

FREE

Kuwait Times

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Min 31°
Max 49°

NO: 16914- Friday, June 24, 2016

**Kuwait Central
Prison fire kills
1, injures 47**



**Mideast hub
Dubai eases
liquor rules**



**Brady takes
Ireland into
Euro last 16**

Ramadan Timings

Emsak: 03:04
Fajer: 03:14
Shrooq: 04:50
Dohr: 11:50
Asr: 15:24
Maghreb: 18:51
Eshaa: 20:23

KUWAIT AIRWAYS TO FLY NEW YORK 'VIA IRELAND'

PART OF SECURITY PRECAUTIONS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways has declared the weekly flight to the US airport John F Kennedy in New York would include a stopover at the Irish Shannon Airport as part of extraordinary security precautions. The flight program has been changed as part of coordination between the Kuwaiti and American authorities, aimed at securing maximum security and safety for the passengers.

The stopover at the Irish airport would not exceed two and a half hour, it assured the concerned passengers. Back flight, QU118, would be straight from New York to Kuwait International Airport. Route of the flight has been altered due to renovation at the Kuwait Airport. Recently the Directorate General of Civil Aviation received a request from the United States to expand security measures and additional inspections at Kuwait

International Airport. The request came amid US concerns regarding the possibility of terrorist operations in light of the troubled security conditions in the region, said Saleh Al-Fadhaghi, the Operations Manager at the DGCA.

Meanwhile, Fadhaghi said that the precautionary measures taken currently at the airport already meet US demands, adding that they are of high level and certified by international monitoring bodies. "A team from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in the US visited Kuwait International Airport a couple of weeks ago and praised the security measures taken here," Fadhaghi said. He added that the DGCA signed a two-year contract with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to boost security measures at the airport. — Agencies



IN OR OUT? UK VOTES ON EU

LONDON: Britons voted yesterday on whether to stay in the European Union in a referendum that could change the face of Europe and is being nervously watched by financial markets and politicians across the world. A British exit, or Brexit, would deprive the 28-member EU of its second-biggest economy and one of its two main military powers, sending political shockwaves across the continent.

After four months of bitter campaigning, polling stations opened at 0600 GMT and will close at 2100, with results expected to be announced by the 382 individual local counting areas between around 0100 and 0300 today. Prime Minister David Cameron, who is for "Remain", called the vote

under pressure from the anti-EU wing of his Conservative Party and the surging UK Independence Party (UKIP), hoping to end decades of debate over Britain's ties with Europe.

Even with a vote to stay, Cameron could struggle to repair the rifts in his party and hold on to his job. The "Leave" campaign says Britain's economy would benefit from a Brexit. "Remain" says it would cause financial chaos and impoverish the nation for years or even decades to come. Two polls conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday found "Remain" was in the lead, although the overall picture from the last few days of polling was of a vote that was too close to forecast. (See Page 14)

by verage

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DUBAI: WINDLEY (WINDLEY MALL)

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المدينة الجديدة - المدينة الجديدة - المدينة الجديدة - المدينة الجديدة - المدينة الجديدة
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Local Spotlight

CYBER BULLYING IN KUWAIT



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

I have written about cybercrimes before; however, due to the number of questions that I receive from expats on the best ways to deal with cyber harassment or cyber bullying, I found myself returning to the subject. It is indeed an important and serious issue because it deals with the safety of individuals and the possibility of crimes being committed. People are ignorant that there is a law here to protect them that punishes criminals with prison and fines.

An Asian expatriate family is being harassed through Facebook and faces a constant nuisance, and does not know what it should do to stop this person or reach him. It's simple for those who know that there is a law for cybercrimes in Kuwait - a severe law that shows no compassion and tolerance for the perpetrators of these crimes, which usually causes a lot of psychological harm to the victims.

Previously, I have to point out that cyber bullying was not considered an issue in Kuwait and was dismissed as "child's play". But in 2015, the government passed a new law called the electronic crimes law. This law saw heated debate between supporters and opponents, as it sought to regulate the mechanism of dealing with electronic media, including social media, of which Twitter is the most widely used in Kuwait.

Many people found the law against public freedoms and a decline of democracy in Kuwait. But this law against cybercrimes had become a necessity. After all, it is a penal law that brings safety and security to Kuwaiti society and users of social media against organized crime, which is often managed by terrorist organizations or criminals.

Cyber bullying is the use of information technology to harm or harass other people in a deliberate manner. In the US, cyber bullying could be limited to posting rumors or gossip about a person on the Internet, bringing about hatred in others' minds, or it may go to the extent of personally identifying victims and publishing materials severely defaming and humiliating them.

The increased use of international technology networks and information systems has led to a lot of risks. It spawned new types of cyber bullying and cybercrimes such as theft and forgery by electronic means, and also offenses against morality and public behaviors, breach of confidentiality regulations, kidnapping and encouraging terrorism. For many years, there was no law in Kuwait against such ill practices on social media. This encouraged many who used technological means to meddle with others outside the scope of criminalization.

To those who may feel that they are under threat on social media, please let me tell you that the Kuwait e-crimes law criminalizes using the Internet or information technology to threaten or blackmail a person to force him to do something or abstain from doing so. The threat of a felony or infringing on the dignity of persons or their honor and reputation will lead to a penalty of imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years and a fine not exceeding KD 20,000 and not less than KD 5,000, or either of them.

The cybercrimes department at the interior ministry can be reached at info@cybercrime.gov.kw. Don't become a victim!

Photo of the day



A local couple walks through the shadows of planted trees at a local park. — Photo by KUNA/Ghazy Qaffaf

In My View

ARE YOU SUPERMAN?

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

local@kuwaittimes.net

In the world of comic books, superheroes have a dual personality. The exterior is a hero, courageous and unafraid of villains but beneath the cape lives a shy, quiet person, indecisive and usually suffering from an emotional or psychological problem. Sometimes in Kuwait, I think comic heroes are not that far from reality.

Often in my work as a journalist, I find it impossible to find the clear, reliable information needed to write stories. Whether the information is official statements or opinions about a social matter, often the most basic details are not forthcoming. More times that I care to count I've been faced with this scenario. The person being interviewed is readily happy to talk but refuses to give his name. Even when nothing controversial or confidential is being discussed! The same goes for email or telephone calls. At most, people will introduce themselves by their first name, leaving me curious - who's Khalid; Sara who?

This happens so frequently that I've begun to wonder: What is the reason for this reluctance? Is it an ignorance of official messaging etiquette? Or do people feel shy to reveal their family names, worried that they will be judged or classed into a particular social strata? Should I

congratulate them for being mysterious in my reply, especially after I ask twice about their family name?!

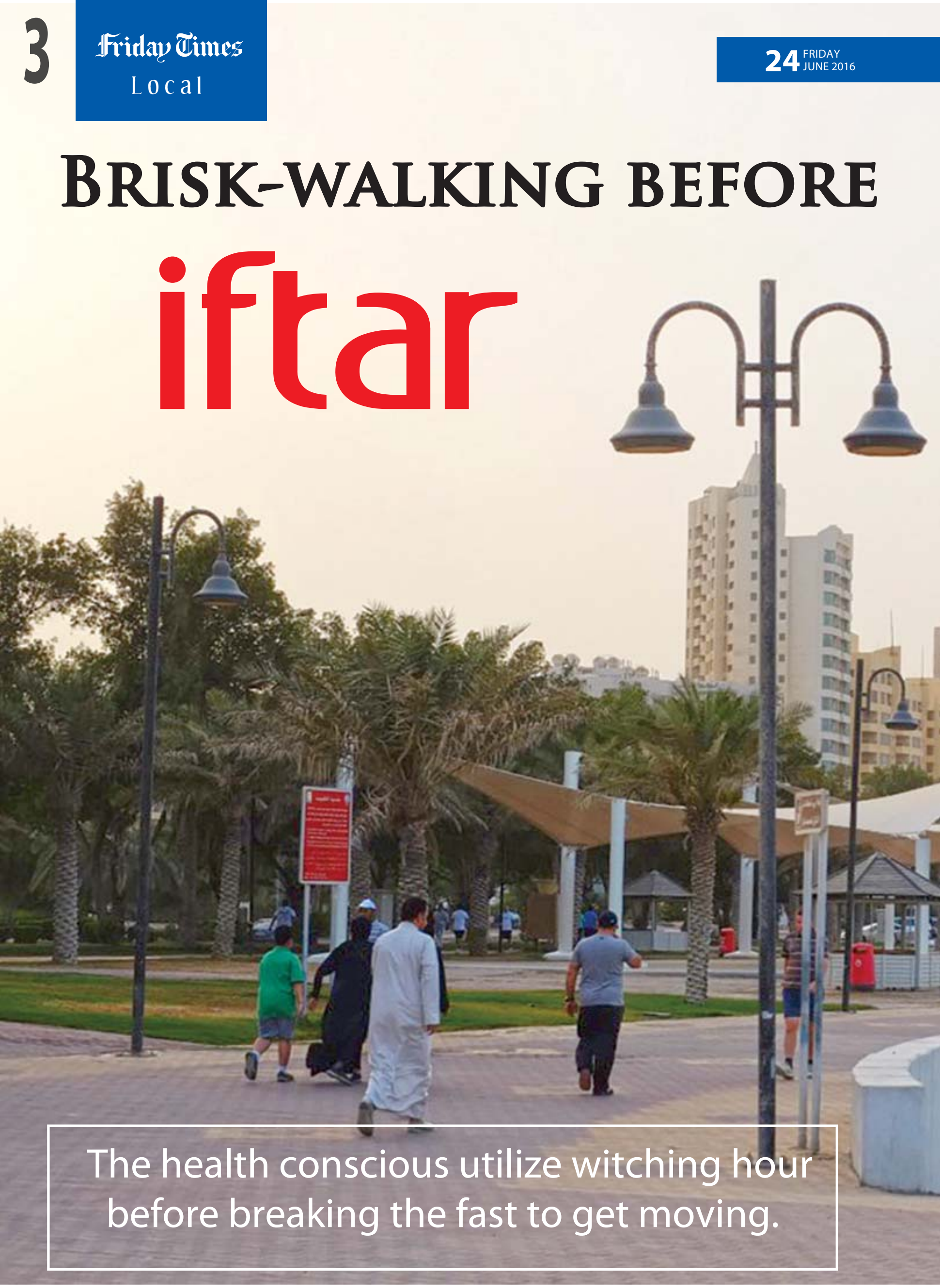
There might be a much deeper reason. Most Arabs have been brought up in an environment that is judgmental and full of stereotypes, making them reluctant to disclose their identity in order to not link them to preconceived notions about their families, tribes, sects and living standards.

For the same reason, a lot of people who are running home businesses hide their identities to avoid getting mocked by their relatives, despite the fact that they are doing an honest and in some cases, even profitable job. Some people withhold their names out of fear of the evil eye, but this is a different issue. Add to this the fear of going public when they frankly express a personal viewpoint on social, religious and political affairs, which makes it very difficult to write objective stories.

There seem to be many personal reasons and they differ from one person to another. However, like those comic book heroes, they all want to convey what's on their minds and aspire for change, but at the same time, live normally and quietly without stirring up trouble and causing concern.

Why won't people reveal their names? Are they ignorant of proper business etiquette? Or worried they may be judged or classed into a particular social strata?

BRISK-WALKING BEFORE **iftar**



The health conscious utilize witching hour before breaking the fast to get moving.



Ramadan Quiz 2016

Answer & Win Fabulous Prizes

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

Prizes include: Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi, Lulu Hypermarket, Ruby Tuesday Gift Voucher, and various watches and mobile phones.

2016/76 ع.س


Kuwait Times

Ramadan Quiz
Answer & Win

19) Who is the first martyr (shaheed) in Islam?

The first martyr in Islam is Sumayyah (Radi Allahu Anha)

☐ YES ☐ NO

Date: _____

Name: _____

Civil ID.: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____


Kuwait Times

Ramadan Quiz
Answer & Win



From left Mishal Al-Shammari and Saad Al-Shareeda.



Ahmad Chtaiwi.

Story and photos by Athoob Al-Shuaibi

During the holy month of Ramadan, health specialists and nutritionists emphasize walking before breaking the fast. Thousands of people can be seen walking during the hour before iftar along the seaside of Kuwait, around walking tracks and in suburban areas. People also turn more spiritual during Ramadan and try to quit bad habits related to their health, such as smoking, while others try to start or maintain a healthier lifestyle.

Kuwait Times spoke to a number of walkers along the coast to ask about the reasons why they walk before iftar. Mishal Al-Shammari, a fresh graduate, said: "I have lost six kilos since the beginning of the holy month by following a healthier diet. I exercise every day. Walking is very stress-relieving." His friend, Saad Al-Shareeda, an employee at the ministry of public works, said that he comes to walk by the beach twice a week only in Ramadan to pass the hours remaining until iftar.

Continued on Page 6



Khaled Al-Sharaf.



Shabbab Al-Mutairi and his daughter.

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Flying Reimagined

"Balancing between work, private life and exercise is hard during the holy month."

Continued from Page 3

There's an increasing danger of developing various diseases and health problems as you grow older if you don't exercise daily. Thirst and hunger during Ramadan is often accompanied by a feeling of dizziness, headaches and a lack of desire to work, but this varies from one person to another. Fasting has the least negative impact on healthy people.

A healthy lifestyle

"Being healthy is a lifestyle for me. I've been committed to healthy eating habits and exercise for 24 years. I encourage those who start to never give up even if you get muscle pains. Exercising will help you to live healthier for longer," stressed Khaled Al-Sharaf, an employee at the ministry of communications.

Hadeel Mohammed, a dentistry student, added: "I go to the gym throughout the year because I believe in the importance of exercising in my life. As for a walk before iftar, it is recommended by doctors

because it burns a greater percentage of fat. A walk after breaking your fast is preferable after at least two hours." Likewise, Fahd Al-Khaldi, an engineer, said he walks briskly to burn fat before breakfast everyday and Ramadan is no different.

Exercising in general doesn't only need more effort, but requires time as well. And time isn't always something people can spare. Aisha Al-Awadhi, an employee, explained that due to social obligations after iftar, it's impossible to exercise. "Time is short, and I try my best to adhere to exercising. Balancing between work, private life and exercise is hard during the holy month," sighed Aisha.

Some people find a chance to exercise only in Ramadan. "I brisk walk every in Ramadan," said Ahmad Chtaiwi, who works as a teacher in the morning and an editor at Al-Rai newspaper in the afternoon. "I know a lot about health and nutrition, so I adopt moderate eating habits. Meanwhile, I try to lose the weight I gained throughout the year in Ramadan by walking briskly before iftar," he added.



From left Eng Fahad Al-Khaldi and Aisha Al-Awadhi.

HEALTH BENEFITS of WALKING

20 WALKING 20 MINUTES/DAY WILL BURN 7 POUNDS OF BODY FAT/ YEAR

45 WALKING 45 MINUTES/ DAY HALVES ODDS OF CATCHING A COLD

1 WALKING 1 MINUTE CAN EXTEND LIFE BY 1.5-2 MINUTES

20 WALKING 20-25 MINUTES/WEEK CAN EXTEND LIFE BY SEVERAL YEARS



DEMENTIA

Seniors who walk 6-9 miles/week are less likely to suffer from mental decline as they age, including dementia.



DIABETES

Walking 30 minutes/day, 5 days/week, along with moderate diet changes, can halve risk of Type 2 Diabetes.



HEART DISEASE

Walking 30 minutes/day, 5 days/week can halve the risk of heart disease and reduce stress, cholesterol, and blood pressure.



ARTHRITIS

Walking can reduce pain and improve function, mobility, mood, and quality of life, without worsening symptoms.



DEPRESSION

Walking triggers endorphins, promotes relaxation, and prevents anxiety and depression.

WALKING 6 MILES/ WEEK CAN HALVE RISK OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE OVER 5 YEARS



WOMEN WHO WALK FOR 1 HOUR/ DAY, 5 DAYS/WEEK AND CONSUME 1,500 CALORIES/ DAY CAN LOSE AND KEEP OFF 25 LBS



WALKING 30 MIN/ DAY, 4 DAYS/WEEK CAN REDUCE THE RISK OF DIABETES BY NEARLY 60%



PROSTATE CANCER PATIENTS WHO WALK 90 MIN/WEEK HAVE NEARLY 50% LOWER MORTALITY RISK



WOMEN WHO WALK REGULARLY ARE 31% LESS LIKELY TO DEVELOP COLON CANCER THAN THOSE WHO EXERCISE LESS THAN ONE HOUR/ WEEK





An aerial photo shows the Kuwait Central Prison

AT LEAST 1 DEAD IN CENTRAL PRISON BLAZE

SEVERAL INMATES SENT TO HOSPITAL; MOI SAYS BLAZE UNDER CONTROL

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: At least one person has died from a fire that broke out in the Central Prison yesterday. Six fire stations responded to the blaze, which was located in section four of the prison. More than 47 inmates and guards were injured in the fire and several were taken to hospital, said Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD). Four firefighters were also hurt battling the blaze. Section four of the Central Prison is reserved for inmates convicted of drug offenses.

There are approximately 4,000 prisoners in the prison, representing all nationalities and ages. The women's prison is a separate section within the same complex. Crackdowns and raids by prison authorities on illicit drug use are common. Investigations are under way to find out the reasons for the fire, said the General Directorate of Public Relations and Security Media of the Interior Ministry.

In another development, fire broke out in a Hawally building. Fire fighters from the Hawally and Salmiya centers rushed to the scene to battle the blaze. The building was evacuated and the fire was put out.



Paramedics attend to an injured person



KUWAIT TO FILE \$1 BN LAWSUIT AGAINST IOC

KUWAIT: Kuwait said yesterday it will sue the International Olympic Committee in Switzerland for \$1 billion, the latest twist in an ongoing struggle that's blocked athletes from competing under the Kuwaiti flag at this year's games in Rio de Janeiro. The comments by Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Homoud Al Sabah, carried by the state-run Kuwait News Agency, comes after the IOC suspended the Kuwaiti Olympic body in October on grounds of government interference in sports.

In response, Kuwait filed a lawsuit in January in local courts against 14 board members of its Olympic committee seeking \$1.3 billion. That lawsuit accused the members of corrupting the Olympic movement in Kuwait and interfering in sports affairs. This new lawsuit will further widen the rift between the Kuwait government and the IOC, making lifting

the suspension before the Rio games even less likely. In a meeting earlier this month, the IOC's executive board authorized Kuwaiti athletes to compete as individuals under the Olympic flag if they qualify.

In his comments, Sheikh Salman called the IOC decisions "totally unacceptable." Kuwait "showed a sincere desire to cooperate, but all to no avail," he said. "We were put in an embarrassing situation in the eyes of international sports circles and looked at as if we were outlaws." Kuwait was first suspended by the IOC in 2010, also in a dispute over government interference. The country was reinstated in 2012 ahead of the London Games after Kuwait's ruler, HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, pledged autonomy for the Olympic committee and promised new legislation for institutions governing sports. — AP



WORKS MINISTER AL-OMAIR VISITS SEVERAL WORKSITES

KUWAIT: Public Works Minister Dr Ali Al-Omair said the Ministry is tackling Kuwait road problems. Al-Omair was speaking during a tour he made after midnight on several worksites including in Adailiya and Fahaheel expressway. He said the Ministry is keen on making the tour in support of engineers who are working during the late hours during the holy month of Ramadan.

He supervised the scraping of asphalt and replacing of damaged

parts, and hoped that by winter all the problems would have been solved. The minister said the short period the traffic allows for work (six hours) is not enough, because it keeps one lane open for traffic, adding that the Ministry of Public Works is in contact with the traffic department to increase the period. He added that the Ministry is coordinating with the finance department to allocate the largest budget possible for maintenance. Meanwhile, Assistant Undersecretary for the

Maintenance Sector Eng Mohammad Bin Nikhi said the Ministry has an ambitious three-year plan that aims at maintaining all roads to restore 'life' to the country's streets as they were before. This plan, he said, will need KD 150 million at least. He said Fahaheel road is going under maintenance - from Hadi hospital all the way to Kuwait City - covering nearly nine kilometers. Bin Nikhi thanked the engineers who work under difficult circumstances- summer and winter.

KIDNAPPER ARRESTED

KUWAIT: Capital police arrested an Indian expat for kidnapping a 13 year old boy in Jaber Al-Ahmad area. The man was sent to concerned authorities. A police source said a juvenile citizen called police and told them he saw an Indian grocer kidnapping one of his friends, so they responded and arrested the suspect.

Two arrested

Two Indians were arrested by Kheitan police for attempting to bribe a police captain by KD 1000 to release a woman compatriot who has been arrested on prostitution charges.

Juvenile in car accident

A driver allowed his sponsor's juvenile son to drive his car in Fahaheel. The boy got involved in an accident and

both ended in the ICU.

Hot tea burns girl

Hot tea burned the arm of a six year old girl and had to be treated in hospital. Her parents were charged with negligence in Rihab area police station.

Smuggler detained

An Egyptian failed in a bid to smuggle 2130 Tramadol tablets inside his personal clothes upon his arrival at Kuwait International Airport, as customs officers caught him and was referred to Drugs Control General Department.

Citizens fight

A fight between two citizens in Jahra area left one with a head wound and the other a broken finger. The men were fighting over whose turn it was at the

checkout counter. Both lodged complaints at the police station, as legal action is being taken. In another unrelated case, a citizen in his 40s told Interior Ministry operations that his younger brother attacked him and was throwing and breaking things in the house. Police went to the house and arrested him in the basement. He was sent to DCGD to find out where he gets his drugs from.

Fake detective arrested

Ahmadi police arrested a bedoon who posed as a detective and was taking money from expats after threatening to deport them. Police received a call from a citizen telling them that a man was stopping pedestrians in Mahboula threatening to deport them, then asks for money.

News

i n b r i e f

Agility targets Kharafi National's investment

DUBAI: Kuwait's Agility said yesterday it was in preliminary talks about potentially investing into construction firm Kharafi National. Agility, the Gulf's largest logistics firm, was reviewing all possible investment opportunities in the Kuwaiti company, it said in the bourse statement. Owned by the wealthy Al-Kharafi family, Kharafi National is one of the largest construction companies in Kuwait. It is involved in infrastructure project development in water, waste water treatment and district cooling among other services, according to its website.



Kuwait's Ambassador to Tanzania Jassem Al-Najem chats with Tanzanian officials. —KUNA

Kuwait sponsors 50 free study seats in Tanzania

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ambassador to Tanzania Jassem Al-Najem offered the first payment of Kuwait's contribution to the Tanzanian President Dr John Magufuli's project of free education. The grant secures 50 study seats to primary-level students. Each seat is enough for three students, out of a total of 300 seats for intermediate and high school levels, to be offered later in batches. Kuwait is the first country that contributes to the free education project in Tanzania, said the diplomat during a ceremony making hand-out the first installment. It was attended by Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Regional Integration Dr Augustine Phillip Mahiga. The ambassador indicated that there is an increasing need for free study seats, due to the large number of students who have joined schools after President Magufuli announced free education for all locals.



KRCS distributes Iftar meals, clothes to Syrian refugees

BEIRUT: The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) has handed out more than 1000 Iftar (fast-breaking) meals and clothes for Eid al-Fitr to Syrian refugee families in southern Lebanon. In a statement to KUNA, Abdullah Jomaa, head of KRCS' team in Lebanon, said the society distributed 1016 Iftar meals, clothes for Eid and sweets to Syrian refugee families in a camp of Marjayoun area. He added that the society continues handing out daily Iftar meals to Syrian refugees during the holy month of Ramadan in all areas. Jomaa expressed his gratitude to the Lebanon Red Cross for cooperating with the KRCS in carrying out the aid campaign in several areas across the country during Ramadan. Meanwhile, Adel Al-Nabhan, a member of KRCS, told KUNA in a statement that the society is trying to extend a helping hand to Syrian refugees in Lebanon so as to alleviate their suffering.



File photos show Kuwait pearl divers during the olden days

RAMADAN, PEARL DIVING AND 'DEAL-BREAKER'



KUWAIT: The advent of the Holy Month of Ramadan during the heat of the summer back in the old days was a matter that affected all aspects of life in Kuwait especially pearl diving. Seeking guidance from religious authorities in Egypt, Makkah, Baghdad, and Sham region, pearl divers back in the old days made sure that if they had to break the fast - they would only do so through the blessing of the scholars. In what was described as a 'deal-breaker', the reply from the scholars insisted that pearl divers should not break their fast during voyage in the vast ocean, a verdict which led Kuwaitis to work on their livelihood before Ramadan and after Eid Al-Fitr.

Speaking to KUNA, researcher Nawaf Al-Asfour said that one of the significant years in which Ramadan coincided with the summer was during the reign of the Amir Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah in 1912. That year was known as Sinat Al-Tafha (the year of the overflowing prosperity), said the researcher who indicated that pearl diving ships reached 812 with some 30,000 personnel. Al-Asfour said that earning for that period reached six million rupees. — KUNA

ZAKAT HOUSE'S IFTAR FEASTS ADMIRABLE CHARITY PROJECT

KUWAIT: Iftar meals offered to Muslims upon breaking their fasting - organized by Zakat House - is one of the leading humanitarian and charity projects offered by this institution as it provides 149 meals inside Kuwait and abroad during Ramadan this year. The free meals are offered in cooperation with specialized food companies, 47 charity bodies abroad, in coordination with various official states' institutions. It is done this year at 75 locations including mosques, hospitals and houses for the elderly, the ill and people with special needs, including various governorates in Kuwait.

Director General of Zakat House Dr Ibrahim Al-Saleh told KUNA that they offer iftar feasts for orphans, students in need and poor Muslims in 30 Islamic and Arab nations, at the cost of KD 103,500. This project commenced back in 1988, with financial resources secured from donations; under supervision of Zakat House, he said. Zakat House offer iftar feasts in 28 Islamic and Arab nations, in cooperation with 56 charities, to orphans, students and poor people, he added. People who desire to donate to this project can reach Zakat House main building or one of its branches in various parts of Kuwait, or by calling the hotline 175, as well as visiting its official website.— KUNA



Muslim faithful seen during iftar

KUWAIT EMBASSY IN BOSNIA ISSUES NEW RULES TO CITIZENS

KUWAIT: All Kuwaiti citizens are permitted to reside in Bosnia and Herzegovina for no more than 90 days during a six month period, starting from the date of entry, a statement by Kuwait's embassy in Sarajevo said yesterday. All minors under the age of 14 traveling to Bosnia and Herzegovina on their own are required to present a written consent from their guardians permitting them to travel to the country, the statement received by KUNA added.

Meanwhile, all those departing Sarajevo are permitted to carry a minimum of 2500 Euro in cash and are advised not to have large sums of money in their possession. All those with more than 5000 Euro are required to declare it to customs, the statement said, adding that all those renting a car should complete all the required and necessary paperwork. For those wishing to bring in domestic workers, the statement noted that the workers should have a valid visa which covers the entire duration of their stay in the country, or else they would face legal action. The statement also advised those with lost or damaged passports to contact the embassy phone number immediately. Customs laws in Sarajevo only permit visitors to the country to have no more than 200 cigarettes in their possession, in addition to a minimum of 250 ml of perfume per person, the statement added, noting that customs officials have the right to confiscate any quantities surpassing these amounts. In case of any emergencies, citizens should call the embassy number in Sarajevo on +38733569020, the statement said. —KUNA

Friday Times

International

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2016

**Palestinian leader
appeals for
EU help to end
occupation**



**Trump heads to
Scotland as
'Brexit' vote
result looms**



**Colombia-FARC
ceasefire puts
peace within
reach**



DUBAI: A man goes kite surfing at Kite Beach in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Dubai, the Mideast's desert party town, has just gotten even wetter. The city-state is breaking new ground with its decision to loosen rules prohibiting day-time alcohol sales during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, a move that reflects how much Dubai's rulers value the revenue both tourists and alcohol tax bring into this emirate.— AP

IN A FIRST, MIDEAST HUB DUBAI EASES LIQUOR RULES FOR RAMADAN DEMONSTRATING HOW IMPORTANT THE ALCOHOL REVENUE IS

DUBAI: Dubai, the Mideast's desert party town, has just gotten even wetter. The city-state is breaking new ground with its decision to loosen rules prohibiting day-time alcohol sales during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, a move that reflects how much Dubai's rulers value the revenue both tourists and alcohol tax bring into this emirate.

