Child Soldiers International, told AFP. "Since it is mostly practiced by those in positions of power - warlords, commanders, politicians - it is

hard to stamp out. It appears sustained partly by the fact that access to women is limited."

Insider attacks by child slaves have also been reported in recent years from neighboring Helmand and Kandahar provinces, where bacha bazi is prevalent. But the tactic appears more deep rooted in Uruzgan, where the boys are widely flaunted as a totem of affluence, with some officials openly displaying cellphone images to AFP of their "handsome bachas". "Come see my beautiful bacha," said Naqibullah, a police commander in Dehrawud village near Tarin Kot, boasting that he had been holding the teenager for two years. With a touch of Kohl on his eyes, and bleached blond curly hair poking out of his embroidered hat, the boy sat in a corner of the checkpoint surrounded by opium farms, quietly refilling tea glasses for Naqibullah's guests.

'Predatory Behavior'

"Commanders prowl neighborhoods for young boys. We are scared of dressing up our children or buying new clothes that will make them attractive," said Nader Khan, a tribal elder in Dehrawud. Khan's 13-year-old nephew was taken captive earlier this year by Naqibullah, a local commander not related to the Dehrawud official, when his family sent him to deliver bread for policemen. He was released only after angry tribal elders besieged the governor's office in Tarin Kot.

Governor Mohammad Nazir Kharoti told AFP he ordered Naqibullah's arrest but he was released in less than a month because he was needed for combat duty. "It is difficult to implement the law 100 percent when we are faced with a war situation," Kharoti said, without elaborating on the case. Afghanistan's interior ministry refused to confirm or deny that bachas were being used in insurgent attacks, but said it was committed to police reforms and acknowledged that "bacha bazi within the ranks of police is a serious crime".

The practice has put the United States and its NATO allies, who have spent billions of dollars to build Afghan forces, in a precarious position. The US Congress last year voiced concern over "predatory sexual behavior by Afghan soldiers and police", prompting watchdog agency SIGAR to launch an investigation that is still ongoing. The head of a government-affiliated agency in Uruzgan showed AFP two letters from the attorney general in Kabul, one last year and another dated January, ordering a separate probe into sexual abuse and the illegal recruitment of child conscripts. "We haven't been able to visit even one checkpoint to investigate," he said, speaking in hushed whispers in his own office. "Do you think police commanders will leave us alive if we probe their crimes?" —AFP

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CALAIS MIGRANTS TURN TO FLIMSY BOATS TO CROSS CHANNEL

LILLE, France: Thwarted at every turn in their efforts to reach Britain, migrants in northern France have once again changed tack, turning to flimsy dinghies to carry them across the Channel. Migrants in Calais have sneaked into trucks or trains, and even tried to walk through the undersea tunnel in increasingly risky - and sometimes deadly - attempts to reach Britain.

However tighter security has stymied these efforts and authorities have reported about a dozen operations to rescue migrants drifting in inflatable dinghies in the Channel since the start of the year. In 2015, there were none. The most recent rescue took place on June 11, when three Iranian migrants were saved from their sinking vessel. Four days early, three other migrants were rescued in similar circumstances.

Pierre-Joachim Antona, spokesman for the local French maritime authority, said efforts to cross the Channel by boat were "no longer extraordinary or isolated". There have been rare cases in recent years of migrants drowning while trying to swim across the narrow sea, and an Afghan once built a raft with a bed sheet in a failed effort to drift to England. But the phenomenon is now a "real and lasting trend", said Antona. Hundreds of

thousands of economic migrants and refugees have crossed from Turkey to Greece in overloaded boats SINCE, hundreds of them perishing in the process.

While France's migrant crisis is tiny compared to that faced by Greece or Germany, the slum-like Calais camp of about 4,000 migrants desperate to reach Britain is a political hot potato on both sides of the Channel. Many of the migrants have relatives in Britain, or believe they will have a better chance of finding employment there.

'Nearly Impossible'

The migrants' main tactic has been sneaking onto the back of trucks, initially when drivers stopped to rest and later by blocking roads and forcing their way onto the vehicles. The crisis reached a peak in July and August last year when hundreds tried to storm the Eurotunnel site on several consecutive nights to try cross the Channel. Security was stepped up in response to the disturbances, however recent efforts to block traffic flared again last month. At least 26 people have been killed attempting to reach Britain since June 2015.

Antona said it had become "nearly impossible" for migrants to make it through the tunnel, forcing them to

adapt their tactics. He said that while coastguards had intercepted several boats, there was evidence that some were succeeding in crossing the treacherous stretch of water. "We are realistic, we know there have been other attempts, successful or not," said Antona, citing "clues on English and French beaches, like small boats or lifevests." "When the weather is good you can see England from the French coast and, quite naively, one could imagine the crossing will be quick and easy but it is an absolute illusion," he added. "It is one of the most dangerous seas in the world." High levels of traffic, strong currents and cold water mean chances of surviving a crossing are flimsy. "The risk of a boat not being seen by a large cargo ship and being run over are enormous," said Antona.

Migrants Forced to Row

Both France and Britain have stepped up patrols and efforts on land to curb the trend. Patricio Martin, director of the border police in northern France, said a surveillance system had been set up along the coastline to "intercept smuggling networks even before the migrants take to the sea". A police source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that



CALAIS, France: This file photo taken on Feb 6, 2016 in northern France shows a boat that was used by four migrants in their failed attempt to cross the English Channel between France and Great Britain. — AFP

smugglers were demanding "up to 10,000 euros (\$11,300)" for the crossing.

Antona said that the smuggler would provide a small boat, sometimes with lifejackets and a telephone to call for help if needed. "These are very fragile vessels, completely unsuited for this kind of crossing. Some don't even have engines and the migrants have to row," said Bernard Barron, head of sea rescue

charity SNSM in Calais. However there were also professional smugglers using larger, sturdier vessels that can carry up to 20 people, he said. In May, 18 Albanian migrants were rescued from a rigid-hulled inflatable boat when the boat started to take on water. Two British smugglers who were also on board were charged over the attempted crossing.—AFP



Displaced Iraqis from the embattled city of Fallujah cook at a camp where they are taking shelter, some 18 km from Ramadi on Saturday. — AFP

IRAQI CAMPS OVERWHELMED AS RESIDENTS FLEE FALLUJAH

BAGHDAD: Iraqi government-run camps struggled yesterday to shelter people fleeing Fallujah, as the military battled Islamic State militants in the city's northern districts. Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi declared victory over the jihadists on Friday after troops reached the city center, following a four-week US-backed assault. But shooting, suicide bombs and mortar attacks continue. More than 82,000 civilians have evacuated Fallujah, an hour's drive west of Baghdad, since the campaign began and up to 25,000 more are likely on the move, the United Nations said.

Yet camps are already overflowing with escapees who trekked several kilometres past Islamic State snipers and minefields in sweltering heat to find there was not even shade. "People have run and walked for days. They left Fallujah with nothing," said Lise Grande, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq. "They have nothing and they need everything."

The exodus, which is likely to be many times larger if an assault on the northern Islamic State stronghold of Mosul goes ahead as planned later this year, has taken the government and humanitarian groups off guard. With attention focused for months on Mosul, Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi said in May that the army would prioritize Fallujah, the first Iraqi city seized by the militants in early 2014.

He ordered measures on Saturday to help escapees and 10 new camps will soon go up, but the government does not even have a handle on the number of displaced people, many of whom are stranded out in the open or packed several families to a tent. One site hosting around 1,800 people has only one latrine, according to the Norwegian Refugee Council. "We implore the Iraqi government to take charge of this

humanitarian disaster unfolding on our watch," the aid group's country director Nasr Muflihi said.

'We Just Want Our Men'

Iraq's cash-strapped government has struggled to meet basic needs for more than 3.4 million people across Iraq displaced by conflict, appealing for international funding and relying on local religious networks for support. Yet unlike other battles, where many civilians sought refuge in nearby cities or the capital, people fleeing Fallujah have been barred from entering Baghdad, just 60 km away, and aid officials note a lack of community mobilization.

Many Iraqis consider Fallujah an irredeemable bulwark of Sunni Muslim militancy and regard anyone still there when the assault began as an Islamic State supporter. A bastion of the Sunni insurgency against US forces following the 2003 invasion, it was seen as a launchpad for bombings in Baghdad. The participation of Shiite militias in the battle alongside the army raised fears of sectarian killings, and the authorities have made arrests related to allegations that militiamen executed dozens of fleeing Sunni men.

Formal government forces are screening men to prevent Islamic State militants from disguising themselves as civilians to slip out of Fallujah. Thousands have been freed and scores referred to the courts, but many others remain unaccounted for, security sources told Reuters. At a camp in Amiriya Fallujah on Thursday, Fatima Khalifa said she had not heard from her husband and their 19-year-old son since they were taken from a nearby town two weeks earlier. "We don't know where they are or where they were taken," she said. "We don't want rice or cooking oil, we just want our men." — Reuters

ALBANIA'S BROKEN MEN FEAR HORRORS WILL BE FORGOTTEN

FORMER INMATES ALARMED AS SPAC PRISON CRUMBLES

SPAC, Albania: Buried in the mountains of northern Albania are crumbling buildings and an old copper mine where political prisoners were once forced to work to exhaustion and even death. The doors and window frames of the infamous Spac prison have rotted away and signs above the doorways have faded. But the nightmares never ended for former inmates who as young men were labeled enemies of Albania's communist dictatorship and punished there with years of hard labor.

As the prison falls into ruin, some of them fear that the thousands who suffered there will be forgotten, and they are campaigning to have the site turned into a museum and to have May 21 declared a national day of remembrance for those who suffered under communism. "This is a symbol of communist hell. It must not be lost and forgotten," said Bilal Kola, the head of the prisoners' institute which is leading the campaign.

One former inmate, 75-year-old Hysen Haxhijaj, hope help might come from the West to preserve this site of suffering where the regime broke its opponents - real and falsely accused - as the tiny country descended into isolation and paranoia over nearly five decades. "We're hoping Germany or the United States can help us turn this place into a museum. Forget about our government," said Haxhijaj, a stocky, silver-haired 75-year-old, who served 13 of 15 years of hard labor at Spac.

As a young man, Haxhijaj joined a tiny book club in his hometown of Durres in western Albania. His group of seven friends discussed novels and poetry, but some of the books had apparently been banned as being pro-Western or too pro-Soviet. Though communist, Albania had split with other Communist countries. The club was spied on, denounced for "anti-state agitation," and its members were jailed for a minimum of 10 years.

Ruthless Regime

Albania was ruled for more than four decades after World War II by Stalinist dictator Enver Hoxha, with state repression steadily growing as Albania split from other Communist countries - similar to the course taken by North Korea. Religion was banned, so was leaving the country. Criticism of the regime, even in private conversation, could destroy a person's life with a hefty jail sentence. Cut off from the world, the country relied heavily on forced labor to build infrastructure and service its mines.

Abuses at Spac and other labor camps were first exposed in the mid-1980s by Amnesty International, which documented accounts of beatings, solitary confinement and desperate conditions described by a handful of former inmates who managed to escape the country. The truth turned out to be far worse. In late May, Haxhijaj and other former inmates traveled north along 13 km of dirt road to Spac to mark the anniversary of a prisoner uprising. The revolt started on May 21, 1973 and last-



In this May 21, 2016 photo, Hysen Haxhijaj talks to other former political prisoners as they gather at the notorious labor camp of Spac in northern Albania. —AP

ed three days. The country's red-and-black national flag, without the communist red-star, was raised over the prison. Police cut off water and food and the inmates were easily crushed. Four alleged rebel leaders were executed and 1,700 years of jail times was added for 100 others. Forty-three years later, visitors at Spac prison were keen to tell their story, many overcome with anger or breaking down in tears as they gave their accounts:

Inmates' Nightmares

Zenel Drangu from near the northern town of Shkodra was jailed for 16 years after fleeing for three days to neighboring Yugoslavia. He visited his former cell at Spac. "In this room 54 people slept in three-tier bunk beds. The mattresses and pillows were made out of hay."

• Pajtim Lamaj, 62 from southern Vlora, served 15 years. Nine of his cousins were imprisoned for a total of 143 years and two of them executed. Drangu kept him alive, giving him water, when a section of the copper mine collapsed and they were cut off for three days. "I can't believe I am alive today," he said.

• Bajram Dervishi from central Berat, served 28 years. He said inmates were forced to meet quotas of digging copper ore. "In an eight-hour shift every man had to fill seven wagons with copper pyrite." Failure to comply, he said, would lead to prison isolation, beatings or torture: Freshly boiled eggs placed under people's armpits or electric shocks to their genitals.

• Dush Martini, 65, from Shkodra, served 11 years in Spac and remembers the extreme conditions prisoners were subjected to. "Imagine working in over 40 degrees Celsius 2,500 meters deep into the mountain and then to

come out in minus 10 degrees Celsius."

Haxhijaj had a young daughter when he was imprisoned. He divorced his wife to try and spare his family reprisals that were commonly carried out against the relatives of political prisoners. Alone at Spac, he tried to take his life, climbing a barbed wire perimeter fence and hoping to be shot by guards. A fellow inmate stopped him. Between 1976 and 1990, he worked at three hard labor camps. After his release, he re-married his wife. "I left our daughter at two years old and found her at 17."

Fading History

Some 43,000 Albanians were imprisoned, sent to internment camps or executed during the Communist rule which lasted from 1944 until 1990, according to Albania's Institute for the Integration of Former Political Prisoners. The Hoxha regime had 50 prisons and internment camps; 5,577 men and 450 women were executed; about 1,000 died in jail; 17,900 were imprisoned with 914,000 jail years and only about 2,700 of them are still alive now; more than 30,000 were sent to internment camps.

Twenty-five years after the regime collapsed in chaos, nearly half the country's 3 million population has no or little memory of life in one of the world's most isolated countries. The ambassadors of Germany and the United States have visited Spac, and in 2009, the Albanian government in 2009 listed it as a national monument. That's all it did. The New York-based World Monument Fund has described Spac Prison as being "in an extremely advanced state of deterioration," considering it as one of 50 most endangered monuments worldwide in 2016. —AP

ANGRY ASSANGE STARTS FIFTH YEAR COOPED IN EMBASSY

LONDON: WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange started his fifth year camped out in the Ecuadoran embassy in London yesterday, an occasion his supporters were to mark with events celebrating whistleblowers. Supporters said they were planning to stage songs, speeches and readings in several cities worldwide. Assange was due to speak to his followers on a live video stream from inside the embassy.

The 44-year-old is wanted for questioning over a 2010 rape allegation in Sweden but has been inside Ecuador's UK mission for four full years in a bid to avoid extradition. The anti-secrecy campaigner, who denies the allegation, walked into the embassy of his own free will on June 18, 2012, with Britain on the brink of sending him to Stockholm, and has not left since. His lawyers say he is angry that Swedish prosecutors are still maintaining the European arrest warrant against him.

The Australian former computer hacker fears that from Sweden he could be extradited to the United States over WikiLeaks' release of 500,000 secret military files, and could face a long prison sentence there. WikiLeaks said events were planned for Athens, Belgrade, Berlin, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Madrid, Milan, Montevideo, Naples,

New York, Quito, Paris and Sarajevo. Listed participants in yesterday's anniversary events included Patti Smith, Brian Eno, PJ Harvey, Noam Chomsky, Yanis Varoufakis, Ai Weiwei, Vivienne Westwood, Michael Moore and Ken Loach.

Loach, Jarre in Freedom Call

Croatian philosopher Srećko Horvat, an event organizer, said: "We live in a critical time. We are gathering all around the world on June 19 to speak out for Julian, because he has spoken out for all of us." Veteran leftist filmmaker Loach said: "He should be able to leave his place of safety without fear of deportation or being handed over to those who intend him harm." In a video message, French composer Jean Michel Jarre said: "We have to question the power in place, to improve it. This is why Julian Assange has to be freed right away."

A hero to supporters and a dangerous egocentric to detractors, Assange founded WikiLeaks in 2006 and has been portrayed in two movies in recent years. Assange has compared living inside the embassy - which has no garden but is in London's plush Knightsbridge district, near Harrods department store - to life on a space station. —AFP

ROME SET TO ELECT FIRST FEMALE MAYOR



Virginia Raggi

ROME: Voters in the Italian capital headed to the polls yesterday with all signs indicating that they will elect Virginia Raggi as the first female mayor of the Eternal City. Raggi, a 37-year-old lawyer and local councillor, has leapt from anonymity to become one of the best-known faces in Italian politics in the space of only a few months on the campaign trail. The telegenic brunette, whose victory would be a blow for Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, is the rising star of the populist Five Star movement (M5S), the anti-establishment party founded by comedian Beppe Grillo.

More than nine million voters are eligible to take part in yesterday's second round election in 126 communes, including Rome, Milan, Naples, Turin and Bologna. "It's a very special day for us, we finally have the chance to have somebody new who can change things," Aldo, a 72-year-old pensioner, told AFP shortly after casting his ballot for the Five Star movement at a primary school in a district of Rome. "All the others have failed, we hope that they will succeed," he added.

Turnout at 1000 GMT was just under 15 percent, slightly lower than the first round figure of almost 16 percent. Polls close at 2100 GMT. All eyes are on

Five Star which has emerged as the best-supported opposition to the centre-left Democratic Party (PD)-led coalition of Renzi, and the stakes are extremely high for a movement that was only founded in 2009. With the ebullient Renzi's star waning slightly, success in Rome could provide a platform for a tilt at national power in general elections due in 2018. The PD also faces defeat in Italy's financial capital Milan and a tough challenge in Turin. "We are witnessing a historic moment," Raggi said after the June 5 first round of voting, when she emerged with 35 percent of the vote, well ahead of her nearest rival Roberto Giachetti with 24 percent. It was a particularly remarkable achievement for a party with a very limited organizational apparatus and also for a woman who only entered politics five years ago.

She told AFP recently that the move was triggered by the birth of her son Matteo and her determination that he should not grow up in a city beset by the intertwined problems of failing public services and endemic corruption. Opposition to Italy's ingrained cronyism and sleaze is the foundation of M5S's appeal to voters and the Roman electorate have had their fill of those in recent years.—AFP

BREXIT: HOW EUROPE FELL OUT OF LOVE WITH THE EU

SCHENGEN, Luxembourg: When the ceiling fell in recently at the European Museum in the tiny Luxembourg village of Schengen, the local mayor was quick to deny that there was any wider symbolism. Ben Homan blamed the accident on shoddy workmen who used the wrong type of fasteners in the museum, which celebrates the birthplace of the cherished 26-country Schengen passport-free zone. But just as the museum remains under repair, the dreams on which the European Union was founded seem to defy any quick fix, with the bloc itself seemingly more unloved than at any time in its history.

Britain could be headed towards voting to leave the EU in a referendum on June 23, while the future of the Schengen zone itself is threatened by the biggest migration crisis since World War II. "We need to get these visions and these dreams back, and to go back to doing what we can together," Homan tells AFP as he watches the flood-swollen River Moselle course past hills covered in vineyards. "When you are here, you live out the Schengen accord every day because if you move just 100 metres you can be in another country. Here we have seen the whole region benefit from the accord."

The picturesque village was chosen for the signing of the deal that would eventually create the Schengen area in 1985 because it sits at the point where Luxembourg, France and Germany meet. Around 50,000 tourists a year from as far afield as Asia now come to visit this monument to European unity, complete with the European Museum that opened in 2010.

'One Crisis to Another'

But Schengen is part of the wider European project that has been shaken to its foundations in recent years. Support is drying up for the utopian ideals that led to the creation of the EU more than 60 years ago from the ashes of post-war Europe. A

recent survey by the US-based Pew Research Center showed a sharp dip in favorable views of the EU among Europeans, with a huge 17-point drop to 38 percent in France over a single year.

Europeans are "not any longer passionate or in love with the European dream", with its benefits largely now taken for granted, Janis Emmanouilidis, director of studies at Brussels-based think tank European Policy Centre, told AFP. "Over the past six or seven years the EU has been running from one crisis to another - things are not getting better, they're getting worse." The migrant crisis has had a huge impact, with many countries suspending Schengen border-free movement as leaders failed to agree how to share the burden of a million-plus refugees.

The economy remains in dire straits with massive youth unemployment across southern Europe and the Greek debt crisis still threatening the eurozone while nations bicker over the cost. More deeply, Euroscepticism and populism are growing across the continent. Brussels meanwhile is increasingly accused of meddlesome bureaucracy and undermining national sovereignty - and moreover of symbolizing the global elites who are in the crosshairs of political protests around the world.

'Obsessed with Total Integration'

EU leaders have started acknowledging that Europeans do not share their appetite for the dream of "ever closer union". Even European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, an arch federalist, admitted that citizens were "stepping away" from the European project because Brussels was "interfering in too many domains of their private lives". But increasingly Europeans are rejecting any kind of idealism at all. "The European dream that is being dreamed, who is dreaming it? Even those who should be defining it are becoming more realistic," said the EPC's Emmanouilidis.—AFP



LONDON: A campaigner for 'Vote Leave', the official 'Leave' campaign organization, holds a placard during a rally for 'Britain Stronger in Europe', the official 'Remain' campaign group seeking to avoid Brexit, in Hyde Park yesterday. —AFP

BRITAIN'S RIVAL EU CAMPAIGNS RESUME AFTER MP'S MURDER

POLLS SHOW MOMENTUM FOR 'IN'

LONDON: The campaign to decide Britain's membership of the European Union restarted yesterday after a three-day hiatus following the killing of lawmaker Jo Cox, with Prime Minister David Cameron warning Britons they faced an "existential choice" on Thursday. Campaigning activities ahead of the June 23 EU referendum resumed with two opinion polls showing the 'Remain' camp recovering some momentum, although the overall picture remained one of an evenly split electorate.

With five days left until the ballot, the rival campaigns returned with a raft of interviews and articles in Sunday's newspapers, covering the familiar immigration versus economy debate that has defined the campaign so far. Cameron, who leads the campaign to stay in the EU, urged voters to consider the economic impact that leaving the 28-member bloc would have. "We face an existential choice on Thursday," he wrote in the Sunday Telegraph. "So ask yourself: have I really heard anything - anything at all - to convince me that leaving would be the best thing for the economic security of my family?"

Michael Gove, a senior spokesman for the rival 'Leave' campaign, said leaving would actually improve Britain's economic position. "I can't foretell the future but I don't believe that the act of leaving the European Union would make our

economic position worse, I think it would make it better," he said in an interview with the same newspaper. Both men praised Labour Party lawmaker Cox, an ardent supporter of EU membership, who was shot and stabbed in the street in her electoral district in northern England on Thursday. A 52-year-old man appeared in a London magistrate's court on Saturday, charged with her murder.

'Leave' campaigner Nigel Farage, leader of the UK Independence party (UKIP), appeared to indicate he thought Cox's killing had had an adverse effect on the 'Out' campaign. "It has an impact on the campaign for everybody," he told ITV's Peston on Sunday show when asked whether it would affect the referendum outcome. "We did have momentum until this terrible tragedy."

The only opinion poll carried out since the killing showed support for "In" at 45 percent ahead of "Out" on 42 percent - a reversal of the three-point lead that the pollster, Survation, showed for 'Out' in a poll conducted on Wednesday. Two other polls published on Saturday showed the 'Remain' campaign had regained its lead over 'Leave', while another showed the two camps running neck and neck.

But pollsters said most of these surveys were carried out before Thursday's attack, and thus did not reflect the full impact of the event. "We

are now in the final week of the referendum campaign and the swing back towards the status quo appears to be in full force," Anthony Wells, a director with polling firm YouGov, said.

'Disgusting and Vile'

The murder of Cox, a 41-year-old mother of two young children, has shocked Britain, elicited condolences from leaders around the world and raised questions about the tone of campaigning. "I hope, because of the tragic death of Jo, we can have a less divisive political debate in our country and particularly in the last few days of this referendum," finance minister George Osborne, a leading 'Remain' campaigner, told Peston on Sunday.

Immigration, one of the public's chief concerns ahead of the referendum, has proven to be the most inflammatory issue in the campaign, tapping into fears that EU freedom of movement threatens national security and pressures public services. But neither side showed signs of backing away from their criticism of each other on the issue. Osborne called a poster unveiled last week by 'Leave' campaigners showing a line of refugees under the slogan 'Breaking Point' as "disgusting and vile" and reminiscent of literature used in the 1930s.—Reuters



SCHENGEN: Mayor of Schengen Ben Homan poses for a photo next to the European Monument for the Schengen Convention in this village on June 17, 2016. — AFP

REFERENDUM GAMBLE WILL DEFINE CAMERON'S LEGACY

LONDON: It's often said that David Cameron is a lucky politician who has seemed to coast through politics on instinct and charm during a career that has culminated in six years as British prime minister. But now his luck may be running out. In calling a referendum on Britain's membership in the European Union, Cameron has made a gamble that could end his career - and take his country out of an international alliance it joined more than 40 years ago. It would be a rare but fateful miscalculation for a politician who has a reputation for thriving under pressure and astutely judging political risks.

"I think he's actually been pretty stunned by the strength of the 'leave' cause," said Cameron biographer

James Hanning. "The golden rule is, never hold a referendum unless you're confident of winning it, and I think he thought that the moderate voices would prevail by some distance. But that's not the way the polls are suggesting it's going to go." The referendum campaign has been unexpectedly bitter and divisive, and was brought to a shocked halt when Labour lawmaker Jo Cox was shot and stabbed to death in the street last week. The suspected killer gave his name in court as "death to traitors, freedom for Britain."

Both sides suspended campaigning until yesterday out of respect for Cox, amid fears that the political fury unleashed by the EU campaign was somehow connected to the killing. Before Cox died, opinion polls had

shown surging sentiment in favor of a British exit from the 28-nation EU - known as Brexit. A majority of supporters of Cameron's Conservative Party said they would vote to quit the bloc in Thursday's referendum.

That's bitter news for Cameron, who called the referendum to puncture growing support for the anti-EU UK Independence Party and placate the strongly Eurosceptic right wing of the Conservatives. Victoria Honeyman, a lecturer in British politics at the University of Leeds, said Cameron had seen EU battles poison the leaderships of former Tory leaders John Major and William Hague and "feared a civil war in the Conservative Party". She said the referendum was about "defusing that time bomb" - but Cameron has "moved from having one ticking time bomb to having another ticking time bomb."

When he promised the referendum, in 2013, Cameron said it would "settle this European question in British politics" once and for all. He told voters he would forge a new deal between Britain and the EU that would make remaining an attractive prospect. At a Brussels summit in February, he won changes to welfare benefits that he said would reduce immigration and an exemption for Britain from the EU's commitment to "ever-closer union" - a phrase that stirs images of a European super-state in some patriotic British hearts.

Resistance

But many voters have proved resistant to Cameron's message that Britain is stronger, safer and more economically secure within the EU than it would be outside it. The concessions he gained have been dismissed as palsy by "leave" campaigners, who say they will do little to limit immigration from other EU nations because the bloc guarantees free movement among member states. It's a subject that resonates with many voters, who have seen hundreds of thousands of people come to Britain over the past decade from new EU members in eastern Europe. (Hundreds of thousands of Britons also live in other EU countries, a less remarked-upon fact).—AP

THE BRUSSELS YEARS: THE MAKING OF BREXIT BORIS

LONDON: Charming, scruffy and with his perennial mop of blond hair, top Brexit campaigner and former London mayor Boris Johnson used to be a Brussels correspondent, penning stories that helped foment euroscepticism at home. Johnson, 51, worked in the city between 1989 and 1994 - a time not unlike the present when Britain's difficult relationship with Brussels was at breaking point and the Conservatives were deeply split on Europe.

He was hired by the right-leaning Daily Telegraph newspaper and rose to become then prime minister Margaret Thatcher's favorite writer, partly thanks to punchy articles that mocked Europe's institutions. "He was beating stories up rather than making them up, exaggerating them," said Christian Spillmann, an AFP journalist who was in Brussels at the same time. Some of the more absurd stories have been mantras for British eurosceptics for years and have featured prominently in Johnson's recent Brexit campaign speeches. Writing in the left-leaning Guardian newspaper, former

Brussels correspondent Sarah Helm complained she had been tasked to look for the kind of stories written by Johnson when she was first posted there in the mid-1990s. "At that time learning about Euro-myths - smaller condoms, square strawberries, fishermen forced to wear hairnets - took up more time than explaining treaty changes," she wrote. "The myths were usually funny, often absurd, sometimes traceable to a grain of truth, nearly always grossly distorted, or totally untrue. Very often they had first appeared in The Daily Telegraph. Usually, their creator was Boris Johnson," she wrote.

Some of his articles were influential, such as one in 1992 under the headline "Delors Plan to Rule Europe" about proposals by then European Commission president Jacques Delors to centralize power in Brussels. Johnson said the story was seized on by the "No" campaign in the Danish referendum which went against the Maastricht Treaty, signed earlier that year, which had also caused deep political rifts in Britain.—AFP

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TRUMP: 'IT WOULD BE HELPFUL' IF REPS HELP HIM

LAS VEGAS: Donald Trump railed Saturday against efforts by some frustrated Republicans planning a last-ditch effort to try to thwart him from becoming the party's nominee, threatening at one point to stop

fundraising if Republicans don't rally around him. Speaking at a theater at the Treasure Island hotel on the Las Vegas strip, Trump referred to "an insurgent group" trying to deny him delegates at the party's July con-

vention. "Now you have a couple of guys that were badly defeated and they're trying to organize maybe like a little bit of a delegate revolt," he said. "I thought they already tried that."

Trump pushed back against such efforts several times during his speech, claiming they were somehow "illegal" and then dismissing them as a media-generated fabrication. "It's all made up by the press," he said. "It's a hoax, I'm telling you." While Trump dismisses the effort as invented, more Republicans in Congress are saying they will not attend the party convention and are not endorsing his candidacy. Meanwhile, a movement exists among some conservative delegates and operatives to change party rules to allow a different nominee, though it's a longshot effort lacking sufficient backing and a candidate to offer up at an alternative.

Indeed, Trump wondered aloud who his opponents would pick as a replacement, a problem that has plagued the "Never Trump" movement for months. "Who are they going to pick? I beat everybody. But I don't mean beat - I beat the hell out of them," he said. At one point in his speech, Trump asserted without offering evidence that former rival Jeb Bush and a second Republican whom he did

not name were part of the movement opposing him. Neither Bush nor another former rival, Sen Ted Cruz, has endorsed Trump.

Resistance

Trump has continued to face resistance from Republicans who have voiced increasing concern over his inflammatory rhetoric. And he appeared increasingly frustrated Saturday, saying, "It would be helpful if the Republicans could help us a little bit." The billionaire businessman also threatened that, if Republicans don't come together, he was prepared to stop fundraising and go back to largely self-funding his campaign. "I'd love to do it," said Trump, who has been holding fundraisers across the county this week largely benefiting the Republican National Committee. "You know, life is like a two-way street." A Republican National Committee spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump's event drew several thousand people, but many seats remained empty when Trump began speaking because of security screening delays. Even after he took the stage, the line of supporters circled the slot machines on the casino floor. Tourists carrying beer and wearing bikinis watched the

crowds with amusement.

Trump mistakenly blamed the delays on the Transportation Security Administration, which sometimes handles audience screening but was not involved in screening at the Treasure Island hotel. Casino security, metro police and the Secret Service were handling those efforts at the Las Vegas event. "I'm not happy about it, but I have to put up with it," Trump told supporters after erroneously blaming the TSA. "They didn't bring enough machines."

In a late afternoon rally in Phoenix, where temperatures reached 109 degrees, the media-minded real estate developer bragged about the number of magazines that have placed him on their covers in recent months. "I feel like a supermodel, except like times 10," he said. "I'm a supermodel."

Trump has stepped up his criticism of President Barack Obama in the wake of the Orlando nightclub shooting. In Las Vegas, he told supporters: "If you think Orlando was the end of it with this weak attitude and this pathetic president we have, it wasn't, folks." He also offered a warning: "You are going to have problems the likes of which you've never seen unless Donald Trump becomes your president." —AP



PHOENIX: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a rally on Saturday. —AP

TENSION AT ORLANDO FUNERALS WITH PROTESTERS, IRATE DRIVER

US SENATE INCHES TOWARD GUN CONTROL VOTES

ORLANDO, Florida: Funerals for two of the 49 victims killed in the shooting at a nightclub in Florida were marked by tense scenes on Saturday, as an impatient driver was accused of injuring two law enforcement officers and one burial took place under the watch of anti-gay protesters. Two Osceola County Sheriff's deputies on motorcycles were injured at the funeral procession for Jean Carlos Mendez in Kissimmee, Florida, some 32 km south of Orlando, when a driver cut through the cortege and struck them with her car, according to a statement on the sheriff's Facebook page. The deputies were taken to the hospital, where both were in stable condition, said the sheriff's spokeswoman, Twis Lizasuain.

At the funeral of another victim, Christopher Leinonen, at a church close to the center of Orlando, a handful of protesters from the Kansas-based anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church stood silently for about 45 minutes. They were blocked from view of those attending the funeral by about 200 counter-protesters, who cheered when the Westboro members left.

Members of the Orlando Shakespeare Theater used large "angel wings," measuring 8 feet wide and reaching 3 feet over shoulder height, to block out the protesters. The wings, made of white cloth and plastic piping by volunteers from the theater's costume and set shops, first surfaced at the 1998 funeral of Matthew Shepard, a gay

man murdered in Wyoming.

The shooting in Orlando continued to reverberate around the world. More than a thousand people attended a candle-light vigil in Berlin to show solidarity with the victims of the attack and their families. The Brandenburg Gate, long a symbol of division in the city, was lit up in rainbow colors, according to pictures posted on Twitter under the hashtag #berlinfororlando.

Authorities are still investigating what motivated Omar Mateen to kill 49 people at the popular gay nightclub Pulse in the early hours of last Sunday, perpetrating the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history. Mateen was later killed in a shootout with police. The shooting has sparked a new push

for gun control legislation and Congress is expected to vote on proposals starting next week, including one on stopping people on terrorism watch lists from buying guns.

Democrats, including President Barack Obama, are framing gun restrictions as a national security issue after Mateen professed loyalty to Islamist militants. But authorities believe he was "self-radicalized" and acted without any direction from outside networks.

Troubled Past

US Federal Bureau of Investigation agents on Friday questioned a member of the Florida mosque attended by Mateen, as new information surfaced revealing the killer had exhibited chronic behavioral problems during his youth. Academic records obtained by Reuters showing Mateen was frequently suspended as a student added to a disturbing portrait of the long-troubled gunman. Mateen, a 29-year-old private security guard, has been described by his first wife as an abusive, mentally disturbed man with a violent temper.

Others who knew him recalled Mateen, a US citizen and Florida resident born in New York to Afghan immigrants, as a quiet, socially awkward individual who kept largely to himself. The FBI has acknowledged interviewing Mateen in 2013 and 2014 for suspected ties to Islamist militant groups but concluded he posed no threat. Still, evidence in the Orlando case points to a crime at least inspired by extremist ideology.

Authorities have said Mateen paused a number of times during his three-hour siege at the Pulse nightclub to place cell phone calls to emergency 911 dispatchers and to post Internet messages professing support for various Islamist militant groups. US officials have said his second wife, Noor Salman, had known of his plans to carry out the attack and a federal grand jury was convened to decide whether to charge Salman. —Reuters



NEW YORK: This file photo taken on June 7, 2016 shows Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton sharing a moment on stage with her husband, former US president Bill Clinton, during her primary night event at the Duggal Greenhouse in Brooklyn Navy Yard. —AFP

CLINTONS 'OVER THE MOON' ABOUT BIRTH OF GRANDCHILD

WASHINGTON: Hillary and Bill Clinton welcomed the birth of their second grandchild Saturday, gushing that they are "over the moon". "We are overjoyed to be grandparents again with the arrival of our grandson, Aidan Clinton Mezvinsky, born on Saturday, June 18, 2016," the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee and her husband, the former president, wrote in a statement. "We are all over the moon as Chelsea and Marc welcome Charlotte's little brother to the world and grateful for our many blessings," they added. "Chelsea and Aidan are both doing well and enjoying this very special time together."

Chelsea, 36, had announced via Twitter a short time earlier that she and husband Marc Mezvinsky had become parents to a baby boy. "Marc and I are overwhelmed with gratitude and love as we celebrate the birth of our son," she tweeted. The former first daughter delivered at Lenox Hill Hospital on Manhattan's Upper East Side. She gave birth to her first child, daughter Charlotte Clinton Mezvinsky, in 2014.

Hillary Clinton has boasted about being a grandmother as one of the achievements of which she is most proud. "Until it happened to me, I just could not understand the impact," she was quoted as saying at a campaign event earlier this month. "It is truly like falling in love all over again. There is nothing like it. It's transformational and until you did it, it is hard to know," she added. "And it has for me been an absolutely life-changing experience."

Chelsea Clinton is the vice chair of the Clinton Foundation, a non-profit organization founded by her father to address global health issues and other causes. She married Mezvinsky, 38, in 2010. Both studied at Stanford University. An investment banker, he is the son of two former Democratic members of Congress. Hillary Clinton is not the only presidential candidate to have welcomed a new grandchild on the campaign trail. Ivanka Trump, the daughter of Clinton's Republican rival Donald Trump, gave birth to a third child in March. The baby is Trump's eighth grandchild. —AFP



PUERTO RICO: Accompanied by grieving family members, Luis Angel Candelario bids farewell to his brother Angel Candelario Padro, a 28-year-old nurse and National Guard member, at his gravesite at the Guanica municipal cemetery on Saturday. —AFP

OBAMA TOUTS ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD ON FAMILY OUTING TO NATIONAL PARKS

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK: US President Barack Obama and the first family celebrated America's cherished natural heritage Saturday during a weekend tour marking the 100th anniversary of the nation's vaunted national park system. Obama, also using the occasion to tout his environmental record, is the first sitting president since John F Kennedy in 1962 to visit California's Yosemite National Park. Obama has made protecting nature areas one of the hallmarks of his presidency. Since 2009, he has set aside as protected areas more than 265 million acres (100 million hectares) of public lands and waters across the country, more than any of his predecessors did. A large part of that involves a marine sanctuary around islands and atolls in the Pacific.

In doing so, he relied on the Antiquities Act, a law signed in 1906 by then president Theodore Roosevelt, a fervent advocate of preserving the country's natural

resources. For Obama, who has made the fight against climate change a priority of his two terms in office and complains of systematic obstructionism by the Republican-controlled Congress, the law has been key to circumventing his opponents on environmental issues.

It allows the president to move swiftly to preserve threatened areas, which can be transformed into national parks if Congress gives the go ahead. The Grand Canyon, Death Valley and vast swaths of Alaska have benefited from the law. Before Obama, 16 presidents have used the measures. Only three, all of them Republicans, did not do so: Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan and George HW Bush.

Before leaving office in January, Obama could sign off on other protection projects awaiting his signature, such as an expansion of the Papahānaumokuākea marine reserve in Hawaii, declared a decade ago by

George W. Bush and home to many endangered species. Over the years, such presidential designations have often triggered conflicts because they end up prohibiting exploration and development of fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas and coal on the protected lands or in protected waters.

Some lawmakers question the legal foundation of the Antiquities Act and what they see as a carte blanche for the president. These lawmakers complain of poor management of federal lands and stymied economic development. They have tried in vain several times to have the law erased. But the national park system remains hugely popular in the United States. The 400-odd parks received a record 305 million visitors last year. The system turns 100 on Aug 25.

"We have more work to do to preserve our lands and culture and our history. We're not done yet," Obama said in a speech against the spectacular backdrop of Yosemite Falls, the highest waterfall in the park. "For this centennial, we're asking all Americans to find your park so everyone, including those from underserved communities, can experience these wonders."

'Spectacular'

On Friday, the president and his family visited Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico, which features more than 100 caves, three of them open to the public. The Obamas visited the Big Room, a large cave chamber located 230 m underground and filled with stalactites and stalagmites. It is also a sanctuary for hundreds of thousands of bats. "Spectacular," Obama said. "How cool is this?" he added as he turned to journalists, although the comment seemed aimed more at his teenage daughters, Malia and Sasha.

Several hours later, after flying over waterfalls and granite peaks, the first family traveled to Yosemite, known for its giant redwood trees. At one point, he and first lady Michelle stopped to chat with some kids at a park facility under bright, sunny skies and Mrs Obama asked them what they would do to scare away bears. As the kids started yelling, the president said: "Oh, I would get out of here!" —AFP



YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, California: US President Barack Obama speaks by the Sentinel Bridge in the Yosemite Valley in front of the Yosemite Falls, which is the highest waterfall in the park on Saturday. —AP

MAN CHARGED WITH RAPE AFTER RECEIVING 'GIFT' OF US TEEN

NEW YORK: The authorities in Pennsylvania have charged a man with raping a teenage girl with whom he fathered two children after receiving her as a "gift" from her parents, US media said Saturday. Police arrested Lee Kaplan, 51, in the town of Feasterville - around 30 km northeast of Philadelphia - on Thursday on charges including statutory sexual assault and corruption of a minor, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

The teen's parents and her nine sisters also lived in Kaplan's home. The 18-year-old teen was the oldest among her siblings. Child welfare authorities removed the young mother, her two young daughters and her nine sisters. The victim's parents, Daniel and Savilla Stoltzfus, gave her to Kaplan four years ago in gratitude "for helping (the) family out of financial ruin," according to criminal complaints. She was 14 years old at the time. Her two children are three years old and six months old.

Her parents have also been arrested, news reports said. They and Kaplan are being held on \$1 million bail each. The Stoltzfuses told police they were going to lose their farm until Kaplan "comes along and gives them money somehow." Bucks County District Attorney David Heckler told the Inquirer. The teen previously lived in an Amish town in Lancaster, Pennsylvania with her parents and siblings before the family was kicked out of the community for unknown reasons, the authorities said.

