SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016

RAMADAN 21, 1437 AH

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Fighters edge into IS border hub; airstrikes kill 47 in Syria



Erdogan meets Hamas chief amid reports of Israel deal



Poland beat **Switzerland** to book Euro quarterfinals



Visa fee, traffic fines' increase pushed to next Assembly term





GERMANY, FRANCE PRESS UK FOR QUICK EU DIVORCE

Min 33° Max 47°

High Tide

04:18 & 15:01 **Low Tide**

09:42 & 10:23

STERLING FALLS TO LOWEST LEVEL IN DECADES; MOODY'S ISSUES WARNING

Ramadan Kareem

MY GREATEST TEACHER

By Teresa Lesher

Ramadan was a person, she would be the toughest teacher you ever had - the one who had strict rules, gave lots of homework, and drilled you until she was sure you understood the lessons she was trying to teach. Or Ramadan would be your coach who made you train hard, demanding more of you than you thought you could handle, challenging you every day until you mastered the moves or continually beat your previous times.

These are the people who not only believed in the value of what they taught, but even more so, they believed in your capacity for achievement and growth. They worked you hard because they wanted you to succeed. They didn't just want you to pass their test or win the race, they wanted to change you forever - to transform you into a confident, disciplined and ambitious person. They wanted you to win.

These are the people we feared, obeyed, respected, and eventually loved. These are the people who impacted our lives in untold ways, making us our best selves. We vaguely remember the grueling work and pain of their ways, but we will never forget what we learned about ourselves and how they made us feel. Similar in every way, Ramadan has been my greatest teacher and coach. Ramadan has returned every year to remind me what I need to do to succeed, and to prove to me that I can do it.

In the early years, it was about submitting my will to my Creator's will. I fasted because the Quran said, "Those of you who see the month shall fast." (2:185). It was hard, very hard. But I did it. Year after year, I fulfilled the requirements. But Ramadan wasn't satisfied with mere compliance. There was much more to learn. I could have cheated. Nobody could have known for sure if I was really fasting. But I didn't, and that's when fasting honed my sincerity and integrity.

If I were fasting for the people, to fit in or meet social or cultural expectations, I would have cheated all those times when I missed suhoor and started my fast on an empty stomach.

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KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti vendor holds British Pound banknotes at a money exchange shop in Kuwait City yesterday. The British Pound has plunged to its lowest rate since 1985 after the United Kingdom's vote to exit from the European Union. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

LONDON: Germany and France led demands yesterday for Britain to negotiate a quick divorce from the European Union, with Paris warning that populism will otherwise take hold after the vote to leave the bloc sent shockwaves around the world. The European Central Bank added to the pressure by saying Britain's financial industry, which employs 2.2 million people, would lose the right to serve clients in the EU unless the country signed up to its single market - anathema to "leave" campaigners who are set to lead the next government in London.

Britain's decision to leave the EU, the world's largest trading bloc, is the biggest blow since World War Two to the European project of forging greater unity. In the country itself, divisions widened after the relatively close result in Thursday's referendum. Scotland's first minister said she wanted to open negotiations directly with Brussels, saying the option of a second independence referendum should be "on the table". South of the border in England, other pro-EU Britons also pondered their uncertain future, with the Daily Mirror newspaper asking: "So what the hell

Prime Minister David Cameron announced on Friday he would resign after Britons voted 52-48 percent to exit the EU, a result which sent global stock markets plunging, and inflicted the biggest one day drop on sterling in history. But Cameron promised to stay on as a caretaker until October while the Conservative Party chooses a new leader, saying it was up to his successor to notify the EU formally that Britain wanted to leave under the Lisbon Treaty, which provides for two years of divorce proceedings.

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SAUDI, UAE SEE BREXIT 'HAVING LITTLE IMPACT'

ABU DHABI: Two Gulf states said yesterday they did Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority Governor Ahmed Neighboring United Arab Emirates also said yesterday not anticipate their financial institutions to be greatly affected as a result of Britain's vote to exit the European Union. Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter and OPEC heavyweight, said it had already made some adjustments to assets denominated in sterling and euros in anticipation of the vote.

The Kingdom had been monitoring the situation and made the changes as a "precautionary stance,"

Al-Kholifey was quoted as saying by state news agency SPA. "For the banking sector, we expect that the impact will be limited, because it is less exposed to the two aforementioned currencies' movements," he

Saudi Arabia's foreign assets are mainly denominated in US dollars, in the form of securities such as US Treasury bonds and deposits with banks abroad.

any effect on its financial institutions as a result of Britain's EU exit would be limited. "Due to the limited interconnectedness between the UAE and UK financial systems, there are only few channels through which uncertainty about future UK and EU relations could affect the UAE financial institutions," the country's central bank said in a statement, asserting it would continue to monitor developments. — Reuters



during the World's Ugliest Dog Competition in Petaluma, California. Sweepie Rambo went on to take first prize winning \$1,500. — AFP

IRAN TARGETS 'VULGAR WESTERN' DOG OWNERS

TEHRAN: Dog lovers in central Iran are in uproar after authorities began confiscating their pets in an apparent crackdown on the "vulgar Western culture" of canine ownership, Iranian media reported yesterday. One unnamed dog owner in Shahin Shahr in Isfahan province told Iran's Shahrvand newspaper that officials had shown up suddenly at his house last week. "We were shown a piece of paper indicating they were from the municipal veterinary office. They came in and took away our dogs under the pretext of vaccination," he said.

The owner was told he could recover the dog after its vaccination, but when he went to the vet's office they had no record of his case. Instead, the newspaper said the confiscations were the result of a crackdown launched by local prosecutor Mohsen Boosaidi. "Keeping and caring for dogs is haram (forbidden) according to religious leaders," Boosaidi told the Fars news agency on June 19. "If we find out that anyone is keeping and caring for dogs and so is promoting vulgar Western

culture, we will deal with them firmly."

Dog confiscations in the town began three days later, Shahrvand reported. It did not give precise numbers, but said a number of families had lost their pets. "Ever since our dog was taken away, you only hear the sound of crying and sobbing in our house," the Shahin Shahr owner said. Javid Al-e Davood, the head of Iran's Society For Protection of Animals, said such confiscations were illegal and that the prosecutor was "absolutely wrong" about the Islamic attitude to dogs.

"Keeping dogs has not been regarded as haram in any religious book. Associating keeping dogs with Western culture is distorting the history of Islamic and Iranian civilization," he said. Dogs are considered najes (unclean) in Islam and police often stop and fine dog walkers. However, Iran's authorities have stated that dogs with a clear role-such as guarding property or guiding the blind-are per-

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23 DEAD IN WEST VIRGINIA FLOODS

FIVE KILLED AS JIHADISTS STORM **SOMALIA HOTEL**

MOGADISHU: At least five people were killed vesterday in an attack on a hotel in the Somali capital Mogadishu that was swiftly claimed by Al-Qaedaaffiliated Shabaab militants. The assault, the latest by the Shabaab group targeting hotels and restaurants in recent months, was led by a suicide attacker driving a car laden with explosives, the jihadists said in an online statement.

As night fell in Mogadishu, sporadic gunfire could still be heard coming from the Naasa Hablood hotel after it was stormed by the militants, witnesses said. "What we know is that there were at least five victims, including three security guards, and that six others were injured," police official Ibrahim Mohamed said. "The security forces have managed to enter into the hotel and are in the process of restoring security," Mohamed added.

The attack began at 4:30 pm with a powerful blast followed by two other explosions and then heavy gunfire, AFP journalists and a witness said. The Naasa Hablood hotel in southern Mogadishu is often used by politicians and members of the Somali diaspora visiting the city. Somali security forces cordoned off access to the neighborhood in which the hotel is located, an AFP photographer

The Shabaab swiftly claimed responsibility for the attack, saying in a statement on the Telegram smartphone app that jihadist gunmen had forced their way into the hotel. "The attack started with a heavy blast carried out by a brother who drove a car loaded with explosives. Gunmen fought their way into the hotel, and we believe that casualties were inflicted in the enemy's ranks," the Shabaab said.

Yesterday's attack came just three weeks after another assault quickly claimed the Shabaab group on the city's Ambassador hotel left 10 dead including two lawmakers when a huge car bomb ripped the front off the six-storey building. The Shabaab lost their foothold in the capital in 2011 but continue their battle to overthrow the Somali government

Continued on Page 13

CHARLESTON: Heavy rains that pummeled West Virginia left at least 23 people dead, and authorities said yesterday that an unknown number of people in the hardest-hit county remained unaccounted for. Most of the dead and all of the missing, officials believe, were in the county of Greenbrier - home of the renowned golf resort of the same name.

"The reports we got this morning are that Greenbrier County may still have some folks unaccounted for. It does not appear there are unaccounted for people in other counties, but it's still a somewhat fluid situation," said Chris Stadelman, Gov Earl Ray Tomblin's chief of staff. Stadelman said there were still "lots of folks in shelters" and that state would apply for federal disaster funds. Scores of homes were damaged.

In one bizarre twist, a woman sustained burns over two-thirds of her body after her deluged house blew up. Belinda Scott of White Sulphur Springs called her

husband Ronnie and told him their house was filling up with water. She fled to the attic and waited. She smelled natural gas. Then, the house exploded. Belinda Scott was able to break a vent and get out onto a porch, then make it onto a tree, which she clung to for hours before being rescued by state police, her husband told The Associated Press.

"My wife was out there four and a half hours hanging in a tree with a house burning right beside her, flood waters running all around her," said Scott. About 500 people were stranded overnight in a shopping center when a bridge washed out, and dozens of other people had to be plucked off rooftops or rescued from their cars. Greenbrier County Sheriff Jan Cahill described "complete chaos" in his county. "Roads destroyed, bridges out, homes burned down, washed off foundations," he said. "Multiple sections of highway just missing.

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WEST VIRGINIA: Lt Dennis Feazell, of the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, contacts his command center as he and a co-worker search flooded homes in Rainelle yesterday. — AP



ZAIN HOLDS RAMADAN GHABGA FOR STAFF

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, recently celebrated its Ramadan Ghabga for staff at the Sheraton Hotel in an atmosphere of peace and joy. The event was attended by Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer, Zain Kuwait CEO Eaman Al-Roudhan, as well as a large number of the company's executive management and staff.

Zain's annual Ghabga is considered the key event through which the company further strengthens its bond with its employees, as it believes their tireless efforts are the most valuable element in making Zain one of the most dynamic telecom companies in Kuwait and the region.

Speaking at the occasion, Zain Group CEO Scott Gegenheimer said: "this year has been a very challenging year for Zain, and you should all be proud of yourselves for not only maintaining our position as the leading and most innovative telecom company in Kuwait and the region, but also for placing Kuwait on the world telecom map over the years".

Gegenheimer continued, "I'm very happy to see the changes and the success that we are bringing into the organization. More positive changes will be seen in the foreseeable future as we continue to drive transformation through the organization and become more innovative in delighting our customers and at the same time adding value for our many stakeholders".

The Group CEO also highlighted the achievement Zain's Ramadan TVC attained this year: "Every year during Ramadan, Zain brings a message of hope to the wider world. In 2016, our Ramadan TVC had a message of "peace" to the region which has had over 6 million YouTube views within a week of launch".

Also speaking at the Ghabga, Roudhan said, "every time we welcome the Holy Month of Ramadan, we renew the noble values that drive our lives. Helping one another and caring for one another are key values of this Holy Month, and we should live by them all year long".

Roudhan recognized her dedicated colleagues expressing her full confidence in them to achieve success adding, "there is no doubt that each and every one of your efforts and your care for one another had an impact on keeping Zain the leader and the most innovative telecom in Kuwait. Ramadan is an opportunity for all of us to work harder and give more trust in our products and services that we offer our customers".

Roudhan explained: "to achieve our goals, we need new and bold ways to strengthen our relationship with our customers, and we also need to understand that the industry in which we operate has underwent great changes, and that telecoms have no choice but to indulge into technology".

The Kuwait CEO went on to stress that the real challenge now is how to achieve customer satisfaction in light of such changes in the industry: "we need to achieve the needed level of hard work to





meet our customers' needs and aspirations. Being transparent with all our stakeholders is the bridge that connects us with our customers and our partners"

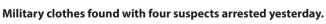
At the Ghabga, Zain took the opportunity to recognize individuals who had helped shape it over its 30 years of operation. The company recognized staff members with distinguished careers within the company, awarding special gifts to all those who have served 20, 25, and 30 years of service, expressing its appreciation for all their years of dedicated service.

The Ghabga activities also included the showing of a short documentary video clip that showcased Zain's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility (CSSR) campaign during the Holy Month of Ramadan. The executive management also highlighted the efforts of Zain's volunteers who

participated in the many humanitarian and social initiatives during the holy month. The employees expressed their pride in being a part of one of the region's leading socially-aware organizations.

Ramadan presents a special occasion for Zain to communicate and interact with the Kuwaiti community through its extensive CSSR campaign. Zain's 2016 Ramadan contributions included an extensive array of initiatives and programs that focused on helping less fortunate people to enjoy Ramadan happily. These included the distribution of essential food supplies (Machla boxes) to multiple charitable organizations based in Kuwait, the Iftar Halls initiative which provides daily Iftar meals through two main halls, visiting children in hospitals, visiting social care centers, as well as organizing a special event for Al Amal children with cancer all celebrating the true spirit the Holy month brings.







More military gear found with the suspects.

FOUR ARRESTED FOR SELLING MILITARY UNIFORMS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Farwaniya detectives arrested a gang consisting of four Bangladeshi men, who were caught selling military clothes in Jleeb Al-Shuyiukh, said security sources. Case papers indicate that while on a routine round in Jleeb, patrol officers spotted the suspects displaying the military clothes for sale. On arresting them, policemen found 799 army uniforms, 133 National Guard uniforms and 336 police uniforms, that were all confiscated. The suspects were referred to relevant authorities.

Fugitive caught

A bedoon man wanted for a three-month prison sentence was arrested for stealing several vehicles from various areas, said security sources, noting that the suspect confessed to stealing nine vehicles. He was taken to the proper authorities for further action.

Ditch clear

The Ministry of Interior's relations and security media department said that a report was made about a 3-meter-deep ditch in the Kazema desert, and on checking it, nothing suspicious was found. It was filled up to protect the public.

Inspection campaigns

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry stressed that its inspectors located a restaurant seen in a social media video that barbequed food on the street, when sparks flew and burnt some nearby houses' roofs. The restaurant was fined and those running it were referred to commercial prosecution. Commerce ministry inspectors also located a sanitary ware store selling replicas of a popular brand, said security sources, noting that around 7,000 fake items

were found in the store. A case was filed and the store in-charge was referred to commercial prosecution.

Combating drugs

On the occasion of marking the World Day to Combat Drugs which falls today, the Ministry of Interior's Relations and Security Media Department Director Brigadier, Adel Al-Hashash expressed gratitude for the efforts exerted by the narcotics department, the customs, land, marine and air exit detectives and inspectors in fighting drugs. Hashash added that according to statistics, drug trafficking crimes dropped by 17 percent, crimes filed against unknown culprits dropped to 28 percent while felonies dropped by 18 percent. Statistics also showed that over 6 million illicit pills were seized, over 7,000 drugs cases were filed and that over 2,100 suspects were arrested.

KUWAIT ACQUIRES LAND IN MEXICO TO BUILD CEMETERY

MEXICO CITY: The State of Kuwait has legally acquired a plot of land in Mexico State, in Mexico, where the first cemetery for the Muslim community bearing the name of Kuwait will be built. "The 7,500-sq-m land was gifted to the Kuwaiti diplomatic mission by the friend of Kuwait, Mexico Governor Eruviel Avila Villegas," Kuwaiti Ambassador to Mexico Samih Johar Hayat said. The Kuwaiti ambassador has officially received the documents on the land acquisition from the governor at advent of the blessed last ten days of the

holy month of Ramadan. Ambassador Hayat said the governor and concerned Mexican officials inked all the documents and finalized legal transactions, with attendance of the embassy lawyer, thus the plot of land became a "waqf" in the name of the people of Kuwait; where the Mexican authority no longer have jurisdictions over it. The embassy, Ambassador Hayat added, would begin constructing the cemetery after Eid Al-Fitr, with a generous donation from a Kuwaiti good doer. — KUNA



MARMORE COLLABORATES WITH AL-MOWAZI TO SUPPORT COMPANIES' BOARDS, SHAREHOLDERS

KUWAIT: Marmore MENA Intelligence 'Marmore,' a research subsidiary of Kuwait Financial Centre 'Markaz' providing services of financial research and analysis of MENA economies, markets, and companies, and Al-Mowazi Financial and Economic Consulting Company, a company which provides a trading platform for unlisted companies in Kuwait have signed a collaboration agreement that aims at supporting boards of directors of unlisted companies and its shareholders through transparency in disseminating information, launching a platform serving investors relations and applying corporate governance principles. The agreement was signed by the companies representatives, M R Raghu, Managing Director of Marmore and Muhannad Al-Sane, General Manager of Al-Mowazi.

Transparency

Al-Mowazi acts as a 'matchmaker' between private companies and investors by providing a platform for the concerned parties to trade in Kuwait. Additionally, it also disseminates information of interest to such investors. As part of its initiative with Al-Mowazi, Marmore will help in enhancing the information flow.

Marmore as part of its collaboration with Al-Mowazi, would help to prepare a semi-annual report on private companies listed on www.almowazi.com (website). The report shall provide various details such as liquidity, changes in capital structure among others of all private companies listed in the website.

Investor relations

"2015 could be dubbed as the year of acquisitions due to growing momentum in trading and an increase in acquisitions on unlisted shareholding companies by new investors" opined Muhannad Al-Sane. Therefore, current owners of successful unlisted companies can expand their success through cooperation with new investors. However, this requires well-presented information about the company to prospective investors. In other words, it requires a well drafted investor relations presentation. Marmore would work with Al-Mowazi to assist unlisted companies in preparing concise 'investor presentation'

which have information regarding their business, management, historical financial performance that shall be of use to the

Strategy

By June 2016, listed and CMA licensed companies are required to be compliant with CMA's regulations on Corporate Governance. The term corporate governance refers to a set of rules and procedures on how the company is run and gives all stakeholders (from owners to employees) a clear concise roadmap on how the company is functioning. A well-executed governance strategy will help boost the company's growth internally and externally since well governed companies attract the attention of sophisticated investors and institutional investors. Marmore in collaboration with Al-Mowazi shall help unlisted companies not only by complying with the law but also in creating an organizational excellence strategy.

"Unlisted companies in Kuwait face a major hurdle while trying to obtain hard to find data relating to their business. Marmore, with its specialties in research, can help unlisted companies with ad-hoc research services customized to the need of the companies" said M.R. Raghu.

To provide a quick overview and understanding of the companies listed in the Al-Mowazi website, a fact sheet would be extremely useful for potential investors to get a basic understanding about the companies. Marmore would assist Al-Mowazi to prepare the factsheets for companies listed in the website and could feature information such as company overview, board of directors and key management, business model and financial information among other things. The collaboration with Al-Mowazi is part of a broader strategy of Marmore to support the informational and research needs of the investors in the region. Investors in this region are often faced with dilemma of paucity of data or might need to sift through enormous amount of data to garner insights. Al-Mowazi's collaboration with Marmore will address this gap through dissemination of relevant insights to investors and improve the quality standards of market practice.

KUWAIT KEEPS, BREEDS UNIQUE ARABIAN HORSES

KUWAIT: Bait Al-Arab (The Arabian Horse Center) plays a key role in breeding of the unique Arabian horses, numbers of which have dwindled in the Arabian Peninsula. The center, run by the Assistant Undersecretary at the Amiri Diwan, Sheikha Sara Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, was founded in 1980 to preserve breeding of these horses and promoting the raising of the beautiful animals in the country.

Mohammad Al-Marzouq, the head of the center board of trustees, said in remarks to KUNA, that the center hosts more than 100 heads of genuine Arabian horses. The center, located on a 300,000-sqm plot of land in Subhan, regularly hosts Arabian beauty horses contests, the latest of which was held earlier this year. Marzoug expressed gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for encouraging the raising of the Arabian horses. The Arabian horse was born and evolved in a desert and was prized by the nomadic Bedouin tribes. Historical studies indicate that the Arabian horse was strongly linked to humans. The animal was even brought inside family tents in order to be protected and sheltered. This close relationship with humans has created a horse that is a fast learner, good-natured and a faithful companion. The Arabian horses developed the high spirit and alertness that are essential in a horse used for purposes such as war. — KUNA





Local **Spotlight**

WHO KILLED THE DOGS?



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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he images were truly disgusting and extremely painful. Twenty-four dogs were killed in cold blood by a contractor after a failed deal with KNPC. The pictures were all over social media and dailies, filled with speculations and opinions over the real reasons behind such a crime. The Kuwait National Petroleum Company issued a statement last week denying any connection with the 'execution' of the 24 sniffer dogs that were supposed to be used by the company in a deal with the local contractor. But when he failed to meet the required security standards, the agreement was terminated by the company.

The signed contract stipulated that a third party would examine the dogs' ability to uncover explosives at oil installations. But the dogs failed to detect explosives, so KNPC used its legal right to end the contract, which could happen to any agreement with humans or animals.

The crime occurred when this contractor decided to kill the dogs in cold blood instead of sending them to new homes for adoption or putting them up for sale! Putting the dogs to death due to their failure in a mission is like condemning people to death because they are no longer capable to work. This action was cruel, inhumane and immoral. There is no excuse for the murderer - he must be put on trial and fined.

It seems that the local contractor did not comply with the provisions signed between KNPC and the contracting company. The contractor probably knew that these dogs were old or not capable for the sniffing task, but maybe he thought that no one would notice this. This is a possible theory over why and what happened. Moreover, he probably thought that killing the dogs was cheaper than finding new homes for them, especially the sick ones. But, who says it's his choice to end their lives in such a way for no reason?!

The incident has several aspects, including criminal and environmental. Some sources indicate that a new round of execution will possibly be carried out soon to get rid of another 80 dogs in the same way, in preparation for a new license and import of new dogs to be used for new corporate contracts.

There have been many rumors over the causes of this disgusting crime, such as the cancellation of the contract, unpaid salaries and the illness of the dogs. But these excuses will never justify the killings. If revenge is one of the reasons, the dogs paid with their lives for this. The execution and burial was carried out in violation of all laws and regulations of the Municipality and the EPA. The 24 dogs were buried in open yards.

We need to know all the facts and no one should be above the law or rewarded with a new contract. This incident may have other relevant facts related to the workers and their unpaid salaries and working hours. The identity of the local contractor, the company name and all those who are associated with this ugly crime must be revealed to the public.

COMBATING EXTREMISM REQUIRES COLLECTIVE EFFORT: SHEIKHA FARIHA

KUWAIT: Staving off extreme ideologies and protecting youth from its ill effects requires collective effort, said yesterday President of the Kuwaiti Society for the Ideal Family Sheikha Fariha Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

A gruesome murder in Kuwait recently, in which a man killed his brother over family disputes, highlighted the dire need of serious action to rid society of malicious thought, Sheikha Fariha said in a press statement. A newspaper report said yesterday that the suspect told police during investigations that killed his brother because he was not observing his religious duties rightfully, suggesting that the crime was motivated by extremist thought.

Sheikh Fariha pointed out that the youth are the most susceptible to extreme ideologies, adding that it is imperative to extoll the virtues of temperate thought. Speaking on the pervasion of extremism, Sheikha Fariha noted that society can longer turn a blind eye to the growth of such ideologies, as she underscored the importance of stifling the spread of these ill thoughts.

Meanwhile, the President of the Kuwaiti Society for the Ideal Family spoke highly of moral virtues such as benevolence and self-restraint, in addition to the eschewal of evil. She also noted that it is incumbent upon mothers to lead their children to the right path, pressing them to instill decorum and morality in their offspring.— KUNA

SOME 36,844 CARDS ISSUED TO ILLEGAL RESIDENTS IN 2016

KUWAIT: Some 36,844 cards were issued to illegal residents since the beginning of the year until the end of May, said an official yesterday. The cards allowed illegal residents to follow up on their government transactions, said Director at the Central Apparatus for Illegal Residents, Tariq Mohammed Al-Buaija, noting that requests to receive the

cards are completed within a few days.

Meanwhile, the official noted that some 1,064 (to whom it may concern) documents were issued within the same period ending in May. Some 1,061 thumb print identification had been carried out during the same period, said Buaijan, noting that this step would help facilitate transactions at the apparatus. — KUNA

VISA FEES INCREASE PUSHED TO NEXT ASSEMBLY TERM

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The interior ministry decided to defer increasing residency fees and traffic fines to next year, said informed sources, noting that the ministry decided to refer both projects to the parliament for voting in the next parliamentary term. The sources added that the ministry's legal affairs department had already finalized the project on increasing residency fees, while the one on traffic violations is still being studied. A report earlier this year suggested that the ministry proposed increasing fees for visa issuance and renewal charges by as much as 100 percent. The next National Assembly term starts late October.

Compensations

Iraq officially asked Kuwait to postpone paying the remaining compensations for the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The request is being made again due to the continuation of a severe economic crisis in Iraq. According to a statement made by the Iraqi foreign ministry, the Iraqi government was fully committed to the bilateral agreements made with Kuwait. The statement also stressed that Kuwait approved the Iraqi request and agreed to the postponement.

KD 18 million

The Ministry of Health has allocated KD 18 million for contracts with cleaning services, hospital and clinics wastes' disposal, cooling warehouses and health offices abroad. The ministry also allocated KD 3.4 million for security contracts providing services at various health facilities and nursing staff hostels. In addition, the ministry allocated KD 1.12 million for training courses in various medical fields, in addition to bonuses for non-Kuwaiti doctors.

BREXIT COULD CAUSE \$5 DROP IN OIL PRICE: ANALYST

KUWAIT OIL DOWN TO \$43.38 PB

KUWAIT: A local oil analyst expected on Friday that UK's exit from the EU may cause a five dollar drop in the price of a barrel of oil in international markets, from \$60 to \$55 for the benchmark Brent crude. The price of Kuwaiti oil went down Friday by \$1.17 to settle at \$43.38 per barrel after being at \$44.55 pb the day before, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said yesterday.

The exit may also cause the Kuwaiti oil price to average about \$47 a barrel for the rest of 2016, said oil analyst Abdul-Samiea Behbehani, in remarks in the wake of the jolting Brexit vote. He expected that UK's exit from the EU would eventually have negative ramifi-

cations for oil prices during the remainder of the year and possibly next year.

The earlier expectation for ramping up of oil prices for the remainder of the year tanked completely by today's results of the Brexit vote, he said, expecting that average prices for Brent crude would drop from \$60 to \$55 and average prices for Kuwaiti crude would hover around \$47, a drop from former expectations of \$52.

Further he said that UK's pullout of the EU was likely to boost speculative trading in oil markets during the second half of the year as the UK would cause anxiety in these markets for the duration of its long negotiations with the EU over its pullout. — KUNA



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A Wonderful World



KUWAIT: (From left) Information Ministry's Undersecretary Tariq Al-Mezrem, Secretary of the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters Ali Al-Youha, KUNA's Director Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaij Al-Sabah, Kuwait Times' Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan and Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah are pictured during the event.



Kuwait Times' Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan (third from left) is pictured with editors in chief of other local dailies. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

INFO MINISTRY HOLDS ANNUAL GHABQA



Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah is pictured with

information ministryís annual ghabqa. Editors in chief of local dailies, media figures, TV celebrities, diplomats and other dignitaries attended

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah recently hosted the the event.

Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and other officials take a group photo with chil-

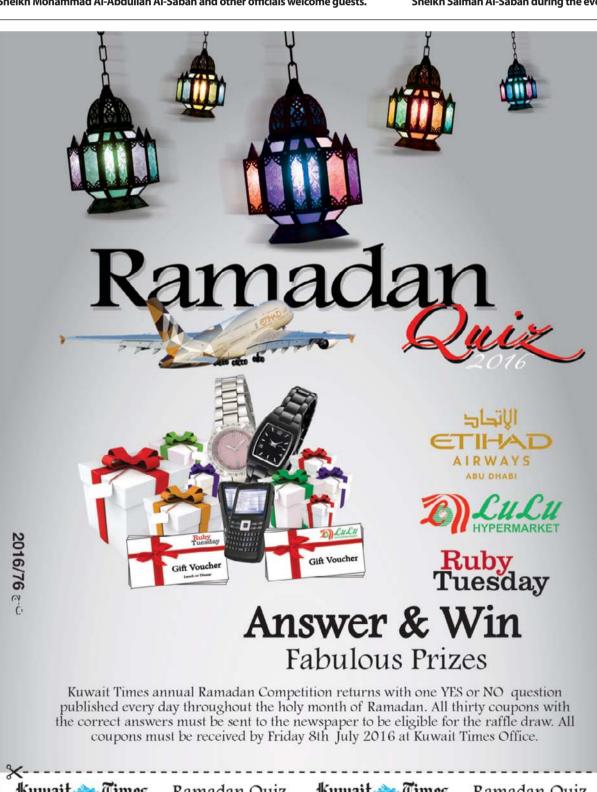


Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Cabinet Affairs Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah and other officials welcome guests.



Kuwaiti businessman Jawad BuKhamseen (right) speaks with Information Minister Diplomats greet Sheikh Salman. Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah during the event.





Ramadan Quiz Ramadan Quiz Kuwait 🙅 Times Kuwait 🥗 Times Date: 21. Who is the first woman who accepted Islam? Umm-ul-Moomineen Sayyidatina Civil ID.: Khadijah (Radi Allahu Anha) Email: YES NO





Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and other officials take a group photo with guests.



Actors are pictured with Sheikh Salman and other officials.



Guests take a selfie with Sheikh Salman.



Diplomats attend the event.



Actresses in attendance.













KUWAIT: The Scientific Center hosted a ceremony recently to celebrate 'girgean' with children. General Director Mijbil Al-Mutawaa and other Scientific Center officials attended the event. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

Young Voices

'I LIKE KUWAIT BECAUSE MY FRIENDS ARE ALL HERE'

By Nawara Fattahova

early a quarter of Kuwait's entire population is under the age of 14 and yet with the exception of school assemblies, we never hear their voices. During Ramadan, Kuwait Times likes to publish a special series that engages with its readership in a more direct, personal way to learn their concerns, issues and viewpoints.

This Ramadan, we will chat with some of our youngest readers about their lives in Kuwait, in an attempt to see the world through their eyes. What do they see for the future of our beautiful country? What would they improve and how would they change it? By listening to their future plans, stories, and experience in Ramadan, we can remind ourselves and hopefully our readers of the ties that bind us all together as a species. These are the voice of Kuwait's future and we invite them to share their thoughts with us here.

Sara, or Saroona, as her family calls her, is a nine-year-old Omani girl who was born in Kuwait. Her mother is Iranian. Sara considers Kuwait her home country as she has only lived here, and as her grandmother is Kuwaiti.

Kuwait Times: In which grade do you study and in which school? Sara: I just graduated from the fourth

grade at Arwa School.

KT: What do you want to do for a living after you grow up?

Sara: I want to be an artist. I love drawing and painting, and I want to do this for a living.

KT: Where do you prefer to live? In Kuwait or Oman?

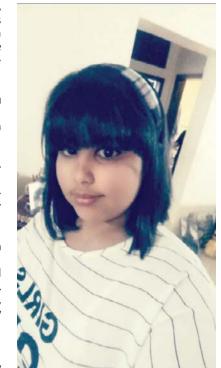
Sara: I prefer Kuwait. I have visited Oman more than once, but I didn't like it. Also, my school and friends are all here, and I don't know my relatives from my father's side.

KT: Have you tried to fast?

Sara: Yes. This is my first year to be fasting properly as adults do till sunset. Before, I was only fasting till noon and had a small meal.

KT: What do you like most in Kuwait?