In years past, those wanting a beer or a glass of wine needed to wait until sundown, when Muslims break the daylong Ramadan fast with their first sips of water and their evening meal called iftar. Bars in this city of skyscrapers would also play quiet music and make sure to hide those imbibing behind closed doors and tinted glass during the holy month.

Just before this Ramadan, however, Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing issued a seemingly benign notice to hotel managers across the emirate. Bars and nightclubs in Dubai are almost entirely limited to operating inside of or connected to hotels - even drink receipts at the Dubai International Airport show up as

coming from a hotel attached to the airport.

That May 31 notice, obtained by The Associated Press, informed hotels that during the dates encompassing Ramadan, alcohol sales would be governed by normal rules, as opposed to limiting their hours.

Asked by the AP about the rule change, Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing said that "ensuring a superlative visitor experience consistently is at the center of our destination proposition and remains in line with Dubai's significance as a world-class tourism destination."

The tourism department did appeal on tourists to respect Ramadan rules.

"With nearly 1 million tourists expected to visit and enjoy all aspects of our city over Ramadan, we expect all operators and travelers to be respectful of the Holy Month and be mindful of cultural sensitivities," the department said in a statement. It declined to say why officials decided to change the long-standing rules on alcohol this year.

Dubai, home of the long-haul airline Emirates, long has sought to make itself a

tourism hub. It has the world's tallest building - the Burj Khalifa - as well as man-made islands, an indoor ski slope and miles of air-conditioned walkways in its high-end malls. Under-construction amusement parks and other attractions are planned ahead of it hosting the 2020 World Expo, a world's fair held every five years.

Part of Dubai's year-round tourism draw is also its alcohol sales, as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iran ban the purchase of liquor and beer. Even neighboring Sharjah, another of the United Arab Emirates' seven sheikhdoms, bans it.

Beyond tourism, there's another lucrative reason for Dubai's rulers to sell alcohol. Every beer poured and mixed drink decanted in a bar is subject to a 30 percent municipality tax. There's also a 50-percent import tax for alcohol, so drinking can be expensive, though tourists and residents can buy from duty-free stores at Dubai's airports or from bootleggers.

The taxes haven't slowed down drinkers. In 2014, the United Arab Emirates saw 67.2 million liters (17.8 million gallons) of beer and 20

million liters (5 million gallons) of spirits sold. That's according to research firm Euromonitor International, which also forecast that by 2019, a total of 91.2 million liters (24 million gallons) of beer and 27 million liters (7 million gallons) of spirits will be sold in the UAE.

"Strong population growth driven by political unrest in neighboring Arab countries and economic hardships in Europe ... is likely to drive the sales of alcoholic drinks over the forecast," Euromonitor said in an October 2015 report. "Strong investments in the real estate and hospitality industries in preparation for Expo 2020 will also push tourism higher, which will have a positive effect on alcoholic drinks."

Despite Dubai's flushed embrace of alcohol, the city-state's laws are incredibly strict. In theory, anyone transporting or consuming liquor, beer or wine at home must carry a government-issued liquor license, obtainable only after gaining their employer's permission. Anyone driving with any trace of alcohol in their system is subject to immediate arrest and charges.—AP

EGYPTIAN ASYLUM SEEKER DIES IN GREEK CAMP BRAWL

ATHENS: An Egyptian asylum seeker died yesterday after a brawl inside a migration camp on the Greek island of Chios, police said.

The 32-year-old man died in hospital, the victim of an apparent stabbing, a police source told AFP. His alleged attacker, also Egyptian, was arrested. A third Egyptian man was also injured,

apparently during the fight.

Police reinforcements were moved to the area to prevent a new flare-up of violence, the source said. There are some 2,500 migrants on Chios who are blocked on the island after an EU-Turkey deal to limit the migration flow to the continent took effect on March 20.

In all, 8,500 migrants are held on Greece's Aegean Sea islands under the deal which allows people not eligible for asylum to be sent back to Turkey. Brawls are common in the island camps, with many desperate to avoid being returned to Turkey or their home countries, which they have spent a small fortune and risked their lives trying to

escape from poverty and persecution.

A government source said the authorities would be more "vigorous" in their application of procedures to speed up the expulsion of troublemakers. A group of 22 people implicated in camp incidents were recently earmarked for deportation. Their nationalities were not disclosed. — AFP



BRUSSELS: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, left, is greeted by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, right, prior to a meeting at EU headquarters on Wednesday. — AP

PALESTINIAN LEADER APPEALS FOR EU HELP TO END OCCUPATION

BRUSSELS: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas appealed yesterday to the European Union for help to end Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories and support for a lasting peace agreement. "You are our friends, help us," Abbas told EU lawmakers in Brussels, adding that "Israel has turned our country into an open-air prison."

Abbas said the occupation was only encouraging extremists and fomenting terrorism. To the applause of lawmakers he said: "Why is international law not being applied in the case of Israel?" The EU has promised an "unprecedented package" of political and economic support to both sides should they reach a final agreement, amid a new European push to help end the long-running conflict.

Visiting Brussels at the same time as Abbas, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin expressed disappointment that the Palestinian leader has "refused again and again to meet with Israeli leaders, and turns again and again to support of the international community." "We can talk directly and find a way to build confidence," Rivlin told reporters, after talks with EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. — AP

WATER TRUCKS HEAD TO SYRIANS STRANDED ON JORDAN BORDER

AMMAN: An international aid official says 32 trucks have left for the Syrian-Jordanian border to deliver water to tens of thousands of Syrian refugees who have been cut off from aid since earlier in the week.

He says Thursday's shipment marks the first confirmed attempt to send water from Jordan to the stranded refugees since Jordan sealed the area in response to a deadly attack on its troops Tuesday. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters.

Refugees warned Wednesday that people had begun drinking dirty water. For months, refugees stuck on the border received food and water from Jordan-based international aid agencies. Government spokesman Mohammed Momani said that with the border sealed, aid groups will need to find alternatives to sending supplies from Jordan. — AP

US-BACKED FORCES ENTER IS BASTION IN SYRIA AMID CLASHES KEY WAYPOINT ON AN IS SUPPLY LINE

BEIRUT: The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces entered Manbij yesterday and were advancing slowly to the center of the city, an Islamic State group stronghold in northern Syria, an adviser to the predominantly Kurdish force and a monitoring group said.

Manbij is a key waypoint on an IS supply line between the Turkish border and the extremist group's de facto capital, Raqqa, which is also under intense pressure from a Syrian government offensive. If Manbij is captured, it will be the biggest strategic defeat for IS in Syria since July 2015, when it lost the border town of Tal Abyad.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said intense fighting is taking place between IS fighters and the SDF on the southwestern edge of Manbij. Rami Abdurrahman, the director of the monitoring group, which relies on a network of activists in Syria, said the SDF recaptured a village about 1 kilometer (0.6 miles) outside the city, enabling them to move on to seize two squares on the western side of the city. The forces then advanced toward a third square with air support from the US-led coalition, he said.

An adviser to the SDF, Nasser Haj Mansour, said the force on Wednesday moved into the city from its northern edge, close to its grain silos, prompting clashes with IS militants. He confirmed other troops entered Manbij from the west. The Observatory's director Rami Abdurrahman said IS still controls the silos. He said fighters on the ground reported that the silos are within close range but forces have so far abstained from shelling it.

Earlier yesterday, the US Central Command said the SDF had consolidated their positions around Manbij in preparation for seizing it.

The Syrian Arab Coalition, which is part of the SDF, "have consolidated their position around Manbij in anticipation of the next phase of operations to secure the city," the statement said yesterday. "For the last seven days they have been refining their plans as to how to gain a foothold in Manbij and maintain the safety of the civilian population trapped" by IS. Thousands of civilians have fled Manbij in recent weeks.

The US has embedded 300 Special Forces troops with the SDF. France also confirmed it is providing training to the SDF. The operation against IS in Manbij began on May 31. The US Central Command said in its statement the international coalition has since con-

ducted more than 233 airstrikes in the vicinity of the city.

The IS news agency Amaq meanwhile said the group's militants repelled an advance by the SDF from north of Manbij, adding that a suicide attack against the retreating forces killed many fighters. Mansour, the SDF adviser, said suicide bombings are no obstacle to advance on the city.

"They are no longer a surprise for the forces in Manbij," he said. "The tactic and their moves have become known and ineffective, particularly when there is always air support. They no longer have the desired impact." The Observatory said around 63 SDF fighters had been killed since the start of the operation. Meanwhile, the group said 458 IS militants, including field operators and foreign fighters, have been killed since May 31.

The US Central command said displaced people from the Manbij area were beginning to return to their villages after they were cleared of IS fighters. Also yesterday, at least eight civilians were killed in Syria's Aleppo when

airstrikes and mortar shells struck different neighborhoods in opposite sides of the divided city, anti-government activists and Syrian state media reported. In past months, Aleppo has witnessed some of the fiercest fighting and bombardment, which has claimed the lives of hundreds of people on both sides of the contested city. Partial cease-fires have failed to hold in the city that has been divided between rebel and government areas since 2012.

Syria's state news agency SANA said four people were killed and four others wounded when rocket shells hit the government-controlled al-Khalidia district in Aleppo. Meanwhile, the anti-government Aleppo Media center said four civilians were killed when airstrikes hit the rebel-held al-Katerji neighborhood. Bebars Mishal, a member of the Syrian Civil Defense, a team of volunteer first responders operating in rebel-held areas, said the airstrike hit a residence, putting the number of those killed at five members of the same family. He said the search continued for others under the rubble. — AP

PISTORIUS SAYS MURDERED GIRLFRIEND WOULD WANT HIM TO GO FREE

JOHANNESBURG: Oscar Pistorius said that Reeva Steenkamp, the girlfriend he was convicted of murdering on Valentine's Day 2013, would want him to go free, in a television interview due to be broadcast today.

The Paralympic athlete, who shot Steenkamp dead through a locked toilet door, told British broadcaster ITV she would want him to dedicate his life to charity, not waste it behind bars. The 29-year-old gold medalist, known as the "Blade Runner" for his carbon-fibre prosthetics, is awaiting sentencing for her murder on July 6. Prosecutors have asked for at least the minimum 15-year jail term.

Steenkamp's family have not commented on his decision to give his first television interview since her death - though prosecutors have questioned why he felt unable to give testimony but was willing to talk to journalists, accusing him of showing no remorse. "I don't want to go back to jail. I don't want to have to waste my life sitting there," Pistorius told ITV, which issued excerpts from the interview on

Thursday. He said that if he managed to avoid imprisonment, he would like to help the less fortunate. "I would like to believe that if Reeva could look down upon me that she would want me to live that life," he said.

The prosecution said Pistorius deliberately murdered his girlfriend after she locked herself in the bathroom during a late-night argument. He argued that he had mistaken her for an intruder.

In the interview, filmed at his uncle's house in the capital Pretoria, Pistorius often broke down in tears as he described the events of that night. "I opened the toilet door and immediately when I saw Reeva she was over the toilet," Pistorius said. "She had slumped over the toilet and at that point I knew that I had killed her."

ITV said that Steenkamp's family had declined an interview. The athlete was originally jailed for five years for culpable homicide, South Africa's version of manslaughter, then released on parole after serving less than a year. But the conviction was later upgraded to murder on appeal. — Reuters

SYRIAN REFUGEES SAY WATER SCARCE AFTER JORDAN SEALS BORDER

IN RESPONSE TO A DEADLY CROSS-BORDER ATTACK

AMMAN: Syrian refugees stranded along the Jordanian border said Wednesday that clean water is getting scarce in their desert tent camp after the area was sealed by Jordan in response to a deadly cross-border attack.

Cellphone footage taken in the Ruqban camp showed refugees chanting, "We want water." Three Ruqban residents said by phone that people have begun drinking polluted water. Some 64,000 Syrians live in two encampments along the border, awaiting admission to Jordan. Many have been in the camps for months and depend on daily deliveries of food and water by international aid agencies based in Jordan. Jordan declared the area a "closed military zone" after a car bomb attack launched from the Ruqban area killed six Jordanian troops and wounded 14 at dawn Tuesday. There has been no claim of responsibility, but Jordan says it has evidence that militants, including Islamic State fighters, are present in the camps.

King Abdullah II warned after the attack that Jordan will "respond with an iron fist" to anyone harming its borders or security. Jordan-based international aid officials confirmed Wednesday that the border area was sealed and that they couldn't send aid there. However, they gave conflicting accounts of whether any water had been delivered to the camps since the attack. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters. Jordanian government spokesman Mohammed Momani could not be reached for comment. The UN refugee agency said it is working with other aid groups and Jordanian authorities to



Syrians walk through the Ruqban refugee camp in Jordan's northeast border with Syria on Wednesday. — AP

get water delivered. Agency spokesman Andreas Needham in Geneva said such deliveries are a priority, but would not elaborate.

The London-based rights group Amnesty International said that a total border closure and denial of humanitarian aid "would inevitably lead to extreme hardship among those unable to find refuge and put their lives at risk."

The group said Jordan has a right to protect civilians from armed

attacks, but that its security measures "must not violate its international legal obligations to provide protection and assistance to refugees who are desperately fleeing the very same type of violence."

Ahmad al-Masalmeh, a Syrian opposition activist based in the southern border province of Deraa, said that innocent people have started "paying the price of the explosion." Conditions have long been precarious at the camp but residents

say the scarcity of basic goods is becoming more acute. "Things are getting worse, not better," said a mother of three who fled the IS-controlled city of Raqqa and has been in the camp two months. "We lack water, bread. We need everything." Most of the water that reaches the camp comes from Jordan, bread is expensive and vegetables unaffordable, she said. Some Syrians are turning a profit by selling rain water carried in petrol containers. "On top

of being dirty, it tastes like petrol," said the woman's husband.

The situation is so dire, they said, that some families have decided to return to Raqqa, which many fled due to the airstrikes carried out by the U.S.-led coalition and fears of an offensive approaching the city. The refugee couple requested anonymity to keep the option of return open. "Water is the most important thing," said the husband. "Food is secondary, we can't live without water." — AP

ABBAS SAYS SOME ISRAELI RABBIS CALLED FOR POISONING PALESTINIAN WATER

BRUSSELS/JERUSALEM: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas yesterday accused Israeli rabbis of calling for the poisoning of Palestinian water, in what appeared to be an invocation of a widely debunked media report that recalled a medieval anti-Semitic libel.

Abbas's remarks, in a speech to the European parliament, did not appear on the official transcript issued by his office, suggesting he may have spoken off the cuff as he condemned Israeli actions against Palestinians amid stalled peace talks. "Only a week ago, a number of rabbis in Israel announced, and made a clear announcement, demanding that their government poison the water to kill the Palestinians," Abbas said.

"Isn't that clear incitement to commit mass killings against the Palestinian people?" Israeli officials did not immediately respond to the remarks, which were made as Israel's president, Reuven Rivlin, made a par-

allel visit to Brussels. Rivlin's office said Abbas had turned down a European proposal that the two meet there. A spokesman for Abbas said any such meeting would require more preparation. Israeli-Palestinian peace talks collapsed in 2014.

Abbas, who received a standing ovation from EU lawmakers after his speech, gave no source for his information and there has been no evidence over the past week of any call by Israeli rabbis to poison Palestinian water.

Massacres

Reports of an alleged rabbinical edict emerged on Sunday, when the Turkish state news agency Anadolu said that a "Rabbi Shlomo Mlma, chairman of the Council of Rabbis in the West Bank settlements", had issued an advisory to allow Jewish settlers to take such action. The same day, the Palestinian Foreign Ministry, on its website,

cited what it said was a water-poisoning call from a "Rabbi Mlmad" and demanded his arrest. Reuters and other news outlets in Israel could not locate any rabbi named Shlomo Mlma or Mlmad, and there is no listed organization called the Council of Rabbis in the West Bank.

Gulf News, in a report on Sunday, said a number of rabbis had issued the purported advisory. It attributed the allegation to Breaking the Silence, an Israeli organization of veteran soldiers critical of the military's treatment of Palestinians.

A spokesman for Breaking the Silence told Reuters the group had not provided any such information. For Jews, allegations of water poisoning strike a bitter chord. In the 14th century, as plague swept across Europe, false accusations that Jews were responsible for the disease by deliberately poisoning wells led to massacres of Jewish communities. — Reuters

HIJACKER CLAIMS EGYPT 'MUST HAVE MURDERED' ITALIAN STUDENT

NICOSIA, CYPRUS: An Egyptian hijacker who's fighting his extradition says Egypt's military-backed government "must have tortured and murdered" an Italian doctoral student who he claims he saw being interrogated in a Cairo prison.

Seif Eddin Mustafa told a Cypriot court yesterday that he hijacked the domestic EgyptAir flight in March intending to seek asylum in Italy in order to "point the finger" at Egypt's "fascist regime." Mustafa said he caught a glimpse of a "foreign-looking" person in Lazogli prison during his nearly two-month detention there in December and January.

Mustafa said he recognized Giulio Regeni from photos he came across after his release. Regeni was abducted in Cairo on Jan. 25 and his body - which bore signs of severe torture - was found nine days later on a suburban Cairo road. — AP

TRUMP HEADS TO SCOTLAND AS 'BREXIT' VOTE RESULT LOOMS

FIRST INTERNATIONAL TRIP SINCE BECOMING THE REPUBLICAN NOMINEE

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump takes his first international trip since presumptively clinching the Republican presidential nomination, jumping out of the US political frying pan and into the "Brexit" fire by arriving in Scotland today.

The New York celebrity billionaire is scheduled to attend the ceremonial re-opening of his Trump Turnberry golf course on the very day that the British will wake to learn whether they have voted to remain in the European Union or backed the historic move to defect from the 28-member bloc.

With the intense and bitter campaign

in Britain coming down to the wire, and Prime Minister David Cameron invoking wartime spirit to call on citizens not to "walk away" from European democracy, Trump repeated his position that the British should leave the EU. Trump has shocked residents of Britain and Europe with his explosive style, his insult-heavy campaign, and deeply controversial attacks on ethnic and religious groups. He has pledged to deport millions of undocumented immigrants from the United States, build a wall on the border with Mexico and have that country pay for it.

He has called for a ban on all Muslims entering the United States, a reaction to the migrant crisis in Europe which he has pointed to as fuelling terrorism. In some ways the trip is reminiscent of Barack Obama's high-profile voyage to Germany in July 2008 before he was president.

Like Trump, Obama was his party's presumptive nominee, having prevailed in a bitter primary battle against Hillary Clinton, but not yet the official party flag-bearer. But Trump stands starkly apart in his approach to Europe. While Obama spoke to a crowd of tens of thousands about his dreams of moving on from the divisive George W. Bush era and wooing a unified Europe, Trump has triggered alarm on the continent.

'Go it alone'

In December Trump blasted Europe's "weak leaders." Three months later, after terror attacks in Brussels, he warned that Europe had "very, very severe" problems with containing extremism. In May Britain's Cameron blasted Trump's position on Muslims as "stupid, divisive and wrong." Trump shot back: "It looks like we're not going to have a very good relationship." On Wednesday he stirred the pot more, proclaiming Europe's migration crisis a "mess" and that while he has not studied the Brexit issue closely, he feels Britain should walk away. "When you look at the things that are going on over there, my inclination would be to go it alone and go back to where you came from," he told Fox News. "That's just my feeling." — AFP



NEW YORK: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks on Wednesday at Trump SoHo hotel. — AP



PARIS: CGT Union leader Philippe Martinez, left, and FO union leader Jean-Claude Mailly leave after a meeting with Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve on Wednesday. — AP

POLICE TO WATCH PARIS PROTEST AMID FEARS OF NEW VIOLENCE

PARIS: Amid fears of new violence, thousands of protesters were gathering in Paris, closely watched by police after the demonstration was authorized under a tense compromise between unions and the government.

Unions are holding a short march yesterday around the Bastille plaza to protest government plans to make work-weeks longer and layoffs easier. Similar protests against the legislation in recent months have degenerated into clashes between riot police and radicals. Police threatened to ban yesterday's march, but the government agreed to let it proceed in a restricted area. Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve warned that "no violence will be tolerated."

Police were systematically checking the bags of protesters before letting them enter the area. Johanna Primevert, Paris police's spokeswoman, told BFM television that 18 people had been arrested, most of them for possession of objects that could be used as projectiles. Authorities have ordered removal of some street furniture and protection of bus shelters to avoid potential damage. Some of the boats docked in a port between the Seine and the Bastille plaza have been moved on Wednesday. — AP



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WORLD WATCHES AS BRITONS VOTE ON EU MEMBERSHIP AFTER TIGHT CAMPAIGN

ENTIRE EUROPE COULD BE GREATLY AFFECTED

LONDON: Britons were voting yesterday on whether to stay in the European Union in a referendum that could change the face of Europe and is being nervously watched by financial markets and politicians across the world.

A British exit, or Brexit, would deprive the 28-member EU of its second-biggest economy and one of its two main military powers, sending political shockwaves across the continent. After four months of bitter campaigning, polling stations opened at 0600 GMT and will close at 2100, with results expected to be announced by the 382 individual local counting areas between around 0100 and 0300 on today.

Prime Minister David Cameron, who is for "Remain", called the vote under pressure from the anti-EU wing of his Conservative Party and the surging UK Independence Party (UKIP), hoping to end decades of debate over Britain's ties with Europe.

Even with a vote to stay, Cameron could struggle to repair the rifts in his party and hold on to his job. The "Leave" campaign says Britain's economy would benefit from a Brexit. "Remain" says it would cause financial chaos and impoverish the nation for years or even decades to come. Two polls conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday found "Remain" was in the lead, although the overall picture from the last few days of polling was of a vote that was too close to forecast.

An Ipsos MORI poll for the Evening Standard newspaper found support for "Remain" on 52 percent and "Leave" on 48 percent. A Populus poll found "Remain" 10 points ahead on 55 percent.

Cameron voted early, and said on Twitter: "Vote Remain - so that our children and grandchildren have a brighter future." His main rival, former London mayor Boris Johnson, who is the favorite with bookmakers to succeed Cameron, tweeted: "Now is the time to believe in this country and #VoteLeave. Let's make today our Independence Day."

It is only the third referendum in British history. The first, also about membership of what was then called the European Economic Community, was in 1975. The campaign, which has exposed bitter divisions in the ruling Conservative Party, was dominated by immigration and the economy and shaken by the murder of pro-EU Labor lawmaker Jo Cox last week.



LONDON: An illuminated "Vote Today" sign is pictured atop of the BT Tower yesterday. — AFP

If Britons choose to leave, Scottish leader Nicola Sturgeon has suggested Scotland, where sentiment towards the EU is much more positive, may call a referendum on leaving the United Kingdom.

Sterling up

Traders, investors and companies were braced for volatility on financial markets whatever the outcome of a vote that both reflected, and has fuelled, an anti-establishment mood also seen in the United States and elsewhere in Europe.

Sterling gained 1.5 percent against the dollar on yesterday, breaking above \$1.49 for the first time since December 2015 after the Ipsos MORI poll was released.

The likelihood of a "Remain" vote implied by Betfair betting odds stood at 86 percent, the firm said shortly after the poll. If Britain votes to leave, finance leaders from the Group of Seven leading economies will issue a statement stress-

ing their readiness to take all necessary steps to calm markets, government officials with direct knowledge of the matter said.

Britain's AAA credit rating could be swiftly downgraded by Standard and Poor's if the Brexit camp prevails, S&P chief sovereign ratings officer Moritz Kraemer told German daily newspaper Bild. Yesterday campaigners from both sides tried to win over the estimated 10 percent of the 46.5 million electorate who polls suggest had still not decided which way to vote.

The "In" campaign took aim at their rivals by saying a Brexit would hurt the economy, security and the country's status. The "Out" campaign said high levels of immigration could not be controlled inside the EU and it was time to bring powers back from Brussels to London.

"Stay with us"

Britain is deeply divided on EU membership, with big differences between older and younger voters, and between pro-EU London and

Scotland and eurosceptic middle England. The killing of Cox, a 41-year-old mother of two young children, in her electoral district in northern England prompted a pause in the campaign and soul-searching about its tone. Cox's husband said she had been concerned about the coarsening of political dialogue.

The man charged with her murder told a London court on Saturday when asked his name: "Death to traitors, freedom for Britain". He is due to go on trial in November. Whatever the outcome of the vote, the focus on immigration to Britain, which has increased significantly in recent years, could worsen frictions in a country where the gap between rich and poor has also been widening.

The nation's divisions were reflected in British newspapers' front pages. "Independence Day" was the front page headline of the Sun tabloid, Britain's biggest-selling newspaper, while the Daily Mirror warned "Don't take a leap into the dark".

The issue also dominated news bulletins far beyond Britain. In China, the Global Times, published by the ruling Communist Party's official People's Daily, warned Britain would lose its influence globally if voters backed Brexit.

Foreign leaders, from US President Barack Obama to Chinese leader Xi Jinping, have called on Britain to remain in the EU, a message supported by global financial organisations, many company bosses and central bankers. International banks have warned that the value of the pound could fall dramatically if Britain votes to leave and traders expect markets to be more volatile than at any time since the 2008-09 financial crisis.

The "Out" campaign says a fall in the value of the pound would boost exports and has found support among some financial specialists and small businesses. It has urged voters to ignore what it calls the "establishment" which it says has the most to lose from Brexit.

The EU has struggled with migration and economic crises and a Brexit vote would boost opposition to it within other member states. "Stay with us," European Council President Donald Tusk told British voters on Monday. "Without you, not only Europe, but the whole Western community will become weaker. Together, we will be able to cope with increasingly difficult challenges of the future."



NORTH LONDON: Olivia Sudjic holds up a placard in favor of the remain camp by a polling station yesterday. — AFP



BELFAST: People walk past a "Vote Leave" sign as they arrive to cast their ballots at a polling station yesterday. — AFP

AT LEAST 4 TORNADO TOUCHDOWNS CONFIRMED IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS

CHICAGO: At least four tornadoes touched down in northern Illinois overnight as powerful storms swept across the upper Midwest, damaging rural communities and forcing thousands of soccer fans to seek shelter during the Copa America semifinal in Chicago.

The National Weather Service in Chicago said survey crews will investigate damage Thursday along three separate supercell paths. The number of confirmed tornadoes will likely increase, the weather service said. Officials also planned to request a survey of the damage by air, although a dense fog advisory was in effect for much of northern Illinois early yesterday. The storm system produced dime-sized hail in some areas and its high winds snapped trees, blew roofs off buildings and downed power lines. The weather service reported winds from 80 mph to 100 mph in some parts of northern Indiana. Firefighters responded to reports of people trapped in a house in Seneca after a tornado moved through the village about 70 miles southwest of Chicago Wednesday night. No injuries were reported.

Jeff Maierhofer of Seneca said he huddled in a basement with his wife, two children and seven neighbors when the storm arrived. He said his farm was badly hit. "Nobody's hurt. Everybody's fine. All the neighbors are fine. Everybody checked in with everybody. But there's a lot of damage," Maierhofer told WLS-TV. In nearby Serena, Nate Hermann said he drove his pickup truck around 10 square miles and found farmland "wiped out everywhere." "Lines are down, trees are down, corn is flat everywhere," he told the Chicago Tribune.

Minor injuries and damage to a gas station were also reported in Pontiac, about 100 miles southwest of Chicago. A strong band of thunderstorms forced a two-hour delay in Chile's 2-0 victory over Colombia in the Copa America semifinal at Soldier Field, the home of the Chicago Bears football team. Fans sheltered beneath the stands until the danger passed. — AP



CHICAGO: Fans seek refuge out of a heavy rain during a Copa America Centenario semifinal soccer match between Chile and Colombia at Soldier Field on Wednesday. — AP



BOGOTA: A wreath placed before the statue of XIXth Century Latin American Liberator Simon Bolivar at Bogota's main square yesterday celebrates the peace agreement between the Colombian government and the FARC leftist guerrilla to be signed today in Havana. — AFP

COLOMBIA-FARC CEASEFIRE PUTS PEACE WITHIN REACH CRUCIAL STEPS TOWARD ENDING THE CIVIL WAR

HAVANA: Colombia's government and the FARC guerrilla force were to sign a definitive ceasefire Thursday, taking one of the last crucial steps toward ending Latin America's longest civil war.