Although Kaplan and the 18-year-old were not married, they acted as husband and wife, officials said. The girls rarely went outside, neighbors told local media. None of the children appears to have attended school and it was unclear if they had ever been to a doctor. However, officials said they saw no visible signs of abuse or poor health.



Lee Kaplan

The authorities said an anonymous phone call had tipped them off. Local media identified the caller as Jen Betz, a neighbor. She told television station WPVI she had seen several young girls living in the home all wearing blue dresses and appearing afraid. "I just wasn't gonna let go," Betz said. "I saw a couple girls last week standing in the driveway. They just looked unhappy and sad and again in the blue dresses, and I've been telling my husband for years something isn't right, something isn't right."

Suspicious neighbors had complained about the home three years ago, local television station CBS3 reported. "I really can't believe it, because I really thought it was his own daughter," another neighbor told the station. —AFP

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REFUGEES IN INDONESIA TACKLE LIFE IN LIMBO THROUGH SCHOOL

CISARUA, Indonesia: Mahboob Jafari had barely seen the inside of a classroom, let alone taught in one, before he arrived in Indonesia as a refugee fleeing persecution in Afghanistan. The 19-year-old now teaches English at a pioneering school in the mountains south of Jakarta, where refugees from war-torn corners of the globe are banding together to educate their children. Founded by refugees, for refugees, this unique initiative is giving these children a chance to go to school while they wait years for resettlement to a new country.

"Years ago, when I came to Indonesia, I could not imagine that one day I would study in such a school like this one," 14-year-old Ali Riad from Iraq told AFP at the Refugee Learning Nest in Cisarua. "In the future I want to be a doctor and help people." The school, which marked its one-year anniversary in March, has become a source of immense pride among the migrant community in hilly Cisarua, once a key transit point on the largely closed people-smuggling route to Australia.

Its 58 students study in four brightly-painted classrooms, borrow books from a small library and play football at lunchtime at a basic pitch constructed by the parents. Nearly two dozen volunteers, all refugees themselves, teach mathematics, English, computer studies and art to students age six to 18. As the children depart in the afternoon, their parents arrive for English classes - a top priority for families awaiting resettlement to new homes in

countries like Canada, New Zealand, and the United States.

Starting from Zero

There are 13,745 refugees and asylum seekers registered with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Indonesia, including nearly 2,700 children of school age. Although technically refugee children can attend Indonesian schools, very few do, UNHCR senior protection officer Jeffrey Savage told AFP. Language barriers, a lack of available spaces, registration problems and transport costs hinder enrolment.

The vast majority of refugee children in Indonesia go without school for years. Some are already far behind for their age, having spent a lifetime on the move. The pupils at Learning Nest are from Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Iraq and Sri Lanka. Abbas Hussaini, one of the school's founders, said the students were divided by age and ability but some "had no education before they came here". "They started at zero, from the beginning," he told AFP, gesturing to a group of students reciting the alphabet for their Afghan teacher.

For the teachers, volunteering helps alleviate the anxiety and boredom rife in refugee transit towns like Cisarua. Once registered with the UN refugee agency, there's little for asylum seekers to do but wait, unable to work or study. Jafari, who fled Afghanistan after his uncle was murdered by the Taliban, said the four months he spent idle in Cisarua before

volunteering "was like four years." "No job, nothing to do but play football," Jafari, from Afghanistan's persecuted Shiite Hazara minority, told AFP. "But this is an opportunity. Every refugee in here should use their time, because they're not going to get it back."

Tip of the Iceberg

Other refugee communities around Cisarua are independently setting up their own education programs, with four schools now operating in the area. All are backed initially by a grant from a foreign charity, which covers rent for a school building and other basic costs. But beyond that, everything falls to the community. Parents pack lunches and maintain the school grounds, while volunteers prepare classes, manage finances and oversee administrative issues. "We think they're absolutely fantastic, and we encourage more of this," Savage told AFP.

The learning nest is already at capacity, Abbas said. Twelve students are on a waiting list as the school seeks much-needed donations for an additional classroom and learning materials. There are still far more refugee children at home than in schools. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), which assists refugees with housing and other essential needs, applauded community-run initiatives but stressed they only reached a handful of children in need. "The bigger picture is that there are thousands," IOM project manager Paul Dillon told AFP.

By its nature, the situation is continually

evolving. Abbas said one of his key co-founders was resettled to the United States just a month ago, but remains in touch via email. In July, another student will depart for Australia with her family. Sony Samandri, a 13-year Hazara refugee from Afghanistan, is another who will eventually leave for good. Her family has just received confirmation of their official refugee status from the UNHCR -

the first step towards resettlement.

It's a milestone for any family in Cisarua, but Samandri doesn't want to dwell on the prospect of leaving behind her classroom. "It's a great opportunity to show myself that I'm talented," Samandri said, before handing out platters of traditional food to celebrate the occasion. "I just hope that this school will always be here." —AFP



CISARUA, Indonesia: This picture taken on May 31, 2016 shows refugee children attending a pioneering school in West Java in the mountains south of Jakarta, where refugees from war-torn corners of the globe are banding together to educate their children. —AFP



NAHA, Japan: Protesters hold placards that read "Our anger has reached its limit" during a protest rally against the presence of US military bases on the southwestern island of Okinawa yesterday. —AP

PROTESTERS RALLY AGAINST US MILITARY ON OKINAWA

ANGER OVER GIS' VIOLENT CRIMES

US MILITARY FIGHTS TO CHECK CRIME STIGMA

CHATAN, Japan: Crimes by US troops based on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa have long angered residents, who for decades have claimed the American military was out of control. Statistics do not suggest a major problem with US military crime on the sub-tropical island. But the cases have fuelled persistent irritation at the intrusive American military presence on overcrowded Okinawa.

'Stomach Turn'

"The overwhelming majority of American service members are law-abiding, upstanding members of this shared community," First Lieutenant George McArthur, a Marine public affairs officer, told AFP in a written response to questions. "There is not an Okinawan and an American way to view horrific crimes - only one view, and that is that we are all repulsed, angry and grieving together."

Troops have been instructed to stay away from the venue of yesterday's protest in the prefectural capital of Naha out of respect "and to prevent any possible conflict", McArthur said. Most American personnel approached by AFP were reluctant to speak about the situation. If they did, they stuck mostly to talking points. "We're doing everything we can to support the host nation," said a serviceman at an American-style off-base shopping mall in the beachside town of Chatan near the sprawling Kadena Air Force Base with his girlfriend.

Since the murder fewer troops

are visiting the outdoor mall - where shops, restaurants and bars have names like American Depot, Garage House, Camp Market and Outlet J - during evening hours, said Yoshie Morota, who runs a souvenir shop, though they still come during daytime. "The crime made my stomach turn," Morota, 60, said of the rape and murder. "But it doesn't mean that all the Americans are bad." She said around 30 service personnel picked up litter at a busy car parking area early Saturday at the complex and appeared to share a sense of grief with local residents.

In May the US military imposed a 30-day period of mourning, putting troops under curfew and banning the buying and consuming of alcohol off base. Last year criminal cases suspected to be linked to the US military represented just 0.8 percent of all cases in Okinawa, according to figures from the prefectural government, remaining under one percent for the third year in a row.

But critics say high-profile incidents are likely to keep happening as the actual number of troops coming to Okinawa is larger than statistics suggest, given they regularly rotate through and tend to stay for a limited period. "In reality, the number of perpetrators is huge," said Suzuyo Takazato, a female rights activist in Okinawa. "Even if only one serviceman out of 100 commits a crime, it means 10 out of 1,000, and 100 out of 10,000, do," she added. —AFP

NAHA, Japan: Tens of thousands rallied yesterday on the Japanese island of Okinawa to protest against the heavy US military presence and violent crimes by American personnel that have angered residents for decades. Demonstrators, claimed by organizers to total 65,000, gathered in the prefectural capital Naha, infuriated with the United States after a former Marine employed as a civilian base worker allegedly raped and murdered a young local woman in April. The case has intensified longstanding opposition to the bases - a key part of the US-Japan security alliance - on the subtropical southern outpost, a popular holiday destination for Japanese and increasingly for China and other Asian countries. Okinawa hosts about 26,000 US troops, more than half the total Washington keeps in all of Japan. The demonstration was held at an athletics park under scorching heat. Police did not have an immediate crowd estimate.

It began with a moment of silence for 20-year-old Rina Shimabukuro, the murder victim, and a message from her father. "Why my daughter, why was she killed?" said the message, read on his behalf. "My thoughts are the same as those of all the bereaved families that have met with suffering up to now." One protester carried a banner reading, "Murderer Marines. Out of Okinawa." Others read, "Our anger is past its limit" and "Pull out the Marines." Chihiro Uchimura, 71, said she was filled with sadness at Shimabukuro's death. "As long as there are US military bases this kind of incident will continue to happen," she said. Rally organizers in Okinawa said similar protests were held throughout the country.

'Military Colony'

In Tokyo some 3,000 people gathered outside parliament for a rally with some signs reading "No base, no rape in Okinawa" and "Marines, go home". Hatsuko Aoki, one of the demonstrators, shouted through a microphone: "It's not just a problem for Okinawa. It is a problem for all of Japan." Protesters also want Washington and Tokyo to scrap plans to move a major US Marine base in the center of the island to pristine waters off

Okinawa's north coast. Okinawa's governor Takeshi Onaga, who attended the rally, is among those opposing the relocation. Instead he and others want Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, which sits in the middle of a crowded city, moved off the island altogether. But the anger of Onaga - who, like many on the main stage, wore black to signify mourning - was aimed more furiously at his own government than the US. "The government... must understand that Okinawa residents should not suffer any more from the burden of the bases," Onaga said. He has revoked approval for work on the facility, though Washington and Tokyo vow to push forward.

The idea of moving the base was sparked by the 1995 rape by three American personnel of a 12-year-old girl. The project was set to have been completed years ago but is still held up by local opposition and legal manoeuvring. "Japan is still a military colony of the United States," said teacher Noboru Kitano, 59, standing at an observation point overlooking the Futenma base, whose location is widely seen as a danger to nearby residents. "This base symbolizes that." At the end of World War II Okinawa was the site of a major battle between Japan and the US. A 27-year American occupation of the island followed. High-profile crimes have sparked large-scale protest rallies before on Okinawa. In 1995 tens of thousands rallied following the rape of the girl, prompting Washington to pledge to reduce its footprint on the island.

Nearly 100,000 people joined a protest in 2010 against the construction of the new base. US officials have grown increasingly concerned that the behavior of its troops on the island could jeopardize support among Japanese for the security relationship. They have imposed restrictions including an off-base alcohol consumption after an intoxicated sailor injured two locals while driving this month. President Barack Obama received the equivalent of a diplomatic tongue-lashing over the death of the 20-year-old rape victim from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during a visit to Japan last month. Obama called it a tragedy and expressed "deepest regrets". —AFP

BOOKSELLER CONTEMPLATED SUICIDE IN CHINA DETENTION

HONG KONG: A Hong Kong bookseller whose disappearance sparked international concern said yesterday that he was so despondent during his detention by authorities in mainland China that he considered suicide. Lam Wing-kee told AFP that he thought about using his clothes to hang himself but couldn't find a way to do it in the small room where he was kept under constant watch for five months. Lam and four other men who worked for a Hong Kong publishing company disappeared last year, only to turn up months later in police custody on the mainland.

The publisher specialized in gossip books on China's communist leadership that were popular with Chinese visitors to Hong Kong but banned on the mainland. Their case raised concerns that Beijing is tightening its hold on the former British colony and undermining its considerable autonomy. Hong Kong retains rule of law and civil liberties such as freedom of speech unseen on the mainland under its status as a special Chinese administrative region that runs until 2047.

Lam, 60, returned to Hong Kong on Tuesday, following three other colleagues who had done so earlier. But he went off the script written for him by the Chinese authorities and spoke out Thursday at a news conference, giving a harrowing account of his ordeal, which unfolded when he paid a visit to the neighboring mainland city of Shenzhen in October. He was handcuffed and blindfolded, taken on a 13-hour train

ride and then confined to a small room for months while he was interrogated about the authors writing for the Mighty Current publishing company and the customers at its Causeway Bay Bookshop, which he managed.

Lam's story contradicted the version of events given by his colleagues to Chinese media and Hong Kong police, in which they said they traveled to the mainland voluntarily to aid in investigations or confess to crimes. Lam said he was forced to sign a confession admitting to illegally mailing books to mainland buyers. Lam said his interrogators were particularly interested in details about the writers behind two of the company's books.



Lam Wing-kee

One was about a Communist Party directive that urged officials to curb the spread of ideas such as press freedom, judicial independence, civil rights, civil society and the party's historic mistakes. It was based on a high-level internal circular leaked in 2013 that was seen as an attempt to attack Western democratic ideals and crush dissent to protect the party's rule. The other book was about the purported love lives of President Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders.

"At the later stage of interrogation, I was questioned about information of authors, whether I knew these authors, the source of transcripts," Lam said. "I was asked to give detailed accounts. I didn't know much about the authors because I was there to sell books. I could only tell them the limited information I knew." —AP



BANJARNEGARA, Indonesia: Villagers and search and rescue team members carry out the body of a landslide victim in Gumelem Kulon village yesterday. —AFP

35 DEAD IN INDONESIAN FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES

BANJARNEGARA, Indonesia: Flash floods and landslides in central Indonesia have killed at least 35 people and destroyed dozens of homes, an official said yesterday, as searchers scoured devastated villages for survivors. Dozens were also missing or injured following torrential rain and widespread flooding on the main island of Java, where thousands of homes have been swamped. Areas prone to landslides across densely-populated Central Java province have been worst hit, with drivers swept off roads and dozens of homes completely destroyed by fast-moving walls of mud, rock and water.

TV footage showed villagers sitting on rooftops to escape the rising water, their cars and homes submerged in brown water. "The number of casualties from floods and landslides in Central Java is 35 people dead, 25 people missing and 14 injured," said disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho. The worst-hit area was Purworejo district on Java's south coast, where 19 people were killed, he said. In one incident in the district, nine people died as they tried to clear rubble from a blocked road. "Suddenly a huge landslide struck the cars and

people on the street. Nine bodies were retrieved," Sutopo said.

In Banjarnegara, where six people were killed in an avalanche of mud, residents were bracing for the prospect of further floods. Emergency crews were trying to clear roads of felled trees and rocks dumped by huge landslides, an AFP journalist at the scene said. Heavy lifting equipment was being used in the hunt for survivors in Purworejo but access to sites elsewhere was difficult, said Sutopo. Hundreds of rescuers were being forced to shift debris with their bare hands in some areas.

Evacuation centers, equipped with temporary shelters and kitchens, have been erected near the disaster zones. Sutopo said late yesterday that much of the flooding had subsided but he warned people to stay on alert as heavy rains could continue into the next day. Landslides are not uncommon in Indonesia, a vast tropical archipelago prone to natural disasters and torrential downpours. Last month 15 students holidaying at a popular tourist spot in western Indonesia were killed when a landslide swept through their camp ground. —AFP



KARACHI: A Pakistani man prays near a table set with food before breaking his fast on a street in Karachi yesterday. — AFP

IRAN INKS DEAL TO BUY 100 BOEING PLANES

Continued from Page 1

Boeing has fallen behind the race to restock Iran because as an American company it has to obtain the greenlight from the US Office of Foreign Assets Control before completing any contracts with Iran. It has requested final authorization for the sale, according to Abedzadeh. He said the contract's reported value of \$17 billion (15 billion euros) was not final and that more details will be provided after further negotiations. Boeing confirmed on Wednesday that it was in talks with Iranian airlines interested in buying its passenger planes.

"We have been engaged in discussions with Iranian airlines approved by the (US government) about potential purchases of Boeing commercial passenger airplanes and services," the company said in an email to AFP. In February, the American company was granted approval from the US government to explore resuming sales to Iran after sanctions were partially lifted in January. Iran and the US broke diplomatic ties in 1980 following

a hostage crisis at the American embassy in Tehran. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the father of modern Iran, dubbed the US the "Great Satan" and his successor supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has kept Tehran on a stridently anti-American path. Despite allowing nuclear negotiations with Washington, Khamenei has repeatedly warned of American and Western "infiltration" in the post-sanctions era.

Although the nuclear deal lifted most economic sanctions, the US and the European Union have kept up some measures due to Tehran's support for groups such as Lebanon's Hezbollah, as well as its ballistic missile program. This means major international banks, particularly in Europe, are still reluctant to do business with Iran for fear of punitive US measures. Iran in January reached a memorandum of understanding with European aircraft manufacturer Airbus for the purchase of 118 planes. That agreement is also still pending permission from the US Treasury, since more than 10 percent of Airbus components are of American origin. — AFP

TRUMP: US SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER...

Continued from Page 1

Trump also reiterated his support for more scrutiny of mosques, saying that could resemble a controversial New York City surveillance program that has been shut down. "If you go to France right now, they're doing it in France. In fact, in some instances they're closing down mosques." Police in France closed some mosques shortly after gunmen aligned with Islamic State militants killed 130 people in Paris in a series of attacks on Nov 13.

The Orlando gunman, Omar Mateen, expressed support for Islamic State, but officials believe he was "self-radicalized". Trump has drawn criticism from many in his Republican Party for calling for a temporary ban on

Muslims entering the United States. He also has called for a suspension of immigration from countries with "a proven history of terrorism". Hillary Clinton, the presumptive Democratic nominee, has said the comments show Trump is unfit to be president.

House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan endorsed Trump but has said a Muslim ban is not in U.S. interests. In excerpts of an NBC interview released on Friday, Ryan said Republicans weighing whether to vote for Trump should follow their "conscience." Trump brushed off the criticism yesterday and said he would put up his own money for his campaign if needed. "It would be nice if the Republicans stuck together," Trump said in an ABC interview. "I can win, one way or another." — Agencies

ASSEMBLY PASSES BUDGETS OF EIGHT NEW GOVT...

Continued from Page 1

Minister of Information and Youth Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said the suspension of Kuwaiti sports was orchestrated by some Kuwaiti sports officials whom he did not name. He said the government has tried hard to convince the international sports governing authorities that the Kuwaiti government does not interfere in sports and on the contrary it provides generous aid to all federations and clubs. He said that the existing situation in the Kuwaiti sports cannot continue, especially that those who are leading the country's sports are the ones who filed the complaint against Kuwait.

He said the legislation will provide the solution to the problems of Kuwaiti sports and will lead to privatization, adding that those who want to control clubs should pay from their pockets to establish such clubs. The minister said that the government should have the right to monitor how its millions of dinars in aid are spent.

MPs also voted to approve the budgets of Public Manpower Authority, Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Public Authority for the Handicapped, Public Compensation Claims Authority, Environment Public Authority, the Fire Department, Kuwait University and Public Authority for Civil Information.

During the debate, a large number of MPs strongly

criticized the long delay in the project of the new government university in Shadadiya area and blamed the administration for the delay.

MP Jamal Al-Omar said there is no justification for the delay of the vital project which has already taken eight years and is likely to miss its new date next year. He said many fires have erupted in the construction site of the university and warned that the recently-signed airport expansion project could experience the same fate since they have the same contractor.

MP Yusef Al-Zalzalah said implementation in the new university is just above 40 percent and wondered what causes the delay when funds are available. He said the delay is forcing the government to pay an additional KD 50 million per year for internal scholarships.

Education and Higher Education Minister Bader Al-Issa said the delays were caused by the large number of variation in orders, adding that the project should be referred to the ministry of public works because the university does not have the technical staff to oversee the project. The minister said that the number of scholarships has not changed and is 6,000 for overseas and 4,000 locally. MP Faisal Al-Duwaisan said there is a political reason behind the delay as the government does not want thousands of students to gather in one campus and be a focal point for political unrest like in other countries.

EGYPT, QATAR CLASH OVER MORSI-ERA...

Continued from Page 1

Cairo also accuses the Doha-based Al-Jazeera network of bias in favor of the Brotherhood and other Islamist groups. Saturday's verdicts, which can be appealed, have further enflamed tensions between the two countries. In a statement on Qatar's state news agency late Saturday, the Foreign Ministry said the verdicts lacked a "proper sense of justice" and did not help in consolidating ties between the two countries.

"The verdict is unfounded, goes against truth and contains misleading claims," said Ahmed Al-Rumaihi, who heads the information office at the Foreign Ministry. He said the charge of espionage involving Qatar is both "surprising and unacceptable." Egypt's Foreign Ministry fired back, saying the country's judiciary was independent and professional. Spokesman Ahmed Abu Zeid also said it was not surprising to see such comments from a government that had "devoted resources and efforts over the past years to mobilize its media mouthpieces to be hostile to the people of Egypt and its state and institutions."

The case involved a total of 11 defendants, of whom sev-

en, including Morsi, are in custody. Morsi, the top defendant, and two of his aides were sentenced to 25 years in prison for membership in the Brotherhood but were acquitted of espionage, a capital offense. Morsi and his secretary, Amin el-Sirafy, each received an additional 15-year sentence for leaking official documents. El-Sirafy's daughter, Karima, was also sentenced to 15 years on the same charge.

Egypt's first freely elected leader, Morsi has already been sentenced to death. That death sentence and another two-life and 20 years in prison - are under appeal. Former Al-Jazeera news producer Alaa Omar Mohammed and former director of news Ibrahim Mohammed Hilal were sentenced to death in absentia along with Asmaa Al-Khateib, who worked for Rasd, a media network widely suspected of links to the Brotherhood. Others sentenced to death include a documentary producer, an EgyptAir employee and an academic. The verdicts drew widespread criticism from rights groups, including Amnesty International, which described the outcome as "appalling." Al-Jazeera condemned the verdicts, saying they were part of a "ruthless" campaign against freedom of expression, and called on the international community to show solidarity with the journalists. — AP

GRATITUDE: A LESSON OF HOLY RAMADAN

Continued from Page 1

Gratitude is one of the lessons of Ramadan. The Quran says, "[God desires] that you complete the number [of days required to fast], and that you extol God for His having guided you aright, and that you render your thanks [unto Him]." (285) Since gratitude is one of the goals of fasting, this Ramadan and always, follow the example of Maryam, mother of Jesus, by acknowledging the source

of all your blessings. So great is our Lord, that he appreciates our appreciation, saying, "If you give thanks, I will surely give you more..." (14:7)

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In focus

MOUNTING PRESSURE UNLIKELY TO SWAY OBAMA ON SYRIA

By Andrew Beatty

Exasperated US diplomats are in open revolt over Barack Obama's Syria policy, but radical change is unlikely in the twilight of his presidency. More than 280,000 people have been killed. Millions more have fled their homes. A relentless drumbeat of cluster bombs, barrel bombs, chemical bombs, murder, rape and torture has turned swathes of Syria to dust.

Humanitarian aid sometimes drips into the beleaguered cities, but when it does, President Bashar Al-Assad's regime makes sure "punishment" bombings quickly follow. "The Assad regime's actions defy all definitions of human decency," said one US official. There are ominous signs the regime is moving to strangle food production. In Syria, "you think you've reached the bottom and then you hear a faint scratching from below," another official said.

Through it all, the Obama administration has insisted only Assad and his Russian and Iranian sponsors can end the madness. But privately, even senior diplomats admit that their inability to stop five years of butchery has challenged their conscience. They say that whatever comes next, Syria will have left an indelible stain on their years in public service.

In a deliberately leaked memo, 51 serving US diplomats have now said "enough," insisting that Obama has a moral obligation to stop the carnage. To force Assad into real peace negotiations, they say the 44th president must launch airstrikes against the Syrian regime. Such a policy, they argue, could increase the cost of Assad's intransigence and perhaps stem the suffering.

The White House has quickly signaled it is not ready to embark on such a 180 degree shift. "The president has always been clear that he does not see a military solution to the crisis in Syria and that remains the case," White House spokeswoman Jennifer Friedman said in response to the memo.

The White House has stuck fast to a credo-borne from the folly of the Iraq war—that the United States should not, indeed cannot, solve all the world's crises. Above all Obama has tried to avoid entanglements in the Middle East, defining US interests in Syria as part of a counterterrorism effort to dismantle the Islamic State group.

That has left his Secretary of State John Kerry with an unenviable—and probably impossible—task of negotiating an end to the broader crisis with little or no leverage. His counterparts in Moscow or Damascus know Obama's reticence well, and have the upper hand on the ground, so see little incentive to deal.

Morally vacuous, politically bankrupt

For years diplomat frustration with this perceived fool's errand has been building. Frederic Hof, a former Syria advisor resigned from the Obama administration in protest in 2012. Obama's policy is "morally vacuous and politically bankrupt" he said. It "cruelly and gratuitously leaves innocent civilians at the mercy of a mass murderer."

Today, Assad's regime and it's Russian allies are running roughshod over a ceasefire that Kerry helped broker. Critics say it is increasingly difficult to tell the difference between an imperfect ceasefire and no ceasefire at all.

Similarly, Kerry's efforts to get Russia to force Assad to step down have run into the sand. Russia remains either unwilling or unable to help. By leaking the memo in an election year, the diplomats would like Obama to reconsider. They might find allies elsewhere in Washington. CIA and Pentagon efforts to keep Syria's opposition afloat are faltering, even as progress is made in the fight against the Islamic State group. Russian aerial assaults on moderate groups have met no response from Washington, forcing allies to seek the protection of larger, better-armed militant groups, including those linked to Al-Qaeda.

Might an administration led by Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton be much more willing to push back against Assad, check Russian influence and bring America's vast military power to bear? There are signs that Russia wants to make sure the next president, whoever it is, faces a choice only between dealing with Assad or letting the jihadists. Russia recently directly targeted US-backed fighters who had no part in the fight against the regime.

"This is a small tribal fighting force that has been pretty well equipped by the United States and tasked with taking the eastern flank of Syria away from the Islamic State," said Faysal Itani, a Syria analyst at the Atlantic Council, a think tank. "This is as close as you are going to get to a textbook definition of a proxy group." It's an escalation that may leave US-backed fighters, like Obama's own diplomats, asking what US power is worth. — AFP

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TRUMP STUCK ON GOP'S CALIFORNIA DREAM

By Michael R Blood

Bob Dole thought he could win California with a "fishhook" strategy. George W Bush came armed with \$15 million. John McCain was bullish, too. They all lost.

Donald Trump's prediction that he can capture the biggest prize in the November presidential election, the state's 55 electoral votes, rubs up against a dismal history for Republicans over a generation. The names on the ballot have changed, but the outcome has been the same - double-digit wins for Democrats since 1992.

Here's Trump's challenge: Unite Republicans while finding millions of new supporters in a state where Democrats hold every statewide office and both chambers of the Legislature. They also have a 3.1 million edge in voters, a number equal to the population of Iowa.

In 1996, Dole was brimming with confidence about his chances against then-President Bill Clinton. Dole's campaign aimed to drive up vote margins in Republican-friendly communities down the state's interior spine, then up through coastal counties in the south, roughly in the shape of a fishhook. Money and staff poured in. Dole's running mate, Jack Kemp, had special credentials: He grew up in Los Angeles. It wasn't even close. Clinton ran up a 51-to-38 percent win. "Since 1996, the California electorate has swung even more to the left," said Ken Khachigian, a former chief speechwriter in the Reagan White House who ran Dole's campaign in the state.

Demographic shifts

"Five months out, it's political practice to rule out any possibility," Khachigian added. But a Republican win in California "comes as close as anything to an exception."

The home turf of Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, California was once Republican in presidential elections. But pronounced demographic shifts, particularly a boom in the Hispanic population, have transformed the state. The number of Hispanics, blacks and Asian-Americans combined has outnumbered whites in California since 1998, and Latinos alone now outnumber the white population. Most of the new voters are Democrats or independents who tend to vote like them.

Trump is looking to expand his support at a time when he already faces challenges with Hispanics and women. That stems in part from his promise to build a wall along the border with Mexico and his verbal attacks on US District Judge Gonzalo Curiel, who is hearing a lawsuit against Trump University. Trump also has criticized New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, who heads the Republican Governors Association.

Richard Hoyt, a registered independent from Westminster, in Orange County, is the kind of voter Trump needs to pull his way. But the 64-year-old retired engineer says he's leaning toward Clinton, in part because of Trump's statements about Curiel and the judge's family's Mexican roots.

Hoyt said he would give Trump a "zero for his mannerisms" and added: "I can't imagine how all of the sudden he's going to change."

Simple arithmetic

Part of Trump's challenge is simple arithmetic. In California's June 7 primary, the billionaire businessman ran essentially unopposed, pulling in about 1.5 million votes, or about 75 percent of the total. Ted Cruz and John Kasich were still on the ballot, though they earlier dropped out of the race. Analysts predict 14 million people are likely to vote in November.

To win, Trump would need a heroic turnout from the state's 4.9 million Republicans, while finding 2 million or more swing voters to get near a majority. Indeed, some of those swing voters could be lurking in counties where Republican candidates have outperformed the party's registration numbers.

But there are more than 8 million Democrats, and the state's 4.2 million independents - about 1 in 4 voters - tilt Democratic. Trump's state director, Tim Clark, emphasized that Trump's supporters are strongly motivated in a year when many voters are looking for candidates from beyond Washington. As an outsider, Trump could appeal to a vast pool of dormant voters soured on status quo politics, Clark said. "Elections are won by those who show up, and those who show up are those motivated by their candidate," Clark added.

Hispanic turnout

The last significant push by a Republican to win California was in 2000, when Bush was backed by \$15 million, then lost to Democrat Al Gore by 12 points. In 2004, Bush's campaign vowed to

compete in California, but the campaign effectively shut down in early autumn. McCain, the 2008 GOP nominee against Barack Obama, boasted about competing in California, but he lost by 24 points. Mitt Romney suffered a 23-point loss to Obama in 2012. Aside from her registration advantage, Clinton also has a formidable get-out-the-vote operation. The campaign made 2 million phone calls in the final days before the state primary. Trump has no comparable organization. An energized Hispanic turnout is likely, favoring Clinton, who also carried the state in the 2008 Democratic presidential primary.

Republicans remain healthy in pockets of California, including parts of the vast farm belt and the so-called Inland Empire running east and north of Los Angeles. But party registration overall has withered to 27 percent of the state total, compared with 45 percent for Democrats.

Independents now outnumber Republicans in nearly two dozen of the state's 53 congressional districts. Former Gov Pete Wilson, a Ted Cruz supporter who now backs Trump, is the last Republican to win a US Senate race in the state, in 1988.

He acknowledges the steep climb Trump faces, but said in an unpredictable political year Trump could make inroads with independents and voters wary of Clinton. At the minimum, he said Trump could win a tactical victory if he forces Democrats to compete on their own ground. Democrats "will have to respond and they will have to spend time and money here," he said. — AP

WORRYING 'CLIMATE OF XENOPHOBIA' IN EUROPE

By Stephane Barbier

The UN's refugee chief says a worrying "climate of xenophobia" has taken hold in Europe as the continent struggles with the biggest influx of migrants since World War II.

Speaking to AFP in Tehran at the start of a regional tour, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said European leaders needed to do more to coordinate migration policies and to combat negative stereotypes about refugees. "Refugees... don't bring danger to us, they flee from dangerous places," said Grandi, who took office in January. National leaders need to better explain that immigration "in fact contributes to the development of societies," he said.

"Those who do the opposite, who stir up public opinion against refugees and migrants, have a responsibility in creating a climate of xenophobia that is very worrying in today's Europe," he said. "It provides a negative example to countries further away." Protracted conflicts in particular Syria's five-year civil war have prompted an unprecedented wave of migration to the continent, with a record 1.25 million Syrian, Iraqi, Afghan and other migrants entering Europe since January 2015.

The influx has sparked a backlash in some countries, including in Austria where the anti-immigration Freedom Party nearly won the presidency last month and in Hungary where authorities have sealed the border with Serbia with razor wire and made illegal border crossing a criminal offence punishable by jail. Grandi said it was unfortunate that decisions taken last year by the European Union to better handle the influx "were not implemented".

It was, he said, "a missed opportunity" because "each country made decisions separately. Borders closed." He called for "a more collective collegial system of managing refugee flows based on solidarity and burden-sharing between the states, as opposed to trying to do it by themselves with the result that only some countries receive a large number of refugees and others close the borders."

Focus on Afghanistan

Grandi also called for greater efforts to help those displaced by conflict within their own countries. "Two-thirds of the world's displaced are displaced internally," he said. "We have millions of them in Afghanistan, in Syria, in Iraq,

in Yemen... they are the most difficult to reach because they are usually in the midst of wars therefore it's dangerous to bring assistance."

Grandi, an Italian diplomat long active in UN humanitarian work, was due in Afghanistan on Monday to mark World Refugee Day. He said he wanted to use his first year in office to highlight the plight of that country's refugees. "The Afghan refugee crisis has been unfortunately forgotten repeatedly in its history," he said. "It only gets remembered when something big happens like September 11 and now the arrival of Afghans in Europe among hundreds of thousands others."

The root cause is instability in Afghanistan, he said, adding: "That's why my first message here is let's make peace in Afghanistan." After meeting with Iranian officials

including Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, Grandi praised Tehran's efforts to assist Afghan refugees.

Iran hosts more than three million immigrants from neighboring Afghanistan, a million of them legally. "The space given to the refugees for assistance, to give them opportunities and protection, is considerable" he said. He pointed to a decree from Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei last year allowing all Afghan children to be allowed into schools in the Islamic republic.

"There are things that have been done here in Iran that are truly examples for other countries, like giving access for children to the school system," Grandi said. It was "one of the most important gestures that any country has expressed for refugees anywhere in the world in the past few years." — AFP



TEHRAN: UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi during a press conference following a meeting with Iranian Interior Minister in the capital Tehran yesterday. — AFP

MATHEWS TELLS SRI LANKA TO UP THEIR GAME AGAINST ENGLAND

MALAHIDE: Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews said his side will have to be at their best to beat England in the five-match one-day international series which starts tomorrow. Mathews was speaking after overseeing a 2-0 ODI series victory over Ireland in Malahide after the second match was won by an emphatic 136-run margin on Saturday. Opening batsman Kusal Perera, who would have missed the tour had a drugs ban not been rescinded following a faulty doping analysis, made a century to build the platform for his side's huge total of 377 for 8. "We still can improve a lot in all departments. It was a pretty convincing victory today, but we need to be at our best to beat England," said Mathews. Eoin Morgan's England have improved dramatically in 50-over cricket since the Sri Lankans thrashed them by nine wickets in Wellington during last year's World Cup. Saturday's win was set up by dynamic top-order batting, and Mathews said: "Perera and Danuska Gunathilaka had a brilliant opening partnership (147) and after that solid foundation it was a tactical decision to bring in the pinch-hitter and take the game forward." — AFP

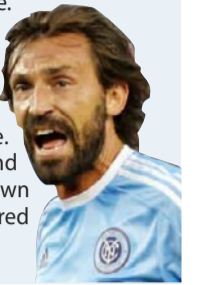


TABLE TENNIS PRODIGY LOOKS FORWARD TO 2020 OLYMPICS

TOKYO: Tomokazu Harimoto has become the youngest winner of an ITTF World Tour under 21 event at 12 years of age, moving one step closer to his dream of winning gold in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Hashimoto easily beat Kohei Sambe, a 18-year-old college student, 11-1, 11-6, 13-11 to triumph at the 2016 International Table Tennis Federation World Tour Laotian Japan Open on Friday in Tokyo. The young Japanese star broke the previous age record of 15, set by compatriot Koki Niwa in 2010, by claiming gold in the under 21 event as he was 12 years and 355 days old. Harimoto dominated the game from the outset and let out a whoop of triumph while bending his body backward after securing the win. "I was so nervous yesterday when I heard that I would be the youngest winner," Harimoto said after the final. "But when the game began, I was able to play as I usually do," he added. "I think I have made progress as I beat a lot of higher-ranking players," he also said. "I'm happy to win under pressure." The 12-year-old, though delighted with the crown, was already looking ahead to a tougher goal in four years when the country hosts the Summer Games. "I want to win a gold medal in the Tokyo Olympics," he said. — AFP

STARS SHINE AS NYCFC TRAMPLE MLS LEADERS

NEW YORK: Frank Lampard, Andrea Pirlo and David Villa all scored as New York City FC's stars shined in a 3-2 victory over Major League Soccer Eastern Conference leaders Philadelphia Union on Saturday. The trio of former internationals—who have endured mixed fortunes since signing for big-spending City-powered their team into a 3-0 lead at Yankee Stadium before a late Union rally. Former England and Chelsea midfielder Lampard opened the scoring after only seven minutes, pouncing on a Tommy McNamara shot in the eighth minute to lash home. Spanish World Cup winner David Villa almost made it 2-0 five minutes later, audaciously attempting to lob the keeper from near the halfway line but his effort crashed back off the underside of the bar. Lampard had followed up but his shot from the rebound was comfortably saved by Philadelphia goalkeeper Andre Blake. Villa did not have to wait much longer to grab his team's second however, when teenager Jack Harrison raced from deep in his own half before backheeling into the path of the Spaniard, who steered his shot past Blake. — AFP



OAKLAND: Billy Burns #1 of the Oakland Athletics steals second base ahead of a tag from Andrelton Simmons #2 of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim during the third inning at the Oakland Coliseum. — AFP

LINCECUM MAKES WINNING RETURN IN ANGEL'S VICTORY

OAKLAND: Tim Lincecum made a winning return to Major League Baseball, restarting his career after nearly a year away with six sharp innings and several ovations as the Los Angeles Angels beat the Oakland Athletics 7-1 Saturday. Sporting a bright red hat and Angels jersey that was in stark contrast to the black and orange he wore across the Bay Bridge for nine seasons with San Francisco, Lincecum gave up one run and four hits. The two-time National League Cy Young Award winner hadn't pitched in the majors since last June 27. He had hip surgery in September, signed with the Angels in May and made three starts in the minors. Mike Trout homered, doubled and drove in three runs to help Los Angeles to its third win in four games. Ryan Dull (1-2) lost in relief.

DIAMONDBACKS 4, PHILLIES 1

Arizona ace Zack Greinke won his seventh straight start by pitching three-hit ball for eight innings. Paul Goldschmidt, Jake Lamb and Nick Ahmed homered for the Diamondbacks. Greinke (10-3) allowed one run, struck out six and walked one. Odubel Herrera homered for the Phillies, who have lost five in a row and 22 of 28. Jerad Eickhoff (4-9) allowed three runs and nine hits in 5 2/3 innings. Brad Ziegler closed for his 14th save of the season and 42nd straight dating to May 2015.

GIANTS 6, RAYS 4

Joe Panik had four RBIs, including a tiebreaking three-run homer in the ninth inning that sent San Francisco to its seventh straight win. Panik hit a two-out drive off Alex Colome (1-2) for the NL West leaders. Hunter Strickland (3-0) won in relief. Cory Gearrin allowed Logan Forsythe's solo homer in the ninth before getting his second save. Evan Longoria, Brad Miller and Logan Morrison also connected for Tampa Bay.

PADRES 7, NATIONALS 3

Wil Myers had three hits and drove in three runs, keying a six-run rally in the eighth inning that carried San Diego to the victory. Myers, who homered in the first against Max Scherzer, tied it at three with a two-run double off Felipe Rivero that landed just in front of diving center fielder Michael Taylor. After Matt Kemp was intentionally walked to load the bases, Rivero (0-3) fielded Brett Wallace's comebacker but bobbled it before throwing it wide of catcher Wilson Ramos for an error that allowed Jon Jay to score the go-ahead run. Kevin Quackenbush (4-3) allowed an RBI single in one-third of an inning for the win.

CUBS 4, PIRATES 3

Anthony Rizzo, Kris Bryant and David Ross homered, powering Chicago to the victory. The major league-leading Cubs (46-20) improved to a season-high 26 games above .500 while the Pirates lost for the ninth time in 10 games. Jon Lester (9-3) won his fifth straight start. Rizzo and Bryant each hit their 16th home run, and Ross made it 4-3 with a solo drive in the sixth that chased Jonathon Niese (6-4). The only damper for the Cubs was Dexter Fowler leaving the game because of discomfort in his right hamstring. Hector Rondon got four outs for his 12th save in 14 chances.

BRAVES 4, METS 3

Ender Inciarte used his speed to help Atlanta to its fourth straight win, matching its longest streak this year. Jeff Francoeur and Tyler Flowers homered for the Braves, who overcame a 3-0 deficit. Dario Alvarez (1-0) got two outs for his second big league win and Jim Johnson earned his first save this year. With the score 3-all, Inciarte doubled against Addison Reed (1-1) leading off the eighth. Freddie Freeman was intentionally walked and Francoeur flied to Curtis Granderson in medium right. Granderson looked back Freeman, and then threw softly to second, prompting Inciarte to take off for third. Inciarte then scored the tiebreaking run on a wild pitch that bounced only 10 feet from home plate.

DODGERS 10, BREWERS 6

Justin Turner hit a three-run drive for his third homer in two nights, helping Los Angeles rally for the win. One night after hitting two solo homers and a game-ending single in the 10th inning, Turner ignited the Dodgers' comeback by sending a 1-1 pitch from Chase Anderson (4-7) high over the left field wall for his ninth homer of the season. Joc Pederson and Howie Kendrick also homered for the Dodgers. Chris Hatcher (4-3) earned the victory with 2 1/3 shutout innings.