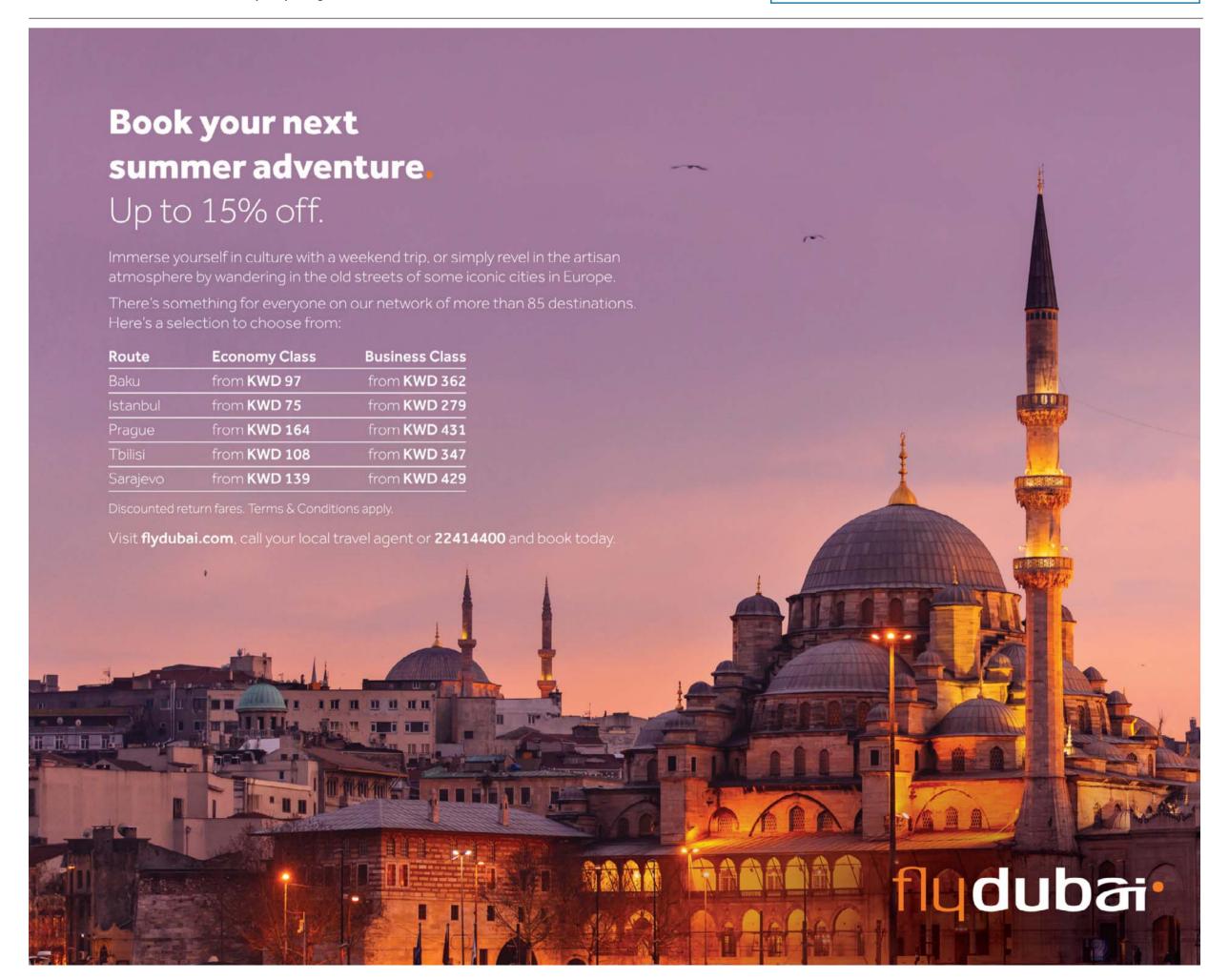
Sara: I love the malls, restaurants and the places providing entertainment and fun such as the Entertainment City and



Shaab Park. I also like Kidzania and swimming in the sea.

KT: What don't you like here in

Kuwait? Sara: I don't like the traffic. If I had special powers, I would make the streets wider so we never get stuck in traffic jams.



Crime

Report

KUWAITIS ARRESTED IN SAUDI ARABIA FOR ASSAULTING POLICE

KUWAIT: Three Kuwaitis were arrested in Taif in Saudi Arabia when they fought with security men and insulted them, said Saudi security sources. According to the sources, policemen were dispatched to impound the three Kuwaitis' vehicle over a severe traffic violation, but the suspects rejected the process and assaulted and insulted the policemen.

Drug possession

Mubarak Al-Kabeer detectives arrested a citizen with a criminal record with 2.5 kilos of heroin and 150 gm of meth, said security sources. Case papers indicate that narcotics detectives had been tipped off concerning the suspect's activities. Checking on him, detectives found that the suspect lived in Salwa and usually met his clients in Mubarak Al-Kabeer. A search warrant was issued and the suspect's house was raided and searched. A case was filed and the suspect was referred to relevant authorities. Separately, a citizen was arrested in Saad Al-Abdullah with hashish and meth, said security sources, noting that the suspect was stopped when a police patrol spotted him driving in an unsteady course and found out that he was under the influence. On searching him, policemen found the drugs. A case was filed. Also, two citizens were arrested with drugs in Firdous, said security sources. Case papers indicate that a police patrol suspected a vehicle parked in an open yard and on approaching it, the two people in it were found under the influence. A case was filed.

Prostitutes caught

Nine prostitutes and six Asian men, including the pimp were arrested at a Jleeb Al-Shuyiukh brothel, said security sources, noting that they will all be deported after taking proper legal action.

Fight

Two citizens were arrested for fighting in Sharq, said security sources, noting that the fight started when they accidentally hit each other's shoulders while window-shopping outside a mobile phone store. They immediately stared at each other, exchanging accusations of "being blind" and shouting questions like "why don't you watch where you are going?"

Construction thieves caught

Three expats were arrested for stealing construction materials from houses under construction in Ishbeliya, said security sources. Case papers indicate that a police patrol suspected a truck loaded with construction material, but the two Bangladeshis in it dumped it in Jleeb Al-Shuyiukh and fled on foot, before policemen chased and arrested them. The two suspects confessed to stealing the material and reselling them. —Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



الانياء

Al-Anbaa

RESPECT OUR RELIGION

I send a direct message to

the officials who meet under

the banner of "No God but

Allah, Muhammad (PBUH) is

His messenger" to ban liquor

onboard all airlines that

belong to Muslim countries.

By Nermin Al-Houti

wonder about regimes that speak about Islam and carry the banner of "There is no God but Allah, Muhammad (PBUH) is His messenger", but the truth is that all these are just slogans - this is what I witnessed.

I headed to a European country on an airline belonging to a top Arab and Muslim state. When I boarded the plane, and preparations to take off started, I waited for the travel prayer. But the plane took off

without hearing or reading the prayer. I called the flight attendant and asked him: "Why didn't you play the travel prayer?" "Would you like me to write it for you on a piece of paper?" he answered. "Excuse me! Why? Am I going to give an exam?" I said. "Sorry, these are the rules of our airline!" He said.

I replied with astonishment: "Doesn't your airline belong to a Muslim regime?" He said: "You know, foreign passengers get upset from this." So all I could say was "We seek the help of

Allah!"The dialogue ended, and alhamdulillah I had some prayer books that I read, but what astonished me is that airlines that belong to the Muslim and Arab worlds prefer Western customs over Islamic sharia, and I wonder about the

drinks that are served during the holy month to honor a foreign passenger, and forgetting what Allah Almighty forbade. I send a direct message to the officials who meet under the banner of "No God but Allah, Muhammad (PBUH) is His messenger" to ban liquor onboard all airlines that belong to Muslim countries. And this should not be limited to Ramadan, but rather all months of the year, because this is

the sharia of Allah Almighty, and these are the laws of our Muslim nation. Civilization is not by getting farther from our sharia and following the West's wishes, because those wishes are not coming out of their religion, since liquor, if we read their books, is also forbidden for them.

I will not go into what is halal and haram in altered books, but just as we respect their religion, it is a must that they respect our pure religion, as tolerance is not by drinking liquor and approving its use aboard airlines that

belong to the Muslim nation. Final word: "And of the people are some who say, 'We believe in Allah and the Last Day,' but they are not believers."

—Translated by Kuwait Times

ومعس

Al-Qabas

MY EXPERIENCE WITH CIGARS

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

started smoking cigars at the start of the 1980s with pauses that were long and short. The experience is nothing to be proud of, but it was on this experience that I gained and lost many things that those who smoke cigars may find humorous. A cigar differs from a cigarette. A cigar is made entirely from tobacco, while mystery shrouds much of a cigarette's ingredients, especially since chemicals are mixed in it, depending on the geographic area in which it is consumed.

The tar that is trapped in the filter leaks into the lungs while burning the paper that wraps the cigarette causes many health risks. A comedian said that the cigarette has a flame on one end and an idiot on the other, and I have no remarks on this, because there may be bigger idiots on the other end of a cigar because of the higher price they pay for it.

A cigar means nothing if it is not kept in suitable temperature and humidity. The eggs of tobacco beetles (losioderma) that may be on tobacco leaves start hatching when the temperature where the cigars are kept rises. The insect starts feeding on the cigar leaves, causing holes and leaving a green color around it. So the cigar, that is usually grown in tropical areas, needs to be kept continually in a similar environment. This cannot be available everywhere, it has to be kept in a special box or a humidor, whose price varies between \$200 to several thousands.

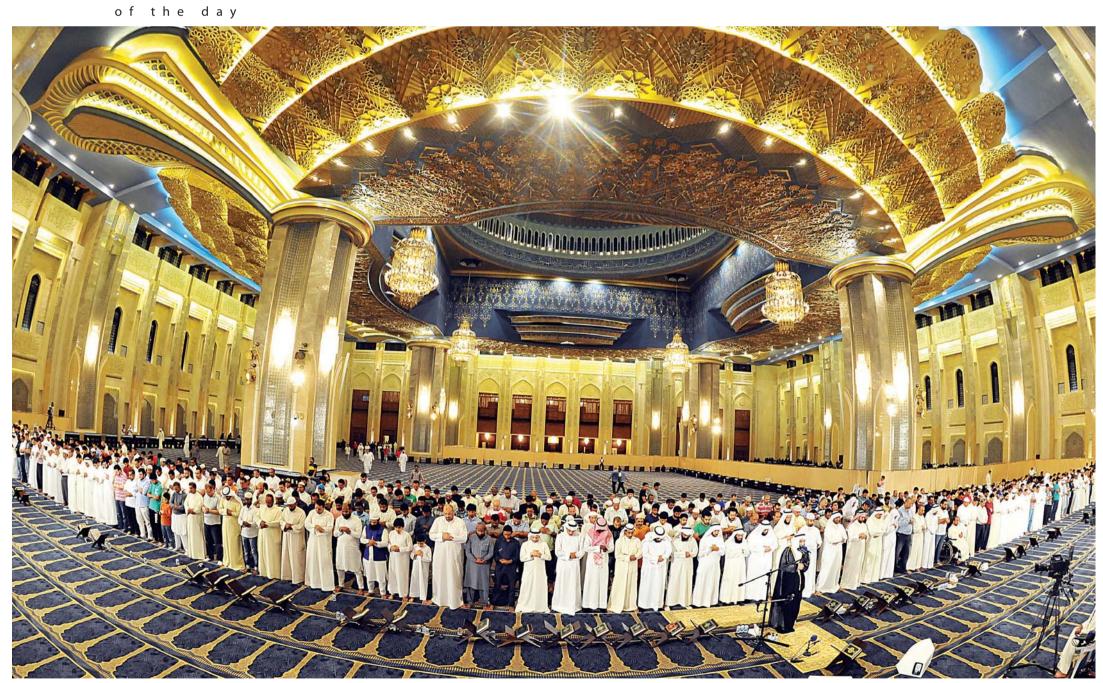
This can be replaced with a wooden box with a gauge that maintains temperature and humidity with a wet piece of foam. The difference is that the latter method requires continuous monitoring so that the temperature does not rise above 21 C and humidity between 67 percent and 71 percent, and this gives the smoker the joy he is looking for and a cigar that stays alight.

High humidity has ill effects on cigars, makes it difficult to smoke and needs lighting several times. The box of cigars also has to be aired every now and then. Among the easy ways to find if a cigar is smokable is making sure that its outer crust is not separated from it due to less or excess humidity. It should be free of cracks that result from low humidity. Also, press either end of the cigar for a second and then leave it - if it returns to its previous shape, then it is smokable.

A contribution from me to Ramadan fatwas - some clergymen think smoking does not break the fast. Tobacco is a dry plant, and some women in the past used dried plants and palm leaves to cook iftar, and the smoke coming out from cooking did not spoil their fast.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Photo









KUWAIT: Muslim worshippers gathered at the Grand Mosque Friday night to perform the 'Qiyam' prayer on the first of the last ten nights of Ramadan. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Kuwait Times International

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016

TWO KILLED, 100 HOMES DESTROYED BY CALIF WILDFIRE

Tunisia flaunts security a year after beach massacre

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KOBANE, Syria: Members of Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) attend the funeral of eight fellow fighters who died during an assault against the Islamic State (IS) group in the town of Manbij, in this Syrian Kurdish town (aka Ain al-Arab) on Friday. — AFP

FIGHTERS EDGE INTO IS BORDER HUB

Russia, regime strikes kill 47 in east Syria

ALEPPO, Syria: US-backed fighters edged further into the Islamic State group stronghold of Manbij yesterday, threatening a key stop on the jihadists' lifeline from Turkey to their "caliphate" in Syria and neighboring Iraq. But in the IS-held eastern town of Al-Quriyah, 47 people, most of them civilians, died in Russian and government bombardment, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Thirty-one civilians were killed in three raids alone, but it was not immediately clear whether the 16 others were civilians or IS fighters, said the Observatory's Rami Abdel Rahman. Russian, Syrian, and US-led coalition warplanes are all carrying out raids against IS territory in the battered

In Manbij, the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces overran a key road junction in the city's south after capturing nearby grain silos overnight. "The grain silos overlook more than half of Manbij. SDF fighters can climb to the top and monitor the city," said Abdel Rahman. The Raga Revolutionaries Brigades - one of the Arab components of the Kurdish-dominated alliance - also said the SDF had seized the silos and pushed into the city.

The Mills Roundabout lies less than two kilometres from the city center. Captured by IS in 2014, Manbij was a key transit point for foreign fighters and funds, as well as a trafficking hub for oil, antiquities and other plundered goods. If it succeeds, the offensive on Manbij - backed by intense air strikes by a US-led coalition - would mark the most significant victory against IS for the SDF.

Aleppo Under Fire

Across the frontier in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, security forces were poised to assault Jolan, the last neighborhood still held by IS. Tens of thousands of people fled the fighting, with many camped out in the open in the summer heat. "Dozens of families are still without tents or any form of shelter inside the camps, living in miserable conditions. The majority are elderly people, women and children," said the Norwegian Refugee Council.

The SDF launched its offensive to take Manbij on May 31, driving across the Euphrates River from the east with military advice from some 200 US special forces troops. IS has thrown large numbers of fighters into the battle, losing 463, according to the Observatory. The SDF has lost at least 89. The jihadists have taken as many as 1,000 Kurdish civilians hostage in areas under their control west of Manbij, according to the Observatory.

Manbij lies in the eastern plains of Aleppo province, which has become a battleground between an array of competing armed groups, including Al-Qaeda, nonjihadist rebels and government forces, as well as the SDF and IS. Aleppo was once the country's commercial hub but now lies divided between government forces in the west and rebels in the east. A two-day freeze on fighting brokered by Moscow and Washington this month expired without renewal.

Yesterday, Russian and Syrian warplanes pounded rebel-held areas in and around the city in support of a regime offensive on the rebels' sole remaining supply route, the Observatory said. The Castello Road has been ing had intensified in recent days.

No Sleep

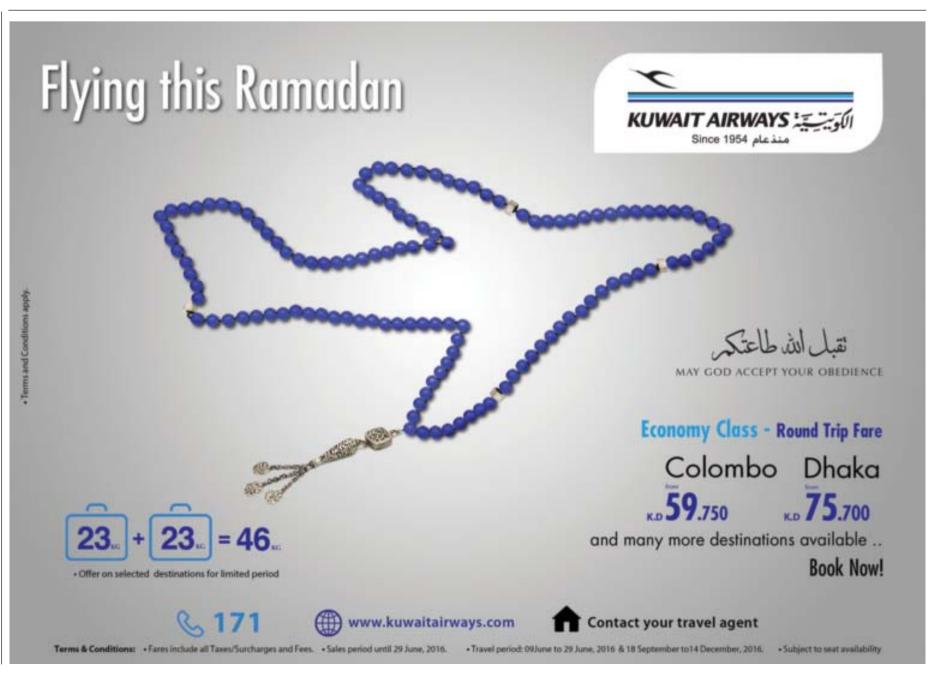
An AFP correspondent in the rebel-held east of the city said the latest strikes lasted throughout the night. "In the past two days, my kids and I haven't been able to sleep all night because of the huge blasts, the likes of which we haven't heard before," said 38-year-old shopkeeper Abu Ahmad. A father of three, Abu Ahmad owns a small con-

repeatedly hit by air strikes but residents said the bomb- venience store in east Aleppo. "We haven't been able to get been killed since the conflict began with anti-government any products or produce for the shop over the past two days because no one can use the (Castello) road," he said.

The Observatory said government forces were also fighting rebels in northern neighborhoods of the city in a bid to halt rocket fire on government-held districts. The renewed government offensive around Aleppo comes a day after another key ally, Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, pledged to send more fighters to join the "greatest battle" of the war. More than 280,000 people have

protests in 2011.

A prominent Syrian activist and journalist died in a Turkish hospital overnight after being seriously wounded in a bomb blast in Aleppo last week. Facebook pages managed by fellow activists said Khaled Al-Issa, a Syrian photographer in his 20s, died in Antakya. Journalist Hadi Al-Abdullah, who was wounded in the same bombing that some activists have blamed on Al-Qaeda, was in stable condition in hospital. — AFP



Breaking Ramadan fast the Sudanese way

Abdelrahim rolls out carpets by the side of

AL-NUBA, Sudan: As the sun sets over the the Khartoum highway and his friends line Sudanese village of Al-Nuba, Ibrahim them with plates of food. Minutes later, groups of villagers rush into the road, shout-



NUBA, Sudan: Sudanese men prepare to break the fast with a dinner by the side of the Khartoum highway in this village on June 23, 2016. —AFP

ing and waving down approaching vehicles. One brings a bus to a halt in the middle of the highway. Others join him and force the driver to park. "Please break your fast. It's iftar time," says a villager as dozens of passengers step out. As the sky darkens, they settle down to plates of vegetables, meat and sorghum pancakes - a staple food in Sudan - along with cans of juice and water.

Just twenty minutes later, the travellers are back on the road. Muslims across the world are marking the holy month of Ramadan, with the faithful abstaining from eating, drinking and sex from dawn to dusk. Iftar - the evening fast-breaking meal - is usually a family event, but here in the Sudanese state of Jazeera it takes a different form. Residents of villages along the 160 km Khartoum-Wad Madani highway often compel travellers to pull up and join them for food by the side of the road.

"Holding collective iftar is an old tradition of our village," said Abdelrahim, a doctor from Al-Nuba, 50 km from the capital, Khartoum. "When it's iftar time, we try to stop all vehicles that pass through our village, and urge travellers to break their fast." Groups of men sit in rows as volunteers offer them food, while women break fast in separate groups nearby. The volunteers who flag down passing traffic run the risk of serious injury as drivers attempt to avoid being

"They block the road and force cars and buses to park," said a bus driver who was among those who stopped to break his fast. "The passengers then get down, break their fast and later proceed with their journey." But for the people of the village, the tradition is a point of pride and a religious duty. "People of Al-Nuba are famous for their hospitality," Abdelrahim told AFP. "They believe it is their duty to stop those who are travelling through the village to have iftar, whether they want to stop or not."

Holy Act

Muslims see Ramadan not just as a month of abstention but also a time for prayer, charity and the forgiveness of sins. Offering food to travellers at this time is seen as a holy act. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) told believers that someone who offers iftar to a fasting Muslim receives as many rewards in heaven as the guest receives for fasting. Determined by the lunar Hijri calendar, Ramadan shifts back every year. The last time it was observed in early June was in 1983.

With nearly 16 hours of fasting from dawn to dusk and temperature hovering above 45 degrees Celsius, many travellers are keen to break fast as they pass through Al-Nuba. "We are in Ramadan and it's well known that people of Jazeera stop anyone who travels through their area during iftar time," said Abdallah Adam, who broke his fast along with fellow passengers travelling to Medani, the capital of Jazeera.

Behind him, a group of travellers stood in rows offering prayers before eating the food laid out on several large green carpets. The whole process is over in as little as 20 minutes. About 10,000 people live in Al-Nuba village, most of them farmers and government employees. "We youngsters are given specific tasks," said a volunteer in his 20s. Some arrange for carpets, some bring food, some stop the vehicles, and some store water, he said. "We put ourselves at risk while trying to stop the vehicles, but then we don't care. We are the generous people of Jazeera." —AFP

TUNISIA FLAUNTS SECURITY A YEAR AFTER BEACH MASSACRE

COUNTRY SEEKS TO BRING BACK TOURISTS

HAMMAMET, Tunisia: Policemen on horseback amble among the sunbathers and new metal detectors dot hotel entrances in Tunisia as the North African country seeks to bring back tourists a year after a seaside massacre. Authorities and hotel managers hope improved security will help to win back the trust of holidaymakers on the first anniversary of the jihadist attack that killed 38 tourists at a beach resort.

"We used to sell sunshine and beaches. Today, we sell sunshine, beaches and security," says Anis Souissi, who manages a seaside hotel south of Tunis. Before its 2011 revolution, Tunisia attracted almost seven million visitors a year, with its tourism sector accounting for seven percent of GDP. The beach bloodbath was the second of two deadly jihadist attacks that dealt heavy blows to the key industry last year, following four years of decline due

to political instability.

Tourists fled in horror on June 26, as a Tunisian gunman pulled a Kalashnikov rifle from inside a furled beach umbrella and went on a shooting spree outside a five-star hotel near the city of Sousse. It came just months after 21 tourists and a policeman were killed in another jihadist attack at the Bardo National Museum in Tunis. A year on, the country's tourism sector is still reeling. Revenues for the first quarter of this year were down by 51.7 percent compared to last year, according to the central bank. European visitors to the country in 2015 had already dropped by 65.8 percent compared

Anyone Suspicious Checked As high season kicks off in Tunisia,

authorities and tourism firms are hoping to boost confidence and encourage bookings with increased

security checks. The interior ministry has said that 70 mobile police posts have been set up on beaches, with around 1,500 more policemen deployed to protect tourists this year on top of 1,000 additional security personnel deployed last year. In Yasmine-Hammamet, some 70 km southeast of Tunis, policemen roam the beaches on foot, in quad bikes and on horses.

On the sand by the water's edge, two policemen in uniform chat under a red gazebo discreetly marked "police". "If anyone looks suspicious even if it's a holidaymaker - we ask them for their ID," a plainclothes policeman tells AFP. After all, the Sousse attacker had hidden his weapon inside a parasol, he says. Following the seaside killings, Prime Minister Habib Essid admitted that the police had been too slow to respond. Tunisia's tourism minister told AFP in late May that the government was making security a priority "because without security there can be no recovery" in the tourism sector.

The authorities had directed airports and hotels "to conform to international security norms and standards", Selma Elloumi Rekik said. But Anis Chemli, who manages a hotel in the island of Djerba in the country's southeast, says adopting new security measures is "an added financial burden".

Quads for the Police

After last year's beach attack, the Iberostar hotel in Djerba invested in eight extra security guards, four new sniffer dogs, 48 new surveillance cameras each costing 2,000 dinars (\$900) - and a metal detector that cost 9,000 dinars, he says. "We're still waiting for a bag scanner to be delivered," he says, adding that the machine was an investment of Ä26,600. According to Chemli, hotels in the Djerba-Zarzis area have even banded together to buy the security forces eight quad bikes for them to better patrol their beaches.

Souissi, who manages Le Royal in Yasmine-Hammamet, says a third of the hotel's new investments last year went towards better security. The head of the Tunisian hotel industry federation, Radhouane Ben Salah, however says improved security should only be "part of the message" to promote Tunisia as a holiday destination abroad. Focusing promotional material on security instead of what landscapes or cultural experiences the country has to offer could be "counter-productive", he says.

One year after the Sousse attack in which 30 Britons were killed, the Foreign Office has kept in place an advisory against all but essential travel to Tunisia. But Abdellatif Hamam, the head of Tunisia's National Tourism Office, is optimistic. "Our efforts are starting to pay off," he says. Sixty out of 100 hotels that closed after the Sousse attacks have reopened. "We invite journalists, tour operators and travel agencies to come and see for themselves." —AFP



ISTANBUL: Palestinian Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal (left) and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan shake hands during their meeting on Friday. —AFP

ERDOGAN MEETS HAMAS CHIEF amid reports of Israel deal

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday met the leader of radical Palestinian group Hamas for unscheduled talks following reports Ankara was close to agreeing a deal on normalizing ties with Israel. Erdogan received the Doha-based Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal, whose group rules the Gaza Strip, at the Ottoman-era Yildiz Palace in Istanbul, the official Anadolu Agency reported, quoting presidential sources. Turkish press reports have said Israel and Turkey could hold final talks on normalizing ties today, but this had yet to be confirmed.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Thursday there was a "large possibility" the negotiations would take place by the end of this month. Anadolu said Erdogan and Meshaal discussed how to ease the humanitarian problems of the Palestinians and how to bridge the differences between Hamas and the other main Palestinian group Fatah. The report made no reference to the Turkish talks with Israel. Previously tight relations between Israel and key NATO member Turkey were significantly downgraded after Israeli commandos staged a deadly predawn raid on a sixship flotilla in May 2010 as it tried to run the blockade on Gaza.

Two of Turkey's key conditions for normalization - an apology and compensation - were largely met, leaving its third demand, that Israel lift its blockade on the Hamas-run Gaza Strip, as the main obstacle. According to the Hurriyet daily, a compromise has been reached with Turkey set to send aid for Palestinians via the Israeli port of Ashdod rather than sending it directly to Gaza. —AFP



HAMMAMET, Tunisia: Tunisian mounted police patrol a beach in this coastal resort, some 60 km southeast of Tunis, on June 18, 2016. —AFP

POPE VISITS ARMENIAN MEMORIAL

GYUMRI, Armenia: Pope Francis demanded yesterday that the world never forget or minimize the Ottoman-era slaughter of Armenians as he paid his respects at the country's imposing genocide memorial and greeted survivors emboldened by his recognition of the "genocide". Francis presented a wreath at the memorial and stood, head bowed, in silent prayer before an eternal flame as priests blessed him with incense and a choir sang haunting

"Here I pray with sorrow in my heart so that a tragedy like this never again occurs, so that humanity will never forget and will know how to defeat evil with good," Francis wrote in the memorial's guest book. "May God protect the memory of the Armenian people. Memory should never be watereddown or forgotten. Memory is the source of peace and the future."

Francis returned to the theme of memory during a Mass in Gyumri, where several thousand people gathered in a central square for his only public Catholic Mass of his three-day visit to Armenia. Gyumri, nestled in the rolling green hills and wildflower fields of northwestern Armenia, has long been a cradle of Christianity, and Francis came here to pay homage to its faith even in times of trial. "Peoples, like individuals, have a memory," he told the crowd from the makeshift altar. "Your own people's memory is ancient and precious."

The Vatican has long held the Armenian cause dear, holding up the poor nation of 3 million mostly Orthodox Christians as a bastion of faith and martyrdom in a largely Muslim region and the first nation in the world to adopt Christianity as a state religion in 301. "We were saved by the Christian faith which in the years of the genocide helped our grandfathers and great-grandfathers," 38year-old Vardui Simonyan, a granddaughter of genocide survivors, said after the pope's visit to the memorial. "The fact that one of the main people in Christendom is with us is inspiring."

In the most carefully watched speech of the trip, Francis on Friday ad-libbed the politically charged word "genocide" to his prepared text, listing the 1915 Armenian genocide alongside the Holocaust and Stalinism as the three great mass slaughters of the 20th century. There was no immediate reaction from Turkey, which withdrew its ambassador last year and accused Francis of spreading lies when he first termed the slaughter genocide. Turkey rejects the term, saying the 1.5 million death figure cited by historians is inflated and that people died on both sides as the Ottoman Empire collapsed amid World War I.

The Vatican spokesman, the Rev Federico Lombardi, said the Vatican wasn't aiming to renew conflict with Turkey by

repeating the term, stressing that the pope has always called for reconciliation. "I don't think there are reasons to see big problems," he said. At the genocide memorial yesterday, Francis greeted some descendants of the 400 or so Armenian orphans taken in by Popes Benedict XV and Pius XI at the papal summer residence south of Rome in the 1920s. Also approaching Francis was Sosi Habeschyan, 68, and her sister; their mother was a genocide orphan adopted and raised by Danish missionary Maria Jacobsen, who worked in the Ottoman Empire in 1915 and wrote about the massacre.

"A blessing has come down on the land of Mt Ararat," said Andzhela Adzhemyan, a 35-year old refugee from Syria who was a guest at the memorial. "He has given us the strength and confidence to keep our Christian faith no matter what." In a largely Orthodox land where Catholics are a minority, Armenians have seemed genuinely honored to welcome a pope who has long championed the Armenian cause from his time as an archbishop in Argentina and now as leader of the 1.2-billion strong Catholic Church. "We have the memory of the genocide in our genes," said 45-year-old Alexander Rubenyan from Yerevan. "It used to be a gene of sadness, but with every visit of people like the pope the Armenian gene is becoming more alive and full of optimism." —AP



YEREVAN: Pope Francis (second right), flanked by Catholicos Karekin II (left) and Armenia's President Serzh Sargsyan (right), visits the Tzitzernakaberd Memorial Complex yesterday. —AP

RADICAL CHANGE OR SAFETY? SPAIN WAVERS BEFORE VOTE

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA, Spain: In Spain's southern tourist hotspot Jerez de la Frontera, Cristian Garcia whiles away the day sitting on a bench with his mates. Unemployed, he will vote for a far-left coalition led by Podemos in today's elections. It's a different story more than 600 km north in the affluent town of Paracuellos de Jarama, where many are veering to the right in fear of the arrival of what some dub the "communists", referring to the Unidos Podemos coalition.

Across the nation, the second general election in six months is pitting voters hungry for change in a country with sky-high unemployment against those who fear this change would worsen the situation for Spain, which was on the brink of collapse just a few years ago. They have the choice between four major political groupings after the emergence of upstarts Podemos and centre-right Ciudadanos last year uprooted the country's two-party dominance.