The breakthrough—while not yet a final peace accord—means a permanent end to fighting in a half-century conflict that has killed hundreds of thousands of people in the jungles of the major cocaine-producing country. Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos and FARC leader Timoleon Jimenez were scheduled to sign the agreement at 1630 GMT in Havana where peace talks are taking place, negotiators said. Santos tweeted that he was "on the way to Havana to silence the guns forever." "We have successfully reached agreement for the bilateral and final ceasefire and the end of hostilities; the laying down of arms; security guarantees and the fight against the criminal organizations responsible for homicides

and massacres," the two sides said in a joint statement. Foreign leaders and officials including UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will attend yesterday's ceremony in Havana. The deal resolves one of the final points in peace talks between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the country's largest rebel group. Santos said this week he hopes to seal a full peace deal by July 20.

The Colombian conflict started in the 1960s as a rural uprising for land rights that spawned the communist FARC. It has drawn in various leftist rebel groups, right-wing paramilitaries and drug gangs over the decades.

The violence has left 260,000 people dead, 45,000 missing and nearly seven million displaced, according to official figures. Human rights groups say atrocities have been committed on all sides. Many families are still searching for missing loved ones.

The ceasefire "means the end of the longest and most bloody conflict in the western hemisphere and a new opportunity to bet on democracy," said Angelika Rettberg, a conflict resolution specialist at the University of the Andes.

Demobilization

However, the means of implementing a final peace deal remain to be settled. Santos's government wants a referendum to put a seal of popular approval on the peace after three-and-a-half years of negotiations. The FARC was reluctant but has recently signaled it may accept such a plebiscite. The two sides have signed provisional accords on compensating victims and fighting the drug trade that has fueled the conflict. They are also discussing designating zones where the FARC's estimated 7,000 remaining fighters can gather for a UN-supervised demobilization process. —AFP

DEMOCRATS' SIT-IN OVER GUN CONTROL VOTE

LOS ANGELES: House Democrats turned to a tactic from the 1960s and technology from 2016 to get their message out on amid a rancorous partisan battle over bringing gun control bills to a vote in the House.

The sit-in that ran nearly all day Wednesday, broke up around 3 a.m. ET and resumed before sunrise Thursday wound up becoming a showcase for the live streaming capabilities offered by Facebook Live and Twitter's Periscope service.

Democratic leaders began their effort on the floor of the House on Wednesday at

about 11:25 a.m. ET in order to force a debate on two gun control bills initiated in the wake of the tragic June 12 shootings in Orlando, Fla., that left 50 dead including the gunman.

The sight of Rep. John Lewis, a legendary activist in the civil rights movement, and Democratic leaders sitting in the well of the House made for eye-catching coverage on C-SPAN. When House Speaker Paul Ryan ordered the TV cameras that supply the feed to C-SPAN shut off because the House was formally not in session, Democrats turned on their phones and lap-

tops to offer live streaming coverage of hours and hours of speeches from members on the gun control bills.

C-SPAN quickly picked up those live feeds and labeled its footage "Live Facebook Video Provided by Rep. Beto O'Rourke" and other members. The picture was a little blurry and often shaky, but it nonetheless has been a dramatic showcase of the ease of the live streaming functions offered by Facebook and Twitter.

Of course, the sit-in effort had its own ready-made chant and hashtag, "#NoBillNoBreak," as Democrats sought to

delay the House's break for the July 4th holiday until the bills came up for a vote.

Facebook and Twitter are no doubt pleased to be playing a central role in this stage of the news cycle. Facebook has made live-streaming video a top priority, and the social giant has reportedly signed contracts to pay more than \$50 million to media partners and celebs including CNN and the New York Times to use Facebook Live. Twitter, which bought Periscope last year prior to its launch, says users watch some 110 years' worth of live video every day. —Reuters



NATUNA ISLANDS, INDONESIA: Indonesian President Joko Widodo, third right, accompanied by, from left to right, Cabinet Secretary Pramono Anung, Navy Chief of Staff, Adm. Ade Supandi, top security minister Luhut Panjaitan, Armed Forces Chief Gen. Gatot Nurmantyo and Riau Islands Governor Nurdin Basirun stands on the deck of navy warship KRI Imam Bonjol, on the waters yesterday. — AP

JAPAN PROBES SUSPECTED NORTH KOREAN ROCKET NOSE CONE AMID GROWING MISSILE CONCERNS

TOKYO: Japan yesterday began to examine the suspected nose cone of a North Korean rocket that washed up on a Japanese beach hoping to glean information on the reclusive state's ballistic missile programme a day after it test-launched two more missiles.

The red, white and blue item, believed to be half of the nose cone designed to protect the rocket's payload, was found on a beach in western Japan last Thursday and is suspected to come from a long-range, three-stage rocket fired by North Korea on Feb 7 that flew over Japan's southwest Okinawa island chain.

South Korean authorities recovered the other half. "We will analyze the

materials and the level of technology used," a Japanese Ministry of Defense official said after the part was delivered by truck to the ministry. The pock-marked 75 kg (165 lb) part, almost two meters wide and over a meter wide, lay on a blanket and blue tarpaulin in a forecourt at the ministry.

The February launch, which North Korea said put a satellite into orbit hundreds of kilometers above Earth, came just weeks after Pyongyang carried out a nuclear bomb test, both in defiance of UN resolutions and sanctions.

Concern that North Korea is getting closer to perfecting its ballistic missile technology heightened on Wednesday after it fired what appeared to be two

intermediate range ballistic missiles. While the first was deemed a failure, the second rocket climbed to more than 1,000 km before plunging into the Sea of Japan 400 km down range from the launch sight. "For Japan, it raises deep concern over our national security," Japan's top military commander, Admiral Katsutoshi Kawano, said on Thursday in Tokyo. The next step for Pyongyang could be to miniaturize its nuclear bomb technology into a warhead that fits on the missile. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said after supervising Wednesday's launches that the country now had the capability to attack US interests in the Pacific, official media reported. — Reuters

NATO OFFICIAL WANTS PORTUGAL TO SPEND MORE ON DEFENSE

LISBON: NATO's second-highest official has rebuked Portugal over its defense spending in a speech at a defense conference. Alexander Vershbow, the alliance's Deputy Secretary-General, says Portuguese investment in modern equipment last year was 8.7 percent of overall defense spending. He says the NATO guideline is 20 percent.

Vershbow also noted that Portugal's defense spending in 2015 was 1.33 percent of gross domestic product - below NATO's commitment to 2 percent, though slightly up on 2014. He says only five member countries meet the 2 percent target.

Portugal went into a three-year recession in 2011, almost going bankrupt during the eurozone debt crisis. It needed a 78 billion-euro (\$88.8 billion) bailout, which required the government to cut spending. Vershbow was speaking yesterday at a defense conference at the parliament in Lisbon. — AP

PAKISTAN PROVINCE GIVES \$3 MILLION TO TALEBAN LINKED SCHOOL

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN: A Pakistani provincial minister says his local government has allocated \$3 million to a Taliban-linked seminary in the region, along the border with Afghanistan. Mushtaq Ghani said yesterday that the funds will be used to bring the seminary into Pakistan's mainstream educational system.

The hard-line religious school, Darul Uloom Haqqania, is located in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and is known as the alma mater of most of the Afghan Taliban leadership and its affiliated Haqqani militant network, which is branded a terrorist organization by the US. The government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is run by the Tehrik-e-Insaf or Justice Party of Imran Khan, cricket-star-turned-politician who leads the opposition to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government in Islamabad. Khan justified the funding, saying seminary students who are marginalized will always remain more dangerous. — AP

FRANCE HOPES FOR RAPID RELEASE OF JOURNALISTS ARRESTED IN TURKEY

PARIS: France yesterday said it was "very concerned" over the arrest of press freedom journalists and a human rights activist in Turkey and Paris urged they be released "as quickly as possible."

Two journalists and representatives of international press freedom bodies were detained in Turkey on June 20 and are in provisional detention.

Ahmet Nesin, a journalist, and Erol Onderoglu from the Paris-based international press freedom organisation, Reporters Without Borders, were detained, as was Sebnem Korur Fincanci from the Turkish Human Rights Foundation.

France has mobilised its consular services in Istanbul and Ankara and is "attentively following the judicial process," a statement said here. "Nobody should be imprisoned for having defended freedom of expression," France said earlier in the week in commenting the detentions. — KUNA

PAKISTAN HOLDS FUNERAL FOR SUFI SINGER SLAIN BY MILITANTS

ISLAMABAD: Tens of thousands of mourners attended the funeral yesterday of a well-known Pakistani Sufi singer who was gunned down the day before in the port city of Karachi in an attack claimed by Islamic extremists.

Pakistani television footage showed tearful mourners throwing rose petals over an ambulance carrying the coffin of Amjad Sabri, whose car was ambushed by gunmen when he was on his way to a local TV appearance. Sabri was later buried at a local cemetery.

Sabri and his late father, Ghulam Farid Sabri, were renowned qawwali singers, a style of music rooted in Sufism, or Islamic mysticism. Militants in Pakistan have targeted Sufis in the past and destroyed their shrines. On Wednesday, two attackers on a motorcycle opened fire on Sabri's car, killing him and wounding his brother who was also in the car.

A splinter faction of the Pakistani Taliban said after the attack that it had killed Sabri because he was a "blasphemer." In 2014, a blasphemy case was filed against a local TV station in Pakistan after it aired a show in which Sabri sang a qawwali that made reference to historic religious figures. The case has been pending in court.

Karachi has long been gripped by violence, with attacks carried out by Islamic militants as well as ethnic separatists, criminal gangs and rival political parties. Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has condemned Sabri's killing and ordered an investigation. — AP



KARACHI, PAKISTAN: People attend the funeral of Pakistani Sufi singer Amjad Sabri yesterday. — AP

UN REFUGEE CHIEF URGES PAKISTANIS NOT TO LABEL AFGHAN REFUGEES 'TERRORISTS'

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN: The United Nations refugee chief yesterday urged Pakistanis not to blame Afghan refugees for terrorism in their country, amid growing public calls for their deportation and worsening relations between the two neighbors.

Warning that the roughly 2.5 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan risked becoming a "forgotten" crisis, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi called on the international community to invest more funds to help them. "My appeal is that, not only to the authorities but also to the local population: refugees as you know are not terrorists," Grandi said during a visit to a repatriation centre outside the northwestern Pakistan city of Peshawar.

Pakistani officials have recently hinted at the possibility of deporting Afghan refugees, amid tense relations with Kabul. A decision to renew their legal status by June 30 has not yet been announced, although past deadlines have been extended at the last minute. The number of Afghans voluntarily returning home is down sharply this year as violence worsens in Afghanistan, where the government and its U.S. allies are fighting a stubborn Taliban insurgency.

So far, about 6,000 Afghans have chosen to return home from Pakistan in 2016, compared with 58,211 voluntary repatriations last year, according to the UNHCR. At the repatriation centre, refugees wiped the sweat from their faces as they waited in sweltering heat for their cases to be processed, a necessary step before they can set off on the journey home.

Many Afghan refugees say they are being pressured to go back by the authorities, amid worsening diplomatic relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. A recent border spat between the two at the nearby Torkham crossing left four dead and thousands stranded. "I grew up here, but right now, the situation is not good," said Manzoor Hamdard, 30, one of about 50 people at the centre. His family fled Afghanistan 35 years ago.

"We are poor people, and the police come and take money from us," added Hamdard, who will move with his family of 15 to their native Baghlan province, in northern Afghanistan. "We've run out of energy to deal with this." Huma Zafar, a community leader in an Afghan refugee tribal council, added: "Whatever the relations are, good or bad, refugees should not be affected by it."

Tolerance at its limit?

On Monday, Sartaj Aziz, Pakistan's foreign policy chief, told a Pakistani television channel that Afghan refugee camps had become "safe havens for terrorists". On Wednesday, Pakistani federal minister Abdul Qadir Baloch warned that Pakistan was not willing to host Afghan refugees indefinitely.

"In view of the security and socioeconomic impact, the tolerance level of the host communities has reached its threshold and cannot be overstretched," he said, adding, however, that Pakistan would not use force to evict refugees.

Pakistan has the second-largest refugee population in the world, with more than 1.5 million registered and about a million unregistered refugees from Afghanistan, most of whom fled the Soviet invasion in 1979. UNHCR chief Grandi said he had made the case for extending the June 30 deadline to the government in talks during his two-day visit to Pakistan.

He also stressed the need for the international community to fund efforts to support Afghan refugees. "I have come here to the region on the week of World Refugee Day to highlight that Afghan refugees should not be forgotten," he said. —Reuters



BANGKOK: Myanmar Foreign Minister Aung San Suu Kyi, center, walks past a Thai honor guard as she arrives at the Suvarnabhumi Airport yesterday. — AP

MYANMAR'S SUU KYI VISITS TROUBLED DIASPORA IN THAILAND

BANGKOK: Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi arrived yesterday in Thailand where she is expected to be garlanded by her adoring compatriots, hundreds of thousands of whom have sought work and sanctuary from war across the border.

It is Suu Kyi's highest profile overseas visit since her pro-democracy party took power in April, ending nearly half a century of military domination. Her government has seeded hopes for a new era of prosperity that could eventually convince the army of low-paid Myanmar laborers in Thailand to return home.

The two Southeast Asian neighbors have travelled in starkly different directions in recent years. While Myanmar's junta has rolled back its chokehold on politics, last year allowing the freest elections in decades, Thailand remains in the grip of a military that seized power in 2014.

As Myanmar's democracy champion, Suu Kyi is expected to receive a rock star welcome during a visit to a major fish market in Samut Sakhon later Thursday. The area, just outside Bangkok, is the seat of Thailand's huge seafood industry and home to more than 100,000 Myanmar laborers.

But the sector has been battered by accusations of slavery and other labor abuses. Seeking to escape poverty at home, some one million registered Myanmar migrant workers form the backbone of Thailand's manual workforce.

Tens of thousands of others work illegally, with some estimates putting the total number of Myanmar nationals in Thailand at three million. Rights groups say migrants are often exploited by unscrupulous officials, trafficking gangs and employment agencies who charge huge sums to get them poorly

paid work. Their low status mean Myanmar workers are treated with scorn and mistrust by many Thais.

'Hearts will light up'

"They all want to go home, but they are just waiting for the economic situation to improve significantly," explained Andy Hall, a prominent migrant rights activist who works in Thailand.

Speaking of Suu Kyi, who was received by rapturous crowds when she visited the seaport four years ago, he added: "Through very difficult times they (the workers) have kept hope in their hearts, and it will light up when she comes."

The nemesis of Myanmar's generals throughout a quarter-century of struggle for democracy, the Nobel laureate will meet with the leader of the Thai junta in Bangkok today.

The 71-year-old is officially Myanmar's foreign minister and state counselor, but also the de facto leader of her country despite a military-era

constitution that bars her from the presidency.

She is scheduled to travel to a refugee camp in Ratchaburi province tomorrow. It is one of nearly a dozen camps that line the two nations' border and hold more than 100,000 refugees who have fled conflict in Myanmar.

Many are ethnic Karen who were displaced by a long-running war with Myanmar's army. The violence abated following a 2012 ceasefire, but conflict with other ethnic rebel groups continues.

Thailand officially does not accept refugees or naturalize the displaced in the camps—although many have been born there. But Suu Kyi is not scheduled to visit any of the Thai centers holding some 400 Rohingyas, a Muslim group who has fled poverty and persecution in western Myanmar.

She has so far disappointed campaigners who hoped she would throw her moral weight behind the stateless minority. — AFP

DRONE STRIKE KILLS 4 MILITANTS IN E AFGHANISTAN

ISLAMABAD: At least four fighters belonging to so called Islamic State were killed in a foreign troops' drone strike in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province, said officials yesterday. Nangarhar governor spokesman, Attaullah Khoghyani in a statement said that the air raid was carried out in Parshakhel area of Kot district in the province. He confirmed that four fighters belonging to so called Islamic State were killed and their weapons and ammunition destroyed in the drone strike.

Meanwhile, provincial police spokesman, Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashriqwal also confirmed the incident, saying that no civilians suffered casualties in the air raid. The air strike came days after at least 11 insurgents were killed in a US drone strike targeting a vehicle in Afghanistan's central Logar province. US and foreign forces have intensified their air strikes across Afghanistan for supporting Afghan security forces to gain security control in the country. — KUNA

TORNADO, HAIL STORMS KILL AT LEAST 78 PEOPLE IN EASTERN CHINA

BEIJING: A tornado, hail storms and driving rain killed at least 78 people and injured some 500 in eastern China yesterday, flattening power lines, overturning cars and ripping roofs off houses in Jiangsu province.

The storm struck mid-afternoon near Yancheng city, a few hours' drive north of China's commercial capital, Shanghai, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said. Winds of 125 km per hour (78 mph) battered several townships in Funing county, the official Xinhua news agency said.

"I heard the gales and ran upstairs to shut the windows," Funing resident Xie Litian, 62, told Xinhua. "I had hardly reached the top of the stairs when I heard a boom and saw the entire wall with the windows on it torn away." When the storm subsided and Xie escaped, all the neighboring houses were gone. "It was like the end of the world," Xie said.

Of the roughly 500 hurt about 200 have serious injuries. Power and communications are down in some areas and emergency supplies, including 1,000 tents, have been rushed to the scene, the civil affairs ministry said in a statement.

Pictures posted online showed injured people lying amid destroyed houses, overturned cars, split tree trunks and broken power lines.

The summer often brings severe weather to China. Severe floods in the south killed at least 22 people and left 20 missing earlier this week. Last June, a freak storm led to the sinking of a Yangtze River cruise ship that killed 442 people, many of them elderly tourists. Only 12 people survived when the Eastern Star capsized in what was China's worst shipping disaster in seven decades.—Reuters

INDONESIAN PRESIDENT VISITS NATUNA IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

JAKARTA: Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo visited the Natuna islands yesterday in a move designed to send a message about the country's commitment to protecting its sovereignty in the area at the edge of the South China Sea.

Jokowi, accompanied by top security officials, toured the area on the same naval ship that fired warning shots last week at Chinese fishing boats and detained one of the vessels and its seven crew members. He then presided over a meeting on board the ship, discussing issues including development of the remote islands, about 1,100 kilometers (680 miles) north of Jakarta, the capital.

Senior political and security minister Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan said the visit would "send a clear message" that Indonesia is very serious about protecting its sovereignty. "In the course of our history, we've never been this stern (with China)," the Jakarta Post newspaper quoted Pandjaitan as saying. "This is also to demonstrate that the president is not taking the issue lightly."

On Sunday, China's Foreign Ministry released a statement of protest over last Friday's shooting incident, saying the Indonesian navy had "abused its military force." It described the waters as China's traditional fishing ground.

China's expansive claims to the South China Sea do not include the Natuna islands, which are nearly 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles) from the Chinese mainland.

But China's "nine dash line," which it uses to roughly demarcate its ambitions for its maritime boundaries, overlaps with a section of Indonesia's internationally recognized exclusive economic zone extending from the Natuna islands.

The incident Friday was the third involving Chinese fishing boats in recent months. In March, Indonesia intercepted a Chinese fishing vessel off the Natuna islands. In May, an Indonesian frigate fired shots at a Chinese trawler when it refused to stop fishing, and then seized the vessel and its eight crew members.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago nation, has taken a tough stance against illegal fishing since Jokowi took office in October 2014. It has blown up 176 foreign fishing boats caught fishing illegally in Indonesian waters since then.

On Wednesday, a senior US State Department official expressed concern over Chinese coast guard ships escorting Chinese fishing vessels in areas including waters off the Natuna islands.—AP



WONSAN, NORTH KOREA: Men pass a banner which reads "Let us be honorable victors in the 200-day campaign" on Wednesday.—AP

WORK HARDER, NORTH KOREA ORDERS CITIZENS

'HAVE YOU CARRIED OUT THE PLAN FOR TODAY?'

WONSAN, NORTH KOREA: The bright red slogans hang from buses, government buildings and even some restaurants and gas stations, urging North Koreans to work harder to make the country's 200-day "speed campaign" a success. "Have you carried out the plan for today?" one poster asks.

It's the second such drive this year, and while outside economists doubt their effectiveness, they reflect leader Kim Jong Un's desire to energize the country's sputtering economy. That goal is fettered by international sanctions against Kim's other main priority, his nuclear program, increasing the pressure on North Koreans to dig themselves out of economic stagnation.

In a collectivist society, slacking off isn't taken lightly. Least of all now. "If you look out the window, you won't see anyone just walking around," said Chang Sun Ho, the manager of a small shoe factory in Wonsan, a port city on North Korea's east coast. "Everyone is working."

History of North Korean campaigns

The history of North Korea's speed campaigns, which were also common in the former Soviet bloc countries and in China, is almost as old as the country itself. The nation's founder, Kim Il Sung, called a major one named after a mythical winged horse that could fly 1,000 "li" (about 400 kilometers) to rebuild the country after the 1950-53 Korean War. The current drive has been dubbed the "Mallima" campaign - suggesting a winged horse that is 10 times faster.

Loading on more work for a national political objective might cause a lot of grumbling or even strikes elsewhere. But in a country where patriotism is strong, perseverance a hallowed virtue and toeing the official line a key survival

strategy, you won't hear anyone complaining here - at least not publicly.

North Korean officials allowed Associated Press reporters to tour and conduct interviews at the shoe factory, which offers a window into how such campaigns actually play out on the ground. With 220 workers, it produces about 700 pairs of shoes a day - the central government tells them how many produce. The shoes are distributed to department stores and other places around the country. The factory does not export any of its products, which officials say are made strictly with domestically produced materials and locally made machinery, in keeping with the government philosophy of "self-reliance." Manager Chang said the factory met its annual production goal several weeks ago, though it is still June. Kim Jong Un himself visited the factory in November. At his direction, it is now focused on making lighter, better quality shoes and providing a wider variety to make North Korea's shoe production "world class." "The marshal has said he has adopted this factory as if it were his own," Chang said, referring to Kim Jong Un by his most commonly used title. "So it is like we are working for our father. That's all the motivation we need."

Just to be sure, however, an official from the Ministry of Light Industry has been dispatched from Pyongyang to monitor and supervise its operations for the entire 200-day period.

Factory officials said they have not hired any extra hands to boost production, and that they don't need to resort to monetary rewards or firing threats. The workers get their basic necessities from the government but can receive monthly bonuses if the factory sells more shoes than its government-set target. Peer pressure is also clearly a strong

part of the mix. Workers are divided up into sections and smaller work groups, whose collective output is posted in large bar graphs around their workplaces for all to see. Manager Chang said that if a worker is not making the grade, he or she is paired up with a more productive partner. He said no one wants to be labeled as lazy because, with the standing of their whole group at stake, they could end up being officially regarded as a problem to the whole factory "family."

He did not comment on what might happen beyond possible social ostracism. Outside economists say speed campaigns focus more on short-term bumps in production and overtly political goals of the re-enforcing ideological principles of the primacy of loyalty and group action than the kind of sustainable and meaningful long-term growth the North's centrally controlled economy really needs.

They also suggest the North's economy is hamstrung by its continued push to develop nuclear weapons and the missiles needed to deploy them against targets in the United States or other hostile nations. They say that because of international sanctions, North Korea's chances of real improvement in its domestic economy are slim at best.

Kim's reaction

Kim appears to disagree. This is the second speed campaign his leadership has called this year. The first, which lasted 70 days, ended just before the May party congress. The current campaign, which will continue until Oct. 10, began almost as soon as the congress was over. The party congress was the first in 36 years and further cemented the young leader's stature as the country's supreme leader.—AP

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2016

Lifestyle

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Friday Times



Afghan boys study the Quran during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan at a mosque in Jalalabad yesterday. Muslims throughout the world are marking the month of Ramadan, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar during which devotees fast from dawn till dusk. —AFP

‘Saq Al Bamboo’ and Been Galbin: Episode 17

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Times is publishing daily recaps of two of the Kuwaiti soap operas airing on Al Rai TV and MBC Drama. Here are the recaps of the 17th episode:

‘Saq Al Bamboo’ (Bamboo Stalk)
Nooriya takes her daughter Noor out of the house to know the things she is hiding from her. Noor tells her that her aunt Awatef asked for her son and not Nooriya’s son. Nooriya then tells her son to have dinner at Ghanima’s house to get closer to Khawla. Luzviminda asks Eisa if he wants to have dinner with her as she is also lonely, but he replied that this is his family’s house. Eisa Noor’s brother invites Khawla and Noor for dinner or a movie but Khawla refuses. Noor asks her why she doesn’t like him and Khawla says that she feels like he is her brother. Jabber asks Noor to meet, and tells her that he loves her and not Khawla. She shockingly shouts at him saying he is a cheater to which he replies that he will travel and then

end his relation with Khawla. Khawla complains to Noor that Jaber will travel and he didn’t even make time to see her. Khawla and Noor think he is planning for something and says she also thinks there is something, but Noor doesn’t tell her what Jaber said to her. Noor also advised her to ask Jaber if he is serious and to propose her. Noor bought a turtle for Eisa. He liked it.

Been Galbin (Between Two Hearts)
Yasmin dies in the accident. After two months Dana decides to leave Bashar and live with her father in Dubai, but Bashar refuses. Dana resigns from the school where she was working and also the salon, where one of the staff calls Aryam to tell her that Dana is leaving to Dubai. She packs her suitcase and Noora pleads her to stay because she is her best friend, but Dana takes a taxi and leaves to the airport. Noora calls Bashar who was with Aryam and he goes to the airport to find Dana before she leaves. He asks her not to leave but she says their relationship is over



and asks him to send her the divorce papers. Bashar gets married to Aryam and Noora refuses to attend his wedding. She tells him that Aryam is not suitable for him and that she will destroy his life. Marzouq and his parents are upset that Aryam got married without their permission, and also that her husband is not from a known family.



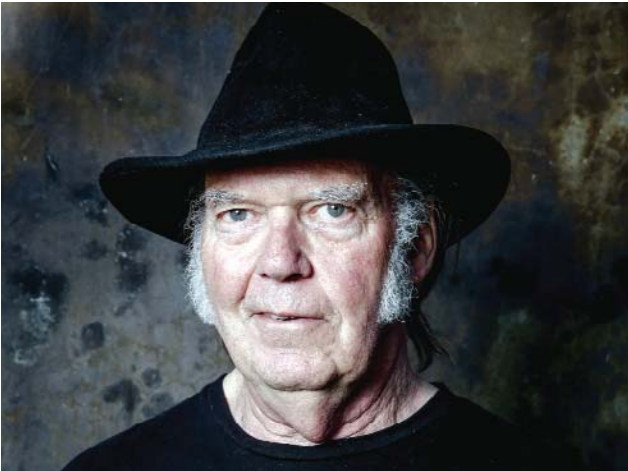
This file photo shows, from left, Jason Bonham, son of the late Led Zeppelin drummer John Bonham; singer Robert Plant; bassist John Paul Jones; and guitarist Jimmy Page at the ‘Led Zeppelin: Celebration Day’ premiere in New York. — AP

Jury out in Led Zeppelin copyright case

A US jury will deliberate for a second day on whether Led Zeppelin poached the opening to “Stairway To Heaven” from an obscure Los Angeles rock band. Zeppelin songwriting duo Robert Plant and Jimmy Page have denied plagiarizing the guitar introduction from the 1971 song “Taurus,” an instrumental track by the long-defunct 1960s group Spirit. The case was brought before a federal court in Los Angeles by Michael Skidmore, the trustee and friend of Spirit guitarist Randy California, who drowned in 1997 having never taken legal action over the song. A jury of four men and four women deliberated for five hours Wednesday before being sent home by Judge Gary Klausner and asked to return today. Led Zeppelin frontman Plant, 67, testified on Tuesday that he recalled writing the lyrics of “Stairway” in 1970 as he and Page sat by a fireplace in an English country manor house where the band recorded and rehearsed. He said he was inspired to write the lines after he heard guitarist Page, 72, play the opening notes of what would become one of the most famous rock songs of all time. The suit, which was filed by Skidmore two years ago, seeks damages and claims California deserves a songwriting credit so that he can “take his place as an author of rock’s greatest song.” “Give credit where credit is due. This case has always been about credit,” Skidmore’s attorney Francis Malofy said as he presented his closing arguments on Wednesday. David Woirhay, the chief financial officer of Rhino Entertainment which markets and distributes the Led Zeppelin catalog testified that “Stairway” had grossed \$3.4 million during the five-year period at issue in the civil trial. —AFP

Review: Neil Young goes green on hybrid ‘Earth’

Longtime environmentalist Neil Young takes a hybrid approach on “Earth,” a double disc compilation of live tracks loosely related to sharing our planet with the animal kingdom. The sounds of honking geese, croaking frogs and buzzing bees come and go over the 13 songs taken from Young’s 2015 tour with the band Promise of the Real. Young doesn’t try to hide the studio manipulation, which also includes some overdubbing and - gasp! - autotuning, warning on the cover that “Earth” contains “modified content.” As goofy as all the animal noises may sound, the end result is an oddly hypnotic ode to mother Earth, a trek back to the garden if you will, for an artist who has spent much of his career singing out against environmental degradation. The undisputable highlight and centerpiece of “Earth” is a mesmerizing 28-minute feedback and distortion-laden version of the rocker “Love and Only Love” from 1990’s “Ragged Glory.” There’s only one sound that should come from critics after listening to that record-closing scorching chirping crickets. — AP



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

HBO cancels Jagger-Scorsese music drama series ‘Vinyl’



In this image released by HBO, Bobby Cannavale, from left, PJ Byrne, and JC MacKenzie appear in a scene from ‘Vinyl.’ — AP

The TV drama “Vinyl” from Martin Scorsese and Mick Jagger isn’t getting any more satisfaction from HBO. The premium cable channel said Wednesday it won’t bring “Vinyl” back for season two, reversing its previously announced renewal. In a statement, HBO said the decision wasn’t an easy one and expressed “enormous respect” for those involved in making the series and its cast. Scorsese and Jagger created and produced “Vinyl,” about the music industry in the 1970s. It starred Bobby Cannavale as a troubled record executive and also featured Ray Romano, Olivia Wilde and Jagger’s son, James Jagger. “Vinyl” launched with high expectations but received middling reviews. Its cancellation follows a recent turnover in HBO’s top ranks: longtime programming president Michael Lombardo stepped down and was replaced by HBO executive Casey Bloys. — AP



Indian Bollywood Actors Salman Khan (left) and Anushka Sharma pose during the promotion of the upcoming Hindi film 'Sultan'. — AFP

Bollywood actress Sharma slams India's online trolls

Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma has hit out at "misogynistic" online trolls after she received abusive social media messages over her reported on-off relationship with Indian Test cricket captain Virat Kohli. Star batsman Kohli pleaded with Internet users to stop attacking Sharma in a passionate appeal on Instagram earlier this year, saying it was shameful to blame her for his performances. Ahead of the release of blockbuster "Sultan", in which Sharma plays a female wrestler, the Hindi film actress told AFP it had been difficult coming to terms with the online abuse.