ROYALS 16, TIGERS 5

Kendrys Morales drove in five runs with four hits, and Kansas City cruised to the victory. The Royals' 21 hits and 16 runs were season highs. It got so bad that Tigers utilityman Andrew Romine was summoned to pitch with one out in the eighth. Kansas City's Edinson Volquez (7-6) allowed five runs and eight hits in 6 1/3 innings. Justin Upton hit a two-run homer for

Detroit. Matt Boyd (0-2) was lifted after 3 2/3 innings, yielding seven runs and eight hits.

RANGERS 4, CARDINALS 3

Ian Desmond hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the ninth inning, sending the Rangers to their fifth consecutive win. Texas won its franchise-record ninth consecutive series - the Rangers beat the Cardinals 1-0 on Friday to begin the three-game set. The Cardinals have lost four straight. The Rangers scored twice in the eighth and ninth innings. In the ninth, closer Trevor Rosenthal (2-2) hit Robinson Chirinos with a pitch to load the bases, and then Kevin Siegrist walked Shin-Soo Choo and allowed Desmond's fly ball to left. Shawn Tolleson (1-2) pitched a scoreless eighth for the win. Jake Diekmann got his second save.

RED SOX 6, MARINERS 2

Xander Bogaerts and Jackie Bradley Jr homered to lead Rick Porcello and the Red Sox. Bogaerts, who entered the day leading the AL in batting, also singled while raising his average to .352. Adam Lind homered for the Mariners. Porcello (8-2) improved to 6-0 at home this year. He allowed two runs and eight hits. Adrian Sampson lost in his major league debut, giving up four runs and eight hits in 4 2/3 innings.

ORIOLES 4, BLUE JAYS 2

Jonathan Schoop homered, doubled and singled while Yovani Gallardo and the Baltimore bullpen helped end Toronto's four-game winning streak. Manny Machado got three hits for the Orioles, and then dropped his appeal of a four-game suspension for charging Royals pitcher Yordano Ventura earlier this month. Gallardo (2-1) allowed two runs in five innings. He hadn't pitched since April 22 because of shoulder tendinitis. Zach Britton earned his 21st save, getting Josh Donaldson to ground into a game-ending double play with the bases loaded. RA Dickey (4-8) fell to 0-5 against Baltimore while with the Blue Jays.

YANKEES 7, TWINS 6

Jacoby Ellsbury hit a tiebreaking two-run single in the ninth inning and New York, boosted by Alex Rodriguez's 695th career homer, rallied past Minnesota. The Yankees scored three times in the ninth for a 7-4 lead. Aroldis Chapman gave up back-to-back homers to Eduardo Escobar and Kurt Suzuki with two outs in the bottom half before getting his 13th save in 14 chances. Byung Ho Park homered and drove four runs for the

Twins. Andrew Miller (4-0) pitched a scoreless eighth for the win. Fernando Abad (1-1) took the loss.

INDIANS 13, WHITE SOX 2

Mike Napoli homered during a five-run first inning as Cleveland became the latest team to tee off on James Shields. Rookie Tyler Naquin homered and drove in a career-high four runs, and Juan Uribe also connected for the Indians. Shields, making his third start since being traded from San Diego to Chicago, was tagged for eight runs and seven hits in 1 2/3 innings. Shields is 2-9 overall this year. He is 0-2 for the White Sox, giving up a whopping 21 earned runs in just 8 2/3 innings. Danny Salazar (8-3) won his fourth straight start, allowing two runs in 6 2/3 innings.

MARLINS 9, ROCKIES 6

Giancarlo Stanton singled in his first three at-bats to give his lowly average a boost, and the Marlins totaled 17 hits in the win. Stanton beat the shift with an opposite-field single in the first inning, setting up Miami's first run. He singled and scored in the third and fifth, giving him five hits in the past two games to hike

his average from .193 to .210. Five Marlins regulars are batting over .300, among them JT Realmuto, whose four hits included a three-run homer that caromed off the home-run sculpture. Colorado's Tyler Chatwood pitched just 1 2/3 innings because of back spasms. Eddie Butler (2-4) replaced him and was rocked for six runs in 3 1/3 innings. Dustin McGowan (1-2) pitched 2 2/3 hitless innings for the win.

ASTROS 5, REDS 4

George Springer hit an RBI single in the 11th inning to lift Houston to the victory. Jason Castro and Colby Rasmus hit consecutive singles off Josh Smith (0-1) with one out before Springer's grounder rolled just out of reach of diving shortstop Zack Cozart and into the outfield.

Marwin Gonzalez and Evan Gattis each hit a two-run homer for Houston, and Adam Duvall tied it with a two-run shot for Cincinnati in the ninth. The series opener also went into extra innings, with the Reds winning 4-2 in 11 on Friday night. Scott Feldman (4-3) allowed two hits in two scoreless innings for the win. — AP

MLB results/standings

NY Yankees 7, Minnesota 6; Arizona 4, Philadelphia 1; LA Angels 7, Oakland 1; Boston 6, Seattle 2; Baltimore 4, Toronto 2; Houston 5, Cincinnati 4 (11 innings); Miami 9, Colorado 6; San Francisco 6, Tampa Bay 4; Texas 4, St. Louis 3; Cleveland 13, Chicago White Sox 2; Atlanta 4, NY Mets 3; Kansas City 16, Detroit 5; Chicago Cubs 4, Pittsburgh 3; LA Dodgers 10, Milwaukee 6; San Diego 7, Washington 3.

American League Eastern Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	39	28	.582	-
Boston	38	29	.567	1
Toronto	39	32	.549	2
NY Yankees	34	34	.500	5.5
Tampa Bay	31	35	.470	7.5

Central Division

Cleveland	37	30	.552	-
Kansas City	37	31	.544	0.5
Detroit	34	34	.500	3.5
Chicago WSox	33	35	.485	4.5
Minnesota	20	48	.294	17.5

Western Division

Texas	44	25	.638	-
Seattle	36	32	.529	7.5
Houston	33	36	.478	11
LA Angels	30	38	.441	13.5
Oakland	28	40	.412	15.5

National League Eastern Division

Washington	43	26	.623	-
NY Mets	36	31	.537	6
Miami	36	32	.529	6.5
Philadelphia	30	39	.435	13
Atlanta	22	46	.324	20.5

Central Division

Chicago Cubs	46	20	.697	-
St. Louis	35	32	.522	11.5
Pittsburgh	33	35	.485	14
Milwaukee	31	38	.449	16.5
Cincinnati	27	42	.391	20.5

Western Division

San Francisco	43	26	.623	-
LA Dodgers	37	33	.529	6.5
Colorado	32	35	.478	10
Arizona	31	39	.443	12.5
San Diego	28	42	.400	15.5

STRUGGLING RADWANSKA SEEKING SEASIDE TONIC

EASTBOURNE, United Kingdom: Struggling top seed Agnieszka Radwanska will be searching for her first victory of the pre-Wimbledon grass court season when the Eastbourne International begins today. The world number three has played only one match so far this season on the lawns, going out in Birmingham to CoCo Vandeweghe. "The first match is always tricky pretty much without practice on grass," Radwanska said. "I need a couple of more

days to adjust. Hopefully Eastbourne will be better." Radwanska has a decent pedigree on grass, winning junior Wimbledon in 2006, taking Eastbourne honours two years later and also playing the 2012 Wimbledon final as well as making two semi-finals at the All England Club.

But so far in 2016 results have been modest for the Pole, who lost in the Australian Open semi-finals and went out in the Roland Garros fourth round. Her

only title in 2016 came in Shenzhen just after Australia. The field at Devonshire Park features seven former tournament champions—Swiss Belinda Bencic (2015), Madison Keys (2014), Elena Vesnina (2013), Ekaterina Makarova (2010), Caroline Wozniacki (2009), Radwanska (2008) and Svetlana Kuznetsova (2004).

The top of the draw is populated by five of the world's top 10 — Radwanska, US Open finalist Roberta Vinci, Bencic, fellow

Swiss Timea Bacsinszky and double Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova who, like Radwanska, is also scratching for form. All 16 seeds have byes into the second round for the final tune-up week prior to the start of Wimbledon on June 27.

Italian Vinci takes the second seeding while number three Bencic will be testing her fitness after making a return this month after missing more than two months with back pain. After playing a

semi-final in 's-Hertogenbosch, the 19-year-old was unable to complete her first-round match in Birmingham against Irina Begu.

Bacsinszky is seeded fourth, ahead of Kvitova and Russia's two-time Grand Slam winner Kuznetsova (sixth). Australian Samantha Stosur takes the seventh seeding as she works with a temporary coach after parting company for the second time with longtime mentor David Taylor. — AFP



LOS ANGELES: In this May 22, 2016, file photo, United States goalkeeper Merrill Moses stops a shot during a men's exhibition water polo match against Australia. — AP

MOSES PUTS ASIDE COACHING TO PLAY FOR US IN RIO OLYMPICS

SANTA ANA: The silver medal keeps him going, all the way to Rio de Janeiro and his 39th birthday during the Olympics this summer. It took Merrill Moses a long time to come to grips with 2008. Then London happened, and eighth place for the US water polo team brought everything into focus.

"When you go to the Olympic Games and represent Team USA, you're going there to bring home a gold medal," he said. "I tell people in my speech when I talk to kids during camps, for like six months after we won the silver medal, I didn't think I won a silver, I thought I lost a gold. "I didn't really realize what I accomplished and it really didn't set in fully until 2012, when you realize how fast that all can be taken away and you're not even competing for a medal."

So Moses is back again for his third Olympics, the same cocky kid who rose to prominence playing for Terry Schroeder at Pepperdine some 20 years ago but changed immeasurably by time. While 6-foot-8 goaltender McQuin Baron waits in the wings, it looks as if Moses will start for the US in Rio. Juggling his responsibilities with the national team and his family at home - Moses and his wife, Laura, have two daughters - he remains as confident as ever.

'More prepared'

"I always have had the mentality that if I train harder than everyone and put more into it, I am going to be more prepared, and I think that's where the confidence comes in," Moses said. "As long as I prepare myself properly, I know that I'm going to give it my all, and I've been blessed with this talent and these long arms to be able to play at this level."

Back when Moses was deciding where to go to college, his ability to play the sport at an elite level was in doubt. Schroeder, who also coached Moses with the US water polo team and then hired him as one of his assistants with the Waves, described him as lightly recruited. On Moses' official visit to Malibu, he told the starter he was coming for his job. "He didn't make a friend there, but he certainly made a point," Schroeder said.

Moses is still making that point at the end of his 30s, holding his own while facing a barrage of heavy shots from the young

wave of 20-somethings that dominate the US roster. And there is more to come in Brazil. Serbia is the big favorite this summer, with Hungary, Italy, Croatia and Greece also among the expected medal contenders. The US is drawn into Group B with Spain, France, Montenegro, Italy and Croatia.

As tight as ever

Schroeder, a former national team captain who coached the previous two US Olympic teams, thinks a podium finish is within reach for the Americans with Moses in goal. "He has this incredible will that makes him good," Schroeder said in a phone interview. "I mean he's skillful, he's got strong legs, can work as hard as anybody out there in the pool to get himself in shape and be ready when the Olympics come around, and you couple that with the confidence he has, and I think that the team has a chance to win a medal. I think without him, they don't."

Schroeder brought Moses back to Pepperdine in 2012, and they remain as tight as ever. Moses said he thinks of Schroeder like a second father, and the coach said he loves the goaltender and can trust him with anything. Moses would like to be a head coach one day, but he has no plans to leave his alma mater and wants Schroeder to stay as long as he wishes.

"He's got a lot of knowledge, not only about water polo - about life," Moses said. "He's definitely taught me a lot of things. I love working with him." Coaching at Pepperdine also gave Moses another place to train while he prepared for the Olympics. Moses, who helped the Waves win the national championship in 1997, practiced with his players occasionally, leading to some friendly trash talk.

"Whenever we see someone scoring on Merrill, everyone, they're really hyped," Pepperdine goaltender Zack Rhodes said. "It's really fun because of the energy he brings. When he blocks you, you know Merrill's yelling at you, like it's all in good fun and then when you score on Merrill, you have to let him know that you scored on him." Moses' training for the national team also served as an example for the Waves. "It's inspiring, you can tell he still really wants this," Rhodes said. "It's still something he really cares about." — AP

ANDREW LANDRY LOSES LEAD BUT KEEPS COOL AT US OPEN

OAKMONT: All it took was three holes for Andrew Landry to tumble down the leaderboard Saturday at the US Open. Two birdies at the end of his round kept this year's long shot right in the mix. Landry, a 28-year-old playing in his first U.S. Open, held it together during a rough patch at Oakmont after dropping four shots in three holes. He rallied for a 1-over 71 left him one shot behind Dustin Johnson and in the final group of the third round Saturday afternoon.

"Birdie, birdie to end my second round is a way to get my momentum going in the third round," Landry said. "I'm looking forward to it." At No 624 in the world ranking, Landry has never been on a stage like this. As if the US Open weren't enough pressure, he had plenty of time to think about his dream start. He opened with a 66 to become the first US Open rookie since Bob Tway in 1986 at Shinnecock Hills to be the sole leader after his first round. He finished that off with one putt - a 10-foot birdie - Friday morning and had to wait until Saturday morning to start the second round. Majors are filled with stories of unheralded players who start fast and fade just as quickly. Landry didn't want to be one of those.

Big trouble

Asked if he were comfortable seeing his name atop the leaderboard, he replied, "Sure. Should be there. I hope it stays there for a long time." For a moment, it looked as though it would be short-lived. He blasted out of a bunker on the par-3 sixth hole across to the fringe and made bogey. He dropped another shot on the seventh. And then he ran into big trouble on the par-3 eighth hole when he blasted out a bunker and over the green into deep rough. From there, he could only hack it out of the gnarly rough to some 30 feet from the pin, and he did well to two-putt for a double bogey.

Just like that, he was back to even par for the tournament. He lost the lead. He just didn't lose his head. "I made good swings. The only bad shot I hit was the bunker shot on 8 and I left myself in a bad situation," Landry said. "I was trying to hack it out on the green



OAKMONT: Andrew Landry of the United States putts on the second green during the third round of the US Open at Oakmont Country Club. — AP

and two-putt. That's what I did. I didn't really do anything that bad besides just not hitting fairways."

Landry made birdie on the par-3 13th and then finished with a flourish. He drove into deep rough but in a manageable spot short of the par-4 17th, chipped to 20 feet and holed it for birdie. From the first cut of rough on the 18th, his approach came off the slope to 3 feet for another birdie to put him 3 under 137. His name was high on the leaderboard. The only difference was the names around

it. That's why he's trying to avoid the distractions of a US Open by keeping his mind off golf during his day off Friday. Just hanging out, keeping my mind off of it and eating and drinking waters - not cold beer," he said. "Obviously, my name was mentioned quite a bit. It's definitely very pressured, especially when you have guys like Dustin Johnson and Sergio Garcia at the top of the leaderboard. So I just spent time with them, did a little laundry and slept." — AP

FORMER VANDERBILT FOOTBALL PLAYER CONVICTED OF RAPE

NASHVILLE: A jury has convicted a former Vanderbilt football player on all counts after finding that he encouraged his teammates to rape an unconscious woman he had been dating. It took jurors a little more than four hours of deliberation before finding Brandon Vandenberg guilty on five counts of aggravated rape and two counts of aggravated sexual battery. In addition, he was convicted of one count of unlawful photography.

Vandenberg's mother cried in the courtroom Saturday after the verdict was read. He appeared to be weeping as he was taken away. The verdict comes amid a furor over the six month sentence a former Stanford swimmer was given for sexually assaulting an unconscious woman. It also comes during an ongoing debate about sexual assaults on the nation's college campus and the conduct of student athletes.

The lives of everyone involved have been ruined, Deputy District Attorney General Tom Thurman said of the case. He said he hoped the widespread publicity surrounding the Vanderbilt case would send a message.

The jurors in this case had to decide whether to hold Vandenberg, 23, criminally responsible for what teammates were accused of doing to the female student in a dorm room in June of 2013. His defense had maintained that he was drunk and should not be held responsible for what players he didn't even know did to the woman.

Betraying trust

Four former players were all charged in the case



NASHVILLE: In this Oct 16, 2013 file photo, former Vanderbilt football player Cory Batey attends a discussion hearing at the Birch Building. — AP

but only two were accused of raping and sexually assaulting the woman. Throughout the trial, Vandenberg was portrayed as a man who violated the female student's trust by plying her with alcohol and then encouraging teammates to sexually assault her. "He served her up to three strangers - for whatever reason, it doesn't matter, is that he did it," Assistant District Attorney Jan Norman told jurors in closing arguments Saturday. Prosecutors told jurors that he passed out condoms to the other players, videoed the rape and sent footage to friends as it was happening. The defense had main-

tained that Vandenberg was a newly-arrived recruit to the Nashville school and had asked teammates outside the dorm to help him carry the unconscious woman into his room after he couldn't get her into her apartment. Vandenberg's lawyers told jurors the other players were on the woman as soon as they got her in the room.

The trial featured graphic videos and photos that were taken from the players' cell phones. "The videos are disturbing," Albert Perez, one of Vandenberg's attorneys told jurors in closing. "They make you mad, they make you sad." But Perez pointed out that the sex acts charged in the indictment were for things the other players did.

The victim in the case, who was then a 21-year-old neuroscience major, testified that she had no memory of the event. She said Vandenberg would later tell her that she had gotten drunk and sick and he took care of her, and she was embarrassed as a result. Prosecutors have suggested that she was under the influence of a date-rape drug.

Nashville Police became involved after Vanderbilt officials contacted them when security camera footage at the school showed players carrying an unconscious woman in a dorm room. Vandenberg and Cory Batey were convicted last year on multiple counts of aggravated rape and aggravated sexual battery. The verdicts, however, were thrown out after it was revealed that a juror had not disclosed that he had been a victim of statutory rape. Batey was convicted again in April. Both he and Vandenberg face a minimum sentence of 15 years in prison for aggravated rape with no possibility of parole. — AP

INFINITI ENGINEERING ACADEMY APPLICATION DEADLINE LOOMS



DUBAI: Applications for the 2016 Infiniti Engineering Academy approaches the final stretch with the deadline of June 30, 2016. Engineering students from all disciplines will have the chance to earn the career opportunity of a lifetime in Formula One(tm) and automotive engineering, with a factory F1(r) team and the premium Japanese vehicle manufacturer.

Here in the UAE, almost 400 students have registered their interest for the once in a lifetime opportunity. Infiniti believe that the most daring, forward-looking technology is driven by the freshest, most creative human talents, and their new Technical Partnership with the Renault Sport Formula One(tm) Team includes, as a crucial component, this unique automotive-to-Formula One(tm) training program for

brilliant young engineers.

"The uptake of the program thus far has been excellent," said Juergen Schmitz, Managing Director, Infiniti Middle East. "We are confident that within the sea of applicants lies one lucky and talented student that is poised to win their dream opportunity - a chance to work at the Infiniti Technical Center for Europe (Cranfield, UK), as well as experi-

ence the facilities at the Renault Sport Formula One(tm) Team base in Enstone, Oxfordshire."

Combining opportunities to work at both companies means the 2016 Infiniti Engineering Academy winners are set to craft their careers from the outset with an incredible 12 months at the cutting-edge of big business automotive and motorsport engineering.

With the added depth of knowledge trans-

fer and enhanced scope for collaboration that Infiniti's Technical Partnership with the newly formed Renault Sport Formula One(tm) Team brings to the Academy, 2016 will open up a wide range of experiences and opportunities to the six winners. For more information on the Infiniti Engineering Academy, or to apply to be a part of the class of 2016, visit <http://academy.infiniti.com>.



PERERA TON SETS UP LANKA SERIES WIN OVER IRELAND

MALAHIDE: Kusal Perera and Seekkuge Prasanna both made career-best scores as Sri Lanka beat Ireland by 136 runs in the second one-day international at Malahide on Saturday. Victory saw Sri Lanka enjoy their second heartening win in a matter of days as they took the two-match series 2-0 and gave them a confidence boost ahead of their upcoming five-game ODI campaign in England.

Put into bat, they amassed 377 for eight. Perera top-scored with an ODI best 135 and Prasanna made 95 — his highest score at this level. Ireland, in reply, were bowled out for 241. Sri Lanka, again sent into bat as

they had been in their 76-run win in the first ODI at Malahide on Thursday, were well-placed at the half-way stage.

And when Suranga Lakmal and the recalled Farveez Maharoof removed Ireland's top three with just 41 on the board, the rest of the match proved a formality. John Anderson, an accountant and the only amateur in the Ireland side, showed promise for the future with 34 and Andy McBrine, batting at No 8, finished the innings in some style with 79 from 64 balls, including seven fours and two sixes. McBrine and Boyd Rankin (18 not out) delayed the inevitable with a last wicket

stand of 54 — both making their highest scores for Ireland and Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews had to bring himself back to break the partnership and win the match with five overs to spare. Sri Lanka, put in on another excellent batting pitch, made the perfect start with Kusal Perera and Danuska Gunathilaka sharing an opening stand of 147.

Superb display

Gunathilaka was the first to go, in the 27th over, for 63, just two short of his ODI best, but both Perera and Prasanna easily passed their previous highest scores at this

level. Prasanna, promoted to a pinch-hitting role at number three, played his role to perfection to more than double his career best in a superb display of hitting. He was dismissed five runs short of a deserved century having faced just 46 balls with nine sixes and five fours and he dominated the second wicket stand of 161 with Perera which took just 93 balls. Perera reached his second ODI hundred from 105 balls with 10 fours and two sixes and added another 35 before he was caught at mid-wicket off Middlesex's Tim Murtagh. In all he faced 128 balls and finished with 16 fours and two sixes. Sri Lanka were on

course for a total in excess of 400 but Ireland pulled them back by taking four wickets for 13 runs in the last three overs, although by then the damage had been done. Barry McCarthy, a 23-year-old seamer in only his second international, was Ireland's most impressive bowler, finishing with two for 52.

By contrast Boyd Rankin, in his first home series for five years after appearing for England, finished with one for 86 from his 10 overs. Ireland will now look for an improved showing when they face Pakistan in a two-match home ODI series in August. — AFP

CHEIKA LOSING PATIENCE WITH MISFIRING WALLABIES

MELBOURNE: Coach Michael Cheika says he will forcefully get his message across to his misfiring team after the Wallabies threw away their chance of squaring the Test series against England this weekend. The Wallabies let themselves down with a multitude of handling errors, many in strong attacking positions, as England triumphed 23-7 on the back of a monumental defensive effort in the second Test to clinch their first-ever series in Australia on Saturday.

While the Wallabies conceded 14 penalties in losing 39-28 in the Brisbane series



Coach Michael Cheika

opener, this time it was their shoddy handling that let them down, losing possession a staggering 13 times. The Wallabies enjoyed 68 percent possession and 56 percent field position, yet could only come up with one try after scoring four tries in the previous Test.

Cheika was fuming over the butter-fingered Wallabies throwing away their chance of taking the three-Test series to a decider in Sydney next Saturday. "I've got

to own that because we prepare that during the week and I've got to explain it to the lads more forcefully," he told reporters after Saturday's loss. "I've got to own that as a coach with those things. That's the stuff we set out and I've got to make sure that message is clear.

"I know that we want to play a lot of rugby, but it doesn't always convert into the scoreboard and that will happen sometimes, but it shouldn't happen regularly." The Wallabies were frustrated by England's resilient defense with the Six Nations champions making a total of 215 tackles to Australia's 81.

Humbling defeat

"You have to pay credit to England, they played very well in both games," Cheika said. "They've played very smart, they've played in the right areas, they've played well in the ruck and spoiled a lot of good ball for us. That's well done to them. They've seen that we're going to play a lot of footy and chosen the opposite way and their way has been victorious pretty clearly. "Even though we've had a lot more attack, we only got the one try this week. We have to take that, suck it up and use the scars later on."

What began with the Wallabies as clear favorites to beat the Eddie Jones-coached England after reaching last year's World Cup final materialized into a humbling series defeat for the first time at home. Injuries to key men David Pocock and Kurtley Beale did not help, but the Wallabies were out-thought and out-played by the Six Nations Grand Slam champions, who now have won eight consecutive Tests.

"Our squad's changed a fair bit. I think there's 10 or 11 different from the World Cup squad, but that's the opportunity for us to grow our depth and that's what we're going to get out of this," Cheika said. "But the opportunities that we let go tonight just through errors are at this point more at the forefront of my mind than the other things we may be getting from this series." — AFP

'OFF DAY' LEAVES HAMILTON SEEKING HIS LOST RHYTHM

BAKU: Triple Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton blamed a rare 'off day' for an error-filled qualifying performance on Saturday at the Baku street circuit that hosts Azerbaijan's first grand prix. The Briton, winner of the two previous races in Monaco and Montreal, will start in 10th place after clipping a wall and breaking his car's suspension while Mercedes team mate and rival Nico Rosberg took pole position.

Hamilton also ran off the track twice. The champion is nine points adrift of the German after seven races and hoped he might be able to regain the lead in Baku but that looks a tall order now unless misfortune strikes Rosberg.

"It just wasn't a good one," Hamilton told reporters. "It was nothing to do with anyone else, it was just me not doing good laps," he added. "I just couldn't get into a rhythm today. It wasn't just in qualifying, it was in practice as well. Just an off day, unfortunately. An expensive day, but an off day today." Hamilton had been quickest in Friday practice and on Saturday morning, but said some overnight changes had affected the car's handling and meant he could not brake at the same places as pre-

viously. "It was just one of those bad days," agreed Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff. "He was blindingly fast in the first sector but couldn't put the sectors together." The race in Baku should see plenty of action, with the circuit's 2km straight the longest in the sport, but there is also the risk of frequent interruptions.

"The race I'm sure is going to be very exciting," Rosberg told reporters. "It's one of the easiest tracks to overtake, so there's going to be a lot of changing places I think, probably a lot of safety cars as well, exciting re-starts and everything."

The German side-stepped attempts to get him to comment on Hamilton's remarks on Friday that some drivers-Rosberg included-were 'moaning' too much about track conditions and safety. The Briton had also explained how he saw no point in inspecting the track on foot and questioned the value of simulators. "Fine. It's his opinion," said Rosberg, who said he was unaware of the comments until after qualifying. "I was definitely one of the guys questioning today and I still do. "Everybody has their own approach. He's a three times world champion so he must be doing something right." — Reuters



BAKU: From R: Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team's British driver Lewis Hamilton, Haas F1 Team's French driver Romain Grosjean, McLaren Honda F1 Team's Spanish driver Fernando Alonso, Sauber F1 Team's Brazilian driver Felipe Nasr and Sahara Force India F1 Team's German driver Nico Hulkenberg steer their cars during the European Formula One Grand Prix at the Baku City Circuit. — AFP



LE MANS: Switzerland's Neel Jani takes the Porsche 919 Hybrid over the finish line to win the 84th Le Mans 24-hours endurance race. — AFP

PORSCHE WIN DRAMATIC LE MANS AS TOYOTA SETTLES FOR HEARTACHE

LE MANS: Porsche snatched victory in one of the most dramatic finishes in Le Mans 24 Hour Race history after Toyota suffered an agonizing power failure with just minutes left yesterday. Neel Jani powered the Porsche 919 Hybrid over the line, to elation and tears of joy in their garage, after Kazuki Nakajima's TS050 stuttered to a halt when looking nailed-on to win the endurance race for the Japanese team for the first time in three decades of trying.

Jani, Romain Dumas and Marc Lieb, drivers of the Porsche number two car, celebrated wildly in front of a crowd that swelled to 263,500 for the 84th edition of the grueling showpiece, which began on Saturday under driving rain and behind a safety car. In contrast, Toyota saw their Le Mans jinx strike at the worst possible time.

The Toyota garage looked on aghast as

Nakajima's car suddenly began slowing with only five minutes of the 24 hours to go. He had been as much as 90 seconds ahead at one point, but suddenly it all went wrong and he began to rapidly lose pace, allowing Jani to close fast. With just over three minutes to go Nakajima came to a stop on the straight as Jani sped past to victory. The Toyota was ranked as declassified, a humiliating culmination to a day-night of racing.

"I'm ready to cry," Nakajima said over the radio as he labored home. "Heartbroken," was the simple tweet from the devastated Toyota team. Toyota's number six car with Stephane Sarrazin at the wheel crossed the line in second with an Audi third. "What a Le Mans race!" Audi tweeted, calling Toyota "winner of hearts." "We know that Le Mans can be cruel. But what happened to Toyota was incredible!"

Among the stunned crowd was Brad Pitt, part of the usual colorful cast of professional drivers and Hollywood royalty who turned out to see one of motor racing's A-list events. Pitt flagged the race off 24 hours earlier, when heavy downpours ensured a soaking start to the occasion and saw the first seven laps take place behind the safety car as torrential rain lashed the track and the 60 cars on the grid.

The drenched crowd was kept on their toes by over 30 changes of lead during the night and several safety car appearances. By the closing stages it became a straight fight between Porsche and Toyota, with the two playing cat and mouse for the lead. By the time the cars crossed the line-under altogether more forgiving weather-they had covered a similar distance to a round trip from Le Mans to Moscow. — AFP

FENCING FINDS ITS SUPERSTAR IN AMERICAN IBTIHAJ MUHAMMAD

BEVERLY HILLS: In Ibtihaj Muhammad, fencing might have finally found an athlete whose story transcends the sport. Muhammad will make history at the Rio Games by becoming the first American athlete to wear a hijab - a Muslim head scarf - while competing in the Olympics. Muhammad's Olympic goal - beyond winning a medal, of course - is to be a positive role model for the Muslim-American community. Muhammad is well on her way to doing so, recently earning a spot on Time's 100 Most Influential People of 2016 list.

"I've been in this sport for a pretty long time - at this point I feel like I've kind of created a name for myself. If anything, I think the wonderful thing is that now these young kids, they see Muslim women involved in sports. So it's not an anomaly anymore," Muhammad said at the Team USA media summit Los Angeles in March. But Muhammad is hardly the only American poised for a breakout in Rio.

The US might be as strong as it's ever been ahead of an Olympics - and the fact that this year's Games will be broadcast live in the Eastern time zone should only help fencing's growth domestically. The Americans and Russians caught some bad luck because two of their top teams - men's sabre and women's foil - won't compete in Rio because the IOC only has room for 10 of the sport's 12 divisions during the Olympics. But those athletes will still compete as individuals. Here are some of the key story lines to follow during this year's Olympic fencing tournament.

US ON THE RISE

The US, France and Italy have three teams ranked in the top three in their weapon in the most recent FIE rankings, trailing only Russia's four. The Americans haven't won a gold medal in men's Olympic fencing since Albertson Van Zo Post in 1904. But Alexander Massialas, the son of former national team coach Greg Massialas, is ranked No. 1 in the world in men's foil. Gerek Meinhardt and Race Imboden - who's also a fashion model - also owned top-five spots in that weapon as June 18.

Daryl Homer and Eli Dershwitz are ranked 10th and 11th in men's sabre, well within striking distance of a medal. Two-time Olympic gold medalist Mariel Zagunis is a medal favorite in women's sabre, and Muhammad (10th, sabre) might be peaking just when she needs to. Lee Kiefer took a year off from her



BEVERLY HILLS: In this March 8, 2016, file photo, Fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad poses for photos at the 2016 Olympic Team USA media summit. — AP

studies at Notre Dame to focus on Rio, and she's ranked third in foil.

RETURNING STAR

Arianna Errigo is the new face of Italian fencing after Valentina Vezzali, a six-time Olympic champion, failed to qualify for Rio. Errigo, who lost to teammate Elisa Di Francisca 12-11 in the gold medal match in London, went on to win world championships in 2013-14 and is currently ranked No 1 in foil. Errigo's 270 points earned so far in 2016 are the most of any individual fencer. Sophia Velikaya of Russia (sabre) was also a runner-up in London who has since ascended atop the world rankings, one spot ahead of Zagunis. Top-ranked Anqi Xu of China will seek her first world championship in epee.

OLYMPIAN EFFORT

Ruben Limardo, Venezuela's flag bearer for Rio, will be asked to bear the weight of a continent's worth of pressure as South America's best hope for a fencing medal. But the favorite in Limardo's weapon, Gauthier Grumier, has led

France to five team epee world titles and is desperate to claim Olympic gold as an individual. Japan's Yuki Ota and James Andrew-Davis of Great Britain are the biggest threats the US will likely face in foil. Russia's Alexey Yakimenko is ranked No 1 in sabre on the strength of a strong end to 2015. But South Korea's Kim Jung-hwan recently won a Grand Prix in Moscow and looks primed for a run at gold in Rio.

RULE CHANGES

The biggest change fans will notice from London in 2012 to Rio is the shift in the piste, or fighting strip, from parallel to angled. The venue in London only allowed fans to view from two sides of the arena. But with seats circling all of Carioca Arena 3, spectators should have a much clearer and more dimensional view of the matches. There will also be a family-friendly area just outside the venue, where passers-by will be able to grab a weapon and give fencing a try free of charge. Coaches will be on hand to provide instructions, and safety equipment will be provided. — AP

GERMANY AIMING TO CLICK AGAINST NORTHERN IRELAND

FAN FERVOR



EVIAN-LES-BAINS: To silence the critics, Germany needs to get its attack going. The team's misfiring forwards have yet to score at the European Championship in games against Ukraine and Poland, and coach Joachim Loew has brushed off suggestions of a lack of leadership in his side.

The World Cup champions, who face Northern Ireland tomorrow in Group C, needed defender Shkodran Mustafi to break the deadlock against Ukraine before midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger sealed the 2-0 win on a break in injury time. Loew then said his players created "hardly any chances" in the following 0-0 draw against Poland.

Defensive frailties were exposed in the first game, but now the focus is on attack with Mario Goetze, Thomas Mueller, Mesut Ozil and Julian Draxler all scoreless so far. Also, Mario Gomez has yet to start a match, while Lukas Podolski has yet to even make an appearance. "That's how it is in football. Sometimes you're a dog, sometimes you're a tree," Goetze said Sunday at the team's tournament base. "Criticism goes with football. You have to deal with it. We're professional enough."

The lack of goals is puzzling given the wealth of talent at Loew's disposal. Mueller, strangely, has yet to score in seven games over two European Championships despite 32 goals in 73 games for Germany, including 12 goals in European qualifying. "Of course we want to be better in attack, to create more goal-scoring chances. We're working on it as a team, not only in training but we've spoken about it, too," Mueller said. "We'll try a few things on Tuesday. We're looking forward to it."

Mueller scored 32 goals across all competitions for Bayern Munich last season. "I hope I can score a goal but as I said already before the tournament, it's not my main thing," Mueller said. "I hope we deliver a good game and that we'll win. I can't say what happens after that, there are so many possibilities. Even if we win the group, it's not clear who we'll face."

Assured progression

Despite the problems, Germany is virtually assured of progression from Group C and Loew is relaxed looking ahead to the rest of the tournament. "We will win against Northern Ireland. We will win

the group and then, I believe, we'll be playing in Lille again for the round of 16," Loew said. "I don't know about any other ways." Also, Germany defender Jerome Boateng trained normally with the rest of the squad at the Camille Fournier Stadium on Sunday after recovering from a bruised hip. Northern Ireland, playing in its first European Championship, is in a good position to progress from the group after Gareth McAuley led the side to a 2-0 win over Ukraine. The Northern Irish are guaranteed of at least third place and would secure qualification with a victory over Germany at the Parc des Princes.

"When we came into the tournament, we knew we were in as tough a group as there is, and we wanted something to play for in the last game," Northern Ireland coach Michael O'Neill said after beating Ukraine in Lyon. "We have a realistic prize at the end of the Germany game and that's immensely pleasing." Northern Ireland can take heart from the only previous meeting between the countries at a major tournament, when they drew 2-2 in a group game at the 1958 World Cup. Both progressed to the quarterfinals. — AP



EVIAN: Germany's players take part in a training session at their training grounds in Evian-les-Bains, eastern France yesterday during the Euro 2016 football tournament. — AFP

VARDY BRINGS LEICESTER SPIRIT TO ENGLAND QUEST

CHANTILLY: Encouraged from afar by his club manager Claudio Ranieri, Jamie Vardy is carrying Leicester City's limitless ambition into England's assault on Euro 2016. Having sat out England's opening draw with Russia, Vardy made an instant impact as a half-time substitute against Wales, netting an equaliser 11 minutes after coming on as Roy Hodgson's men came behind to win 2-1. Ranieri was quick to offer his congratulations, as Vardy revealed to journalists on Saturday, messaging the 29-year-old striker to say: "Congratulations champ." While he continues to be linked to Arsenal, Vardy makes no secret of his fondness for Ranieri, beaming: "All he's bothered about is attacking!"

He must now hope that Hodgson, too, was sufficiently impressed with his display against Wales to award him a starting berth in Monday's meeting with Slovakia.

The sensation of the Premier League season, Vardy's 24 goals fired Leicester to the title and saw him win multiple Player of the Year awards. The milestones continued to arrive as he was called into England's squad for the Euro and then tied the knot with his partner, Rebekah. They had previously had to scrap their marriage plans three times. It caused him to miss England's 2-1 friendly win over Australia and it was Harry Kane who arrived in France as Hodgson's first-choice striker, but a clamour is now growing for Vardy to take his place. While he is phlegmatic about his chances of breaking into the starting XI, Vardy's 5,000-1 triumph with Leicester has convinced him that England should have no qualms about aiming for the stars. "There's no point being afraid of teams," he said at England's media centre in Chantilly, north of Paris. "You've just got to go out there with the mindset that whoever you're up against, you can beat them. "Anyone's beatable, it's as simple as that. That's the mindset we need and hopefully we'll take it into games." Vardy's story, which has seen him rise from non-league footballer to Premier League champion and England international in the space of just four years, is now well known. But he says: "I always pinch myself. It's no secret where I've

come from with my football and I'll always remember where I did come from. "To be scoring in a European Championship for your country is unbelievable, but I'll always pinch myself to make sure I stay grounded." Vardy is thought to be considering an approach from Arsenal, who have reportedly triggered his £20 million (\$28.7 million, 25.5 million Euros) release clause.

He was reluctant to discuss the matter, however, and said that there were no developments to report. "We're here for England," said Vardy, whose team require a point against Slovakia in Saint-Etienne to reach the



CHANTILLY: England forward Jamie Vardy attends a press conference in Chantilly, on June 18, 2016 during the Euro 2016 football tournament. — AFP

last 16. "There is only one thing you want to do and that is to play football to the best of your ability. "If you let things start distracting you, then you're not going to be able to do that, which will then jeopardise the team as well. "So everything gets completely blanked out except for England, England, England."

Looking beyond Euro 2016, Vardy will undergo an operation after the tournament to repair "two big cracks" in his right wrist, but says he will only be sidelined for three weeks. He is bringing out an autobiography, "My Story", in October and revealed that a film charting his rags-to-riches tale is slated for release in 2017. "It's happening," he said. — AFP

A DOG'S LIFE FOR MARIO GOETZE

EVIAN: Germany's World Cup winner Mario Goetze has brushed off criticism of his form at Euro 2016 by insisting, "sometimes you're the dog, sometimes you're the tree". The 24-year-old star has fallen since Goetze came off the bench and scored the winning goal in extra time for Germany in the 2014 World Cup final.

He has spent the last two years either injured or mainly on the bench at Bayern Munich, where Pep Guardiola preferred Thiago Alcantara in the attacking midfield role. And despite starting both of Germany's group games in France, the false nine has failed to impress, which has seen him criticized by pundits back home.

In their opening 2-0 win over Ukraine, Goetze did not touch the ball for 18 minutes in

the first half. He had one clear shot on goal in his 90 minutes on the pitch and against Poland, he managed just two shots in 66 minutes. "So that's football. Sometimes you're the dog, sometimes you're the tree. That part of the business," Goetze said in answer to the criticism.

Neither Goetze or Germany's replacement striker Mario Gomez have hit the back of the net in France as Germany prepare for Tuesday's final Group C game against Northern Ireland. Germany need a point to progress to the last 16 having beaten Ukraine and been held to a goalless draw by Poland. Germany's team manager Oliver Bierhoff has said the top sides at these European Championship finals are having trouble breaking down defenses of smaller nations. — AFP

WILMOTS RELISHES CHANCE TO STRIKE BACK AT CRITICS

BORDEAUX: Belgium's convincing 3-0 win against the Republic of Ireland at Euro 2016 on Saturday is unlikely to ease the difficult relationship between coach Marc Wilmots and his critics. After starting with a 2-0 defeat to Italy, the world number two side bounced back in Bordeaux as a second-half Romelu Lukaku brace, either side of an Axel Witsel goal, gave them their first Group E points.

Wilmots was in the firing line after the Italy loss, targeted by some Belgian media who accused him of not getting the best out of arguably the best squad at the tournament. But he relished getting one over on his critics in Bordeaux, saying that certain people were trying to manipulate Belgian fans with their views on him.

"We have just had four successful years, and then with the first defeat (against Italy) that is all forgotten. It is manipulation," the 47-year-old told reporters after Saturday's game. "Public opinion is manipulated by certain people. We have superb supporters, but some people want to lead them down a bad path."

Wilmots has long been a leading figure in Belgian football, having starred as a player in the 1990s for Standard Liege, Schalke 04 in Germany and the Belgian national team. He has been the Red Devils' coach since 2012 and took a promising young team to the quarter-finals of the World Cup in Brazil two years ago. Coming into the European Championship, Belgium lay second in the FIFA world rankings behind Argentina, but for all his good work against the Irish, denied that the players have any say in how he lays along linguistic lines is that he is a

French-speaking Walloon.

The tendency in Belgium has often been for Walloon coaches to be targeted by the Flemish media, and vice versa.

In the case of Wilmots, leading Flemish daily Het Laatste Nieuws has led the criticism. "A few members of the Flemish press think that tactically he is not strong enough to be the coach of the Belgian team with such stars, and so if there is an opportunity to attack him they do so," said Yves Tailleman of La Dernière Heure, a French-language newspaper.