This upheaval meant that the last elections in December resulted in a hung parliament, after which parties failed to agree on a coalition, prompting today's repeat vote. And while opinion polls suggest the acting conservative Popular Party (PP) will come first without an absolute majority like it did in December, Unidos Podemos may now come second with its appealing promise of change and hope.

Hunger for Change

Hoping for change is exactly what Cristian Garcia is doing, sitting in Andalusia's Jerez de la Frontera. The city known for its sherry, dancing horses and flamenco also had the third worst jobless rate in the country in 2015, at 39.4 percent. "There's no work. And if there is, it's precarious and badly-paid," says Garcia. Matias Yunes, from Jerez too, will also vote Unidos Podemos, a coalition that includes green-communist grouping Izquierda Unida. He graduated as an architect three years ago, and hasn't found anything other than temporary work.

Unemployment is one of the hot-button

issues of the elections, with Spain the second worst off in the European Union after Greece. In the first quarter of the year, the jobless rate stood at 21 percent. For the under-25s, it shot up to 46.5 percent. Acting prime minister Mariano Rajoy vaunts that he has got unemployment down from a peak of 26.9 percent in early 2013, but his critics retort that the jobs created are mainly unstable and temporary.

Like other parties, Unidos Podemos has promised to address this issue if it comes to power, for instance, by implementing a guaranteed minimum monthly income for all households, or ditching a controversial 2012 labor law reform. The Socialists have also pledged to ditch the reform, which makes it easier to fire workers, and also raise the minimum wage. But goodwill for the Socialists has died down even in their southern stronghold of Andalusia, which they have ruled for decades but where many have yet to see their lives improve.

There, the party was hit by two corruption scandals, including one involving the alleged embezzlement of European funds destined for training the unemployed. But Rafael Rivera, who sells goodies from a cart on a beach not far from Jerez, says he will stick with the Socialists like he has always done. "You can see that Podemos are enthusiastic, but I don't trust them," he says, metres away from a tranquil sea under a cloudless sky.

Fear of Change

Both the PP and Socialists - fearful of being replaced as the main left-wing force - have campaigned hard against Unidos Podemos, with Rajov bluntly warning of "radicalism". And that resonates with Felipe Abalos, up north in Paracuellos de Jarama. "It's dangerous, we don't know what they will do," says this 73-year-old former financial director, sitting under the cool water vapour sprays of a restaurant terrace. Another customer, Julio Sampedro, concurs. "Podemos seems what is closest to communism. If the Unidos Podemos coalition comes to power, I would panic," he says. — AFP



JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA, Spain: Spanish sweets seller Rafael Rivera Jerez stands on the beach during an interview on June 21, 2016. — AFP

ICELAND ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

VOTE ECLIPSED BY EURO CHAMPIONSHIP, BREXIT

REYKJAVIK: Iceland began voting in a presidential election Saturday, two months after the Panama Papers scandal tainted part of the political elite, with newcomer Gudni Johannesson seen clinching an easy victory. Polling stations opened at 0900 GMT, with 245,000 Icelanders eligible to cast ballots. Polls were to close at 2200 GMT, with the first results expected shortly afterwards.

Johannesson, a 47-year-old history professor and political commentator who has never held public office, only decided to run after the Panama Papers leak in April detailing offshore accounts implicated several senior Icelandic politicians, including the prime minister who was forced to resign. Johannesson has vowed to restore Icelanders' faith in the system after years of public anger toward politicians for miring the country in scandals and financial woes.

But while outraged Icelanders massed in the streets for days in April calling for the prime minister's ouster, that anger appeared to have dissipated somewhat with the final days of campaigning overshadowed by euphoria after the Icelandic football squad achieved a historic feat at the Euro 2016 football tournament. A North Atlantic island of just 334,000 people, Iceland beat Austria 2-1 on Wednesday to qualify for the last 16 in the country's Euro debut, facing off against England on Monday.

The news dominated the headlines, with only sparse coverage of the looming election. In an editorial published yesterday, centre-left daily Frettabladid said the campaign "has never really gotten off the ground and mostly been about past issues" such as the Cod Wars and the 2008 financial crisis. Johannesson "has not succeeded in pointing the debate towards today and the future. Perhaps it is the historian in him that is comfortable discussing the past. Another candidate, David Oddsson, is almost the embodiment of those long-gone events."

Commanding Lead

Britain's vote to leave the European Union also dominated the news on the eve of the election in Iceland, a country that itself applied for EU membership in 2009 but abandoned the bid six years later. Like most of Iceland's voters, Johannesson is opposed to EU membership. The president holds a largely ceremonial position, acting as a guarantor of the constitution and national unity. The constitution does allow the president to dissolve parliament, as well as veto bills and put them to a referendum, though those powers have rarely been used.

Current president, Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, is stepping down at 73 after five straight terms spanning 20 years. More important legislative elections are due in the autumn. In opinion polls, Johannesson has held a commanding lead over the other eight candidates since announcing his candidacy in early May. The latest polls credited him with between 45 and 49 percent of



REYKJAVIK: Presidential candidate Gudni Johannesson casts his ballot at a polling station yesterday. — AFP

voter sympathies. Johannesson's closest rival for most of the campaign was Oddsson, with between 12 and 16 percent of support.

The 68-year-old, who served as Conservative prime minister from 1991 to 2004 and central bank governor from 2005 to 2009, is a divisive figure in Iceland, inextricably linked to the excesses of the banking boom that led to the country's devastating 2008 financial crisis. He was overtaken in the final days of the campaign by businesswoman Halla Tomasdottir, who was credited with just over 18 percent of votes in a poll on Friday.

'Neutral Candidate'

Johannesson was until recently known to Icelanders as one of the country's most prominent political commentators from the University of Iceland. Unlike Oddsson, Johannesson is nonpartisan, putting "emphasis on presenting himself as a neutral candidate," Gretar Eythorsson, a political science professor at the University of Akureyri, told AFP. In a nation basking in a strong economy, low unemployment and robust purchasing power, Johannesson's views are generally seen as moderate and centrist.

His calm nature, conciliatory tone, and consensus-oriented approach, as well as his stated desire to restore Icelanders' faith in the political system, has appealed to voters. He has also vowed to modernise political life and give voters more of a voice, by, among other things, introducing citizen-initiated referendums. The president "is expected to unite the people rather than scatter them," Johannesson told AFP in an interview. — AFP

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LONDONERS REBEL WITH 'LEXIT' SECESSION CALL

LONDON: Londoners mobilized on social media yesterday to back a campaign to go from Brexit to 'Lexit', calling for their city to divorce Britain and "move in with our friends" in the European Union. While largely a symbolic protest, it is fuelled by real anger following Thursday's dramatic vote to quit the EU, which was acutely felt in the national capital, where a majority voted for Britain to remain in the EU, contrary to the prevailing mood in the country.

More than 130,000 people signed up to a petition to London Mayor Sadiq Khan calling on him to "Declare London independent from the UK and apply to join the EU". "London is an international city, and we want to remain at the heart of Europe," it says. "Let's face it - the rest of the country disagrees. "Let's make the divorce official and move in with our friends on the continent."

The petition was started by freelance writer James O'Malley, who expected only a few hundred signatures. "It did start a bit like a joke - a frustrated joke, a cry of despair," the 29-year-old told AFP.

"I'm a big fan of the EU - the values, the utopian ideas underpinning the EU. I don't want to see London leave." Despite the jokey origins, he said the idea was not unthinkable. "A few years ago we would have said leaving the EU is impossible," he said. "I'm hoping now, given this gigantic reaction, to turn it into something meaningful. For example, could we use it to campaign for greater devolution for London?"

Like Singapore?

The idea of London becoming a city-state like Singapore is circulating online. "I'm pushing for Lexit," Grimshaw London architect Mark Middleton said on Twitter. Khan has dismissed the idea but insisted that the capital's voice must be heard in Britain's EU exit negotiations, chiefly that the UK should retain access to the European single market. The London Evening Standard newspaper said in its editorial Friday that the vote reflected the city's interests.

"The capital's economy, depending so much on the financial sector, which in turn depends so much on our privileged EU access as well as our global reach, made it inevitable that London would see the referendum differently," it said. The results of Thursday's referendum make the capital-country division clear. Some 51.9 percent nationwide voted for Britain to leave the EU, but eligible Londoners voted 59.9 percent for Britain to stay.

Among the UK's major cities, London was not alone in having a majority of voters who wanted Britain to stay in the EU. Manchester, Glasgow, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast and Newcastle voted in. Three of the UK's four highest Remain votes were also in London: Lambeth (78.6 percent), Hackney (78.5 percent) and Haringey (75.6 percent).

'Less British, More Londoner'

On the other hand, Londoners were amongst the most apathetic about voting. Of the 12 regions, turnout in London was the fourth lowest at 69.7 per-

cent. But the shockwaves were reverberating around the city nonetheless. "I never felt less British and more Londoner," Remain voter Julius Beltrame, 39, who works in the software sector, told AFP in The Lexington, a north London pub, in the early hours of Friday as the results were coming in. Beverley David, a 33-year-old headhunter also in The Lexington, added: "People in London have a different identity. We are Londoners first, then European, then British."

The restiveness was also evident when former London mayor Boris Johnson, who spearheaded the Leave campaign, left his home Friday. Police had to hold back an angry mob who booed him and yelled "traitor", "you're a parasite" and "shame on you". Most Londoners identify as having roots beyond Britain. "London is a cosmopolitan city which cannot be compared to the rest of the UK," said Carmen Martinez, 43, a Spanish civil servant who is retraining to become a teacher. Here you do not feel marginalized. In the rest of the country they do not want immigrants." — AFP

CAMERON LOSES BIGGEST GAMBLE, JOHNSON LOOKS BIGGEST WINNER

MOMENT OF VICTORY IS FRAUGHT WITH CHALLENGES

LONDON: It was David Cameron's biggest gamble and he was convinced he would win. Now, the British leader's closest rival - in the EU referendum, in the Conservative Party and in the country - is the frontrunner to take his job. Britain's decision to leave the European Union, a victory for the populist cause, may be a defining moment for Britain and the European project. On Friday, it sent shares and the sterling currency sharply lower amid warnings of damage to the economy.

The one man to ascend is Boris Johnson, the for-

2013 to put Britain's EU membership to the public vote. It was an attempt to bury the question of Britain's EU membership that has bedevilled successive governments.

Initially, Cameron thought he could woo Johnson to his side. A friend and former colleague of Johnson said the former mayor could have been guaranteed a position in Cameron's cabinet - or group of top ministers - had he agreed to campaign alongside the prime minister. Instead he lent his support, and with it his broad popularity among



CLEETHORPES, England: British Prime Minister and Conservative party leader David Cameron attends the Armed Forces Day National Event (AFDNE) on the east coast of England yesterday. — AFP

mer London mayor and schoolmate of Cameron's who became the household name of the "Out" campaign even as the prime minister battled for "In". With Cameron's announcement that he will resign after the British public voted against him, Johnson is now the strongest candidate to replace him. But the moment of victory is fraught with challenges - first he will have to convince Conservative lawmakers to back him and then persuade the party's largely eurosceptic wider membership, who may challenge what his critics call a record of changing his views to suit his audience.

For Cameron, the turning point came in February when Johnson, a politician who has built a broad appeal beyond the ruling Conservative Party, threw his support behind the "Out" campaign in what several sources say was a calculated move to boost his chances of replacing the prime minister. Cameron gave in to vocal eurosceptics in his party in early

voters, to the "Leave" campaign. "He is such an asset to that campaign, he made it optimistic, energetic and positive," the friend told Reuters.

Cameron Missteps

Aides to the prime minister said Cameron believed he could have easily won the fight to keep Britain in the EU if he had had the support of Johnson, who used his position as mayor of London between 2008 and 2016 to broaden his appeal beyond the Conservative Party by supporting gay rights and immigration. The prime minister already had the weight of expert opinion in big business, entertainment and sport from across the country and beyond. These groups had been carefully polled and aides had held numerous focus groups that indicated that the "out" campaign could win only 42 percent of the vote by arguing solely on immigration.

The aides, and Cameron himself, had cam-

paigned for Johnson's support, but while the prime minister and the former mayor had "always got on pretty well", their's was essentially a political relationship, the friend said. "They had a relationship when they could afford to be quite ballsy with each other because they were close," the friend said, pointing to their shared background - both were educated at the elite Eton school and knew each other at Oxford University.

Like almost every politician, Johnson is ambitious, the friend said. And if his backing of the "Leave" campaign was not entirely unexpected, it was frustrating, according to a former Cameron aide who also spoke on condition of anonymity. That frustration boiled over in parliament a day after Johnson declared his hand and criticized the prime minister's new deal with the EU of a "special status" for Britain that Cameron thought should bolster his case for remaining.

After rubbishing a suggestion made by Johnson and others in the "Out" campaign that a vote to leave could prompt a deeper renegotiation of Britain's ties with the block, Cameron said: "I am not standing for re-election. I have no other agenda than what is best for our country." His aides deny it was an attack on Johnson, but for dozens of eurosceptic Conservatives and others who were undecided over which way to turn, it seemed to contradict Cameron's pledge to be respectful of those who disagreed with him.

Andrew Bridgen, a senior Conservative lawmaker who campaigned for Britain to leave, described the exchange as akin to a "pub brawl" when "you hit the biggest, most dangerous-looking bloke as hard as you can and hope he doesn't get back up again". The "Out" campaign, instead, stole the initiative with the beginning of "purdah" - a four week period when the government is banned from making announcements that could sway the vote, he said.

"It's unfortunate that the prime minister and chancellor (finance minister) put themselves at the front and centre of the Remain campaign so the collateral political damage is really quite immense," Bridgen said. He added that when it comes to negotiating Britain's departure from the EU, the talks must be led by one of the leaders of the "Leave" campaign - possibly justice minister Michael Gove, someone Cameron had counted as a close friend according to sources close to the prime minister and leading Conservatives.

Europe Curse

Cameron, who announced his resignation with tears in his eyes outside his residence at 10 Downing Street, will stay on until October, earning a little time to try to smooth the transition in the Conservative Party. But with his party's right-wing in the ascendance, a new leader is expected to come from the eurosceptic camp, potentially putting paid to secure his legacy as a "modernizer" of the party and his much hoped for succession of George Osborne, the finance minister. — Reuters



ATHENS: A picture taken yesterday shows the front page of the Greek newspaper 'Ta Nea' reading 'Be afraid of Brexit' and other newspapers bearing headlines reporting the result of the UK's vote to leave the EU in the June 23 referendum. — AP

Brexit fans nationalism but offers 'rendezvous with history': Press

PARIS: Europe's press was awash with gloom and doom over Brexit yesterday, warning that it was a boon for nationalists while urging EU leaders to meet the challenge of their "rendezvous with history". A cartoon in the Dutch paper AD Haagsche Courat styled after Edvard Munch's "The Scream" showed the German, Dutch and British leaders howling in horror, holding their hands to their faces. "It's not an exaggeration to call it a disaster," Spain's El Pais daily said in an editorial about Britons voting to leave the European Union in Thursday's referendum.

It urged EU nations to offer their citizens "ideas, plans, real leadership," adding only then could the EU "be saved from the dangerous abyss it has reached". "A black day for Europe - OUTch!" was the banner headline of the German daily Bild, while Spain's El Mundo ran a cartoon showing the Beatles crossing Abbey Road towards an abyss. "The Brexit shock will have profound geopolitical implications," said an editorial in Italy's leading Corriere della Sera. "The European project will not be the same and the role of Europe in the world will inevitably be reshaped."

Calling the UK referendum result a "blow to Europe", Corriere said it marked the end of a period of optimism and cooperation in European history that began with the fall of the Berlin Wall. "Europe is a common home that is on fire," said Laurent Joffrin of France's left-leaning daily Liberation. "Its leaders have a rendezvous with history." He said Britons had voted with their pocketbooks and their disaffection was shared across the EU. "The demographics of the vote leaves no doubt: the poorer and older you are in Great Britain, the more you reject the European project," he said. "Workers across the continent don't believe in

it anymore. They are turning towards their national identities as the only credible rampart against the excesses of globalization."

Die Welt chastised German Chancellor Angela Merkel for her role in fanning antiimmigration sentiment, saying she "contributed to it significantly with the times she went it alone with her refugee policy."

'Chain Reaction'

Populism could doom several EU leaders facing elections, said Italy's II Fatto Quotidiano under the headline "Now everyone is scared". "The anti-establishment wave risks sweeping away" Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy in Spain's elections today, it said. A "chain reaction" could follow that would doom Italy's Matteo Renzi in an October referendum as well as the French and German leaders, who face elections next year, the paper said.

But Austrian daily Die Presse warned against lambasting political elites in the aftermath of Brexit, which journalist Rainer Nowak said was seen as a "new victory of the underdogs over the decadent establishment". "Things cannot work without elites at a decision-making level," he said. "(Rejecting) experts, universities, high culture, thinkers and debate... would be bad for everyone... not just Europe."

Many editorialists saw the break with Britain as a watershed, with Jerome Fonglio of France's leading daily Le Monde saying it should prompt "deep thought about what (the EU) should be and the direction it should take". Italy's left-leaning La Repubblicca called on the youth of Europe to revitalize the European project. "Europe belongs to you," said a front-page headline. "Don't let the peddlers of fear win." — AFP

OBAMA LOSES RELIABLE PARTNER, FACES UNCERTAINTY AFTER BREXIT

WASHINGTON: For the first 7-1/2 years of his presidency, Barack Obama could rely on the United Kingdom to back him up at nearly every turn, knowing British leaders had both the global clout and shared perspective to be powerful US partners. He enters his final months in office with that sense of certainty shattered by the UK's decision to leave the European Union and the resignation of Prime Minister David Cameron, one of his closest collaborators on the world stage.

In his public reaction to the vote, Obama offered assurances that the two countries would remain "indispensable partners" and that the special relationship forged by their common history would survive intact. He insisted he respected Britain's decision and added he was confident the nation would pursue an orderly transition to life outside the EU.

Yet before the vote, Obama had warned in no uncertain terms of the consequences for Britain leaving the EU. He put the UK on notice it would become a low priority on trade while pushing back on the isolationist and anti-immigrant sentiments that have taken root in the US and elsewhere and now seem to be tearing at Europe's seams. His vice president, Joe Biden, was blunter, conceding that Britain's exit, or Brexit, was "not how we would have preferred it to be."

The incongruence between Obama's comments before and after the vote reflected the difficult spot Obama finds himself in. With US and global markets reeling, Obama wants to avoid the perception that UK relations will suffer. At the same time, downplaying the significance of the exit could

undermine his calls for Europe remaining integrated under the EU banner, just as other European nations start demanding their own votes about whether to leave.

White House officials said they expect no immediate changes to the myriad areas where the two countries are working together, including the British military's involvement in the US-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group. After all, Britain's withdrawal from the EU could take years. Still, there's far less assurance that Britain and other European countries will reflexively take the US side as new and evolving challenges inevitably pop up.

"We instinctively turn to Europe for everything, and we're going to turn and they're just not going to be in a place to promote US interests," said Heather Conley, a Europe analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "The concern is that this is going to be so all-consuming that they're not going to be able to take very difficult steps that are not popular."

Next Leaders

Defining the new, post-EU relationship between the UK and the US will largely fall to the countries' next leaders. Cameron's resignation may not come until October, three months before the end of Obama's term. Though British voters haven't picked a replacement, an early favorite is former London Mayor Boris Johnson, a forceful voice for leaving the EU who once suggested that Obama had an "ancestral dislike of the British Empire" due to his Kenyan roots. — AP

1.5M SIGN UK PETITION FOR SECOND EU VOTE

LONDON: More than 1.5 million people have signed a petition calling for a second referendum, after a shock vote to pull Britain out of the EU, an official website showed yesterday. The website of the parliamentary petition at one point crashed due to the surge of people adding their names to the call for another nationwide poll following Thursday's historic vote. "We the undersigned call upon HM Government to implement a rule that if the remain or leave vote is less than 60 percent based (on) a turnout less than 75 percent there should be another referendum," says the petition.

The "Leave" camp won the support of 51.9 percent of voters, against 48.1 percent in favor of remaining in the European Union. Turnout for Thursday's referendum was 72.2 percent. Signatories to the petition appeared to be mostly in Edinburgh and London, both of which voted heavily in favour of "Remain". There is no obligation in British legislation for referendums to have a minimum share of the vote or a minimum turnout, as in some other countries.

in some other countries. But EU rules say nothing about a member state that has already begun negotiations to leave the bloc changing its mind and reversing that decision under Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty. University of Strathclyde professor John Curtice outlined two hypothetical scenarios in which a second referendum could take place. "If Boris Johnson is running the government and it is taking a long time to be implemented, two years down the line we could have another poll showing people actually want to reverse the decision and remain in," he said. "Then there could be a situation where the opposition party in a general election have a mandate to hold a new referendum," he added. But he said there would be no immediate effects from the current petition except for a formal discussion in parliament, which is required for any petitions that have over 100,000 signatures.

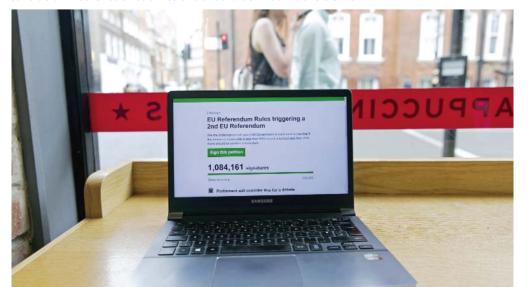
'You Can't Have Neverendums'

The result of Thursday's vote revealed stark divisions between young and old, north and south, cities and rural areas, and people with and without a university degree. By 1400 GMT yesterday. some 1,554,000 people had signed the petition on the official government and parliament website -more than 15 times the number required for a proposal to be discussed in parliament. On Friday, a House of Commons spokeswoman said the website had been taken out of action temporarily due to "exceptionally high volumes of simultaneous users on a single petition, significantly higher than on any previous occasion".

The parliament's Petitions Committee, which considers whether such submissions should be

raised in the House, is to hold its next meeting on Tuesday. The idea of a second referendum was raised during campaigning for Thursday's vote. UK Independence Party leader Nigel Farage suggested last month that a close Remain win would build up resentment and not be the end of the matter. "In a 52-48 referendum this would be unfinished business by a long way," he told the Daily Mirror newspaper.

The Sunday Times newspaper backed the idea of a second referendum, "once the first has forced Brussels to undertake a more serious negotiation". "In a real crisis the EU has always stepped back from the brink," the "Leave"-supporting broadsheet said. But "Leave" figurehead Johnson downplayed the idea of a new vote. "I'm absolutely clear, a referendum is a referendum. — AFP



LONDON: A laptop screen yesterday displays a parliamentary petition on the website of the British government, calling for a 2nd UK referendum on the UK's inclusion within the EU, following the June 23 vote to leave. — AFP

GREY BREXIT VOTE ANGERS YOUNGER BRITONS



LONDON: A demonstrator holds a placard during a protest against the outcome of the UK's June 23 referendum on the European Union (EU) yesterday. — AFP

LONDON: Young people vented their anger yesterday against more eurosceptic older voters as they came to terms with a momentous referendum to pull Britain out of the EU, with the hashtag #NotInMyName trending on Twitter. "I feel angry. Those who voted leave, they're not going to fight the future," said Mary Treinen, 23, a technological consultant who lives in London's trendy Shoreditch district. A 12,000-strong survey of referendum voters published by pollster Michael Ashcroft found that 73 percent of 18-24-year-olds and 62 percent of 25-34-year-olds had voted "Remain", while 60 percent of people aged over 65 had voted "Leave".

Within hours of the results, there was a small demonstration outside Downing Street. Richie Xavier, a 21-year-old barman, said: "I don't feel it is right for the old people to speak for us. Not to be insensitive, but we have a lot longer to go than they do. So I do feel a little bit robbed of my future." Paddy Baker, 21, agreed saying: "Older people voted for this - but we

are the ones who are going to feel the ramifications."

At a meeting of the opposition Labour Party in central London on Saturday, many also voiced concern about the generational fault-line exposed by the vote, between those who cannot remember a Britain without the European Union and those who can. "The young people that voted overwhelmingly to remain must not be short-changed," Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn told the audience. Terence Smith, at 19 Britain's youngest mayor, said he had voted "Remain". "I'm still coming to terms with what we are facing," said Smith, mayor of Goole in Yorkshire, northern England. He said there was "a terrible generational divide that we must seek to overcome".

'I'm Out of This Country'

Many young people took to social media to vent their frustration after the shock result from Thursday's vote, in which "Leave" won by 52 percent to 48 percent. "This vote doesn't represent the

younger generation who will have to live with the consequences," Luke Tansley wrote on Twitter under the handle @rams_luke. Eleanor on @PrettiestStar_ wrote: "I refuse to hide my anger, fear and sadness at a decision that will change my future to one I never wanted". Rebecca, tweeting at @ReallyRew said: "Our country's fate has been decided by people longing for a past that never existed and they've created a future that's bleak".

Matthew van der Merwe wrote to the Financial Times newspaper describing how his great-grandparents fled violent nationalism in Europe in the 1930s for South Africa and how his parents fled apartheid. "My brothers and I were the first in four generations to be born into an open, liberal democracy, and in a world that had moved towards co-operation," the Cambridge University student said. "On Thursday we moved backwards, and it's not clear quite how far. A great deal of the optimism I shared with most of my generation in this country, is gone," he said. — AFP

I'M GOING NOWHERE, SAYS UK OPPN LEADER CORBYN

LONDON: The leader of Britain's main opposition Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, said on Saturday he would resist any attempt to oust him after the country voted to leave the European Union, citing his strong support among the party's members. Corbyn has been criticized by some of Labour's elected lawmakers who say he did not campaign hard enough in support of EU membership, and had failed to convince millions of voters in the party's heartlands to back "Remain".

Hours after the 52 to 48 percent vote in favor of Brexit, or a British exit, which triggered financial and political turmoil across the globe, two lawmakers submitted a motion of no confidence in him. Others have also called for his resignation. In his first speech since the vote, Corbyn said he would resist the calls, emphasising the large mandate given to him by party activists at a leadership contest last year, in which he was swept to victory on a wave of support for his left-wing political agenda.

Asked whether he would stand for reelection in any leadership contest, he said: "Yes, I'm here. There are some people in the Labour Party ... who would want probably somebody else to be the leader of the Labour Party, they've made that abundantly clear." "What I'm totally amazed by is that in the past 24 hours 140,000 people have said they do not want the Labour Party to spend the next two months debating the leadership," he said, citing an online petition calling for him to remain leader.

Around one third of Labour voters are estimated to have backed a British exit from the EU on Thursday, with many of those coming from traditional working class areas where high immigration tops the list of public concerns. Responding to criticism from Labour colleagues that he had failed to address those concerns, Corbyn said there needed to be a national dialogue on immigration to reach a new settlement. "We can't duck the issue of immigration, clearly it was a factor," he said. "We need to start an open and honest debate."

Corbyn said Thursday's vote showed a backlash against the EU principle of free movement. But he added that if Britain wanted to retain access to the European single market - one of many issues cast into doubt by the vote - he believed it would have to accept free movement as a condition of that deal. "If we were part of the single market in future, then clearly that would be accompanied by the continuing free movement of people,"



BERLIN: (From left) Italy's Foreign minister Paolo Gentiloni, Belgium's Foreign minister Didier Reynders, Germany's Foreign minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, France's Foreign minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, Netherlands' Foreign minister Bert Koenders and Luxembourg's Foreign minister Jean Asselborn pose for a group photo at the villa Borsig prior to post-Brexit talks yesterday. — AFP

FACE FRAUGHT DIVORCE

BRUSSELS: Britain's leaving the European Union promises to be a fraught divorce, with the first exchanges showing how breaking up will be hard to do after more than 40 years together. With European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker warning that Brexit would "not be amicable", here are the next steps in the complicated process that Brussels and London will have to navigate.

Dear Jean (Claude)

The process is proving acrimonious before it has even started. The European Union wants to move on quickly so as to limit the fallout from the Brexit vote as fears grow that other member states such as Denmark and the Netherlands might seek a referendum of their own. Britain should accordingly start negotiations to quit the bloc "as soon as possible, however painful that process may be," EU president Donald Tusk said after an emergency meeting with his peers. British Prime Minister David Cameron, announcing his resignation, insisted however that it would and should be up to his successor to begin the process, most likely in October.

European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker said he could not understand the delay. "I do not understand why the British government needs until October to decide whether to send the divorce letter to Brussels," Juncker told German public broadcaster ARD.

"It is not an amicable divorce but it was also not an intimate love affair," he added. Some British commentators say the talks could be delayed even longer, possibly until after French presidential elections in 2017, as a new 'Brexiteers' government holds back in hope of getting a better deal.

Article 50

To begin the withdrawal process, Britain must invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon treaty, which has never been used before. Article 50 says that "any member state may decide to withdraw from the Union in accordance with its own constitutional requirements" and sets out the procedures to do so. The first step is to inform the European Council of member states, led by Tusk, which sets the clock ticking on a two-year timetable of negotiations. The talks can be extended by mutual agreement, if need be, to allow the hugely complex process of unpicking the reams of legislation joining Britain and the EU.

Tusk has warned that getting approval for a deal from each of the remaining 27 member states, plus the European Parliament, could take a further five years making seven years in all. The British government said in a report in February that it could take up to 10 years to tie up all the loose ends. Article 50 also states that a former EU nation can seek to rejoin the bloc,

under Article 49, which begins the membership process from zero.

Settlement: Norwegian or Swiss

The simplest and most frequently cited option for a settlement is for Britain to join Iceland and Norway as members of the European Economic Area, which would give them access to the EU single market. That however would mean London still having to obey the EU's rules despite no longer having any say in how they are decided, plus still having to pay money to Brussels. The similar Swiss model is another possibility but Switzerland has fallen foul of the EU over limits it has imposed on the free movement commitments it made to secure access to the EU market. Other options include a free trade deal with the EU or a customs union similar to that between Turkey and the EU. Failing that, it would simply become a trading partner like the United States or China.

Britons abroad

London would have to negotiate the status of the two million Britons living or working in the EU. This would particularly affect their pensions and rights to healthcare, with the British government noting: "UK citizens resident abroad, among them those who have retired to Spain, would not be able to assume that these rights will be guaranteed." — AFP



LONDON: British opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn delivers a speech following the pro-Brexit result of the UK's EU referendum vote yesterday. — AFP

BREXIT, A SIGN OF ANTI-ELITE REVOLT

PARIS: It was Britain's poorer and less-educated citizens - angry at not having shared in the economic benefits of a new world order - who pushed it out of the European Union, in a vote that threatens elites, analysts say. They are those who suffered the worst hangover from the economic crisis, and whose precarious economic position makes them most fearful of rising immigration - to the benefit of far right groups in the EU and Donald Trump in the United States. "I see the same pattern everywhere I look," said William Galston, a senior fellow at the US-based Brookings Institution. "The demographic splits within the UK are exactly the same category for category as the demographic splits within the American electorate in this presidential election."

Rural areas with high numbers of migrant workers, former industrial hubs and poor areas around cities, those without a university education and older voters were all among the 51.9 percent who voted Brexit. Galston said this was the same demographic backing controversial Republican candidate Trump in the US, as well as eurosceptic and far-right parties enjoying a rise in support across Europe. "They mistrust political elites because up until now they haven't seen any political parties who appear to recognise their discontent and respond to it." Galston said while he did not expect these forces to prevail in the United States as they did in the Brexit vote, they were a "major warning signal to established parties throughout Europe".