"It's one thing to be abused for a film I did or to be trolled if I did something wrong. But to be abused for something I had no association with? That was hurtful," she said. "I have been trolled more than many of my peers. At the beginning I didn't know how to react but now I don't care," Sharma added in the telephone interview. The status of Kohli and Sharma's high-profile relationship is a staple in the gossip pages of India's newspapers, despite the couple themselves refusing to speak directly on the subject.

Sharma, 28, and Kohli, 27, began dating in 2014 but were rumored to have broken up earlier this year before apparently getting back together again, according to several Indian media outlets.

Sharma, whose film credits include hit science fiction comedy "PK", received negative comments on Twitter last year after she travelled to Australia to watch Kohli in the cricket World Cup. She was pictured sitting in the stands as Kohli made just one run during India's semi-final defeat to Australia in Sydney, with some Twitter users suggesting it was her fault. In March, Kohli, currently the hottest property in Indian cricket, wrote on Instagram: "Shame on blaming and making fun of her (Sharma) when she has no control over what I do with my sport."

'Powerless men'

"If anything she has only motivated and given me more positivity," he added, following it up with a similar message on Twitter asking for people to have "compassion". "I think it's misogynistic, powerless men who have no other way to put you down, whose egos are hurt because you are a successful working woman with your own money and independence," Sharma told AFP this week. The actress, who played the lead role in 2008 romantic drama "Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi", stars alongside Salman Khan in her next movie "Sultan", which is due for release on July 6, to coincide with the Muslim Eid holiday marking the end of Ramadan. — AFP



This file photograph taken on July 20, 2015, shows Indian Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma (right) and Indian cricketer Virat Kohli posing as they attend the Vogue Beauty Awards ceremony in Mumbai.

Darth Vader to return in 'Star Wars' spin-off

Cinema's ultimate villain, Darth Vader, is set to make a comeback with a menacing appearance in "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," industry magazine Entertainment Weekly said on Wednesday. The first standalone "Star Wars" story, "Rogue One" is set just before "A New Hope"—the original film in the blockbuster series—and stars Felicity Jones alongside Mads Mikkelsen and Forest Whitaker. EW said on its website it would reveal "never-before-seen characters while also reintroducing a few classic ones" in the new issue, out Friday.

"We're confirming a big one on our cover: the galactic man in black himself, Darth Vader," it added. Rumors of a Vader return in British filmmaker Gareth Edwards' contribution to the "Star Wars" canon began to circulate in April with the release of the first trailer. The 100-second teaser featured a retread of John Williams' familiar "Star Wars" score, including a snippet of the infamous

"Imperial March," used to signify Vader's approach. EW writer Anthony Breznican told ABC's "Good Morning America" the trainee Jedi turned Sith Lord "kind of looms large over the plot, even when he's not necessarily on screen."

Director Krennic, a new villainous character played by Australian actor Ben Mendelsohn, finds he has "Vader looming in the background over his shoulder, making sure that he gets the job done," Breznican said. EW did not say which actor had been hired for Vader's latest big screen outing, due to hit theaters in the United States on December 16. The character was voiced in the original trilogy by James Earl Jones, now 85, while 80-year-old David Prowse donned the iconic cape and helmet. Jones, 32, who was Oscar-nominated for her role opposite Eddie Redmayne in "The Theory of Everything," plays rebel Jyn Erso, who has notched up a string of convictions for forgery, assault and theft. — AFP



Darth Vader, is set to make a comeback in the first standalone "Star Wars" story, "Rogue One," which is set just before "A New Hope," the original film in the blockbuster series. — AFP



'Finding Dory' could lead to dangerous demand for blue tangs as pets

Finding Nemo centers on an adorable clownfish who is separated from his father before being reunited to live out his days, swimming wild and free in his home tank. The success of the 2003 film created a huge demand for the finned cuties, as fans of the Pixar hit flocked to pet stores to buy their own Nemos. Despite the fact that the film had a conservation theme, with Nemo briefly enduring a miserable stint in a dentist office tank, sales of the creatures grew an estimated 40%. By 2012, the orange and white striped fish were the fifth-most imported species in the United States. In the process, wild populations of clownfish in countries such as the Philippines were decimated, ecologists say.

"Somehow the message of the film got lost," said Karen Burke da Silva, co-founder of the Saving Nemo Conservation Fund, an educational non-profit. "People got so enamored of the beauty and the charismatic personality of the clownfish that they wanted one for their own." Now that "Finding Dory," the hugely popular sequel to the 2003 original, is dominat-

ing the box office, it has scientists and animal rights groups worried that there will be a similar demand for regal blue tang fish, Dory's species, and could wreck havoc on exotic fish populations. Related 'Finding Dory': 5 Reasons the Pixar Sequel Smashed Records

Increased demand

Disney, Pixar's parent company, and animal rights groups such as the Humane Society and For the Fishes are seizing on the film to try to educate people about how to responsibly buy pet fish. Unlike clownfish, blue tangs cannot be bred in captivity and are exclusively taken from the wild. "This species cannot endure increased demand," said Rene Umberger, executive director of For the Fishes. "It's already in decline in the wild." She noted that most blue tangs can reach up to a foot in length, making them too big to fit comfortably in home aquariums. While these species can live for 20 or 30 years in the wild, some captured blue tangs struggle to stay alive for even a few years in captivity, she said. — Reuters



A customer checking out high heeled shoes on display at a department store in Tokyo.
— AFP photos



The Japan High Heel Association managing director 'Madame' Yumiko (right) giving a lesson on high heels in Tokyo.

Japan's 'waddling ducks' undergo stiletto therapy

Feminists, look away! Fashion police in Japan want to 'empower' women by persuading them to wear high heels, insisting the country's historic 'kimono culture' has led to many women having poor posture. The Japan High Heel Association (JHA) is calling on women across the country to trade sensible shoes for a pair of stilettos, insisting that standing tall will give them 'confidence' and improve their gait.

"Japanese women walk like ducks," JHA managing director 'Madame' Yumiko told AFP in an interview at her plush Tokyo salon. "They waddle along, pigeon-toed, with their bottoms sticking out as if they're bursting to use the toilet. It looks ghastly," she added. In an apparent bid to improve this situation, the all-female organization charges thousands of dollars for etiquette lessons, including special classes where women are taught to walk correctly, and particularly in high heels.

Critics have branded the idea sexist and laughable, particularly as women are still battling against a deeply ingrained patriarchal culture that once expected them to pace three steps behind men. Yet the "walking etiquette classes" are proving hugely popular: At JHA students pay 400,000 yen (\$3,700) for a six-month course and so far 4,000 have taken part, while similar lessons and schools are popping up nationwide.

The 48-year-old former ballerina blames the country's sartorial heritage for the posture problem. "Chinese or Korean ladies don't have these problems," she said. "It's a result of Japan's kimono culture and shuffling about in straw sandals. It's ingrained in the way Japanese walk." "But very few Japanese wear a kimono all day anymore. We should know about Western culture and how to wear heels correctly," Yumiko added.

Barefoot protest

The shift away from traditional Japanese clothes happened gradually from around the late 19th century but it is only been since the 1980s that stilettos have become a fashion staple. This 'call to heels' comes at a time when the West is experiencing a feminist fightback against dictates on how women should dress. Hollywood star Julia Roberts went barefoot on the red carpet during the Cannes Film Festival in May—an act of rebellion after organizers caused uproar by ejecting women for wearing flat shoes at the previous year's event.

Last month more than 100,000 British people petitioned parliament in the UK, calling for a change to an outdated dress code law that allowed employers to require women to wear high heels in the work place. The campaign, now backed by several politicians, was launched by a receptionist who was sent home by a firm for wearing flat shoes. But Yumiko argues wearing heels will help "Japanese women become more confident". She explains: "Many

women are too shy to express themselves. In Japanese culture, women are not expected to stand out or put themselves first." Her solution is for women suffocated by such strict protocols to simply "throw on a pair of heels," arguing the freedom it brings can unlock the mind. Prominent Japanese social commentator Mitsuko Shimomura dismissed the idea as "nonsense" that most would laugh at. She said: "There's no relationship between wearing high heels and women's power. It sounds crazy."

'Men need heels too'

Heels have been in and out of vogue for men and women for centuries, with murals on ancient Egyptian tombs dating them back to around 4,000 BC. But they still have a key role to play in modern courtship, according to JHA director Tomoko Kubota. "If women look sexier, it will help Japanese men buck up their ideas," the 45-year-old said. A 2014 study by scientists from France's Universite de Bretagne-Sud supports this view. The group conducted social experiments that showed men behave more positively toward high-heeled women.

In one test, they found if a woman dropped her glove on the street, men were 50 percent more likely to stop and return it to her if she was wearing heels rather than flats, while female behavior

remained unchanged regardless of shoe worn, according to results published in the journal, Archives of Sexual Behavior. Students from across Japan sitting JHA exams for a certificate that allows them to become high heel instructors sing from the same hymn sheet. "We learn how to move in a kimono and how to bow correctly, but not how to walk (in heels)," said hypnotherapist Takako Watanabe, 46 after a walking lesson. "It might help us catch a hunky guy," she adds.

Fellow JHA alumni Ayako Miyata agrees it is an important skill that few Japanese women have mastered. "It makes you look more lady-like," said the 44-year-old, who has spent thousands amassing a stiletto collection. "They're an essential item for a modern woman to feel pride and confidence in herself." Yumiko, whose parlor is a veritable shrine to France's King Louis XIV, lined with frilly curtains embroidered with the image of the dandy, heel-wearing monarch, gives short shrift to accusations of sexism—she wants men to change their footwear too. She explains: "As in the Renaissance period, men want to look taller and more stylish. Men should wear heels, so they can preen majestically like Louis XIV. I'm sure it will happen." — AFP



Women receiving a lesson in the use of high heels.



Women walking in high heels during a lesson given from the Japan High Heel Association in Tokyo.



Models present creations by Belgian fashion designer Walter Van Beirendonck during the men Spring summer 2017 collection fashion show. — AFP photos

Little England takes over Paris catwalks as Britain votes

It may already be too late... But as Britain prepares to vote on whether to leave the EU, the Little England look has suddenly become fashionable. Cricket jumpers, brogues, boating blazers and even neo-Morris men popped up on the Paris catwalk Wednesday. Nor is fashion's new-found anglophilia confined to the upper classes. Sweatpants, parkas, tartan and charity shop suits were everywhere as next year's spring-summer menswear shows hit the runways. In what could be interpreted as a last desperate sop to Nigel Farage, the most outspoken of the British Leave campaigners, double-breasted suits and blazers are also back.

It may be some time however before we see the UK Independence Party leader sporting a Balenciaga shoulder padded suit with high-

heeled leather boots. Or indeed one of the Dutch designer Walter Van Beirendonck's ribbon-trailing blazers inspired by English folk dancers. Van Beirendonck told AFP that the pony club and Morris men motifs throughout his new collection came from a damascene moment in a London flea market.

Morris men

"I found a pile of vintage ribbons in a market in London. It triggered this whole thing with the rosettes and Morris men for me to create this mixture of folklore and the future," he added. He denied his show was directly about fears of a Brexit, or a poetic European lament at the prospect of losing England. But the designer admitted, however, that "I have never put so

much black into a collection". And he chose a riddle from the most English of books, "Alice in Wonderland" "Why is a raven like a writing desk?"—as the title of his show. "I was questioning why this was all happening," said Beirendonck.

"We don't have answers to our questions. I feel the world today is a riddle without an answer." Japanese designer Hiromichi Hoshino's homage to English pastoral was more literal, taking a scissors to cricket sweaters and remaking them all mixed up. He then matched them with shorts and most eye-catchingly with tartan sweatpants.

Papal groove

With his influence everywhere to be seen on other catwalks, all eyes were on what designer Demna Gvasalia would come up with to mark Balenciaga's first ever men's show. And the iconoclastic Georgian-whose own street-influenced Vetements brand has become the Paris trend-setter—did not lack daring. He cheekily mixed oversized, shoulder-padded daywear suits that had more than a hint of cartoon Mafiosa about them with much more tight-fitting evening wear "inspired by the ecclesiastical high ceremony" of the Vatican.

He even borrowed the "liturgical palette of papal purple, cardinal red" and cherry red for bishops, using the Holy See's own suppliers of woven silk. One black coated clerical combination, matched with knee-length blue suede boots, was set off by a Vatican yellow scarf worn like a liturgical vestment. His blue shirts pulled tight at the waist like blouson jackets also drew admiring comment. Ninety-nine years after Cristobal Balenciaga founded the label famous for the sharpness of its cut, Gvasalia's show was a tour de force of exaggerated tailoring according to the critics, or "transformation through tailoring" as he termed it. The collection was all about "manipulation of the fabric... (and) a wardrobe and a body, altering how both are perceived," he said in a statement. "Clothes making the man." — AFP



Belgian Fashion designer Walter Van Beirendonck acknowledges the audience.

How I changed my relationship with food

By Aisha Al Zabin

My whole life, I have had a love/hate relationship with food. I loved it while I was eating it, but hated myself after. That hate translated to me scolding myself: "You are disgusting. You are worthless. You have no control."

When I was a little kid, food was always there. The freezer always had ice cream, the fridge always had chocolate milk and sugary juice boxes, the pantry "secret hiding place" was filled with chips, candy and chocolate. Not to mention the kitchen table always had sugary biscuits lying around. My mom desperately tried to force us to eat fruit and veggies. But by that point we were too addicted to sugar that the idea of tasteless veggies seemed like a joke. Food was used as a reward. "If you do this you will get candy, if you behave you get ice cream."

As I grew up and began to earn my own allowance, I would buy my own junk food. I would eat bar after bar of chocolate in front of the TV. My skin was horrible, my hair fell out, and I was fat. It took me 31 years of my life to finally realize that a healthy lifestyle is simply building a new habit. Instead of being in the habit of starting my day with sugary coffee and biscuits, and ending it with a bag of chips and a chocolate bar, I would get into the habit of starting my day with lemon water and a papaya, and ending it with a tub of Greek yogurt and fruit.

After three weeks of no processed, sugary, salty, greasy food, my taste buds changed. I no longer had a craving for junk food. My body adapted to a new norm, fresh fruit, fresh veggies, complex carbohydrates and water. Instead of the usual candy bar in my purse I kept dates in case

I got hypoglycemic while shopping or craved a caramel frappuccino. I remember after a month on my new lifestyle I was at a family gathering. Out of habit, I poured myself a cup of tea and added a lump of sugar. Having not had sugar for a month I took a sip and spit it out. It tasted horrible! Like nothing but sugar and water. I was shocked that this was something I used to drink in high quantities.

Now I'm not saying I never eat any cake or biscuits anymore. But I would much rather enjoy the fruit. On some occasions I will have the slice of birthday cake and I will enjoy it to the fullest and I will not guilt myself afterwards. "I had the cake, now back to eating fresh yummy whole food." This is what helps me control my eating habits and reach a point where I'm literally in love with the food that I'm putting into my body, because it's healthy, nourishing and refreshing. It also tastes yummy. Now instead of scolding myself I praise myself: "You are awesome! You are beautiful! You are glowing." I am now the happiest I've ever been.

Trust me, if you change your eating habits and not think this is a diet of restriction but in fact it's a lifestyle of abundance, you too will learn to love yourself and the food you are putting into your body.





Skinny Kunafa

250 g kunafa dough
1/4 cup melted ghee
250 g akawi cheese
1 tbsp blossom water
1 tsp butter
1/4 tsp kunafa stain
For the syrup:
1/3 cup agave nectar
1 tbsp blossom water

- Cut the akawi cheese into small cubes and soak in cold water for 6 hours, changing the water every hour until all the salt is removed.
- Mix the crust ingredients together and rub the dough between your fingers to ensure even mixing.
- Preheat the oven to 200°C with the bottom heat setting.
- Mix the butter and kunafa stain together and spread onto the bottom of the pan.
- Press the dough into the bottom of the pan.
- Meanwhile, strain the akawi cheese and blot it dry with a kitchen towel.
- Mash the cheese with the blossom water.
- Spread the cheese on top of the crust.
- Bake the kunafa in the oven for 45 minutes.
- Loosen the edges of the kunafa and flip onto a serving plate.
- Mix the agave with the 1 tbsp blossom water and pour it over the hot kunafa.



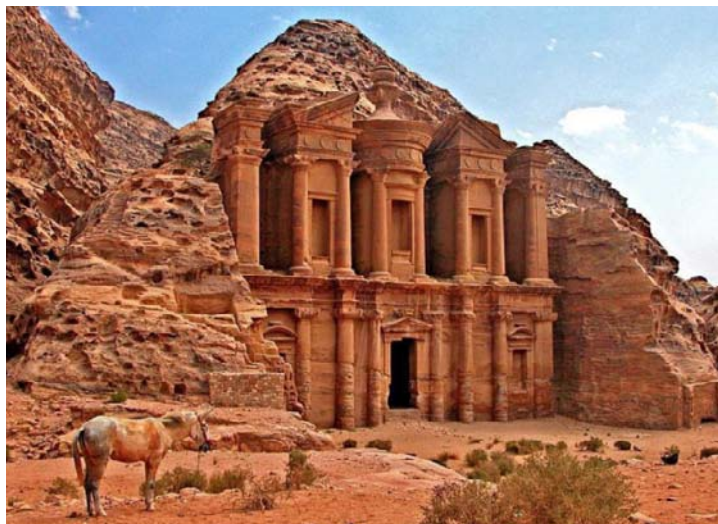
26

Friday Times

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2016

Kids

Color me!



PETRA, JORDAN

Petra originally known as Raqmu to the Nabataeans, is a historical and archaeological city in southern Jordan. The city is famous for its rock-cut architecture and water conduit system. Another name for Petra is the Rose City due to the color of the stone out of which it is carved.

Established possibly as early as 312 BC as the capital city of the Arab Nabataeans, it is a symbol of Jordan, as well as Jordan's most-visited tourist attraction. The Nabateans were nomadic Arabs who benefited from the proximity of Petra to the regional trade routes, in becoming a major trading hub, thus enabling them to gather wealth. The Nabateans are also known for their great ability in constructing efficient water collecting methods in the barren deserts and their talent in carving structures into solid rocks. It lies on the slope of Jebel al-Madhbah in a basin among the mountains which form the eastern flank of Arabah, the large valley running from the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba. Petra has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1985.

The site remained unknown to the western world until 1812, when it was introduced by Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt. It was described as "a rose-red city half as old as time" in a Newdigate Prize-winning poem by John William Burgon. UNESCO has described it as "one of the most precious cultural properties of man's cultural heritage". Petra was named amongst the New 7 Wonders of the World in 2007 and was also chosen by the Smithsonian Magazine as one of the "28 Places to See Before You Die".

Geography

Pliny the Elder and other writers identify Petra as the capital of the Nabataeans and the center of their caravan trade. Enclosed by towering rocks and watered by a perennial stream, Petra not only possessed the

advantages of a fortress, but controlled the main commercial routes which passed through it to Gaza in the west, to Bosra and Damascus in the north, to Aqaba and Leuce Come on the Red Sea, and across the desert to the Persian Gulf.

In ancient times, Petra might have been approached from the south on a track leading across the plain of Petra, around Jabal Haroun ("Aaron's Mountain"), the location of the Tomb of Aaron, said to be the burial-place of Aaron, brother of Moses. Another approach was possibly from the high plateau to the north. Today, most modern visitors approach the site from the east. The impressive eastern entrance leads steeply down through a dark, narrow gorge called the Siq ("the shaft"), a natural geological feature formed from a deep split in the sandstone rocks and serving as a waterway flowing into Wadi Musa. At the end of the narrow gorge stands Petra's most elaborate ruin, Al Khazneh (popularly known as and meaning "the Treasury"), hewn into the sandstone cliff. While remaining in remarkably preserved condition, the face of the structure is marked by hundreds of bullet holes made by the local Bedouin tribes that hoped to dislodge riches that were once rumored to be hidden within it.

A little farther from the Treasury, at the foot of the mountain called en-Nejr, is a massive theatre, positioned so as to bring the greatest number of tombs within view. At the point where the valley opens out into the plain, the site of the city is revealed with striking effect. The amphitheatre has been cut into the hillside and into several of the tombs during its construction. Rectangular gaps in the seating are still visible. Almost enclosing it on three sides are rose-colored mountain walls, divided into groups by deep fissures and lined with knobs cut from the rock in the form of towers.



DID YOU KNOW?

Light Facts

Brighten your science knowledge with our fun light facts for kids. Enjoy interesting trivia related to color, the speed of light, optics, sunlight, ultraviolet light and infrared light. Understand how electromagnetic radiation works and discover the many fascinating properties of light.



- * In physics, light refers to electromagnetic radiation. The light we normally talk about in everyday life refers to the visible spectrum (the part of the electromagnetic spectrum that the human eye can see).
- * Other animals can see parts of the spectrum that humans can't. For example, a large number of insects can see ultraviolet (UV) light.
- * UV light can be used to show things the human eye can't see, coming in handy for forensic scientists.
- * The wavelength of infrared light is too long to be visible to the human eye.
- * Scientists study the properties and behaviors of light in a branch of physics known as optics.
- * Isaac Newton observed that a thin beam of sunlight hitting a glass prism on an angle creates a band of visible colors that includes red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet (ROYGBIV). This occurred because different colors travel through glass (and other mediums) at different speeds, causing them to refract at different angles and separate from each other.

SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION

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





KIDS RECIPES



Apple-Cinnamon Oatmeal

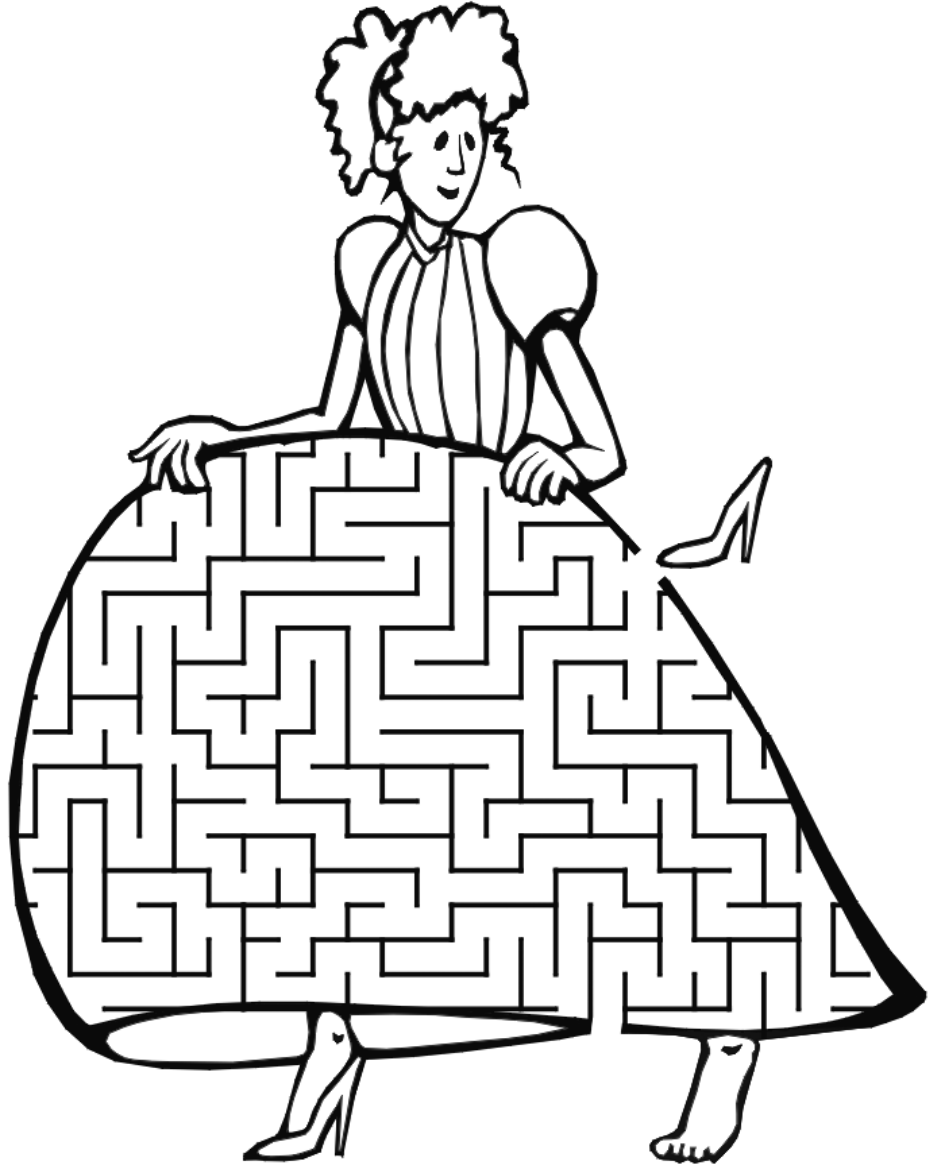
What you need:

- 1 cup steel-cut oats
- 1 cup skim milk (or milk substitute, such as almond or soy milk)
- 3 cups water
- 1 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 cup chopped nuts

What to do:

Place oats, milk, water, applesauce, and cinnamon into the slow cooker. Stir, cover, and set to low. Cook for 15 minutes. Top each serving with 1 tablespoon of the nuts and enjoy! You can also top your oatmeal with 1 tablespoon of raisins, but this will increase the amount of sugar you're eating.

MAZE



WORD SEARCH

Picnic Foods



Word Search

Can you find the hidden words below?

a e p t e w v e g e t a b l e s a k a l a d u j
r i i c e t e a e m a r c h i c k e n e r s c e
u p a e q u y t e a p p l e p i e j a v e n e l
n a c k s a n d w i c h y c u p c a k e s a s l
a a c t p o t a t o c h i p s e r s o d a c e y
e r h u q h o t d o g a p a r s o s a j o k a p
s d e e p l a w n w a t e r m e l o n n e t l i
a a e a h a m b u r g e r t a c b o k w r i a c
n a s e o g a m i l y a t y a n d w o c h a e n
a q e r t p o t a t o s a l a d a s e l l y t i
u k c o o k i e s c o o g b a s k e t i c n a c

Find the Following Words:

watermelon	hot dog	picnic
ice tea	hamburger	potato chips
sandwich	jelly	vegetables
cheese	soda	apple pie
snack	potato salad	cupcakes
chicken	basket	cookies

Supplies:

- * Foam balls - 1x big, 1xsmall
- * 2 sheets x felt (each a different color)
- * Hot glue gun and glue
- * Googly eyes
- * Scissors

Warning: Hot glue guns are dangerous and must be used with adult supervision.