Wilmots was perceived to have been outdone by opposite number Antonio Conte as an Italian team lacking in star players got the better of a Belgian side containing the likes of Lukaku, Eden Hazard and Kevin De Bruyne.

The tension was palpable in the build-up to the Ireland game, in which Belgium could ill afford another slip-up. "All the newspapers in Belgium said 'Conte beat Wilmots tactically' and he was very hurt by that," Tailleman added. "During the whole week he remained very calm but I know he is very angry with some people and this was sort of revenge for him."

Only to some extent though, as Ireland proved themselves to be limited opposition and the victory came after a build-up dominated by suggestions leading Belgian players had agitated for a change in approach. Wilmots, who stuck with Lukaku and De Bruyne having been expected to axe both underperforming stars against the Irish, denied that the players have any say in how he lays his team out. — AFP



BORDEAUX: Belgium's midfielder Axel Witsel celebrates with Belgium's coach Marc Wilmots (L) after scoring a goal during the Euro 2016 group E football match between Belgium and Ireland at the Matmut Atlantique stadium. — AFP

MISFIRING RONALDO: PORTUGAL FOILED BY MEDIOCRE AUSTRIA

FAN FERVOR



PARIS: Cristiano Ronaldo missed a second-half penalty as Portugal stumbled to a second straight draw at Euro 2016 on Saturday after a frustrating 0-0 stalemate against Group F rivals Austria in Paris. Ronaldo set a new Portuguese record with his 128th international cap, surpassing the mark previously shared with Luis Figo, but the occasion will be better remembered for the Real Madrid superstar hitting the post with a 79th-minute spot-kick. Hungary, who salvaged a point in a 1-1 draw with Iceland, are the surprise group leaders with a game to play, while Austria must win their final match to avoid exiting prematurely.

"This is not the result we wanted. It's not fair, it's not deserved but that's football," said Portugal coach Fernando Santos. "It's no use crying over spilt milk, it's not the time to have regrets. "We have another point and we have a 'final' to play on the 22nd (against Hungary), we have to focus on winning the next match." Santos sought to reinvigorate his team after a disappointing 1-1 draw with Iceland, drafting in Ricardo Quaresma to form an attacking trident with Ronaldo and Nani.

William Carvalho was handed a start in central midfield, while Austria coach Marcel Koller made three changes, two enforced, with Sebastian Prodl, Stefan Ilsanker and Marcel Sabitzer all coming into the side beaten 2-0 by Hungary on Tuesday.

Portuguese authority

Austria showed early signs of promise, much like in their opener against Hungary, carving out a chance when a leaping Martin Harnik nodded Sabitzer's whipped cross just wide. But Portugal settled quickly, with Nani denied his second goal of the tournament by the outstretched leg of Austria goalkeeper Robert Almer after breaking in behind centre-back Prodl.

Almer tipped a long-range strike from Vieirinha behind, while Ronaldo spurned a glorious opportunity to write his name into the history books on 22 minutes as he steered wide from Raphael Guerreiro's cut-back inside the area.

Portugal remained the dominant side and nearly reaped their reward just before the half-hour, only for Nani's header from Andre Gomes' left-wing cross to



PARIS: Portugal's forward Cristiano Ronaldo reacts after missing an opportunity on goal during the Euro 2016 group F football match between Portugal and Austria at the Parc des Princes. — AFP

crash back off the post with Joao Moutinho drilling the rebound over. Ronaldo then helped on a Quaresma header straight at Almer, but Vieirinha needed to make an important clearance to keep David Alaba's driven free-kick from finding Harnik at the far post.

Portugal goalkeeper Rui Patricio parried away a stinging drive from Ilsanker within seconds of the restart, although Portugal soon reasserted their authority with Ronaldo leading the charge. His thunderous left-footed strike from the edge of the area was turned behind by Almer, and the ensuing corner produced a similar result with the Austria keeper beating

away Ronaldo's downward header. Koller hauled off Alaba on 65 minutes, replacing the Bayern Munich star with Schalke midfielder Alessandro Schopf, but it failed to stem the flow of Portuguese attacks.

And with 11 minutes to go it appeared Portugal would get the goal their display merited when they were awarded a penalty after Martin Hinteregger wrestled Ronaldo to the ground.

But the three-time World Player of the Year was left shaking his head in disbelief as he smacked the ball against the base of the post to ensure his wait for a goal at a record fourth European Championship finals goes on. — AFP

CRUCIAL PENALTY MISFIRE EXPOSES RONALDO'S SET-PIECE OBSESSION

PARIS: One question stands out after Portugal's 0-0 draw with Austria on Saturday—does Cristiano Ronaldo have to take every single free kick and penalty? If Portugal were to at least contemplate an alternative, they might not be ruling yet another failure to translate their dominance into three points.

But, rather like a playground kickabout where the owner of the ball always gets his own way, there is only ever one possible option and it has reached the stage where it is costing them crucial points in major tournaments.

The headlines will tell how Ronaldo missed a penalty late in the game on his record-breaking 128th appearance for his country, striking his effort against the post, but the two free kicks which he took, and wasted, were also significant. The first was about 40 meters from goal and, even though scoring did not look like a reasonable possibility, Ronaldo insisted on having a crack. It went straight into the wall.

The second was on the edge of the penalty area, slightly to the right of goal and better suited to left-footed Raphael Guerreiro than right-footed Ronaldo. Guerreiro stood over the ball along side Ronaldo, more in hope than anything else. But, almost inevitably, it was the Real Madrid player who took the kick and curled it on to the roof of the net.

Warning signs

The warning signs had already come during a friendly against Bulgaria last March which Portugal also dominated, but lost 1-0 with Ronaldo missing another penalty.

They won four free kicks in possible scoring positions and Ronaldo took them all, hitting the wall twice and forcing saves from the goalkeeper with the other two.

Portugal coach Fernando Santos, perhaps understandably, did not want to discuss Ronaldo after the game. "I understand you and I don't talk about Cristiano," he said. Overall, it was another frustrating night for 31-year-old Ronaldo, who has already been criticized for negative comments he made about Iceland's tactics following a 1-1 draw in their opening Group F match.

Always in the thick of the action, Portugal's immaculately-groomed all-time leading scorer also sidefooted wide from an excellent position in the first half and forced two good saves from Austria goalkeeper Robert Almer after halftime. Often labeled as self-obsessed, Ronaldo showed another side to his character at the end of the game, when a supporter ran on to the pitch, evaded security, approached the number seven and asked for a selfie.

Ronaldo gestured to the security officials to leave the fan alone and patiently posed for the picture.

He will be hoping the cameras capture him scoring in Portugal's final group game against leaders Hungary on Wednesday when qualification for the last 16 is on the line. — Reuters



DINARD: Wales' forward Gareth Bale arrives for a press conference in Dinard, Western France, on June 18, 2016, during the Euro 2016 football tournament. — AFP

WALES READY TO QUALIFY FOR LAST 16, SAYS BALE

TOULOUSE: Gareth Bale said Wales' Euro 2016 fate is in their own hands as they look to qualify for the last 16 in a potentially high-risk match against Russia in Toulouse. Real Madrid forward Bale has been inspirational in Wales' European Championship debut, hitting the net in a 2-1 win over Slovakia and again in the 2-1 defeat to England in Lens.

Wales lie second in Group B, one point behind leaders England but firmly in contention for a historic place in the last 16. A win in Toulouse, where security is set to be tight following shocking scenes of fan violence between England and Russia supporters in Marseille last week, would see Wales guarantee direct qualification—although even defeat could see Wales go through as one of the four best third-placed group finishers.

Bale, who scored trademark free kicks against Slovakia and England to sit among the tournament's top scorers after two games, admitted defeat to England through Daniel Sturridge's injury-time goal was hard to digest. But the 26-year-old said Wales' "close group" of players are in high spirits and ready to keep their dream alive. "Obviously after the (England)

game we were very disappointed, especially to lose in that manner," Bale said Saturday. "But we have to forget about it. It's over. Our fate is in our own hands, and if you'd given us this at the start of the tournament we would have taken it. "We're so excited for our last game. Everything's to play for, the nation's behind us, as normal, and we will be looking forward to it. "We'll try to embrace the occasion and qualify."

Russian woes

With only one point to their name, following Vasili Berezutski's last-gasp equaliser against England, Leonid Slutsky's embattled Russia would be forgiven for wishing their tournament was over following a crushing 2-1 defeat to Slovakia. It has left them bottom of the table and needing to beat Wales to have any chance of adding some optimism to their campaign after what has been a controversial week for the team and its supporters. Yet their campaign was compounded even before they kicked a ball in anger in Marseille, as Russian ultras attacked England fans in the port city hours before kick-off. — AFP

ICELAND FANS PREFER HUGS TO HOOLIGANISM

MARSEILLE: A week after England and Russia supporters clashed and while flare-throwing and fighting have marred games elsewhere, fans of tiny Iceland say they prefer hugs to hooliganism at Euro 2016. Having the time of their lives, Icelanders told AFP in Marseille they have come to their first ever European Championships to have fun and feel part of Europe.

"I'm not sure life can get any better, it's historic, great to be here," Louise Ragnarsdottir told AFP on the seafloor of the southern city. "All my life I watched the tournaments on TV, now we are part of Europe's party!" said the 28-year-old accountant from Reykjavik. Some 27,000 Iceland fans have travelled to France, almost 10 percent of the Nordic island's 330,000-strong population. No smaller country has ever featured at a Euro finals. "We live on a faraway island, just to go abroad at all is an experience," said Ragnarsdottir.

After the Group F tie with Hungary on Saturday pockets of Iceland fans gathered in Marseille's Vieux Port district to chant "Boom-Boom-Hoooo!", leaping in unison on the "Hoooo!". "It's our Viking song, synchronized and terrifying," laughed Arni Gardar, an IT consultant from Reykjavik. "But we don't mean to be scary, we

are good Vikings not marauders, actually very nice, we come in peace," he said. "Iceland is N-Iceland!" cried another fan, Jonina Unnur Gunnarsdottir.

'Best fans yet'

"They are the best fans we have seen yet," said Karim, a cafe owner watching the revelry on the Quai des Belges. "It was different last week," he recalled. Nearly a week ago England and Russia fans conducted pitched battles in the worst violence at a football tournament since the 1998 World Cup, prompting police to respond with tear gas and baton charges.

For fans of the Nordic minnows the Euro 2016 violence has been an eye-opening experience. "We are a peaceful nation, we have no army, no guns, we're just not into fighting," Atli Gudmundsson told AFP. "At home families go to football, no-one dreams of ever causing trouble." The 29-year-old attended the Croatia-Czech Republic tie in Saint Etienne on Friday where Croatian fans fought among themselves and lit flares, forcing a temporary stoppage in play. "Torches on the pitch, fighting in the stands, that kind of thing is new to us, it was quite shocking to see," he said. — AFP



Matches on TV

(Local Timings)

UEFA EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP
Russia v Wales 22:00
beIN MAX 2 HD

Slovakia v England 22:00
beIN MAX 3 HD EN
beIN MAX 1 HD

Vardy brings
Leicester
spirit to England
quest

18



Portugal foiled by
mediocre Austria

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ANDREW LANDRY KEEPS COOL AT US OPEN

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SANTA CLARA: Chile's Edson Puch celebrates after scoring the teams seventh goal against Mexico during the Copa America Centenario quarterfinal football match. — AFP

CHILE THRASH MEXICO 7-0 TO REACH SEMIS

SANTA CLARA: Eduardo Vargas scored four goals as holders Chile sent Mexico spinning to a historic 7-0 defeat to reach the semi-finals of the Copa America Centenario here Saturday. Hoffenheim forward Vargas completed a hat-trick in 13 devastating minutes either side of half-time to send Chile into a semi-final against Colombia in Chicago on Wednesday.

Vargas later dedicated his performance to his mother, who was earlier this week diagnosed with a heart problem in his homeland. "I'm very happy with the performance, I dedicate it to my mum and my family," Vargas said. "We started this tournament badly but we're getting stronger and stronger with every match," he added. The drubbing was Mexico's worst ever defeat in the

finals of a major tournament. Their previous biggest loss was a 6-0 rout by West Germany at the 1978 World Cup in Argentina. The rout was also only one goal away from equaling Mexico's heaviest ever defeat in any international, an 8-0 thrashing by England in London in 1961.

'A disgrace'

"I offer my sincere apologies to the Mexican fans, to all the Mexican people," Mexico coach Juan Carlos Osorio said afterwards. "What we saw today was a disgrace, an accident of football," he added. "Obviously there are more important things in the world than football, but that was a very poor display. Chile had a great collective performance and extraordinary performance

from its stars," Osorio added. "But there is not seven goals difference between Chilean and Mexican football."

Vargas grabbed his fourth goal in the 74th minute to give Chile a 6-0 lead. But the punishment did not finish there with Edson Puch adding a seventh in the 88th minute for his second of the match. Chile, winners of last year's Copa America on home soil, had faced an intimidating atmosphere in front of a crowd of 70,547 people at the Levi's Stadium, home of the San Francisco 49ers.

But despite the overwhelmingly pro-Mexico crowd, Chile were quicker to settle, with Puch opening the scoring on 16 minutes when he steered in a rebound from Marcelo Diaz's shot after Guillermo Ochoa could only parry away. Vargas grabbed a second a minute before half-time to stun

the crowd into silence as the teams headed in for the break. Chile then cut loose early in the second half with slick inter-play ripping apart a feeble Mexican defense at will. Arsenal star Alexis Sanchez made it 3-0 in the 49th minute before two more goals from Vargas in the 52nd and 57th minutes piled on the agony for Mexico. Several Mexican players visibly wilted in the face of the onslaught, and for periods the game resembled a training exercise for Chile as they swept forward relentlessly.

Vargas's fourth made it 6-0 on the night before Puch then toe-poked home to complete the scoring. Brazilian referee Heber Lopes spared Mexico the possibility of greater humiliation, whistling for full-time almost on the stroke of 90 minutes, with no time added on. — AFP

MESSI TIES WITH RECORD AS ARGENTINA BEAT VENEZUELA

FOXBOROUGH: Lionel Messi scored a record-equating 54th international goal as Argentina outclassed Venezuela 4-1 to book their place in the semi-finals of the Copa America Centenario here Saturday. The Barcelona superstar scored his fourth goal of the tournament in the 60th minute at the Gillette Stadium to equal Gabriel Batistuta's long-time Argentina international goalscoring record.

Messi also created a goal for Gonzalo Higuain, who scored twice, and second half substitute Erik Lamela as Argentina set up a semi-final against the United States in Houston tomorrow. Afterwards Messi played down his goalscoring milestone. "I'm happy for what it means and it's nice to be next to 'Batigol'"

(Batistuta), but for me tonight the most important thing is the result," Messi said. Messi is determined to lead Argentina to their first trophy in 23 years after a series of agonizing near-misses which include defeats in the finals of last year's Copa America and the 2014 World Cup final. "I think people sometimes overlook that we got to two finals, and only focus on the fact that we lost," Messi said. "For us to be back in another semi-final of a big tournament like this one is a great achievement for these players."

Inspirational display

Few would bet against Messi achieving his goal after an inspirational display that left Venezuela chasing shadows in the early part of Saturday's quarter-final. Messi's genius created the opening goal after eight minutes, with the playmaker lofting a sublime curling pass to pick out Higuain's run into the area.

Napoli forward Higuain still had plenty to do but

skillfully directed a first time strike past Venezuela goalkeeper Dani Hernandez for a wonderful goal. Argentina remained firmly in control but were jolted in the 27th minute when Nicolas Gaitan picked up a needless yellow card for a kick on Alexander Gonzalez that will see him suspended for the semi-final.

Argentina's dominance clearly had Venezuela rattled, and the Vinotinto's defensive unease led to the next goal. A slack backpass from Arquimedes Figuera went straight to Higuain in space, and the striker coolly rounded Hernandez to stroke home his second of the night to make it 2-0 after 29 minutes. But just when it looked as if the floodgates would open, Venezuela rallied impressively and had Argentina rocking with a series of chances.

Rondon threat

West Bromwich Albion striker Salomon Rondon forced a save from Sergio Romero and hit the woodwork in quick succession. Romero was left scrambling to save once again just before half-time, when fullback Rolf Feltscher's long-range shot deflected off Gabriel Mercado and looped up and over the Argentina keeper.

Venezuela looked to have a justifiable claim for a penalty when Higuain brought down Josef Martinez in the box but Mexican referee Roberto Garcia was unmoved. Seconds later though Garcia was pointing to the spot after Romero clumsily bundled over Martinez for a clear penalty. But Venezuela's pressure went unrewarded when Luis Manuel Seijas tried a risky "Panenka" down the middle which Romero read and gathered with ease.

Venezuela were unable to renew their period of pres-



FOXBOROUGH: Argentina's Lionel Messi, top, celebrates a goal by Gonzalo Higuain (9) during the first half of a Copa America Centenario quarterfinal soccer match against Venezuela. — AP

sure in the second half, and Messi effectively put the contest to bed with his record-equating goal in the 60th minute, which came after Argentina pressed high to force a turnover. Gaitan won the tackle and passed to Messi, who quickly played a one-two with the Benfica

winger before poking his finish between Hernandez's legs. Rondon pulled a goal back with a header in the 70th minute, but Messi's response was instant, threading a pass to Lamela whose shot crept in at Hernandez's near post. — AFP

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for UK referendum

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Turkish Airline expands
ME network, to launch
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ETIHAD AIRWAYS AND AVIANCA BRASIL ANNOUNCE CODESHARE PARTNERSHIP

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Ahli United Bank
celebrates 50 years
of banking in UK

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BELGRADE: Workers at the Zelezara Smederevo steel plant, recently bought by a Chinese steel giant, hold posters depicting Xi Jinping, China's President, during Xi's tour of the plant in Smederevo, 40 kilometers (24 miles) southeast of Belgrade, Serbia, yesterday. —AP

ABU DHABI BANKS SOAR ON MERGER TALKS EGYPT RATE HIKE MUCH HARSHER THAN EXPECTED

DUBAI: Shares in Abu Dhabi banks soared yesterday after National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD) and First Gulf Bank (FGB) confirmed they were in merger talks. Other Gulf stock markets were mixed while an interest rate increase dragged Egypt down.

NBAD and FGB confirmed in a brief statement they were discussing a merger or combination of their businesses, in what would create one of the largest banks by assets in the Middle East and Africa.

Many analysts said it was too early to take positions in the stocks before details were known. Some said a merger could benefit both shareholders. Arqaam Capital said FGB would benefit from a stronger wholesale banking operation while NBAD was underrepresented in retail banking.

"We see strong merits of this potential transaction for both parties," Arqaam said. But HSBC predicted a pure merger would benefit only NBAD, while a merger through acquisition would destroy shareholder value at both banks. "A share swap scenario presents significant dilution risks to shareholders of both banks," it said.

Nevertheless, local retail investors cheered the idea of an Abu Dhabi mega-bank, with NBAD shares jumping the 15 percent daily limit in their heaviest trade since April 2015, and FGB gaining 11.5 percent in its

highest volume since November 2014.

Other Abu Dhabi bank shares also rose, partly on speculation they might be involved in further mergers and acquisitions activity as the industry consolidated. Union National Bank climbed 7.0 percent.

Abu Dhabi's main stock index added 4.7 percent in its heaviest trading day since November 2014. As attention switched to Abu Dhabi, trading volume in Dubai shrank to very low levels and the index fell 0.3 percent. Dubai's largest listed lender, Emirates NBD, edged down 0.1 percent.

Saudi Arabia closed flat in modest volume after spending most of the day higher. Petrochemical shares were firm after oil prices rebounded on Friday. National Gas and Industrialisation rose sharply for a fourth straight day in unusually heavy trade, gaining 5.0 percent. The firm, which distributes liquefied petroleum gas, has been rising partly on hopes it may benefit from projects in Saudi Arabia's economic reform plan announced this month.

KUWAIT, EGYPT

Kuwait's index rose 1.2 percent, buoyed by news an investment group led by prominent Dubai businessman Mohamed Alabbar had agreed to buy a majority stake in Kuwait Food Co (Americana) from the Kharafi

family for about \$2.4 billion.

After the Dubai group completes the purchase, it will launch a mandatory takeover offer to remaining Americana shareholders at 2.650 dinars. Americana shares were bid at their upper daily limit of 2.2 dinars on Sunday but did not trade because holders were not willing to sell at that level.

Nevertheless, the boost to the finances of the Kharafis, a major merchant family in Kuwait, was seen as positive for the market as a whole. National Investment Co, an investment and asset management vehicle of the family, jumped 5.3 percent.

In Egypt, the central bank raised its key interest rates by 100 basis points after the close on Thursday to their highest levels in years to rein in surging inflation and ease downward pressure on the Egyptian pound.

Analysts had been roughly evenly split on whether the central bank would tighten policy. Few analysts who expected a tightening had predicted such a large increase, so the decision hurt the stocks, especially since many economists think more tightening and currency depreciation are likely in the second half of this year.

The Cairo stock index <EGX30> dropped 1.1 percent. Ezz Steel, exposed to higher interest rates as a borrower for capital-intensive projects, dropped 2.3 percent.

YESTERDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

SAUDI ARABIA

The index was flat at 6,542 points.

DUBAI

The index slipped 0.3 percent to 3,297 points.

ABU DHABI

The index jumped 4.7 percent to 4,524 points.

QATAR

The index edged up 0.1 percent to 9,806 points.

EGYPT

The index dropped 1.1 percent to 7,338 points.

KUWAIT

The index rose 1.2 percent to 5,458 points.

OMAN

The index was flat at 5,808 points.

BAHRAIN

The index fell 0.4 percent to 1,113 points. —Reuters

COULD BRITISH EU EXIT BE WATERSHED FOR GLOBAL ECONOMY?

FRANKFURT: A British exit from the European Union could cause global market swings for a while. But that would soon pass.

If we're lucky, that is. Much darker scenarios for the global economy are also being discussed by economists as they try to gauge the risks of Thursday's referendum for the wider world. While economists say a British exit from the EU — or Brexit, as it is known — would be painful mainly for the country itself and to a lesser extent for rest of the Europe, the consequences for the global economy are harder to estimate.

In the gloomier narratives, a Brexit becomes a turning point, an event that snowballs and leads to much larger and nastier problems. It could deal a setback to free trade and globalization, which many disgruntled voters around the world are already cool on. And it could trigger more defections from the EU, destabilizing the region and unsettling companies and consumers. So forecasts are ranging from the benign to the apocalyptic. Some, like outgoing Finnish Finance Minister Alexander Stubb, compare Brexit to the 2008 collapse of US investment bank Lehman Brothers, which spread financial ruin across the globe. Or, it could be more like Y2K, in which computers worldwide were supposed to fail on Jan. 1, 2000 because software was written for years beginning with 19. In the event, not much hap-

pened. Here's a quick run-through of the global risks from a Brexit.

FLIGHT TO SAFETY

It's reasonable to assume that a vote to leave would cause global financial market swings in the short term, with investors selling riskier assets such as stocks and seeking safety in government bonds, analysts say. The pound has already fallen in value against other currencies and would likely fall more. Gold, seen by some as a refuge in troubled times, might rise. Markets seem to be betting that "remain" will win, so if they're wrong, there could be some scrambling to adjust.

LOWER FOR LONGER

Faced with churning markets, central banks could try to steady things with extra loans for banks or other ways of making credit more readily available. Market swings could help persuade the US Federal Reserve to postpone interest rate increases once thought likely this year and now in doubt. That could be good news for mortgage holders but could prolong savers' agony over low rates and non-existent returns on deposits.

MANAGEABLE?

The direct impact of a Brexit would likely not be

too bad on growth — if you're not British. A year after a vote to leave, Britain's economy would be one percent smaller than it would have been otherwise, while the 28-country EU would lose 0.25 percent and the world 0.1 percent, according to Moody's Analytics chief economist Mark Zandi. "I think the immediate effect is modest," he said. "It's not cataclysmic in any way. It's corrosive, certainly. It diminishes the UK economy going forward."

Taking 0.1 percentage point off global growth might not seem like much, but the world economy, though not in crisis, is not in great shape right now. The International Monetary Fund predicts 3.2 percent growth this year and 3.5 percent next year. IMF head Christine Lagarde says that's not enough to lift living standards and get the globe's 200 million unemployed back to work. "There is a risk that middle class families and the poor actually remain behind, which would embolden the voices of protectionism and fragmentation," she said in April. The World Trade Organization says international trade will remain sluggish this year, growing 2.8 percent, well below the average of 5 percent since 1990. And the effects of a Brexit could be long-lasting: permanently lower growth in Britain and Europe. After five years, Britain's economy would be 4 percent smaller than otherwise; the EU 1 percent and the global economy 0.25 percent, according to Zandi. So it could add up.

UNCERTAINTY

The "U-word" is prominent in most assessments of Brexit. That's because it would take years for Britain to sort out new trade relationships if it leaves the EU, whose members trade freely with each other without charging tariffs. Businesses wouldn't know where to locate production or how much it would cost to trade.

The EU and Canada, for instance, have been negotiating a trade agreement for seven years. And uncertainty can be very hard on growth. It makes executives hold off on building new plants or hiring permanent employees, while consumers might wait on buying a new car or kitchen. Uncertainty is one reason investment is relatively weak in the developed world. A Brexit would only add another reason to wait.

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

Although the direct impact seems manageable outside Europe and the UK, economists can't help painting darker scenarios. If other countries decide to leave the EU or if a "leave" vote energizes populist political forces and leads to a broader retrenchment in trade and globalization, a Brexit would be seen as a turning point with outsized influence on the globe. —AP



WASHINGTON: In this Saturday, April 16, 2016 file photo, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde speaks during a news conference after the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) conference at the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings at IMF headquarters in Washington. While economists say a British exit from the EU — or Brexit, as it is known — would be painful mainly for the country itself and to a lesser extent for rest of the Europe, the consequences for the global economy are harder to estimate. —AP

THE RISK OF BRITAIN LEAVING THE EUROPEAN UNION IS HIGH

By Hayder Tawfik - Rasameel

Only a few days left for the British to decide on the fate of the UK inside the European Union. A union that the UK joined about 47 years ago. Initially it was a union to get the main players in Europe to get together and set up an economic union that later expanded to become a political, economic and social union. Britain might actually do leave the European Union on the 23rd of June if the latest opinion polls are any guide to go by. Recent opinion polls say the campaign to quit the European Union is ahead. This could be very bad news for the government and its allies in the Stay campaign are alarmed. They have worked tirelessly to convince the British public to vote yes on the 23rd of June.



I believe the leave campaign has taken advantage of two important issues that have become news headlines over the past few years. They are the economic crises in the Eurozone and the massive immigration inflow into Western Europe, which the UK is

in the heart of it. The average British person look at these two issues with alarm bells. As for the economic point of view the British remember well how earlier the so-called experts recommended that Britain should ditch sterling and join the euro system, and they see how that would have worked out. As for the immigration issue it is much simpler. The UK has always welcomed skilled and unskilled migrants into the country but the economic and social costs have become unbearable and they are no longer prepared to pay the cost.

So why suddenly they want to leave the EU?

The bad record of political experts insight on Britain and Europe have created a credibility problem, and the constant repetitions of the fear and havoc that has been projected by the UK government were never going to solve the concerns the average British public has with those two important issues I mentioned earlier. The Stay campaign has failed miserably to convince the public of the attraction in staying inside the European Union. All signs suggest that life outside the European Union is possible. Switzerland isn't mired, so far as one can see, in perpetual poverty. Yet the emphasis on the Britain's bleak future without the blessings of the European Commission went on.

The issue of the referendum on the future of the UK inside the European Union started with the dissatisfaction of the UK with the European project and how it can proceed going further. Recently it was amplified by fears over uncontrolled immigration. The British prime minister tried very hard to negotiate better terms not just for the UK but for the whole European Union. He promised the British voters that it is better if they decide on these very important issues. He did not get any help from other European leaders. They should have recognized him as an ally and in doing so would have strengthened the European project. I believe it would be a massive loss for the European Union if the UK decides to leave. Some other European leaders recognize this but their pride stops them from admitting the fact. They actually ignored the British prime minister and sent him away from his desperate negotiation with little benefits if any at all. And the tone of their response was even more damaging than the lack of substance. The message came through loud and clear: It isn't Britain's place to tell Europe how to change. Regardless if the UK is in or out of the EU, Europe as a whole needs to change that anti-EU sentiment is on the rise in many other countries.

I believe that the referendum is not really just about the European Union or Europe overall. It is

much deeper than that. It is about the people of Europe who had enough of austerity measures, high unemployment, no future prospects and above all the inequality and insecurity. Europe is stuck in a battle within itself. It is trying to find a self and independent definition, one that is playing out across major democracies. However, some of them find themselves stuck in a straightjacket locked by rigid and uncompromising rules and regulations imposed on them by some unelected politicians in Brussels. You can see the difference in that the UK has been doing much better not having the single currency and having at least control on its monetary and fiscal policies.

I personally think that the British people trust the ruling Conservative Party more than anyone else in running the UK economy in a way that benefits most of the people. At the same can manage immigration into the country in a more effective way than the other parties. This was proved in the last election.

The biggest worry is that on June 23rd, the British people will decide that it is better to vote for the devil they know than one they don't and finally decide to remain inside the European Union. I believe that would be the most unjust decision for the future generation of the United Kingdom.

AUSTRALIA TAXES FOREIGN HOME BUYERS AS AFFORDABILITY BITES

SYDNEY: Sydney is imposing new taxes on foreigners buying homes as concerns grow that a flood of mostly Chinese investors is crowding out locals and killing the "Great Australian Dream" of owning property.

Ownership rates across the country are among the highest in developed nations, with having your own house long viewed as a key aspect of Australian identity. But as prices rise to record levels-Sydney is ranked only second to Hong Kong as major cities with the world's least-affordable housing-new potential homeowners have been increasingly forced out of the market with foreigners blamed as a key factor. "The governments want to respond to a perception about housing affordability and the impact of foreign investment on that," KPMG Australia's indirect tax specialist Michelle Bennett told AFP.

"(Politicians) are raising money from people who aren't voting, so superficially you can understand that it's possibly not bad politics," she added, but warned the measures could be a "blunt instrument" that could hurt the market.

Last year, leading apartment developer Lend Lease sold out more than Aus\$600 million (US\$445 million) worth of new units in Sydney's Darling Harbour in under five hours, with The Australian Financial Review reporting that one-third of buyers were foreign.

Lend Lease said the sale broke local records but such reports have also fuelled calls for government action to protect Australian buyers. In response, the New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland state governments have introduced or are set to

slap new property and land taxes on foreign buyers, sparking an outcry from developers fearful that they will flee to other markets such as New Zealand and Canada.

"It is very bad. Without the Chinese nothing would ever get built," the country's richest man and head of prominent developer Meriton, "high-rise" Harry Triguboff told The Australian Financial Review this week. "Never mind the bullshit stories, sales volumes have already dropped and prices are coming down steadily. The Chinese buyers are already disappearing."

GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN

Analysts say Australia is an appealing market particularly after Hong Kong and Singapore introduced a 15 percent property tax on non-local buyers and as the local dollar weakened against other currencies. The proposed tax in Sydney's New South Wales state to be announced this week would be only four percent, in Queensland it is three percent and in Victoria seven percent.

The island continent experienced an average 7.25 percent annual housing growth over the past three decades according to the central bank, attracting Chinese investment into commercial and residential real estate. Chinese invested Aus\$4.2 billion in 2011-12, rising to Aus\$24.3 billion in 2014-15 according to Australia's Foreign Investment Review Board, making them the largest overseas buyers.

But foreign investment-including in local firms and agricultural land-is politically sensitive and last year the national government forced some offshore owners to sell proper-

ties after tightening regulations. Housing affordability, and the role of property investors, has also been a key battleground ahead of national elections on July 2. But with housing prices appearing to be coming off the boil and the economy transitioning away from a mining boom, analysts say the state taxes could backfire.

"It'll have ramifications down the track when the market goes through a pretty significant downturn in terms of construction and developers are finding it hard to get projects going," BIS Shrapnel's managing director Robert Mellor told AFP.

Signs of a softening housing market could also be why states appear to be trying to "grab some revenue while it's on offer", leading property data provider CoreLogic's Australia research head Cameron Kusher said. Meanwhile, there are question marks about whether current data adequately captures the full extent of foreign investment in Australian real estate, with some statistics not delineating between commercial and residential property purchases. In one estimate, University of Sydney researchers last year said offshore Chinese purchases only totalled two percent of all transactions in 2014 out of overall residential home sales of Aus\$270 billion, the Sydney Morning Herald reported.

Despite the new tax hurdles, Kusher expects long-term Chinese housing investment to continue. "The people that are buying for the long-term... maybe at some point to migrate to Australia, I don't think it would act as too much of a deterrent for them," he said. — AFP

Amazing news from Al-Tijari...
Al-Najma account gives you the biggest daily prize in Kuwait!

AL TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL NAJMA

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al Najma Account daily draw yesterday. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

The winners of the Al Najma Daily Draw are :-

Sh Shouq Mohammed Alsababh KD 7000/-
Maisaa Ahmed Ali KD 7000/-
Mohammed Suleman Dias KD 7000/-
Fay Yuons Al Ibrahim KD 7000/-
Atef Abdu Allah Alsayed Muhsen KD 7000/-

The new prizes scheme for Al Najma account. Daily draw to win KD 7000.

Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000.

First Quarter KD 100,000
Second Quarter KD 150,000
Third Quarter KD 200,000
Fourth Quarter KD 250,000.

With Al Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes. Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to win. Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw. Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.

Additional features: ATM card, issue a credit card against your account and obtain all CBK banking services.

You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.

INDIAN CENTRAL BANK CHIEF FELT UNDERMINED BEFORE QUITTING

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI: Indian central bank governor Raghuram Rajan's abrupt decision to quit came as he increasingly felt he lacked support from his political bosses Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to friends and colleagues.

A newspaper report a week ago that a selection panel would consider a field of candidates rather than directly offer the former IMF chief economist an extension to his three-year term, effectively forcing him to reapply for his own job, may have been the final straw, according to these people and a finance ministry source.

"He felt it would belittle the position of the RBI governor if he had to appear before the committee," said one senior commercial banker who knows Rajan personally but had not spoken to him since his decision.

"It would reveal a lack of government support. Rather than have two more years of constant quibbling, he decided to go." The darling of international investors was also upset that Jaitley had not backed him more strongly after criticism from Hindu nationalists of both his policies and his perceived lack of "Indian-ness", the sources said.

Rajan joked when he took over the top job at the Reserve Bank of India in September 2013 that he wasn't expecting to win any votes or Facebook "likes" in the position.

But the hostility he had faced of late from elements of Modi's ruling party was evidently greater than he had counted on, the sources said. When Rajan decided to leave, he did so without warning and on his own terms: in a sign of growing tensions he did not inform top members of the government before releasing an open letter to staff on Saturday, a move that took investors and the government by surprise.

NO CONTACT

In his letter, Rajan said he had been open to seeing through changes he championed such as the creation of a monetary policy committee to set interest rates and a clean-up of the banking sector.

But he added: "On due reflection, and after consultation with the government, I want to share with you that I will be returning to academia when my term as governor ends on Sept. 4, 2016."

Rajan was not available for comment but will

face questions on the motives for his abrupt withdrawal at a speaking engagement today afternoon in Mumbai. Less than two weeks ago, he laughed off speculation about his future after an RBI policy meeting, saying: "You will know when there is news."

Five sources familiar with the matter said Rajan had not contacted Modi's office directly. Nor was a meeting or discussion between the two planned, said one senior official. Modi has not commented, tweeting instead on Sunday about the forthcoming World Yoga Day.

Jaitley had been in his office on Saturday and gave no indication of concern about Rajan's future, leaving for home before the news broke, an aide said. The finance minister tweeted after a delay of more than two hours that he respected Rajan's decision.

It was unclear whether Rajan had briefed senior staff at the Reserve Bank of India since his bombshell decision. "I am surprised," said one person who has worked with Rajan and who spoke on condition of anonymity. "A week back he was sounding very much interested in serving a second term."

SAFFRON POSSE

Rajan had for weeks faced intense pressure from Subramanian Swamy, a politician in Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) who, say sources familiar with the matter, was acting with the backing of the Hindu-nationalist umbrella group to which the BJP is affiliated, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Swamy, a 76-year-old former Harvard economist with a record of aggressive anti-corruption litigation, wrote an open letter to Modi a month ago accusing Rajan of being "mentally not fully Indian" and calling on the prime minister to "terminate" him with immediate effect.

The broadside from Swamy came soon after he was handed a seat in India's upper house of parliament by the ruling party, creating the impression that he was acting on good authority.

Challenged to respond to Swamy, Jaitley merely said that Rajan's candidacy should not be discussed publicly. "As a colleague I could see he looked hurt," said one senior policymaker who works with Rajan. "You can question my efficiency, but if you question my loyalty to my job, then one would expect your employer to stand up and

defend - and not stay silent." Yet it was Rajan's own forays into politically sensitive territory that led the Hindu right to target him - in particular over a speech last October to students in Delhi in which he said that social tolerance was vital for a country's development.

"NO-GO ZONE"

The issue of "intolerance" has been a catalyst of controversy under Modi, driving to the heart of whether the overt message of development for all that he campaigned on to win the 2014 general election can hold, or whether a more divisive Hindu-first agenda will prevail under his party's rule.

Questions about where Modi stands on the issue date back to early in his term as chief minister of Gujarat, where more than 1,000 people, most of them minority Muslims, died in communal rioting in 2002. He was dogged for years by allegations that he either turned a blind eye to, or even encouraged, the attacks until a court-ordered probe found there was not enough evidence to prosecute him. Throughout, Modi has denied wrongdoing. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.901
Indian Rupees	4.499
Pakistani Rupees	2.885
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.085
Nepali Rupees	2.815
Singapore Dollar	224.670
Hongkong Dollar	38.911
Bangladesh Taka	3.850
Philippine Peso	6.515
Thai Baht	8.587

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.563
Qatari Riyal	82.987
ani Riyal	784.693
Bahraini Dinar	802.310
UAE Dirham	82.253

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	30.750
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.393
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.213
Tunisian Dinar	140.440
Jordanian Dinar	425.640
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.013
Syrian Lira	2.153
Morocco Dirham	31.552

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	301.950
Euro	342.710
Sterling Pound	435.410

Canadian dollar	235.530
Turkish lira	103.760
Swiss Franc	316.680
Australian Dollar	224.800
US Dollar Buying	300.750

GOLD

20 Gram	261.630
10 Gram	133.730
5 Gram	67.710

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer Selling Rate

US Dollar	302.150
Canadian Dollar	234.580
Sterling Pound	434.417
Euro	341.614
Swiss Frank	290.995
Bahrain Dinar	799.567
UAE Dirhams	82.490
Qatari Riyals	83.730
Saudi Riyals	81.290
Jordanian Dinar	426.475
Egyptian Pound	33.929
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.087
Indian Rupees	4.496
Pakistani Rupees	2.884
Bangladesh Taka	3.846
Philippines Peso	6.512
Cyprus pound	581.242
Japanese Yen	3.893
Syrian Pound	2.391
Nepalese Rupees	3.807

Malaysian Ringgit	74.660
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.243
Thai Bhat	9.536
Turkish Lira	0.504

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY BUY SELL

Europe	
British Pound	0.427728 0.437728
Czech Korune	0.004580 0.016580
Danish Krone	0.041763 0.046763
Euro	0.0335657 0.0344657
Norwegian Krone	0.032156 0.037356
Romanian Leu	0.086602 0.086602
Slovakia	0.008983 0.018983
Swedish Krona	0.032301 0.037301
Swiss Franc	0.308569 0.319569
Turkish Lira	0.097705 0.108005
Australasia	
Australian Dollar	0.215490 0.227490
New Zealand Dollar	0.207099 0.216599
America	
Canadian Dollar	0.229124 0.238124
US Dollars	0.297800 0.302500
US Dollars Mint	0.298300 0.302500
Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003378 0.003962
Chinese Yuan	0.044345 0.047845
Hong Kong Dollar	0.038652 0.039602

Indian Rupee	0.004210 0.004620
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018 0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002814 0.002994
Kenyan Shilling	0.003105 0.003105
Korean Won	0.000248 0.000263
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070005 0.076005
Nepalese Rupee	0.002847 0.003017
Pakistan Rupee	0.002737 0.003027
Philippine Peso	0.006396 0.006696
Sierra Leone	0.000067 0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.218857 0.228857
South African Rand	0.013949 0.022449
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001667 0.002247
Taiwan	0.009216 0.009396
Thai Baht	0.008214 0.008764

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.794227 0.802727
Egyptian Pound	0.027294 0.032412
Iranian Riyal	0.000084 0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000180 0.000240
Jordanian Dinar	0.421800 0.430800
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000 1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146 0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020043 0.040043
Nigerian Naira	0.001243 0.001878
Omani Riyal	0.777736 0.783416
Qatar Riyal	0.082113 0.083563
Saudi Riyal	0.079420 0.080720
Syrian Pound	0.001279 0.001499
Tunisian Dinar	0.137243 0.145243
Turkish Lira	0.097705 0.108005
UAE Dirhams	0.080771 0.082471
Yemeni Riyal	0.001364 0.001444

GLOBAL CENTRAL BANKS WAIT FOR UK REFERENDUM

NBK'S WEEKLY MONEY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: This week, foreign exchange markets were dictated by four central bank meetings and their responses to the imminent British referendum. Not surprisingly, the US, Japanese, Swiss and UK Central banks chose to leave policies unchanged fearing the June 23 referendum result would undo the impact of whatever policy was introduced. For the moment, status quo remains in markets.