'It's About What People Feel' Fears are high of a domino effect, with eurosceptic, leftist and far right parties from France to the Netherlands crying victory after the shock Brexit result was announced and calling for similar votes in their own countries. Political scientist Melanie Sully of the Vienna-based Go-Governance Institute warned Europe was facing a "crisis of democracy" that could be exploited by xenophobic, far right parties. "If you don't have any trust in politics, it's exactly the sort of black hole populists can march into and capture the mood and build on it, to perpetuate their own false-

hoods," she told AFP. At the root of this surge in anti-establishment sentiment is a feeling of fear, loss of control, and traditions and identity lost among those who are struggling economically, analysts say. "Before we talk about populism, the anti-establishment, we have to talk about the social position of these people. What do they earn? How do they see their everyday lives?" said Tetiana Havlin, a sociologist at the University of Siegen in Germany. "In everyday life nobody thinks about anti-globalization, anti-establishment. They just see their challenges", she said. "This of course gives fertile ground for populism... but in the end this is about what people feel."

Observers point to two main drivers of the surge in scorn for the elite: The hangover from the 2008/2009 economic crisis and the refugee crisis. "You have a lot of people who took a big hit. These are people who feel economically vulnerable, and when you put demographic fears on top of economic vulnerability this is what you get," said Halston. "I don't think its mysterious anymore, we may have been scratching our head a year ago but we should be in no doubt now."

Many young people who voted Remain are furious at the number of older British voters who backed Leave lumbering them, as they see it, with the consequences of their decision for decades to come. Havlin said that many of these voters saw the EU as a source of security and stability when Britain joined in 1973, a time she refers to as "the prosperity years".

Now older, these voters reeling from austerity and a sense of growing threats at Europe's borders, feel "threatened and insecure". Dominique Moisi, of the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI) said the Brexit earthquake was a dark moment in Europe's history, comparing it unfavorably to the fall of communism. "Remember Star Wars: there is the light side and the dark side of the force. The light side was the fall of the Berlin Wall. The dark side is Brexit." — AFP



EDINBURGH: Scotland's First Minister and Leader of the Scottish National Party (SNP) Nicola Sturgeon addresses the media after holding an emergency cabinet meeting at Bute House yesterday. — AFP

SCOTLAND SEEKS EU TALKS TO PROTECT PLACE IN BLOC

EDINBURGH: Scotland wants immediate talks with the European Union on protecting its place in the bloc, after Britain's vote to leave the EU, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said yesterday. Speaking after an emergency meeting of her cabinet, Sturgeon said it had agreed to seek "immediate discussions with the EU institutions and other EU member states to explore all possible options to protect Scotland's place in the EU."

The UK as a whole voted by 52 percent to 48 percent to leave the EU in Thursday's historic referendum. But Scotland voted strongly for Britain to remain - by 62 percent to 38 percent. On Friday, Sturgeon said the results put a fresh referendum on Scottish independence "on the table", adding that it was "highly likely" within two years. She cited a clause in her Scottish National Party manifesto that there had been a "significant and material change in the circumstances" in which Scotland voted against independence in 2014, when 55 percent of Scots voted to stay in the UK.

Yesterday, Sturgeon reiterated her plans. "As I said yesterday, a second independence referendum is clearly an option that requires to be on the table and is very much on the table," she said. "To ensure that that option is a deliverable one within the required timetable, steps will be taken now to ensure that the necessary legislation is in place. Cabinet this morning formally agreed that work." - AFP

PERPETRATOR OF MASS VIOLENCE? ORLANDO SHOOTER FIT BILL

WASHINGTON: It's been two weeks since of previous atrocities. Mateen, a 29-year-old the worst mass shooting in US history and authorities have yet to announce any breakthrough in the investigation into the motives of gunman Omar Mateen. Many questions remain, but experts say there are

US citizen of Afghan origin, was buried quietly in a Muslim cemetery near Miami, about three hours from the gay nightclub

Mateen entered the club and opened fire with an assault rifle, and police killed him



HIALEAH GARDENS, Florida: The Muslim cemetery of Miami-Dade in south Florida is seen, where reports indicate that Orlando nightclub shooter Omar Mateen was buried on June 23, 2016. — AFP

after a three-hour standoff. Forty-nine clubgoers where killed in the shooting. The question remains: why did Mateen target the Pulse club and its gay customers? Mateen told an emergency dispatcher in a call during the carnage that he was pledging allegiance to Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi. But gay men in Orlando have also come forward to report that Mateen used gay dating apps and had been a repeat patron at Pulse. Was he radicalized? Or fighting an inner conflict between religious fundamentalism and repressed homosexuality?

Fits the Profile

Mateen fits the profile of a "typical" jihadist killer in America, based on a study by the New America think tank which analyzed more than 300 cases of people charged with terrorism in the United States since Sept 11, 2001. "They are ordinary Americans," said Peter Bergen, New America vice president and author of "United States of Jihad". According to the think tank, the average perpetrator is 28 years old. Onethird are married and one-third have children. Their education level is similar to that of the average American, with 50 percent having completed high school.

Mateen and the San Bernardino shooters fit this profile. Syed Farook, a US citizen, and his Pakistani wife Tashfeen Malik in December gunned down 14 people at an office party in San Bernardino, California, before they were killed in a shootout with police. "They exactly fit the profile: he was 28, she was 29, they were married, they had a kid, they both attended college, they graduated with degrees in sort of a technical area," Bergen said. Mateen was also married with a son and had a steady job in security.

Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump has called for a ban on Muslims entering the United States, but this wouldn't have stopped these mass shootings because they were carried out by US citizens. Farook was born in Chicago and Mateen was born in New York's Queens neighborhood, "which is exactly where Donald Trump was born, so he is as American as Donald Trump," Bergen said. Another mass shooter, Nidal Hasan, an Army psychiatrist who opened fire at the Fort Hood military base and killed 13 people in 2009, was born in Virginia.

Both Mateen and Farook seemed uncertain about which radical path to follow. "Farook was kind of terrorist group shop-

ping for a while," Bergen said. For a while he was interested in Shebab, East Africa's Al-Qaeda branch headquartered in Somalia. Then Farook was drawn to Al-Qaeda in Yemen and listened to sermons by Yemeniborn American radical Islamic cleric Anwar al-Awlaqi, Bergen said. Mateen displayed similarly muddled allegiances. "First, he claimed family connections to Al-Qaeda. He also said that he was a member of Hezbollah, which is a Shiite terrorist organization that is a bitter enemy of the so-called Islamic state, ISIL," FBI chief James Comey

Dashed Dreams

Like 16 percent of those who perpetrate deadly shootings, Mateen had abused a spouse - his first wife reported that she had been beaten. The statistic comes from data compiled from Jan 2009 to July 2015 by Everytown for Gun Safety, a group aimed at reducing US gun violence. Experts say Mateen also fits the bill of a disillusioned dreamer. Those who study mass killers believe that when a person with dreams of greatness finds those aspirations thwarted, personal frustration can trigger such an act. — AFP

IN NEED OF HELP, TRUMP FINDS FEW WILLING TO WORK FOR HIM

AIDES RELUCTANT TO DEVOTE MONTHS TO DIVISIVE CANDIDATE

WASHINGTON: To compete against Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump has finally conceded, he needs more than the bare-bones campaign team that led him to primary success. Yet he's finding that many of the GOP's most experienced political aides just aren't willing to work for him. From Texas to New Hampshire, well-respected members of the Republican Party's professional class say they can't look past their deep personal and professional reservations about the presumptive presidential nominee.

There are exceptions, but many operatives who best understand the mechanics of presidential politics fear that taking a Trump paycheck might stain their resumes, spook other clients and even cause problems at home. They're also reluctant to devote months to a divisive candidate whose campaign has been plagued by infighting and disorganization. "Right now I feel no obligation to lift a finger to help Donald Trump," said Brent Swander, an Ohio-based operative who has coordinated nationwide logistics for Republican presidential campaigns dating back to George W Bush.

"Everything that we're taught as children - not to bully, not to demean, to treat others with respect - everything we're taught as children is the exact opposite of what the Republican nominee is doing. How do you work for somebody like that? What would I tell my family?" Swander said. Trump leapt into presidential politics with a small group of aides, some drafted directly from his real estate business, with no experience running a White House campaign. An unquestioned success in the GOP primaries, they have struggled to

respond to the increased demands of a general election as Trump emerged as the party's presumptive nominee.

As in years past, the primary season created a pool of battle-tested staffers who worked for other candidates, from which Trump would be expected to draw. But hundreds of such aides have so far declined invitations to work for Trump. They include several communications aides to Chris Christie, as well as the New Jersey governor's senior political adviser, Michael DuHaime, who said he declined direct and indirect inquiries to work for the billionaire.

Chris Wilson, a senior aide to Ted Cruz, said the Texas senator's entire paid staff of more than 150 ignored encouragement from Trump's team to apply for positions after he dropped out of the presidential race. Wilson said that even now, many unemployed Cruz aides are refusing to work for the man who called their former boss "Lyin' Ted". That's the case for Scott Smith, a Texas-based operative who traveled the country planning events for Cruz, having previously worked on presidential bids for Bush and Texas Gov Rick Perry.

"It's very clear that none of us are going to work for Trump," Smith said. "Even if I wanted to work for Trump, my wife would kill me." Smith, as did many experienced operatives interviewed for this story, noted the intense personal sacrifice required of presidential campaigns. Many staffers don't see their families for long stretches, work long hours on little sleep and enjoy no job security. With Trump, Smith said, "I would feel like a mercenary. I can't be away from my young children if it's just for money."

Acute Need

Trump's need for additional staff is acute. His paltry fundraising network brought in less than \$2 million last month. He has just one paid staffer to handle hundreds of daily media requests and only a handful of operatives in battleground states devoted to his White House bid. Last month, Trump fired Rick Wiley, the former Scott Walker campaign manager he brought on to run his nationwide get out the vote effort. On Monday, Trump fired campaign manager Corey Lewandowski, who conceded he lacked the experience needed to grow Trump's operation.

"This campaign needs to grow rapidly ... two, three, four hundred people in the next 90 days or less," Lewandowski told the Fox News Channel. "That's a hard job and candidly I've never grown something that big." Campaign spokeswoman Hope Hicks did not respond to multiple requests for comment about the campaign's hiring, but former adviser Barry Bennett downplayed any staffing challenging, suggesting the campaign should be able to double its staff by the party's national convention next month.

Trump announced four new hires in the past week to supplement a staff of around 70. That's compared to Clinton's paid presence of roughly 700, many of them well-versed in modern political strategy. Trump's senior team, including campaign chief Paul Manafort and newly hired political director Jim Murphy, largely represent an older generation of political hands more active in the 1980s and 1990s. The campaign's new Ohio director, Bob Paduchik, led state efforts for Bush's 2000 and 2004 campaigns. — AP



LAKE ISABELLA, California: Firefighters battle a wildfire burning along Highway 178

TWO KILLED, 100 HOMES DESTROYED BY WILDFIRE

LAKE ISABELLA, California: A massive California wildfire that has already killed two people and destroyed 100 structures was burning out of control on Friday evening as officials said it was possible more victims could be found in the rubble. The so-called Erskine Fire, which broke out on Thursday afternoon in the foothills of Kern County about 68 km northeast of Bakersfield, had mushroomed on Friday to char more than 30,000 acres, making it one of the worst in an already intense California

The blaze has also sent three firefighters to the hospital for smoke inhalation and forced hundreds of residents to flee their homes ahead of the flames. California Governor Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency for Kern County. "This has been a massive amount of evacuations, people going door to door asking people to leave their homes because it's very dangerous out there," Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood told reporters at a Friday

fire season.

evening press conference. Youngblood said two people had been confirmed killed in the inferno and that more fatalities could be discovered once authorities were able to search burned out neighborhoods. "We're gonna go back over the rubble with cadaver dogs," he said. "We don't know if there are other victims who were unable to escape this fire." Fire officials said they had five percent containment of the Erskine Fire as of Friday night, which was being driven by high temperatures and bone-dry vegetation from a fiveyear California drought. "Everything is just working into a perfect storm," Kern County fire Captain Mike Nicholas said in a phone

Some 800 firefighters struggled against the fast-moving flames in steep terrain and hundreds more were headed in to reinforce. On Friday, authorities warned the more than 3,000 residents of the community of Lake Isabella on the shore of a reservoir to be prepared to evacuate. Southeast of Lake Isabella, dozens of burned-out homes and car frames could be seen in a neighborhood reduced to a field of mangled metal and collapsed roofs. Two groups of residents picked through the rubble while firefighters worked in the area.

Alex Thompson, 20, was standing on a street in the community of Weldon, where houses were burning, and said he believed his home was lost as well, though he could not be sure. "It makes me sad because I know I can't get that stuff back," Thompson said. "Basically, we're homeless right now." The rapidly expanding blaze 241 km north of Los Angeles has destroyed 100 structures, including homes, outbuildings and detached garages, Nicholas said. Another 1,500 structures were threatened.

To the south, firefighters were struggling to manage the so-called San Gabriel Complex fire in the foothills of Los Angeles County. As of Friday, it had burned over 2,144 hectares of chaparral and short grass, and containment lines were drawn around 30 percent of its perimeter. All evacuation orders have been lifted. — Reuters



CARACAS: Venezuelans shout slogans after the closure of centers to authenticate their signatures for a recall referendum before the National Electoral Council (CNE) on Friday. — AFP

OPPN: ENOUGH SIGNATURES FOR MADURO VOTE

CARACAS/MARACAY: Opposition leaders in Venezuela said Friday they have finished the process of authenticating signatures on a petition to recall President Nicolas Maduro, and have enough to hold a referendum on removing him. "The number of signatures has clearly exceeded the minimum needed," said Vicente Bello, coordinator for the referendum effort. Government election authorities now have 20 days to review and affirm that finding. Opponents of the regime finished giving their fingerprints to electoral authorities earlier Friday, wrapping up a key stage in their drive for a

referendum to remove Maduro. Already used to queuing for hours to buy food in an economic crisis, this week they lined up at electoral offices for a sometime frustrating process. Officials took their electronic fingerprints to authenticate signatures on a petition calling for a recall referendum. That is just one stage in a months-long bureaucratic procedure. One voter in the northern city of Maracay, civil servant Felix Rodriguez, skipped work to come and give his signature. He has no flour, milk or meat in his kitchen. His old truck is broken down and there are no spare parts available. "Prices are going up every day, on top of the shortages," he said. "Whether you have money or not, you've got problems."

In Maracay the electoral office opened late, due

to electricity cuts. The queue stretched for several blocks in the 30-degree Celsius heat. Rodriguez had to rush back to the office. "I took a risk by leaving work," he explained. In the end, he said angrily, "I won't be able to validate my signature."

1.3 Million Signatures

Friday was the fifth and last day of the fingerprinting process, which could make or break the bid to hold a recall vote on Maduro. The opposition MUD coalition has accused the government of sabotaging the process through delays, obstacles and veiled threats to suspend the process. Of the 1.3 million signatures recorded by the electoral board in the initial petition, at least 200,000 must be authenticated to pass to the next phase, with a minimum amount required in every state.

Opposition lawmaker Delsa Solorzano said 326,000 fingerprints have already been submitted overall. These have yet to be validated by the National Electoral Council (CNE). It said it will do so by July 26. The next step will require the collection of four million more signatures to call a full referendum. The opposition is rushing to complete the recall process by Jan 10, the cutoff date to trigger new elections.

After that date, a successful recall vote would simply pass power to Maduro's hand-picked vice president. Maduro vowed there will be no referendum this year. "If there is one, we will go and win it. If there isn't, political life in this country will go on," he said. And on Friday, during a military ceremony in Caracas, Maduro railed against those favoring the referendum - particularly Luis Almagro, secretary general of the Organization of American States. The beleaguered Maduro blasted "the vulgar, illegal and immoral interventionism" that he claimed was being carried out against the South American country, after Almagro this week presided over meetings about the crisis in Venezuela and voiced support for efforts to remove him.

'Economic War'

Venezuela is grappling with an economic crisis sparked by the plunge in prices for its crucial oil exports. People face shortages of basic foods and goods as well as electricity blackouts. Deadly looting erupted last week. Authorities said at least five people were killed and more than 400 arrested. The opposition says Maduro's economic management is to blame. They denounce the jailing of his political opponents. Senior opposition leader Henrique Capriles was on the northern island of Margarita, where final decisive results of the fingerprint count were being keenly awaited Friday. — AFP

TENSIONS BRISTLE IN MYANMAR VILLAGE AFTER MOSQUE RAZED

YANGON: Scores of police have been deployed to guard a village in central Myanmar where religious tensions are running high after a Buddhist mob destroyed a mosque, authorities said yesterday. It is the latest flare-up of anti-Muslim violence in Myanmar, which has seen sporadic bouts of religious bloodshed since 2012, with a surge of Buddhist nationalism presenting a key challenge for Aung San Suu Kyi's new government. The most recent violence erupted this week when an angry mob of around 200 Buddhists rampaged through a Muslim area of a village in Bago province following an argument between neighbours over the building

of a Muslim school. Own Lwin, the local police chief, said the atmosphere remained tense yesterday with around 100 police officers deployed to keep the peace. "Last night, 50 police guarded the village to prepare for rumors that there might be more unrest. Now we have arranged a police force of up to 100 officers," he told AFP, adding that no arrests have been made

over the destruction of the mosque. Win Shwe, the mosque's secretary, told AFP that Muslim residents fear for their safety and are planning to move to a nearby town until the tension cools.

"Our situation is not safe and now we are planning to leave the village...We still feel afraid," he told AFP. Strident anti-Muslim sentiment has fomented across Myanmar in recent years, with outbreaks of violence threatening to unravel democratic gains since the former junta stepped down in 2011.

The worst religious violence struck central Myanmar and western Rakhine State, which is home to the stateless Rohingya Muslim minority, tens of thousands of whom still languish in displacement camps after rioting. Hardline monks and Buddhist nationalists fiercely oppose moves to recognize the Rohingya as an official minority and insist on calling them "Bengalis" - shorthand for illegal migrants from the border with Bangladesh.

Suu Kyi, a vocal champion for human rights, has been criticized for not taking a stronger stance on the Rohingya or the abuse they face. This month the UN warned that violations against the group could amount to "crimes against humanity". The Nobel Peace Prize laureate, now leading Myanmar's first civilian government in decades, has asked for "space" while her administration seeks to build trust between religious communities. — AFP





WEST VIRGINIA: A vehicle rests in a stream after a heavy rain near White Sulphur Springs, W Va yesterday. Multiple fatalities have been reported in flooding that has devastated parts of the state. — AP

FIVE KILLED AS JIHADISTS STORM SOMALIA...

Continued from Page 1

and launch regular attacks on military, government and civilian targets like hotels and restaurants in Mogadishu and elsewhere.

In November last year, the Islamists carried out a similar attack on the Sahafi hotel in central Mogadishu, leaving at least 12 dead. Across the border in Kenya, five policemen were killed on Monday when suspected Shabaab fighters attacked their convoy. Shabaab insurgents have staged repeated attacks in Kenya, including the killing of at least 67 people at Nairobi's Westgate Mall in 2013 and the massacre of 148 people at a university in Garissa in April 2015.

The Shabaab earlier this month confirmed the death in a Special Forces raid of a commander named

Mohamed Mohamud aka Dulyadin, who was suspected of organizing the Garissa University attack. In recent months they have also claimed attacks on bases of the African Union peacekeeping mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

The authorities in Nairobi have vowed to send back 350,000 Somali refugees living in Dadaab camp in northeast Kenya. The UN refugee agency however has called on Kenya to ensure the repatriation is carried out "in a humane, dignified manner, in line with international principles". The vast majority of residents of the sprawling Dadaab complex of camps close to the Kenya-Somalia border fled Somalia's more than two-decades long conflict. Many remain fearful of returning to a country where insecurity remains rife and poverty is widespread. —AFP

GERMANY, FRANCE PRESS UK FOR QUICK EU...

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European leaders made clear they saw the possibility of months of uncertainty before serious talks begin as unacceptable for the 27 other member states. "This process should get underway as soon as possible so that we are not left in limbo but rather can concentrate on the future of Europe," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said after hosting a meeting of his colleagues from the six founding members of the EU - Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault warned of the dangers of delay. "We have to give a new sense to Europe, otherwise populism will fill the gap," he said.

European 'titanic'

Eurosceptics in a number of member states have welcomed the vote by Britain to become the first sovereign state to leave the EU. This has deepened fears among mainstream politicians about the rise of anti-establishment parties, not least in France where far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen is expected to perform strongly in a presidential election next year. This, they worry, could lead to a domino effect of other countries wanting to leave too.

Slovakia's far right People's Party yesterday launched a petition for a referendum on the country's future in the EU. "Citizens of Great Britain have decided to refuse the diktat from Brussels. It is high time for Slovakia to leave the sinking European 'Titanic' as well," the party said on its website. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker also wants to begin negotiating Britain's departure immediately. "It doesn't make any sense to wait until October to try to negotiate the terms of their departure," he said on Friday.

No passport?

The British pound fell as much as 10 percent against the US dollar on Friday to levels last seen in 1985 on fears the decision could hit investment in the world's fifthlargest economy, threaten London's role as a global financial capital, and usher in months of political uncertainty. The euro slid 2.0 percent against the dollar and world stock markets saw more than \$2 trillion wiped off their value. Ratings agency Moody's downgraded its outlook for Britain, saying its creditworthiness was now at greater risk as the country would face substantial challenges to successfully negotiating its exit from the bloc.

But the period of uncertainty risks damaging economies far beyond Britain's shores and European Central Bank policymaker Francois Villeroy de Galhau joined the clamour for haste. "What happened on Thursday is bad news, first of all for Britain," he told France

Inter radio, although he acknowledged there would be more limited "negative consequences for the European economy". Villeroy delivered a warning to Britain over the City of London financial centre which handles trillions of euros of business through its traders and clearing houses even though it lies outside the ECB's jurisdiction.

That was at risk, including the "passport" arrangement under Europe's single market rules which allow London banks to do business with clients in the euro zone, even though Britain never joined the common currency. "If tomorrow Britain is not part of the single market, the City cannot keep this European passport, and clearing houses cannot be located in London either," he said. The only way around this was for Britain to follow the example of Norway, which lies outside the EU but has joined the single market. This means signing up to the rules, including the free movement of workers - likely to be taboo in Britain where the "leave" camp promised to control immigration from the EU, including huge numbers from the poorer eastern member states such as Poland.

'Birth of new Britain'

Cameron has said someone else should take the lead in Britain's complicated exit negotiations. His replacement could be his Conservative rival Boris Johnson, the former London mayor who became the most recognizable face of the Leave camp and who is now favorite to succeed him. There was euphoria among Britain's eurosceptic newspapers. "Birth of a new Britain," the Daily Telegraph said, while the Daily Star tabloid borrowed from Donald Trump's campaigning message with its headline "Now Let's Make Britain Great Again".

But those among the more than 16 million who voted to stay in the EU also raised their voices. The United Kingdom itself could also now break apart. Scotland's pro-EU First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said her devolved government was preparing to present legislation allowing a second independence referendum while continuing discussions on its place within the EU. Scots rejected independence in 2014 by 55-45 percent. But Scotland voted 62 to 38 percent to stay in the EU on Thursday, raising the possibility that it would be forced out of the EU against its will.

Known for her caution, Sturgeon said only that the referendum option should be "on the table". In 2014, Nationalists said Scotland would prosper on revenues from North Sea oil, but since the vote prices have collapsed, raising questions over the economic viability of an independent Scotland. Elsewhere, more than 1.1 Britons have signed a petition on parliament's website calling for a second EU referendum because fewer than 60 percent of voters had backed Leave on a turnout of under 75 percent. The petition will have to be discussed by lawmakers but has no legal force. — Reuters

Iran targets 'vulgar Western' dog owners

Continued from Page 1

In a wry letter to the prosecutor published on his organization's website, Al-e Davood said confiscating people's pets was a strange priority for the authorities.

"We are very happy that all the problems of the country have been resolved and that the presence of a few guard dogs in people's homes is the last remaining problem for the people of Shahin Shahr, which you have set out to resolve," he wrote. — AFP

23 DEAD IN WEST VIRGINIA FLOODS

Continued from Page 1

Pavement just peeled off like a banana. I've never seen anything like that."

The state Division of Homeland Security reported 15 people killed in Greenbrier County and rescue efforts continue. Other deaths were reported in Kanawha, Jackson and Ohio counties. Currently 200 National Guardsmen were assisting in eight counties, helping local crews with swift water rescues, search and extraction efforts and health and welfare checks. The governor declared a state of emergency in 44 of 54 counties and authorized up to 500 soldiers to assist. The governor said he had planned to fly around the hard-hit areas, but wasn't able to because all state aircraft were being used for rescues.

Eric Blackshire was one of the stranded at Crossings Mall, a mix of restaurants, stores and a hotel in Elkview, which is about 15 miles northeast of Charleston. Some had to sleep in their cars or at businesses overnight. Blackshire opted for a hotel room. "It was kind of like a hurricane party. I guess you could call it a flood party. There were lots of beers being drank last night," he said. He was able to get to safety Friday when Pinch Volunteer Fire Department firefighters used a rope to

guide people down a hillside. Crews were working to build a gravel road on the backside of the shopping plaza.

An area near the West Virginia-Virginia border received at least 9 inches of rain while other parts of the state had 3 to 5 inches, National Weather Service hydrologist John Sikora said. While most of the rain had tapered off Friday, there were still scattered showers, thunderstorms and river flood warnings. Some of the heaviest rainfall was in Greenbrier County, where The Greenbrier luxury resort and golf course is nestled in the mountains. The course, overrun by floodwaters, is scheduled to host a PGA tour event from July 4-10. "It's like nothing I've seen," owner Jim Justice, a Democratic candidate for governor, said in a statement.

"But our focus right now isn't on the property, golf course or anything else. We're praying for the people and doing everything we can to get them the help they need." Professional golfer Bubba Watson was apparently visiting the resort and tweeted photos of entire holes underwater: "Prayers for @The_Greenbrier & surrounding areas. We are without power & it's still raining. Never seen this much rain! #WestVirginiaBeSafe." The Federal Emergency Management Agency said it was sending teams to help with damage assessments. — AP

MY GREATEST TEACHER

Continued from Page 1

It was those days when my sincerity was tested. The Quran says, "Fasting has been prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you so that you may be Godconscious" (2:183). My awareness of God and sincerity to Him increased because of that great teacher, Ramadan.

The lessons spilled over into other areas of my life too. As I raised the children, pursued my PhD, and learned how to recite the Quran, I relied on the self-discipline, focus and motivation that Ramadan instilled in me. I knew that if I could fast for an entire month in summer while those around me snacked on ice-cream and quenched their summer thirst, I could do anything - with God's help.

"It's not all about you!" said Ramadan. She taught me to think of others, those who thirst for clean water and hunger for regular meals - those who fast not by choice, but because there just isn't enough. Ramadan taught me to recognize hunger and thirst in others, which is easier when you yourself have experienced it. She taught me to respond to those in need with the compassion of one who has suffered from privation and longing, even if only for a few hours at a time. Ramadan taught me that we are responsible for one another, and that one person can make a difference in the life of another.

My teacher is persistent, preparing lessons for me after decades under her direction. Just when I get comfortable in my routine, Ramadan comes and destroys it, just to prove to me that in flexibility there is strength.

Occasionally she challenges my complaints that I'm sick and proves to me that fasting does more good than harm, and that my health improves when I fast. She laughs when I say I'm getting old because she knows that fasting gets easier with age. Always there to challenge my attitudes, Ramadan keeps me both grounded in reality and open to the possibility of transformation.

For great teachers like Ramadan, I am immensely grateful. Grateful that I signed up, and that her tough ways and annual recurrence didn't allow me to forget a single lesson. Grateful that my understanding of God, self and others has expanded over time. Grateful that I could do it. However, entwined with my gratitude is a sense of humility. God Almighty extended the opportunity to me-I'll call it a scholarship - to learn under the great teacher Ramadan.

It is His immense kindness and generosity that singled me out from the masses of humanity to answer His call. It is a humbling feeling to be chosen for such an advanced educational course, and even more humbling to know that each one of us has been invited. For all the opportunities that Ramadan promises, it would be silly to refuse.

Courtesy of the TIES Center, whose mission is to empower Kuwait's expats through social and educational services that promote a positive and productive role in society, and to facilitate opportunities for intra- and interfaith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.



THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF ESTABLISHED 1961

> Founder and Publisher YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

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ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN : 24833199-24833358-24833432 **EDITORIAL**

ADVERTISING : 24835616/7 : 24835620/1 FAX **CIRCULATION** : 24833199 Extn. 163 **ACCOUNTS** : 24835619

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DOES RELIGION MATTER IN POLITICS?

Dr James J Zogby

hortly after Tim Kaine had been elected Governor of Virginia in 2006, a discussion ensued among Democratic party leaders about the lessons that could learned from Kaine's victory. Some observations were interesting, others were not. One was particularly off the mark. Because Kaine had often spoken about his Catholic faith, and because Democrats ordinarily do not, some concluded that the lesson to learn from Kaine's win was that Democrats needed to make a point of speaking more about religion. The observation was correct-Kaine did speak about his faith; but the conclusion was wrong.

Kaine is not your ordinary politician. He is soft-spoken and thoughtful. Never one for bluster or stilted speechifying, his style is easy going and conversational. He is also a Catholic who speaks comfortably about how his sense of morality and his commitment to serving those in need comes from the social gospel message of the bible and his experience as a volunteer worker in Latin America sponsored by the Jesuits.

Over the next several months, I noted that one of the Democrats who had been influenced by this discussion began to speak, rather awkwardly, about his religious beliefs. At one point, having winced one too many times at his clumsy efforts to talk about his faith, I approached him and said "You have it all wrong. Tim Kaine didn't win because he spoke about religion. He won because he is authentic. And because he really is influenced by his faith. When he speaks about it, it's real and people can feel that. When you speak about religion, it's not real and it just doesn't work. Be authentic, don't fake it."

This same dynamic was at work during this year's Democratic primary. To his credit, Bernie Sanders never faked it. He was compelling when he spoke about his immigrant father and the values he learned growing up in a working class immigrant home. When he was asked during a televised debate about his religious beliefs, he didn't attempt to fake it. Instead he spoke about his "spirituality"his belief that we are all connected to one another and, therefore, responsible to care for each other. It was moving and authentic. And because it was real, it registered well

I thought about this matter of religion in politics this past week, when I read news accounts of Donald Trump's meeting with a group of leading Christian Conservatives. Originally planned as a small "get acquainted" session, the event grew to over one thousand people. Since the Christian right represents almost 40% of the Republican electorate, the meeting was important. Trump needed their support. Trump apparently knew his limitations. He didn't even try to convince the assembled religious leaders about his faith. At one point he spoke clumsily about the importance of sending children to Sunday school and at another he mentioned "when I used to go to church" implying that he no longer does.

But none of this mattered to the assembled leaders. They are a self-righteous group who believe that they alone are in possession of God's truth. Instead of their political beliefs flowing from their faith, they attempt to give their conservative politics a religious coloration. They weren't interested in Trump's religion, what they wanted to know was that would endorse their political agenda. And he did, promising to appoint anti-abortion judges and to change the law that currently limits the ability of tax-exempt religious institutions from becoming directly involved in politics (which Trump endorsed saying "I think maybe that will be my greatest contribution to Christianity").

Though awkwardly phrased, Trump was direct in his appeal "You can pray for your leaders, and I agree with thatpray for everyone-but you really have to do is you have to pray to get everyone out to vote for one specific person"obviously meaning himself, Donald Trump. Not satisfied with this crass appeal for votes, Trump went further questioning Hillary Clinton's faith. "We don't know anything about Hillary Clinton in terms of religion...she's been in the public eye for years and years and yet there's nothing out there."

That, of course, is sheer nonsense since it is well known that Clinton is deeply committed to her Christian faith. She often quotes scripture and her most genuine moments have been when she speaks about it. Coincidentally, I had just received a letter from a friend, an evangelical Christian leader, who told me that he had gone to high school with Clinton and how she had been a youth leader in the Methodist Church.