Method:

1. Cut out small, different sized triangles from the two sheets of felt.
2. Then cut three tail-like fins ... think pointy butterfly wings making them larger than the triangles.
3. Firstly decide which will be the front and the back so you know where you want the tail.
4. Now start attaching the felt triangles with the glue piece by piece moving around the ball until all is covered. Then attach the tails and eyes.
5. For the eyes, cut the smaller foam ball in half with a sharp knife and glue on the googly eyes.

My pet goldfish



Q: What did one tooth say to the other tooth?

A: That's gold in them fills!

Q: What did the judge say to the dentist?

A: Do you swear to pull the tooth, the whole tooth and nothing but the tooth?

Q: Why did the tree go to the dentist?

A: To get a root canal.

Q: Why did the king go to the dentist?

A: To get his teeth crowned!

Q: What time do you go to the dentist?

A: Tooth-Hurty!

Q: What does a dentist do during an earthquake?

A: She braces herself!

JOKES



Friday Times
Travel

Hidden Beijing:

10 intriguing sights to discover in the Chinese capital

As Beijing leaps skywards into the 21st century, its history can sometimes get left in the shadows. But despite the new highways and high-rises, China's capital has plenty of past pockets hidden away to reward the intrepid explorer. Here are ten little visited, history-rich Beijing sights to get you started.

Kublai Khan's city walls

In 1274, Kublai Khan commissioned a mighty set of earthwork walls to protect the new city of Dadu, capital of the triumphant Yuan dynasty. Unknowingly, the Mongol conqueror was laying the foundations for Beijing. Incredibly, more of the Dadu battlements remain today than those of Beijing's Ming dynasty stone walls, torn down in the 1960s to make way for the Second Ring Rd. Take the subway to Beitucheng (the station's name is a clue: 'north earth wall'), and you can walk for more than two kilometres over the lofty earthwork mound, now landscaped into the Yuan-Dynasty Walls Relics Park. After dark, the wall becomes a popular gay hangout.

White Cloud Pagoda

Far from the lattes and lamb skewers of Gulou's well-trodden hutong alleyways, the courtyards surrounding the gracefully bulbous Miaoying Temple White Dagoba exude a sleepy vibe, and wherever you turn, vistas of this pagoda towering over tiled rooftops will have you reaching for your camera. Designed by Nepali architects in the 13th century, the pagoda is the crowning glory of the Miaoying Buddhist Temple, which finally reopened for visitors in December 2015 after years of renovations.



Beijing badlands

In the shadow of the haunted Fox Tower (Dongbianmen) on the edge of Beijing's former foreign legations, this grungy neighborhood still carries echoes of its past life as a den of vice in the 1920s and '30s. The site of a grisly murder brought to life in Paul French's bestselling true crime novel *Midnight in Peking*, you can roam the badlands at night on the official 'Midnight in Peking Walking Tour' with Bespoke Travel Company (bespoketravelcompany.com). If you're not up for a spine-tingling, you can also visit during the day - the Red Gate Gallery inside the Fox Tower has a collection of photos about the area's intriguing past.

Warlord-era architecture

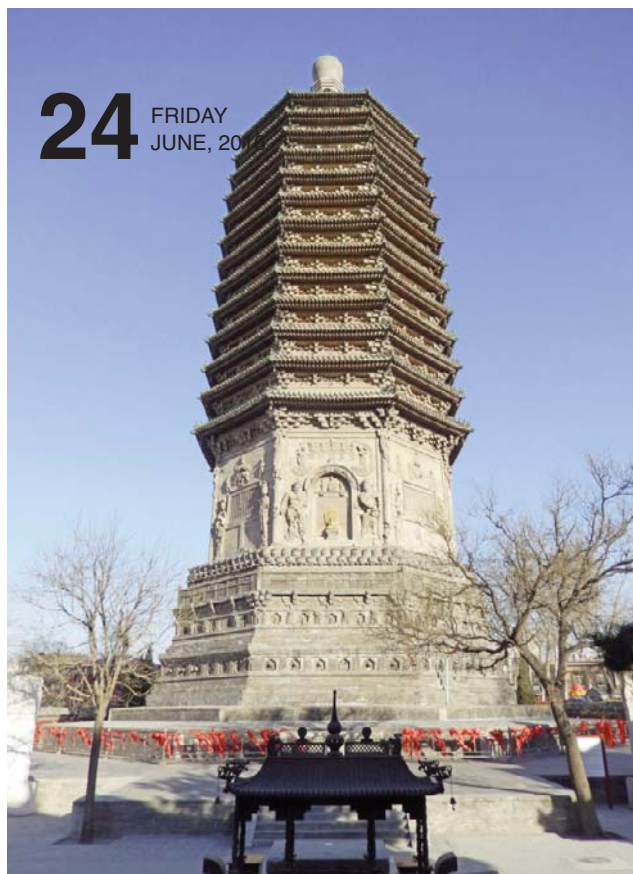
When the last Emperor of China was booted out of the Forbidden City 100 years ago, a warlord called Duan Qirui became the de facto ruler of a country in chaos. This gorgeous, grey-brick slab of classical Republican architecture, complete with clock tower, was built to serve as his HQ and residence, and later housed

Chiang Kai Shek's Nationalist troops. Despite a heavily-policed gate, you can stroll in at your leisure; don't miss the lovely old wood-paneled university buildings at the back, an annex of Renmin University. Then seek out Peanut Cafe, a chill spot on the east side of the site, to sit and contemplate the ebb and flow of power over a caramel macchiato.

Mao's underground city

In the grip of '70s Cold War paranoia, Chairman Mao ordered a second city built beneath Beijing to safeguard the population should bombs begin to fall. For a few years until 2007, you could pay to access several dank shelters, a school and even a theatre 25ft under the Qianmen neighborhood, but construction is fast eradicating all traces of the relatively shallow (and probably ineffective) tunnels. That said, everyone seems to know a rumour of some restaurant or other with a cellar that leads to the underground city. Ask around and you might still find a way down.





Beijing's best museum

The Poly Art Museum is a trove of ancient Chinese artifacts located halfway up a glass skyscraper (you even buy your ticket from the office reception). Bronze ware and Buddhist sculptures are exquisitely displayed, not behind smudged glass but on artfully lit plinths. Much of the collection was purchased and repatriated from overseas auction houses; look out for six of the dozen 'zodiac sculptures' that once adorned a fountain in the Old Summer Palace. They're still rounding up the rest.

Mini-Forbidden City (without the crowds)

Before Mao rebranded it the Workers Cultural Palace, this Forbidden City-in-miniature was once the Imperial Ancestral Temple, the most sacred slab of land in Beijing, where the Son of Heaven would make sacrifices to those before him. Waves of grand halls are accessed through a glorious yellow-glazed gate via parallel stone bridges, while the tranquil surroundings are strewn with pines and cypresses, including one venerable old tree said to be planted by Zhu Di, the third emperor of the Ming dynasty. Best of all, the Workers Cultural Palace has a great deal more genuine Ming features than its bigger brother, the largely rebuilt Qing-era Forbidden City next door.

798 'steampunk' skywalk

The fact that 798 Art District, Beijing's home of contemporary art, was once China's most technologically advanced factory complex is no secret - the East German-designed Bauhaus workshops proved the perfect studio space for the artists like Huang Rui and Ai Weiwei in the '90s. But scoot past the galleries and cafes to D-Park and you'll find a veritable playground of retro-futurist Communist industrial architecture. Cutting through this is an elevated walkway offering gorgeous views of towers, chimneys, boilers, hissing pipes and gargantuan metal structures that together look like the ultimate steampunk movie set.

Tribute to Peking opera

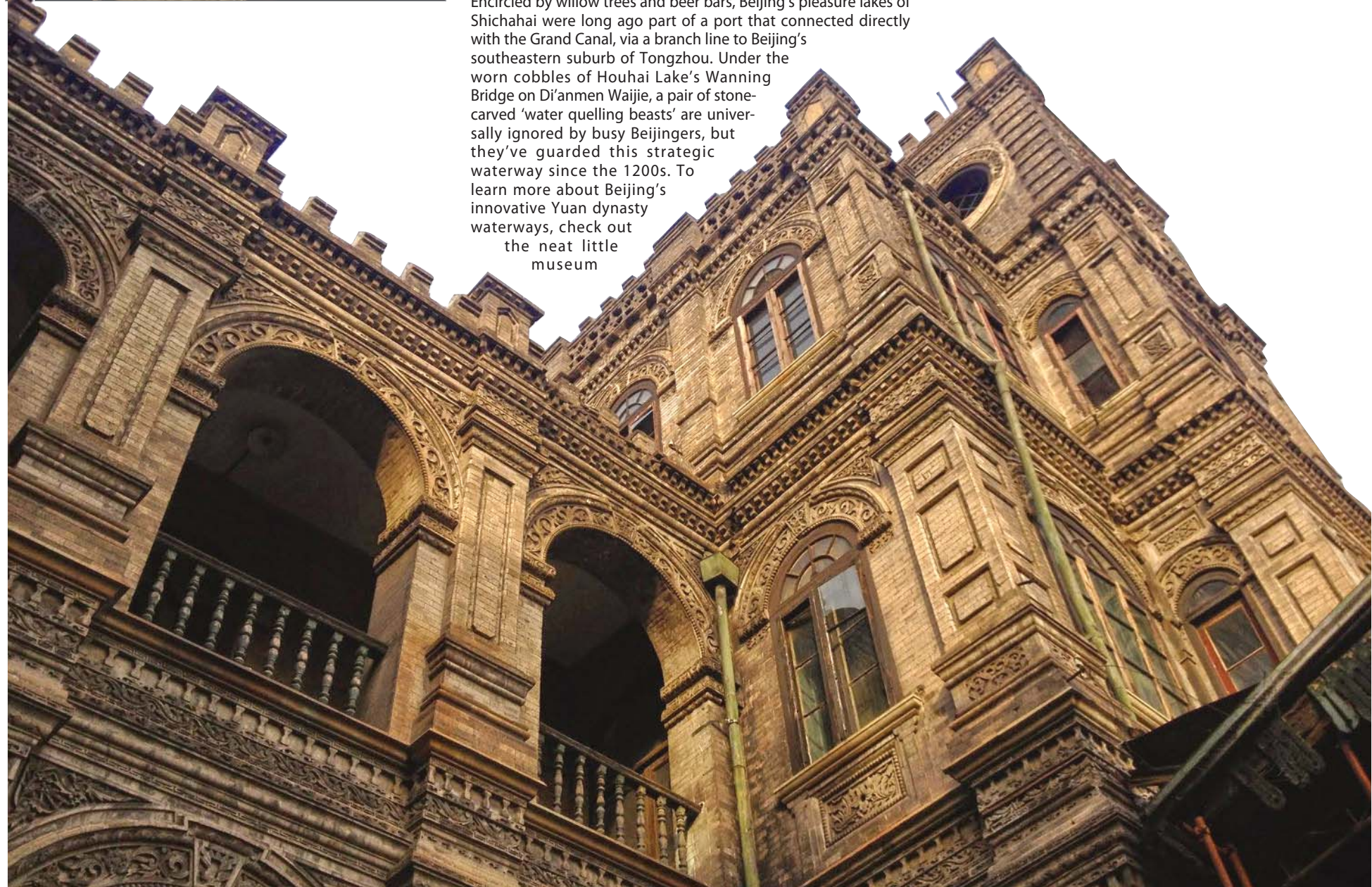
One of the oldest opera theatres in China and a genuine relic, Zhengyici Theatre was originally built in 1688 on the site of a Buddhist temple. With less than 100 seats, this two-storey, wood-paneled theatre is the most atmospheric spot in town to see Peking opera, a populist style championed by the foreign Qing elite after opera troupes from the south travelled to Beijing in 1790 to perform for Emperor Qianlong's 80th birthday bash. For true connoisseurs, the older, more scholarly kunqu style is also performed here. Or catch the 'Mei Lanfang Classics', a tribute to Peking opera's maestro, Mei Lanfang, who trod these very boards in the early 20th century.

Water dragons of Houhai Lake

Encircled by willow trees and beer bars, Beijing's pleasure lakes of Shichahai were long ago part of a port that connected directly with the Grand Canal, via a branch line to Beijing's southeastern suburb of Tongzhou. Under the worn cobbles of Houhai Lake's Wanning Bridge on Di'anmen Waijie, a pair of stone-carved 'water quelling beasts' are universally ignored by busy Beijingers, but they've guarded this strategic waterway since the 1200s. To learn more about Beijing's innovative Yuan dynasty waterways, check out the neat little museum



inside Huitong Temple north of Xihai Lake, documenting the work of Guo Shoujing, a 13th-century astronomer and canal engineer. (www.lonelyplanet.com)



WORD SEARCH

Sci-Fi Movies 3 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

AEON FLUX
ALIEN NATION
ARMAGEDDON
DARK STAR
DEATH RACE
DEJA VU
FLASH GORDON
FREQUENCY

GAMER
IRON MAN
JUMPER
KING KONG
MIMIC
OUTLAND
PANDORUM

ROLLERBALL
SCANNERS
SPECIES
THE FLY
TIMECRIMES
TOTAL RECALL
WATCHMEN
ZARDOZ

Yesterday's Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles

Sci-Fi Movies 2 - Solution

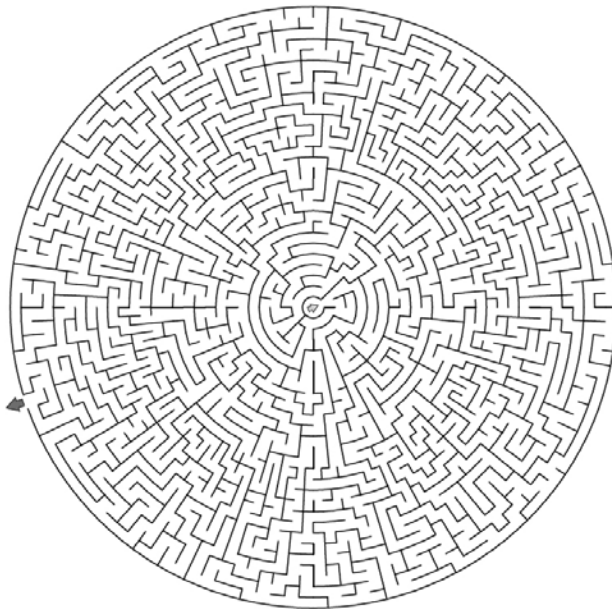
X K A E R B T U O T H E A B Y S S
S H J R E J H C X A A Z T K R U Q
C O L E Q S U R A L T I M E C O P
S X V H U K U R I P M A D M A X D
R K N P I N E E A M M P B G N L T
E E A S L S N R N S L I O T E S K
N E U G I S L L T A S D P I S C N
I N R A B L M E N R Z I F E A S O
L I E E R I S E E I A R C J E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

ALIENS
CLOVERFIELD
DEEP IMPACT
EQUILIBRIUM
FLATLINERS
FREEJACK
GODZILLA
HULK
JURASSIC PARK

KNOWING
MAD MAX
MEN IN BLACK
OUTBREAK
PUSH
RED PLANET
SIGNS

SLEEPER
SLITHER
SPHERE
STAR TREK
SUNSHINE
THE ABYSS
TIMECOP

CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1294

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14
15					16								17		
18					19					20					
21				22		23							24		
			25			26					27	28			
29	30	31									32		33	34	35
36				37			38		39	40		41			
42			43			44			45						
46					47		48	49				50			
51				52			53			54	55		56		
			57			58		59	60			61		62	
63	64	65				66					67		68		
69					70				71	72				73	74
75							76	77				78			
79					80		81					82		83	
84					85									86	

ACROSS

1. Interface consisting of a standard port between a computer and its peripherals that is used in some computers.
5. A member of the Sioux people formerly inhabiting an area along the Missouri river in western North Dakota.
12. The local time at the 0 meridian passing through Greenwich, England.
15. Studies intended to provide general knowledge and intellectual skills (rather than occupational or professional skills).
16. French philosopher and theologian.
17. An associate degree in applied science.
18. British artist and writer of nonsense verse (1812-1888).
19. Having many worn or threadbare spots in the nap.
20. A religious doctrine that is proclaimed as true without proof.
21. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
23. Distinguished from Bovidae by the male's having solid deciduous antlers.
24. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
25. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
26. The first of the Old Testament patriarchs and the father of Isaac.
29. A burn cause by hot liquid or steam.
32. Arousing or provoking laughter.
36. A sign of assent or salutation or command.
37. A ductile silvery-white ductile ferromagnetic trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
41. A small cake leavened with yeast.
42. Having the same or similar characteristics.
44. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
45. Soviet cosmonaut who in 1961 was the first person to travel in space (1934-1968).
46. (Roman Catholic Church) The supreme ecclesiastical tribunal for cases appealed to the Holy See from diocesan courts.
48. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
50. A quantity of no importance.
51. British physicist (born in Austria) who with Lise Meitner recognized that Otto Hahn had produced a new kind of nuclear reaction which they named nuclear fission.
53. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
54. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
56. (Brit) A tough youth of 1950's and 1960's wearing Edwardian style clothes.
57. A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 100 liters.
59. Sole genus of the family Naiadaceae.
62. Informal terms for a mother.
63. The mission in San Antonio where in 1836 Mexican forces under Santa Anna besieged and massacred American rebels who were fighting to make Texas independent of Mexico.
66. A fraudulent business scheme.
67. Nocturnal mouselike mammal with forelimbs modified to form membranous wings and anatomical adaptations for echolocation by which they navigate.
69. Large family of important mostly marine food fishes.
71. A stone pillar having a rectangular cross section tapering towards a pyramidal top.
75. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.
78. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
79. The force of workers available.
83. The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
84. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.

85. Moths whose larvae are cutworms.
86. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. United States virologist who developed the Salk vaccine that is injected against poliomyelitis (born 1914).
2. A member of an Algonquian people living in central Canada.
3. A thrusting blow with a knife.
4. Jewish republic in southwestern Asia at eastern end of Mediterranean.
5. Thigh of a hog (usually smoked).
6. A large Yoruba city in southwestern Nigeria.
7. The brightest star in Cygnus.
8. A republic in northwestern Africa on the Mediterranean Sea.
9. Long-tailed arboreal mustelid of Central and South America.
10. A soft silver-white or yellowish metallic element of the alkali metal group.
11. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
12. Mentally or physically infirm with age.
13. Informal terms for a mother.
14. A male monarch or emperor (especially of Russia prior to 1917).
22. An emblem (a small piece of plastic or cloth or metal) that signifies your status (rank or membership or affiliation etc.).
27. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
28. Antipsychotic drug (trade name Mogan) used in the treatment of schizophrenia.
30. (photography) "color film".
31. A Hindu goddess who releases from sin or disease.
33. French revolutionary leader (born in Switzerland) who was a leader in overthrowing the Girondists and was stabbed to death in his bath by Charlotte Corday (1743-1793).
34. In the same place (used when citing a reference).
35. A nation in northern North America.
38. A soft heavy toxic malleable metallic element.
39. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
40. A family of Sino-Tibetan languages spoken in southeastern Asia.
43. An area in southwestern Asia whose sovereignty is disputed between Pakistan and India.
47. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
49. (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
52. A compact mass.
55. A very young child (birth to 1 year) who has not yet begun to walk or talk.
58. A fatal disease of cattle that affects the central nervous system.
60. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
61. Minute floating marine tunicate having a transparent body with an opening at each end.
64. Lap at the front of a coat.
65. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
68. A crown-like jewelled headdress worn by women on formal occasions.
70. Type genus of the Amiidae.
72. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
73. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
74. God of love and erotic desire.
76. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
77. A licensed medical practitioner.
80. One million periods per second.
81. A New England state.
82. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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



03:00 Electra Glide In Blue
04:55 Fuzz
06:25 Big Screen
06:40 Crimes And Misdemeanors
08:25 Funny Thing Happened...Forum
10:05 Adventures Of Hercules
11:35 Big Screen
11:50 Alexander The Great
14:05 Puckoon
15:30 The Real Howard Spitz
17:15 Peggy Sue Got Married
19:00 The Kentuckian
20:45 Big Screen
21:00 Shw
22:35 Restoration
00:30 Blown Away



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



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



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

08:05 Catch A Contractor
14:45 Hungry Investors
19:03 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
20:13 Frankenfood
20:37 Frankenfood
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Hungry Investors
22:30 Catch A Contractor
23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
00:00 Lip Sync Battle
00:25 Lip Sync Battle
00:50 Hungry Investors
01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
02:05 Catch A Contractor



03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:48 Henry Danger
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
05:00 Max & Shred
05:24 Henry Danger
05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:48 Winx Club
08:12 The Loud House
08:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
09:24 Harvey Beaks
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants

11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
13:00 Harvey Beaks
13:24 The Loud House
13:48 Get Blake
14:12 Rabbids Invasion
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Game Shakers
15:24 The Loud House
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24 Breadwinners
21:48 Breadwinners
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
22:36 Sanjay And Craig
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Henry Danger
00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
00:36 Max & Shred
01:00 The Haunted Hathaways
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants



03:40 Serial Killer Earth
04:30 The Universe
05:20 Ancient Aliens
06:10 Ancient Discoveries
07:00 Soviet Storm: WWII In The East
08:00 Ancient Discoveries
09:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
10:00 Serial Killer Earth
11:00 The Universe

12:00 Ancient Aliens
13:00 Soviet Storm: WWII In The East
14:00 Ancient Discoveries
15:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
16:00 Serial Killer Earth
17:00 The Universe
18:00 Ancient Aliens



03:00 Untamed & Uncut
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
07:25 Kids vs Film
07:50 Too Cute!
08:40 You Have Been Warned
09:30 How It's Made
09:55 How It's Made
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bondi Vet
12:00 Too Cute!
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Ultimate Survival
14:30 Dirty Jobs
15:20 Mythbusters
16:10 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
16:35 Kids vs Film
17:00 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
17:50 How To Build A Bionic Man
18:40 You Have Been Warned
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 How It's Made
20:45 How It's Made
21:10 Dynamo: Magician Impossible

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



03:00 Murder Among Friends
03:48 Redrum
04:36 Deadly Affairs
05:24 The Perfect Murder
06:12 Nightmare Next Door
07:00 Deadly Affairs
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
08:40 The Perfect Murder
09:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
10:20 Nightmare Next Door
11:10 Southern Fried Homicide
12:00 Deadly Affairs
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:40 The Perfect Murder
14:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
15:20 Nightmare Next Door
16:10 Murder Comes To Town
17:00 Deadly Affairs
17:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn
18:40 The Perfect Murder
19:30 I Almost Got Away With It
20:20 Nightmare Next Door
21:10 Deadly Devotion
22:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
22:50 Forbidden: Dying For Love
23:40 Steven Avery: Innocent Or Guilty?
00:30 Redrum
01:20 Obsession: Dark Desires
02:10 Forbidden: Dying For Love



03:00 Building The Biggest
03:48 Stephen Hawking's Universe
05:24 Uncovering Aliens
06:12 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
07:00 Mythbusters
07:50 Stephen Hawking's Universe
09:30 Through The Wormhole
10:20 Uncovering Aliens
11:10 How The Universe Works
12:00 Building The Biggest
12:50 Mythbusters
13:40 Stephen Hawking's Universe
15:20 Uncovering Aliens
16:10 Building The Biggest
17:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
17:50 Scanning The Skies
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 How It's Made
19:55 How It's Made
20:20 Through The Wormhole
21:10 Man v The Universe
22:00 Cosmic Collisions
22:50 How It's Made
23:15 How It's Made
23:40 Food Factory USA
00:05 Man v The Universe
00:55 Cosmic Collisions
01:45 How Do They Do It?
02:10 How It's Made
02:35 How It's Made



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 Doc McStuffins
12:15 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
12:45 The Hive
12:55 Unbungalievable
13:00 Sofia The First
13:25 Doc McStuffins
13:50 Miles From Tomorrow
14:15 The Lion Guard
14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:10 Doc McStuffins
15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:00 Sofia The First
16:25 Jungle Cubs
16:50 Aladdin
17:15 The Lion Guard
17:40 Goldie & Bear
18:05 Doc McStuffins
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

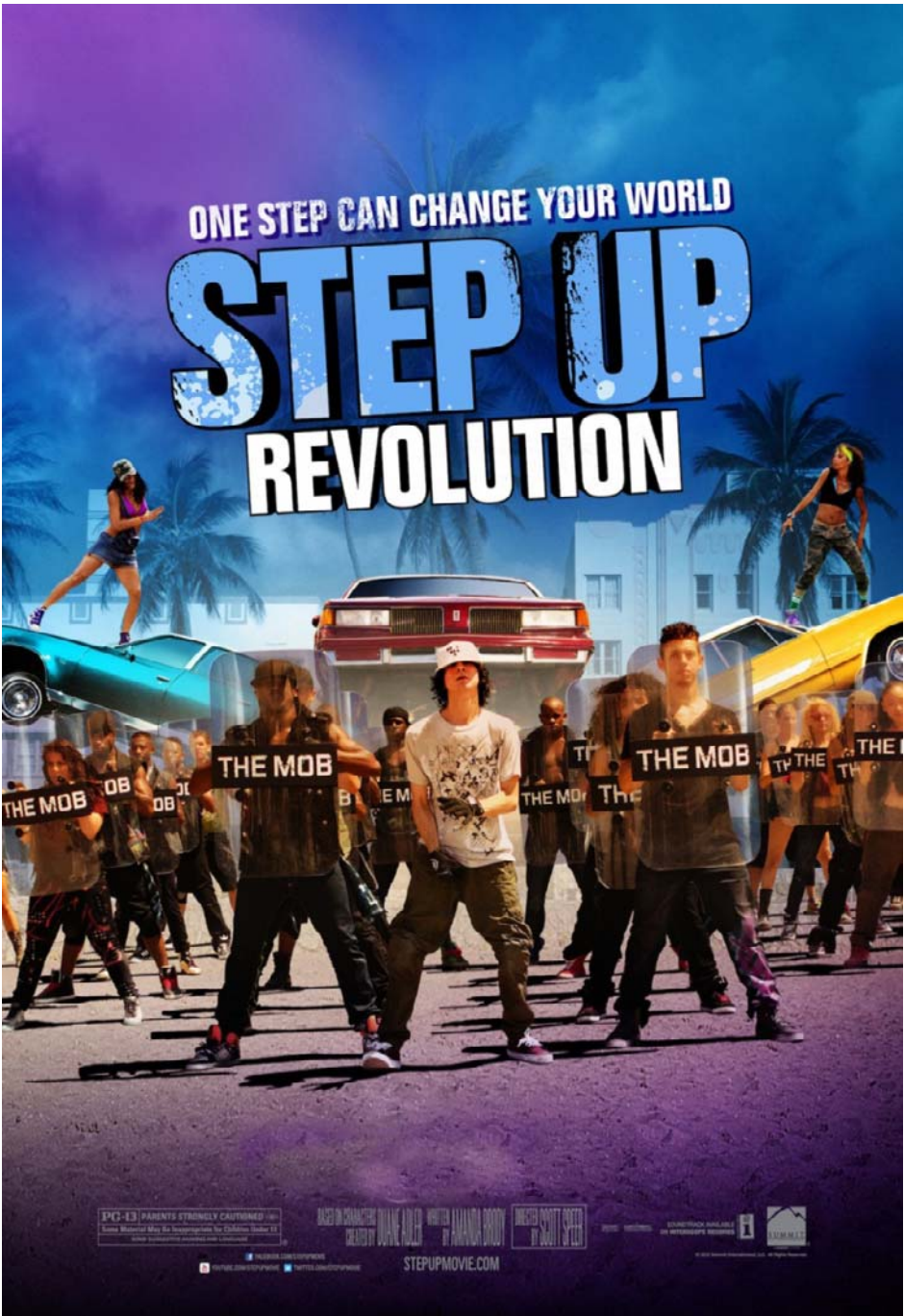
21:25 PJ Masks
21:50 Jungle Cubs
22:20 Aladdin
22:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopdidoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopdidoo
01:30 Art Attack
02:05 Calimero
02:20 Zou
02:30 Loopdidoo
02:45 Art Attack