During the last meeting, the FOMC sent strong signals that they were willing to act in June if data were consistent with growth. The dismal non-farm payrolls earlier in the month all but erased those sentiments. Combined with the Fed's dovish meeting Wednesday and a looming referendum, July rate hike remains uncertain. Furthermore, while the median forecast by the fed is still for two hikes, the number of dovish committee members only seeing one hike in 2016 has gone up from 1 to 6 out of 17, relative to March's last round of forecasting.

The latest data out of the US showed prices increase were driven by the biggest rebound in energy costs since May 2015. However, temporary energy-related spikes in prices are likely to reverse in light of soft growth in the US and abroad. Consumer spending on the other hand continues to be the highlight of US recovery in the second quarter. Retail sales increased 0.5% following a 1.3% jump in April registering the biggest gain in a year.

On the currency front, we saw slight USD weakness in cautious trade against its majors as we approached the central bank meetings at the end of the week. The Euro started the week at high of 1.1300 and made its way down to a low of 1.1131 on Thursday after the Fed meeting. However the EUR quickly regained some ground closing the week off at 1.1277 and the US dollar index closed at 94.206.

The Sterling Pound saw similar movements as the EUR as cautious trade kept the cross in a tight range between 1.4230 and 1.4130 for most of the week until the Central Bank meeting on Thursday saw a dip to 1.4010 before quickly recovering as risk aversion abated when a known "In camp" British lawmaker was murdered and UK referendum campaigning was halted. The Bank of England referred to the outcome of the referendum as largest immediate risk facing UK financial markets, and possibly also global financial markets. The Sterling closed the week at 1.4358 against the USD.

The Japanese Yen saw the biggest movements this week as risk aversion dominated sentiments fueled by Brexit fears and dovish central banks. The USD/JPY has surged 15% so far this year reaching a low of 103.61 as the Bank of Japan's decision to maintain its monetary policy and the Fed's inaction increased demand for the currency. However, the BoJ governor Kuroda mentioned that positive

effects of the central bank's stimulus policies were gradually working through the economy and that the BoJ does not decide monetary policy based on currency moves. The JPY closed the week at 104.16.

Crude oil prices saw declines throughout the week until recovering slightly Friday as trading remains volatile before Britain's June 23 referendum on its EU membership. Gold on the other hand made reached 23 month highs at 1,315.58 before dropping to 1,277.96 at the conclusion of the central bank meetings and as traders locked in profits. Brent Crude closed the week at 49.17 and Gold at \$1,298.

FOMC: No Change In June

The Federal Open Market Committee voted unanimously to leave interest rates unchanged at the end of a two-day meeting on Wednesday in Washington. The Fed men-

increased by 0.5% from a 1.3% increase in April showing consumer spending is still boosting economic recovery in the second quarter. Nine of thirteen major categories showed increases in demand in May from the prior month, led by a 1.3% jump at non-store retailers, which include online merchants. Core Retail sales, which exclude automobile sales, increased by 0.4% in May, in line with forecasts.

Fuel Costs Increase Prices

Prices of finished goods and services sold by producers increased in May as higher fuel costs pushed up prices for the second month. The Labor Department showed that the producer-price index gained 0.4%, beating forecasts, after a 0.2% increase in April. However, when you exclude volatile components such as food, energy and trade services, prices

US Manufacturing Mixed

The Philadelphia Fed's Manufacturing Business Outlook Survey showed that general activity rebounded to 4.7 from -1.18 showing growth in May. However, while the survey's indicator for general activity returned to positive territory, indicators for new orders, shipments, and employment remained negative. Furthermore, indicators for future conditions fell from last month's readings but remained optimistic as firms continued to expect future growth.

Europe & UK

Bank of England on Brexit

The Bank of England's Monetary Committee voted unanimously to leave the Official Bank Rate unchanged at 0.5% and maintain the stock of purchased assets financed by the issuance of central bank reserves at £375 billion. While also mentioning subdued inflation, the main driver for the decision comes from the looming referendum to leave the European Union. The Committee mentioned that while figures like consumer spending have been solid, potential referendum effects are making economic data releases more difficult to interpret, and that the Committee is being more cautious in drawing inferences from them than would normally be the case. While Growth in the United Kingdom's major trading partners is expected to continue at a modest pace over the next three years, a vote to leave the EU could sharply depreciate the GBP adversely affecting trade and productivity.

Analysts continue to blame much of the deterioration in global risk sentiment to increasing uncertainty ahead of the referendum. Furthermore, committee members said that leaving the EU would significantly alter the outlook for output and inflation, and therefore the appropriateness of monetary policy. However, the MPC will take whatever action is needed, following the outcome of the referendum, to ensure inflation returns to the target over the appropriate horizon.

Lagging Inflation Figures

Consumer prices in the UK showed an annual rise of 0.3%, below an expected 0.4%, unchanged from the last month's reading. Core CPI, which excludes volatile factors such as food, energy, alcohol, and tobacco, was unchanged at 1.2% versus an expected 1.3%. The Office for National Statistics said that rises in transport costs, restaurant, hotel bills and telecommunication services were the main upward contributors to change in the rate, but were offset by falls in the price of clothing, food, games, toys and hobbies.

Retail Sales Continue to Rise

Retail sales in the UK made another jump for the second month in a row as sales

increased by 0.9% from a 1.3% increase in April. The figure was supported as prices of goods sold in the retail industry decreased by 2.8% year-on-year and good weather in May boosted clothing sales up 4.3%. The Office for National Statistics reported the May increase was 6% higher than the same month in 2015 as clothing and online sales were significantly better from the same period.

Unemployment at Record Low

The UK unemployment rate has fallen to 5%, the lowest since October 2005. The report showed the unemployment total fell to 1.67 million in the February-to-April period, down 20,000 from the previous quarter. Furthermore, with the introduction of new national minimum wage for workers above 25, average weekly earnings were 2% higher from last year. The Office of National Statistics also reported that the number of people out of work and claiming benefits fell by 400 in May from 6,400.

Swiss National Bank Prepared for Action

The Swiss National Bank has kept its negative interest rate policy unchanged with the deposit rate at -0.7%. The SNB said the CHF is still significantly overvalued and will therefore maintain their expansionary monetary policy to support economic activity. However, with the UK referendum drawing near, President Thomas Jordan said the SNB is ready to respond if needed including intervening in the currency markets introducing additional rate cuts.

Asia

Bank of Japan Waits for Referendum

The Bank of Japan left its policies unchanged as they awaited the UK's referendum on June 23rd. With Yen demand soaring on risk aversion, Governor Haruhiko Kuroda reiterated that the central bank won't hesitate to take action if needed and that they were in touch with the Bank of England "to coordinate closely with domestic and overseas authorities and carefully watch how the vote will affect international financial markets and the global economy, including Japan." He governor also reiterated his expectation for inflation to hit policy makers' 2% target as forecast in the fiscal year through March 2018, saying Japan's economy continues to expand gradually and citing solid plans for business investment. However, the BOJ's immediate outlook for inflation deteriorated mentioning year-on-year change in consumer prices is "likely to be slightly negative or about 0 percent for the time being."

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar at 0.30105

The USD-KWD opened at 0.30105 on Sunday morning.



tioned a slowing labor market and slow to pick up inflation as the reasons for their decision. However, the Committee currently expects that, with gradual adjustments in the stance of monetary policy, economic activity will expand at a moderate pace and labor market indicators will strengthen. Inflation however, is expected to remain low in the near term before moving to its 2% goal over the medium term as energy prices improve. In regards to Britain's referendum, Fed Chair Janet Yellen mentioned it was also one of the uncertainties that we discussed and that factored into the decision.

Retail Sales Impress Again

Retail Sales rose more than expected for the second month in a row in May. The Commerce Department showed Retail sales

declined for the first time in seven months at -0.1% showing inflation is still slow to pick up. The Core PPI, which only excludes food and energy, rose 0.3% following a 0.1% advance in the previous month.

CPI Remain Subdued

Consumer Prices were relatively flat for the month of May as the CPI increased 0.2% barely missing expectations by 0.1% and the Core CPI increased by 0.2% as in April. The increase come largely from higher gasoline prices and rising rents as the cost of many other staples such as groceries were flat or declined. While the cost of living in the US is steadily increasing, the consumer price index has risen just 1% in the past 12 months well below the level the Federal Reserve believes is healthy for the economy.

QATAR PREDICTS AT LEAST 3 YRS OF BUDGET DEFICITS

DUBAI: Qatar's government expects to run a budget deficit for at least three years as low natural gas and oil prices weigh on its revenues, the Ministry of Development

Planning and Statistics said on Saturday. In a long-term report on the Qatari economy, the ministry forecast a fiscal deficit of 7.8 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) this year, which would be the first deficit in 15 years and bigger than the deficit of 4.8 percent predicted for 2016 in the ministry's last report published in December.

The deficit is expected to total 7.9 percent of GDP next year before shrinking to 4.2 percent in 2018, the ministry said. Qatar, the world's biggest liquefied natural gas exporter, is one of the richest of the Gulf states but like its neighbours, it has been pushed into austerity measures this year in an effort to stabilise its finances. More austerity will be needed to achieve the ministry's projections, the report said.

"This estimate assumes that the

government pares recurrent spending and caps growth of capital spending below previously programmed levels; that there are effective cost reductions in the hydrocarbon sector, which support transfers to the budget; and additional non-oil and gas revenues accrue to the budget."

Some of the projected improvement in the fiscal balance depends on a hoped-for rise in energy prices; the ministry assumed the average crude oil price would climb to \$48.91 a barrel in 2018 from \$45.49 in 2017 and \$37.88 this year.

The ministry predicted Qatar's economy would grow 3.9 percent this year, down from a previous 4.3 percent forecast. It expects growth of 3.8 percent next year and 3.2 percent in 2018.

Liquidity in the Qatari banking system has tightened and money market rates have risen because of reduced inflows of gas and oil money. The ministry said the central bank might take several steps to reduce pressure on liquidity.

It could cut official interest rates, continue to suspend domestic Treasury bond issuance while resuming its suspension of Treasury bill issues, or adopt unconventional measures used by central banks in other countries such as direct purchases of commercial bonds and extraordinary loans to, or equity injections in, individual banks, the ministry said without specifying which steps were likely to be chosen.

In early 2014, the central bank announced a new loan-to-deposit requirement for banks of 100 percent by the end of 2017. The deposit side of the ratio includes only customer deposits and not long-term wholesale funds, which have recently been the primary source of funding for banks.

The banks are still negotiating with regulators to change the loan-to-deposit formula to include long-term wholesale funds, and the deadline for compliance may be postponed until the end of 2018 because of the liquidity issues at Qatari banks, the ministry said. — Reuters

GOIC: INVESTMENTS WORTH \$18.1 BN IN MANUFACTURE OF CEMENT AND LIME IN GULF

DOHA: The Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting (GOIC) announced that investments in the manufacture of cement, lime and plaster in the GCC reached \$18.1 bn in 2015.

In its report published by the Gulf Industrial Knowledge Centre (GIKC), GOIC stated that the number of factories manufacturing cement, lime and plaster in the GCC jumped from 59 in 2011 to 69 in 2016, a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4%. In addition to that, the report highlighted the surge of investments from \$15435 million to \$18102 million, a CAGR of 4.1% for the same period, while labour force expanded from 25304 to 26469 workers, a CAGR of 1.1%. Furthermore, data of GOIC's Industrial Information Unit revealed that the manufacture of cement, lime and plaster represented approximately 2.4% of the total factories, 47.3% of the total investments and 9.7% of the total labour force in the field of building materials manufacture in 2015.

The manufacture of cement, lime and plaster includes the manufacture of clinkers and hydraulic cements, including Portland, alumi-

INDUSTRIAL REPORT

nous cement, slag cement and superphosphate cements, the manufacture of quicklime, slaked lime and hydraulic lime and the manufacture of plasters of calcined gypsum or calcined sulphate.

GOIC's GIKC publishes detailed industrial reports in GCC countries. They are classified in a user-friendly fashion on GIKC's website to facilitate access to the information. The reports tackle various areas including: food, medical supplies, plastics,

textiles, leather, chemicals and petrochemicals, engineering, the environment, recycling and other important sectors. GIKC's website is available in Arabic and English to provide a source of comprehensive industrial information in the Gulf. It offers a unique set of GOIC's industrial studies, industrial investment opportunities and updated reports on several industrial sectors. You can visit www.knowledge.goic.org.qa for more reports to purchase or download for free. The development of the manufacture of cement, lime and plaster in GCC countries.

DATA	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Factories	59	62	62	67	69
Investments (million USD)	15,435	15,769	16,034	17,526	18,102
Labour Force	25,304	24,619	24,079	25,681	26,469

DATA	2012	2013	2014	2015	CAGR (5 years)
Growth rate of factories manufacturing cement, lime and plaster	5.1	0.0	8.1	3.0	4.0
Growth rate of investments in the manufacture of cement, lime and plaster	2.2	1.7	9.3	3.3	4.1
Growth rate of the labour force in field of cement, lime and plaster manufacture	-2.7	-2.2	6.7	3.1	1.1

KBA

اتحاد مصارف الكويت
Kuwait Banking Association

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) would like to draw the attention of all local banks' clients as well as clients of other banks operating in the State of Kuwait, that in the near future, all banks will no longer accept processing cheques, issued in Kuwaiti Dinars, that do not conform with the standards and security features as prescribed by the Central Bank of Kuwait. Banks will advise clients' beneficiary of these types of cheques to go to the issuer Bank to cash their cheque or deposit it in their accounts - if available with the issuer Bank.

Accordingly, KBA would like to urge banks' clients who print their cheques directly through press companies and not through their bank; to print their cheques at the earliest only through authorized entities and by taking into consideration that they need to refer back to their bank to provide them with the mandated standards and security features before printing these cheques.

It is important to note that in addition to the cheques conforming to the standards and security features, the following instructions are followed by all clients to facilitate the clearing of their cheques through the new Kuwait Electronic Cheque Clearing System (KECCS), in which the clearing cycle of cheques has been reduced from 3 days to the same day for certain cases or to the next working day in other cases.

- They need to ensure that the MICR line that is printed at the bottom of the cheque.
- Avoid writing or signing over the MICR line at the bottom of the cheque.
- Keep the cheques in a good condition by avoiding folding, damaging, stapling or tearing cheques.
- Avoid storing cheques in places that are warm or under direct sunlight (e.g. car) as it can damage the cheques and will not be accepted for processing.
- Ensure the availability of sufficient funds in the account before issuing the cheques (Cheques returned due to insufficient funds may lead to criminal persecutions).

Adherence to the above mentioned by all Banks' clients are strongly recommended to ensure the acceptance and processing of the cheques under KECCS and to highly benefit from the new system.

M&A ACTIVITY MAY SUPPORT GULF, RATE HIKE HIT EGYPT

DUBAI: Stock markets in the Gulf may be buoyed yesterday by a rare burst of mergers and acquisitions activity, while a larger-than-expected interest rate hike could weigh on Egypt.

MSCI's all-country world stock index ended Friday up 0.5 percent while Brent oil rose back above \$49.0 a barrel as jitters over this week's referendum on Britain leaving the European Union eased slightly, though the outcome of the vote remains very much in doubt.

National Bank of Abu Dhabi and First Gulf Bank have held preliminary talks on a merger,

two sources with knowledge of the matter told Reuters on Thursday, in what would create the largest bank by assets in the Middle East and Africa.

JPMorgan Cazenove said in a report that it was too early to take positions in either stock since "visibility remains low as yet on factors like strategic rationale for undertaking the transaction from both sides, the form and timeline that this transaction could take and the size of synergies".

But local investors may nevertheless welcome the idea of an Abu Dhabi banking champion.

"We see strong merits of this potential transaction for both parties," said Arqaam Capital, adding that FGB would benefit from a stronger wholesale banking proposition while NBAD was underrepresented in retail banking.

Arqaam said NBAD was undervalued versus FGB, but JPMorgan said current valuations suggested FGB shares offered a better risk-reward balance.

Meanwhile, an investment group led by prominent Dubai businessman Mohamed Alabbar agreed to buy a majority stake in Kuwait Food Co (Americana) from the Kharafi family at 2.650 dinars each.

That is well above Americana's last market price of 2.1 dinars; after the Dubai group completes the purchase of the stake, it will launch a mandatory takeover offer to remaining Americana shareholders at 2.650 dinars under Kuwaiti securities rules.

Americana shares have been suspended since Thursday. But stocks in other companies in which the Kharafis own major stakes - National Investment Co and Zain - rose on Thursday after Reuters reported that talks on the deal had revived, and these stocks could continue climbing yesterday.

In Egypt, the central bank raised its key interest rates by 100 basis points after the close on Thursday to their highest levels in years, in order to rein in surging inflation and ease downward pressure on the Egyptian pound.

Analysts had been roughly evenly split on whether the central bank would tighten policy and few analysts who expected a tightening had predicted such a large hike, so the decision may hurt the stock market, especially since many economists think more tightening and currency depreciation are likely in the second half of this year. —Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report. Sunday 19 June 2016. Includes sections for Index, Trades, Oil & Gas, Consumer Goods, Health Care, Consumer Services, Investment Instruments, Technology, and Parallel Market.



CARACAS: Airport employees dismantle the counters of German airline Lufthansa at Simon Bolivar international airport in Caracas, on Saturday. German airline Lufthansa suspended flights to crisis-hit Venezuela for an indefinite period as of today owing to the economic crisis in the country. The service, three times a week, was Lufthansa's only flight between Germany and Venezuela. Currency controls in Venezuela make it impossible for airlines to convert their earnings into dollars and send the money abroad. —AFP

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report. At 02:00 PM Previous Day. Includes sections for Global Stock Indices, MENA Stock Indices, Global Currencies Exchange Rate, MENA Currencies Exchange Rate, Global Interest Rates, Global Bond Yields, and Commodities.



BELEK, Antalya: The members of the FAM trip from Kuwait pose for a photograph with Turkish Airlines Kuwait Regional Marketing supervisor Hani Hazem during a gala dinner organized by Karnak International at Regnum Carya Golf & Resort at Belek Antalya.

Sertan Yuces, Turkish Airlines General Manager, Casablanca. **Hasan Demir, Turkish Airlines General Manager, Abu Dhabi.**

Turkish Airlines: Widening horizons

Airline expands Mideast network, to launch Kuwait-Antalya direct flight

By Sajeev K Peter

BELEK, ANTALYA, Turkey: Widening its horizons, Turkish Airlines, 'Europe's Best Airline' is continuously expanding its flight network in the Middle East region. Even as it strengthens its global footprint with its vast flight network, the airline offers international flights to destinations across the world from most cities in the Middle East, said Hasan Demir, Turkish Airlines General Manager, Abu Dhabi.

Turkish Airlines, Kuwait recently organized a FAM trip to Antalya for representatives from the media and travel industry in Kuwait offering the delegation a first-hand experience on the flourishing tourism industry in the southern city of Turkey. The trip also provided the delegation an opportunity to familiarize with the growing hospitality industry in Turkey, its fabulous mix of great beaches and the traditional Turkish culture and lifestyle. The delegation was led by Turkish Airlines' Kuwait Regional Marketing supervisor Hani Hazem.

Talking to Kuwait Times in an interview on the sidelines of the Karnak International tourism conference at Regnum Carya Golf & Spa Resort, Antalya, Demir gave an overview of Turkish Airlines and its growing operations in the Gulf region.

"Middle East is an important market for Turkish Airlines. We have strengthened our capacity in the region from 10 percent in the first quarter of 2015 to 17.7 percent in the first three months of 2016. We will continue to expand in the region," he said.

Turkish Airlines has added more than 20 cities to its flight network in the last few years and it currently flies to 34 destinations in the Middle East region. It is scheduled to launch direct flight from Kuwait to Antalya, one of the fast-growing tourist destinations in Europe in southern part of Turkey, from July, he informed. Currently, Turkish Airlines operates daily direct flights from Kuwait to Istanbul.

Established as the 'State Airlines Administration' in 1933, Turkish Airlines commenced its first flight to the Middle East 65 years ago, in 1951. Having operated with 33 aircraft and 720 seating capacity between these years, Turkish Airlines started Hajj rounds to



4 star catering

Saudi Arabia, its first destination in Gulf Cooperation Council in 1953 and provided a more comfortable trip for prospective Hajjis travelling between Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

Broadening network

Established in 1933 with a fleet of five aircraft, the Star Alliance member Turkish Airlines is a 4-star airline today with a fleet of 324 passenger and cargo aircraft flying to over 289 destinations worldwide; 240 international and 49 domestic. According to a 2015 Skytrax survey, Turkish Airlines is named as 'Europe's Best Airline' for five and 'Best Airline in Southern Europe' for seven consecutive years. Having won in 2010 the world's 'Best Economy Catering Service', in 2013 the world's 'Best Business Catering Service', and in 2014 'Best Business Catering Service' awards, Turkish Airlines is awarded with the world's 'Best Business Class Lounge Dining' and 'Best Business Airline Lounge' prizes in the Skytrax survey.

Currently with seven US gateways, Turkish Airlines offers 63 flights per week, serving some 5,000 customers. In October 2015, Turkish Airlines added daily flights from Miami, and as of May 2016, daily flights began from Atlanta as well.

Success story

Turkish Airlines' slow but steady growth and evolution as a leading airline in Europe and the



The first class

Middle East over a period of six decades is a success story. No wonder, the airline's success has become a case study at Harvard Business School (HBS) which called "Turkish Airlines: Widen Your World." The study explores the airline's transformation from a regional actor to a global powerhouse in the international aviation industry and discusses its fast and profitable growth in the sector.

Adopting its current name in 1955, Turkish Airlines added Tbilisi to its flight network in 1965, a period right before the jets were included in the fleet, and continued its growth in the Middle East. With the addition of jet planes into the fleet, the airline company gained strength; it carried nearly three million passengers in 1978 and added Baghdad and Tehran to its flight network. In 1979, it commenced the Kuwait flights which lasted four years. Having a flying start in the 1980s, Turkish Airlines opened its Cairo service in 1980. The company commenced Istanbul-Dubai-Karachi flights on November 5, 1983, and Istanbul-Damascus flights in 1984.

1985 saw the start of flights beyond the Far East and the Atlantic as well as the First Class service. The First Class service was first offered on Jeddah and London flights. Importantly, B737s were included in the fleet in the beginning of 1990s. During the following decade, the company's capital volume increased by 100 percent, reaching two trillion

Turkish liras. Right around this time, Turkish Airlines restarted its Kuwait flights and added Bahrain to its flight network.

"Although 2015 was a challenging year globally both economically and politically, Turkish Airlines made satisfactory successes. The airline carried 61.2 million passengers in total with 453,000 flights and a 78 percent seat occupancy rate," said Demir.

The number of the flight points rose to 284 from 261, while the number of the planes to 299 marking most important milestones of Turkish Airlines' development in the Middle East during the millennium.

Arabic language services

Turkish Airlines continues to offer Arabic in all its services to become closer to its guests. The company serves better its Middle Eastern guests with Arabic social media accounts, 24/7 call center service, Arabic interface in the inflight entertainment system, and Arabic-speaking passenger services at Atatrk Airport. Initiated by Turkish Airlines in May 2015, the Middle East call center operates 24/7 in seven countries. The call center personnel who are native Arabic speakers have answered nearly 44,000 calls so far.

In order to keep alive its brand equity that provides a serious advantage in terms of competition, Turkish Airlines invests in its quality of service, in-

flight entertainment systems, comfortable seats, gourmet cuisine and its qualified human resources.

"We are in the forefront of the latest technological advances and innovations in the aviation industry and we have one of the youngest fleets. Currently we have a fleet strength of 324 aircraft both passenger and cargo," said Sertan Yuces, Turkish Airlines General Manager, Casablanca. The fleet consists of aircraft types: A340-300, A330, A321, A320, A319, B737-400, B737-800, B737-900 and B777 ER.

"As the airline expands its routes and number of aircraft, we continue training our employees which is important in insuring the safety of our passengers," said Yuces.

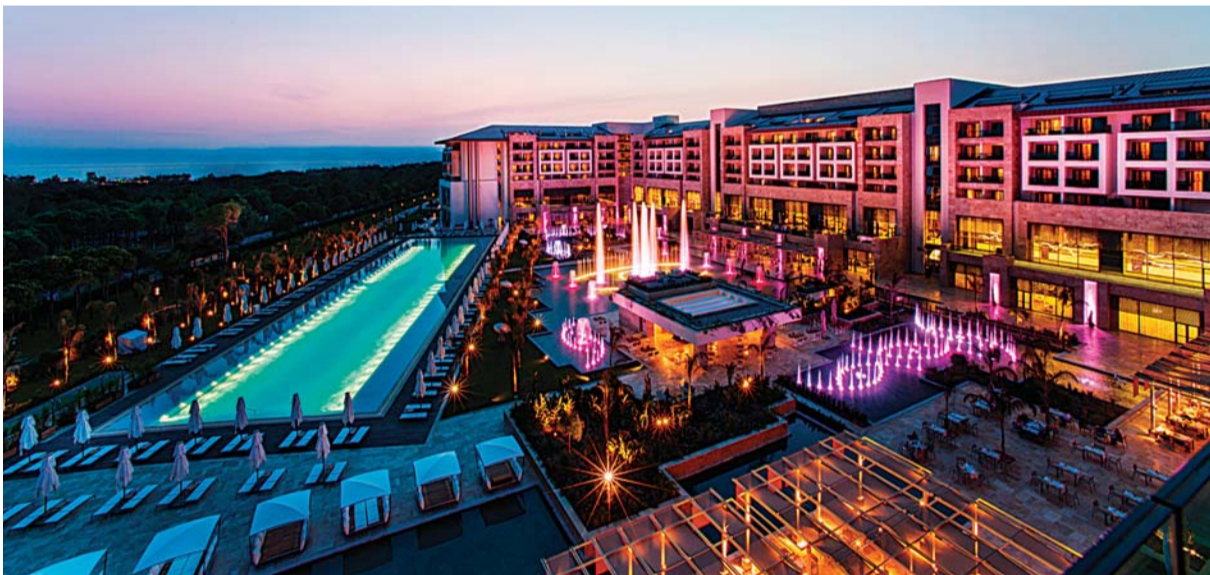
Turkish Airlines regards flight safety and service quality as two of the most indispensable necessities. The carrier currently holds a four-star ranking and consistently strives to secure a five-star ranking.

Understanding the responsibility of being a leading airline within the global aviation community, Turkish Airlines is determined to carry out its mission moving forward with its unparalleled service concept, superior quality, trustworthiness and reliability.

In addition to Europe, Turkish Airlines is also strategically expanding its network into Russia, Central Asia, Far East Asia, the Middle East, Africa and North and South America. As one of the fastest growing airlines in the world, Turkish Airlines holds a strategic position between the East and West.

Facts & Figures

- Number of aircraft: 324 (passenger and cargo)
- Aircraft types: A340-300, A330, A321, A320, A319, B737-400, B737-800, B737-900 B777 ER
- Hubs: Istanbul, Ankara
- Frequent flyer program: Miles & Smiles
- Number of destinations: 289 (240 international, 49 domestic)
- Network strengths: Europe, Russia, Central Asia, Far East Asia, the Middle East, Africa, North and South America



A general view of Regnum Carya Golf & Spa Resort.



BELEK, Antalya: Sardar Mashahdani, Karnak International, addresses a press conference.

Antalya's hotel industry: Reinventing itself

By Sajeev K Peter

BELEK, Turkey: Antalya's hotel industry has reinvented itself over the last few years to accommodate the demands of a fast-growing tourism sector in the region, incorporating luxury five-star amenities that capture the attention of the rich and famous.

Karnak International Travel & Tourism, in association with Turkish Airlines and Regnum Carya Golf & Spa Resort, Belek hosted a B2B workshop at the hotel in which topmost luxury hotels in Antalya met with travel industry experts and the media representatives from the Gulf region. Members of the FAM trip delegation from Kuwait also got an opportunity to interact with the professionals of the hospitality industry in Antalya.

Addressing a press conference on the side-

lines of the workshop, Sardar Mashahdani of Karnak International, briefed the media about the growing tourism industry in Antalya.

Tourism is the backbone of Antalya's economy as it hosts 35 percent of the total number of tourists coming to Turkey. Nearly 6-7 million tourists visit Antalya a year as it attracts visitors throughout the year and an increasing number of hotels remain open all year round.

According to one estimate, a record 12.5 million tourists passed through Antalya in 2014 which is the host city of EXPO 2016. Antalya is home to more than 340 properties with more than 30 five-star luxury hotels in the Belek region itself.

Regnum Carya Golf & Spa Resort

An 11-minute walk from Carya Golf Club, Regnum Regnum Carya Golf & Spa Resort, a

luxury, all-inclusive golf resort is 10 km from Troy Aqua water park in Belek-Antalya. The members of the FAM trip delegation from Kuwait were hosted for a three-night stay at Regnum.

This newest luxurious hotel property in Belek and opened in 2014, Regnum has a total of 538 elegantly appointed rooms, suites and villas. The hotel features furnished balconies and marble bathrooms and the bright, contemporary rooms come with flat-screen TVs, free Wi-Fi and minibars with sea views. Suites offer whirlpool tubs, living rooms and private butler service.

Meals are provided in five gourmet restaurants. Other amenities include a gym, a posh spa, and indoor and outdoor pools, plus tennis courts, a football school and a private beach with a pier. The hotel is affiliated with two golf courses.

One of the most striking features of the hotels in Antalya probably is that they serve food and beverages to their guests 24 hours free of charge. "It is our customized service concept. Once you check in, you will be offered a total package and all your needs will be taken care," said an executive at the Regnum.

Rixos World, the Land of Legends

Turkey's first integrated leisure and entertainment park, the Land of Legends by Rixos World Parks & Entertainment, is all set to open its doors to guests in July. Touted to be Europe's largest theme park, The Land of Legends will be a first-of-its-kind destination located in Belek, Antalya.

"This is an initiative that brings together Rixos Hotels and Dragone, creators of world class experimental events, representing a brand

new concept in the field of multi-sensory experiences," said Veronika Uzer, sales manager, Rixos Land of Legends.

According to Uzer, original awe-inspiring characters will bring Dragone's universe to life in the most legendary way giving families and children the chance to experience an innovative and unforgettable new world.

Rixos Premium Belek

Located 50km away from Antalya and 40km from airport, Rixos Premium Belek resort is stretching over 405,000 sqm of Calabrian pine and pistachio tree forests with more than 1 km long warm sunny beach. The resort is built in magnificent natural settings that reveal the spellbinding beauty of the Belek region. Rixos Premium Belek has opened its doors and welcomed its first guest in 2005.



Rixos World, the Land of Legends.



Rixos Premium Belek



BELEK, Antalya: Hotel industry professional meet tour operators at a B2B workshop organized by Karnak International at Regnum Carya Golf & Spa Resort, Belek.

TOP EXPO GROUP PICKS TORONTO TO HOST CANADIAN REAL ESTATE 2017

TORONTO: Internationally renowned Kuwait-based Top Expo Group yesterday unveiled plans to host the Canadian International Real Estate Marketplace - Canada's first-ever international property investment show May 16-18, 2017 in Toronto. The Marketplace will be a showcase that will exhibit present and future developments from the residential, commercial and vacation resort real estate and property development sectors from around the world. Top Expo Group believes that the Canadian International Real Estate Marketplace will outperform the Kuwait, Dubai and London real estate shows, where normally they attracted hundreds of millions dollars in event transactions.

"Canada is now one of the best countries in the world for investors looking for a secure economy and government. The real estate marketplace is booming, which is why we feel Toronto is becoming the new London. There are thousands of attractive property investment opportunities available," says Mohammed Al-Qadoumi, President, Top Expo Group (Canada).

"Canadian luxury home sales are competing on world-class levels. We have opened an office in Toronto because interest from foreign buyers has been increasing substantially. A report from

Canadian realtor Royal LePage found 66 per cent of its advisers believe foreign investor activity is up in their regions. The time to invest in Canada is now," Al-Qadoumi added.

The Canadian International Real Estate Marketplace will be attracting exhibitors and investors from around the world, including property investment opportunities from the Caribbean region. "We want to bring investors and exhibitors from across the Middle East to experience a state-of-the-art international property show of the same caliber Top Expo is known for in the GCC. We are creating the perfect opportunity for exhibitors to have direct access to some of the biggest real estate investors and decision-makers," added Al-Qadoumi.

Exhibitors will receive a fully equipped turn-key display booth at the Toronto Metro Convention Centre and ongoing exposure in Canada and Kuwait through Top Expo's marketing campaigns before, during and after the show.

Top Expo Group has space for 170 exhibitors and is offering premium sponsorship opportunities for companies seeking to increase their visibility in the Canadian real estate market. The Canadian International Real Estate Marketplace represents one significant opportunity to demonstrate a keen



Al-Qadoumi with top expo group team and consultants.

understanding of the Canadian real estate market, as well as a passion to build wealth through every transaction and the vision to seek out greater opportunities worldwide.

The event will see participants from different

sectors including property developers, investors, financial institutions, real estate brokers and agents, legal services, investment brokers, architects, governments and government economic development agencies congregate under one roof.

AHLI UNITED BANK CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF BANKING IN UK

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (UK) PLC celebrated its 50th year of doing business in the UK, marking this milestone anniversary with an event held at London's Millennium Hotel in Grosvenor Square. Established in 1966, United Bank of Kuwait Limited, the forerunner of AUB (UK), merged in 2000 with Bahrain's Ahli Commercial Bank to form Ahli United Bank Group, the now pan-Middle East financial services group of which AUB (UK) is a wholly owned subsidiary.

The event was attended by senior diplomats, honoured guests and members of London-based professional and business organizations, as well as the Board of Directors and former and current management and staff members.

Speaking at the dinner, AUB's Chairman Hamad Al-Humaidhi said: "We are proud to celebrate half a century of presence and service to our valued clients in the UK, thus holding the record and distinction of being the oldest bank from the Gulf and MENA region to continuously operate in the UK market. It is a testament to the pioneering spirit of the Bank's founders that, barely a few decades after British institutions

established their -and the region's- first local banks, investors from the region came full circle to establish the Gulf's very first bank in the heart of London. It is the same spirit which continued to inspire and drive AUB's journey of remarkable success and expansion over the years."

"AUB (UK) was founded to connect clients and businesses from the Gulf to global markets and opportunities, undertaking to offer the very best of British banking practice combined with a unique understanding of the special needs of offshore customers from the Gulf and the MENA region at large. Fifty years on, much has changed in terms of our product and service offering, but our guiding principles remain the same, to serve with the highest integrity, always making customer service the priority and focusing on the sustainability of our businesses for many years to come," added Al-Humaidhi.

AUB (UK) is part of Ahli United Bank, a pan-regional banking group with operations spanning seven key Middle Eastern countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, UAE, Oman, Iraq, Egypt, and Libya) as well as the United Kingdom.



Hamad Al-Humaidhi

ETIHAD AIRWAYS AND AVIANCA BRASIL ANNOUNCE CODESHARE PARTNERSHIP

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, and Avianca Brasil, one of the leading airlines in Latin America, have announced a codeshare partnership.

Under the agreement, Etihad Airways will put its 'EY' code on domestic flights operated by Avianca Brasil, while Avianca Brasil will put its 'O6' code on Etihad Airways flights between Abu Dhabi and São Paulo.

Travellers on Etihad Airways flights between Sao Paulo (GRU) and Abu Dhabi (AUH) and beyond will benefit from convenient connections to and from eight other Brazilian destinations on Avianca Brasil, including Rio de Janeiro (GIG), Curitiba (CWB), Florianapolis (FLN), Fortaleza (FOR), Porto Alegre (POA), Recife (REC), Salvador (SSA), and Maceia (MCZ).

"Avianca is an important strategic partner for Etihad Airways in South America. In addition to the codeshare agreement recently signed with Avianca Colombia, we are further strengthening our presence in Brazil by offering our guests more convenience and connections with a single combined ticket," said Martin Drew, Senior Vice President - Americas at Etihad Airways.

"Through its main hub in Abu Dhabi, Etihad Airways will offer our customers

excellent options of connection flights, especially to destinations in Africa, Asia and Oceania, where Avianca Brasil doesn't operate directly. This partnership is important because it adds even more value to the services we offer our passengers," added Frederico Pedreira, President of Avianca Brasil.

Codeshare agreements offer guests countless benefits, such as direct baggage check-in to their final destination and extra assistance during connections. Later this year, Etihad Guest members and Avianca Brasil's Amigo members will be able to earn and redeem miles on codeshare flights.

Etihad Airways has flown between Abu Dhabi and Sao Paulo, its first destination in South America, since June 2013. By the end of 2015 the airline had carried over 340,000 passengers on the route. Avianca Brasil serves 22 cities in its home country with over 200 daily flights. In 2015, the carrier transported 8.5 million customers.

Bookings on Etihad Airways can be made directly through the airline's website, etihad.com, via telephone at +971 2 5990000 and through travel agencies worldwide.

Competitive fares to Abu Dhabi are available on the Avianca Brasil website (www.avianca.com.br).

RENAULT AL BAPTAIN LAUNCH THE 2016 'SUMMER SERVICE CAMPAIGN'

RENAULT
Passion for life

Make your Renault's Air conditioner summer ready!
Breathe easy this summer by getting your car's air conditioner checked now for free.

- Complimentary AC checkup + 25 points Safety check sheet*
- 30 % discount on Parts
- 15% discount on Labour
- Free Aircromatic service*

Offer valid from 15th June until to 14th July, 2016 on all Renault models.

*Any invoice above 35 KD will benefit from a Free Aircromatic service

renaultkwt

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Baptaim Co., the exclusive and authorized agent of Renault vehicles in the State of Kuwait launched the 2016 Summer Service Campaign. Offering Renault clients an exceptional opportunity for a free checkup on their Air Conditioning system during the summer season to ensure peace of mind during the heavy heat waves.

As the safety of Renault Al-Baptaim clients and their families is the number one priority, more benefits have been added for the Renault clients through this campaign by offering free checking of the 25 points safety tools.

Moreover the Summer Campaign offer, Renault Al Baptaim clients a 15% discount on labor and 30% on genuine spare parts, as it is always recommended to buy genuine parts to guaranty quality and durability. Genuine parts saves expenses on the long-term due to its long life and it's the base of safe driving and peace of mind.

Furthermore the Renault Al Baptaim Summer Campaign, offers each client whose service invoice exceeds KD 35 a chance to receive a free air-purifying service for their vehicle.

Renault Al Baptaim invites its clients to visit the service center at Al Rai area to benefit from the various special services offered by this unique Summer Campaign.

This campaign applies on all Renault models that are known for its European style and Japanese quality, which succeeded to build strong presence due to its ability to meet all tastes and meet customer's satisfaction in different categories of practical vehicles.

Renault Al Baptaim always presents unbeatable promotions and attractive offers comparing to its competitors aiming to achieve its goal of keeping the name of the brand among the leading brands in the automotive market.

KUWAIT SECOND MOST TARGETED COUNTRY FOR SPEAR-PHISHING ATTACKS IN ME AND AFRICA

DUBAI: Cybercrime in the Middle East has been on the rise in the last few years and has become the second most common form of economic crime in the region. Gulf countries, including Kuwait, are especially targeted due to their high uptake of mobile devices and access to high-speed internet. In fact, Symantec's Internet Security Threat Report (ISTR) indicates that Kuwait has a high level of bots, ransomware and spam, some of which rising compared to the previous year.

Overall, Kuwait's 2015 Internet Security Threat Profile increased from a global rank of 70th in 2014 to 61st in 2015, indicating a higher global percentage of security threats, including malicious code, spam, phishing hosts, web and network attacks, and bots from the country. Bucking the global downward trend, Kuwait also experienced more bots with its global rank changing 15 spots from rank 50th in 2014 to 35th in 2015. A bot is a type of malware that allows an attacker to take control over an affected computer.

Kuwait is also highly targeted in the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region for spear-phishing (a form of targeted attacks), ranking as the 2nd most targeted country regionally and the 18th most targeted country globally. While Kuwait is ranked lower than the UAE, who was ranked as the 1st most targeted country in the region, it nonetheless remains highly susceptible to these attacks. In 2015, businesses in Kuwait also received a high number of spam emails and ransomware attacks, ranking 52nd globally for spam and 57th for ransomware.

Spear-phishing, a form of targeted attacks, are very carefully crafted and designed to be low in number to remain below the radar. They are aimed at a specific business or organisation, or an individual within an organisation, with the goal of extracting confidential data or information. Cybercriminals engage in highly sophisticated forms of social engineering to dress-up attacks and covertly gather as much information about the company they want to infiltrate and then target key employees.

Hussam Sidani: The Need to protect every Sector in the Economy is Crucial.

"Cyber-attacks are becoming increasingly advanced in nature. Cybercriminals today are mirroring corporate best practices and establishing professional businesses in order to increase the efficiency of their attacks against enterprises and consumers. They have evolved at an alarming rate, adopting clever strategies whereby their attacks on bigger targets are becoming more intelligent and deliberate," commented Hussam Sidani, Regional Manager for Gulf, Symantec.



Hussam Sidani

Ransomware continued to evolve in 2015 and spread beyond PCs to smartphones, Mac and Linux systems, with attackers increasingly seeking any network-connected device that could be held hostage for profit. Kuwait was the 14th most impacted country in the MEA region with ransomware, and the 57th globally. Symantec's annual ISTR report revealed that over 3,600 ransomware attacks were detected in Kuwait in 2015.