He recalled her decades-long relationship with her pastor on whom she had relied for spiritual guidance. In the end, it wasn't faith or the lack of it that mattered for the assembled Christian Conservatives. In reality, they were not embracing Trump for his religion or his authenticity. More likely, they suspended their disbelief, simply because they had come to accept that he would advance their earthly goals.

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BREXIT PITCHES WORLD INTO UNCHARTED TERRAIN

By Antonio Rodriguez

lowing growth, a return to protectionism, questioning of free trade agreements and doubts over the stability of the EU: The world economy is entering a period of deep uncertainty following Brexit. "We are moving into completely uncharted territory where the only certainty will be uncertainty," said Jean-Michel Six, chief economist for Europe at SP Global Ratings. Six suggests that the fallout from Brexit could sap growth in the euro-zone in 2017 by 0.5 percent.

Britain on Thursday voted by 52 percent to 48 percent for their country to leave the EU despite dire warnings from world leaders and economic experts. Institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) had warned in the months and weeks leading up to the ballot of the dangers for the world economy, especially elsewhere in Europe, should Brexit come to pass.

"A vote by the UK people to leave the EU would have some effect" even on the United States, the world's largest economy, IMF chief Christine Lagarde said in remarks ahead of the vote on Wednesday. "How large those effects could be is debatable," she added, noting that a vote to leave would likely lead to a spike in the value of the dollar, hobbling the competitiveness of US exports. European leaders and markets fear a domino effect as people across Europe lose faith in the supernational project.

Stark warnings

Far-right leaders in France and the Netherlands-two founding members of the EU-have already called for their own referendums on quitting the bloc in the wake of Brexit. Europe has until now failed to pick up the slack left by the flagging emerging economies that have propped up world growth since 2008, and Brexit is likely to inflict a further blow to confidence on the continent. The British vote on Friday sent shockwaves as far as Mexico.

Just a few hours after the results emerged, the finance ministry there declared it would slash spending by \$1.68 billion (1.51 billion euros) in anticipation of an economic shock. Finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of Seven (G7) nations also came together to warn of "adverse implications for financial stability" in the wake of the Leave campaign victory. "An exit from the crisis and a sustained return to growth now seems to have been compromised after such a succession of events on the financial markets," said Christopher Dembik, an economist at Danish Saxo Bank.

The British vote increases risks for Europe. "Before Brexit, the EU was seen as a centre of stability in the international system," said Thomas Gomart, director of the French Institute of International Relations. "But with the Greek crisis, the migrant crisis, Brexit and the rise of populism, Europe is in the process of switching from a source of stability to source of international instability," he said.

'Worst case scenario'

Meanwhile, Ludovic Subran, chief economist at credit insurer Euler Hermes, said "the worst case scenario is happening", even if "it is not the Apocalypse". He believes the weakening of the EU as a bloc will be felt quickly on the international level, pointing to the negotiation with the United States on a free trade deal, as well within the G7. The situation could "encourage countries like China to establish direct bilateral relations with European countries" rather than negotiate with Brussels, Gomart said.

He believes the Brexit vote undermines the globalization model. "In reality, we're now more in a divergence of models, with probably with a return to protectionism" said Gomart. "Already global trade has lagged global growth in recent years," noted former US treasury secretary Larry

Summers. Canadian asset managers Candriam didn't rule out Europe slumping into recession if after a few months "it becomes clear that European governments are unable to find an agreement in their negotiation with the UK and to agree on the need to support activity."

Meanwhile US investment bank Goldman Sachs said it expects "the rest of the EU to reaffirm its desire to make the EU, including the Euro area, more workable" although it noted a lack of follow-up on previous reform pledges means "it is doubtful whether this will have much credibility in financial markets". Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman used his New York Times blog to say that "the consequences will be bad, but not as bad as many are claiming." Krugman argued that the seeds of economic uncertainty and political instability in Europe were sown long before the British vote to quit the Union. "Brexit just brings to a head an abscess that would have burst fairly



LONDON: Demonstrators hold placards during a protest against the pro-Brexit outcome of the UK's June 23 referendum on the European Union (EU), in central London yesterday. — AFP

BREXIT VOTE PUTS UK UNITY IN QUESTION

By Remi Banet with Robin Millard

ritain's vote to leave the European Union instantly put the question of Scottish independence back into play on Friday, with Scotland having voted heavily for the UK to remain in the bloc. Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said the result put an independence referendum "on the table", adding that it was "highly likely" within two years. She had made her intentions clear throughout the referendum campaign: if Scotland was pulled out of the EU against its will, that would be grounds for a second referendum on seceding from the United Kinadom.

The UK as a whole voted by 52 percent to 48 percent to leave the EU. However, Scotland voted strongly for Britain to remain-by 62 percent to 38 percent, with a majority in all 32 of its local authority areas. Wales and England-except Londonvoted for Britain to leave the EU, while Northern Ireland voted for it to stay in. Sturgeon said her devolved government would now draw up legislation to allow a second Scottish independence referendum. Citing a clause in her Scottish National Party manifesto, she said there had now been a "significant and material change in the circumstances in which

Scotland voted against independence" in 2014, when 55 percent of Scots voted to stay in the UK.

Commuters absorb result 'shock'

On the first train Friday between the main Scottish cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh, commuters came to terms with the result. "It's a bad day. It's a big shock. We voted for Remain but we're being pushed out of the EU," said Bethany Swanson, 18, a student nurse at Edinburgh Napier University. A disappointed Tom, 59, from Glasgow, said if there was a new referendum on Scotland leaving the UK "and there's a No, it will kill the opportunity to go for independence. You can't be able to call for a third referendum." Hugh Brown, 64, a project manager, saw the result as "a good thing. I see it as a benefit for Scotland", because if London wants to keep Scotland in the UK, "they'll have to give us more power".

Single market question

Sturgeon said she wanted to give effect to how Scotland voted-namely "to secure our continuing place in the EU, and in the single market in particular". That could give the British government scope for avoiding a second Scottish independence referendum. While Britain has voted to leave the EU, it may retain continued access to the European free trade zone.

Pro-EU London Mayor Sadiq Khan alluded to this option, as he mentioned those areas that voted "Remain". "Although we will be outside the EU, it is crucial that we remain part of the single market," he said. It should be "the cornerstone of the negotiations with the EU" and it was "crucial" that London, Scotland and Northern Ireland had "a voice" in those discussions, Khan said. Despite Sturgeon's declared zeal for another referendum, Professor Michael Keating, the chair in Scottish politics at Aberdeen University, said the SNP would play it canny.

"They won't stage it until they know they are going to win it," he said. And the latest polling evidence suggests breaking with Brussels would not make Scots any more likely to want secession from Britain. A TNS survey of 1,008 Scottish voters between May 4 and 22 found that 56 percent of Scots would vote to stay in the UK post-Brexit, excluding "don't know" voters. The pro-EU Ruth Davidson, leader of the resurgent Scottish Conservatives, said: "The 1.6 million votes cast in this referendum in favor of 'Remain' do not wipe away the two million votes that we cast less than two years ago."

Irish unity question raised

The vote also raises questions about the

future for Northern Ireland, which shares the UK's only land border, with the Irish Republic. Northern Ireland voted 55.8 percent in favor of staying in the EU. The UK and Ireland share a Common Travel Area of minimal or non-existent border controls dating back to Irish independence from Britain in the 1920s. But "Remain" campaigners raised the prospect of a post-Brexit EU frontier being erected on the Irish border-something that would not be relished on either side.

Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny tried to soothe concerns. "The Irish government will do our utmost in upcoming discussions to maintain the Common Travel Area and minimize any possible disruptions to the flow of people, goods and services between these islands," he said. Sinn Fein, which wants a united Ireland, said it now wanted a referendum in Northern Ireland on joining the republic. The province was being dragged out of the EU against its will, said its deputy first minister Martin McGuinness, the Sinn Fein politician urging London to allow Northern Irish people "to have their say on their own future". Some politicians in the pro-British community said they would welcome such a poll because they feel they would comprehensively win it, burying the issue for decades to come. — AFP



DOVIZIOSO OUTCLASSES ROSSI FOR ASSEN POLE

PARIS: Italian Andrea Dovizioso took pole position for the Dutch Grand Prix at Assen by edging out compatriot Valentino Rossi in qualifying yesterday. Ninetime world champion Rossi stopped midway through the session to save the tyres on his Yamaha, allowing Ducati's Dovizioso to claim the 17th pole of his career, and his fourth in MotoGP. Honda's championship leader Marc Marquez

> from third for Ducati Pramac. Defending champion Jorge Lorenzo goes into the race 10 points behind Marquez in the drivers' standings, and will start from down in 11th spot on the grid. The struggles of his title rivals leaves Rossi with a fantastic opportunity to close the gap in the championship in Sunday's race, which he will begin 22 points behind Spaniard Marquez. The 37-year-old has won around the Assen track seven times in his MotoGP career, while Dovizioso's only victory in the elite class came in the British Grand Prix seven years ago.-— AFP

could only manage fourth, just behind surprise pack-

age Scott Redding of Great Britain, who will start

GOLFER GRACE PULLS OUT OF OLYMPICS DUE TO ZIKA

JOHANNESBURG: South African Branden Grace joined a growing list of leading golfers withdrawing from the Rio Olympics on Friday due to concerns about the Zika virus. The world number 11, who is South Africa's top ranked golfer, joins compatriots Louis Oosthuizen and Charl Schwartzel in pulling out of the August Games, which will see the sport return for the first time in 112 years. "After serious consideration, it is with regret that I have decided to withdraw myself from the Olympic competition due to the risk posed by the Zika virus," the 28-year-old, who is engaged to Nieke Coetzee, said in a statement. "Although it was a huge goal of mine to represent my country in the Olympics, we are getting married in November and hoping to start a family in the near future, so I must put the health of my family first." South Africa team captain Gary Player said he was disappointed but respected Grace's decision. "Like Louis and Charl, his presence will be missed by the South African team," he said in a statement. "Now we simply have to take the 'next man up' mentality. No doubt in my mind we can still deliver a medal." Grace's withdrawal means Jaco Van Zyl (world number 59) and Brandon Stone (101) are in line to represent South Africa in Rio.—Reuters

UEHARA HAS TWO SHOT LEAD AT ARKANSAS CHAMPIONSHIP

WASHINGTON: Ayako Uehara tied the tournament scoring record by carding a bogey-free nine-under 62 for a two shot lead after the opening round of the USLPGA Tour's NW Arkansas Championship on Friday. Japan's Uehara matched the tournament record set by Jane Park and Angela Park eight years ago. She also established a personal best score by one stroke, beating the 63 she shot two years ago in Malaysia. Uehara is hoping that 2016 will be a breakout year for her as she is playing some of the best golf of her career having made the cut in five of her last six tournaments. In her first seven starts of 2016 she made just one cut. "Everything is coming together," Uehara said of her support team. "With the caddie and the trainer, everybody is like team work and that's my motivation now." Uehara, who birdied seven of her final 10 holes, was two strokes ahead of Taiwan's Candie Kung (64) in the \$2 million event at Pinnacle Country Club. Uehara is ranked No. 215 in the world rankings and has never won on the LPGA Tour. Her best finish is a third place at the 2012 Japan Classic. Kung opened with three straight birdies and added five more before her only bogey of the round at No. 6, her 15th hole of the day. —AFP

MLB results/standings

Pittsburgh 8, LA Dodgers 6; NY Yankees 5, Minnesota 3; Baltimore 6, Tampa Bay 3; Cleveland 7, Detroit 4; Chicago Cubs 5, Miami 4; San Diego 13, Cincinnati 4; NY Mets 8, Atlanta 6; Boston 8, Texas 7; Chicago White Sox 3, Toronto 2; Milwaukee 5, Washington 3; Houston 13, Kansas City 4; Arizona 10, Colorado 9; Oakland 7, LA

Angels 4; Seattle 4, St.	Louis 3; Sa	n Francis	co 5, Phila	delphia 4.
		n Leagu		
	w	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	42	30	.583	-
Boston	41	32	.562	1.5
Toronto	40	35	.533	3.5
NY Yankees	36	36	.500	6
Tampa Bay	31	40	.437	10.5
	Central	Division		
Cleveland	42	30	.583	-
Kansas City	38	34	.528	4
Detroit	38	36	.514	5
Chicago White Sox	37	37	.500	6
Minnesota	23	50	.315	19.5
	Westerr	n Division	1	
Texas	47	27	.635	_
Houston	38	36	.514	9
Seattle	37	37	.500	10
Oakland	31	42	.425	15.5
LA Angels	31	43	.419	16
	Nationa	al League	•	
Eastern Division				
Washington	43	31	.581	-
NY Mets	39	33	.542	3
Miami	39	35	.527	4
Philadelphia	31	44	.413	12.5
Atlanta	25	48	.342	17.5
	Central	Division		
Chicago Cubs	48	24	.667	-
St. Louis	38	34	.528	10
Pittsburgh	35	39	.473	14
Milwaukee	33	40	.452	15.5
Cincinnati	28	46	.378	21
	Westerr	n Division	1	
San Francisco	48	27	.640	-
LA Dodgers	41	34	.547	7
Arizona	36	40	.474	12.5
Colorado	34	39	.466	13
San Diego	32	43	.427	16



CALIFORNIA: Oakland Athletics left fielder Khris Davis dives catch a fly by hit by Los Angeles Angels' Jett Bandy during the sixth inning of a baseball game on Friday, June 24,

BETANCES, CHAPMAN SHINE AS YANKS TOP TWINS

and Aroldis Chapman combined for three innings of perfect relief for the second straight game, Rob Refsnyder hit a tiebreaking single and the New York Yankees took advantage of three errors to rally past the Minnesota Twins 5-3 Friday night. Masahiro Tanaka (5-2) beat the Twins for the second time in seven days, allowing three runs and seven hits in six innings. New York's "No Runs DMC" relief trio improved to 11-0 when all appearing together, with Chapman striking out three batters on 11 strikes - for his 14th save in 15 chances. His first 10 pitches were all 100 mph or more on the scoreboard before freezing Kurt Suzuki with a changeup for a called third strike. Making his first big league start since April 25, Tommy Milone (0-2) allowed four runs - three earned - six hits and two walks in 3 2/3 innings.

INDIANS 7, TIGERS 4

Jason Kipnis hit two of Cleveland's four triples and the Indians continued their season-long dominance of Detroit. The Indians are now 7-0 against the Tigers this season. Detroit had won 16 of 20 at home and was coming off a four-game sweep of the Seattle Mariners. Danny Salazar (9-3) struggled with his command, walking five in 5 2/3 innings, but held the Tigers to three runs on four hits. Jordan Zimmermann (9-5) allowed seven runs on nine hits in a season-worst 3 2/3 innings. After posting a 1.50 ERA in his first seven starts, Zimmermann has allowed at least six runs in four of his last seven.

WHITE SOX 3, BLUE JAYS 2

Melky Cabrera homered, Todd Frazier drove in the go-ahead run with a single in the seventh, and Chicago beat Toronto. The White Sox started a six-game homestand on a winning note after taking three of four at Boston, while the Blue Jays lost for the fourth time in five games. Cabrera drove a solo homer off Aaron Sanchez in the fifth and finished with three hits against his former team. Frazier broke a 2-2 tie with a sharp single to left with two outs in the seventh against Jesse Chavez (4-2) after Tim Anderson led off with a double under third baseman Josh Donaldson's glove. David Robertson escaped a bases-loaded jam in the ninth for his 19th save in 21 chances. He struck out Edwin Encarnacion swinging at a low 3-2 fastball and retired Michael Saunders on a popup to end the game. Nate Jones (3-2) worked a scoreless inning in relief.

NEW YORK: Dellin Betances, Andrew Miller Carlos Rodon gave up two runs and six hits while pitching into the sixth.

ORIOLES 6, RAYS 3

Adam Jones homered to start a four-run sixth inning, and Baltimore handed Tampa Bay its eighth straight loss. Manny Machado marked his return from a four-game suspension by hitting his 18th home run in the eighth for the Orioles. Machado received the suspension for charging Royals pitcher Yordano Ventura on June 7. After falling into an early 3-0 hole, the Orioles finally got their first baserunner against Matt Moore (3-5) in the fifth inning and turned the game around in the sixth. Jones got the AL East-leaders within a run with his 14th homer, Chris Davis added a two-run single and a Tampa Bay throwing error made it 5-3. Rookie Ashur Tolliver (1-0) got two outs in the sixth to earn his first major league win and Zach Britton worked the ninth for his 22nd save. Corev Dickerson homered for the last-place Rays.

PADRES 13, REDS 4

Wil Myers drove in five runs and Melvin Upton Jr. hit a pair of two-run homers as San Diego scored in each of the first eight innings and spoiled the start of Cincinnati's Big Red Machine weekend. The National League's topscoring team in June kept at it, hitting four homers. San Diego is averaging 5.86 runs in the month. Myers had a solo shot off Cody Reed (0-1) in the first, singled home a run and had a bases-loaded double. Adam Rosales also had a solo homer. Colin Rea (4-3) got the win by going five innings and allowing four runs, only one earned. The Reds honored their 1976 World Series championship team on the field pregame, and players wore throwback uniforms to the days of the Big Red Machine. Pete Rose, who will be inducted into the team's Hall of Fame and have his No. 14 officially retired over the weekend, was the last player introduced.

RED SOX 8, RANGERS 7

Mookie Betts hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning and Dustin Pedroia scored the tiebreaking run on a wild pitch as Boston rallied past Texas. Betts' 15th homer came with two outs off Matt Bush (2-1), who had just taken over after pinch-hitter Sandy Leon had an RBI double on the 11th pitch of his at-bat against Jake Diekman. Pedroia then walked, went to third on Xander Bogaerts' single and came home on the wild pitch. The Red Sox

trailed 6-0 early after starter David Price 13th of the season - first since June 5. allowed 12 hits in only 2 1/3 innings. Heath Hembree (4-0) worked a scoreless eighth before Koji Uehara struck out the side in the ninth for his second save.

MARINERS 4, CARDINALS 3

Adam Lind hit a game-winning three-run home run in the ninth inning off St Louis closer Trevor Rosenthal as Seattle snapped a sixgame losing streak. The Mariners opened the ninth with a double by Kyle Seager and a walk to Dae-Ho Lee. Lind reached down and drove a 1-1 pitch out to right field for his fourth career walk-off home run. It was the third home run allowed this season by Rosenthal (2-3) and his third blown save. St Louis had scored three times in the eighth inning without the help of a base hit. Seattle reliever Joaquin Benoit issued three walks and a hit batter and Kyle Seager's error on Matt Holliday's hard ground ball allowed two runs to score. Donn Roach (1-0) got the last five outs to get his first win.

DIAMONDBACKS 10, ROCKIES 9

Yasmany Tomas homered twice and drove in four runs, Michael Bourn had a tiebreaking single in the ninth inning and Arizona rallied for the win. Jean Segura had three hits and scored the winning run for the Diamondbacks, who have won seven of their last eight. Tomas' solo shot with one out in the ninth off Carlos Estevez (1-5) tied the game. Segura doubled one out later and Bourn singled him home with a sharp liner to left. Estevez also got the loss in Arizona's 7-6 win Thursday night. Tomas hit a three-run homer in Arizona's six-run seventh for his third career multihomer game, Josh Collmenter (1-0) pitched to one batter in the eighth and Brad Ziegler worked a shaky ninth for his 16th save.

ATHLETICS 7, ANGELS 4

Khris Davis hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the eighth inning to lead Oakland past Los Angeles. Davis connected off of Fernando Salas (3-4) for his second home run of the series and his 18th of the season. Rvan Dull (2-2) pitched one inning for the win. Ryan Madson earned his 14th save in 17 chances by getting Albert Pujols on a ground out with two runners on. Pujols hit 573rd career homer for the Angels, who lost their fifth straight to fall a season-worst 12 games below .500 (31-43). Pujols tied Harmon Killebrew for 11th on the career list with his

GIANTS 5, PHILLIES 4

Jake Peavy threw seven strong innings in another solid start, Brandon Belt hit a threerun double and Angel Pagan had three hits as San Francisco beat Philadelphia. The Giants trailed 2-1 in the bottom of the seventh inning when Belt cleared the bases with a shot to center off Elvis Araujo (1-1). San Francisco has won 12 of its last 13 games and 31 of 40, tying a record for the best 40-game clip in franchise history (June 12-July 21, 1954). Peavy (4-6), 1-5 with an 8.21 ERA over his first nine starts, is 3-1 with a 1.94 ERA in his last six after allowing two runs and seven hits in seven innings. Santiago Casilla got Tyler Goeddel to ground out for the final out for his 17th save after loading the bases. The Phillies have lost 10 of their last 11.

PIRATES 8, DODGERS 6

Matt Joyce homered and doubled among his three hits as Pittsburgh snapped Los Angeles' six-game winning streak and gave Pirates manager Clint Hurdle his 1,000th career victory. Joyce drove in two runs while filling in for right fielder Gregory Polanco, who sat out with lower leg discomfort. Jung Ho Kang also homered as the Pirates won for just the third time in 16 games. Dodgers rookie shortstop Corey Seager had four hits to extend his hitting streak to eight games. Neftali Feliz (2-0), the fourth of six Pirates pitchers, retired all five batters he faced and Mark Melancon pitched a scoreless ninth for his 21st save in 22 opportunities. Nick Tepesch (0-1) gave up five runs and seven hits in just four innings.

METS 8, BRAVES 6

James Loney hit a three-run homer, Travis d'Arnaud drove in three runs and the New York Mets survived Atlanta's six-run fifth inning. The Mets led 8-0 after Loney's three-run homer in the fifth. Steven Matz almost blew the lead as he allowed six runs on eight hits in the bottom of the inning. Brandon Snyder hit a pinch-hit, three-run homer and Adonis Garcia had a tworun double in Atlanta's big inning. Hansel Robles (2-3) threw 2 2/3 perfect innings to stop the Braves' comeback. Jeurys Familia recorded the final four outs for his major league-leading 25th save. Braves rookie righthander Aaron Blair (0-5) allowed eight runs and seven hits and three walks in 4 1/3 innings, leaving his ERA at 7.99.

CUBS 5. MARLINS 4

Rookie Willson Contreras homered and drove in three runs to help Chicago snap its season-high four-game losing streak. Contreras hit a two-run homer in the Cubs' four-run first inning. His RBI single in the seventh put the team with the best record in the majors ahead to stay. He's batting .412 with eight RBIs after seven games in the big leagues. While Contreras again excelled as a reinforcement for the injury-hampered NL Central leaders, they endured another setback when second baseman Ben Zobrist left the game after he was hit by a pitch on the left ankle. Four pitchers held the Marlins to two hits, including Justin Bour's grand slam. Trevor Cahill (1-2) threw a scoreless sixth and Hector Rondon retired all four batters he faced for his second four-out save in a row, and his 13th overall. Mike Dunn (0-1) retired only one of

ASTROS 13, ROYALS 4

the five hitters he faced in the seventh.

George Springer hit a grand slam and a triple in Houston's nine-run first inning against Edinson Volquez, and the Astros routed Kansas City. Springer finished with five RBIs, and Colby Rasmus had four hits, including a homer in the eighth, scored three runs and drove in two. Marwin Gonzalez, Carlos Gomez, Jason Castro and Rasmus all had RBI singles in the first off Volquez (7-7), who retired only three of the 15 batters he faced with 12 scoring, ballooning his ERA more than a full run to 5.15. He gave up eight hits and walked three. Dallas Keuchel (4-9) picked up only his second victory since April 15.

BREWERS 5, NATIONALS 3

Kirk Nieuwenhuis and Keon Broxton each hit home runs off Max Scherzer and Milwaukee extended Washington's losing streak to a season-high six games. Scherzer (8-5) allowed five runs on five hits over six innings. He walked three and struck out 10, throwing 117 pitches. Jeremy Jeffress hit the first batter in the ninth and then allowed Daniel Murphy's hit with two outs, putting runners at the corners. Wilson Ramos struck out swinging, giving Jeffress his 20th save in 21 chances. Carlos Torres (1-1) picked up the win with a 1-2-3 sixth. Nieuwenhuis struck out swinging in the first and third, but then drove a 2-1 pitch from Scherzer well over the wall in right-center for a two-run homer in the sixth.—AP

Kuwait Times _____ SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016



DUNEDIN: Taulupe Faletau (left) of Wales takes the lineout ball with New Zealand's Samuel Whitelock during the third rugby union Test match between the New Zealand All Blacks and Wales at Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin yesterday. — AFP

BARRETT GRABS 26 POINTS; ALL BLACKS SWEEP WALES

DUNEDIN: Flyhalf Beauden Barrett did more than enough to give coach Steve Hansen more selection headaches ahead of this year's Rugby Championship as the All Blacks completed a series sweep over Wales with a 46-6 third test victory yesterday. Barrett, who finished the game at fullback, scored two tries and added two penalties and five conversions in his 26 points for the world champions who ran away with the game in the second half at Otago Regional Stadium in Dunedin.

Ben Smith, George Moala, Dan Coles and Israel Dagg all scored tries for the hosts, who already fielded somewhat of an experimental side and ended the game with Smith and regular winger Waisake Naholo in the midfield and Dagg on the wing. Flyhalf Dan Biggar kicked two first half penalties for the visitors, who had been enterprising and put the world champions under pressure in the first two tests but ran out of steam after 12 months of constant rugby.

The All Blacks had a much better first half than they did in the first two games, which pleased Hansen. "We wanted to start really well and we improved on last week," Hansen said. "That first 65 minutes was probably as good as we wanted it to be at this stage of the season. "But you're always wanting more, aren't you? That's something we will work on." The All Blacks, who could barely get their hands on the ball in the first 15 minutes, were ruthlessly efficient on the counter attack with Barrett, Smith and

Dagg exploiting space and targeting mismatches against forwards.

Smith and Moala's first half tries were scored from attacks from deep, while Moala, playing his second test, also had a try ruled out by television official George Ayoub following another counter from the Smith-Dagg combination. Wales were restricted to Biggar's first half penalties as they were unable to breach the defense despite being camped on the All Blacks line just before the break. The All Blacks' defensive effort was typical of the series, with the visitors controlling possession and recycling but often finding themselves not getting over the advantage line and driven back down field.

Barrett, who could now start at flyhalf in the Rugby Championship opener against the Wallabies on Aug. 20, extended the lead to 25-6 shortly after the break, finishing the game off as a contest and then grabbed his second with his pace taking him past the drifting defender. He then set the platform for Coles' sixth test try with a searing midfield break. Dagg scored a length of the field try four minutes after the fulltime hooter. "The scoreboard is a fair reflection," Wales captain Sam Warburton said. "We played well in the first two tests but we were poor today. "Our kick chase was bad and they got a lot of success on the counter attack. Our defense wasn't good. We fell off a lot of tackles and things like that you can't do that over here. "We were definitely second best."—Reuters

SCOTLAND FEND OFF ERROR-STREWN JAPAN TO SEAL SERIES 2-0

TOKYO: Scotland kicked seven penalties to secure a scrappy 21-16 victory over a spirited but error-strewn Japan yesterday in Tokyo to win the series 2-0. Vern Cotter's men, unable to score a try on a hot and humid evening at the Ajinomoto Stadium, gained all their points through penalties, with scrumhalf Henry Pyrgos converting three and his replacement Greig Laidlaw slotting four.

The Brave Blossoms, looking to avenge their loss to the visitors a week ago, scored a scintillating early try through scrumhalf Kaito Shigeno, who ran through the length of the pitch. Yu Tamura converted and kicked three penalties for the hosts. The crowd of 34,000, including the emperor and empress of Japan, was entertained by bruising runs from Japan number eight

Amanaki Mafi, who again proved a handful for the visitors after giving Scotland a scare during last year's World Cup.

Japan, who led 16-9 at halftime, let themselves down through indiscipline just as they did in the first game in Toyota city. Laidlaw proved to be the difference by punishing the hosts each time Scotland made forays into the Japanese half. The Brave Blossoms put Scotland under siege in the second half but were again left to rue disciplinary lapses, which Laidlaw took full advantage of. Scotland made six changes to the team from the first test with Pyrgos handed the captaincy. Japan made only two changes, with Male Sau coming in the wing and Rikiya Matsuda, who was sinbinned during the first test, chosen as fullback.—Reuters

14-MAN RACING OVERPOWER TOULON TO WIN TOP 14 TITLE

BARCELONA: Racing 92 clinched their first French Top 14 title in 26 years on Friday when they shrugged off having to play an hour with 14 men to defeat Toulon 29-21 in a thrilling final. It was Racing's sixth title in their history and was watched by a record crowd for a club game of 99,124 fans inside the Nou Camp, home of Spanish football giants Barcelona. But the team of All Blacks superstar Dan Carter did it the hard way, having scrum-half Maxime Machenaud red-carded after just 18 minutes before slipping 14-6 down. However, a barnstorming second-half performance by the Parisian giants shattered three-time European champions Toulon's hopes of

winning a fourth French crown. "It is the most special season of my life," said man-of-the-match Carter who arrived in France having helped the All Blacks to the 2015 World Cup. "We showed that we have a real team spirit. I'm still not sure how we did it but I am very relieved." Toulon's English full-back Delon Armitage blasted his team's indiscipline. "At this level, our mistakes were unacceptable, they cost us dearly. We gave them three points, then three more points, then another three points. "Against 14 men, we were unable to keep the ball. They upped their level and we were making stupid errors." After Leigh Halfpenny and Carter exchanged early penalties, the final took what looked to be a potentially key twist. With 18 minutes on the clock, Machenaud was red-carded for spear-tackling Toulon's Australian fly-half Matt Giteau. Halfpenny slotted over the penalty and then another for 9-3. "It all

happened so quickly, I didn't think I had turned him," said 27-year-old Machenaud of the controversial tackle."I thought then it would be mission impossible, very complicated for the 14 guys on the field. But they found exceptional resources tonight and I am grateful to them." Carter then cut the deficit before Toulon grabbed the first try of the final. Georgian flanker Mamuka Gorgodze burst through one tackle to release winger Josua Tuisova in space.

The Fijian then released the giant Georgian in support who went on to score for a 14-6 lead. Halfpenny missed the extras before Racing pulled it back to 14-12 at the interval with Johan Goosen and Carter knocking over a penalty apiece. Longrange marksman Goosen nudged Racing in front for the first time just after the restart before Toulon's night suffered another setback. Prop Xavier Chiocci was yellow-carded for constant infringements at the breakdown and Racing took full advantage to turn the match on its head.

Two more penalties from Goosen and Carter stretched the lead to 21-14 before Racing grabbed their only try.Carter won turnover ball and once it was cleared out, it was fed to winger Joe Rokocoko to smartly chip ahead. The bounce fell kindly for the 32-year-old former All Black Rokocoko, who collected and sprinted away for the score and a 26-14 lead. Carter missed the extras while Goosen went wide with another penalty but Racing, with Argentine winger Juan Imhoff impressively filling in as emergency scrum-half, still dominated despite being a man down.—AFP

SINGH, ELS LURK AS RAHM, HURLEY SHARE PGA LEAD

BETHESDA: Fiji's Vijay Singh, trying to become the PGA's oldest winner at age 53, and Ernie Els, trying to end a three-year title drought, moved into contention Friday at the National. Unlikely co-leaders Jon Rahm, a 21-year-old Spaniard in his professional debut, and Billy Hurley, a 607th-ranked local product seeking his first PGA win, shared the top spot on 11-under 131 after 36 holes of the Tiger Woods-hosted event at Congressional Country Club.

But Singh, a three-time major winner, fired 66 to stand third on 134 and 46-year-old South African Els, a four-time major champion who won the 1997 US Open at Congressional, shot 69 to share fourth on 135 with Americans Harold Varner, Webb Simpson and Bill Haas. "Us old guys can still play a bit," Els said. "I'm not quite as old as Vijay but I'm getting there. I know he has been working hard on his game and has been quietly optimistic. Same with me. So I would love to see if we can go really low tomorrow."