06:00 Boyster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak
07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 Annedroids
08:40 Lab Rats
09:10 Kirby Buckets
09:35 Pokemon Series Xy: Kalos Quest
10:00 Rocket Monkeys
10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
10:50 Boyster
11:20 Boyster
11:45 Pair Of Kings
12:10 Pair Of Kings
12:35 Lab Rats
13:00 Lab Rats
13:30 Phineas And Ferb
13:55 Phineas And Ferb
14:20 Kickin' It
14:45 Kickin' It
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Supa Strikas
15:40 Supa Strikas
16:05 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
16:30 Kirby Buckets
16:55 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 Supa Strikas
18:15 Lab Rats
18:40 K.C. Undercover
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Annedroids
19:35 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
20:00 Kirby Buckets
20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
20:55 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Pickle And Peanut
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Mighty Med
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:00 Man Fire Food
04:30 Man Fire Food
05:00 Chopped



STEP UP REVOLUTION ON OSN MOVIES HD

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



03:40 American Restoration
04:05 American Restoration
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Grave Trade
06:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
06:50 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
07:40 Battle 360
08:30 American Restoration
08:55 Mountain Men
09:45 Ax Men
10:35 Swamp People
11:25 American Restoration
12:15 Counting Cars: Best Of
12:40 Counting Cars
13:05 American Pickers
13:55 Grave Trade
14:45 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
15:35 Battle 360
16:25 Counting Cars: Best Of
16:50 American Restoration
17:40 Down East Dicking
18:30 Duck Dynasty
19:20 Ax Men
20:10 Swamp People
21:00 Storage Wars Miami
21:25 Storage Wars
21:50 Criss Angel: Mindfreak
22:15 Barry'd Treasure
22:40 Battle 360
23:30 Inside Alcatraz: Legends Of The Rock
00:20 Grave Trade
01:10 Counting Cars: Best Of
01:35 Counting Cars
02:00 American Pickers
02:50 Down East Dicking



03:25 Don't Tell The Bride
04:20 Pick Me!
05:15 Pick Me!
06:10 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
07:05 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
08:00 Don't Tell The Bride
08:55 Seven Days With A
09:50 Seven Days With A
10:40 Pick Me!
11:35 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
12:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Emmerdale
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 Seven Days With A
15:35 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
16:30 Don't Tell The Bride
17:25 The Great Fire
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Emmerdale
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
20:30 Don't Tell The Bride
21:25 The Great Fire
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Emmerdale



THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG ON OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

23:40 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
02:30 Emmerdale
02:50 Emmerdale



03:05 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
03:30 Places We Go
03:55 One Man & His Campervan
04:45 David Rocco's Dolce India
05:10 World's Best Chefs
05:35 World's Best Chefs
06:00 A Model Adventure
06:50 Cesar To The Rescue
07:40 Chefs Run Wild
08:05 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
08:30 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
08:55 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
09:20 Places We Go
09:45 One Man & His Campervan
10:10 One Man & His Campervan
10:35 David Rocco's Dolce India
11:00 World's Best Chefs
11:25 World's Best Chefs
11:50 A Model Adventure
12:40 Cesar To The Rescue
13:35 Chefs Run Wild
14:00 Jose Andres: Dinner In Haiti
14:55 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
15:25 Places We Go
15:50 One Man & His Campervan
16:20 Andy And Ben Eat The World
16:45 David Rocco's Dolce India
17:15 World's Best Chefs
17:40 World's Best Chefs
18:10 A Model Adventure
19:05 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
19:30 Places We Go
20:00 One Man & His Campervan
20:25 Andy And Ben Eat The World
20:50 David Rocco's Dolce India
21:15 World's Best Chefs
21:40 World's Best Chefs
22:05 A Model Adventure
22:55 Cesar To The Rescue
23:45 Chefs Run Wild
00:10 Jose Andres: Dinner In Haiti
01:00 Glamour Puds
01:25 Home Strange Home
02:15 Meat v Veg
02:40 American Food Battle



03:45 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
04:40 1000 Days For The Planet
05:35 Ultimate Predators GPU

06:30 Africa's Deadliest
07:25 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
08:20 1000 Days For The Planet
09:15 Ultimate Animal Countdown
10:10 Cuba's Secret Reef
11:05 Hyena Queen
12:00 Shark Men
12:55 72 Dangerous Animals Australia
13:50 Africa's Deadliest
14:45 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
15:40 1000 Days For The Planet
16:35 Ultimate Animal Countdown
17:30 Hunting The Hammerhead
18:25 World's Deadliest Snakes
19:20 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
20:10 1000 Days For The Planet
21:00 Ultimate Animal Countdown
21:50 Hunting The Hammerhead
22:40 World's Deadliest Snakes
23:30 Shark Men
00:20 72 Dangerous Animals Australia
01:10 Africa's Deadliest
02:00 Dangerous Encounters
02:50 Natural Born Monsters National Geo HD
03:20 Route Awakening
03:50 Nazi Megastructures
04:45 X: The Generation That Changed The World
05:40 The Numbers Game
06:35 Secrets Of The Tang Treasure Ship
07:30 Brain Games
07:55 Brain Games
08:25 Wicked Tuna
09:20 X: The Generation That Changed The World
10:15 Locked Up Abroad
11:10 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
12:05 Megastructures
13:00 Wicked Tuna
14:00 Brain Games
14:30 Brain Games
15:00 Taiwan Medical Miracle
16:00 Locked Up Abroad
17:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
18:00 The Great Human Race
19:00 Taiwan Medical Miracle
20:00 Locked Up Abroad
20:50 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
21:40 The Great Human Race
22:30 Taiwan Medical Miracle
23:20 The Numbers Game
00:10 Locked Up Abroad
01:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
02:00 The Great Human Race
02:55 Nazi Megastructures



03:00 Odyssey
04:00 Good Morning America
06:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
07:00 Chicago Fire
08:00 Prison Break

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



04:00 Sweet Home Alabama
06:00 Nitro Circus: The Movie
08:00 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory
10:00 Sweet Home Alabama
12:00 Nitro Circus: The Movie
14:00 Three Men And A Baby
16:00 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory
18:00 Pitch Perfect
20:00 Bringing Down The House
22:00 Trust Me
00:00 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory
02:00 Pitch Perfect



03:00 Snow Dogs
05:00 The Princess And The Frog
07:00 Dr. Seuss' The Lorax
09:00 Diary Of A Wimpy Kid
11:00 Wreck-It Ralph
13:00 Mulan
15:00 Bedtime Stories
17:00 Toy Story 3
19:00 Camp Nowhere
21:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean: On Stranger Tides
23:15 Bedtime Stories
01:15 Camp Nowhere



03:30 Jersey Boys
06:00 Powder
08:00 A Beautiful Mind
10:15 Beaches
12:30 A Civil Action
14:30 Upside Down
16:30 A Beautiful Mind

19:00 Decoding Annie Parker
21:00 Breathe In
23:00 Get On Up
01:15 A Beautiful Mind



03:15 McFarland, USA
05:30 Step Up Revolution
07:15 Some Girls
09:00 McFarland, USA
11:15 Alexander And The Terrible... Very Bad Day
13:00 Big Hero 6
14:45 The Duff
16:45 Annie
18:45 The Theory Of Everything
21:00 The Walk
23:15 The Transporter: Refueled
01:00 The Gift



04:15 Blue Elephant 2
06:00 Egon And Donci
08:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
09:45 Jock The Hero Dog
11:15 Columbus In The Last Journey
12:45 Space Warriors
14:30 The Heart Of The Oak
16:00 Yellowbird
18:00 Jock The Hero Dog
20:00 The Dragon Pearl
22:00 The Heart Of The Oak
23:30 Yellowbird
01:15 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
02:45 The Dragon Pearl



04:00 Next Goal Wins
06:00 Born To Race: Fast Track
08:00 Veronica Mars
10:15 Batman: Assault On Arkham
11:45 Trigger Point
13:45 One Chance
15:45 The Grand Seduction
17:45 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I
20:00 Mortdecai
22:00 The Lovers
00:00 One Chance
02:00 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I



04:00 Good Will Hunting
06:15 Biutiful

08:30 I Am Number Four
10:30 Father Of The Bride Part II
12:30 Sister Act 2: Back In The Habit
14:30 Goal II: Living The Dream
16:30 My Bollywood Bride
18:15 Dawn Of The Dead
20:00 Thor 2: The Dark World
22:00 Mission To Mars
00:00 The Duchess
02:00 Annapolis



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



03:06 Jon & Kate Plus 8
03:30 Craft Wars
04:20 Little People, Big World
04:45 Little People, Big World
05:10 Cake Boss
05:35 Something Borrowed, Something New
06:00 Six Little Mcghees
06:49 Cake Boss
07:12 Cake Boss
07:35 Cake Boss
07:57 Cake Boss
08:22 Food Hospital
09:10 Food Hospital
09:57 Ugly House To Lovely House
10:45 Single Dad Seeking...
11:35 Say Yes To The Dress
12:00 Say Yes To The Dress
12:25 Say Yes To The Dress
12:47 Say Yes To The Dress
13:12 Say Yes To The Dress
13:35 Oprah Prime
14:25 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
15:15 Little People, Big World: Welcome To...
16:05 Little People, Big World
16:30 Little People, Big World
16:54 Little People, Big World
17:18 Love At First Swipe
17:42 Love At First Swipe
18:05 Ugly House To Lovely House
18:55 Cake Boss
19:20 Six Little Mcghees
20:10 Sister Wives
21:00 Six Little Mcghees
21:25 Six Little Mcghees
21:50 Sister Wives
22:40 7 Little Johnstons



03:00 The Leftovers
04:00 Carnivale
05:00 Longford
07:00 My House In Umbria
09:00 Earthly Possessions
11:00 Into The Storm
13:00 A Bright Shining Lie
15:00 Temple Grandin
17:00 Into The Storm
19:00 Secrets And Lies
20:00 The Sopranos
21:00 True Blood
22:00 Game Of Thrones
23:00 After The Thrones
23:30 Curb Your Enthusiasm
00:00 Secrets And Lies



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You appear perhaps more charming and refined than usual today. Intuitive insights are important for you at this time. Dive in and try your hand at whatever challenges your imagination. Any attempt to avoid confronting life at the personal level is bound to frustration. Your goals and ambitions may lead you to ignore questions of vulnerability. You can win an adversary over to your way of thinking, through logic and understanding. After you first reach out your hand to help others-it becomes fun. This may encourage you to pour a lot of energy into those around you. Do not go too fast too soon, you could become exhausted and loose interest. Your home and surroundings reflect your desire to have a well-run life. Tonight is for romance.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may decide to gather and update picture albums, club news, salvaging and preserving what is good and healthy in your experience. You begin to care more for your health and nutrition. The idea here is that you are able to analyze your experiences and eliminate what is pure and what is not. You respond to your personal needs and those of others today. You can see what is going on and you are committed to joining in the process of making things work. Relationships are so important to you that the care and tending of one could seem to be obstacles at times. You are not satisfied with superficialities. You want a lasting marriage. Tonight you may enjoy eccentric or unconventional friends in a fun dining atmosphere. You are rewarded for your caring ways.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Some of you in your family may be working for the same company or performing the same duties for different companies. No secrets are available to exchange but techniques that help with the end result of your workday are fun and make each of you feel successful. Beyond whatever external considerations may be present, you exude a contagious thankfulness and fondness for things and people. Your family becomes all-important to you and the networking between loved ones and the support you give each other is something you may devote much time to on days like this. These inner, loving qualities are experienced as a very real good. You may have a tendency to avoid sensitive subjects, but you have a powerful way of healing some sensitive circumstances.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your mind tends to settle on issues of security-home and family today. If you do not work for a security company, you may decide that now, or at your lunchtime, would be a good time to find the right security company for your own home. Professionally speaking, you are in a good place. You have good co-worker friends and there are plans to enjoy an evening together soon. You like to do research and other than work, you might do research on family background or history. You could write a fun story about the people in your family, perhaps just a paragraph or two about some meaningful or fun situation that others would enjoy reading in the future. With a sparkle in your eye, warm and friendly you will certainly enjoy this day.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Much of your own self-image is wrapped up with your ability to work with images-dreams and the imagination. You may even enjoy teaching art, music or philosophy. You could be guiding young people today. Your feelings are expressed through your action and reaction to others and life-build upon the positive. Your intuition is strong and can guide you accurately in making forecasts or decisions. There may be a desire to change your physical makeup-muscle toning, etc. If you are not teaching young people, you may be working in a bank. After work, there is one thing you and your neighbors have in common-young and old alike. You consider walking or becoming involved in some competitive games. You enjoy your life.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You have plenty of enthusiasm and warm up to things and people quickly. You have an inner self-confidence that burns with its own light. Professionally, work can be a little slow, but keep your faith in some of the changes that are taking place and you will be able to see the progress return. You may eventually find yourself in a new department; however, you are adaptable. You enjoy an overall improvement in health and attitude. You may find that both your personal growth and your career depend on how you can handle this need for patience. You may feel the need to ask many questions; however, you find ways to accomplish tasks on your own. You will benefit from analytical insights, getting to the heart of things.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You are very conservative when it comes to your personal appearance and communications with others. However, once you are motivated you could communicate with anyone. You tend to know your subject matter and can bring your ideas to others in a language that will work on many levels. You probably do not waste words. Your spiritual group may call upon you to speak to others. You have the ability to ground and make spiritual ideas a practical matter, bringing them down to earth and into everyday life. You have great discipline when it comes to working with spirituality and unity. You grasp the principles that bind things together; you are a down-to-earth type of person with a high degree of motivation when it comes to giving and to personal sacrifice.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You have great discipline when it comes to working with spirituality and unity-whatever binds or links all of us together. You would be able to teach and show others these realms. This is a time when you can expect a little boost, some sort of extra support or recognition from those around you. You may feel that you are in touch and in harmony with others; the lines of communication are open now and the support you need is there. Others may find you especially witty and a bit eccentric this afternoon. You may have insights or breakthroughs regarding your living situation or life circumstances. You may want to decorate or paint. Others value you for your independence and unique qualities. You may appear very at ease and loose today.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

The morning could be a time when everything around you seems to be in a change. You may feel challenged by others, or by circumstances. Working through problems acted out with others or combining group ideas for a solution may be the order of the morning. Discussing whatever changes need to be made now will help improve situations and allow others input. It may be time to create some new traditions. Family ties are stronger where there are rituals or social events to look forward to and plan. Also you will create ways to set aside special times for visiting with each member of your family. This is the time to make room for listening. This is a rewarding day; friends are more open and family members seem to draw closer.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may want to break that routine and try something new or different with regard to how you work on your projects. You may discover insights into day-to-day problems that will be of great value later. You are very much the creature of habit and habitat. Working in this way will help set things back into balance. Your encircling network of friends and relationships are crucial to your success or lack thereof. You are nourished in great measure by the atmosphere and conditions you are able to set up for yourself. You are most satisfied today as you accomplish your chores and improve your surroundings, perhaps by cleaning or working with plants and perhaps, animals. The good life, all that is fine and luxurious, may be what you value just now.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may have some interesting conversations with someone that has a firm political viewpoint. You experience life mostly through your emotions and how you feel about someone or something. Your intuition is strong, however and can guide you accurately in making decisions. Your sensitivity makes you recoil from aggressive types. You know and understand more than you let on and others may experience growth through simply answering your penetrating questions or by asking you questions. There is obviously a great gift for sensing the truth of any matter. You find good results with children when you help them to see the importance of structure and responsibilities. Good communication can be enjoyed with all.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Decisions made now may have to be rethought later; take your time with what you think is the answer to whatever question may arise today. You are a heavy-duty thinker and serious student; now, however, is time for a break-fun! This may mean that on the way home from work, you pick up a picnic dinner and make a few calls to get the family together for an early time at the lake. You pour a lot of energy into those around you. Your home and surroundings reflect this as well. When it comes to teaching or coaching young people, you are a natural. An active social life is beginning for you now. You will soon find that all those volunteer hours, as well as your help with young people, create the desire for others to express their appreciation.

COUNTRY CODES

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

CHINA SCHOOLS ORDERED TO CLEAR TOXIC RUNNING TRACKS

BEIJING: Schools across China have been ordered to remove running tracks made from toxic materials that have been blamed for sickening students, in the latest in a long line of product scandals blamed on corruption and weak oversight. The issue points to slack building standards at the nation's schools, underscored by the deaths of three female middle school students when a brick wall was blown over by a strong gale in the city of Shijiazhuang southwest of Beijing.

Another student was seriously injured in the incident Wednesday night, the local government reported. A statement on the Education Ministry's website said nationwide inspections by environmental and consumer protection departments have been ordered over the summer school break. Any track found to be unsafe must be removed, the statement said, while construction of new tracks will be suspended until contractors can be properly vetted to ensure they meet industry standards.

Investigations will also be conducted into officials and others found to have been negligent or corrupt. Those found guilty will be punished severely "with no mercy given," the statement said. Tracks made from recycled tires and other industrial waste are believed to have caused dizziness, nosebleeds and respiratory problems among students in Beijing and several outlying provinces. One Beijing school has already begun tearing up its track after students fell ill during a stretch of particularly hot weather.

China has suffered recurrent consumer safety scandals over recent years, prompting public outrage and driving a market for imported baby formula, cosmetics and other products. Both the toxic tracks and the collapsed wall point to problems with poor planning and shoddy construction in the nation's schools, where large class sizes and badly designed buildings have led to deadly crushing incidents. State broadcaster CCTV also recently reported an outbreak of health problems among students at a high school campus in the eastern province of Zhejiang, possibly linked to polluted soil, although local authorities said inspections turned up no environmental problems.—AP



BEIJING: A tarp covers the ground after a running track suspected to be made from toxic material was removed from the Beijing No 2 Experimental School near in Beijing, China, yesterday.—AP

WHO PLANS EMERGENCY YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION IN ANGOLA AND CONGO

KINSHASA: The World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday that it will launch emergency yellow fever vaccination campaigns along the border between Angola and Democratic Republic of Congo and in the Congolese capital Kinshasa next month. The worst yellow fever outbreak in decades has killed about 345 people in Angola, while Congo declared an epidemic in Kinshasa and two other provinces on Monday after reporting 67 confirmed cases and more

than 1,000 other suspected cases.

In a statement, WHO said that the campaign would target areas within 75-100 km (45-60 miles) of the border where there are high levels of movement and trade in order to create an "immune buffer" and prevent the disease spreading further. WHO said that the campaign would begin in July. There is currently almost no vaccine left in Congo and a new stock of more than 1 million doses may take weeks to arrive. The global stockpile of yellow fever vac-

cine has already been depleted twice this year to immunize people in Angola, Uganda and Congo. It stands at 6 million doses, but experts warn this may not be enough if there are simultaneous outbreaks in a number of highly-populated areas. The mosquito-borne hemorrhagic virus is a major concern in Kinshasa, a city of about 12 million people with poor health services, a humid climate beloved of the insects and much stagnant water where they can breed, owing to poor drainage.—Reuters

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF





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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO SATURDAY (23/06/2016 TO 25/06/2016)

SHARQIA-1 THE CALL UP NAVY SEALS VS. ZOMBIES	9:30 PM 11:30 PM	NAVY SEALS VS. ZOMBIES NAVY SEALS VS. ZOMBIES	10:00 PM 12:05 AM
SHARQIA-2 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE WARCRAFT	9:45 PM 11:45 PM	AVENUES-9 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE HASAN WA BOQLOZ	10:30 PM 12:30 AM
SHARQIA-3 HASAN WA BOQLOZ HASAN WA BOQLOZ	10:00 PM 12:05 AM	AVENUES-10 THE CALL UP THE CALL UP	9:45 PM 11:45 PM
MUHALAB-1 THE CALL UP THE CALL UP	10:00 PM 12:05 AM	AVENUES-11 WARCRAFT (Atmos 2D) NO THU CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR (Atmos 2D) NO THU	9:30 PM 12:05 AM
MUHALAB-2 GENTLEMAN - Telugu OKA MANASU- Telugu THE ASIAN CONNECTION	9:45 PM 9:45 PM 12:45 AM	360°- 1 THE CALL UP THE CALL UP	10:30 PM 12:30 AM
MUHALAB-3 THE JUNGLE BOOK WARCRAFT	9:30 PM 11:45 PM	360°- 2 PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND THE ASIAN CONNECTION	10:00 PM 12:15 AM
FANAR-1 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE JUNGLE BOOK	9:30 PM 11:30 PM	360°- 3 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	9:45 PM 11:45 PM
FANAR-2 THE CALL UP THE CALL UP	10:15 PM 12:15 AM	AL-KOUT.1 WARCRAFT NAVY SEALS VS. ZOMBIES	9:30 PM 12:05 AM
FANAR-3 UDTA PUNJAB- Hindi ROAD GAMES	9:45 PM 12:45 AM	AL-KOUT.2 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE ROAD GAMES	10:00 PM 12:15 AM
FANAR-4 ROAD GAMES WARCRAFT	10:00 PM 12:05 AM	AL-KOUT.3 THE CALL UP WARCRAFT	10:15 PM 12:30 AM
FANAR-5 ELLY JAY AHSAN (Arabic) NAVY SEALS VS. ZOMBIES	10:30 PM 12:30 AM	AL-KOUT.4 ELLY JAY AHSAN (DIG) (Arabic) X-MEN: Apocalypse	9:45 PM 12:05 AM
MARINA-1 THE CALL UP THE CALL UP	9:45 PM 12:05 AM	BAIRAQ-1 THE CALL UP THE CALL UP	9:30 PM 11:30 PM
MARINA-2 THE JUNGLE BOOK WARCRAFT	10:00 PM 12:15 AM	BAIRAQ-2 THE JUNGLE BOOK Hepta	10:00 PM 12:15 AM
MARINA-3 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE HASAN WA BOQLOZ	9:30 PM 11:45 PM	BAIRAQ-3 UDTA PUNJAB- Hindi THE ASIAN CONNECTION	9:30 PM 12:30 AM
AVENUES-1 ELLY JAY AHSAN (Arabic) PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	10:00 PM 12:15 AM	PLAZA 7 HOURS TO GO -Hindi THE CALL UP	9:30 PM 12:15 AM
AVENUES-3 UDTA PUNJAB- Hindi THE CALL UP	9:45 PM 12:45 AM	LAILA THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE CALL UP	9:45 PM 11:45 PM
AVENUES-4 THE CALL UP THE CALL UP	10:30 PM 12:30 AM	AJIAL.1 UDTA PUNJAB- Hindi THE CALL UP	9:30 PM 12:30 AM
AVENUES-5 ROAD GAMES WARCRAFT	9:45 PM 11:45 PM	AJIAL.2 JACOBINTE SWARGARAJYAM (Malayalam) JACOBINTE SWARGARAJYAM (Malayalam)	9:45 PM 12:15 AM
AVENUES-6 THE JUNGLE BOOK MIN DAHAR RAGEL - Arabic	9:30 PM 11:45 PM	AJIAL.3 7 HOURS TO GO -Hindi 7 HOURS TO GO -Hindi	9:45 PM 12:15 AM
AVENUES-7 ROAD GAMES ROAD GAMES	10:15 PM 12:15 AM	AJIAL.4 GENTLEMAN - Telugu THU GENTLEMAN - Telugu	9:30 PM 12:15 AM
AVENUES-8			

CHEF

Location: Kuwait

- Job Role: Chef or Head Cook
- Company industry: Food
- Career Level: Mid Career

Experienced in breakfast & brunch restaurant, managing a busy kitchen. Ordering & monitoring supplies. Able to follow recipes. Fluent in English both speaking and writing.

Please submit your CV to the following email:
hrpersonnelq8@gmail.com

WAITRESS

Location: Kuwait

- Job Role: Customer Service
- Company Industry: Food
- Career Level: Entry Level

Experienced in taking order & serve food & beverages to customer at tables in dining establishments. Basic math skills. Fluent in English both speaking and writing.

Please submit your CV to the following email:
hrpersonnelq8@gmail.com

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:14
Shorook	04:50
Duhr:	11:50
Asr:	15:24
Maghrib:	18:51
Isha:	20:23



Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381

Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2016

EGYPT TO OFFER 4G LICENSES IN INTERNATIONAL AUCTION

PAGE 38



US jobless claims fall to near 43-year low

Page 41



TOKYO: Pedestrians walk past an electronic stock indicator in the window of a security company in Tokyo yesterday. Tokyo shares ended higher in light trading yesterday as millions in Britain began voting in a too-close-to-call referendum on their country's future in the European Union. — AFP

STERLING HITS 2016 HIGH AS 'REMAIN' HOPES SOAR

WIDE SWINGS EXPECTED ONCE UK VERDICT IS OUT

LONDON: Sterling hit a 2016 high and the euro surged against the dollar and yen yesterday after a series of late opinion polls favored Britain staying in the European Union and bookmakers odds indicated a further shift towards the "Remain" camp. An Ipsos MORI poll for the Evening Standard, conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday, showed 52 percent of British voters would opt to remain while 48 percent would opt to leave. An online Populus poll showed support for an "In" vote at 55 percent.

Earlier polls by ComRes and by YouGov also showed a last-minute rise in support for Britain to remain in the EU. Sterling rose 1.5 percent in morning trade in London to top \$1.49 for the first time this year. "The market is clearly now pricing in, with near certainty, a "Remain" vote... I do think a "Remain" vote is more likely, but not with the degree of certainty that appears to be now priced," said

Adam Cole, head of G10 currency strategy at RBC Capital Markets.

The pound, and to a lesser extent the euro, have been buffeted since February, by opinion poll results which have swung from predicting a clear victory for the government-led "In" camp to a narrow vote for a "Brexit". Odds on the Betfair betting exchange have slumped from 40 percent last Thursday before the killing of pro-EU lawmaker Jo Cox to just 14 percent on Thursday. But the final polls still remain within the margin of error.

"The early results are potentially going to be very confusing," Cole said. "If this is the starting point (with which) we go into the 10 o'clock polls and the results, there's a lot of scope of volatility, to the downside."

Sterling is up around 4 percent this week but the options market shows record levels of uncertainty about its fate over the next 24 hours. Overnight sterling implied volatilities

were quoted as high as 125 percent, levels at which traders said it was effectively impossible for fund and corporate buyers to trade. It dropped towards 40 percent around mid-day as the currency rallied. Voting will end at 2100 GMT (2200 BST), with results expected early today. Pollster YouGov will publish a poll of how people have voted shortly after polling stations close, hoping to repeat its successful prediction of the 2014 Scottish independence vote. Banks have warned clients about volatile trading conditions around the results which may lead to large gaps in prices. Barclays stopped accepting new "stop loss" orders as of 0600 GMT, an extremely rare move for one of the big six banks that dominate the world's biggest financial market.

"These are very challenging conditions," said Yujiro Goto, currency strategist at Nomura, warning of a sharp fall in sterling if there are signs of a "Leave" vote after polls close.

IMPROVING RISK SENTIMENT

Rising expectations that Britain would vote to stay in the EU bolstered overall risk sentiment, helping higher-yielding currencies and dampening demand for safe-haven currencies like the yen and the Swiss franc. Nevertheless, nervousness is expected to prevail for the next 24 hours as liquidity stays on the lower side. That is likely to lead to wild swings in most currency pairs.

"The pound will take centre stage. But other European currencies and particularly dollar/yen also bear watching as the pair will reflect swings in risk sentiment," said Shin Kadota, chief Japan FX strategist at Barclays.

The dollar was up 1.3 percent at 105.86 yen, while the euro jumped 2 percent to a two-week high of 120.91 yen. The single currency hit a six-week high of \$1.1422, moving in sympathy with the rising British pound. — Reuters

SAUDI GULF AIRLINES GRANTED LICENSE FOR SAUDI FLIGHTS

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has granted SaudiGulf Airlines a license to operate domestic flights within the kingdom, the first such award in a long-planned liberalization of the aviation market, state news agency SPA reported.

SaudiGulf, based in the eastern city of Dammam, received regulatory approvals from Saudi Arabia's General Authority of

Civil Aviation (GACA) on June 9 and was granted its air operator certificate in a formal ceremony in Riyadh on Wednesday night. Previously, only national carrier Saudi Arabian Airlines and budget operator National Air Services were allowed to serve a domestic market of about 27 million people.

Foreign carriers could fly in and out of

Saudi Arabia, but not within the country. The Saudi authorities began accepting applications to allow other airlines to operate internal flights in 2012 and SaudiGulf, owned by the Abdel Hadi Al-Qahtani & Sons group, had initially planned to start operating internal flights in 2014.