Notably, Kuwait's global spam ranking increased 13 places from a global rank of 65 in 2014 to 52 in 2015. Spam can be defined as unsolicited bulk email, or unwarranted communication. Typically consisting of unsolicited messaging, the objective can vary between advertising, phishing or spreading malware. Spam messages sometimes contain masked links that seem to be from a familiar website but in fact lead to phishing websites or sites containing/hosting malware.

"It is crucial for all sectors to recognize that cyber security is an essential element in the security of their companies. For example, we are witnessing a regional shift in the oil and gas industry to the 'digital oilfield', in turn making the industry more susceptible to cyber threats. As a result, the recognition for the need to protect every sector in the economy is crucial," added Sidani.

As Kuwait continues to transition into a technologically advanced, smart economy, cyber security is becoming a dominant concern. Cyber threats transcend across an entire region, country and citizen. The necessity to educate all three is no longer an option but a requirement. As attackers become more intelligent, society, government and businesses are collectively responsible to learn how to protect companies, communities and the nations.

EGYPT ORANGE OFFERED 4G LICENCE FOR \$400M IN SPECTRUM SHAKE-UP

CAIRO: Orange Egypt said yesterday that Egypt's telecommunications regulator had asked it to pay 3.54 billion Egyptian pounds (\$399 million) for a licence to offer fourth-generation mobile phone services.

The regulator had asked it to pay 100 million Egyptian pounds to acquire a fixed-line licence and 1.8 billion pounds to offer international calls, Orange Egypt said in a statement.

Orange Egypt said it was looking into the licence offers and had yet to make a decision. Egypt is selling the 4G licences as part of a long-awaited plan to reform the country's telecoms sector and the regulator has confirmed that it approached the three companies that currently offer mobile services about buying them.

Telecom Minister Yasser al-Qadi told television channel CBC last month that Egypt was

planning to offer high-speed 4G licences to companies already operating in Egypt.

The reforms will allow Egypt's land-line monopoly Telecom Egypt (TE) to enter the mobile phone market directly while allowing mobile operators to offer fixed line services, ending its domination of the sector.

TE, which is majority owned by the government, said on Sunday it had also been granted a 4G licence. It was not clear how much TE, which does not offer its own mobile services but does own a stake in Vodafone Egypt, would pay for the new spectrum.

"This move will enable TE to fulfil our long awaited goal of becoming a total telecommunications operator, by offering mobile services," TE CEO Tamer Gadalla said in a statement.

It was not clear what would happen to the

Vodafone Egypt stake if TE begins offering mobile services directly. Under previous reform plans, which have since been scrapped, TE would have had to dispose of its stake.

Vodafone Egypt said it received an offer from the telecoms regulator a week ago, but declined to give any numbers.

Khaled Hegazi, external affairs and legal director at Vodafone Egypt, said, however, that not all the mobile service providers had necessarily been offered the same prices or terms.

"Each company has specific conditions that are considered competitive. We receive different offers based on each company's condition in the market," he told Reuters.

Etisalat, which also provides mobile services in Egypt, was not immediately available to comment. — Reuters

SOFTWARE UNVEILED TO TACKLE ONLINE EXTREMISM, VIOLENCE

WASHINGTON: A software tool unveiled Friday aims to help online firms quickly find and eliminate extremist content used to spread and incite violence and attacks. The Counter Extremism Project, a nongovernment group based in Washington, proposed its software be used in a system similar to one used to prevent the spread on online child pornography.

The software was developed by Dartmouth University computer scientist Hany Farid, who also worked on the PhotoDNA system which is now widely used by Internet companies to stop the spread of content showing sexual exploitation or pornography involving children. The announcement comes amid

growing concerns about radical jihadists using social networks to diffuse violent and gruesome content and recruit people for attacks. "We think this is the technological solution to combat online extremism," said Mark Wallace, chief executive of the organization that includes former diplomats and public officials from the United States and other countries.

The group proposed the creation of an independent "National Office for Reporting Extremism" that would operate in a similar fashion to the child pornography center-identifying and flagging certain content to enable online firms to automatically remove it. This system, if adopted by Internet

firms, "would go a long way to making sure that online extremist is no longer pervasive," Wallace told a conference call with journalists. He said it could be useful in stopping the "viral" spread of videos of beheadings and killings such as those produced by the Islamic State (IS) organization.

'Collaborative discussions'

Wallace said he expects "robust debate" on what is acceptable content but added that "I think we could agree that the beheading videos, the drowning videos, the torture videos... should be removed."

Wallace said the group has had "collaborative discussions" with Internet

firms and that "there has been a lot of interest." But he added that it would be up to each online operator to determine whether to use the software and how to implement it.

Farid, who also spoke on the call, said he believes the new system would be an effective tool for companies which must now manually review each complaint on objectionable content. "We are simply developing a technology that allows companies to accurately and effectively enforce their terms of service," Farid said.

"They do it anyway, but it's slow." The system is based on "robust hashing" or finding so-called digital signatures of content of text, images, audio and

video that can be tracked to enable platforms to identify and stop content from being posted or reposted.

"The technology has been developed, it has been tested and we are in the final stages of engineering to get it ready for deployment," Farid said. "We're talking about a matter of months."

Social networks have long stressed they will help legitimate investigations of crimes and attacks, but have resisted efforts to police or censor the vast amounts of content flowing through them.

Farid said he developed the software with a grant from Microsoft, and that he and the Counter Extremism Project would work to provide it to online companies. —AFP



Yasser Zeineldin CEO - eHosting DataFort.

EHDF, NETCURE & LOGRHYTHM ANNOUNCE LAUNCH OF CYBER DEFENSE CENTER

DUBAI: eHosting DataFort (eHDF), the region's leading Managed Hosting and Cloud Infrastructure services provider announced the launch of a Cyber Defense Centre (CDC) based in the UAE. The Cyber Defense Centre will offer customers a portfolio of Managed Security Services (MSS) along with Remote Managed SIEM Services. The announcement was made at a seminar hosted along with Netcure and LogRhythm at Burj Al Arab, Dubai.

Titled 'Detect & Respond Quickly to High Impact Threats', the seminar covered a range of topics and highlighted the most pressing issues connected to cyber security. The seminar discussed growing popularity of Managed Security Services which covers Advanced Threat Protection, Incident Management and Response, DDoS Protection, Endpoint Security Management, etc. The importance of Managed Security Services and how customers can benefit from end-to-end security lifecycle management was also outlined.

"Security threats are at an epidemic level. Volume Zero day threats have more than doubled in the last 12 months from 23 in 2014 to 54 in 2015", said Jeff Ogden, Managing Director of the eHDF Cyber Defense Centre. "Targeted attacks aimed at customers has seen a 54% growth and the most important focus of the CDC is to deliver the highest levels of security. This will be delivered either within the Data Centre, on premise at the Customers site or in the Cloud".

The seminar included talks on threat landscape, the role of Managed Security Services in the modern day context and the importance of modernizing threat detection & response. The seminar also saw LogRhythm conduct a demo on their SIEM solution.

"At a time when data breaches and hacking are on the rise, it is crucial for organiza-

tions to be prepared to combat these attacks. Today, it is imperative to implement cyber security processes that help companies efficiently respond in real time to protect their critical data. We have always worked towards educating our customers about technology innovations that will help them grow their business. Seminars such as 'Detect & Respond Quickly to High Impact Threats' will help us spread the message on how organizations can prepare to secure their data. With the need for specialized skills required to tackle security issues, Managed Security Services can help curtail budgets. It will also have professionals look into the highly specialized areas of Information Security," said, Yasser Zeineldin, CEO, eHosting DataFort.

Seeking to highlight the growing importance of Managed Security Services (MSS) to an audience of CIO's in the UAE, eHDF also conducted a survey to track MSS trends in the region. Among the findings of the survey, 18% indicated interest in Managed Data Loss Prevention, 26% in Cloud Security and 29% in SIEM in 2016. 15%, 29% and 21% respondents also indicated interest in Vulnerability Management, Advanced Threat Protection and Mobile Security respectively.

"We can assist customers in the complete end-to-end security lifecycle which include patching services, collecting and analyzing security data. The services also include incident management which offers a single dashboard of their security posture, attacks, and incidents. In addition, our unique OPEX based approach allows eHDF to pass on tangible cost benefits to customers planning to procure new security technologies. Purchasing capital assets through eHDF on an OPEX Model eliminates the need for lengthy evaluation and procurement. It also provides ongoing monthly based payment plans for our customers," concluded Yasser.

IN ISRAELI DESERT, WORLD'S HIGHEST SOLAR TOWER LOOKS TO FUTURE

ASHALIM, Israel: In the middle of southern Israel's desert, engineers are hard at work building the world's tallest solar tower, reflecting the country's high hopes for renewable energy.

Once completed in late 2017, the Ashalim Tower will rise to 240 meters (787 feet), taller than Paris's Montparnasse Tower and London's Gherkin, according to the Israeli government and the consortium building it.

Covered in stainless steel, the square tower in the rocky Negev desert with a peak resembling a giant lighthouse will be visible from dozens of kilometers away. A field of mirrors covering 300 hectares (740 acres) — the size of more than 400 football pitches — will stretch out from its base, directing sunlight toward the tower's peak to an area called the boiler, which looks like a giant light bulb.

The boiler, whose temperature will rise to 600 degrees Celsius (1112 Fahrenheit), generates steam that is channeled towards the foot of the tower, where electricity is produced. The construction, costing an estimated 500 million Euros (\$570 million), is being financed by US firm General Electric, with France's Alstom and Israeli private investment fund Noy also involved.

Clean at a cost

Israel's government launched a tender for the project in 2013, committing to purchase electricity from it over 25 years as part of a shift towards renewable energy and energy independence.

The country mainly generates electricity

using plants fired by coal, natural gas and fuel oil. Its domestic supply of natural gas has grown with the discovery of fields in the Mediterranean.

Solar requires a major investment, though costs are gradually coming down. Energy from a solar tower is "two to three times more expensive to produce than classic electricity plants using carbon or fuel", said Eran Gartner, who heads the Megalim consortium managing the project.

The tower should provide 121 megawatts, or two percent of Israel's electricity needs, enough for a city of 110,000 households. The country of eight million people is seeking to make renewable energy account for 10 percent of its total consumption by 2020.

Solar power offers a clean alternative to fuel- and carbon-fired electricity plants, which contribute to global warming with their heat-trapping CO2 emissions. "The government agreed to move ahead with this technology even though we do not hide the fact that it is more expensive than traditional electricity production—precisely to achieve lower costs over time," Gartner said at the site.

"The second solar tower will be slightly less expensive, the third much less expensive, et cetera." He predicted a futuristic landscape of towers overlooking the desert. Israel could in theory meet all its electricity needs through solar energy by using only four percent of the Negev desert, said Eitan Parnass, head of the Green Energy Association of Israel. —AFP

HOTELIERS ACCELERATE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

AVAYA REPORTS 40% INCREASE IN REGIONAL HOSPITALITY BUSINESS

DUBAI: Hotel owners in the Middle East

are embracing digital transformation initiatives to create unparalleled guest experiences, and stand out from competitors, Avaya announced today. With occupancy levels and average daily rates declining across the region, hoteliers are tapping solutions from Avaya, a global leader in business communications software, systems and services, to modernize their services, produce new revenue streams and enhance operational efficiency.

Avaya's regional hospitality business grew 40% in the first half of the company's fiscal year, even as the Middle East and Africa were the only regions worldwide to post declines in occupancy and average daily rate (ADR), according to research firm STR Global, with ADR in the Middle East dropping 10.8% in April. Weak oil prices, geopolitical instability and reduced demand are weighing on results, leading to hoteliers seeking solutions that can reduce total cost of ownership while still delivering superior guest experiences.

Frederick Sabty, Vice President Hospitality Solutions, World Wide Avaya, said: "With the region preparing for major events such as Expo 2020 in Dubai and the FIFA World Cup in Qatar in 2022, hotels need to offer compelling experiences and differentiated services to stand out from the crowd. Today's traveler is no longer satisfied with the traditional Hotel Experience - they expect seamless connectivity across multiple devices, real-time access to information and services, customized in-room entertainment and an individualized experience that meets their own unique needs."

Minor Hotel Group (MHG), owner and operator of hotels and resorts in 22 countries, has deployed innovative unified communications, contact center and networking solutions from Avaya across its hotels in the region, as part of its plans to increase its foot-

print in the Middle East.

Hari Nair, Director of Technology Middle East, Minor Hotel Group, said: "Minor Hotel Group is committed to delivering the perfect guest experience and exceeding our visitors' expectations every time. With Avaya, we are able to

across the industry, with Avaya seeing an increasing range of hotels investing in digital strategies to enhance their guest experience, while hoteliers are also looking to consolidate their ICT infrastructure and resources, and focus on total cost of ownership.

tomers to 'share' their experience on the go. Hotels are also able to build up data banks based on customer feedback and fine-tune their service to further improve the guest experience based on their profiles.

In-room experience, with a shift



Frederick Sabty, Vice President-Hospitality Solutions, Avaya.

deliver the mobile, interactive, secure experiences that our guests deserve, meeting their needs today and for the future. Avaya solutions allow us to deliver innovative services quickly, enhance operational efficiency, and reduce total cost of ownership, while powering our digital transformation journey."

The digital transformation drive is

Digitally transformed organizations in the hospitality sector can benefit from:

Mobility solutions to enable employees and guests to access their preferred services securely from anywhere on the property, and on their preferred mobile devices;

Social integration, to enable cus-

tomers to interact with a single agent who is contextually aware of the guest.

In the GCC, more than 80 per cent of all local hotel brands work with Avaya on transforming the guest experience, and globally, eight out of every 10 hospitality brands use Avaya solutions.



JIA ZHANGKE PLANS VIRTUAL REALITY ROMANCE

BEIJING: Critically acclaimed Chinese director Jia Zhangke says he will make a virtual reality film next year with a romantic story as he and viewers get used to the new medium, and declared: "I think VR is going to be the next big thing."

The director, better known for films that depict China's social changes and acts of violence, told The Associated Press that the short film would be a gentle romance as "it takes time for people to feel comfortable" in virtual reality. "The speed and direction of movements may make people feel physically uncomfortable, so we're starting with a romantic story," he said in an interview.

Virtual reality entertainment consists largely of video games, but film festivals are starting to showcase VR films as directors venture into the new medium. It offers a much more solitary experience compared to watching a movie in a packed theater.

VR requires a headset that blocks out your surroundings and lets you wander through a story in a different world - either by moving a few steps in various directions or sitting on a swivel chair and moving your body to look around a 360-degree scene.

The fake environment is, nonetheless, often realistic, but movie makers are still trying to work out how to tell a story in VR. "I am still learning about VR and trying to understand it at the moment, but I'm very interested in this new technology which lets us view space from different angles," Jia said Saturday. It also gives the audience more power as they

choose what to watch. "In the past, the audience could only imagine the world inside and outside the frame," he said. "VR liberates an audience and allows people to independently choose what we want to be concerned with. Audiences become more important."

"Today, we can divert our attention from the close-up shot in a traditional film that we had to watch in the past," added the 46-year-old Jia. "I think



BEIJING: Chinese director Jia Zhangke speaks at an event.—AP

it's a brand new and valuable idea."

Earlier Saturday, Jia spoke at an event with Richard Pei-zi, former director of the New York Film Festival, who told him that he felt the VR medium impinged on the ability of a director to tell a story. Pei-zi recalled a short VR detective film he had seen in which "the filmmaker wanted me to look left but I wanted to look right."

Jia said he thought the filmmaker "probably did a bad job" and suggested a director could deploy actors whose movements could direct a viewer's attention. Jia has explored China's rapid transformation throughout his career, which includes early underground films, documentaries and international film festival prize winners, 2006 "Still Life" and 2013 "A Touch of Sin." He spent years making underground films before censors allowed his first movie to be released in Chinese cinemas in 2004.

Jia will next month launch his own video streaming site, "Jia Screen," that he said would premiere 108 short films from around the world. Jia told the audience at the talk organized by Columbia Global Center in Beijing that while today's technology and various streaming websites in China allowed people to make and upload their own films, those weren't being seen because the public didn't know which of the thousands to watch.

His platform will "work as a bridge to bring the information to the audiences instead of asking the audiences to do the job themselves," he said. —AP

HACKERS DIVERT \$50M IN BLOW TO VIRTUAL CURRENCY

NEW YORK: Hackers have diverted more than \$50 million in digital currency from an experimental fund meant to demonstrate that such money is safe for use, according to the New York Times.

The sum was stolen from a project called the Decentralized Autonomous Organization (DAO), which had collected the money in Ether, a form of currency similar to Bitcoin. The hacking, which

siphoned off a third of the project's digital money, is likely to doom the investor-funded project, the Times reported Friday.

Blockchain, the technology that drives cryptocurrency such as Ether, has recently been gaining traction in the world of finance, where it could one day prove potentially useful. In recent months, however, computer scientists had indicated that vulnera-

bilities existed in the project's code, the Times reported.

Programmers Friday were debating whether to simply change the code so that the money could be recuperated, or whether such meddling broke with the project's basic tenets. "I recognize that there are very heavy arguments on both sides, and that either direction would have seen very heavy opposition,"

Vitalik Buterin, the founder and lead programmer on the Ethereum project, which hosts Ether, said on Reddit.

The hack sent the price of Ether plunging Friday. Similarly, Bitcoin took a hard hit after the Tokyo-based Mt Gox trading exchange declared bankruptcy early in 2014 due to a fortune in digital currency vanishing or being stolen. —AFP

WOMAN RESCUES 5-YEAR-OLD SON FROM MOUNTAIN LION'S JAWS

DENVER: Summoned by the sound of screams, a Colorado woman raced to her front yard to find a terrifying sight: A mountain lion was hunched over her 5-year-old son, biting him.

The woman charged the animal, yanked away one of its paws and discovered her son's whole head was in its mouth. She didn't back down. "She was able to pry the cat's jaws open," Pitkin County Sheriff's Deputy Michael Buglione said. "She's a hero." The boy suffered deep cuts to his head, face and neck and was flown to a Denver hospital. His mother, who also was scratched and bitten, is credited with saving his life.

The ordeal started Friday evening when the 5-year-old and his older brother were playing outside their home near the resort town of Aspen,

Buglione said. When the woman ran outside, she found the lion crouched over her younger son, who was struggling to get free. "The boy was completely under the cat," Buglione told The Aspen Times.

The mother pried open the lion's mouth with her hands, scooped up the child and ran away, the deputy said. The boy's father had just returned from a run when the attack occurred. He jumped in the car with his wife and son and called 911 as they sped to the Aspen hospital.

From there, the child was flown to Children's Hospital in Denver in fair condition. On Saturday, a hospital spokeswoman told the Times she was not authorized to release any details on his condition. The mother suffered bite marks on her hand and

scratches on her leg, authorities said. She was treated and released. The family members' names were not released.

The mountain lion was estimated to be about 2 years old and not fully grown. "It wasn't a big cat," Buglione said. "Had it been a 110-pound lion - which I've seen around here - this would have been a much different story." Wildlife officials killed two mountain lions in the area within several hours of the attack. Both were being examined to determine if they were hungry, diseased or just in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Colorado is home to up to 4,500 mountain lions, and they sometimes wander into urban areas looking for food, according to state wildlife officials. Since 1990, mountain lions have killed

three people and injured 18 in the state. "They're wild animals. They find habitat where they can forage for food," Colorado Parks and Wildlife spokesman Matt Robbins said. "When you have bunnies, you're likely to find foxes or coyotes. If you have deer, there is a good chance you'll find mountain lions."

The last known lion attack on a human in Colorado occurred in July 2015, wildlife officials said. A young lion attacked a man as he fished north of Dotsero, about 60 miles from where Friday's attack occurred. The man suffered scratches and bites on his back and was treated at a local clinic and released. The lion in that incident, described as a small, yearling male, was tracked and killed. — AP

WELL-TIMED EXERCISE MIGHT IMPROVE LEARNING

NEW YORK: Aerobic exercise four hours after a memorization task, but not exercise right afterwards, was linked to improved recall in a series of Dutch experiments.

Newly-learned information turns into long-term knowledge through a process of stabilization and integration of memories, the study team writes in *Current Biology*. This requires certain brain chemicals that are also released during physical exercise, including dopamine, norepinephrine (norepinephrine) and a growth factor called BDNF, they explain.

"The brain processes new memories for a while after learning. Physical exercise is able to improve these post-learning processes," senior author Guillen Fernandez, director of the Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition, and Behavior in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, told Reuters Health by email.

To explore when exercise would most improve learning, researchers recruited 72 participants and tasked them with learning to match a series of 90 locations with pictures over a 40-minute period.

The participants were split into three groups: one group exercised immediately after learning, one group exercised four hours later and one group did not exercise at all. The exercise groups did interval training for 35 minutes on a stationary bike, including spurts at maximum intensity.

Two days later, the participants returned to the lab to test how much of what they'd memorized they could recall. During the recall test, the each subject was in a MRI scanner so researchers could monitor activity in different areas of the brain.

The group that had exercised four hours after learning remembered significantly more information on the follow-up test, while the immediate-exercise group did no better than the group that did not exercise.

Activity in the hippocampus, a part of the brain associated with forming memories, was very similar among people in the delayed-exercise group during the recall task, but less consistent in the other participants, the researchers note.



BRONX: People work out in an outdoor exercise area at Macombs Dam Park. — AFP

They speculate that the consistency of activation in the hippocampus in the delayed-exercise group could indicate greater "efficiency or coherence" in the way the brain pulls up the memory and "might relate to differences in memory strength."

While strong memories will be remembered no matter what, Fernandez said, weaker memories that would normally be forgotten within a day may last longer if the brain releases more dopamine and norepinephrine.

People looking to improve their learning should perform fairly intense exercise to make sure that enough of the critical brain chemicals are released, he said, but cautioned against taking this too far. "Very intensive exercise might also have negative effects."

The authors note that more research is needed to determine if exercise will help memories last beyond the two-day period they studied.

They add that the type of memory may be important, and that procedural or "body" memo-

ry of activities like tying a shoe may be better helped by immediate exercise than other kinds of memories.

Having a regular exercise routine may be helpful as well said Marc Roig, an assistant professor at McGill University in Montreal who studies the effect of cardiovascular exercise on memory. Several weeks of cardio exercise, such as jogging, can make the hippocampus larger and improve people's memory, he told Reuters Health.

The type of exercise may not be important, though, added Roig, who was not involved in the new study. "Most studies have looked into aerobic exercise but recent data shows that resistance training and high intensity interval training may also be beneficial." "When thinking about how to maximize your training regimen to improve/maintain memory do not ask yourself only what type of exercise, intensity or frequency is the best. Ask yourself when to train to achieve the best results," Roig said. — Reuters

LARGE ALLIGATOR CAPTURED ON GEORGIA COAST; BEACHES REOPENED

ATLANTA: Authorities have reopened beaches along the Georgia coast after a large alligator spotted in the Atlantic Ocean was captured at a popular tourist spot near Savannah.

The gator, estimated to be 8 to 10 feet long, was caught about 2:30 p.m. Friday and relocated to the Savannah River, Tybee Island Fire Chief Ashley Fields said. Lifeguards on personal watercrafts ran patterns around the gator, pushing him toward the shore, before he was eventually reeled in as about 100 onlookers cheered, Fields said.

"It was a relief for everybody," he said by phone. "People were very happy to get back in the water." The gator was spotted early Friday morning in the water off the beaches on the south end of Tybee Island. Fields said the gator stayed about 20 to 30 feet away from the beach. All beaches were then closed but have now been reopened.

An alligator swimming in the ocean off Tybee Island "is a very rare occurrence," Fields said, adding that he's talked to people who have been around the island for 30 to 40 years who had never seen one off Tybee's beach. "He might have come out of the Savannah River channel is the only thing I could figure, but I wouldn't bet money on that," Fields said.

Though rare, alligator sightings in the ocean have led to beaches being closed elsewhere in the Southeast, so it's not unprecedented to find one in the Atlantic, Tybee Island Mayor Jason Buelterman said. Gators in the South are typically found in freshwater such as ponds, rivers, streams and swamps, but they're able to swim through saltwater in the ocean to get from one place to another, the mayor said.

There are an estimated 200,000 alligators in Georgia, according to the state Department of Natural Resources. They're typically found south of what's known as the "fall line" - a line that connects the cities of Columbus, Macon and Augusta.

In Florida, beaches at Walt Disney World resorts remained closed Friday after an alligator killed a 2-year-old Nebraska boy after dragging him from shallow water in a lake at a Disney hotel Tuesday.

"Even if Disney World wouldn't have happened, we still would have closed the beach just to be safe and take care of people," Fields said. Tybee Island, once known as Savannah Beach, is a popular tourist destination for people from across the nation. With about 3,000 full-time residents, its population swells to several times that number during weekends in the summer season, Buelterman said. — AP

JUDGE ORDERS NEW HOMES FOR ENDANGERED MANCHESTER ZOO ANIMALS

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA: A federal judge has ordered endangered lemur and tigers housed at a private northeast Iowa zoo to be moved within 30 days.

The order signed Friday by Chief Magistrate Judge Jon Stuart Scoles directs owners of Cricket Hollow Zoo near Manchester to move its lemurs to Special Memories Zoo in Hortonville, Wisconsin, and its tigers to the Exotic Feline Rescue Center in Center Point, Indiana.

The decision stems from a 2014 lawsuit filed by the Animal Legal Defense Fund, which alleged the zoo maintained deplorable living conditions. The fund's executive director, Stephen Wells, said he's disappointed about the decision. The group had recommended other locations for the animals. Wells said the group is evaluating legal options. Cricket Hollow Zoo owners Pamela and Tom Sellner didn't immediately respond to a message. — AP



Ottawa: Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau receives a standing ovation while speaking during the Liberal caucus holiday party. — AFP

AFTER WRANGLING, CANADA PARLIAMENT ADOPTS LAW ON ASSISTED DEATH

TORONTO: Canada's Parliament on Friday adopted a law allowing medically-assisted death for the terminally ill, brushing aside critics who wanted the legislation to cover people with degenerative diseases.

After weeks of political wrangling, the upper Senate chamber voted in favor of a law which makes Canada one of the few nations where doctors can legally help sick people die. Some Senators complained the scope of the law - initially passed by the House of Commons elected chamber - was too narrow and should not be restricted to those facing imminent death.

The law, drafted after Canada's Supreme Court last year overturned a ban on physician-assisted suicide, must

receive formal approval from Governor General David Johnston, the acting head of state. That process is a formality.

The Supreme Court ruling covered willing adults facing intolerable physical or psychological suffering from a severe and incurable medical condition. The Liberal government, though, narrowed the scope of the legislation to cover only those people whose death was reasonably foreseeable.

Critics said this would condemn people with degenerative conditions like multiple sclerosis to unbearable suffering. Government officials say the new law is a first attempt to address a highly sensitive and controversial topic and could be broadened in years to come. — Reuters

LIFTING US CURBS ON GAY BLOOD DONORS SEEN YEARS AWAY

ORLANDO: US health regulators are under increasing pressure to remove restrictions keeping most gay and bisexual men from donating blood, but experts say any change would require years of research to guarantee the safety of the blood supply.

The US Food and Drug Administration enacted a lifetime ban for gay and bisexual men in the 1980s to protect against transmitting the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS. The agency reduced the ban in December to a 12-month wait since a man's last sexual encounter with another man.

Following Sunday's mass shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando, more than a dozen Democratic Party lawmakers called on the FDA to move toward lifting the ban altogether. They argued that it wrongly discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation, rather than determining whether a donor's actual behavior puts them at risk of HIV.

Their call came after members of the gay community tried to donate blood in the aftermath of the Orlando attack but were turned away based on their recent sexual history. "We're still in an inherently contradictory posture of straight men who are having unsafe sex with multiple partners being allowed to give blood. A gay man in a 30-year monogamous relationship, who practices safe sex, is not," Representative Mike Quigley, an Illinois Democrat who serves as vice chair of the congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, told Reuters.

The FDA maintains there is not enough scientific evidence to remove the restrictions. "We empathize with those who might wish to donate, but reiterate that at this time no one who needs blood is doing without it," spokeswoman Tara Goodin said in a statement. "That being said, the FDA is committed to continuing to reevaluate its blood donor deferral policies as new scientific information becomes available."

Blood supply experts say the FDA will need to determine whether the move to a one-year waiting period for gay and bisexual men made the blood supply less, more or just as safe.

That effort will take several years, and only then would the agency be able to consider relaxing its restrictions further, said Brian Custer, who has led a number of studies on the nation's blood supply and is associate director of the Blood Systems Research Institute (BSRI) in San Francisco.

Removing the waiting period altogether

would also likely require a large-scale study that tested blood samples of people who would be banned under current criteria, said Dr. Michael Busch, a co-director of BSRI. Busch helped discover in the 1980s that HIV could be transmitted through blood transfusions. "Those are difficult to design and execute," he said.

Existing risk

HIV disproportionately affects gay and bisexual men. While only about 4 percent of US men have sex with other men, they represent about two-thirds of the country's new infections, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

All blood donated in the United States is screened for HIV, as well as other transmissible diseases such as Hepatitis C and syphilis. Blood supply experts note that such testing cannot detect HIV within the earliest window of exposure, nine to 14 days.

In the past 12 years, as many as six people have been infected with HIV through blood transfusion in the United States, according to Dr. Richard Benjamin, a former chief med-

ical officer of the American Red Cross. "That risk is always going to be there. People who donate blood within two weeks of exposure always will be missed by testing," said Benjamin, now an executive at Cerus Corp, whose technology kills pathogens in blood plasma and blood platelets.

One study by FDA researchers published in January suggested that dropping all donor restrictions on men who have sex with men would result in 31 more units of HIV-infected blood being missed by screening tests and entering the blood supply each year. Nearly 16 million blood donations are collected in the United States each year, according to the American Red Cross.

Groups representing the nation's largest blood centers, including the American Red Cross and America's Blood Centers, said they support the FDA's current rules, which are in line with policies in the UK, France, Australia and the Netherlands.

"Policy at this level moves at a slower pace than people would prefer, but it is years, not decades away," said Custer, one of the blood supply experts, referring to the FDA. — Reuters



ORLANDO: Hundreds of community members line up outside a clinic to donate blood after an early morning shooting attack at a gay nightclub. — AFP

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS THREATEN TO SUE SC, FEDS OVER SEAWALLS

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA: Two environmental groups are threatening to sue South Carolina and the federal government if they don't protect sea turtles from new hard plastic seawalls first installed on beaches a few years ago.

The State newspaper reports that the state Sierra Club and Wildlife Federation sent a notice giving the government 60 days to act. The state Department of Health and

Environmental Control says it is investigating a picture of turtle tracks leading to a wall and other reports the seawalls are blocking turtle nests.

Lawmakers allowed the seawalls as part of an experiment to see if officials could stop erosion and protect turtles. Isle of Palms Republican Sen. Chip Campsen says the walls were put in heavily eroded areas where the sand is too packed for sea turtle nests. — AP

AUSTRALIAN OPPOSITION LEADER MAKES HEALTH CENTER OF ELECTION



SYDNEY: Australia's opposition Labor Party leader Bill Shorten speaks about Medicare yesterday. — AP

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA: Opposition leader Bill Shorten used his center-left Labor Party's official campaign launch yesterday to cast July 2 general elections as a referendum on the future of Australia's universal health care system.

A Labor government introduced government-funded Medicare in 1983 to provide free or subsidized health care for all Australian citizens and permanent residents. Labor argues the conservative coalition government plans to privatize Medicare - a claim Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull denies.

"If you want to know why this election will make a difference to you, your family, your street, your workplace, to Australia's future, I can give you the answer of why politics matters in one word: Medicare," Shorten told a Sydney auditorium in front of the slogan: "We'll put people first." The government has been quick to assure the public that the popular health care system is not under threat.

Turnbull, who will officially launch his conservative Liberal Party's campaign next weekend, announced on Saturday that his government had scrapped plans to outsource the Medicare payments system to private enterprise. "Medicare will never ever be privatized," Turnbull told reporters Sunday. "What Bill Shorten is doing is peddling an

extraordinary lie so audacious ... it defies belief."

Six weeks after the election was called, Shorten launched his campaign in western Sydney where Labor hopes to win several seats from the government. An opinion poll published by Fairfax Media on Saturday showed Labor ahead of the government with support of 51 percent of respondents compared to 49 percent for the conservative coalition. But this lead is within the poll's 2.6 percentage point margin of error. The poll was based on a nationwide telephone survey of 1,437 voters from June 14 to 16. Many analysts don't believe Labor's support will deliver the 21 seats it needs to form a majority in the 150-seat House of Representatives, where parties form governments.

All but one of Labor's surviving prime ministers attended the launch: Bob Hawke, Paul Keating and Julia Gillard. Kevin Rudd, who was ousted by Gillard in an internal party showdown in 2010, then replaced her in a similar coup in 2013, was in Russia on business. Since Rudd was elected in 2007, there have been four changes of prime minister in an era of extraordinary volatility in Australian politics. Shorten was a powerbroker within the party who was instrumental in overthrowing both Rudd and Gillard. — AP

4,800 NURSES SET TO STRIKE AT 5 TWIN CITIES HOSPITALS

MINNEAPOLIS: Both sides say a strike by about 4,800 nurses appears inevitable at five hospitals in the Minneapolis area. Members of the Minnesota Nurses Association planned to walk out at 7 a.m. Yesterday at hospitals operated by Allina Health - Abbott Northwestern in Minneapolis, Mercy in Coon Rapids, United in St. Paul, Unity in Fridley, and the Phillips Eye Institute in Minneapolis.

No new talks were scheduled. The strike would last a week. The main dispute is over Allina's effort to switch union nurses to the same health insurance plans as more than 30,000 other Allina employees and their family members, which carry lower monthly premiums but higher out-of-pocket costs. Allina plans to keep the facilities operating with replacement nurses. The last major Twin Cities nurses strike was in 2010. — AP

HOLOGIC WINS EMERGENCY US AUTHORIZATION FOR ZIKA TEST

CREATING MORE TESTING LABS

MIAMI: Hologic Inc won emergency US authorization to sell its Zika test, expanding the number of public and private labs that can test for the virus as health officials brace for a rise this summer in the number of infections.

The US Food and Drug Administration granted emergency use authorization for the company's Aptima test to detect Zika virus in human serum and plasma specimens. The test will be available for use immediately in every US state as well as Puerto Rico and US territories, the company said.

Aptima is the third commercial test to be granted emergency use authorization by the FDA. Focus Diagnostics and Germany's Altona Diagnostics GmbH were also given emergency use authorization. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also can test for the virus.

In February, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Zika a global public health emergency. The virus has been associated with microcephaly, a birth defect characterized by an unusually small head and potential developmental problems. On Thursday, US health officials reported three babies born with birth defects likely linked to Zika infection in the mother during pregnancy.

Authorities in Brazil, the country hardest hit by the virus, have confirmed more than 1,400 cases of microcephaly in babies whose mothers were exposed to Zika during pregnancy. On



MIAMI: A woman looks at a Center for Disease Control (CDC) health advisory sign about the dangers of the Zika virus as she lines up for a security screening at Miami International Airport. — AFP

Tuesday, the WHO said there was a "very low risk" of further spread of the virus for people attending the Olympic Games, to be held in

Brazil in August. Shares of the company were up about 1.5 percent at \$34.30 in extended trading on Friday. — Reuters

FACTORY SNAG HITS GSK SUPPLY, CAUSING DANISH ANESTHETIC SHORTAGE

DENMARK: Manufacturing problems at a factory in Italy have disrupted production of some GlaxoSmithKline medicines, leading to shortages of a commonly used opioid anesthetic in Denmark.

The British drug maker said on Friday it had temporarily suspended manufacturing at its Parma site, which makes sterile products, to investigate environmental monitoring, adding this was unrelated to risks from any medicines.

The factory has now recommenced manufacturing. However, a spokeswoman

said a small number of countries had experienced shortages of certain products since April. In Denmark, doctors said they were running out of the anesthetic Ultiva, which is a preferred product because patients wake up quickly after surgery. Recovery typically occurs within five to 10 minutes.

The Parma factory also makes GSK's new injectable drug Nucala for severe asthma and Benlysta for lupus, but the spokeswoman said these medicines were not in short supply because there were plentiful stocks. — Reuters



LONDON: Signage for GlaxoSmithKline is seen on its offices. — AFP

PATIENTS GREETED BY ROBOT AT BELGIAN HOSPITAL

OSTEND, BELGIUM: A Belgian hospital has just welcomed its newest staff member: Pepper, a humanoid robot that speaks 19 languages. Developed to improve social and health care by the Belgian company Zora Bots, Pepper joined the medical team as a receptionist at Ostend hospital AZ Damiaan.

Pepper will introduce visitors to the hospital, provide information and guide visitors and patients to the correct floor and room. With a speed of just 3 km/h (1.8 mph), Pepper is also able to guide slower patients. Fully charged, it can work for up to 20 hours on its own.

"The robot itself is a meter 20 high, so it is not like Arnold Schwarzenegger with a leather jacket and an 'I will be back' robot," said Zora Bots' co-chief executive, Fabrice Goffin. "It is a quite nice robot and the reactions are positive for the moment."

During the first week, Pepper was mainly used on the hospital's maternity department. Bieke Vandeputte, the mother of a newborn baby, was amazed. "It is another way of making contact and maybe it is reassuring that it is a robot for some people," she said. "The baby was really sure. He did not mind putting his

hands on it. It did not frighten him so I think it will be important. Especially for children."

Pepper is not the first robot used at the AZ Damiaan hospital, but it is the first to communicate with patients and to have the ability to guide them. Before the arrival of Pepper, the staff had already worked with a predecessor, Zora, for about a year. Zora is smaller and slower than Pepper and used mainly in physical therapy classes. At a price of 30,000 Euros, Pepper is expensive. So far, only Japanese customers have bought one to use at home. — Reuters

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KFH PARTICIPATES IN GERGEIAN GATHERING FOR KUWAITI ASSOCIATION FOR DOWN SYNDROME

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) took part in a confectinary (gergeian) gathering for the Kuwaiti Association for Down syndrome. This step comes as part of KFH's social responsibility and in continuation of the bank's Ramadan program. KFH PR team visited the children of Kuwaiti Association for Down syndrome and managed to spread joy and happiness among them, yet showed them that the society cares for them.

The event included many activities that had a positive effect on the parents of the children, who believe that such activities organized by prestigious institutions, play a role in reforming the social ties, while allow the disabled to beat the odds and blend into the society. In addition, such events boost the confidence of the disabled and help them to be productive individuals and integral part of the society.

It is worth noting that KFH has been always keen to hold similar events every year, as part of its social responsibility, which reinforces the values of the society. KFH is eager to support charity, education and health activities; especially that they play a role in the prosperity of the society.

Meanwhile, the staff of Kuwaiti Association for Down syndrome and children's guardians praised this initiative that KFH is keen on taking every year. Also, they lauded its key role in assuming the social responsibility.



AUK ART & GRAPHIC DESIGN DEPARTMENT CONCLUDES ITS 9TH ANNUAL CAPSTONE EXHIBITION

The Art & Graphic Design Department at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) concluded its 9th annual Capstone Exhibition. The Exhibition offered senior students an opportunity to showcase their creative work, which covered to a range of topics that included social and cultural awareness, corporate identity and entrepreneurship, to the public and have their designs considered by renowned experts from the industry.

Under the supervision of Rita Merheb Khair, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design at AUK, participating students investigated a topic of their choice, researched and analyzed it, and

designed communication tools that addressed their target audiences through the medium of Graphic Design.

The exhibited projects reflected a culmination of semester-long, self-initiated, and self-directed ideas implemented through diverse applications. The projects were evaluated based on their creativity and presentation; their ability to conduct and use graphic design research strategy effectively; and their ability to plan and implement a compelling graphic design display.

The Capstone Exhibition is held annually. It brings together visitors from the field of

graphic design, including experts from graphic design studios, publishing houses, film and video production companies, advertising, and multimedia firms. According to Khair, "This exhibition is an opportunity for our students to present themselves, their creative capabilities, and their technical skills, through a project in which they have utilized everything they have learned over the past four years. It also gives them exposure, a good body of work to include in their portfolios, and most importantly the strength and the courage they need to move on to the next stage in their lives, whether it is further studies, or the pro-

fessional world of Graphic Design"

As one of the final year courses, the GDES Capstone course is designed to teach graduating students how to visualize the complex intersection between personal voice, conceptual understanding, and the use of research for a graphic design exhibition. Maryam Hosseinnia, Chair of the Department of Art & Graphic Design, explained that the showcased designs displayed the students' capabilities. "The Capstone is meant to be the culmination of four years of learning for our Graphic Design majors, showcasing their design, talents, abilities, and learning. The faculty of Art

& Graphic Design is constantly working to improve the learning environment for the students. The faculty is involved throughout their creative project learning and development. This Capstone shows the hard work and earned expertise of our students as well," she said.

AUK's Graphic Design Capstone represents an opportunity for senior students to fully incorporate their design strengths and learning into a focused, extended process of research and visual expression. The projects are diverse, reflecting individual student investigations into their topic of choice.





OOREDOO AWARDS ITS DISTINGUISHED EMPLOYEES DURING ANNUAL GHABGA

Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the Ooredoo international group, awarded its distinguished employees for the first quarter of 2016 with its quarterly Star Awards. The awarding ceremony took place during Ooredoo's annual ghabga at the Jumeirah Beach Hotel, and was attended by the Chairman and CEO of Ooredoo Group Sheikh Saud bin Nasser Al Thani, the CEO and General Manager of Ooredoo Kuwait Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Thani along with executive managers and department heads.