With a victory, 210th-ranked Singh would snap an eight-year win drought and break the PGA winner's age record of Sam Snead, who was 52 years, 10 months and eight days when he won the 1965 Greater Greensboro Open. "It would be a good thing to win," Singh said. "But I'm not thinking about that right now. It's only halfway. Have to focus on my game tomorrow and see what happens." Singh, a three-time major champion, has not won on the tour since the 2008 Deutsche Bank Championship. The World Golf Hall of Famer's share of sixth last February at the Honda Classic was his lone top-25 showing in the past year.

"I've been putting quite well for six, eight months. Nothing had really been going in," Singh said. "I saw some good lines today and it went in." Els, ranked 296th, hasn't won since the European Tour's 2013 BMW International and has not won a US event since 2010 at Bay Hill. But he and Singh have served notice to their rivals. "I played with Ernie for two days and he played beautifully so he's certainly a guy we're going to have to worry about-and Vijay," Haas said. "I hope those guys are battling it out on the weekendand I could be a third member of that party." Singh's 59 worldwide career victories include 34 on the PGA Tour and major wins at the 2000 Masters and the 1998 and 2004 PGA Championships. Els owns 19 PGA wins among his 71 worldwide titles, which include the 1994 and 1997 US Opens and the 2002 and 2012 British Opens.

'I surprised myself'

Rahm, last week's US Open low amateur and Thursday's first-round leader, made four birdies on the front nine but opened and closed the back nine with bogeys to offset birdies at 16 and 17. "It could be one of the best ball-striking days I've ever had," Rahm said. "I was really comfortable. I surprised myself how good I hit the shots. To play the way I did I'm very proud of myself." Hurley, from nearby northern Virginia, spent five years in the US Navy before reaching the tour and has not cracked the top 30 in a stroke-play event for more than a year. But he fired a 65, the day's low round, to share the lead as local fans cheered. "It's nice to have the support and it definitely helps with momentum," Hurley said. "Helps keep your sprits up even if things aren't going so great."

Fowler finding confidence

World number six Rickie Fowler fired his second 68 to join fellow Americans Robert Garrigus and Mark Hubbard on 136. He reached the weekend with only one bogey after missed cuts at the US Open, Memorial and Players Championship. "It's nice when you step on a tee and feel confident," Fowler said. "Looking forward to finally getting some tee times on the weekend." Four spots available in the British Open at this event would now belong to Singh, Rahm, Hurley and Varner. Els, Simpson and Haas are already in the field at Royal Troon in three weeks.—AFP



MARYLAND: Jon Rahm of Spain plays a shot from a bunker on the second hole during the second round of the Quicken Loans National at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland. — AFP

FARRELL KICKS ENGLAND TO A 44-40 WIN TO SWEEP SERIES

SYDNEY: Owen Farrell kicked England to a pulsating 44-40 win over Australia to sweep their rugby union series 3-0 in Sydney yesterday. England were outscored five tries to four by the Wallabies, but got home on the boot of insidecentre Farrell, who kicked six penalty goals and three conversions from 10 attempts in a man of the match performance. It was the first 3-0 series win by a touring side in Australia since the South African Springboks in 1971.

It was also England's ninth consecutive win under their former Wallabies coach Eddie Jones and follows earlier wins in Brisbane and Melbourne. The Australians were more inventive in attack with Matt Toomua and Bernard Foley providing the main spark, but the Six Nations champions were too consistent for the Wallabies. Jones had urged his players to maintain their intensity despite clinching the series in Melbourne last week in their "once in a lifetime opportunity" to vanquish Australia 3-0. England began well and had most of the play before prop Mako Vunipola made a bumping run close to the Australian line.

From the next phase Ben Youngs put prop Dan Cole crashing over near the post for Farrell to convert after 11 minutes. The Wallabies' response was immediate with Dane Haylett-Petty's pass knocked down by Maro Itoje and the ball was picked up by Israel Folau who dashed up the left touchline. Folau drew the last line of defense to send Bernard Foley over under the bar and level the scores with his conversion. The Wallabies were over again seven minutes later after several phases and quick hands by Foley and Folau sent winger Haylett-Petty sprinting over in the corner for a 12-7 lead.

Brilliant kick re-gather

Farrell kept England in touch with a penalty but centre Jonathan Joseph was penalized for not releasing the ball and Foley regained the five-point advantage. England scored their second try off a brilliant kick re-gather by fullback Mike Brown who carried over Tevita Kuridrani's tackle to score a converted try to lead 17-15. Coach Jones took off new openside flanker Teimana Harrison shortly afterwards and brought on Jack Clifford in a tactical switch. The Wallabies hit the front on halftime through a Foley penalty to end a frenetic opening half. The Wallabies were guilty of slack marking in a scrum close to their line when powerful No 8 Billy Vunipola picked the ball up at the scrum and powered through winger Haylett-Petty's tackle to score.

Farrell kicked England further ahead with his second penalty goal. The Wallabies hit back after great surging run by replacement lock Adam Coleman and Michael Hooper reached out to ground the ball on the try-line for Foley to convert and lock up the game at 25-all. Farrell again kicked England ahead with his third penalty after 56 minutes. But Australia scored their fourth try when Matt Toomua broke the line and sent Folau racing away to score. Foley's conversion put the Wallabies up by four points heading into the final quarter of the Test.

Farrell kicked another penalty before a Nick Phipps error put the Wallabies in trouble in their own quarter and replacement hooker Jamie George scored after the ball came off his shin. Farrell's conversion gave England a six-point lead heading into the final 10 minutes. The sharp-shooter kicked his fifth penalty to give England a nine-point advantage, but Foley kept the Wallabies in it with a 72nd-minute penalty. But Farrell again kept England in control with his sixth penalty before replacement winger Taqele Naiyaravoro scored a consolation try after the full-time siren.— AFP



DUNEDIN: Taulupe Faletau (left) of Wales takes the lineout ball with New Zealand's Samuel Whitelock during the third rugby union Test match between the New Zealand All Blacks and Wales at Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin yesterday. — AFP

Kuwait Zimes **SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016**

WEST INDIES BEAT SA IN TRI-NATION

BRIDGETOWN: Darren Bravo's third hundred and impressive fast bowling from Shannon Gabriel propelled the West Indies to a 100-run win over South Africa in the ninth and final preliminary match of the Tri-Nation One-Day International Series. Bravo's stroke-filled 102, which earned him the "Man of the Match" award, anchored an impressive recovery from 21 for four to lift the West Indies to 285 all out off 49.5 overs batting first at Kensington Oval on Friday.

Gabriel, in just his second ODI, then tore through the Proteas' vaunted top-order, taking the wickets of Quinton de Kock, Faf du Plessis and captain A.B. de Villiers in the space of four fearsome overs. It was a setback from which they never recovered, eventually being dismissed for 186 off 46 overs despite a last-wicket partnership of 51 between Morne Morkel and Imran Tahir. Sunil Narine ensured there would be no escape for the South Africans after Gabriel's early blast, the spinner taking three for 28 off ten overs.

"I've been getting starts in this series without really carrying on," said Bravo after the match. "I worked extra hard in the nets yesterday and things just worked out for me today with the support of Polly (Kieron Pollard)." With their second win in three matches against the Proteas in the tournament, the hosts advance to face World Cupholders Australia in the final on Sunday at the same venue. It is also the first time in ten years that South Africa have failed to reach the final of a tri-nation ODI series. Of concern for the West Indies looking ahead to the final though will be the fitness of Gabriel, who left the field nursing a right leg injury after claiming the impressive figures of three for 17 from five overs of extreme pace.

He should have also snared the wicket of Hashim Amla but wicketkeeper Denesh Ramdin missed the straightforward opportunity offered by the prolific opener. West Indies were themselves rocked back at 21 for four when pacer Kagiso Rabada led the assault after de Villiers chose to field. However Bravo's third one-day century, embellished with 12 fours and four sixes off 103 deliveries, proved invaluable. He found an able partner in Kieron Pollard, who curbed his usual all-out aggression in compiling 62 off 71 balls.

Their fifth-wicket stand of 156 was a new West Indian record for the wicket against South Africa and wrested the initiative from the visitors who did not help their cause with characteristically untidy cricket in the field, fast-medium bowler Morne Morkel delivering six of the 17 wides conceded by the Proteas. Morkel's nine overs cost 68 runs yet for all that indiscipline, he should have still claimed the important wicket early on of Bravo who, on 11, topedged an attempted hook only for Wayne Parnell to misjudge the catch at fine-leg and parry the ball over the boundary rope.

'Didn't turn up'

"I don't know what went wrong with our disciplines today, it's like we didn't turn up," a disappointed de Villiers observed. "Credit to the West Indies for their recovery but we didn't play anything like our best here." Imran Tahir, who routed the West Indies in their last meeting in St Kitts with recordbreaking figures of seven for 45, was kept wicketless through his ten overs for the first time in ODI cricket against these opponents. South Africa's bowling star without doubt was Rabada, whose returns of three for 31 were highlighted by a devastating opening burst after Parnell had removed Andre Fletcher in his opening over. Generating tremendous pace, Rabada induced an edge from the other opener, Johnson Charles, for Chris Morris to take a comfortable catch at second slip. He then uprooted Marlon Samuels' off-stump first ball to have the West Indies tottering at 12 for three.

Ramdin avoided the hat-trick but subsequently succumbed to the lethal hostility of the 21-year-old fast bowler, first ducking into a short ball to take a blow on the back of the helmet before being comprehensively bowled off the next delivery. Bravo and Pollard then countered the rampant South Africans with determination and forceful strokeplay before the big-hitting all-rounder was caught at long-on off the suffering Morkel. Morris claimed three wickets at the end of the innings with West Indies captain Jason Holder (40) and Carlos Brathwaite (33 not out) pushing the home side to a challenging final total.— AFP



KEI NISHIKORI VOWS TO END WIMBLEDON WOE

LONDON: Japan's Kei Nishikori has set his sights on finally making a strong run at Wimbledon despite admitting he is less than 100 percent fit. Nishikori was forced to withdraw from the Wimbledon warm-up event in Halle before his second round match last week due to an injury to his oblique muscles. The world number six eased fears he might miss Wimbledon when he came through a two-set win against Richard Gasquet in an exhibition match on Thursday.

Nishikori concedes he is still short of full fitness, but the 2014 US Open runner-up believes he is close enough to be able to do himself justice when he faces big-serving Australian Sam Groth in the Wimbledon first round next week. "I'm feeling good. I've had almost one week after I got injured, so I should be fine," Nishikori told reporters at Wimbledon on Saturday."I've been practising really well these couple days. Two days ago I just played Gasquet two sets, so I should be okay for Monday. "I'm close to 100 percent. I mean, not 100 percent yet.

But I start Monday, so I have one more day." Nishikori is determined to make it to at least the quarter-finals at the All England Club this year after enduring some miserable experiences at the grass-court Grand Slam. The 26-year-old was forced to pull out of Wimbledon in the second round last year due to a leg injury and it is the only Grand Slam where he has failed to reach the quarter-finals. Nishikori remains uncomfortable playing on grass, but his respect for the history and tradition of the tournament is fuelling his bid to improve on a wretched record of one last 16 appearance in seven attempts.

Frustrating

That is an especially frustrating statistic for Nishikori given his excellence on all other surfaces. From Indian Wells in March through to the Rome Masters in May, Nishikori embarked on a superb run that included reaching the Miami and Barcelona finals. During that stretch, Novak Djokovic, three times, and Rafael Nadal, twice, were the only players to beat him, while he only bowed out against the in-form Gasquet in the last 16 at the recent French Open.

"I like grass. It's not my best yet. It's always my goal to get to quarter-finals or semis here because I haven't done really well in the grasscourt season," he said. "Usually I got injured. Last year, I got hurt in Halle and I couldn't play, then I pulled out of the second round here, so I've been a little bit a little bit unfortunate too. "Obviously Wimbledon has a lot of history. I think the first slam I knew was Wimbledon. "When I come here, I feel something special. The only thing is I haven't done really well here yet. If I can win more matches here, I think I will love it more."

Groth's ranking has dropped to 123rd after he came close to breaking into the top 50 last year and with the incentive of a potential quarter-final against Roger Federer and a semi-final against Djokovic lying in wait, Nishikori hopes to take advantage of the Australian's struggles."I can win couple matches with good tennis, I think I will get more confidence on grass, and I will get good rhythm on a grass court," he added. "I think the first couple matches are very important for me here this week."— AFP

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play in the Triangular Series match between West Indies and South Africa on Friday in Bridgetown, Barbados.

West Indies Innings:	
J. Charles c Morris b Rabada	4
A. Fletcher c de Kock b Parnell	8
Da. Bravo c du Plessis b Morris	102
M. Samuels b Rabada	0
D. Ramdin b Rabada	4
K. Pollard c du Plessis b M. Morkel	62
J. Holder c de Kock b Morris	40
C. Brathwaite not out	33
S. Narine run out (Morris)	1
S. Benn c Duminy b Morris	5
S. Gabriel run out (Behardien)	2
Extras (lb-5 nb-2 w-17)	24
Total (all out, 49.5 overs)	285
Fall of wickets: 1-12 A. Fletcher, 2-12 J. C	harles, 3-
12 M. Samuels, 4-21 D. Ramdin, 5-177 K.	Pollard, 6-
210 Da. Bravo, 7-264 J. Holder, 8-266 S.	Narine, 9-
275 S. Benn, 10-285 S. Gabriel	

Bowling: K. Rabada 10-1-31-3 (w-3), W. Parnell 9.5-0-63-1 (w-2), M. Morkel 9-0-68-1 (nb-1 w-6), C. Morris 10-0-63-3 (w-3), I. Tahir 10-0-40- 0 (w-2), J. Duminy 1-0-15-0 (nb-1 w-1).

South Africa Innings: H. Amla Ibw b Narine Q. de Kock c Ramdin b Gabriel F. du Plessis Ibw b Gabriel A. de Villiers c Ramdin b Gabriel F. Behardien c Charles b C. Brathwaite 35 J. Duminy c Benn b Holder

C. Morris c Pollard b Narine W. Parnell c sub b Narine K. Rabada run out (Ramdin) M. Morkel not out I. Tahir c Ramdin b C. Brathwaite Extras (b-8 w-5) Total (all out, 46 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-16 Q. de Kock, 2-24 F. du Plessis, 3-28 A. de Villiers, 4-35 H. Amla, 5-51 J. Duminy, 6-65 C. Morris, 7-96 F. Behardien, 8-118 W. Parnell, 9-134 K. Rabada, 10-185 I. Tahir.

32

29

13

185

Bowling: J. Holder 10-1-33-1 (w-2), S. Gabriel 5-1-17-3 (w-1), S. Narine 10-0-28-3 (w-1), C. Brathwaite 10-2-39-2, S. Benn 10 - 0-51-0 (w-1), A. Fletcher 1-

Result: West Indies won by 100 runs.

HIELD 'FEELING THE HEAT' IN NEW ORLEANS, AND LIKING IT

METAIRIE: When Buddy Hield flew into south Louisiana on Friday to begin his NBA career, among the first things he noticed was how hot it was - and he had no complaints soon as I came off the plane, it felt hot, it reminded me of home," said Hield, who grew up in the Bahamas. "It's the same feeling, a feeling I'm used to." The 6-foot-4 Hield also got used to putting up a lot of shots from the perimeter - and making them - when he was leading Oklahoma to the NCAA Final Four last season.

He'll be expected do that and more as a pro with the Pelicans, who made Hield the NBA's sixth overall draft pick Thursday night. "What everybody's trying to do is put him in this label as just a shooter and he's much more than that," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said, emphasizing what he saw as the shooting quard's potential to be a strong defender. "He wants to be a complete player." Hield, who averaged 25 points last season and made about 46 percent of his 3-pointers, said he figured he'd be a good fit in New Orleans because even the threat of his outside shot would create more space for All-Star forward Anthony Davis on the offensive end. Hield also likes Gentry's up-tempo system that yields a lot of shot attempts during the course of a game. And Hield said he became even more comfortable with the idea of playing for the Pelicans after working out for the club in southern California before the draft. "The workouts were serious, but after workouts they were just joking around, so it felt like family and I felt comfortable and I felt welcome," Hield recalled. "It was the perfect fit and I'm glad I'm here now."

Hield was joined at Pelicans headquarters Friday night by second-round pick Cheick Diallo, who turned pro after one season at Kansas. Hield had one of his more memorable games against Kansas this past season, scoring 46 points in a triple overtime loss to the Jayhawks. "I was like, 'Wow, No. 24 is good" Diallo recalled. "I was like 'Wow, someone needs to stop him' ... He was getting buckets everywhere." Unlike Hield, the 6-9 Diallo has much to prove after averaging only 3.0 points and 2.5 rebounds during his lone college season.

He did, however, demonstrate potential by hitting 57 percent of his shots and blocking 23 shots in 27 games. The Pelicans had scouted him since high school and felt comfortable enough with his potential that they traded up to get him, dealing the 39th and 40th overall picks to the Clippers in exchange for Loss Angeles' 33rd pick. "A lot of people doubt me and think, 'He wasn't playing at Kansas because he wasn't good enough.' So I have to prove people wrong because I know people don't know who I am," Diallo said. —AP



Caster Semenya

SOUTH AFRICA'S SEMENYA WINS 1,500 METERS TITLE

DURBAN: South African Caster Semenya confirmed her versatility and good form by posting an Olympic qualifying time when winning the African Athletics Championships 1,500 meters title in Durban Friday. She clocked 4:01.99 at Kings Park stadium in the Indian Ocean city to come painstakingly close to breaking former 5,000m world record holder Zola Budd's national mark.

Semenya has qualified for three 2016 Rio Olympic Games events-the 400m, 800m and 1,500m-and her times in each event rank among the top 10 in the world this year. The 2012 London Olympics 800m silver medalist has been in dominant form this year in her specialist event, boasting a world-best 1:56.64. She qualified for the Rio Games 400m with a personal best 50.74sec. "It was good race where I just waited until the last moment to strike and stuck with a plan," Semenya said of her 1,500m success.

Semenya impressed tactically, staying with the leading group for most of the race before taking the lead with half a lap left. Former African champion Rabab Arafi of Morocco finished nearly two seconds behind Semenya in 4:03.95 with Ethiopian Anbesa Feyisa third with 4:05.22. Semenya said the 1,500m was not part of her Rio plan, but did not rule out bidding for a 400-800m double. "We are not sure yet," she said. "I would love to do that (bid for a double) but it is up to the coach. I feel good for the 800m." Nijel Amos of Botswana, the 2012 London Olympics men's 800m silver medalist, successfully defended his African title in 1:45.11.

Amos held off a resurgent Jacob Rozani of South Africa, who finished second in 1:45.38. Another South African, Rynardt van Rensburg, came third in 1:46.15. "I had to push myself because my body was tired and I needed to get out of my comfort zone to win this race. I am feeling positive as everything is coming together," said Amos. Botswana also had success in the 400m with Baboleki Thebe and Karabo Sibanda winning the gold and silver medals respectively. Thebe crossed the line in 44.69sec, Sibanda clocked 45.42sec and Chidi Okezie of Nigeria took the bronze in 45.76sec.— AFP

ODDS TO MAKE RIO 100M **MUMBAI:** Indian sprinter Dutee Chand py that my coach ... and my hard work has

INDIA'S CHAND DEFIES THE

made the cut for the women's 100m at the Rio Olympics yesterday, less than a year after she was cleared to race following the Court of Arbitration for Sport's (CAS) ruling on gender testing guidelines. The Lausanne-based court suspended the governing International Association of Athletics Federations' (IAAF) regulations regarding hyperandrogenism, a condition which produces high testosterone levels, for two years.

It cleared the way for Chand to compete again in both domestic and international events after she was forced to sit out about a year of competition. She clocked a national record 11.30 seconds in the 100m heats at the G. Kosanov Memorial Meet in Almaty, Kazakhstan, to qualify for the Rio Games, the qualifying mark for which was set at 11.32. "I am really happy at the moment," she said in a statement. "It has been a tough year for me and I am so happaid off. "I would like to thank all the people in India who were praying for me to qualify. Your wishes have paid off."

The daughter of a weavers from the eastern Indian state of Orissa, Chand was dropped from India's contingent for the Glasgow Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games in Incheon after her naturallyoccurring testosterone levels were found to be in breach of IAAF's guidelines. She was advised to have surgery and take medication but instead decided to challenge the guidelines at CAS, who asked the IAAF to present scientific evidence proving enhanced testosterone levels improved performance in hyperandrogenic athletes. South Africa's former world champion 800m runner Caster Semenya was also subjected to gender testing by the IAAF before being cleared to compete as a woman. The Rio Olympics take place from Aug 5-21. — Reuters

FEDERER HOPES FOR WIMBLEDON TONIC AFTER TROUBLED YEAR

LONDON: Roger Federer admits Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray are clear favorites for the Wimbledon title as the Swiss star tries to salvage an injury-plagued year by winning his favourite tournament for a record eighth time. For the first time in 15 years, Federer arrives at the All England Club with few pundits expecting the world number three to leave with the trophy after one of the most troubled seasons of his glittering career.

Federer, tied with Pete Sampras on seven Wimbledon men's singles titles, is preparing to make his 18th successive appearance at the grass-court Grand Slam, but there is now a genuine sense of vulnerability about the 34-year-old as the ravages of time take their toll on his body. From the moment he suffered a torn meniscus in his left knee while turning awkwardly to run a bath for his children shortly after the Australian Open in January, this has been a year to forget for Federer.

The 17-time Grand Slam champion had surgery on the knee in February but, when he recovered from that, a back problem kept him out of the recent French Open, which ended his record run of 65 consecutive appearances in Grand Slam tournaments. Back on the lawns of south-west London, Federer, who hasn't won a title in his six tournaments in 2016, is desperately hoping to emerge from his struggles and emulate his run to Wimbledon final 12 months ago.

"I was very, very sad, just because I thought I was going to be lucky not having to do surgery in my career," Federer told reporters at Wimbledon yesterday. "I just got really disappointed about it because that's when I really understood what the road was going to look like. "I felt like I got unlucky throughout the process with hurting my back again before Madrid, getting sick in Miami. I got into a tough spell there. "I just had to stop everything by not playing Paris, reset basically, essentially. I don't want to say 'start from zero', but just reset from there and make another push for Wimbledon."

Mechanics

Federer played grass-court events in Stuttgart and Halle earlier this month in a bid to prove his fitness, but although he was happy with how his body responded, the results were a further dent to his morale. His semi-final loss to Germany's Alexander Zverev in Halle was his first defeat to a teenager in 10 years. —FP



HALLE WESTFALEN: Roger Federer of Switzerland reacts during the ATP tour tennis match against Alexander Zverev of Germany (unseen), in Halle, western Germany, on

PRAISE FOR COPA AMERICA CENTENARIO, BUT HARD TO REPEAT

America Centenario proclaimed the soccer tournament a rousing success on Friday heading into the final weekend of the special event hosted by the US, but would not commit to a regular arrangement. The 100th anniversary of the world's oldest international soccer tournament was a cooperative effort between South American confederation CONMEBOL, and CONCACAF, representing North America, Central America and the Caribbean, with US Soccer organizing the competition. "We were able to bring whole continents together," CON-MEBOL president Alejandro Dominguez told a Manhattan news conference

through an interpreter. "Fair play, good games, an average of almost three goals per match, very good behaviour by the public ... integrating cultures for people to live together and respect diversity." Sunil Gulati, the US Soccer president and head of the Local Organizing Committee, pointed with pride to the massive average turnout of 46,000 per game, nearly 1.5 million in all.

NEW YORK: The troika running the Copa "What I said at the start of the tournament was our base line was at 30,000 (per game). We thought 35,000 would be great, 40 would be beyond our wildest expectations and obviously where we ended up is fantastic. "These are World Cup numbers for an event organized in seven months with 16 teams," Gulati said.

Dominguez said "from any point of view it has been a success" and that he was open to new ideas about further collaborations. Victor Montagliani, president of CONCACAF, said: "We are open to discussions moving forward but it's not something we've been able to sit down and talk about in a concrete way." The 16-team tournament climaxes with today's final between world number one ranked Argentina and fifth-ranked defending champions Chile at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey across the Hudson River from New York City. The third-place match between the United States and Colombia takes place in Phoenix on Saturday.

Future obstacles

Gulati pointed out obstacles to making an ongoing commitment to a competition between the confederations. 'The regular Copa America is not a protected competition on the international calendar for the non-CONMEBOL teams. For the CONCACAF teams, we can't have a mandatory release of our players," he said. "And with about half our team playing in Europe we can't get our players. And it's also during our league in the United States. And in some years it's played in the same year as our (CONCA-CAF) Gold Cup. "It's very difficult to go to such a strong competition without our best team."

Gulati, however, lit upon a tongue-incheek idea for a new international competition, referencing the backlash to Britain's vote to exit the European Union. "Victor (Montagliani) and I actually kicked around an idea this morning of 10 teams from CONMEBOL, 10 teams from CONCACAF and the four British teams who are now apparently looking for a place to play. "It could be an interesting



NEW YORK: (From left to right) CONCACAF President Victor Montagliani, CON-MEBOL President Alejandro Dominguez and US Soccer Federation President Sunil Gulati hold a press conference with the Copa America Centenario championship trophy on display on Friday June 24, 2016 in New York. The final between Argentina and Chile is set today at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ. —AP

24-team tournament to rival the Euro." Dominguez had a more concrete vision, saying: "We have challenged UEFA to play one game this year, bringing togeth-

er the winners of the Copa America Centenario and the winners of the Euro 2016. "We are waiting for that answer. They are studying our offer."— Reuters



NEW YORK: Auston Matthews poses for a portrait after being selected first overall by the Toronto Maple Leafs in round one during the 2016 NHL Draft in Buffalo, New

NHL - LEAFS SELECT AMERICAN MATTHEWS 1ST IN ENTRY DRAFT

LOS ANGELES: The Toronto Maple Leafs selected Arizona teenager Auston Matthews with the No 1 pick in the National Hockey League draft Friday as a record 12 Americans were chosen in the first round. Matthews was considered to be the consensus first overall pick heading into the entry draft, and he goes to a team that desperately needs a goal-scorer and a leader as the Leafs are suffering through one of the longest Stanley Cup droughts in

"It is a dream come true. Especially going to the storied franchise like the Toronto Maple Leafs," he said of the Leafs, who are also one of the original six NHL franchises. Finnish goal scorer Patrik Laine went second overall to the Winnipeg Jets. The Columbus Blue Jackets made the first surprise pick of the day by choosing center Pierre-Luc Dubois of Canada with the third pick at the First Niagara Center in Buffalo, New York

The Oilers then wasted no time grabbing Laine's Finnish compatriot Jesse Puljujarvi for the fourth spot. Defenseman Olli Juolevi was taken by the Vancouver Canucks, giving Finland three picks in the top five. There were 12 Americans selected and 11 from Canada, making in the first time that the United States has had more picks than their North American neighbor. Matthews is also the seventh American to be taken first overall. The 18-year-old is the first player from the desert city of Phoenix to be picked number one. He started playing hockey at age 7. "Hockey is rapidly growing in all southern parts of the country and so to be a part of that is unique," Matthews said.

The last US player to go No 1 was Buffalo's Patrick Kane in 2007. Matthews just missed out being eligible for the 2015 entry draft by two days, and scouts said he would have been a top three pick in that draft as well. Matthews scored 79 goals in 45 games as a 14-year-old bantam AAA with the Phoenix Jr Coyotes. At one time had hoped to play for Druzbha-78 in the Ukraine, but ended up going to Switzerland where he played this past season. Despite his young age, Matthews scored 24 goals and 46 points in 36 games while playing for Zurich in their elite league. He also led the USA to a bronze at the World Junior Championships and played on the US national team that finished fourth at the men's IIHF World Championships last month in Russia. He posted nine points in 10 games at the Worlds. Toronto has been in rebuilding mode for much of the last decade. They missed the postseason 10 of the past 11 seasons a finished last with a dismal 29-42-11 record a year ago. They have not won an NHL championship since the 1966-67 season. Puljujarvi is known for his playmaking and two-way game. He was named MVP of the 2016 World Junior Championships with 17 points in seven games.

Ready to go

"I am ready to play next year," said Puljujarvi. "It is a very exciting day for me. Edmonton is a great hockey city." There were also several significant trades made on draft day with the biggest being the Calgary Flames acquiring goaltender Brian Elliott from the St Louis Blues. The Blues received the Flames' second-round pick (No 35 overall) and a conditional third-round pick in 2018. The 31-year-old Elliott, of Canada, played 41 regular-season games for St Louis in 2015-16 and ranked in the NHL's top five in goals-against average.

He finished with a record of 23-8-2. He also led the Blues to the Western Conference Finals in 2015-16, posting a 2.44 goals against average in 18 playoff appearances. The Chicago Blackhawks acquired two second-round picks (39th and 45th overall) from the Montreal Canadiens in exchange for gritty veteran forward Andrew Shaw. The 24-year-old Shaw had 14 goals and 20 assists this past season, but he is set to become a free agent on July 1. Shaw is reportedly seeking a contract worth \$4.5 million per season which the Blackhawks are not willing to pay. "He's the kind of player that drags his teammates into the fight," said Montreal GM Marc Bergevin.— AFP

COPA AMERICA, EURO 2016 - 5 DIFFERENCES

PARIS: For the first time the European Championship finals and the Copa America are taking place simultaneously, with Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi both facing crucial matches this weekend. Ronaldo's Portugal faced a Euro 2016 last-16 tie against Croatia in France yesterday, before Messi's Argentina take on defending champions Chile in the Copa final today night in the United States. The two tournaments could yet combine in some manner one day, after the Confederation of South American football (CONMEBOL) suggested a match between the winners of the continental competitions. With that possibility on the horizon, AFP looks at five key differences between the two events this summer.

Changing of the guard?

The new format for Euro 2016, with 24 teams qualifying for the finals, was expected to favor the traditional powerhouses. All of the pre-tournament favorites have qualified for the knockout stages, with Portugal saved by a Ronaldo double that helped them through by the skin of their teeth courtesy of a 3-3 draw with Hungary. But in the 100th anniversary edition of the Copa, Brazil suffered a humiliating exit in the group stages that brought back painful memories of the 2014 World Cup debacle, and saw head coach Dunga replaced by Tite. Record 15-time winners Uruguay also failed to reach the quarter-finals of international football's oldest competition, giving Argentina the perfect chance to

The surprises... Or not

The new expanded finals have thrown up plenty of surprise packages in Euro 2016, with Wales, Northern Ireland and Iceland all reaching the knockout stages in their first appearances in the finals. In the US though the rank outsiders struggled, with Haiti, Jamaica and Bolivia all dropping out at the first hurdle with three defeats from three matches.

Where are the fans?

Traditionally the Copa America is known for its passionate fanbase and packed stadiums. But the centennial edition in the States, where football is not a major sport, has failed to live up to that hype. Except for the curtain-raiser between the US and Colombia, and the expectations for a big crowd for the repeat of the 2015 final



ARIZONA: Members of the Colombia team train on the eve of their COPA America 2016 3rd place final soccer match against the US at the University of Phoenix Stadium, Arizona. —AFP

between Argentina and Chile, the average attendance has only been 46,000. At the Euros, the as supporters flock to France to cheer on their teams. The atmosphere has been boosted by the smaller nations' participations, with Welsh, Northern Irish and Republic of Ireland fans all out in great numbers. Iceland, making their maiden appearance at a major tournament, have brought up to 30,000 supporters to France, which is almost 10% of the country's entire pop-

The goals are in America!