The "Arab News" website reported that SaudiGulf will begin domestic flights in

September and expects to start international flights to Dubai by the end of the year. Representatives of SaudiGulf were not available for immediate comment yesterday. Qatar Airways, through its subsidiary for the Saudi market, Al Maha Airways, also received an initial carrier license in 2012 but has yet to be given final approval to operate flights in the kingdom. — Reuters

News

In Brief

Kuwait oil price up 51 cents to \$44.96pb

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwait oil went up by 51 cents to reach \$44.96 per barrel Wednesday after being at \$44.45 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. At the world level, the price of oil increased Wednesday due to US energy expectation regarding the decrease in American crude reserves last week by 5.2 million barrels. The price of future contracts of the American crude went up by 46 cents to reach \$50.31 per barrel, the same case occurred with the Brent mix which went up by 33 cents to \$50.31 pb.

US dollar down to KD 0.300

KUWAIT: The exchange rate of the US dollar against the Kuwaiti dinar went down to KD 0.300, while the euro went up to reach KD 0.341 yesterday, compared to Wednesday's rates, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). The CBK said in its daily bulletin that the exchange rate of the Sterling Pound increased to stand at KD 0.443, while the Swiss Franc stabilized at KD 0.313. The Japanese Yen was unchanged at KD 0.002. Weakness appears in the dollar continued after the Federal Reserve meeting which saw installation of monetary policy and interest rates unchanged. The euro rose for the second day in a row in the light of the high demand for major currencies in financial markets amid voting in a historic referendum on whether the UK should remain a member of the European Union or leave.

KSE main indices edge lower on closing

KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange closed yesterday's session with fall of the three main indices, with the price index losing 1.18 points reaching 5,407 points. The weighted index lost 0.06 points and Kuwait-15, 2.73. Value of traded shares reached upon closing KD 8,989 million and volume of traded stocks was some 66,885 million, done in 1,858 deals.

Oman's Jan-March budget deficit swells to \$4.3bn

MUSCAT: Oman's government posted a budget deficit of 1.64 billion rials (\$4.3 billion) in the first three months of 2016 compared with a 545 million rial deficit a year earlier, as low oil export prices slashed its revenues, provisional Finance Ministry data showed yesterday. Oman's statistics office stopped publishing monthly public finance data in December last year, and resumed doing so with figures for January-March 2016. It gave no explanation for the interruption of data. The government's original 2016 budget plan envisaged state expenditure of 11.9 billion rials and revenues at 8.6 billion rials. Officials said their 2016 economic plans assumed an average oil price of \$45 a barrel.

Egypt sugar production reaches 2.2 million tons

ABU DHABI: Egypt's local production of sugar has exceeded 2.2 million tons this year, Agriculture Minister Essam Fayed said yesterday, meaning the country has reached 77 percent self-sufficiency. Fayed said in a statement that local consumption is usually around 3.1 million tons meaning there is a consumption deficit of 900,000 tons.



JAKARTA: An Indonesian woman purchases cookies at a street stall in Jakarta yesterday. The weakening global economy has directly affected the economy and Indonesia must rely on domestic economic growth sources this year, the minister of finance Bambang Brodjonegoro said earlier this week. — AFP

EGYPT TO OFFER 4G LICENSES IN INTERNATIONAL AUCTION

4G PART OF PLAN TO REFORM TELECOMS SECTOR, END MONOPOLY

CAIRO: Egypt said yesterday it will offer fourth-generation mobile licenses in an international auction if they are not taken up by carriers already operating in the country. The sale of 4G licenses is part of a long-awaited plan to reform Egyptian telecoms and the regulator has approached the three companies currently offering mobile services - Orange Egypt, Vodafone Egypt, and Etisalat about buying them.

Egypt's government will finalize technical negotiations with telecoms groups over the licenses next week and start financial negotiations the week after, Communications and Information Technology Minister Yasser Al-Kadi told Reuters. "If any of the companies say they don't want the 4G license we will offer it in an international auction," he said. The reforms will enable landline monopoly Telecom Egypt to enter the mobile phone market directly, while allowing the mobile operators to offer fixed line services, ending Telecom Egypt's domination of the sector. Telecom Egypt will not be required to sell its stake in Vodafone Egypt but will eventually dispose of it when it gets a good offer, telecommunication sources told Reuters. The state-owned company owns a 45 percent stake in Vodafone

Egypt but hopes to offer mobile phone services itself following the introduction of high-speed 4G technology.

Telecom Egypt said earlier this week it was studying the terms in detail ahead of applying for the 4G license. Egypt said in 2014 when it laid out the 4G plan that Telecom Egypt would be allowed to offer mobile services if it paid 2.5 billion Egyptian pounds (\$282 million) and sold its Vodafone stake within a year of offering the services. The government says a uni-

fied license will put all four telecoms companies on an equal footing and end a monopoly, it also hopes to collect a total of 22.3 billion Egyptian pounds from licence fees, which will be collected in a lump sum and not over instalments, Kadi said. All four companies have to submit applications for the license by the first week of August. The mobile operators will also be able to apply for landline and international gateway licenses. — Reuters

CBD CLOSES IN ON UP TO \$500M LOAN

DUBAI: Commercial Bank of Dubai (CBD) is expected to sign a three-year loan in the next few days worth up to \$500 million to refinance existing debt, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters yesterday. Gulf banks are keen to raise funds as liquidity comes under pressure from lower oil prices and before possible further hikes in borrowing costs later in the year if the US Federal Reserve raises interest rates again.

Dubai's largest bank, Emirates NBD, was due to sign a three-year loan of as much as \$1.5 billion this week. Eight

to 10 banks are providing the CBD loan including Citigroup, National Bank of Abu Dhabi, Commerzbank and Standard Chartered, two of the sources said. Commerzbank was coordinating the loan, they said.

The loan carried all-in pricing, which is inclusive of margin and fees, of 155 basis points over the London interbank offered rate (Libor), the sources said.

Two of the sources said CBD was looking for \$500 million but might have to settle for \$450 million if it could not get sufficient uptake. — Reuters

GOLD HITS TWO-WEEK LOW AS BRITAIN VOTES

LONDON: Gold fell to a two-week low yesterday as the last sweep of opinion polls before Britain's referendum on EU membership began gave the campaign to stay in the bloc a slight edge.

Britons were voting yesterday in the referendum that has divided the nation. The polling will close at 2100 GMT, with results expected early today. Spot gold was down 0.2 percent at \$1,263.26 an ounce by 1149 GMT, after hitting \$1,258.25, its lowest since June 9. The metal, often perceived as a hedge against economic and financial uncertainty, reached a near two-year high on June 16, as wider markets reacted to mounting concerns over the prospect of Britain pulling out of the EU and sought protection in 'safe' assets. They also included German bunds, the Swiss franc and Japan's yen, but the rally was short-lived.

"The fear we had mid last week about Britain leaving the EU appears to be waning and that's also why gold has retreated," Julius Baer analyst Carsten Menke said. "In case of a 'Leave' win, any rise in gold would not be long lasting because this would not result in a deep economic or financial crisis," Menke said, adding that a "Remain" vote would see prices fall towards the \$1,200 mark. Polls by ComRes, conducted for the Daily Mail newspaper and ITV television, and by YouGov for The Times newspaper in London, showed a last-minute rise in support for Britain to remain in the EU.

In wider markets, sterling hit a 2016 high against the dollar and world stocks climbed for a fifth day running. Investors piled on near-term bullish and bearish options bets on Wednesday, racing to protect against price swings during Britain's vote, data showed. — Reuters

'FOCUS ON CARS', IT PIONEER TELLS ROMANIA'S SOFTWARE STARS

BUCHAREST: Romania has emerged as one of Europe's most active technology hubs, with the IT industry posting stellar growth and benefiting from a highly-skilled local labor pool as well as one of the fastest internet speeds in the world. To keep up momentum and cement its reputation, Romania's best-known technology pioneer says local developers should focus on creating software for the car and global services industries-shunning local market needs in favor of more mature, lucrative sectors.

Multinational companies such as Oracle, IBM and Intel have set up in the former communist country in customer support, business process outsourcing and software development, and young entrepreneurs have launched a wave of new startups, creating an industry with turnover of 3.1 billion euros (\$3.5 billion) in 2015. IT is becoming ever more important to the national economy the sector exports around 70 percent of its output, and could generate around 3 percent of GDP in three years' time, according to an industry study.

"The Romanian technology industry doesn't stand a chance if it develops products exclusively for the local market, because its needs are 10-15 years behind that of mature markets," said Florin Talpes, chief executive of Bitdefender, a home-grown cyber security company with half a billion users worldwide. "If we look at which Romanian markets are mature and state of the art, that is where I would recommend developing technology industries," he told Reuters in an interview.

Romania's auto industry is one of the eastern European country's main growth drivers, through carmaker Dacia, owned by French Renault and Ford. Romania is also home to countless car parts producers and research centres.

"Intelligent cars, connected cars are a main theme in at least five of these research and development centres," said 59-year-old Talpes. Set up in the 1960s after Romania signed a licence contract with Renault, Dacia cars were for decades the ubiquitous automobile of communist Romania.

Renault acquired Dacia in 1999 and the no-frills brand has since developed into a top seller for Renault, which is working on driver-less technology and car connectivity-enabling occupants to connect to the Internet and cloud services.

Another potential growth area was the IT services sector, where local software engineers should develop value-added products for the dominant multinationals present in Romania. — Reuters

FIAT CHRYSLER RECALLS 13,000 MASERATI CARS

QUATTROPORTE AND GHIBLI CARS FACE 'ROLLAWAY' PROBLEM

WASHINGTON: Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV's Maserati unit is recalling 13,092 Quattroporte and Ghibli luxury cars in the United States because they may roll away after drivers mistakenly believe they have engaged the vehicles in 'park' mode, documents posted on a government website yesterday showed. In April, Fiat Chrysler recalled 1.1 million vehicles worldwide over the same issue, including the 2012-2014 Dodge Charger and Chrysler 300 sedans and 2014-2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee sport utility vehicles, over a confusing gear-shift lever.

The new recall covers 2014 Maserati cars with an eight-speed transmission. The company didn't immediately respond to questions about whether the recall covers any vehicles outside the United States. The earlier recall

was linked to 41 injuries, 212 crashes and 308 reports of property damage, and came after the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) opened an investigation in August into the issue and upgraded the probe in February.

Maserati North America said in documents posted with NHTSA it was unaware of any injuries or crashes linked to the issue. The company said it had received an inquiry from NHTSA in February about the use of the shifter that was under government investigation in other Fiat Chrysler vehicles.

Maserati told NHTSA it had received no complaints of vehicles rolling away. The agency told Maserati on May 24 it believed Fiat Chrysler should recall the vehicles posing the same rollaway

potential as the vehicles recalled in April. Maserati agreed to the recall on June 1, but it wasn't made public by NHTSA until yesterday.

Maserati is investigating whether a software re-flash will fix the problem and hopes to have the fix ready later this year. Fiat Chrysler said on Wednesday it was speeding up its software fix for 1.1 million recalled vehicles for rollaway risks, like the recalled Jeep Grand Cherokee that was involved in the recent death of "Star Trek" actor Anton Yelchin. Yelchin, 27, was killed when his 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee rolled away and pinned him against a fence and mailbox in Los Angeles, police said on Sunday. Police haven't determined if the recall defect was to blame for his death. — Reuters



BELGRADE: A flight attendant of the Serbian national carrier Air Serbia holds a ribbon during a ceremony yesterday at Belgrade Airport, for the first commercial flight to New York after a 24-year interruption caused by the conflicts that ravaged the former Yugoslavia. — AFP

AIR SERBIA FLIES TO US AFTER 24-YEAR HIATUS

BELGRADE: An Air Serbia plane took off from Belgrade for New York yesterday the company's first direct flight to the United States after a 24-year interruption which began during the Balkan conflicts. The direct connection "will boost our economic growth and bring our country closer to the United States and American people", said Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic at the launch, also attended by US ambassador Kyle Scott.

Departing in the morning after a 40-minute delay, the flight was to due to reach New York's JFK airport in ten

hours. The service is set to run five times a week.

In 1992 JAT Airways-the Yugoslav predecessor of Air Serbia-stopped its direct flights to the United States after international sanctions were slapped on the country over Belgrade's role in the bloody conflicts surrounding the break-up of the former Yugoslavia.

Air Serbia is now the only regional airline offering direct flights to the United States, and a company official said 15,000 tickets have already been sold, according to state-run media. — AFP

UKRAINE LOWERS INTEREST RATE FOR 3RD TIME THIS YEAR

KIEV: Ukraine's central bank lowered its main interest rate for the third time in three months yesterday and promised more easing to come in its winning fight against runaway inflation. The step follows the bank's confirmation that the war-scarred nation had pulled out of a two-year recession and saw its economy expand in the three months ending in March at an annual pace of 0.1 percent.

The discount rate's reduction to 16.5 from 18 percent followed a one percentage point cut in May and a three percentage point drop in April. "A further easing of the monetary policy as a whole corresponds to our inflation targets for 2016 and 2017," National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) chief Valeriya Gontareva told reporters.

She stressed "improving inflation expectations and a stable situation on the currency market" as positive signs for the cash-starved state. Ukraine's inflation rate hit nearly 50 percent at one point last year while the currency has lost about two-thirds of its value since Kiev's conflict with Moscow over Crimea and the separatist east began in early 2014. The former Soviet republic saw its prices rise by 43.3 percent last year and its ties with foreign lenders frozen by parliament's obstruction of belt-tightening measures prescribed by the International Monetary Fund. But lawmakers spent recent weeks approving a raft of IMF-backed measures and also confirmed a new government in April that ended months of political gridlock. Consumer prices rose by just 7.5 percent in May compared to the same month last year—a slowdown that keeps Ukraine on track to reach its headline inflation rate target of 12 percent by the end of the year.

The central bank expects prices to rise by just eight percent in 2017. "Favourable foreign economic conditions resulted in increased export earnings and an improved foreign exchange market situation," the central bank added in a statement.

"Under these conditions, the NBU, using a flexible exchange rate, purchased foreign currency to replenish international reserves, leaving an opportunity for moderate exchange rate strengthening caused by fundamental factors."

IMF troubles

But not everything on the economic front remains as rosy as Kiev would like. Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman announced Tuesday that Ukraine this year would only receive \$1.7 billion (1.5 billion euros) from the IMF. That money was due to be issued last year under the terms of a \$17.5-billion bailout the Fund approved in 2015 to help Ukraine's leaders along on their westward path.

Ukraine has only received \$6.7 billion of the package and no new disbursements since August 2015 due to Kiev's resistance to the tough and unpopular measures prescribed under the IMF's program. The government had originally expected to receive \$5.6 billion from the Fund this year. — AFP

TESCO REPORTS SECOND STRAIGHT QUARTER OF UK SALES GROWTH

LONDON: Tesco, Britain's biggest retailer, reported on Thursday a second successive quarter of UK underlying sales growth, the first time it has done so in more than five years, signalling its recovery is making steady progress under CEO Dave Lewis. Tesco said sales at stores in its home market open more than a year rose 0.3 percent in the 13 weeks to May 28, its fiscal first quarter.

That compared with analysts' forecasts of flat to up 0.5 percent and built on growth of 0.9 percent in the previous quarter—its first quarter of UK underlying sales growth for over three years. Group like-for-like sales grew 0.9 percent, boosted by strong international sales, which were 3 percent higher. "We are encouraged by the progress we are making," said Lewis. "I am confident that the improvements we are making for customers are working and will create long-term value for our shareholders." Lewis cautioned, however, that the market remained challenging, with Britain's supermarket sector intensely competitive and experiencing price deflation.

Tesco warned in April that profit growth would be harder to deliver this year than last, given the ongoing price war against traditional supermarket rivals including Sainsbury's, plus fast-growing German discount chains Aldi and Lidl.

Though former Unilever executive Lewis has impressed investors with his decisive action since replacing the sacked Phil Clarke in September 2014, Tesco's shares have still fallen 22 percent over the last year, reflecting the difficult market. — Reuters



KIEV: People examine the first bench with a built-in solar panel installed in the center of Kiev for the free charging of mobile devices using USB ports. The city authorities plan to install more of the benches if the idea takes hold. —AFP

GERMANY EMBRACES GLITZY OFFICES TO SHAKE UP CORPORATE CULTURE

SIEMENS, ADIDAS, ZALANDO OFFICES COST HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS

MUNICH/HERZOGENAURACH: Major German companies are investing in ambitious new buildings designed to attract top staff and encourage innovation, seeking to create a more dynamic corporate culture and keep pace with US rivals despite investor concerns about the cost.

Germany is competing in a global race for top talent, particularly in technology and design, as firms such as Apple and Facebook work on futuristic campuses with gardens, fitness facilities and gourmet restaurants. Siemens opens new headquarters in downtown Munich today, a move it hopes will help Chief Executive Joe Kaeser's drive to open up the engineering giant founded in 1847 to new ideas, loosen hierarchies and increase staff engagement.

Sportswear firm Adidas and fashion site Zalando are also investing hundreds of millions of euros in new offices in Germany. Investors have questioned how much glitzy buildings can really help improve performance. Apple's new "spaceship" campus is now well behind schedule and over budget at \$5 billion.

After the near collapse of Royal Bank of Scotland in 2008, its new 350 million-pound (\$518 million) headquarters was dubbed "Fred's Folly" after disgraced former CEO Fred Goodwin.

Shareholders have also complained about an upgrade of PepsiCo's headquarters, set amid lakes and fountains. Siemens says it is investing a figure in the "low triple-digit millions" of euros in its building, which collects rainwater to flush toilets and will use 90 percent less electricity and 75 percent less water than its predecessor.

"I remain to be convinced whether this is the best use of shareholders'

money. At least Siemens are deploying the most energy-efficient technologies," said Barclays analyst James Stettler. All three German office projects are introducing open-plan, shared desks, a big change given the country's hierarchical corporate culture in which most managers sit separately from their teams in closed offices.

SITTING WITH THE BOSS

The firms say they are not only trying to save space, but also encourage employees to interact more with each other. "Our new headquarters is a place where encounters occur," Siemens CEO Kaeser said this week.

A Massachusetts Institute of Technology study found that 35 percent of a team's performance can be predicted by the number and quality of face-to-face interactions its members have. In contrast to the massive, closed, out-of-town campuses Apple and Facebook are working on, the Siemens building in central Munich will allow the public to walk through new inner courtyards and exhibition spaces and use the ground-floor cafe. "The new headquarters will make Siemens itself more accessible and open," said Zsolt Sluitner, chief executive of Siemens Real Estate.

The office has 1,100 desks for 1,200 staff and will introduce a "clean desk" policy, with staff required to use a storage space for their personal items when they head home.

Adidas has already had some experience with the approach. It is building a new office for more than 2,000 employees but decided to test new workplace designs on about 300 staff in the meantime and also roll them out to other offices globally. Priya Kohli, a soccer

marketing expert, has been part of the pilot project. "You get to speak to different colleagues. It helps massively with relationships," said the 33-year-old from London. The fact that Kohli's boss no longer has his own office is an added bonus: "If you are sat beside him, it is completely different than if you have to knock." Adidas has spent more than 500 million euros (\$566 million) on its headquarters outside Herzogenaurach in rural southern Germany as it competes with bigger U.S. rival Nike, which is also expanding its campus in Beaverton, Oregon. "You're losing your one fixed working place but gaining 10 new places," said Christian Dzieia, Adidas property development director. "Successful buildings provide great places for communication and spontaneous interaction." At Zalando, Europe's biggest online fashion firm currently building a new campus in the heart of Berlin for 5,000 staff costing 140 million euros, the challenge is to retain the start-up vibe that companies like Siemens and Adidas want to promote.

"The advantage at Zalando is that we already have a lot in our culture that will define the future of work but we need to maintain it," said Frauke von Polier, Zalando's human resources chief.

Eric Bowman, head of engineering at Zalando who previously worked in Silicon Valley, said European firms have an advantage over US rivals because there is a better work-life balance. He cited Silicon Valley firms locking away their staff for 20-hour days on increasingly fancy company campuses that provide for all their needs apart from sleep. "I don't really want to hire children. I want people to have a life outside work," he said. — Reuters

AFRICA'S RICHEST MAN GOT A FISTFUL OF DOLLARS IN NIGERIAN CURRENCY SQUEEZE

LAGOS/LONDON: As Nigeria grapples with a foreign exchange crisis, one person stands out in the scramble to obtain hard currency: Aliko Dangote, Africa's richest man. When the government restricted the supply of dollars in June 2015 to prop up the value of the Nigerian naira, firms owned by Dangote landed a healthy share of dollars available at the cheap official rate, a study by Reuters shows.

Reuters examined foreign currency transactions made during an 11-week period in March to May this year. Over that time, Dangote businesses were able to buy at least \$161 million in hard currency from the central bank. That was around nine percent of all the hard currency the bank sold over the period. In a single week in March, one dollar in every eight went to Dangote companies. There is not enough data to see how that stacks up with the companies' share of foreign trade.

Compared with buying dollars on the more expensive unofficial market, though, Dangote companies benefited to the tune of about \$100 million. The wrangling for dollars highlights Dangote's pivotal role as Africa's biggest economy tries to diversify away from oil.

Over the past year, Nigeria pegged its currency, the naira, to the US dollar at an official rate of 197-199 naira. The central bank doled out dollars at the official rate to companies it deemed strategic to the Nigerian economy. Until June 20, when the bank abandoned the peg, anyone else had to pay a lot more on the black market. Small businesses complained that the foreign exchange restrictions were forcing them out of business. Frank Jacobs, president of the Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria, said that the majority of manufacturers - 2,000 of them - had been unable to source raw materials because they could not obtain dollars to pay for imports. Up to 100 firms either shut completely or cut production, he said. "The large companies have better clout." Dangote's purchases were entirely legal, and some economists say the 59-year-old deserved such special treatment because he has promised to build a much-needed oil refinery. He also has a track record helping Nigeria become more self-sufficient in cement and food.

Dangote Group, the parent firm, declined to comment. Dangote Cement said it had received enough dollars. "We believe that we are being treated fairly and we do not receive preferential treatment," Chief Financial Officer Brian Egan said by email. The central bank did not respond to written requests for comment. Reuters' calculations are based on foreign exchange purchase data which the Nigerian government required banks to publish. Reuters examined every transaction that Dangote's companies made between March 1 and May 13. One newspaper, This Day, calculated a weekly total of all the published official transactions. Reuters used this total to analyse Dangote's share. It is difficult to assess whether Dangote companies received more cheap dollars than anyone else because data for all currency transactions is not available. — Reuters



NEW DELHI: Manager, Asia Pacific and India Sales Section, Overseas Sales Department, IT Products Business Division (ITPBD), AVC Network Company, Panasonic Corporation, Kensei Isaki, poses with the Panasonic Toughbook CF-20 during the launch in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP



MIAMI: Nicole Kelly (left) interviews Angelo Falcone for a bartender job at a job fair held by The Genuine Hospitality Group, in Miami. Yesterday, the Labor Department reports on the number of people who applied for unemployment benefits a week earlier. — AP

US JOBLESS CLAIMS FALL TO NEAR 43-YEAR LOW

WEEKLY JOBLESS CLAIMS DECLINE 18,000

WASHINGTON: The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits fell last week to near a 43-year low, suggesting labor market resilience even though hiring slowed sharply in May. The drop in jobless claims could give Federal Reserve officials more confidence that job growth will pick up.

Fed Chair Janet Yellen told lawmakers on Tuesday that the US central bank believed the slowdown in nonfarm payroll gains was "transitory," noting that "several other timely indicators of labor market conditions still look favorable." "Overall labor market conditions are not as bad as one might assume based on May's nonfarm payroll print alone," said Jim Baird, chief investment officer at Plante Moran Financial Advisors in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Initial claims for state unemployment benefits declined 18,000 to a seasonally adjusted 259,000 for the week ended June 18, the Labor Department said yesterday. The drop was the largest since February and left claims not too far from a 43-year low touched in March. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast initial claims falling only to 270,000 in the latest week.

Claims have now been below 300,000, a threshold associated with a strong job market, for 68 straight weeks, the longest streak since 1973. The four-week moving average of claims, considered a better measure of labor market trends as it irons out week-to-week volatility, fell 2,250 to 267,000 last week. US financial market were little moved by the report as investors anxiously awaited the results of Britain's referendum on European Union membership late yesterday.

The claims report covered the survey period for June nonfarm payrolls. The four-week average of claims declined 8,750 between the May and June survey periods, suggesting an improvement in job growth after payrolls increased only 38,000 in May -

the smallest increase since September 2010. Labor market optimism is being spurred by near record high job openings, as well as the very low layoffs. Yesterday's claims report showed the number of people

still receiving benefits after an initial week of aid fell 20,000 to 2.14 million in the week ended June 11. The four-week average of the so-called continuing claims slipped 4,500 to 2.15 million. — Reuters

JAPAN'S KIUCHI WARNS OF CB'S DWINDLING TOOL-KIT

KANAZAWA: Dissenting Bank of Japan board member Takahide Kiuchi said the central bank should review its negative interest rate policy and inflation target timeframe, while warning there wasn't much it could do to help the economy in the event of a severe market shock.

With markets nervous as polls opened in Britain's referendum on membership of the European Union, Kiuchi said the BOJ was ready to offer emergency liquidity via market operations if turmoil follows a vote to leave. But he said the central bank, which is already nearly three years into a huge asset-buying stimulus program and in January adopted negative interest rates, had little left in its tool-kit to boost growth if market mayhem threatened Japan's fragile economic recovery.

"I don't think the BOJ has technically reached the limits (of monetary easing). But it's hard to come up with steps with positive effects that outweigh the long-term demerits," he told reporters after meeting with business leaders in the western coastal city of Kanazawa yesterday.

Earlier he said the prolonged period of ultra-low interest rates brought about by the BOJ's asset purchases and the negative rates decision had destabilised the bond market and damaged the cen-

tral bank's credibility. "The additional (positive) effects of quantitative and qualitative easing have been diminishing," he told the business leaders. "On the other hand, numerous side effects of QQE seem to be increasing steadily," he said. Kiuchi's views are not shared by the majority on the BOJ's nine-member board, but his doubts over Governor Haruhiko Kuroda's radical stimulus policies are gradually gaining support among lawmakers and policymakers, including some at the bank.

SUPPLY-SIDE PROBLEMS

The BOJ's policies are aimed at ending two decades of deflation and stagnant growth, but nearly three years of aggressive money printing has failed to accelerate inflation, which fell for the second straight month in April as external headwinds discouraged firms from raising wages and keep households from spending. The shock decision on negative interest rates, which Kiuchi voted against, had impaired the credibility of the bank's monetary policy by reducing the predictability of its actions, he said. The move has also failed to address an unwelcome rise in the yen, while Japanese shares have weakened, drawing criticism that the BOJ had succeeded only in confusing rather than calming markets. — Reuters

PUIG RUNS THE BASES ON CRAZY PLAY IN DODGERS WIN

LOS ANGELES: Yasiel Puig raced home for the winning run on his own single after center fielder Michael Taylor let the ball skip by him for a three-base error, and the Los Angeles Dodgers rallied to beat the Washington Nationals 4-3 on Wednesday night. Puig broke into a sprint at first base after Taylor overran the rolling single to left-center field. Howie Kendrick scored easily from first base, and Puig dove home to beat the throw from the outfield. The Dodgers have won six straight - five in comeback fashion - and completed a sweep of the NL East-leading Nationals. Taylor was also 0 for 5 with five strikeouts from the leadoff spot. Wilson Ramos hit a solo homer in the eighth inning to put Washington ahead 3-2. Chris Hatcher (5-3) got one out in the ninth inning and the win. Shawn Kelley (1-1) allowed the singles to Kendrick and Puig in the ninth.

YANKEES 9, ROCKIES 8

Starlin Castro hit a game-ending home run to lead off the bottom of the ninth. New York trailed 8-4 going into the seventh, but Carlos Beltran's three-run homer helped bail out CC Sabathia after his worst outing of the season. It was the first career walkoff homer for Castro, who smashed the second pitch he saw from Jason Motte (0-1) to left field. Sabathia had allowed just four earned runs total over his previous seven starts. He gave up five in 4 1/3 innings Wednesday. Chase Headley also had a second-inning grand slam for the Yankees. Nick Hundley and Ryan Raburn homered for the Rockies. Aroldis Chapman (1-0) pitched a perfect ninth for the win.