Commenting on this, Chief of Human Resources and Administration Services Saleh Al-Houti said: "Ooredoo's strong performance and its leading position in market were and will always be a result of the achievements and dedication of its outstanding employees. Rewarding those individuals is one way to express our pride and satisfaction with our employees' achievements and to recognize the hard work

which is behind our success for the past years."

"We believe that achieving great results begins with human resources that's why we invest in our employees and offer them the incentives to improve their capabilities, talent and expertise," he added.

The winners of the quarterly awards are: Shaikha Al Shahan and Wael Hasban from the Sales, Abdullah Mahdi and Khaled Al Dousari from the Customer Service, Rama Vunguturu from Finance, Saleh AlQaloushi from B2B, Hussain Al Qatari from the Corporate Communications, Sarah Shuaib from the Regulatory Department, Mazen Jomaa from Human Resources, Hassan Munir from Marketing and Kristoffer Salvador and Ahmad Kante from the Technology. Voice of the Customer Award went to Talal Al Mutairi and Mai Al Seaidan while Ooredoo Way Accomplisher award went to Abdullah Safar from Marketing, Bader Al Nassar from Human Resources and

Administration Services and Nadia Abu Suliman from Sales.

Ooredoo presented the award of the Champions Team category, which is given quarterly to teams who demonstrate exceptional dedication above their scope of work. The award was given this quarter to a team from the B2B department for their hard work during the first quarter in designing packages that cater for the needs of entrepreneurs and small business owners. The winners of the Champions Team category were: Maryam Al-Fahad, Ali Zainal, Alaa Hamoud, Abdullah Marshad, Hussain Shuaib, Mohammed Al-Humoud, Hadia Halabi, Saleh Al-Qaloushi, Mohammed Taher, Buthaina Al-Halilah, Abdullah Saleh, Faisal Al-Kandari and Mohammed Najy.

Ooredoo Star Awards are presented to outstanding employees every quarter. A special committee assesses all employees and selects winners based on certain competence and performance criteria.



DIRECT AID DISTRIBUTES DATE CONTAINERS IN KENYA

Within its annual and seasonal activities during the holy month of Ramadan, the Direct Aid Society recently distributed five containers of dates in various Kenyan areas.

The date containers were received during an official ceremony attended by the Kuwaiti ambassador to Kenya, Qossai

Rashid Al-Farhan, member of the majority ruling party in the Kenyan parliament, Adam Da'ali, former Kenyan defense minister, senator, Mohammed Youisif Al-Haj, 50 Kenyan lawmakers and heads of a number of Kenyan Islamic foundations.



AMC

- 04:05 Fatal Pulse
- 05:30 Manchu Eagle Murder Caper
- Mystery
- 06:55 Big Screen
- 07:10 Troll (Epic)
- 08:35 Return Of The Seven
- 10:10 The Real Howard Spitz
- 11:55 The Apartment
- 14:00 Big Screen
- 14:15 The Manhattan Project
- 16:10 The Night They Raided Minsky's
- 17:50 Mirrors
- 19:30 Robinson Crusoe
- 21:00 Into The Blue
- 22:50 Annie Hall
- 00:25 Mortal Thoughts
- 02:10 Into The Blue

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 03:25 Natural World
- 04:15 Into The Pride
- 05:02 Lion Man: One World African Safari
- 05:49 Cheetah: Race To Rule
- 06:36 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:25 Dog TV
- 08:15 Restoration Wild
- 09:10 Wild Capture School
- 10:05 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
- 11:00 Dog TV
- 11:55 Snake Crusader With Bruce George
- 12:50 Bahama Blue
- 13:45 Wildest Middle East
- 14:40 Yankee Jungle
- 15:35 Biggest And Baddest
- 16:30 Zombie Sharks
- 17:25 Wildest Latin America
- 18:20 Restoration Wild
- 19:15 Wild Capture School
- 20:10 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
- 21:05 Village Vets
- 22:00 Restoration Wild
- 23:20 Snake Crusader With Bruce George
- 23:50 Gator Boys
- 00:45 Gator Boys
- 01:40 Bahama Blue
- 02:35 Wildest Middle East

Discovery CHANNEL HD

- 03:15 Free Ride
- 04:05 Free Ride
- 05:00 Free Ride
- 06:00 Yukon Men
- 06:50 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up
- 07:40 Fast 'N' Loud
- 08:30 Dukes Of Hazzard
- 08:55 Storage Wars Canada
- 09:20 Property Wars
- 09:45 How Do They Do It?
- 10:10 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 10:35 Alaskan Bush People
- 11:25 The Last Alaskans
- 12:15 Siberian Cut
- 13:05 Dukes Of Hazzard
- 13:30 Storage Wars Canada
- 13:55 Property Wars
- 14:20 Yukon Men
- 15:10 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up
- 16:00 Fast 'N' Loud: Demolition Theater
- 16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 17:15 How Do They Do It?
- 17:40 Diesel Brothers
- 18:30 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
- 19:20 Curse Of The Frozen Gold
- 20:10 Storage Wars Canada
- 20:35 Storage Hunters UK
- 21:00 Impossible Engineering
- 21:50 Curiosity: Devil's Triangle
- 22:40 Fire In The Hole
- 23:30 Fast 'N' Loud: Demolition Theater
- 00:20 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up
- 01:10 Impossible Engineering
- 02:00 Curiosity: Devil's Triangle
- 02:50 Fire In The Hole

Discovery Family

- 03:00 Morgan Freeman's Through The Wormhole
- 03:50 You Have Been Warned
- 06:20 How It's Made
- 07:00 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
- 07:50 Dick 'N' Dom Go Wild
- 08:40 You Have Been Warned
- 12:00 How It's Made
- 13:40 Mythbusters
- 17:00 Marooned With Ed Stafford
- 18:40 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
- 19:30 Out Of Egypt
- 20:20 Ways To Save The Planet
- 21:10 Saving Rhino Phila
- 22:00 Untamed & Uncut
- 00:30 Eco-Tech
- 02:10 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman

ID. INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

- 03:00 Breaking Point
- 03:48 Murder Among Friends
- 04:36 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 05:24 California Investigator
- 06:12 Southern Fried Homicide
- 07:00 Dr G: Medical Examiner
- 07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 12:00 California Investigator
- 13:40 The Perfect Murder
- 16:10 Tabloid
- 21:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
- 22:00 Disappeared
- 22:50 Too Pretty To Live
- 23:40 Obsession: Dark Desires
- 00:30 Paranormal Lockdown
- 01:20 The Haunted
- 02:10 Too Pretty To Live

Discovery SCIENCE

- 03:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 06:12 Food Factory USA
- 11:10 How Do They Do It?
- 12:00 How It's Made
- 15:20 Mighty Ships
- 17:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 22:00 How It's Made
- 22:50 Uncovering Aliens
- 23:40 Food Factory USA
- 00:05 How The Universe Works
- 01:45 How It's Made
- 02:10 Mighty Ships

Disney CHANNEL

- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:00 Violetta
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 Mouk
- 06:00 Hank Zipzer
- 06:25 Sofia The First
- 06:50 Gravity Falls
- 07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 07:40 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 08:05 Shake It Up
- 08:30 Shake It Up
- 08:55 Hannah Montana
- 09:20 Hannah Montana
- 09:45 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 10:10 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 10:35 Gotta Kick It Up
- 12:05 The 7D
- 12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 12:20 Austin & Ally
- 12:45 Girl Meets World
- 13:10 Best Friends Whenever
- 13:35 Jessie
- 14:00 Jessie
- 14:25 Jessie
- 14:50 Jessie
- 15:15 Descendants Wicked World
- 15:20 Jessie
- 15:45 Jessie
- 16:10 Jessie
- 16:35 Jessie
- 17:00 Jessie
- 17:25 Jessie
- 17:50 The 7D
- 18:00 Camp Rock
- 19:45 The 7D
- 19:55 Evermoor Chronicles
- 20:20 Evermoor Chronicles
- 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
- 21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 22:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:10 Hank Zipzer
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 00:00 Violetta
- 00:45 The Hive
- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:40 Hank Zipzer
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:30 Violetta

Disney JUNIOR

- 03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:20 Calimero
- 03:35 Zou
- 03:45 Loopdidoo
- 04:00 Art Attack
- 04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:35 Calimero
- 04:50 Zou
- 05:00 Loopdidoo
- 05:15 Art Attack
- 05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:50 Calimero
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:20 Loopdidoo
- 06:35 Art Attack
- 07:00 The Hive
- 07:10 Zou
- 07:25 Loopdidoo
- 07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 08:05 Sofia The First
- 08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 08:45 PJ Masks
- 09:10 The Lion Guard
- 09:35 Doc McStuffins
- 10:00 Sofia The First
- 10:25 Unbungalievable
- 10:30 Goldie & Bear
- 11:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 11:25 The Lion Guard
- 11:50 Miles From Tomorrow
- 12:15 Henry Hugglemonster
- 12:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 12:55 Unbungalievable
- 13:00 Sofia The First
- 13:25 Goldie & Bear
- 13:50 Miles From Tomorrow
- 14:15 The Lion Guard
- 14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 15:10 Doc McStuffins
- 15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 16:00 Sofia The First
- 16:25 Jungle Cubs
- 16:50 Aladdin
- 17:15 The Lion Guard
- 17:40 Goldie & Bear
- 18:05 Miles From Tomorrow
- 18:30 Sofia The First
- 19:00 PJ Masks
- 19:25 Unbungalievable
- 19:30 The Lion Guard
- 20:00 Goldie & Bear
- 20:30 Sofia The First
- 21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 21:25 PJ Masks
- 21:50 Jungle Cubs
- 22:20 Aladdin
- 22:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 22:50 Zou
- 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:20 Calimero
- 23:35 Zou
- 23:50 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

Discovery Family

- 03:00 Morgan Freeman's Through The Wormhole
- 03:50 You Have Been Warned
- 06:20 How It's Made
- 07:00 Adventure 8: Zoo Games
- 07:50 Dick 'N' Dom Go Wild
- 08:40 You Have Been Warned
- 12:00 How It's Made
- 13:40 Mythbusters
- 17:00 Marooned With Ed Stafford
- 18:40 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
- 19:30 Out Of Egypt
- 20:20 Ways To Save The Planet
- 21:10 Saving Rhino Phila
- 22:00 Untamed & Uncut
- 00:30 Eco-Tech
- 02:10 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman

Disney XD

- 06:00 Boyster
- 06:10 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 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 10:00 Supa Strikas
- 10:25 K.C. Undercover
- 10:50 Annedroids
- 11:20 Lab Rats
- 11:45 K.C. Undercover
- 13:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 14:45 Kickin' It
- 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 15:15 Rocket Monkeys
- 15:40 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 16:55 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 17:25 K.C. Undercover
- 17:50 Supa Strikas
- 18:15 Becoming
- 18:40 K.C. Undercover
- 19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 19:10 Annedroids
- 19:35 Star Wars Rebels
- 20:00 Kirby Buckets
- 20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 20:55 K.C. Undercover
- 21:20 Supa Strikas

- 21:45 Lab Rats
- 22:10 Mighty Med
- 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am

food network

- 03:00 Kids Baking Championships
- 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 05:00 Chopped
- 06:00 Man Fire Food
- 06:30 Man Fire Food
- 07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 07:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
- 10:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 10:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 11:00 Siba's Table
- 11:30 Siba's Table
- 12:00 Ching's Amazing Asia
- 12:30 Ching's Amazing Asia
- 13:00 Man Finds Food
- 13:30 Man Finds Food
- 14:00 Man Finds Food
- 14:30 Man Finds Food
- 15:00 Chopped
- 16:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 17:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
- 18:00 Siba's Table
- 18:30 Siba's Table
- 19:00 Luke Nguyen's United Kingdom
- 19:30 Luke Nguyen's United Kingdom
- 20:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 21:00 Chopped South Africa
- 22:00 Man v Food
- 22:30 Man v Food
- 23:00 Mystery Diners
- 23:30 Mystery Diners
- 00:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 01:00 Chopped South Africa
- 02:00 Man v Food

HISTORY HD

- 03:40 Shipping Wars
- 04:05 Shipping Wars
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Lost Worlds
- 06:00 Ax Men
- 06:50 Swamp People
- 07:40 Search For The Lost Giants
- 08:30 Shipping Wars
- 08:55 American Restoration
- 09:20 American Restoration
- 09:45 Counting Cars: Best Of
- 10:10 Counting Cars
- 10:35 Counting Cars
- 11:25 Grave Trade
- 12:15 American Pickers
- 13:05 Storage Wars Texas
- 13:30 Storage Wars Texas
- 13:55 Shark Wranglers
- 14:45 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 15:35 Counting Cars
- 16:00 Ax Men
- 16:50 Search For The Lost Giants
- 17:40 Mountain Men - Closest Calls
- 18:30 Grave Trade
- 19:20 American Pickers
- 20:10 Pawn Stars
- 20:35 Pawn Stars
- 21:00 Pawn Stars
- 21:25 Pawn Stars
- 21:50 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 22:15 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 22:40 Battle 360
- 23:30 Pawn Stars
- 23:55 Pawn Stars
- 00:20 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 00:45 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 01:10 American Restoration
- 02:00 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 02:25 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 02:50 Search For The Lost Giants

itv CHOICE

- 03:20 Coronation Street
- 03:45 Coronation Street
- 04:10 Catchphrase
- 04:40 Pick Me!
- 05:30 Pick Me!
- 06:20 Midsomer Murders
- 08:00 Catchphrase
- 08:50 Mr Selfridge
- 09:50 Mr Selfridge
- 10:40 Mr Selfridge
- 11:30 Mr Selfridge
- 12:20 Mr Selfridge
- 13:15 Don't Tell The Bride
- 14:10 Don't Tell The Bride
- 15:00 Sunday Night At The Palladium
- 15:55 Doctor Thorne
- 16:50 Lewis
- 17:40 Doc Martin
- 18:30 Catchphrase
- 19:00 Sunday Night At The Palladium
- 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

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 03:50 Locked Up Abroad
- 04:45 Megastructures
- 05:40 X: The Generation That Changed The World
- 06:35 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman
- 07:30 Womb Of The World
- 08:25 Wicked Tuna
- 09:20 Alaska Fish Wars
- 10:15 Megastructures
- 11:10 Building Wild
- 12:05 Cesar To The Rescue
- 13:00 Cesar To The Rescue
- 14:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
- 15:00 The Great Human Race
- 16:00 Wicked Tuna
- 17:00 Genius By Stephen Hawking
- 18:00 Nazi Megastructures
- 19:00 Nazi Underground
- 20:00 Wicked Tuna
- 20:50 Genius By Stephen Hawking
- 21:40 Nazi Megastructures

- 01:05 Catchphrase
- 02:00 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
- 02:30 Mr Selfridge

NAT GEO people HD

- 03:05 Places We Go
- 03:30 Carnival Eats
- 03:55 Carnival Eats
- 04:20 Bangkok Airport
- 05:10 Bangkok Airport
- 06:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 06:25 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 06:50 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
- 07:15 Street Food Around The World
- 07:40 Miguel's Feasts
- 08:05 One Man & His Campervan
- 08:30 One Man & His Campervan
- 08:55 Carnival Eats
- 09:20 Carnival Eats
- 09:45 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 10:10 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 10:35 World's Best Chefs
- 11:00 Maximum Foodie
- 11:25 This Is Brazil
- 12:15 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
- 12:40 A Marriage Of Flavours
- 13:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 13:35 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
- 14:00 Meat v Veg
- 14:30 American Food Battle
- 14:55 Places We Go
- 15:25 Carnival Eats
- 15:50 Carnival Eats
- 16:20 Bangkok Airport
- 17:15 Bangkok Airport
- 18:10 City Chase Marrakech
- 19:05 Places We Go
- 19:30 Carnival Eats
- 20:00 Carnival Eats
- 20:25 Bangkok Airport
- 21:15 Bangkok Airport
- 22:05 City Chase Marrakech
- 22:55 A Marriage Of Flavours
- 23:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 23:45 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
- 00:10 Meat v Veg
- 00:35 American Food Battle
- 01:00 One Man & His Campervan
- 01:25 One Man & His Campervan
- 01:50 Poh & Co.
- 02:15 World's Best Chefs
- 02:40 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt

NAT GEO WILD HD

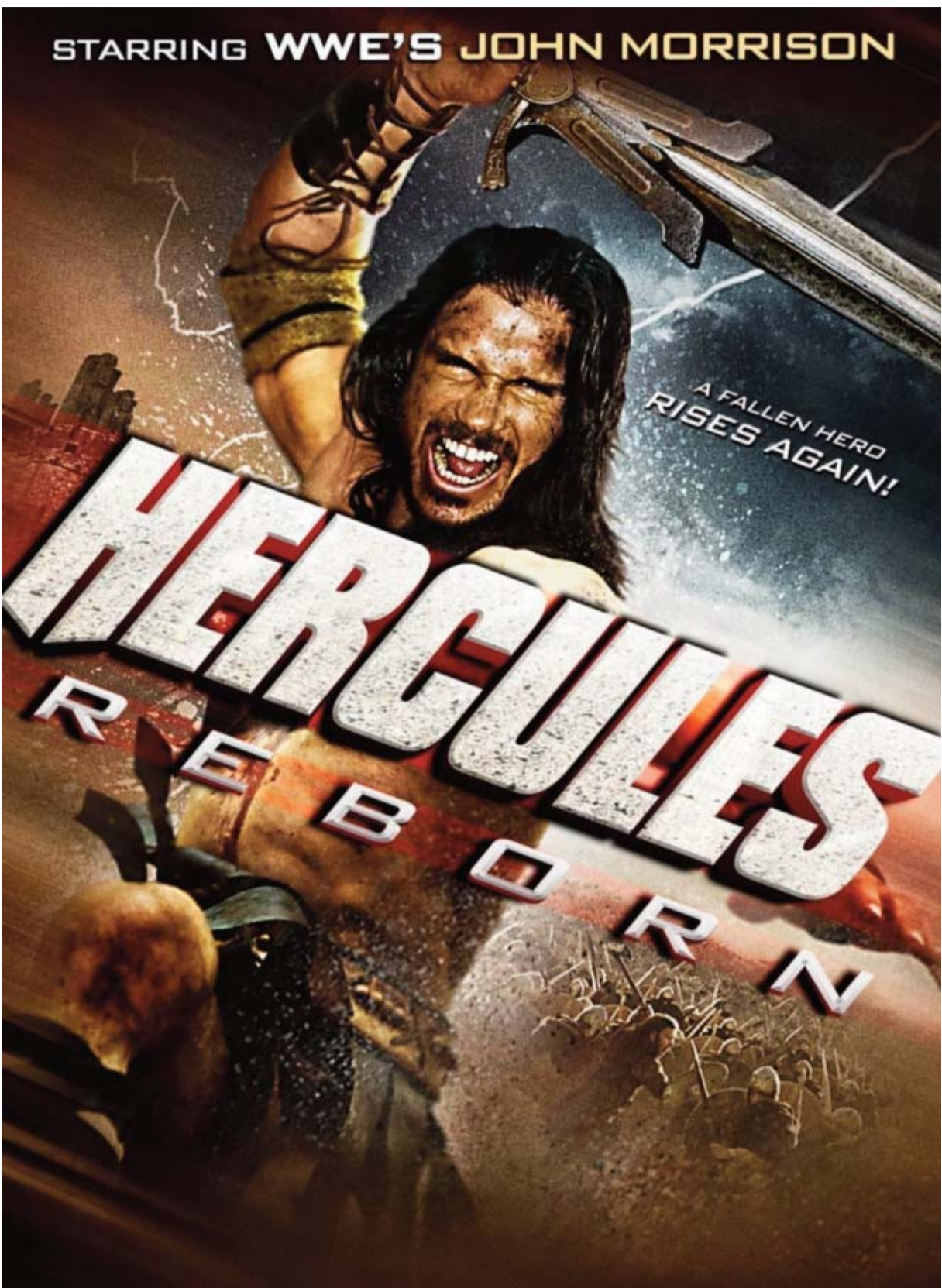
- 03:45 Animal Fight Club
- 04:40 Fish Tank Kings
- 05:35 Raccoon: Backyard Bandit
- 06:30 Megafish
- 07:25 Monster Fish
- 08:20 1000 Days For The Planet
- 09:15 Mission Critical
- 10:10 My Dog Ate What?
- 11:05 Bandit Patrol
- 12:00 Ultimate Predator
- 12:55 Ultimate Animal Countdown
- 13:50 Mission Critical
- 14:45 Animal Fight Club
- 15:40 Hunting The Hammerhead
- 16:35 Cuba's Secret Reef
- 17:30 Hyena Queen
- 18:25 Swamp Men
- 19:20 Animal Fight Club
- 20:10 Hunting The Hammerhead
- 21:00 Cuba's Secret Reef
- 21:50 Hyena Queen
- 22:40 Swamp Men
- 23:30 Ultimate Predator
- 00:20 Ultimate Animal Countdown
- 01:10 Mission Critical
- 02:00 The Great Serengeti
- 02:50 Lion Ranger

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 04:00 Garfield's Pet Force
- 06:00 Chef
- 08:00 The Trip To Italy
- 10:00 Green Card
- 12:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
- 14:00 Bottle Rocket
- 16:00 The Trip To Italy
- 18:00 Man Of The House
- 20:00 500 Days Of Summer
- 22:00 Spy Hard
- 00:00 The Trip To Italy
- 02:00 500 Days Of Summer

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 03:00 Blood Ties
- 05:15 Barefoot
- 07:00 The Signal
- 09:00 Fast Girls
- 11:00 Barefoot
- 12:45 Jack Strong
- 15:00 Rosewood Lane
- 17:00 Fast Girls
- 19:00 Miss Meadows



HERCULES REBORN ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 21:00 As Cool As I Am | 19:00 Big Game | 07:00 Lackawanna Blues |
| 23:00 You're Not You | 21:00 Avengers: Age Of Ultron | 09:00 An American Girl: Chrissa Stands Strong |
| 01:00 Fast Girls | 23:30 Snowpiercer | 11:00 Dinner With Friends |

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 04:15 Wrath | 03:00 Big Miracle | 04:30 Mamma Moo And Crow | 03:00 Agent X |
| 06:00 Hercules Reborn | 05:00 Aladdin | 06:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case | 04:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show |
| 07:45 The Package | 07:00 A Bug's Life | 08:00 Bamse And The City Of Thieves | 05:00 Good Morning America |
| 09:45 I, Robot | 09:00 Postman Pat: The Movie | 10:00 Worms | 06:00 Unforgettable |
| 11:45 Armageddon | 11:00 Pocahontas | 11:30 Miffy The Movie | 07:00 Chicago Fire |
| 14:30 The X Files | 13:00 First Kid | 13:00 Bolts And Blip | 08:00 Prison Break |
| 16:45 Hercules Reborn | 15:00 Penguins Of Madagascar | 14:30 Cher Ami | 09:00 Agent X |
| 18:30 I, Robot | 17:00 The Shaggy Dog | 16:00 The Unbeatables | 10:00 Criminal Minds |
| 20:30 R.I.P.D. | 19:00 Dinosaur Island | 18:00 Worms | 11:00 Chicago Fire |
| 22:15 The Outsider | 23:00 Penguins Of Madagascar | 20:00 True Story Of Puss'n Boots | 12:00 Prison Break |
| 00:00 Twixt | 01:00 Dinosaur Island | 22:00 Cher Ami | 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show |
| 01:45 The X Files | | 23:30 The Unbeatables | 14:00 Graceland |
| | | 01:15 Bamse And The City Of Thieves | 15:00 Live Good Morning America |

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 04:00 Garfield's Pet Force | 03:00 Secret Window | 04:00 Until She Came Along | 03:00 Snake Eyes |
| 06:00 Chef | 04:45 Anna Karenina | 06:00 The Maze Runner | 05:15 Crazy On The Outside |
| 08:00 The Trip To Italy | 07:00 Veronica Guerin | 08:00 Song For Marion | 07:00 You Again |
| 10:00 Green Card | 09:00 Paradise | 10:00 Special ID | 09:00 Boys And Girls |
| 12:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy | 11:00 Secret Window | 12:00 Pixels | 10:45 Mrs. Miracle |
| 14:00 Bottle Rocket | 12:45 Anna Karenina | 14:00 Parkland | 12:15 Hurricane Season |
| 16:00 The Trip To Italy | 15:00 Walking On Sunshine | 16:00 Song For Marion | 14:00 The Eagle |
| 18:00 Man Of The House | 17:00 Paradise | 18:00 Infinitely Polar Bear | 16:00 Dedication |
| 20:00 500 Days Of Summer | 19:00 Ed Wood | 20:00 Kingsman: The Secret Service | 17:45 Another Year |
| 22:00 Spy Hard | 21:15 Tifti | 22:15 Oujia | 20:00 Veronica Guerin |
| 00:00 The Trip To Italy | 23:30 Wall Street | 00:00 5 To 7 | 21:45 Jersey Girl |
| 02:00 500 Days Of Summer | 01:45 S.O.S. Mulheres Ao Mar | 02:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power | 23:30 Ironclad |

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 03:00 Blood Ties | 04:00 My Old Lady | 03:00 Ballers | 03:00 Snake Eyes |
| 05:15 Barefoot | 05:00 A Promise | 03:30 Funny Or Die Presents | 05:15 Crazy On The Outside |
| 07:00 The Signal | 06:45 Selma | 04:00 The Wire | |

CLASSIFIEDS



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (16/06/2016 TO 22/06/2016)

SHARQIA-1	
THE CALL UP	9:30 PM
THE CALL UP	11:30 PM
SHARQIA-2	
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	9:45 PM
WARCRAFT	11:45 PM
SHARQIA-3	
HASAN WA BOOLOZ	10:00 PM
THE ASIAN CONNECTION	12:05 AM
MUHALAB-1	
THE CALL UP	10:00 PM
THE CALL UP	12:05 AM
MUHALAB-2	
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	9:45 PM
GENTLEMAN - Telugu	9:45 PM
THE ASIAN CONNECTION	12:45 AM
MUHALAB-3	
THE JUNGLE BOOK	9:30 PM
WARCRAFT	11:45 PM
FANAR-1	
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	9:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK	11:30 PM
FANAR-2	
THE CALL UP	10:15 PM
THE CALL UP	12:15 AM
FANAR-3	
TE3N (Hindi)	9:45 PM
ROAD GAMES	12:45 AM
FANAR-4	
ROAD GAMES	10:00 PM
WARCRAFT	12:05 AM
FANAR-5	
ELLY JAY AHSAN (Arabic)	10:30 PM
NAVY SEALS VS. ZOMBIES	12:30 AM
MARINA-1	
THE CALL UP	9:45 PM

THE CALL UP	12:05 AM
MARINA-2	
THE JUNGLE BOOK	10:00 PM
WARCRAFT	12:15 AM
MARINA-3	
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	9:30 PM
HASAN WA BOOLOZ	11:45 PM
AVENUES-1	
ELLY JAY AHSAN (Arabic)	10:00 PM
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	12:15 AM
AVENUES-3	
KAMMATTI PAADAM- Malayalam	9:45 PM
THE CALL UP	1:00 AM
AVENUES-4	
THE CALL UP	10:30 PM
THE CALL UP	12:30 AM
AVENUES-5	
ROAD GAMES	9:45 PM
WARCRAFT	11:45 PM
AVENUES-6	
THE JUNGLE BOOK	9:30 PM
MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	11:45 PM
AVENUES-7	
ROAD GAMES	10:15 PM
ROAD GAMES	12:15 AM
AVENUES-8	
NAVY SEALS VS. ZOMBIES	10:00 PM
NO SAT	
NAVY SEALS VS. ZOMBIES	12:05 AM
NO SAT	
AVENUES-9	
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	10:30 PM
HASAN WA BOOLOZ	12:30 AM
AVENUES-10	
THE CALL UP	9:45 PM
THE CALL UP	11:45 PM

AVENUES-11	
WARCRAFT (Atmos 2D)	9:30 PM
THU+FRH+SAT	
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR (Atmos 2D)	12:05 AM
THU+FRH+SAT	
360°-1	
THE CALL UP	10:30 PM
THE CALL UP	12:30 AM
360°-2	
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	10:00 PM
THE ASIAN CONNECTION	12:15 AM
360°-3	
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	9:45 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	11:45 PM
AL-KOUT.1	
WARCRAFT	9:30 PM
NAVY SEALS VS. ZOMBIES	12:05 AM
AL-KOUT.2	
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	10:00 PM
ROAD GAMES	12:15 AM
AL-KOUT.3	
THE CALL UP	10:15 PM
THE CALL UP	12:30 AM
AL-KOUT.4	
ELLY JAY AHSAN (Arabic)	9:45 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:05 AM
BAIRAQ-1	
THE CALL UP	9:30 PM
THE CALL UP	11:30 PM
BAIRAQ-2	
THE JUNGLE BOOK	10:00 PM
Hepta	12:15 AM
BAIRAQ-3	
TE3N (Hindi)	9:45 PM
THE ASIAN CONNECTION	12:30 AM

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Kottakonda** Udhiah Kumar holder of Indian Passport No. G1153961 hereby change my name as Kota Udhaya Kumar S/o Kota Krishna Murthy, post K.V Palli Mandal Chittoor District, AP. (C 5187) 19-6-2016

I have changed my name from Ali Asgar holding passport no. G7737051 to Ali Asgar Khedawala. In future to be known by new name R/o New Masjid Saify Mohalla Salumber Udaipur Rajasthan India. (C 5186) 15-6-2016

I, **Makbul** Chandsaheb Bepari, holder of Indian Passport No: K2625123, address: Devarahippargi TQ Sindgi, Bijapur - 586115, Karnataka, India, hereby change my name to Nabirasool Bepari S/o Chandsaheb Bepari. (C 5185) 14-6-2016

I, **Iqbal** Hatimbhai Bhinderwala, holder of Indian Passport No: Z1847106, address: 6/8, Taj Mansion, 3rd floor R.N. 33, 1st Sankli Street, Byculla, Mumbai, 400008, hereby change my name Mufaddal Hatimbhai Bhinderwala. (C 5184) 13-6-2016

EMERGENCY

112

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 03:14
Shorook 04:48
Duhr: 11:49
Asr: 15:23
Maghrib: 18:50
Isha: 20:22



Flight Schedule

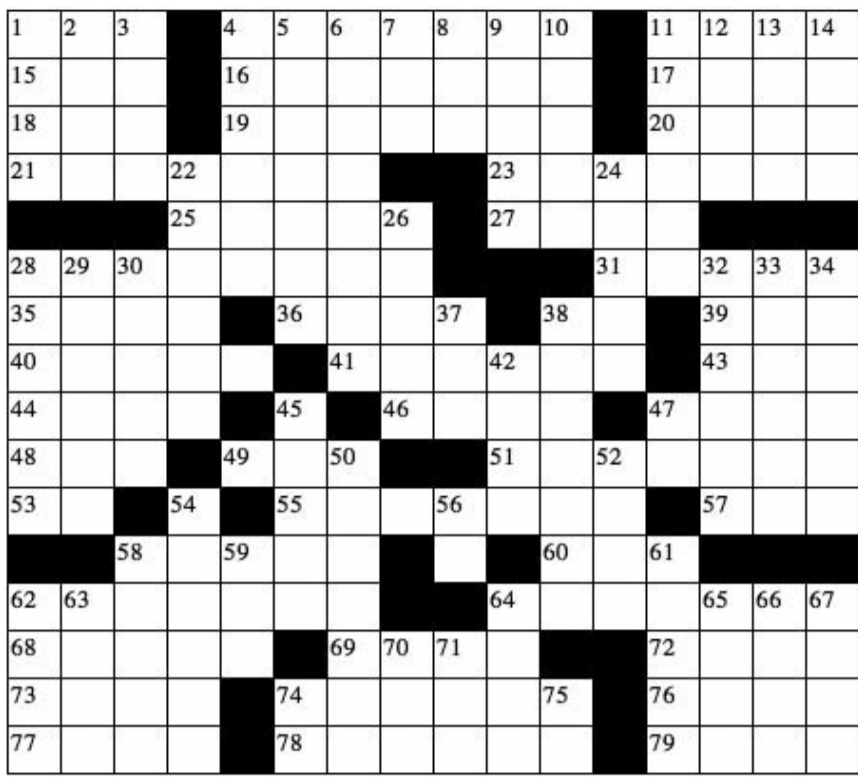
In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Arrival Flights on Monday 20/6/2016					Departure Flights on Monday 20/6/2016						
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time			
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	GFA 221 Bahrain	14:20	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05	FDB 076 Dubai	13:10
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	KAC 500 Jeddah	14:30	MSC	502	Alexandria	00:05	MSC 402 Alexandria	13:30
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	KAC 540 Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10	FEG 934 Sohag	13:55
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	KAC 728 Jeddah	15:00	MSC	404	Asyut	00:10	MSR 611 Cairo	14:00
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	KNE 529 Jeddah	15:05	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25	PAL 669 Dubai/Manila	14:45
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	ETD 303 Abu Dhabi	15:10	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30	KNE 382 Taif	14:55
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	OMA 645 Muscat	15:10	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	GFA 773 Riyadh	15:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	ABY 127 Sharjah	15:35	PIA	206	Lahore	00:40	FDB 222 Bahrain	15:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	UAE 857 Dubai	15:45	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05	KAC 058 Dubai	15:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	RJA 640 Amman	16:00	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40	QTR 1079 Doha	15:15
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	FDB 051 Dubai	16:10	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00	KAC 617 Doha	15:15
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	QTR 1072 Doha	16:15	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45	SVA 501 Jeddah	15:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	JZR 535 Cairo	16:20	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45	JZR 188 Jeddah	15:50
ETD	919	Abu Dhabi	02:20	KAC 118 New York	16:30	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55	KNE 530 Jeddah	15:55
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	NIA 251 Alexandria	16:50	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	KAC 613 Bahrain	16:00
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	KAC 562 Amman	16:55	KAC	417	Manila	03:55	OMA 646 Muscat	16:10
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	SVA 510 Riyadh	17:15	OMA	644	Muscat	04:00	ABY 128 Sharjah	16:15
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	GFA 215 Bahrain	17:30	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05	ETD 304 Abu Dhabi	16:20
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	CCE 345 Sohag	17:35	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	RJA 641 Amman	16:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	JZR 177 Dubai	17:45	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	FDB 052 Dubai	17:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	JZR 777 Jeddah	17:50	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20	JZR 266 Beirut	17:10
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	QTR 1080 Doha	17:55	ETD	920	Abu Dhabi	04:20	QTR 1073 Doha	17:25
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	SYR 341 Damascus	18:00	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30	UAE 858 Dubai	17:40
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	JZR 483 Istanbul	18:20	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35	NIA 252 Alexandria	17:50
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	MSR 620 Cairo	18:30	CEB	019	Manila	04:50	SVA 511 Riyadh	18:15
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC 774 Riyadh	18:35	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00	JZR 184 Dubai	18:20
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	KAC 502 Beirut	18:35	FEG	954	Asyut	06:00	GFA 216 Bahrain	18:20
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	KAC 786 Jeddah	18:35	RJA	643	Amman	06:25	JZR 538 Dubai	18:30
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	KAC 542 Cairo	18:55	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30	CCE 342 Alexandria	18:35
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	KAC 618 Doha	18:55	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45	JZR 238 Amman	18:45
BAW	157	London	06:40	KAC 104 London	19:00	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	SYR 342 Damascus	19:00
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	UAE 875 Dubai	19:05	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05	QTR 1081 Doha	19:05
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	GFA 217 Bahrain	19:05	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	MSR 621 Cairo	19:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	FDB 063 Dubai	19:10	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55	GFA 218 Bahrain	19:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC 614 Bahrain	19:10	BAW	156	London	08:25	FDB 064 Dubai	19:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	ABY 123 Sharjah	19:15	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30	ABY 124 Sharjah	19:55
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	JAI 572 Mumbai	19:35	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50	KAC 361 Colombo	20:30
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	KAC 154 Istanbul	19:45	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15	FDB 060 Dubai	20:30
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC 674 Dubai	19:45	JZR	534	Cairo	09:25	KAC 283 Dhaka	20:30
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	FDB 059 Dubai	19:50	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30	UAE 876 Dhaka	20:35
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	DLH 634 Frankfurt	20:05	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40	JAI 571 Mumbai	20:35
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	KNE 381 Taif	20:10	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	KAC 331 Trivandrum	20:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	MEA 402 Beirut	20:15	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50	DLH 634 Doha	20:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	OMA 647 Muscat	20:20	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00	KAC 353 BLR	20:55
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	JZR 189 Dubai	20:25	IRA	666	Esfahan	10:15	KAC 351 Kochi	21:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	MSR 618 Alexandria	20:30	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35	KAC 543 Cairo	21:00
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	QTR 1088 Doha	20:35	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40	KNE 232 Riyadh	21:10
CCE	341	Alexandria	10:00	FDB 5053 Dubai	20:55	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00	JZR 554 Alexandria	21:15
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	ETD 307 Abu Dhabi	21:05	KAC	513	Istanbul	11:00	MEA 403 Beirut	21:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	UAE 859 Dubai	21:15	CCE	346	Sohag	11:20	OMA 648 Muscat	21:15
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	ALK 229 Colombo	21:20	KAC	561	Amman	11:25	MSR 619 Alexandria	21:30
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	THY 1082 Doha	21:55	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25	QTR 1089 Doha	21:45
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	GFA 219 Bahrain	22:00	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25	DHX 171 Bahrain	21:50
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	ETD 309 Abu Dhabi	22:10	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35	ETD 308 Abu Dhabi	21:55
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	AIC 975 Chennai/Goa	22:25	KAC	741	Dammam	11:35	ALK 230 Colombo	22:20
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	BBC 143 Dhaka	22:40	AXB	890	Mangalore	11:55	FDB 5054 Dubai	22:25
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	THY 764 Istanbul	22:55	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00	UAE 860 Dubai	22:25
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR 185 Dubai	22:55	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05	KAC 381 Delhi	22:25
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00	MSC 403 Asyut	23:10	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10	KAC 301 Mumbai	22:30
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	JAI 574 Mumbai	23:20	KAC	103	London	12:10	KAC 345 Ahmedabad	22:55
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	MSR 614 Cairo	23:30	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15	GFA 220 Bahrain	23:00
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	FDB 071 Dubai	23:35	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00	KAC 205 Islamabad	23:00
				KLM 411 Amsterdam/Dammam	23:40	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10	ETD 310 Abu Dhabi	23:05

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1290



ACROSS

1. A unit of electrical resistance equal to the resistance between two points on a conductor when a potential difference of one volt between them produces a current of one ampere.
4. One of two or more atoms with the same atomic number but with different numbers of neutrons.
11. Anything that provides inspiration for later work.
15. Seed of a pea plant.
16. Leaf bugs.
17. The chief solid component of mammalian urine.
18. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
19. A lawyer who pleads cases in court.
20. Goddess of fertility.
21. Tropical genus of small trees or shrubs.
23. An often persistent bodily disorder or disease.
25. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
27. A less than average tide occurring at the first and third quarters of the moon.
28. A sac or cavity containing fluid especially lymph or cerebrospinal fluid.
31. Tropical American trees with palmately compound leaves and showy bell-shaped flowers.
35. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
36. A standard or model or pattern regarded as typical.
39. The state of matter distinguished from the solid and liquid states by.
40. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
41. Wet through and through.
43. (Norse mythology) One of the Aesir known for his beauty and skill with bow and skis.
44. The United Nations agency concerned with civil aviation.
46. The Hebrew patriarch who saved himself and his family and the animals by building an ark in which they survived 40 days and 40 nights of rain.
48. The syllable naming the sixth (submediant) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
49. (computer science) A coding system that incorporates extra parity bits in order to detect errors.
51. Subdivision not used in some classifications.
53. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
55. The shape of a bell.
57. An ester of adenosine that is converted to ATP for energy storage.
60. Horny projecting mouth of a bird.
62. A state in the southeastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico.
68. A woman of refinement.
69. A Hindu prince or king in India.
72. A lawman concerned with narcotics violations.
73. Rounded like an egg.
76. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
77. A Chadic language spoken in Chad.
78. Lack of normal muscular tension or tonus.
79. A body of (usually fresh) water surrounded by land.

- 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
2. Perceive sound.
3. God of death.
4. Be a hindrance or obstacle to.
5. Resembling or reminiscent of silver.
6. Mountain goats.
7. Brief episode in which the brain gets insufficient blood supply.
8. Not divisible by two.
9. A formal expression of praise.
10. Suggestive of the supernatural.
11. A piece of starched cloth covering the shoulders of a nun's habit.
12. Any of several related languages of the Celts in Ireland and Scotland.
13. One of a pair of long straps (usually connected to the bit or the headpiece) used to control a horse.
14. A vertical spar for supporting sails.
22. Type genus of the Tetraonidae.
24. Closed with a lace.
26. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
29. A medicinal drug used to evoke vomiting (especially in cases of drug overdose or poisoning).
30. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
32. Large herbivorous tropical American arboreal lizards with a spiny crest along the back.
33. A narrative song with a recurrent refrain.
34. In a state of sleep.
37. An enzyme that catalyzes the oxidation of many body compounds (e.g., epinephrine and norepinephrine and serotonin).
38. A place where the wicked are punished after death.
42. God of love and erotic desire.
45. English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-1349).
47. A heavy brittle diamagnetic trivalent metallic element (resembles arsenic and antimony chemically).
50. A spot that is open late at night and that provides entertainment (as singers or dancers) as well as dancing and food and drink.
52. Concerning those not members of the clergy.
54. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
56. A small digital computer based on a microprocessor and designed to be used by one person at a time.
58. Measuring instrument in which the echo of a pulse of microwave radiation is used to detect and locate distant objects.
59. Preserve of crushed fruit.
61. Obvious and dull.
63. Cleanse (one's body) with soap and water.
64. City in southwestern Colombia in a rich agricultural area.
65. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
66. A republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
67. A dull persistent (usually moderately intense) pain.
70. Gone by.
71. The first month of the year.
74. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
75. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.