Apart from Neymar, who prioristised the Rio Olympics in August, and an injured Luis Suarez, the most well-known players have come to the party in the USA. Lionel Messi, Sergio Aguero and Gonzalo Higuain have all been amongst the goals during Argentina's run to the final. Chileans Alexis Sanchez and Arturo Vidal have also fired, while striker Eduardo Vargas scored four goals in the defending champions' 7-0 quar-

ter-final hammering of Mexico. On the other hand, the top scorers of the main European stadiums have been full for almost every match, leagues have struggled. Premier League Golden Boot winner Harry Kane has lost his place in the England team, and Bundesliga stars Thomas Mueller and Robert Lewandowski have failed to find the net for Germany and Poland respectively. Even Ronaldo was left frustrated in Portugal's first two outings, while Swedish talisman Zlatan Ibrahimovic bowed out of international football without scoring a goal.

Final repeats

One similarity is that both tournaments will see final repeats in the coming days. Argentina and five-time World Player of the Year Messi will have the opportunity to banish the memories of a penalty shoot-out loss to Chile last year at the Metlife Stadium today. In Europe the rematch has been thrown up much earlier in the tournament, with Italy's reward for topping their group a last-16 tie against Spain, who thrashed them 4-0 in the final four years ago.—AFP

MESSI READY FOR CROWNING GLORY IN COPA AMERICA FINAL

EAST RUTHERFORD: Lionel Messi will bid to gild his legacy as the greatest footballer of his generation here today by ending Argentina's 23vear wait for a major title in a dream final against holders Chile in the Copa America Centenario. For Messi's many millions of admirers, the fivetime world footballer of the year has already achieved enough in his glittering career to be considered in the same bracket as Pele and Diego Maradona. Yet the only hole in the Barcelona superstar's CV-a major tournament title with Argentina-is invariably, and somewhat unfairly, cited as a justification to delay his elevation to football's pantheon.

That could all change today before a sell-out crowd of 81,000 at East Rutherford's MetLife Stadium, the home of the NFL's New York Giants, when Argentina face the Chileans in a rematch of last year's Copa America final. It is the third final in as many years for Messi and his teammates, who suffered agonizing defeats in the 2014 World Cup final against Germany and to the Chileans on penalties in Santiago last year.

On each occasion, Messi has borne the brunt of the backlash from critics in Argentina who trot out a familiar laundry list of grievances. He has no passion. He doesn't sing the anthem. He doesn't "feel" the shirt. Barely a ball had been kicked in this Copa America before Maradona, a regular sniper, accused him of lacking "personality" and "leadership."

Don't come back

Maradona amped up the rhetoric this week shortly after Argentina booked their place in the final with a 4-0 demolition of the United States. "We will certainly win today... and if we don't win, they shouldn't come back," Maradona told an Argentinean television network. Although Messi admits that losing another final would be a "great disappointment", so far in the tournament he has shown no sign of being overburdened by pressure. After missing Argentina's opening group match-a 2-1 win over today's opponents Chile-he scored an electrifying 19minute hat-trick against Panama after coming on as a substitute before going on to equal Gabriel Batistuta's Argentina goals record in the

4-1 quarter-final win over Venezuela. Against the US on Tuesday, he scored a magnificent curling freekick to become his country's leading international goalscorer with 55, while setting up two more goals in a magical all-round display. He even found the time to sign the shirt of an autograph-hunting fan who sprinted onto the pitch at the start of the second half. —AFP



CAPE MAY: Argentina's player Lionel Messi (center) practices during a training session at the Quest Diagnostics in Cape May, New Jersey. Argentina will face Chile in their final match of the Copa America. — AFP

'WE FEAR NO TEAM' EGYPT COACH SAYS

JOHANNESBURG: Egypt coach Hector Cuper says it is irrelevant that 2018 World Cup qualifying opponents Ghana humiliated the north Africans three years ago, declaring: "We fear no team." The two countries were placed in Group E with Congo Brazzaville and Uganda when 20 nations were split into five groups this weekend, with the winners going to the finals in Russia. Ghana crushed Egypt 6-1 in the first leg of a 2014 World Cup play-off and won 7-3 overall to secure a place in Brazil. "I know what Ghana did to Egypt, but that is history," insisted Argentine Cuper, the former manager of Valencia and Inter Milan. "We fear no team, our target is qualification for the 2018 World Cup, and what lies ahead for the Egyptian squad is work, work

and more work." Ghana Football Association president Kwesi Nyantakyi believes the unexpectedly big winning margin achieved by the Black Stars at home three years ago will work against them this time. "That triumph does not give us any psychological advantage," he stressed. "On the contrary, it is a disadvantage. "Egypt are thirsting for revenge and we must be aware that they have built a new, very good team since Kumasi." Uganda coach Milutin "Micho" Sredojevic says that although his team are seeded last in the group, they can match Ghana, Egypt and Congo. "We can create shocks even though our budget is probably 10 percent of some rivals," said the Serb, who has worked in numerous African countries.

"While some other African countries liken us to a motorcycle competing in a Formula One race, I disagree. We can match any team." — AFP

Irish fans eye revenge against hosts Franc

FAN FERVOR











LYON: Both the Republic of Ireland and France camps have played down Thierry Henry's infamous handball, but Irish fans will be hoping for revenge in today's Euro 2016 last 16 clash. It was at the Stade de France in Paris on November 18, 2009 that Henry used his handtwice-to control the ball in the buildup to William Gallas' late goal. The incident, dubbed 'Le Hand of God', helped seal France's 2-1 aggregate win and left Irish fans feeling robbed of a 2010 World Cup place. Both squads still contain players who were involved that night. France's goalkeeper Hugo Lloris, defenders Bacary Sagna and Patrice Evra and striker Andre-Pierre Gignac all started, while Moussa Sissoko and goalkeeper Steve Mandanda were unused substitutes.

For the Irish, Shay Given, John O'Shea, Glenn Whelan and Robbie Keane started the match, while Aiden McGeady came on in extra-time. Both teams have claimed that the incident six years ago will have little bearing today's tie in Lyon. "A lot of water has gone under the bridge since then," said France's assistant coach Guy Stephan. "Of course we have discussed it, but I honestly don't think it will impact on the game." Irish boss Martin O'Neill took a similar line, but admitted his side's 'Green Army' of supporters want revenge.

"I think we have decided to forget about it-that's something coming from Ireland," the Ireland boss said. "It will be a talking point obviously, but I don't think it will concern us when we play the game." The Irish have a few injury concerns. Full-back Stephen Ward has an ankle injury from the 1-0 win over Italy that earned the last-16 berth and sat out Friday's training. Jon Walters has a sore Achilles tendon, but ran out with the team. Robbie Brady wrote himself into Irish football folklore with the headed winner in the victory over Italy, the 24year-old's late effort sparking wild scenes of celebration in the stadium and at home.

"It makes me feel proud of where we come from and (for me) just to be a little part of the history of that is unbelievable," said the Norwich City midfielder. But Ireland's assistant coach Roy Keane says his team will have to match their performance against Italy if they are to knock out the host nation at the Stade de Lyon. "If they perform the way they did the other night, we'll give ourselves a chance," said the ex-Manchester United midfielder Keane. "We were in there fighting, but we need

energy. "We need to close people down, win the ball back and when we do get it back, we need to take care of it." "We'll roll our sleeves up and get on with it. We'll be ready."

'Payet for president'

The prize on offer for the winner is a quarterfinal against England or Iceland, who play on Monday. France coach Didier Deschamps has been given food for thought in midfield. A purposeful display in the goalless draw with Switzerland means Newcastle United midfielder Sissoko is pushing to keep his place at Blaise Matuidi's expense. Despite a low-key start to Euro 2016, Juventus' Paul Pogba was one of the few French stars to shine against the Swiss as he hit the woodwork twice. The profile of West Ham forward Dimitri Payet has gone through the roof in his host country, thanks to his goals in the wins over Romania and Albania. In the wake of those performances, French magazine 'Society' has ran a cover with his head photoshopped on the body of France's president François Hollande under the headline "Payet for president".— AFP

NEUER: KNOCKOUT TIES WILL BRING OUT BEST IN GERMANY

LILLE: Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer believes the world champions can put a slow start to Euro 2016 behind them and thrive under the pressure of knockout football when they face Slovakia on today. Joachim Loew's side progressed to the last 16 as winners of Group C, beating Ukraine and Northern Ireland, drawing with Poland and all without conceding a single goal. But Neuer knows better is expected from the Germans at the Stade Pierre-Mauroy in Lille as they face a Slovak side appearing at this stage of a Euro for the first time since independence.

"We have played three teams who pack everyone behind the ball. We didn't have much space and in games like these it's not easy to win by a large margin," said Neuer after Germany mustered just three goals in the group phase. "Beating the likes of Ukraine and Northern Ireland does not merit us shouting out with joy. It is not easy to beat these teams but we got the job done. "We finished top of our group map. But now we are into straight knockout football and anything can happen.

"But we are very good at focusing when it really matters, as we have seen in past competitions. We will be 100 percent on it and we know people are expecting us to perform." Despite topping their group, Germany have found themselves on the toughest side of the draw and will play either reigning champions Spain or bogey team Italy if they make it through to the quarterfinals. But they must first be wary of Slovakia, who unsettled Loew's side in the build-up to the tournament by winning a friendly 3-1 in Augsburg. Those were the last goals Neuer conceded and he knows Germany need to be especially wary of Slovakia star Marek Hamsik, who was among the scorers in that game. "Everyone knows about Hamsik's ability to shoot from range. He scores some great goals at Napoli with those," Neuer said. "In the group phase he didn't often get into

and so we have stuck to our route forward positions. It's important that our midfielders disturb the rhythm of his game early on. But we shouldn't focus on just one player, we need to look at our opponents as a whole."

'Cool and calm' All eyes will be on Loew's selection decisions in defense, with centre-back Jerome Boateng struggling with a calf knock and youngster Joshua Kimmich hoping to keep his place at right-back after impressing there against Northern Ireland. "He's very cool and calm. We knew in advance that we could rely on him," said Neuer about his 21-year-old Bayern colleague Kimmich. After much criticism of the pitch in Lille, a new surface was laid on Thursday but neither team was allowed to train on it on the eve of the

Germany will therefore stage their final practice session at their base in Evian near the Swiss border before flying to northern France yesterday. Slovakia will do likewise at their camp

in Vichy, central France, prior to returning to the scene of their Hamsikinspired win against Russia in the group phase that paved their way to the last 16. Jaz Kozak's side held England in Saint-Etienne in their last match to advance from Group B as one of the best third-placed sides. They famously beat Spain in qualifying and their recent exploits in beating the Germans means they come into this rematch with confidence.

"They have great quality and this will be a very demanding match, but we played them a few weeks back and won on their home ground," winger Vladimir Weiss told UEFA.com. "Of course it will be a different match, but I think that at the level the competition has now reached, the standard is quite even and I think every team is capable of beating every other team." Robert Mak should be fine despite a hamstring problem and Peter Pekarik will not wear a protective mask on his broken nose, but fellow defender Dusan Svento is out.— AFP

ICELAND TAKE ON ENGLAND, THE TEAM THEY CHEERED FROM AFAR

NICE: Brought up on a regular supply of the Premier League, Iceland's players are used to cheering on England at major soccer tournaments. Now, they're trying to eliminate them. In what appears to be the biggest mismatch of the European Championship's round of 16, Iceland - the smallest nation ever to appear at the tournament - will attempt to deliver yet another shock by beating England in Nice

tomorrow. Elimination would be an embarrassment, and surely cost Roy Hodgson his job. "Iceland has to have the perfect game," said its joint-coach Heimir Hallgrimsson, who also runs a dentist surgery in his home town in Iceland. "And we know that even when Iceland has the best performance they have ever had, we can still lose against nations like England." The two teams have had strikingly similar tournaments so far. Both advanced as runner-up in their groups after two draws and a win secured by a stoppage-time goal. But that's about the scale of the similarities.

England is one of the big names in international soccer - albeit an underperforming one - with globally recognized players. In contrast, the casual soccer fan would barely be able to name one Iceland player. Only perhaps goal-scoring midfielder Gylfi Sigurdsson, who has played in the English league for most of his career. "It's purely and simply (about) preparation now," Hodgson said this week, "making

sure the players know as much as we can tell them about Iceland and the type of game they're likely to face." That won't be a problem for Iceland, which has a population of about 330,000 people.

"They (England) won't know much about the Iceland players," Hallgrimsson said, "but we know everything about the England players." In the last 10 years, England has won just one game in the knockout stage of a major competition - against Ecuador in the last 16 of the 2006 World Cup. It's a sorry record for a country of England's standing, and Hodgson is highly unlikely to get a new contract if his team gets knocked out tomorrow. "We're doing our best for the team, for him (Hodgson) and for our country," striker Harry Kane said.

Iceland, which is appearing at its first major tournament, has been relying on a robust defensive unit and quick counter-attacks in France. So far, it has worked, neutralizing Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal and then beating Austria 2-1 at the Stade de France to clinch a last-16 spot. "This is the biggest achievement in Iceland's sports history," Iceland defender Ragnar Sigurdsson said. "We have a world-class handball team. They have always been the main guys in Iceland. But now football is a bigger sport and we are here. "In the moment we are the heroes. but people also forget quickly." They won't if Iceland pulls off another stunning result. The winner plays either France or Ireland in the quarterfinals.— AP



Matches on TV (Local Timings)

UEFA EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP France v Ireland 16:00 belN MAX 2 HD belN MAX 3 HD EN belN MAX 1 HD belN MAX 4 HD FR Germany v Slovakia 19:00 beIN MAX 2 HD belN MAX 3 HD EN beIN MAX 1 HD **Hungary v Belgium** 22:00 belN MAX 2 HD belN MAX 3 HD EN belN MAX 1 HD

COPA AMERICA CENTENARIO

3:00

Tomorrow Argentina v Chile beIN MAX 2 HD belN MAX 3 HD EN belN MAX 4 HD FR

belN MAX 4 HD FR



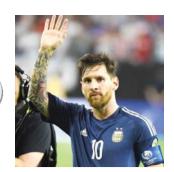
SAINT-ETIENNE: Switzerland's Gelson Fernandes celebrates with fans after Xherdan Shagiri scored, during the Euro 2016 round of 16 soccer match between Switzerland and Poland, at the Geoffroy Guichard stadium in Saint-Etienne, France yesterday.— AP

Kuwait Times

West Indies beat S Africa in Tri-Nation



Messi ready for crowning glory in Copa final



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IRISH FANS EYE REVENGE AGAINST HOSTS FRANCE Page 19

SAINT-ETIENNE: Poland's players celebrate their team's win in the Euro 2016 round of sixteen football match between Switzerland and Poland yesterday. — AFP

POLAND SINK SWISS ON PENALTIES

Xhaka's miss sends Poland into Euro quarters

SAINT-ETIENNE: Poland claimed the first Euro hands. "I'm delighted, it was a historic moment for Schaer headed straight at Lukasz Fabianski. 2016 quarter-final place yesterday by beating Switzerland 5-4 in a penalty shoot-out after Arsenal-bound Granit Xhaka blasted his spot-kick wide. Jakob Blaszczykowski proved again he has the midas touch for Poland as the Borussia Dortmund winger gave his side a first-half lead in the last-16 clash. Xherdan Shaqiri's spectacular second-half bicycle kick levelled for Switzerland and with the scores 1-1 after extra time, the clash at Saint-Etienne's Stade Geoffrey Guichard went into penalties. Xhaka, who will join the Gunners after the European Championship finals, sent Switzerland's second penalty wide while Poland nailed all five kicks.

Blaszczykowski, nicknamed 'Kuba', drilled home Poland's final shot to send his nation into delirium. Poland have not reached the quarter-final of a major tournament since the 1982 World Cup. And the result meant Poland preserved their record of never having lost in 18 games when Blaszczykowski has scored. "Let's hope it continues until the final," the scorer said. "It was the most difficult match so far. The Swiss made life hard for us," said Blaszczykowski, who spent last season on loan at Fiorentina. "We dragged it out of their

us, because we are in the top eight in Europe."

The Poles will now play Portugal or Croatia in the quarter-finals in Marseille on Thursday. Shaqiri said Xhaka will bounce back after his crushing disappointment. "I think Granit is very professional and he can cope with it," said manof-the-match Shaqiri. "He's disappointed, but that's football and mistakes can happen." It was a historic occasion for both sides as neither had previously reached the knockout stages of a Euro finals. Despite his success in converting in the penalty shootout, Robert Lewandowski, the top scorer in qualifying with 13 goals, remains without a regular goal in France.

The Bayern Munich striker constantly dropped back into midfield to run Poland's attack. The Poles dominated the first half, while the Swiss ruled the second. Poland squandered a gold-plated chance in the opening minute as a lazy pass from Swiss full-back Johan Djourou fell into Lewandowski's path. The star striker enticed Swiss goalkeeper Yann Sommer off his line, but Arkadiusz Milik fired over with the goal at his mercy. At the other end, Blerim Dzemaili, then Admir Mehmedi had chances for the Swiss before Fabian

After creating their fair share of chances, Poland finally went ahead when Kamil Grosicki broke down the left from a Swiss corner. His pass found Blaszczykowski unmarked at the far post and the winger drove his shot home on 39 minutes. The Swiss grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck as they hunted a second-half equalizer. They camped in the Poland half for long spells with goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski under constant siege. In a bid to boost their attacking options, Swiss coach Vladimir Petkovic switched to two

strikers for the last 30 minutes. He put Breel Embolo on for attacking midfielder Blerim Dzemaili and the move paid off. A freekick by Swiss dead-ball expert Ricardo Rodriguez was heading for the top right-hand corner until Fabianski's glove intervened with 15 minutes left. Swiss striker Haris Seferovic had his head in his hands when his shot hit the crossbar. But Shaqiri's brilliant left-footed effort, just inside the post in the 82nd minute, gave Fabianski no chance, as the Swiss drew level. When extra-time started, Swiss substitute Eren Derdiyok, who was playing in attack alongside Shaqiri twice tested Fabianski as the Nati chased a winner.— AFP



SAINT-ETIENNE: (From left to right) Switzerland's forward Breel Embolo, Switzerland's defender Ricardo Rodriguez and Switzerland's midfielder Granit Xhaka react after the Euro 2016 round of sixteen football match between Switzerland and Poland yesterday. Poland beat Switzerland 5-4 on penalties. — AFP



PARIS: Wales' forward Gareth Bale grabs his daughter Alba Viola following the team's 1-0 win in the Euro 2016 round of 16 football match Wales vs Northern Ireland vesterday. — AFP

MCAULEY'S OWN GOAL SENDS Wales into Euro last eight

PARIS: Northern Ireland's Gareth McAuley scored a heart-breaking own he scarcely offered a threat in the first half. Instead it was Northern Ireland goal to hand British rivals Wales a 1-0 victory in Paris yesterday that sent them into the Euro 2016 quarter-finals. In a cagey contest, Michael O'Neill's Northern Ireland largely succeeded in muzzling Gareth Bale, but the Real Madrid star produced a wicked 75th-minute cross that the hapless McAuley turned into his own net.

The West Bromwich Albion centre-back's unwitting intervention allowed Wales to reach the last eight, just as they did on their last major tournament appearance at the 1958 World Cup in Sweden. Chris Coleman's side, who qualified above old foes England as Group B winners, will play either Belgium or Hungary in Lille on Friday for a place in the semi-finals.

With no former major tournament winners in Wales's half of the draw, they will advance with belief intact that they can create a sensation. And in an ironic touch, it was Wales, whose inhabitants voted to leave the European Union in Thursday's British referendum, who remained in Europe, and Northern Ireland, whose people voted to stay, who departed. Coleman named the same team that had trounced Russia 3-0 last Monday, but Northern Ireland provided vastly more disciplined opposition, sitting in a low bloc and looking to attack on the break.

It obliged Bale, the tournament's joint-top scorer, to move out to the right in search of the ball and aside from a mishit shot that flew well wide,

who procured the few sights of goal, Stuart Dallas testing Wayne Hennessey at his near post. Wales had the ball in the net in the 19th minute, but Aaron Ramsey was clearly offside as he moved in to toe Sam Vokes's header past Northern Ireland's redoubtable goalkeeper Michael

With the on-pitch action failing to satisfy, attention turned to the festivities in the stands. Northern Irish fans goaded their Welsh counterparts with chants of "You're just a small part of England." The supporters in green then belted out their ode to striker Will Grigg, prompting Welsh supporters to caustically retort: "You've only got one song!" Wales began to show a sharper cutting edge in the second period, Vokes heading wide from Ramsey's deep cross and Bale drawing a parry from McGovern with one of his trademark, dipping free-kicks.

Vokes made way for Hal Robson-Kanu shortly after his chance and Coleman made an attacking change shortly after when he introduced Jonathan Williams in midfield for the more conservative Joe Ledley. O'Neill also made a bold substitution, sending on Conor Washington, who had lost his place up front to Kyle Lafferty, but it was Wales who made the breakthrough. After a spell of Welsh possession, Ramsey slipped a pass to Bale, who whipped a devilish cross into the six-yard box from the left. — AFP

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SPAIN STRUGGLES TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT AND DEBT

LONDON: This file photo taken on September 22, 2011 shows a man walking past the London Stock Exchange, in central London. The pound plunged and world stock markets slumped Friday after Britain's shock vote to leave the European Union, fuelling a wave of global uncertainty. Sterling crashed 10 percent to a 31-year low at one point and the euro also plummeted against the dollar, as the Brexit result caught markets by surprise. —AFP

BIG US COMPANIES WEIGH RISKS FROM BREXIT

panies are seeking more clarity about the future of the Donohue, head of the US Chamber of Commerce. British market, their preferred entry port to Europe.

From clothing chain stores to automakers, the big names of "Corporate USA" have long flocked to Britain, attracted by its tax advantages and a common language, and by the prospect of accessing the European Union market and its hundreds of millions of consumers.

Unsurprisingly, several large US companies had previously voiced support for Britain to remain in the EU ahead of Thursday's historic referendum that ended with the opposite, unexpected decision: the first exit of a country

With \$56.1 billion in exports in 2015, Britain is the main destination for US goods in the 28-nation European Union. The US services sector, especially banks, also has a strong presence in Britain, especially in the City of London, where Wall Street giants employ tens of thousands of people. "American companies' investments in Britain are worth more than half a trillion dollars, and many of those investments were made to reach not just British consumers but

WASHINGTON: Rattled by the Brexit shock, major US comthose in the European mainland as well," said Thomas

GUARANTEES

The vote in favor of Brexit immediately raised questions about how American companies would deal with the upended European order and whether they would cut back their investments in Britain.

Questioned by AFP, big companies were careful to not rush into judgment on the developing situation but expressed a desire to see more clearly how Britain's relationship with its former EU partners would work out. "The UK is an intrinsic part of our European supply chain and we urge all parties to reach an agreement that quickly removes the uncertainty, allows the UK to retain full access to and from the single market," said Mark Dorsett, manager for Britain at Caterpillar, the mining and construction equipment maker. That is a crucial issue for US companies: Will Britain continue to benefit from free circulation of goods and people in the EU? The automaker Ford, which employs 14,000 people in Britain and racks up nearly a fifth of its revenues in the

country, certainly hopes so. But it is prepared to switch gears if that proves wrong.

"Ford will take whatever action is needed to ensure that our European business remains competitive and keeps to the path toward sustainable profitability," said Ford spokesman John Gardiner, stressing no changes to current investment plans had been made so far.

Ford's rival General Motors, which has production facilities in Europe, also called on Britain and the EU to conclude negotiations on a new partnership "in a timely manner" and said it wanted certain quarantees. "It is also important that business continues to benefit from the free movement of goods and people during this period," said Klaus-Peter Martin, a spokesman for the largest US automaker.

DISAPPOINTMENT

A prolonged fall in the British pound, which slumped against the dollar and the euro as markets learned of the Brexit result, could also lead certain American companies to

review their strategy. International transportation services company Penske Automotive Group could be hit by a weaker pound because a third of its revenues are generated in Britain.

"A lower pound would mean lower revenues," said Anthony Pordon, a vice president of the company, who said that Penske was "disappointed with the result of the vote."

Xerox, known for its copiers and printers and with a strong presence in Britain, was less specific. The company said it was "looking at the long-term implications" of the Brexit vote. Echoing comments by some other firms, General Electric said: "We respect the decision of the British people."

Some preferred silence on the unprecedented action. Casual apparel chain The Gap, which has 131 stores in Britain, and Wal-Mart Stores, which has 625 supermarkets there under the Asda brand, declined to comment. Running counter to the tide of concerns, the US real-estate sector saw a silver lining in Brexit. According to the National Association of Realtors, the "isolationist move" will spur wealthy foreigners to consider selling their properties in Britain, especially in London, which could push up demand for luxury properties in the United States. —AFP

BRITAIN'S EU COMMISSIONER, FINANCE CHIEF, SAYS RESIGNING

BRUSSELS: Britain's representative on the EU executive in Brussels, Financial Services Commissioner Jonathan Hill, said yesterday he was resigning following the referendum vote for Brexit which he had campaigned against.

"I don't believe it is right that I should carry on as the British commissioner as though nothing had happened," Hill said in a statement. "I have therefore told (European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker) that I shall stand

"At the same time, there needs to be an orderly handover, so I have said that I will work with him to make sure that happens in the weeks ahead."

Hill, 55, a professional lobbyist and former Conservative party leader in Britain's upper house of parliament, follows his close ally Prime Minister David Cameron in stepping down in the wake of the referendum on Thursday.

He had already faced calls in the European Parliament to give up the sensitive financial services portfolio, which will be a focus of interest in exit negotiations between Brussels and London. He has had a key role in setting regulations that give Britain's huge banking sector access to euro zone markets.

As long as Britain remains an EU member it will continue to have a seat on the 28-strong Commission, giving Cameron, or more likely his successor, a right to nominate another commissioner, whose appointment would be subject to EU parliamentary approval.

The distribution of portfolios in the Commission is in the gift of its president, former Luxembourg premier Juncker, in negotiation with the leader of the member state nominating their commis-

Hill's appointment to the finance job in 2014 was seen as a peace offering from Juncker to Cameron, who had tried to block the Commission president's own appointment that year. It was viewed with some suspicion by euro zone bankers keen to challenge London's dominance as Europe's financial capital. —Reuters



BRUSSELS: In this Oct. 7, 2014 file photo, European Union Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union Jonathan Hill speaks at the European Parliament in Brussels, on Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2014. EU Commissioner Hill announced in a statement yesterday, that he would resign after UK voted to leave the EU. —AP

CHINA-LED DEVELOPMENT BANK APPROVES FIRST LOANS

BEIJING: A new Chinese-led development bank has approved its first loans and expects to suffer no impact from Britain's vote to leave the European Union, the bank's president said yesterday at its first annual meeting.

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, launched in January with 57 member governments, already has received expressions of interest from possible additional members, said Jin Liqun at a news conference. He said observers from 24 other nations attended the

The bank reflects China's rapidly growing financial might and desire for a bigger voice in global finance, which is dominated by the United States and Europe. Despite initial US opposition, the AIIB attracted unexpectedly wide support from American allies including Britain, France, Australia and South Korea. Washington and Japan have refrained from

seeking membership. The bank's board approved a total of \$509 million in loans Friday for a power project in Bangladesh, slum-upgrading in Indonesia and road-building in Pakistan and Tajikistan, according to Jin, a former chairman of China's sovereign wealth fund.

"We have quite strong demand from borrowing countries," he said. Jin noted the shockwaves in financial markets following the vote by Britain, one of the AllB's biggest shareholders, to leave the EU but said the Asian bank would not be affected.

"This decision does not affect our bank's future development," he said. "I believe the UK will continue to play an important role in the development of this bank." The Asian Development Bank has estimated developing Asian economies need to invest \$8 trillion in roads, railways, ports and other infrastructure in the decade through 2020. China, the world's second-largest economy, has the bank's biggest voting stake with 26 percent of shares and has pledged to put up most of its initial \$50 billion in capital but has no veto power. India has the second-largest voting stake at 7.5 percent and Russia is third with 5.9 percent.

"AllB is owned by all its members," said Jin. "This is not China's bank." China has chosen not to borrow from the AIIB to avoid "crowding out" other borrowers but might do so in "special cases," Jin said.

The bank's staff of 39 is expected to grow to 100 by the end of the year, according to a report by Jin to the board. At the news conference, he said staff will be recruited worldwide, regardless of citizenship. He noted its controller, who is in charge of accounting, is from Japan, a nonmember country.

The AIIB initially was seen as a potential rival to the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, and US officials argued it might undercut them by failing to enforce environmental and other standards. But the Asian bank forged cooperative relations with them and pledged to adhere to global standards. —AP

BREXIT BAFFLED PUNTERS, PUNDITS AND FUND MANAGERS TO THE VERY END

BOSTON: Nearly everyone, from London gamblers to US money managers got it wrong. Britain's vote to leave the European Union shocked pundits, investors and politicians alike, underscoring the inherent difficulty of forecasting such rare events.

On PredictIt, an online political events betting site operated by Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand and US-based partners, bettors had the probability of a "leave" camp win at just 16 percent on Thursday as British polls closed. Within four hours of the vote count, that had shot to 90 percent.

The dramatic reversal caught many investors flat footed and showed how they have trouble hedging against such shocks even with the help of such tools as exchange-traded funds or computer algorithms designed to capture an electorate's social media vibe, economists, pollsters and fund managers said on Friday.

Predicting the outcome of Thursday's referendum was harder than that of a national election because there was virtually no historical data to draw on, said David Rothschild, an economist at Microsoft Research. He said pollsters also did not pay enough attention to working class and less educated voters.

The city of Sunderland, for example, home to Britain's largest car factory and considered a bellwether of the sentiment among blue-collar voters, surprised with the strength of its support for EU departure and when the result came among the first that night it sent the pound reeling.

Rothschild, who forecast Britain would vote to remain in the bloc it joined in 1973, had a lot of company. A person familiar with the campaign's monitoring by the US intelligence agencies admitted that they were befuddled by the vote's outcome." We're all scratching our heads."

By mid-week, a rise in demand for S&P 500 put options was indicating that more and more investors were either betting on a market drop or hedging themselves against such a scenario, said David Jilek, chief investment strategist at Gateway Investment Advisers.

Yet while opinion polls went back and forth and kept indicating a close vote, betting odds consistently favored the "remain" camp. And since oddsmakers fared better than pollsters in predicting the results of the last general election and the 2014 Scottish independence referendum, the 52-48 percent victory for the "leave" campaign to leave was such a shock.

THROUGH THE ROOF

Global stock markets and the British pound tumbled on Friday after a wild election night ride. "All through Thursday the big bets had come in favor of "remain" but as the clock ticked towards midnight the most extraordinary reversal got underway," said David Williams, a spokesman for betting firm Ladbrokes. "In the end we've managed our book well enough to make a few quid but the real story for the bookies was just how enormous the turnover was," he said.

"Never before in our 130-year history have we known a night when betting went through the roof like this." Betfair, a betting exchange, said the implied probability of a remain vote was 94 percent right up until the polls closed, but that changed dramatically in the wee hours of Friday when early results started coming in.

"At one point after the Sunderland result had been announced, there was more than £5-10k being traded per second on the market, which is absolutely huge," said Naomi Totten, a spokeswoman for Betfair.

One theory is that some of the more affluent punters were staunch supporters of the "remain" campaign and bet on it to win, according to two gambling analysts. Since EU supporters bet more money than those from the "leave" camp, that skewed the odds and public perceptions about the likely outcome, said the analysts, who did not want to be named because they were not authorized to speak about betting trends.

Money managers, meanwhile, may be kicking themselves for failing to deploy simple hedging strategies. Charles Reinhard, head of portfolio strategy at MainStay Investments, said building up cash or buying more stable, dividend-paying stocks could have dampened Friday's stock market shock wave.