METS 4, ROYALS 3

Matt Reynolds snapped a sixth-inning tie with his first major league home run, leading Noah Syndergaard and New York past Kansas City a two-game sweep in their World Series rematch. Asdrubal Cabrera homered for the second straight day and scored with an acrobatic slide to help Syndergaard (8-2) win his sixth consecutive decision. The only bad news for banged-up New York was another injury, this one to Yoenis Cespedes. The star slugger had two hits and a walk, including a double off the center-field wall, but was removed in the sixth because of discomfort in his left wrist. Cheslor Cuthbert homered for the Royals, who had won eight of nine when they arrived at Citi Field. Joakim Soria (3-3) took the loss for Kansas City. Addison Reed pitched the eighth, setting up Jeury Familia for his major league-leading 24th save.

CARDINALS 7, CUBS 2

Michael Wacha pitched into the seventh inning for his first win in nearly two months and St. Louis waited out Jake Arrieta before roughing up Chicago's bullpen in a victory over the Cubs. Aledmys Diaz hit a two-run home run, and Matt Carpenter had a two-run double in a five-run sixth after Arrieta (11-2) left the game. The Cardinals won their eighth straight road game - their longest streak since 1982 - and completed their first three-game sweep at Wrigley Field since 1988. Arrieta was charged with two runs - one earned - and four hits in five innings as he struggled with control (four walks) and pitch count (106). Wacha (3-7) allowed two hits until rookie Willson Contreras' one-out, two-run homer in the seventh ended his day as he snapped a seven-game skid.

ASTROS 3, ANGELS 2

Jose Altuve homered and Marwin Gonzalez's tiebreaking RBI triple in the eighth inning helped Houston to its fifth straight win. George Springer singled with one out before



LOS ANGELES: Yasiel Puig #66 of the Los Angeles Dodgers slides home for an inside the park homerun to win the game 4-3 over the Washington Nationals during the ninth inning at Dodger Stadium. —AFP

Gonzalez hit a towering fly ball just to the right of straightaway center field off Matt Shoemaker (3-8). Shane Robinson sprinted up Tal's Hill to grab it, but it sailed just out of his reach before Robinson crashed into the padded wall, allowing Springer to score and make it 2-1. Houston added an insurance run on a groundout by Carlos Correa in the eighth. Will Harris allowed a run-scoring single by Kole Calhoun with one out in the ninth, but Yunel Escobar was out at second on the play. Harris then retired Mike Trout for his sixth save. Luke Gregerson (2-1) struck out one in a scoreless eighth for the win.

WHITE SOX 8, RED SOX 6

Brett Lawrie hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning after Melky Cabrera had a tying, two-run shot to lift Chicago. The White Sox have won the first three games of a four-game series. Dan Jennings (3-1) got four outs for the win. Zach Duke got the final three for his first save and third of his career. Cabrera tied it with a drive into Chicago's bullpen off Koji Uehara (2-3).

GIANTS 7, PIRATES 6

Buster Posey threw out John Jaso attempting to steal second base to end the game after Joe Panik's two-run double capped a three-run sixth inning that helped San Francisco rally from an early five-run deficit. NL West-leading San Francisco has won 11 of its last 13 and scored 73 runs in that stretch. The Giants' Jeff Samardzija matched the shortest start of his nine-year career with just three innings. Rookie Derek Law (3-1), who was born and raised in Pittsburgh, pitched two innings after Samardzija for the win. Santiago Casilla worked around a leadoff single in the ninth for his 15th save. Jared Hughes (0-1) gave up all three sixth-inning runs.

ORIOLES 7, PADRES 2

Ubaldo Jimenez interrupted his exile to the bullpen with a sharp performance in a starting role, and Baltimore got its 1,000th win at Camden Yards. Mark Trumbo and Ryan Flaherty homered for the first-place Orioles, who also got two RBIs from Matt

Wieters. Jimenez (4-7) gave up two runs and four hits in six innings, walking three and striking out seven. The right-hander lost his spot in the rotation earlier this month after a series of poor outings, including a clunker in Toronto on June 12 in which he yielded five runs and got only one out. But Jimenez received this spot start after Mike Wright was demoted to the minors, and he overcame a shaky first inning to show some of the prowess the Orioles expected when they signed him to a four-year, \$50 million contract in 2014. Erik Johnson (0-3) allowed six runs and nine hits, including two homers, in four innings.

INDIANS 6, RAYS 1

Trevor Bauer threw a three-hitter for his second career complete game, Jason Kipnis hit a two-run homer and Cleveland got its sixth straight win. Bauer (5-2) struck out 10, walked one and allowed only one runner past second base. It was the second straight three-hitter for the Indians, following Corey Kluber's in a 6-0 win over the Rays on Tuesday. Kipnis' homer highlighted a three-run first inning off Chris Archer (4-10). Carlos Santana drove in two runs while Jose Ramirez and Francisco Lindor also had RBIs. Cleveland leads the AL Central and has won 11 straight at Progressive Field. The Indians are also 11 games over .500 (41-30).

RANGERS 6, REDS 4

Cole Hamels struck out eight in six solid innings, Prince Fielder had a two-run single and Texas got a split in the two-game inter-league series. The Rangers, who have the American League's best record at 47-26, went ahead to stay with four runs in the fourth off Dan Straily (4-4). Hamels (8-1) scattered five hits, walked two and allowed only one run.

BLUE JAYS 5, DIAMONDBACKS 2

Russell Martin hit a three-run homer, Edwin Encarnacion and Troy Tulowitzki added solo shots and Toronto snapped Arizona's five-game winning streak. JA Happ (9-3) won his third straight start and maintained his streak of never having given up more than two earned runs in his fifth start

against the Diamondbacks, who left nine runners on base. Roberto Osuna picked up his 14th save. Robbie Ray (4-6) lasted 5 1/3 innings, giving up four hits and four earned runs with eight strikeouts.

TIGERS 5, MARINERS 1

Steven Moya homered twice, and Detroit withstood a shaky fifth inning from right-hander Michael Fulmer. Miguel Cabrera also went deep for Detroit, and reliever Kyle Ryan (2-2) helped the Tigers stay comfortably ahead after Fulmer went through some control problems in the fifth. Hisashi Iwakuma (6-6) allowed five runs and 11 hits in 4 2/3 innings. The Mariners have lost five straight.

BREWERS 4, ATHLETICS 2

Scooter Gennett and Kirk Nieuwenhuis homered to back Junior Guerra's first victory in more than a month, and Milwaukee earned a split of its quick two-game inter-league series against Oakland. Guerra (4-1) struck out eight over seven innings while facing the A's for the first time in his career. Tyler Thornburg finished for his second save. A's starter Daniel Mengden (0-3) struck out nine in his third career start.

MARLINS 3, BRAVES 0

Adam Conley pitched a career-high eight innings and Miami broke Atlanta's six-game winning streak. Conley (4-4) became the first Marlins starter to pitch eight innings this year. AJ Ramos gave up a pair of two-out singles in the ninth but earned his 32nd consecutive save, including 23 this year. John Gant (1-2), making his third career start, gave up three runs in 5 2/3 innings.

TWINS 6, PHILLIES 5

Max Kepler made up for a costly error with a tying single in the fifth inning and the go-ahead sacrifice fly in the seventh as Minnesota handed Philadelphia its ninth straight loss. Kepler's fly ball to left off reliever David Hernandez (1-2) in the seventh drove in Trevor Plouffe with the tiebreaking run. Taylor Rodgers (3-0) worked a scoreless seventh and Fernando Abad got the last four outs for his first save. — AP

FEDERER REACHES CROSSROADS AT WIMBLEDON

LONDON: Fifteen years after famously stunning Pete Sampras at Wimbledon, seven-time champion Roger Federer returns to the All England Club with his career at a crossroads and his confidence at crisis point. The 34-year-old Swiss, holder of a record 17 Grand Slam titles, is without a major since Wimbledon in 2012 and is enduring arguably the toughest year of his career.

Injury forced him to skip the French Open ending a streak of 65 successive appearances at the Slams stretching back to 1999. He has failed to add to his 88 titles this year, his longest drought since 2000 and has suffered back-to-back semi-final losses in Stuttgart and Halle, both on grass which has been his preferred surface of domination.

In an indication of changing times, his last-four loss in Stuttgart to Alexander Zverev was his first against a teenager in 10 years. But the Swiss star is adamant that he can still be a winner even if clinching an

eight crown at Wimbledon would make him the oldest ever champion in south-west London, surpassing Arthur Ashe who was a month shy of his 32nd birthday when he lifted the trophy in 1975.

"I think if my movement gets better and then the baseline game improves a little bit, I'll be better on the big points, on the return and also in less trouble on my own service games," said Federer. "But I'm okay and I'm pleased. I'm feeling now we've got enough time before Wimbledon to get ready for that."

Supporters and doubters

The fact that Federer has reached the last two Wimbledon finals is testament to his capacity to surprise both his supporters and doubters. The problem, however, is that he lost both those championship matches to Novak Djokovic, the world number one who currently holds all four majors and is halfway

to the first calendar Grand Slam since 1969.

Djokovic leads their head-to-head only by 23-22, but has claimed their last four clashes at the majors. Federer hasn't defeated the Serb at a Slam since the Wimbledon semi-finals in 2012. "Is Djokovic now the man to beat? Absolutely. Does he deserve to be where he is? 100 per cent. But is he beatable? Yes, of course he is. I beat him three times last year," Federer told the Guardian this week.

Wimbledon has always been Federer's home-from-home even if his first two visits as a pony-tailed contender with a short fuse and dream one-handed backhand ended in first round losses. But his fourth round defeat of seven-time winner Sampras in 2001 marked him out as the American's natural heir even if 2002 saw a woeful first round exit to Mario Ancic.

That blip was forgotten 12 months later when he won his first Wimbledon, spiking

the heavy artillery of Mark Philippoussis in the final. Since then, he has enjoyed more successes than setbacks. Federer won the title every year between 2003 and 2007, adding two more in 2009 and 2012.

In between, he lost the 2008 final to Rafael Nadal in what is widely-regarded as the finest men's championship match in history, a five-set epic which ended in semi-darkness. However, there was also a shock second round exit to world number 116 Sergiy Stakhovsky in 2013. Federer was 31 then and the career obituaries were being composed. They have been dusted off a few times since. "Don't you understand that playing tennis is great fun? I don't need to win three slams a year to be content," he told the Guardian. "If the body doesn't want to do it, if the mind doesn't want to do it, if my wife doesn't want me to do it, if my kids don't like it, I'll stop tomorrow. Zero problem." — AFP

MURRAY DELIGHTED TO SEE BRITS FINALLY PACK PUNCH

LONDON: As Andy Murray watched a ferocious forehand from Kyle Edmund whistle past him, the world number two ruefully realized that the future of British tennis might finally be in good hands. Since the retirements of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski in 2007, former Wimbledon champion Murray has been Britain's lone standard bearer in the upper echelons of the men's tour.

But the 29-year-old's recent experiences at Queen's Club suggests a new generation could be worthy of following in his footsteps just in time for the start of Wimbledon on Monday. For years, Murray's compatriots have been dispatched from their home Grand Slam in such a hurry that the tournament is usually not more than 24 hours old before the blame game begins as the British media turn their guns on everyone from the players to the Lawn Tennis Association and the sporting public's apathetic attitude to tennis outside Wimbledon.

Such has been the dearth of quality players to emerge from Britain since Murray burst onto the scene in 2005 that the Scot's Queen's second round tie against Aljaz Bedene was the first time he had played a fellow Brit since an encounter with Henman a decade earlier. Slovenia-born Bedene batted gamely before succumbing to a straight sets defeat that gave both the world number 55 and Murray encouragement that there is better to come from the 26-year-old. "He serves well, has a nice forehand and he's quick," Murray said. "He'll get better. I don't think 58 or 50 will be his best ranking. He'll go higher than that."

Breakthrough

Perhaps even more significantly, the genteel lawns of Queen's, where Murray picked up the oversized trophy for a record fifth time, provided the setting for 21-year-old Edmund's breakthrough moment. At the venue where Murray clinched his first tour-level match win 11 years ago, South Africa-born Edmund gave a brilliant display to defeat French world number 18 Gilles Simon in the first round.

In a year in which the world number 68 has already won two second-tier Challenger tournaments, there was more evidence of Edmund's vast potential when he matched Murray blow for blow in the Queen's quarter-finals. Keeping Murray on the back foot with his powerful groundstrokes and bullet serve, Edmund became the first player to take a set off the defending champion in this year's tournament. And although Murray eventually recovered to win in three sets, his Davis Cup team-mate had done enough to convince him of a bright future. "If you want to get to the top of the game, you need to have weapons and he has them," Murray said. "The forehand, it's a big shot, but the serve isn't slow either. So when he's landing first serves and then getting the first shot of the rally on his forehand, he can dictate a lot of points. 'I've spent a lot of time with him on the practice courts and there's no reason why he can't get himself up into the top 20 in the world. From there you never know.'" —AFP



LONDON: In this Aug 4, 2012, file photo, Mike Bryan, right, and Bob Bryan, left, of the United States, kiss their gold medals after the medal ceremony of the men's doubles final match at the 2012 Summer Olympics at the All England Lawn Tennis Club at Wimbledon. — AP

RISING STAR THIEM, TOP US MAN ISNER SKIPPING OLYMPIC TENNIS

PARIS: Mike Bryan panicked a bit, understandably, when he received a phone call about the burglar alarm sounding at his home back in the US while he was at the French Open. "The first thing I thought about is: 'Where's the gold medal? I don't think my wife hid it in the sock drawer,'" half of the most successful doubles team in tennis history recounted with a laugh. "And it was still there. Thank God. If the house burned down, I'd probably try to save some pictures, but otherwise, the gold is the first thing you'd run for. Can't replace that."

'Glory of the Olympics'

For all of his duo's records - 16 Grand Slam doubles championships, more than 100 tournament titles, more than 435 weeks at No 1 - there is nothing

Bryan cherishes more than the gold medal he and twin brother Bob won at the 2012 London Olympics. Which is why he would never miss a chance for a medal, something six of the top 25 men in the ATP singles rankings will do by sitting out the Rio de Janeiro Games. "It's playing for your country. It's playing for the glory of the Olympics," Bryan said. "I'm a little surprised there are some big names skipping it."

He wasn't talking about two-time NBA MVP Stephen Curry or Rory McIlroy, the four-time major golf champion who announced Wednesday that he wouldn't go to Rio because of concerns about the Zika virus. No one of their level of stardom withdrew from the Olympic tennis event, but there is a growing group of absentees, including Dominic Thiem, a 19-year-old rising star

from Austria who is ranked No. 8, reached his first major semifinal at Roland Garros this month, and beat Roger Federer on grass just last week. Also staying away: the top American man, John Isner, who is ranked 17th; Australia's two best players, No. 18 Nick Kyrgios and No. 19 Bernard Tomic; No. 21 Feliciano Lopez of Spain; and No. 24 Kevin Anderson of South Africa.

"I would say (it's been) 70 to 80 per cent, probably, negative feedback I have received. The other 20 percent ... recognized my feelings on it," said Isner, who competed at the 2012 Games. "I have been told (it's) 'unpatriotic.'"

Noting that the field isn't finalized, WTA CEO Steve Simon said Wednesday he is not aware of any female tennis players pulling out of Rio. "We haven't heard it yet," Simon said. —AP



MIAMI: In this March 1, 2016 file photo, Chicago Bulls Derrick Rose (1) goes past Miami Heat's Amar'e Stoudemire (5) as he goes to the basket during the first half of an NBA basketball game. — AP

FORMER NBA MVP DERRICK ROSE TRADED FROM BULLS TO KNICKS

NEW YORK: Derrick Rose was once writing a great NBA story, the hometown kid leading the Chicago Bulls to their greatest heights since Michael Jordan. Then injuries set in, and Rose may never again play at that dazzling level.

The player he is now could still be an upgrade for the New York Knicks. The Knicks acquired Rose from the Bulls on Wednesday, hoping the former NBA MVP can be their answer at point guard. New coach Jeff Hornacek said recently the Knicks needed a point guard and Rose was one of the NBA's best before multiple knee injuries slowed the former No. 1 pick's career. He played in 66 games last season, his most in five years, and averaged 16.4 points.

"This is an exciting day for New York and our fans," Hornacek said in a statement. "Derrick is one of the top point guards in the NBA who is playoff battle-tested. He adds a whole new dynamic to our roster and immediately elevates our backcourt." New York sent center Robin Lopez and guards Jose Calderon and Jerian Grant to the Bulls in the deal. The Knicks also received guard Justin Holiday and a 2017 second-round pick, and waived point guard Tony Wroten.

Rose, 27, struggled just to get on the court over the last four years, and the Bulls dealt him on the eve of the NBA draft with a year left on his contract. "Derrick has meant a lot to this organization and to this city and to this team and has had to overcome a lot over the years with all the injuries to get back to

the point he was," Bulls general manager Gar Forman said. "But in putting our plan together, we felt as a first step this really made sense for us."

Disappointing first season

After missing the playoffs in a disappointing first season under Fred Hoiberg, the Bulls decided to move on without the player they selected with the top pick in the 2008 draft. It seemed a perfect fit when Rose carried Chicago to the top of the Eastern Conference in the 2010-11 regular season, earning MVP honors and leading the franchise to success it hadn't enjoyed since Jordan took the Bulls to their last of six titles in 1998 - when they were coached by current Knicks President of Basketball Operations Phil Jackson.

But Rose wrecked his knee for the first time in the playoffs the following year and no longer has the speed that once made him one of the league's most dynamic young stars and a seemingly perennial All-Star, often now settling for unreliable jumpers when he once sped past whoever tried to stay in front of him.

Rose hasn't been back to the All-Star Game since 2012 and has often had trouble just playing in the real games. He sat out all of the 2012-13 season, made it back for 10 games in 2013-14 and appeared in a little more than half the Bulls' games in 2014-15. "He has been through a lot with the injuries. You really have to admire how he continues

to work and fight through everything that he's been through," Forman said. "In moving forward, we thought the players we were getting in this deal made sense in what we're trying to accomplish."

And he could be worth the risk for a Knicks team that has struggled to generate offense. The veteran Calderon and Grant, a first-round pick last year, were on the roster of a team that started well but faltered badly in the second half on the way to a 32-50 season. The Knicks are expected to transition to a quicker attack under Hornacek than the triangle offense they ran under Derek Fisher and Kurt Rambis, and Rose is better suited for that than anyone the Knicks had.

Carmelo Anthony and Kristaps Porzingis will benefit if Rose can do it, though they could miss Lopez in a frontcourt that was the team's strength last season. Lopez averaged 10.3 points and 7.3 rebounds while starting every game in his only season in New York after leaving Portland for the Knicks last summer. Rose has averaged 19.7 points and 6.2 assists in 406 career games. The last few years have been hard on him, as they have the Knicks, and maybe they can find success together.

"Derrick's going to have a very good year. We're all very confident of that. And we wish Derrick nothing but the best," Forman said. "I hope he has a terrific year, but at the end of the day we had to make a decision we felt was best for us moving forward." — AP

CHICAGO'S PATRICK KANE WINS THE HART TROPHY AS NHL MVP

LAS VEGAS: After Patrick Kane added three more awards to his overflowing trophy case, he took a moment to appreciate his new place in American hockey history. The Chicago Blackhawks' NHL scoring champion won the Hart Trophy on Wednesday night, becoming the first player born and trained in the US to be named the league's most valuable player.

Kane also claimed the Ted Lindsay Award after his fellow players recognized him as the game's most outstanding player at the league's annual postseason awards show in Las Vegas. He even accepted the Art Ross Trophy in recognition of leading the league with his 106-point season - another first for an American player.

"I definitely feel very fortunate," Kane said. "It's amazing to me that there's no American that's ever won the scoring title or the MVP award, because there's been so many great American players. Guys like (Chris) Chelios, Brian Leetch, Mike Modano, Joe Mullen, Jeremy Roenick. Guys that have had great careers. I don't know if I was lucky or fortunate to be in that position, but it's pretty amazing to see some American record you hold now. It's pretty exciting." Kane began his remarkable season under the cloud of a sexual assault allegation made against him in his native Buffalo area last summer. The Erie County District Attorney's office eventually declined to move forward on the case in November, saying it was rife with reasonable doubt.

26-game scoring streak

After running away with the scoring title in a season that included a 26-game scoring streak, Kane was the runaway winner of the Hart, getting 121 of the 150 first-place votes. Sidney Crosby finished second with 11 first-place votes, while Dallas' Jamie Benn was third. At just 27 years old, Kane is already a hockey great after winning three Stanley Cups with the Blackhawks, who lost in the first round of the post-season this year.

"It's been quite a ride, obviously," said Kane, the Blackhawks' first Hart winner since Stan Mikita in 1968. "A lot of great moments along the way. I feel like at 27 right now, hopefully there's some more in the cards." After several years in which repeat winners dominated the league honors, every major trophy went to a first-time winner at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. Braden Holtby of Washington finished fourth in the Hart voting, but won the Vezina Trophy as the NHL's top goalie after tying Martin Brodeur's league record with 48 victories.

"I'm not a big guy on awards or records, but the wins record, we got to share as a team," Holtby said. "The commitment it took to make that possible was definitely cool to be a part of." His coach, Barry Trotz, won the Jack Adams Award for the first time in 17 seasons behind an NHL bench, recognizing the Capitals' league-best regular season.

Los Angeles Kings captain Anze Kopitar won the Selke Trophy as the NHL's best defensive forward and the Lady Byng Trophy for his gentlemanly play. His teammate, Drew Doughty, took home his first Norris Trophy as the NHL's top defenseman. — AP



LAS VEGAS: Chicago Blackhawks' Patrick Kane poses with the Art Ross Trophy, left, the Hart Trophy, center, and the Ted Lindsay Award after winning the awards at the NHL Awards show. — AP



KUWAIT SHOOTING SPORTS CLUB OPENS JAHRA BRANCH

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait Shooting Sports Club opened its Jahra branch on Wednesday evening under the patronage of Jahra Governor Lt General, Pilot (Ret) Fahad Ahmad Al-Amir. President of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations, member of ISSF Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi, MP Adel Al-Ruwaiee, Deputy General Manager of Public Authority for Sports Ahmad Al-Khazal, Former MP Dr Mohammad Al-Busairi, Qasar area Mayor Khalid Al-Hajaj, Secretary General of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Obaid Al-Osaimi and Assistant

Secretary General Engineer Mohammad Misfer Al-Ghurba attended the opening.

The Jahra governor said he was happy to patronize the opening ceremony, adding the facility came about due to the efforts of those taking care of the sport of shooting headed by Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi and KSSC board members.

Al-Amir said we will not forget the support and efforts of Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, adding that the KSSC Jahra branch will serve a large section of the governorates youth, especially at this time during school break.

Meanwhile, Eng Duaij Al-Otaibi said in his opening speech said Kuwait Shooting Community is happy with the opening of the Jahra branch, which will expand the sport in the Jahra governorate, and will motivate its youth to get involved in a sport that is a large part of their heritage. He said we were keen on the opening of Jahra branch which comes along with a tournament, the first in this club.

Al-Otaibi concluded by thanking the political leadership which provided all means of support to Kuwait shooting to enable it execute its plans and programs, to achieve a quality move and reach the goals set to enable Kuwait shooters participate and win in

all international, continental and regional events.

Results of the tournament are as follow:

10m air rifle:

Rashid Abdalla

Abdelaziz Al-Shimmari

Salman Obaid

19m air pistol:

Abdelrahman Ibrahim

Majid Marzouq

Abdelaziz Abdallah

Archery:

Mishal Al-Mutairi

Nasser Nayef Al-Harby

Salman Al-Shimmari.



BRADY HEROICS TAKE IRELAND INTO LAST 16

FAN FERVOR



LILLE: Robbie Brady struck with just five minutes remaining as the Republic of Ireland claimed a dramatic 1-0 win over Italy in Lille on Wednesday to reach the knockout phase of Euro 2016. Brady's goal arrived just when it looked as if Ireland were heading out due to a combination of Italy goalkeeper Salvatore Sirigu and Romanian referee Ovidiu Hategan.

Ireland had to win the match at the Stade Pierre-Mauroy against an Italian side already assured of first place in Group E and got the win they needed to set up a last-16 tie against hosts France. Before Brady struck, Sirigu, standing in for Gianluigi Buffon in the Italian goal, made a superb save to deny Daryl Murphy while Hategan twice waved away Irish penalty appeals in the first half.

"It's what dreams are made of. We have done the job for everyone who came to see us and all the Irish fans around the world," said Brady. "It is a proud night for myself and fantastic for the team." Coach Martin O'Neill made four changes to the side that lost 3-0 to Belgium last weekend in Bordeaux as Ireland looked for their first win over Italy in a competitive match since the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

James McClean and Daryl Murphy started while it was all change in central defence with Richard Keogh and Shane Duffy chosen to partner one another. With top spot in the group sewn up and with one eye on their last-16 tie against Spain next Monday, Italy coach Antonio Conte made eight changes to his side.

The lack of rhythm of what was essentially an Italian B team played into the hands of Ireland, who came out of the traps flying, adrenaline pumping and with



LILLE: Ireland's midfielder Robert Brady scores a goal past Italy's goalkeeper Salvatore Sirigu during the Euro 2016 group E football match between Italy and Ireland at the Pierre-Mauroy stadium in Villeneuve-d'Ascq.—AFP

a vast support behind them. The roof was closed at the stadium, a decision which had the effect of raising the noise levels but also helped to protect a shocking pitch from further deteriorating before it is replaced for the knockout rounds.

The surface may not have lent itself to flowing football but Jeff Hendrick showed great technique to fashion a shooting opportunity on his left foot that flew inches wide from 20 metres out early on. Murphy, who had never scored for Ireland in 21 previous appearances stretching back nine years, came closest to breaking the deadlock in the first half with a header from Brady's 21st-minute corner that was

tipped over by Sirigu.

Penalty controversy

Ireland were the better side and were twice left fuming at the match officials as penalty calls went against them in the final five minutes of the half. First the Romanian referee and his assistants failed to spot Angelo Ogbonna wrestling with Murphy in the area and then he ruled that Federico Bernardeschi played the ball fairly as he took out McClean.

In between those two incidents which increased the temperature inside the arena, Italy threatened as Ciro Immobile shot narrowly past from 25 yards.—AFP

CHILE DOWN COLOMBIA TO REACH COPA FINAL

CHICAGO: Chile stormed into the Copa America final here Wednesday, beating Colombia 2-0 in a weather-disrupted semi-final that took more than four hours to complete. The defending champions advanced to a repeat of last year's final against Argentina on Sunday after a whirlwind start left Colombia chasing the game. Chile, who had destroyed Mexico 7-0 in the quarter-finals on Saturday, picked up where they left off, scoring twice in the opening 11 minutes to take a grip on the contest.

Bayer Leverkusen midfielder Charles Aranguiz opened the scoring in the seventh minute before Jose Pedro Fuenzalida made it 2-0 after 11 minutes. "It's a good feeling to be back in the final again after overcoming difficult opponents," Chile coach Juan Antonio Pizzi said. "We got off to a good start, played aggressively and had a lot of anticipation. That helped us score the goals." Chile's explosive start to the contest was overshadowed by the intervention of Mother Nature at half-time, as a powerful electrical thunderstorm rolled into downtown Chicago and halted play. Tens of thousands of spectators were ordered to take shelter inside the stadium, leaving the ground empty as torrential rain pounded the stands. For a while it looked as if play would be abandoned, with the teams forced to return to the venue on Thursday to complete

the remaining 45 minutes.

However a break in the weather allowed teams of ground staff to set about clearing excess water from the field, and after a delay of two hours and 25 minutes, the second half resumed at 10:25pm local time (0325 GMT). "It was hard to stay focused, for those hours,"

Pizzi said. "Just sitting in the dressing room waiting for something." When play got under way both sides produced one of the most entertaining halves of the tournament, Colombia attacking relentlessly in an effort to get back into the match and Chile chasing a third goal to kill the game off.—AFP



CHICAGO: Chile's Charles Aranguiz (C) dribbles past Colombia's Edwin Cardona and Daniel Torres (R) during the Copa America Centenario semifinal football match.—AFP

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LILLE: Ireland's Jeff Hendrick, left, and Italy's Simone Zaza go for the ball during the Euro 2016 Group E soccer match between Italy and Ireland at the Pierre Mauroy stadium in Villeneuve d Ascq. — AFP

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