DOWN

1. An organization of countries formed in

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is good time to examine and think about what is important and of lasting value. 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. Consider the competition and look at ways to express your own talent in whatever demands may be upon you now. Your career or life-path may depend on your talent for responding and making something out of ideas and insights; whatever is new and challenging. The business world today may call for your ability to react and build on opportunities. You have a clear vision into your own inner sense of values, how you appreciate and love. Today could be a very lucky day for you in many areas of your life.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your sense of direction and guidance are the keys to understanding yourself at any in-depth level. Today, you will be called upon to use your natural problem-solving instincts. You always manage to come up with the correct approach-dig in and do not waste time with worry. There is an innate capacity to negotiate with the law and authorities, plus an ability to find you when it comes to inner and spiritual matters. Others sense this gift and accept guidance and counsel. At heart, you have a deep sense of responsibility and purpose and this seriousness is genuine and felt by others. You manage to get down to the bare bones. Matters of law, religion and philosophy of the most resolute kind hold your interest this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Recognition is the reward for sharing some of your creative ideas. Don't be shy. Stand up and take a bow. This is a time when life has a way of unfolding in a most positive way. A bout of philosophy or even a little religion could have an enormous effect on your career. You might be working in a religious institution. Lasting values or whatever you find to be the truth will guide you in the decision making process. There are new doors of opportunity opening up for something that was previously blocked. You will benefit from analytical insights, getting to the heart of things, research, penetrating. This evening presents a great time to enjoy your friends and/or your family in the celebration of life.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a great time to reflect and understand your own situation. Work and career should be on the back burner for this day. There is an opportunity to make good decisions within your own environment and you will find that others enjoy learning from you. You may be needed to help a neighbor move or transport a few people to the airport. A camera in hand will give you an opportunity to take a few pictures as you see the landscape change or a sunrise/sunset to photograph. Outdoor activity can be enjoyed by many this afternoon, perhaps through a tour of a nearby park or zoo, or perhaps through a group garage or yard sale. Of course a competitive homemade ice cream contest might be at the top of the list for you and a few of your neighbors.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Today is a day of action and embarking on new projects. You will begin to feel more and more confident and outgoing, a sense of confidence that grows stronger with each passing day. Things that may have been suspended in only a vision for many years will now take on speed, structure and shape. You should plan to work hard and give shape to the ideas you have pored over these last six or seven years. You are beginning to move forward with your dreams and goals and can expect your career to expand and possibly take on a new phase. In summary, from this time forward, expect a more confident, outgoing attitude, for you have brought to close a time of inward examination. There is a growing sense of direction and self-worth now.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You could be asked to help with some project today. If you already have a great deal of work going on now, you might want to request supervising the project. Careful here-when you have stress, it may affect your sense of independence and originality-for better or worse. Consider coordinating others so that you do not have to worry about the constant little errands. Home life can be most satisfying now. You do not have to leave home to escape from the rat race. Family, home and security seem just about ideal to you. You may be very imaginative with your home and domestic setup. This evening would be a good time to enjoy a dip in the pool or hot tub-yours, friends' or a community pool. A child follows your example this evening.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You naturally gravitate toward positions of power and authority. Others see in you a great practical ability and accept you as a leader or authority figure very easily. Your career may be very important to you now, even at the expense of home life-careful here. Too much work takes away from the extras you enjoy with your family and they with you. If home life needs more attention, it would not be unreasonable to ask you to think about a professional change. Your ability to rally support makes some form of public career quite probable. You may be working with young people this evening in the realm of teacher or coach. Young people feel a kinship toward you and respond positively to your requests. Make time for your loved ones this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You could be most persuasive with others at this time. The situation is a natural for having your particular ideas and thoughts understood. You can appreciate the difficulties of others and be understanding of the problems they may be having. You value a certain amount of self-sacrifice and may have helpful information that will help make another person's life easier. You can discriminate between superficiality and the reality that is pushing through. Your mind is naturally interested in all that is psychological. You look to improve working conditions and may find ways to serve and help customers in more of a timely manner. You are careful and considerate. A good conversation with those you love is possible this evening.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may be thinking about how you express yourself and what you want to accomplish in life. Don't be afraid to project your image. Ideas of group cooperation and communion could further your thinking, as well as connections. Everything seems to be working together for your advancement. This afternoon you may find that several of your friends will go along with you to see a musical, an opera or perhaps some outside concert. You and your friends seem to enjoy basically the same types of entertainment and all of you enjoy critiquing the performance after the show. This evening there is time to prepare for your work week ahead and now... You are ready for the grand schemes of business. You love the rhythm of business but you also enjoyed today.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are determined to get at the heart of things, whatever is under the surface or behind the scenes. A couple of youths may need your help but not in lecture form. Challenging several youths to complete a few difficult tasks in some type of teamwork creates a working together type of attitude. Healing is possible-you will find that difficult tasks will be seen through to successful results. Others will accept your suggestions and ideas. Problems or challenges can be easily solved when you are around. As you return to work tomorrow you may decide it is time to put in for some type of advancement. Your pursuit of anything secret makes you a researcher or investigator bar none. You can demonstrate great understanding to others.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Ideas of group cooperation could further your career. Your surroundings, circumstances and support systems are the key links in the chain of your success. When things get hectic, it is in these areas that you can expect to be challenged. You hate a lack of clarity, especially when it comes to your feelings and emotions. Clarity is your priority. You work today to make projects move along in a smooth manner. Any misunderstandings will be quickly corrected. You prosper by pursuing your ideals and most deep-seated dreams of how life could be. Don't be afraid to project your image-make those dreams real. Use your sense of humor this evening-laugh and encourage others. You relax by entertaining and being around your friends.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your own basic drive may be at odds with the direction your life is taking. Your home environment, friends and surroundings in general become uncomplicated. Your work or career is in real harmony with the rest of your life, but you may want more. You may find, after review and plans are made, that this is a time of good fortune when things could be opening up for you. Your time of reassessment will be rewarded and it will become easy to see which path is the one to take. Opportunities are available and you may find that you want to do almost anything; pace yourself. The home and family scene is likely to be in something of a state of change now-this may mean moving, an addition to the family, or such. An eccentric relative attracts some notice.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Musical Movies 1 - Word Search
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| A CHORUS LINE
ANNIE
BRIGADOON
CABARET
CAMELOT
CAROUSEL
EVITA
FANTASIA | FUNNY GIRL
GODSPELL
GYPSY
HELLO DOLLY
HOLIDAY INN
LA TRAVIATA
MAMMA MIA | MOULIN ROUGE
NEWSIES
OLIVER
SHOW BOAT
SOUTH PACIFIC
SWEET CHARITY
THE MUSIC MAN
TOP HAT |
|--|---|--|

Yesterday's Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles
Movie Actresses 2 - Solution

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

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ALBA
ANISTON
BARRYMORE
BATES
BLANCHETT
CHER
DENCH | DIAZ
FANNING
FOSTER
HATHAWAY
JOLIE
LANGE
MCADAMS
MCDORMAND | MIRREN
PALTROW
PAQUIN
RICCI
ROBERTS
STREISAND
SWANK
THERON |
|---|---|---|

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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



Keukenhof



Keukenhof is open annually from mid-March to mid-May. The best time to view the tulips is around mid-April, depending on the weather.

History

Keukenhof is situated on 15th-century hunting grounds. It was also a source of herbs for Jacqueline, Countess of Hainaut's castle, which is the source of the name Keukenhof (it served to provide herbs for the castle's kitchen). Rich merchants took over the grounds after the Countess's death. VOC captain and governor Adriaen Maertensz Block lived there in his retirement years in the 17th century in the country house (now known as Castle Keukenhof) which he had let built in 1641. In the 19th century, the Baron and Baroness Van Pallandt assigned the landscape architect Jan David Zocher and his son Louis Paul Zocher, who had also worked on the Vondelpark, to design the grounds around the castle. The garden was established in 1949 by the then-mayor of Lisse. The idea was to present a flower exhibit where growers from all over the Netherlands and Europe could show off their hybrids - and help the Dutch export industry (the Netherlands is the world's largest exporter of flowers).

Gardens

The Keukenhof features a variety of different gardens and garden styles. For example, the English landscape garden features winding paths and unexpected see-through points (designed by Zocher in 1830, the garden architect of the Vondelpark in Amsterdam, among others). The historical garden is an enclosed garden where you can see many old types of bulbs. The nature garden consists of a water garden where shrubs and perennials are combined with bulbous plants. The Japanese country garden is a non-traditional garden in a natural environment.

The Keukenhof doesn't contain the long fields of tulips many visitors expect. However, there are tulip fields outside the Garden (mostly privately owned). These fields may have restricted access and are not included as part of the Keukenhof ticket.



Color me!



Cute Clamshell Craft

Materials:

- Black acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- White beads (fake pearls work well)
- Clamshells
- Hot-glue gun

Directions:

1. Paint black pupils in center of each bead; let dry. Sandwich two clamshells together so insides face each other and hinges match up. Position a pair of beads between shells so pupils gaze out in same direction. Glue in place.
2. Glue hinge end of shells together. Let dry completely.

DID YOU KNOW?



EARTH FACTS

- * Magma is the hot liquid rock under the surface of the Earth, it is known as lava after it comes out of a volcano.
- * Hawaii is moving towards Japan at the speed of 10cm a year. This is because they are on different tectonic plates.
- * The world's largest desert (outside of the polar regions) is the Sahara, it covers about one third of Africa!
- * Stretching out to an impressive length of 6696 kilometers (4160 miles) long, the Nile River is the longest river on earth.
- * The volcanic rock known as pumice is the only rock that can float in water.
- * Mt Everest is the highest mountain on earth, its peak reaches 8,848 meters (29029 feet) above sea level. Check out the highest mountains on each continent of the Earth.
- * On average the Atlantic Ocean is the saltiest of Earth's major oceans.
- * Metamorphic rocks are formed by extreme pressure and heat. Read more about metamorphic, igneous and sedimentary rocks, find information on rocks and minerals or check out our interesting fossil facts.
- * The Earth isn't perfectly round, it is slightly flattened at the north and south poles.
- * Scared of the Bermuda Triangle? Despite its reputation it is actually part of a commonly sailed shipping route.
- * Scientists have dated the Earth as being between 4 and 5 billion years old!
- * The Amazon rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest on Earth. Enjoy more rainforest facts or learn about jungles.
- * Talc is the softest mineral found on Earth, reaching just 1 on Mohs scale of hardness, it is often used to make talcum powder.
- * The Great Barrier Reef in Australia is the largest living structure in the world.
- * The Niagara Falls are located on the border of the USA and Canada.
- * Rock found at the bottom of the Grand Canyon is around 2 billion years old.



FATHER'S DAY

Word Search

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

- ADORE
- CHILD
- COMFORT
- FATHER
- FUNNY
- GAMES
- GENEROUS
- GUIDE
- HANDSOME
- HARDWORKING
- HUGS
- HUSBAND
- JOKES
- KIND
- KISSES

- LEARN
- LIFE
- LOVE
- MEMORIES
- MENTOR
- PLAY
- PROTECT
- SILLY
- SPECIAL
- STRONG
- SUPPORT
- SWEET
- TEACH
- THANKS
- TOGETHER



SUDOKU

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

KIDS RECIPE

PIZZADILLAS WITH RED SAUCE

What you need:
 4 whole-wheat tortillas (8 inches)
 2/3 cup fresh or frozen spinach, finely chopped
 2/3 cup part-skim mozzarella cheese, shredded
 1 cup marinara sauce (store-bought or home-made)
 Cooking spray

What to do:
 Lay 2 tortillas on a flat surface. Divide spinach and cheese between the tortillas.
 Top with remaining 2 tortillas.
 Place skillet over medium heat. Lightly coat pan with cooking spray.
 Gently slide 1 pizzadilla into the pan and cook until light golden brown on one side (about 1-2 minutes).
 Using a thin spatula, gently flip over the pizzadilla and cook for 30-60 seconds more or until



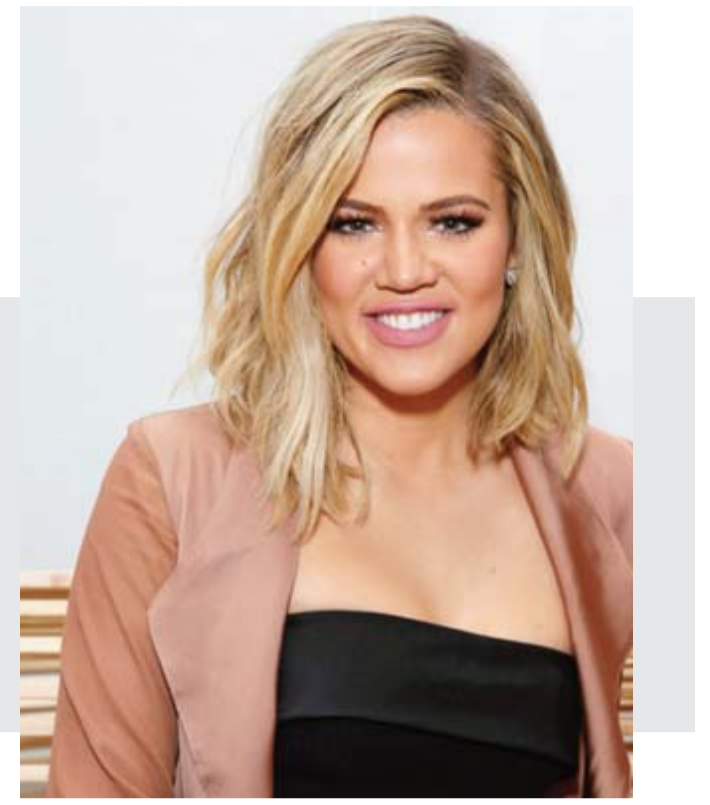
cheese is fully melted.
 Remove pizzadilla and cut into triangles. Repeat with remaining pizzadilla.
 Serve with marinara sauce for dipping.



Khloe takes swipe at estranged husband Lamar

Khloe Kardashian has seemingly taken a swipe at her estranged husband Lamar Odom in a cryptic post on Instagram. The 31-year-old reality TV star, who is currently in the process of divorcing the former basketball player, posted a quote on her Instagram account on Saturday that seemed targeted at her estranged husband, who collapsed in a brothel in Nevada in 2015. The quote read: "They start missing you when they fail at replacing you." The curvaceous celebrity captioned the now-deleted image: "You don't know what you got till it's gone. I say, you knew what you had, you just never thought it could slip away. We often take for granted the things that deserve our gratitude the most. We do this with both people and material possessions. The problem is many people do not realize this until it is too late. We take things for granted on a daily basis, always with the assumption that whenever we need something, it will be there. There are so many things that we fail to realize the true value of until they are missing from our lives. Sadly. (sic)" This comes shortly after the 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star

admitted she finds it difficult to "trust" and "believe" people nowadays. She recently wrote on Twitter: "So hard to trust and believe these days. Hummmmm that's why I stay to myself. I love to write and hopefully inspire but I get frustrated when people assume they know who I'm writing about. It ruins my willingness to share something special (sic)" Meanwhile, Khloe has also previously claimed she feels "a little safer" dating another celebrity. She shared: "I used to wonder why celebrities only dated celebrities, but when you're in it you understand. You feel a little safer. If you're seen with someone on your first date, you're automatically getting married the next day. It's so extreme! So when you're two celebrities, you can keep it really quiet at first, to see if you even like each other. Dating someone in your world is a little easier."



Cheryl and Liam 'are trying for a baby'

Cheryl Fernandez-Versini and Liam Payne are reportedly trying for a baby. The celebrity couple, who started dating eight months ago, are keen to start a family, with a source close to the One Direction singer claiming Cheryl is happier now than she has been since her marriage to soccer player Ashley Cole. An insider explained: "It's very serious now between Cheryl and Liam and they have been talking among close friends about starting a family. Cheryl is happier than she's been since the good days of her marriage to Ashley Cole." Although the source admitted that the duo are still in the early stages of their high-profile romance, the 32-year-old singer and Liam, 22, both see it as a long-term commitment. The source told The Sun on Sunday newspaper: "She's content and while they're in the honeymoon period, this feels like a connection for the future." Earlier this month, Cheryl's showbiz pal Tinchy Stryder - who became good friends with the singer when he supported her on tour in 2012 - said he hopes the pair find happiness together. He said: "If that's what makes her happy then good for her, good for him. It's just good for them, man. If she's happy and looking well, there's nothing wrong with that. Hopefully she stays happy." The rap star also praised the brunette beauty for being "bubbly and laid back". He said: "She's really cool. What you see is what you get in a way. She's bubbly and laid back, she's cool." It was interesting because when I went on-stage the crowd were responding and enjoying it and it was fun. And she comes out and it was OK, you see different styles of music and different crowds and a Cheryl audience isn't I guess my core or my usual fans."



Kendall Jenner's close shave

Kendall Jenner starting shaving her legs when she was seven. The 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star was left with bloody pins in her early years when she took a razor to her bare flesh after she walked in on her half-sister Kim Kardashian West, 35, in the shower shaving her own legs. She explained to Look magazine: "I once walked in on Kim shaving her legs in the shower. I was only seven and I was like, 'When can I do that?' And she was like, 'Not for a long time Kendall.' And then a couple of days later I went and did it with her razor and without any soap or water and I cut my legs to shreds. That's probably the worst thing I've done but I was like seven." And, although she didn't take her older half-sibling's advice when she was younger, Kendall makes sure she now takes on board everything Kim tells her and follows it religiously. She added: "Kim always told me not to touch my face. When I was 15/16, I had really bad acne and I just never touched it. I feel like if you have bad skin then it will go away. So leave it be." Kendall now tries to keep her skincare regime to the minimum to avoid clogging up her pores with countless products. She added: "I actually wash my face with a regular soap, get all the make-up and dirt off from the day, and then I slather on moisturizer. I try to do it as early as possible, rather than just before bed so my skin is clean and fresh for longer."



Depp reportedly feels he is 'too trusting'

The 53-year-old Hollywood icon is said to have opened up about his failed marriage to actress Amber Heard during the after-party for his rock band The Hollywood Vampires during their recent gig in Bucharest, Romania. A source shared: "If Johnny was under any stress, he didn't show it. He was quite relaxed, sipping beers and chatting with his friends. He even talked about Amber a little - but he clearly feels that he is the innocent party in all of this." Johnny has been accused of being physically and verbally abusive towards his estranged wife during their marriage, but the acclaimed actor is confident he will ultimately be cleared of the accusations. A source told the Sunday Mirror newspaper: "Johnny told the restaurant owner he's always had a weakness for being too trusting, and said that was what had caused his problems. Obviously Amber is making some shocking claims about him, but he gave the impression of someone who wasn't worried. He doesn't accept the things that have been said. He also said their relationship was great until they got married." Despite the controversy surrounding him, Johnny was reported to have looked relaxed and happy at the after-party. The source added: "Johnny was in a great mood. He was chatting to the girls at the party, and certainly didn't seem to have the weight of the world on his shoulders." This comes shortly after it was confirmed that Amber's restraining order against her husband had been extended. The 'Magic Mike XXL' star filed for the court order against Johnny at the end of May after filing for divorce from him a few days earlier. The restraining order - which was originally granted when Amber claimed Johnny hurled an iPhone at the actress' face - will now stay in place until August 15. Johnny has denied the accusations made against him.

Posner is set to release a book of poetry

The star - who recently reach number one on the Billboard Mix/Show Airplay chart and number four on the Billboard Hot 100 in America with 'I Took A Pill In Ibiza' - has revealed a new side to his career following the release his second album. Speaking to BANG Showbiz, he said: "I just put out my album 'At Night, Alone' and another album, 'Secret Project' coming soon before the end of this year and I wrote a book of poetry that's coming out soon." The 28-year-old musician made his big comeback this year following a quiet six years since his hit track 'Cooler Than Me' was released and he has shared his struggle to recreate its success; while writing songs for other artists such as Justin Bieber and Labrinth. He said: "I made two albums that got shelved by my label; my songs just didn't sell as well I guess. There was a gap in between for you guys, for me I was always with myself, I was always making music. But basically I was just making music that was less popular and my fans; they know all the stuff in between. I don't know why, some stuff gets more popular than others. I wish I knew why; I would make all popular stuff."



Calvin is planning a break-up song about Taylor

Calvin Harris is reportedly planning a break-up song about his split from Taylor Swift. The Scottish DJ is apparently working on a song concerning his abrupt break-up from the 'Blank Space' hitmaker, and is considering drafting in Kanye West and Rihanna for the recording sessions. A source said: "Kanye is up for doing something with Calvin and Rihanna and now Calvin's no longer with Taylor anything is possible." It has been reported, too, that Taylor's new romance with actor Tom Hiddleston has led Calvin to have a rethink about the album. The insider told The Sun on Sunday newspaper: "Calvin feels that talking publicly is not the way to go, but expressing things in music is the better option. He's currently working on some new music and has been milling over some tunes about heartbreak, deceit and lost love." This comes shortly after it was reported Taylor dumped Calvin over the phone, thereby mirroring how her ex-boyfriend Joe Jonas ended his relationship with the chart-topping singer in October 2008. Taylor, 26, is said to have called Calvin to end their relationship at some point after he was injured in a car crash. The singer was rumored to have been very vague with her former lover, simply telling him that she just needed space. However, Taylor previously slated Joe for ending their romance in a 27-second phone call. Speaking in 2008, the blonde beauty said: "It's all right - I'm cool. You know what, it's like, when I find that person that is right for me, he'll be wonderful. When I look at that person, I'm not even going to remember the boy who broke up with me over the phone in 27 seconds when I was 18. I'm sorry. I had to. [The split] was, like, a record, I think, for how quick. I looked at the call log - it was like 27 seconds. That's got to be a record."



Ariana Grande talks 'perks' of fame

Ariana Grande thinks avoiding chores is one of the best "perks" of fame. The 'Dangerous Woman' hitmaker is "embarrassed" by her lack of domesticity but insists it is largely because she is away working a lot of the time. She said: "I'm embarrassed but I can't remember the last time I did the dishes or took out the trash. I'm on the road so much and in hotels all the time. I guess one of the perks of travelling so much for work is you get out of chores." Despite starting her career when she was just 13 years old, Ariana feels "super-lucky" and doesn't think she missed out on her childhood. She told heat magazine: "I just feel super-lucky. My childhood was a bit different, but really normal in a lot of ways too." The 22-year-old star is a big fan of Miley Cyrus because of her confidence and daring nature, and hopes she can set a similar example to her own fans. She said: "I love Miley's confidence and how she tries new things all the time. Like her, I'm really trying to push myself to try new things too... I think it's really important to stick up for what you believe in and what's right. I am so proud of myself for seeing that I am strong enough to take control and feel comfortable with who I am. I want others to feel that same way too." And Ariana hopes her latest album, 'Dangerous Woman', shows how she has tried to challenge herself more. She said: "I'm growing up and my new music reflects that. I wanted to take risks, step out of my comfort zone musically and really challenge myself."





Hello965 is a travel blog run by Fatima, a curious female Kuwaiti traveler who is curious to explore the world. In **hello965**, Fatima aims to shed light on untraditional or new destinations, hotels, resorts, adventures and even events around the world. Fatima loves diversity, from luxury to low-budget travel and group to solo traveling, and aspires to cover a diverse style of traveling to all her readers and followers through all her social media channels, blog and newly in Kuwait Times.

Summer Destination: Sardinia, Italy

Sardinia is the second largest island in the Mediterranean Sea and an autonomous region of Italy. The nearest land masses are the island of Corsica, the Italian Peninsula, Sicily, Tunisia in the Balearic Islands and Provence.

On one of my trips to Italy, I managed to drop by beautiful Sardinia. In Sardinia, there are many attractions to see and visit. I decided to go see Porto Cervo. Since I've only been to Porto Cervo, I'll combine this article with some recommendations from my personal experience and others

from my research and readings.

- **BY AIR:** Flight to Cagliari Airport
 - **BY BOAT:** the island is accessible by ferry from Genoa, Fiumicino (the port of Rome), Naples and Corsica. Sardinia's ports are at Olbia, Golfo Aranci, Porto Torres and Cagliari.
 - **CAR RENTALS:** You will need a car to get to the Costa Smeralda. I rented from Hertz.
- In terms of accommodations, a few hotels come to mind:

- **Costa Di Volpe Hotel in Costa Smeralda**
- **CALA GONONE:** To explore the coves along the eastern coastline, as well as the Nuragic sites and rugged terrain inland.
- **Other things in Sardinia:**
- **Parco Nazionale Arcipelago Di La Maddalena** is a national park in the north of Sardinia.
- **Kite surf** at Isola dei Gabbiani
- **Check out Cala Luna Beach**
- **Thirteen kilometers from northern Sardinia is**

Bonafacio on the island of Corsica, France. The city of Bonafacio is known as an upscale coastal resort. The harbor city of ancient Bonafacio was first settled in 828 AD by Count Bonafacio of Tuscany. It has a "lower" city on the water and an "upper" city located on a promontory. On clear days, the island of Sardinia can be seen from the promontory.



'SAQ AL BAMBOO' AND 'BEEN GALBIN': EPISODE 13

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Times is publishing daily recaps of two Kuwaiti soap operas aired on Al Rai TV and MBC Drama. Here are the recaps of the 13th episodes:

'Saq Al Bambo' (Bamboo Stalk)

Ghanima tells the maid to tell Eisa to have dinner with them at the house every day. Nooriya tells her mother that Hind should not issue the citizenship document for Eisa or at least delete the name of the family. (Tanoo?)

from all of his documents. When Eisa comes to eat dinner, Nooriya leaves the table and goes to her house.

Ghanima's neighbor Um Jabbar suddenly visits her, so Eisa leaves the dinner and goes to his room. Hind then takes food to his room. She takes him the next day to issue the citizenship document and tells him to keep it a secret. Noor brings Eisa sweets to apologize for being rude and he tells her he received the document, so Khawla suggests holding a party for him on this occasion.

Eisa, the brother of Noor, tells his mother

Nooriya that he loves Khawla and wants to marry her, but his mother says that Khawla is still young and hasn't finished her studies. But he doesn't know that she loves her neighbor Jabbar.

When Khawla and Noor go to Ghaasan's house to celebrate with Eisa, Jabbar sees Eisa in the street and remembers him from last year when they met in the Philippines. Hind then joins them at Ghaasan's house. Hind blames Khawla for going there to celebrate without informing her.

Been Galbin (Between Two Hearts)

Muhaim's mother complains of facing problems taking care of his children alone, as she is getting old. She says she needs somebody who is young to help her, and suggests that he remarries, but she refuses.

Yasmin starts working in the salon and meets Dana there. Muhaim takes his car which Yasmin was using, but she doesn't care. Marzouq still loves Arayan and asks her if she loves somebody else, but she denies this. He asks her if they can get together again, but she tells him to forget her forever.

Arayan meets Bashir to ask him about their marriage. He asks her to give him some time till Dana delivers the baby, as he doesn't want to hurt her.

Arayan asks her old colleague who still works with Bashir if she knows Dana, but she said that she only saw her once, at their wedding. She then said she knows somebody who worked as a private eye and can collect information about Dana. Arayan wants to find something about Dana to make Bashir hate her.

Christo fans told rain may prevent walking on water

Fans of renowned artist Christo faced disappointment for a second day yesterday after his latest work in northern Italy was partly closed by rain. His ambitious three kilo-

meter-long (1.9 miles) walkway of 200,000 floating cubes covered in orange fabric floating atop Lake Iso was evacuated Saturday evening after wind and rain made it unstable.



People walk on the monumental installation entitled 'The Floating Piers' created by artist Christo Vladimirov Javacheff on Iso Lake, in northern Italy.—AFP

"Given the influx of people and potentially bad weather, it is advisable to rethink your trip," said a manager at the installation in a statement.

Local authorities have also cancelled train services to the lake to limit the numbers able to reach the project. After being closed throughout Saturday night, the project only partly reopened yesterday morning with one of the two walkways still closed to the public. Crowds of visitors hoping to visit Christo's 'The Floating Piers' have been gathering around the lake since it opened on Saturday, with organizers hoping that 500,000 people will experience it by July 3 when the pontoons close to the public.

But the walkways can only hold 11,000 people at any one time and only if weather conditions allow. More than 55,000 visitors attempted to cross the walkways on Saturday, forcing organizers who had anticipated just 40,000 to ask that they return another day. And by the early evening the bridges had been forced to close by heavy winds and driving rain. Christo first conceived the project in 1970 for the River Plate delta in Argentina but was thwarted after failing to secure the necessary permits. Despite the long delay in realizing his vision Christo said on Thursday that the project, his first since 2005, "stayed in our hearts"—AFP

Kidman in talks to join Farrell in 'Killing of a Sacred Deer'

Nicole Kidman is in talks to join Colin Farrell in 'The Killing of a Sacred Deer' from 'The Lobster' director Yorgos Lanthimos. Variety first reported during the Cannes Film Festival last month that Farrell had been set to reunite with Lanthimos on the Greek helmer's latest project. 'The Killing of a Sacred Deer' is expected to begin shooting in August with Lanthimos re-teamed with co-writer Eftymis Filippou and producers Element Pictures and Films. Harvey Films was shopping the title to foreign buyers in Cannes.

Farrell will play a successful surgeon who attempts unsuccessfully to integrate an increasingly sinister teenager into his family. Kidman will play Farrell's wife. A24 is the domestic distributor. Producers are Ed Guiney and Andrew Lowe of Element Pictures. 'The Lobster' which won the Jury Prize at Cannes in 2015, has generated more than \$5 million in limited release in a month for A24. Kidman stars with Colin Firth in 'Genius', which Roadside Attractions released last weekend, and in the upcoming 'Lion', with Rooney Mara

and Dev Patel. TWX is releasing 'Lion' in November. Kidman is reprised by CAA. Media Talent Group and Shanahan Management.—Reuters



Nicole Kidman

Dolce & Gabbana

jazz things up with fashion cacophony



Models present creations for fashion house Dolce Gabbana during the Men's Spring - Summer 2017 fashion shows in Milan. — AP/AFP photos



Nothing stays the same in fashion, but this is over the top. This season, a huge number of Milan brands are managing transitions in creative and business leadership, and using the shift to experiment with the way they communicate with their public. That means some fashion houses, including Ermenegildo Zegna and Roberto Cavalli, have opted for a menswear calendar break, while others have forsaken the choreography of runway shows for more personal presentations, where the designers can discuss their creations and materials more in depth. That includes Ermanno Scervino and Bottega Veneta.

And no few are in creative transition, presenting on the strength of their design team and without a headline stylist or creative presence, namely Salvatore Ferragamo, Canali, Tod's and Calvin Klein. Versace introduced a new CEO. But for those reveling in the show, there was no shortage of spectacle on Day One of Milan Fashion Week, with a jazz band performing live at Dolce&Gabbana while a short film by Bruce Weber and some never-before-heard Prince soundtracks were unveiled at Versace. Here are some highlights from Saturday's menswear previews for spring-summer 2017:

Summer jazz festival

Dolce&Gabbana invited the fashion crowd to a Sicilian jazz festival with echoes of New Orleans and the Copa Cabana resounding along the checkerboard runway. Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana's prolific collection for next spring and summer was a carefully arranged cacophony, like jazz itself. The live soundtrack to the runway show was provided by the New York jazz band The Hot Sardines. Among the pleasingly discordant looks: A black-and-white

ensemble featured a checked sweater worn over a floral print shirt and with striped pants. A sweater emblazoned with jazz musical references in bold white on black was paired with slim leopard print trousers.

There were looks for performers of all musical traditions, from slim, highly disciplined suits to oversized T-shirts over loose trousers and billowing silken floor-length caftans in wild prints. Stage-ready black and white dominated the runway, with flashes of gold and animal prints. Suit jackets ranged from tuxedo collars to double-breasted looks, while trousers, be they slim or loose and pleated, were almost always cropped to show off thick-soled shoes. Bomber jackets and boxy tops were the canvas for the recurring motifs, including palm fronds and pineapples along with jazz band instruments. The show ended with a New Orleans-style jazz parade, the popping of sparkling wine corks and a flurry of golden confetti.

Millennial generation

Outside the Dolce&Gabbana theater, hundreds of screaming female fans waited to catch a glimpse of Internet star Cameron Dallas. The 21-year-old Californian boasts 7.5 million followers on Twitter, 4.7 million on YouTube, 9.4 million on Vine and 13 million on Instagram. A representative sample made the trip to Milan, blocking traffic outside the Dolce&Gabbana venue.

Dallas, wearing a red bomber jacket, took a front row seat inside alongside a veritable who's who of the Millennial generation. They included style icon Luka Sabbat, British rapper Tinie Tempah and famous offspring Gabriel Kane Day-Lewis, Rafferty Law and Lucas Maurice Morad Jagger. The designers called the Millennials "the new and upcoming global stars." "These young men have the power in their hands, thanks to their smartphones," the designers said in a note.





Models present creations for fashion house Dolce Gabbana during the Men's Spring - Summer 2017 fashion shows in Milan. — AP/AFP photos



Jazz band "Hot Sardines" performs at the show for fashion house "Dolce Gabbana" during the Men's Spring - Summer 2017 fashion shows.

Remembering Prince

Donatella Versace paid sweet tribute to Prince, capping her runway show with a black ruffle shirt. The frilly gesture, referencing the artist's Purple Rain costume, was in stark contrast to the rest of the collection, which was otherwise defined by a relaxed silhouette more befitting an essential nomad than the ostentatious performer.

The collection featured muscle-revealing silk knitwear worn under long, trailing overcoats. Button-down shirts were worn long like tunics, and sweaters wrapped androgynously at the waist. Single-breasted suit jackets were hastily buttoned over loose

trousers with an elasticized cuff. The Versace empire bag was worn both cross-body, messenger-style and as a backpack, and footwear included sturdy sandals and technical sneakers. The color palette was mostly a traveler's easy monochrome, including olive, blue, gray and sand-and Prince's own purple. The show was set to a soundtrack of music that Prince recorded as a gift to Versace five months ago. The designer said she wanted "to share this incredible music from a dear and much-missed friend."

Dsquared2 loves rock 'n roll

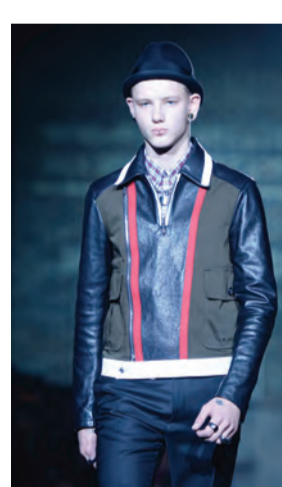
Rockers, Canada's designing twins Dean and Dan Caten, the forces behind the DSquared2 label, have the footwear for you: Prince-worthy high heeled boots available in any combination of sequins and glitter. The ever-so glam boot was paired with jeans cropped perfectly to meet the leather upper mid-calf. The looks were topped with sleeveless muscle shirts with sewn-on suspenders, shimmering striped lurex sweaters or jackets featuring checkerboard or chevron designs. The twins wore long rainbow scarves to greet the crowd in a Fashion Eve event Friday evening, an apparent tribute to the Orlando shooting victims. —AP



Models wear creations for Dsquared2 men's Spring-Summer 2016-2017 collection.



Models present creations for fashion house Versace.



Fashion designers Dan Caten and Dean Caten greet the audience at the end of the show for fashion house Dsquared2 during the Men's Spring - Summer 2017 fashion shows.

Montaha Al-Ajeel joins the most famous shop in Doha: The Blue Salon

With careful steps Montaha Al-Ajeel succeeded in making a name for herself in the fashion world, which gave her many Arab and International awards as well as the Elegance Icon title and the Prize of Honor. On top of all that came the naming of Montaha Couture brand as the best international brand of 2016. Due to her activity in the fashion industry and her enthusiasm in holding international and philanthropic fashion shows, she recently joined, the elite ship in Doha: The Blue Salon.



Qatari Businessman Ashraf Abdulrahim, Chairman and CEO of Abu Issa Holdings Group and Montaha Al-Ajeel at the joining ceremony of Montaha Couture brand and The Blue Salon in Doha.



The new branch of Montaha Couture brand in Doha.

In the press conference held on that occasion she expressed her happiness at joining the Blue Salon Shop in the State of Qatar and her willingness to meet the tastes of the Qatari woman. A fashion show was held on the occasion of the press conference where she pointed out that the tastes of the Qatari woman was close to that of the Kuwaiti woman, making it easy to meet her requirements.

She added that she was happy with the trust of the Qatari Businessman Ashraf Abdulrahim, Chairman and CEO of Abu Issa Holdings Group which is one of the major retail companies in the region. The Blue Salon is one of the Group's project of a venue for the elite offering International high-end fashion, watches, jewelry, cosmetics and furniture.



Montaha Al-Ajeel is seen during an interview on MBC television.



Bahraini Muslim boys read the Quran, Islam's holy book, during the holy fasting month of Ramadan at a mosque in the village of Sanabis, west of Manama.—AFP

Spain joins forces with Bollywood to boost tourism

Spain is coaxing Indian moviemakers to use its colourful fiestas and historic monuments as settings for their films, in a move to grab a bigger share of India's fast-growing overseas tourism market. As part of its bid to lure visitors from the world's second most populous country, Madrid will host next weekend the annual International Indian Film Academy awards, dubbed the "Bollywood Oscars". In global tourism, Spain ranks as the third most visited country, but it now wants to diversify its tourism base beyond the traditional northern European sunseekers that account for the bulk of its visitors.

Among the Bollywood stars who will attend the awards ceremony in Spain will be hunky Indian actor Hrithik Roshan, the green-eyed star of the 2011 coming-of-age movie "Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara", which was produced in close collaboration with the Spanish tourism promotion agency, Turespana. The film about three friends on a pre-marriage road trip across Spain includes scenes at "La Tomatina" festival in the town of Bunol, where half-naked revellers hurl mushy tomatoes at each other, as well as at Pamplona's San Fermin bull running festival.

With scenes also set in Barcelona, Seville and the beaches of the Costa Brava, the movie was the first major Indian production to shoot extensively in various locations in Spain. It was also the highest grossing Bollywood film of 2011. "There was an immediate impact in the number of people requesting entry visas to travel to Spain," the director of the London office of Turespana, Enrique Ruiz de Lera, who led the agency's talks with the producers of the movie, told AFP.

The year after its release, 60,444 Indians visited Spain, nearly double the 2011 figure, according to the industry and tourism ministry. Last year 85,000 Indians visited Spain. Lonely Planet in 2013 launched a guide to Spain aimed specifically at the Indian market and travel agencies still advertise tours to the locations featured in the "Zindagi" movie. India's ambassador to Spain, Vikram Misri, said the film "was singlehandedly responsible for making Spain a household name in India and increasing tourism from India".

Cruise ship movie

Turespana suggested locations for filming but gave no direct financial aid to cover the cost

of making the movie, Ruiz de Lera said. Instead it helped secure permits to film at key sites and negotiate deals on hotel rooms and transportation for the crew to lower production costs. "We helped a lot with contacts so filming in Spain was easy," Ruiz de Lera said. In return the producers of the film agreed to include a short advertisement before the start of the movie promoting Spain by award-winning Spanish director Julio Medem.

Spain and India signed a film coproduction agreement the year after "Zindagi" was released. Turespana regularly takes part in film location fairs in India to pitch the tax breaks and other incentives available to movie producers who shoot in Spain. Since "Zindagi", another "five or six" Indian films have been shot in Spain although none was as popular at the box office, the director of the Mumbai office of Turespana, Ignacio Ducasse, told AFP.

They include one by "Zindagi" director Zoya Akhtar — "Dil Dhadakne Do" featuring Bollywood star Anil Kapoor—which was filmed on a ship belonging to Pullmantur, Spain's biggest cruise operator. The comedy-drama about a dysfunctional family on a 10-day Mediterranean cruise was released last year and it includes scenes shot in Barcelona as well as in the various bars, restaurants and open decks of the ship.

Stars in ad campaign

Kapoor, 59, best known internationally for his role in the 2008 film "Slumdog Millionaire", said during a visit to Madrid in March to promote the Bollywood Oscars that he is "looking forward to coming back again and again to Spain". Tourism is crucial for the Spanish economy, accounting for around 11 percent of gross domestic product and one in nine jobs, according to the tourism ministry. The United Nations World Tourism Organization predicts Asian powerhouse India will account for 50 million outbound tourists by 2020, up from just 18 million in 2014.

Turespana plans to create an ad campaign to appeal to this rising tide of tourists using images of Bollywood celebrities enjoying themselves in Madrid at the awards show. The ceremony itself is expected to bring 15,000 visitors to the Spanish capital during the week of the show. "We are counting that the arrival of several thousand Indian friends for the (awards) ceremony will help bring millions of their compatriots in the coming years," Spain's secretary of state for foreign affairs, Ignacio Ybanez, said earlier this year.—AFP



Vendors wait for customers at stalls that sell fast-breaking snacks during the holy fasting month of Ramadan, yesterday in Jakarta, Indonesia. During Ramadan the holiest month in Islamic calendar, Muslims refrain from eating, drinking, smoking and sex from dawn till dusk.—AP



To highlight the booming connection with Bollywood, Madrid will host on June 25, 2016 the annual International Indian Film Academy awards, dubbed the "Bollywood Oscars", in another bid to lure visitors from the world's second most populous country.—AFP



Afghan girls and boys read the Quran during of the Islamic month of Ramadan at a mosque in Kabul, Afghanistan, yesterday.—AP