But Don Steinbrugge, managing partner at Agecroft Partners, said hedge fund managers are rewarded for beating the market and face heavy redemptions from clients if they are cautious and take large cash positions.

"They want you to beat the market through stock selection," he said. Rothschild, who also is a fellow at Columbia University's Applied Statistics Center, said he expected forecasting to improve with a transition from polls using small, random representative samples to large Internet-based ones with rich demographic data.

"If I have one million respondents with a large amount demographic data, I should be able to predict outcomes better, or I'm not a very good statistician," he said. — Reuters



MUMBAI: A man watches Reserve Bank of India governor Raghuram Rajan commenting in the situation after stock markets tumbled worldwide, on a stock markets indicator board in Mumbai, India, Friday. World financial markets were rocked Friday by Britain's unprecedented vote to leave the European Union, with stock markets and oil prices crashing and the pound hitting its lowest level in three decades. — AP

IMF CALLS FOR URGENT ACTION AS MOZAMBIQUE'S GROWTH DIPS

Monetary Fund has called for urgent action to stem Mozambique's deteriorating economic performance, after revelations of \$1.4 billion in hidden debt saw donor nations suspending aid to the country.

In a statement released Friday, the IMF recommended "an urgent and decisive package of policy measures to avoid a further deterioration in economic performance".

Mozambique's growth is forecast to drop to 4.5 percent this year-down from 6.6 percent last year-while rising inflation reached 16 percent in May. The local currency, the steps had been taken to investigate the

JOHANNESBURG: The International metical, has depreciated by 28 percent since the beginning of the year.

"In addition, the discovery in April of \$1.4 billion of previously undisclosed loans has pushed the total stock of debt at end-2015 to 86 percent of GDP," IMF assistant director Michael Lazare said. "According to our technical assessment, public debt is now likely to have reached a high risk of distress." The IMF said in April it had suspended aid to the southern African country "pending a full disclosure and assessment of the facts".

On Friday the organisation said important

undisclosed debt, but called for "an international and independent audit" of the state companies behind the controversy.

One of the 10 poorest countries in the world, Mozambique has been hit hard by falling commodity prices. The government said tensions with the Renamo opposition group, which waged a 16-year civil war that ended in 1992, were behind its decision to hide the debt. Clashes between government forces and Renamo have increased since February, with attacks reported almost daily and key roads often closed due to the unrest. — AFP

HELPING EMPLOYEES TO ACHIEVE WORK-LIFE **BALANCE IN RAMADAN**

BAYT.COM WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: Ramadan is a time when people participate in more charity work and choose to spend more time with their loved ones. It is also a time when Muslims everywhere spend more time to reflect on and gain a deeper connection with their faith. Already busy weekdays become even busier, and in many cases shorter, so it is important for you to help employees keep a good balance between their jobs and their life outside of work.

Here, the experts at Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site, provide a few ways to help your employees balance life and work during Ramadan.

1. Set clear priorities

Setting clear priorities for your employees is probably more important during Ramadan than any other month. Having a clear plan set-out for what you expect to be done by the end of the month helps your team organize, prioritize and achieve more effectively. Help them set up individual, as well as team, task lists on a daily basis. This will give them a clear idea of what they need to focus on and achieve by month end. According to the Bayt.com 'Work Life Balance in the Middle East and North Africa' poll, September 2012, eight in 10 respondents would consider changing their job if it can allow them a better work-life balance, while 14.8% feel better prioritization of home and work tasks is the key to a better work-life balance.

2. Introduce flexible hours

Among the challenges professionals face during Ramadan, one of the toughest may be getting enough sleep at night. It is important for managers to recognize that for many the night hours are spent in prayer and Quran recitation. Disconnected sleep may leave employees feeling tired and groggy during the day. A simple way to fix this is by offering work arrangements with more flexibility. Flexible hours allow employees to choose the hours that work best for them. Relieving employees of the morning stress leads to higher productivity, as well as happier and more satisfied employees all around.

3. Consider telecommuting

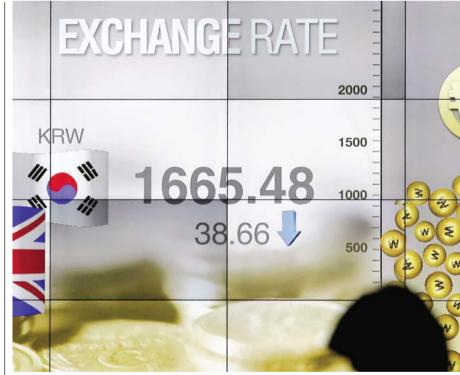
Nowadays, since almost anything can be done over the phone or using a laptop and internet connection, telecommuting has become a popular work arrangement for many. Though it may not be an ideal solution for every day of the year, you may want to consider it at least some of the time. Working from home cuts down on stress for many employees, saves the time spent commuting, and gives employees the room to balance their personal lives with their careers. If managed properly, telecommuting can benefit your company as well. Telecommuting has proved to increase employee morale and commitment to their jobs, which ultimately leads to a rise in productivity and efficiency.

4. Encourage employees to leave work at the office

Make sure you are setting realistic goals for your employees so they can finish their tasks during Ramadan's shorter work days. Allowing employees to constantly take their work home with them blurs the line between work and home, and leads to stress, exhaustion and burnout. To-do lists are a great tool to help everyone organize and prioritize their daily tasks. Encourage your employees to create their own lists and keep their lists realistic. According to the Bayt.com 'Distractions at Work in the Middle East and North Africa' poll, December 2013, 94% of professionals in the region use to-do lists to organize their day, and 45% of them plan their tasks a week in advance.

5. Initiate charitable activities

People tend to do more charity work during Ramadan. In fact, the Bayt.com 'Ramadan in the Middle East and North Africa Workplace' poll, June 2016, shows that 94.9% of professionals in the region give more to charity during Ramadan. Why not align your company's goals with those of your employees? A great way to achieve that is by initiating CSR activities which your employees could participate in. 56.3% of MENA professionals say that there is a noticeable increase in their company's charitable activities during Ramadan. At Bayt.com, for example, we organize food drives and clothes donation and amp up our charitable activities during the holy month. CSR is highly valued by employees across the MENA region: 95% of respondents in the Bayt.com 'CSR in the MENA: Is Your Company Making an Impact?' poll, August 2013, feel it's important that their company is socially responsible. Impactful CSR activities will give your employees more time to focus on other things than work.



SEOUL: A man walks by the screen showing the foreign exchange rate between British Pound and South Korean Won in Seoul, South Korea, Friday. World financial markets were rocked Friday by Britain's unprecedented vote to leave the European Union, with stock markets and oil prices crashing and the pound hitting its lowest level in three decades. — AP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

	ASIAN COUNTRIES
Japanese Yen	2.888
Indian Rupees	4.462
Pakistani Rupees	2.880
Srilankan Rupees	2.055
Nepali Rupees	2.797
Singapore Dollar	226.060
Hongkong Dollar	38.915
Bangladesh Taka	3.849
Philippine Peso	6.493
Thai Baht	8 570

	GCC COUNTRIES
Saudi Riyal	80.550
Qatari Riyal	82.974
ani Riyal	784.563
Bahraini Dinar	802.180
UAE Dirham	82.180
Bahraini Dinar	802.180

ARAB COUNTRIES

445.760

Egyptian Pound - Cash	30.030
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.387
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.213
Tunisian Dinar	140.680
Jordanian Dinar	425.600
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.013
Syrian Lira	2.153
Morocco Dirham	31.514

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES US Dollar Transfer 341.900 Sterling Pound

Cariadian donai	237.100
Turkish lira	104.160
Swiss Franc	316.620
Australian Dollar	227.780
US Dollar Buying	300.700
	GOLD
20 Gram	255.580
10 Gram	130.710
10 Graffi	
5 Gram	66.200
	66.200

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.000
Canadian Dollar	234.464
Sterling Pound	434.202
Euro	341.445
Swiss Frank	290.851
Bahrain Dinar	799.169
UAE Dirhams	82.449
Qatari Riyals	83.689
Saudi Riyals	81.250
Jordanian Dinar	426.263
Egyptian Pound	33.912
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.082
Indian Rupees	4.476
Pakistani Rupees	2.880
Bangladesh Taka	3.844
Philippines Pesso	6.520
Cyprus pound	580.953
Japanese Yen	3.892
Syrian Pound	2.390
Nepalese Rupees	3.806

Malaysian Ringgit Chinese Yuan Renminb 46.220 Thai Bhat 9.532 Turkish Lira 0.504

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
	Europe	
British Pound	0.436329	0.446329
Czech Korune	0.004540	0.016540
Danish Krone	0.041640	0.046641
Euro	0.0334517	0.0343517
Norwegian Krone	0.032320	0.037520
Romanian Leu	0.074844	0.074844
Slovakia	0.008981	0.018981
Swedish Krona	0.032459	0.037459
Swiss Franc	0.307633	0.318633
Turkish Lira	0.098766	0.109066
	Australasia	
Australian Dollar	0.217471	0.229471
New Zealand Dollar	0.209473	0.218973
	America	
Canadian Dollar	0.230715	0.239715
US Dollars	0.297550	0.302250
US Dollars Mint	0.298050	0.302450
	Asia	
Bangladesh Taka	0.003377	0.003961
Chinese Yuan	0.044407	0.047907

0.036819 0.039569

Hong Kong Dollar

Indian Rupee 0.004202 0.004612 Indonesian Rupiah 0.000018 Japanese Yen 0.002800 Kenyan Shilling Korean Won 0.000251 Malaysian Ringgit 0.002846 Nepalese Rupee Pakistan Rupee 0.002736 0.006395 Philippine Peso 0.000073 Singapore Dollar 0.219471 South African Rand 0.014484 0.022984 Sri Lankan Rupee 0.001576 0.009264 Taiwan

Thai Baht

0.000024

0.002980

0.000266

0.076634

0.003016

0.003026

0.006695

0.000079

0.229471

0.002156

0.009444

0.008778

0.802595

0.032407

0.000085

0.000240

0.430730

1.000000 0.000250

0.044037

0.001090

0.783286 0.083549

0.080707

0.001499

0.145556

0.109066

0.082457

0.008228

Arab Rahraini Dinar 0.794095 **Egyptian Pound** 0.027289 Iranian Rival 0.000084 Iragi Dinar 0.000180 Jordanian Dina 0.421730 Kuwaiti Dinar 1.000000 Lebanese Pound 0.000150 Moroccan Dirhams 0.020037 Nigerian Naira 0.000455 Omani Riyal 0.777606 Qatar Riyal 0.082099 Saudi Riyal 0.079407 Syrian Pound 0.001279 **Tunisian Dinar** 0.137556 Turkish Lira 0.098766 **UAE Dirhams** 0.080757 Yemeni Riyal 0.001364

BREXIT VOTE WILL HIT SWISS ECONOMY: SWISS PRESIDENT

GENEVA: Switzerland's president warned Friday that the British vote to leave the European Union will have a negative impact on the Swiss economy, amid a strengthening of the country's currency.

"The British decision will contribute to strengthening doubts about Europe's economic perspectives. This will also have a negative impact on the Swiss economy," Johann Schneider-Ammann, who also serves as economy minister, said speaking in French.

Schneider-Amman vowed to reporters that "the government will follow closely the effects on the exchange rate of the Swiss franc." The Swiss franc, long considered a safe haven currency, saw its value surge overnight as the result of the so-called Brexit vote became clear, prompting the Swiss central bank to intervene in the foreign

exchange market to cap the rise. A stronger franc hits Swiss exporters, which are forced to squeeze costs and cut prices to remain competitive on an international market.

The Brexit vote will meanwhile have implications for Switzerland beyond the immediate economic impact, Schneidar-Ammann said, warning that Bern and London now needed to find "a new basis" for their relations.

The vote will also take a toll on Switzerland's own negotiations with the EU, he said. Switzerland, which is not a member of the EU, saw its relations with the bloc thrown into disarray when voters in February 2014 narrowly approved a referendum to curb immigration from the bloc.

Brussels reacted angrily, saying such curbs put in doubt a whole range of bilateral agreements Switzerland had signed with the EU, its main trading partner. According to the Swiss constitution, the referendum decision must be put in place by next February, but Bern's attempts to negotiate an acceptable solution with the EU had been put on hold in anticipation of the

Experts warned Friday that Britain's decision to leave would now completely overshadow the Swiss negotiations. Schneider-Ammann refused to "speculate on the effects" of the Brexit vote on the Swiss negotiations, but acknowledged that "it is clear

KSE LAST WEEK TRADES

AL BAYAN INVESTMENT REPORT

that the search for a solution has become more difficult with the British decision to leave the European Union."

"It is no longer foreseeable to find a solution by the end of the summer," he admitted. The populist rightwing Swiss People's Party, which is staunchly anti-EU and antiimmigration, meanwhile said Friday that the Brexit vote proved the folly of trying to integrate with the bloc.

The government should "immediately stop negotiations aiming to draw Switzerland closer to the EU," it concluded. —AFP



BEIJING: Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) exchanges documents with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a signing ceremony in Beijing's Great Hall of the People yesterday. —AFP

PUTIN PRAISES 'ALL-EMBRACING' PARTNERSHIP OF RUSSIA, CHINA

BEIJING: Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday emphasized economic ties with China and praised what he called Russia's "all-embracing and strategic partnership" with its neighbor, during a visit to Beijing that takes place against the background of a drop in trade and lingering mistrust.

Putin told Chinese Premier Li Keqiang that ties were based firmly on common economic interests, a reference to Russian hopes for Chinese investment and purchases of its oil, gas and military

"Our relations really have the character of an all-embracing and strategic partnership," Putin told Li at the start of their meeting at the Great Hall of the People in the heart of Beijing.

While Russia and China are linked by cooperation on the international stage, as well as in culture, education and other spheres, "in one way or another, everything has an economic base," Putin

Leaders from both countries have extolled the blossoming strategic partnership between the

former communist rivals, despite a major decline in two-way trade and the failure to materialize of a slew of ambitious projects.

Observers attribute the slow progress to Beijing's hard-nosed bargaining position and the Kremlin's deep-seated suspicions about the growing might of China.

Putin later met with Chinese President Xi Jinping, to whom he said the people of both countries had a strong desire to "strengthen, develop our relations."

"I'm sure our countries can reach a bigger success in all areas in trade, investment, agriculture, energy, and of course in high tech, which is a priority for us," Putin told Xi. Xi told Putin that the two countries should "promote widely the idea of being friends forever."

GLOBAL DOMINATION

The close personal relationship between Putin and Xi and their shared desire to counter perceived US global domination appear to be the main driving forces behind Russia-China

cooperation. The renewed push to bolster relations with China came after the United States and the European Union imposed an array of crippling sanctions on Russia over its annexation of the Crimean Peninsula in March 2014, cutting its access to world financial markets and blocking the transfer of modern technologies. Moscow was also purged from the Group of Eight leading industrial-

In May 2014, Putin visited Beijing and presided over the signing of numerous deals, including a mammoth 30-year natural gas contract worth \$400 billion, seeking to show the West that Russia still had viable options.

A later deal saw a branch of Chinese stateowned energy company CNPC buying a stake in a project to build a giant liquefied natural gas plant on the Yamal Peninsula in the Arctic. Also in December, China's Sinopec bought a stake in Russia's Sibur energy company.

China has also promised to offer multibilliondollar loans to help build a high-speed rail link between Moscow and the Volga River city of

Other ambitious deals have been expected, but most of them have floundered amid Russia's economic uncertainty. The sharp devaluation of the Russian currency under the double impact of low global oil prices and Western sanctions has been a key factor behind bilateral trade dropping from nearly \$100 billion a year in 2014 to just over \$60 billion last year. Energy resources account for two-thirds of Russian exports to China.

Moscow has also been unsettled by Beijing's ambitious Silk Road Economic Belt project, intended to encourage infrastructure development in formerly Soviet Central Asia, which Russia sees as its home turf. China has promised to coordinate the project with the Russia-dominated Furasian Economic Union, but clearly has put an emphasis on bilateral deals with Kazakhstan and other members of the bloc.

The prospect of potential Chinese expansion long has worried residents of Russia's sparsely populated far eastern regions, especially over the Kremlin's decision to surrender significant slices of land along the 4,200-kilometer (2,600-mile) border to China in a 2005 demarcation deal. —AF

END IN GREEN: REPORT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week in the green zone. The Price Index closed at 5,407.99 points, up by 0.24% from the week before closing, the Weighted Index increased by 0.72% after closing at 354.21 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 812.34 points up by 0.67%. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 53.79%, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 13.86 million, whereas trading volume average was 103.10 million shares, recording an increase of 13.83%.

The three stock market indices were able to end the week's trading in the green zone, benefiting from the optimism state that over controlled a large stake of the traders after completing Americana deal, which positively reflected on the trading indicators that witnessed a noticeable increase by the end of the week. Also, the red color was not absent from the indices performance during the last week, as the market witnessed quick profit collection operations in few sessions of the week limited its weekly gains

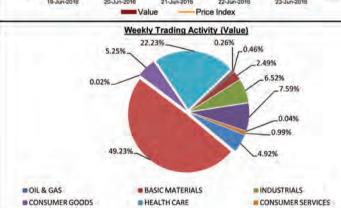
As per the daily trading activities, the three stock market indices were able to end the first session of the week with large gains, as a result to the strong purchasing operations and the active dealing witnessed by some investment groups. The purchasing operations concentrated on the leading and heavy stocks, which was reflected on the performance of all the market indices, and contributed into the growth of the trading value by 63%. The second session of the week witnessed quick profit collection operations that included many stocks of different sectors, which caused the three market indices to decline by the end of the session.

The market was able to return once again to record gains, on Tuesday's session, whereas the three market indices witnessed an increase, however with a noticeable decrease in the trading activity. Thereafter, the market witnessed on Wednesday's and Thursday's sessions a return to the selling and profit collection operations in controlling the trading direction, which caused the market indices to meet in the red zone, and limit its weekly

By the end of the week, the market cap reached KD 23.04 billion, increasing by 0.46% compared to its level in a week earlier, where it was KD 22.94 billion. On an annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in KSE declined by 8.80% from its value at end of 2015, where it reached then KD 25.27 billion.

As far as KSE annual performance, the price index ended last week recording 3.69% annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the weighted index decreased by 7.20%, and the KSX-15 recorded 9.78% loss.





SECTORS' INDICES

Six of KSE's sectors ended last week in the green zone, while the other six recorded declines. Last week's highest gainer was the Consumer Goods sector, achieving 4.90% growth rate as its index closed at 1,179.83 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Oil & Gas sector's index closed at 792.24 points recording 1.20% increase. The Telecommunications sector came in third as its index achieved 1.05% growth, ending the week at 609.77

On the other hand, the Insurance sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 2.71% to end the week's activity at 1,007.77 points. The Technology sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 1.90%, closing at 976.27 points, followed by the Consumer Services sector, as its index closed at 996.01 points at a loss of 0.60%.

SECTORS' ACTIVITY

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 263.26 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 51.07% of the total market trading volume. The Banks sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 18.60% of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 95.86 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around K.D 34.12 million or 49.23% of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. K.D 15.41 million representing 22.23% of the total market trading value.

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRAI	DING ACTIVITY				SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE						
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %	Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch.	Annual Ch.		
OIL & GAS	7,410,871	1.44%	322,107	0.46%	OIL & GAS	792.24	782.84	1.20%	-3,24%		
BASIC MATERIALS	4,470,309	0.87%	1,726,121	2.49%	BASIC MATERIALS	954.45	957,73	-0.34%	-3,24%		
INDUSTRIALS	32,123,252	6.23%	4,521,472	6.52%	INDUSTRIALS	1,073.56	1,068.12	0.51%	2.93%		
CONSUMER GOODS	2,752,922	0.53%	5,258,972	7.59%	CONSUMER GOODS	1,179.83	1,124.72	4.90%	7.76%		
HEALTH CARE	123,231	0.02%	24,661	0.04%	HEALTH CARE	992.41	990.98	0.14%	7.25%		
CONSUMER SERVICES	7,701,233	1.49%	685,611	0.99%	CONSUMER SERVICES	996.01	1,002.03	-0.60%	-1.26%		
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	36,123,121	7.01%	3,411,923	4.92%	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	609.77	603.44	1.05%	1.86%		
BANKS	95,856,641	18.60%	34,116,989	49.23%	BANKS	797.35	798.50	-0.14%	-12.10%		
INSURANCE	128,856	0.02%	15,193	0.02%	INSURANCE	1,007.77	1,035.79	-2.71%	-10.58%		
REAL ESTATE	64,575,625	12.53%	3,638,657	5.25%	REAL ESTATE	840.59	834.38	0.74%	-10.65%		
FINANCIAL SERVICES	263,257,533	51.07%	15,405,278	22.23%	FINANCIAL SERVICES	559.17	562.50	-0.59%	-6,08%		
TECHNOLOGY	952,201	0.18%	180,782	0.26%	TECHNOLOGY	976.27	995.22	-1.90%	19.03%		

WINNERS AND LOSERS IN MARKETS AFTER BRITISH 'LEAVE' VOTE

NEW YORK: Britain's decision to leave the European Union is having a huge effect on financial markets Friday, sending many assets plunging and a few soaring as traders try to gauge the fallout for the British and European economies and beyond.

Investors aggressively sold stocks in Europe, Asia and the US as well as the British pound, and piled into safe-play investments like US government bonds, utility stocks and gold, sending those prices higher.

LOSERS

THE POUND: The British pound took a huge loss, plunging more than 10 percent from about \$1.50 to \$1.35, then recovered somewhat, as investors worried that Britain's departure would hurt its economy and diminish London's role as a global financial hub. The pound touched its lowest level since 1985.

BANKS: Many banks use London as a center for European operations, but that's likely to change as Britain extracts itself from the EU. Also, long-term interest rates are dropping as investors pile into US government bonds, making lending less profitable. US banking stocks fell far more than the rest of the market. Industry bellwether JPMorgan Chase tumbled 7 percent.

ASIAN STOCKS: Asian stocks were the first to react to the vote and they took huge losses. Japan's Nikkei 225 plunged 7.9 percent after a wild day of trading, its biggest loss since the financial crisis

EUROPEAN STOCKS: European stocks also tumbled, although indexes on the European continent took larger losses than British ones. France's CAC 40 lost 8 percent and Germany's DAX fell 6.8 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 fell 3.1 percent, with homebuilders suffering huge losses.

CRUDE OIL: Oil prices fell almost 5 percent as investors worried the move will slow down global economic growth. Benchmark US crude dropped \$2.47 to \$47.64 a barrel in New York.

THE EURO: While Britain never adopted Europe's common currency, the vote to leave got investors worried that the EU could weaken as an economic bloc if other countries also decided to leave, or to postpone joining. The euro fell to \$1.1121 from \$1.1351.

WINNERS

GOLD: The most famous "safe" investment of all, gold made its biggest jump in months. Gold is now trading at its highest price since July 2014. The price of an ounce of gold rose \$59, or 4.7 percent, to \$1,322. That followed five days of declines as investors hoped that Britons would vote to remain in the EU.

BONDS: Investors bought US government bonds, which are considered an ultra-safe investment that tends to hold its value and is easy to buy and sell. The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note plunged to 1.56 percent from 1.75 percent a day earlier, a huge move. Bond yields are used to set interest rates on many kinds of loans including mortgages

HIGH-DIVIDEND STOCKS: Stocks that are similar to bonds also did well. Utility companies and phone companies pay big dividends compared to most other kinds of stocks. That means investors get more cash and the stocks are more stable. Utility stocks were the only one of the 10 sectors in the S&P 500 index to rise on Friday.

THE DOLLAR: The dollar, which is already very strong relative to other currencies, got even stronger. The ICE U.S. Dollar index, which measure the dollar against a group of other world currencies, rose about 2 percent. —AP

MEXICO ANNOUNCES \$1.68BN BUDGET CUT AFTER BREXIT

announced on Friday a \$1.68 billion budget cut to deal with the fallout from Britain's vote to leave the European Union.

At the same time, the Latin American country said it would negotiate a free trade deal with Britain if London severs all commercial agreements with the EU. "The British people have surprised the world," Finance Minister Luis Videgaray told a news conference.

The budget cut will ensure that the government reduces its financing needs and meets its fiscal deficit goal, Videgaray said. "At this moment of higher complexity in international financial markets, it is key that the Mexican government reduces its outside financial needs," the minister said. It follows a \$7.3 billion budget reduction earlier this year, mostly at state oil firm Pemex, which will not be required to trim

further in this second spending cut. The Mexican currency surged to around 19.50 pesos to the dollar early Friday after Britain voted to ditch the EU, but it later settled at around 18.80-18.90 pesos, he said.

But authorities will only take actions to defend the peso if it is hit by a "specific speculative phenomenon" that threatens inflation goals, Videgaray said. The peso finally closed at 19.25, down from 18.65 on Thursday. Mexico's stock market, meanwhile, closed down 2.01

The "Brexit" vote will not have a "relevant impact" on Mexico's current account or trade balance, however, he said, noting that trade

Latin American nation's global trade.

Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo said Mexico will negotiate a free trade deal with Britain over the next two years if London completely ends commercial ties with the EU.

There would be no need to negotiate a deal,

MEXICO CITY: Mexico's government with Britain represents just 0.7 percent of the however, if Britain remains in a free trade arrangement with the EU, Guajardo said.

> The foreign ministry said in a statement that it was ready to boost ties with the EU as well as "continue strengthening the excellent friendly relations, significant commercial exchanges and investment" with Britain. —AFP



MEXICO CITY: A pedestrian walks past a currency exchange store in Mexico City, vesterday. The Mexican peso continues to weaken against international currencies after Britain's vote to exit the European Union. —AP

GLOBAL FDI INFLOWS CLIMB AFTER 3 YEARS OF DECLINE

KAMCO REPORT ON WORLD INVESTMENT

KUWAIT: Global FDI inflows in 2015 increased for the first time after three consecutive years of decline reaching record levels since the financial crises. Total FDI inflows increased by 40% or almost \$500 bn to \$1.76 Trillion primarily on the back of higher inflows in developed economies which accounted for more than 90% of the increase with a total inflow of \$962 bn. Moreover, the share of developed economies in FDI inflows also reached the highest level since the financial crisis recorded at 54.6% of total world FDI inflows in 2015 as compared to 40.9% in 2014. The surge was primarily on the back of an increase in cross-border M&As that increased by 68% year-on-year to reach \$721bn. This was also the highest level of M&A transactions recorded since 2007.

Meanwhile, greenfield investments also contributed to the growth but with a relatively smaller increase of 8.4% to reach \$765.7 bn. Nevertheless, according to the report, corporate reconfigurations, which involves minimal increase in actual operations, accounted for the bulk of the increase in total FDI inflows globally and when we exclude such transactions, the increase was a much more moderate 15% during the year.

Within the developed economies, FDI inflows to the US more than doubled year-on-year to \$380 bn in 2015 after seeing a steep decline during the previous year. On the other hand, FDI inflows in developing economies increased at a much slower pace of 9.5% or by \$66.2 bn to reach \$764.7 bn. Europe also saw higher flows during 2015 witnessing an increase of 64.6% to reach \$503.5 bn in total FDI inflows.

In terms of source of FDI outflows, Europe topped the growth chart with an FDI outflow growth of \$365 bn or 85.3% to reach \$576.2 bn in 2015. On the other hand, North

America witnessed a fall in FDI outflows primarily on the back of a fall in FDI investments arising out of the US. Asia and developing economies also witnessed a decline in FDI outflows during 2015 with a fall of 16.5% and 15.2%, respectively.

The GCC region continues to account for a miniscule portion of total global FDI inflows. The share of GCC in terms of FDI inflows has been declining over the years reaching a low of \$19.8 bn during 2015 with a 5-year CAGR of 15.3%. On the other hand, FDI emanating from the GCC has seen a great deal of volatility over the years reaching almost \$25.6 bn during 2015 after declining by almost 75% during 2014 as compared to the previous year.

Long journey for the GCC

Amid volatile flow of funds in and out of the GCC, the share of the region in the total global FDI flows has remained minimal. FDI inflows in the GCC reached a new low in 2015, as the slowdown in economic growth rate due to the fall in oil prices affected investor perception of the region. Moreover, the ongoing geo-political situation also contributed to the decline.

In terms of individual country contribution, the absolute growth in FDI inflows was led by UAE which recorded an increase of \$153m in total inflows closely followed by Saudi Arabia with an increase of \$129m. Qatar and Oman also recorded small increase in inflows. On the other hand, Bahrain recorded net outflow of FDI reflecting major foreign divestment, whereas FDI in Kuwait saw a steep decline of KD 660m in 2015. UAE also topped the list in terms of FDI outflows from the GCC in 2015 recording a total flow of \$9.2 bn followed by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait with outflows of \$5.5 bn and 5.4 bn, respectively.

In terms of FDI inward stock in the GCC,

FDI Flows by Region

FDI Inflows (USD Mn)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	5-Y CAGR	Share in World	FDI Inflows
World	1,388,821	1,566,839	1,510,918	1,427,181	1,276,999	1,762,155	4.9%	2014	2015
Developed Economies	699,889	817,415	787,359	680,275	522,043	962,496	6.6%	40.9%	54.6%
Europe	431,688	478,063	483,195	323,366	305,988	503,569	3.1%	24.0%	28.6%
North America	226,449	269,531	231,538	283,254	165,120	428,537	13.6%	12.9%	24.3%
US	198,049	229,862	188,427	211,501	106,614	379,894	13.9%	8.3%	21.6%
Developing Economies	625,330	670,149	658,774	662,406	698,494	764,670	4.1%	54.7%	43.4%
Asia	412,407	426,702	409,553	431,412	467,935	540,722	5.6%	36.6%	30.7%
GCC	45,404	29,509	26,674	23,555	23,086	19,840	-15.3%	1.8%	1.1%

FDI Outflows (USD Mn)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	5-Y CAGR	Share in World Fl	DI Outflows
World	1,391,918	1,557,640	1,308,820	1,310,618	1,318,470	1,474,242	1.2%	2014	2015
Developed Economies	983,405	1,128,047	917,783	825,948	800,727	1,065,192	1.6%	60.7%	72.3%
Europe	585,478	558,656	411,395	319,734	311,033	576,254	-0.3%	23.6%	39.1%
North America	312,502	448,717	374,061	362,806	372,237	367,151	3.3%	28.2%	24.9%
US	277,779	396,569	318,197	307,927	316,549	299,969	1.5%	24.0%	20.3%
Developing Economies	358,029	373,931	357,844	408,886	445,579	377,938	1.1%	33.8%	25.6%
Asia	291,487	318,613	302,354	358,862	397,568	331,825	2.6%	30.2%	22.5%
GCC	15,507	26,792	16,919	38,982	11,971	25,566	10.5%	0.9%	1.7%

Source: UNCTAD World Investment Report-2016, KAMCO Research

Saudi Arabia tops the chart with a total stock of \$224 bn followed by UAE at \$111.1 bn. On the other hand, UAE is a major investor abroad with the highest FDI outward stock of \$87 bn followed by Saudi Arabia at \$63.3 bn.

UAE continues to remain the most vibrant market tapping greenfield. Total value of greenfield FDI projects abroad by GCC countries almost doubled to \$44.8 bn during 2015 as compared to \$24.1 Bn during 2014. The growth was primarily on the back of Saudi Arabia which added almost \$12.0 bn in new

greenfield FDI projects outside the country with a total value of \$13.5 bn. Nevertheless, UAE continues to top the chart with a total value of USD 22.1 Bn followed by Saudi Arabia. Greenfield projects announced within the GCC in 2015 with world as the investor was topped by Saudi Arabia with a total value of \$9.9 bn, almost at the same level as last year, closely followed by UAE that saw a decline of \$4 bn to reach \$9.0 bn.

Qatar continues on the buying spree with highest M&A purchases abroad.

Total cross-border M&A transactions in the GCC saw a huge jump in 2015 with net sale transactions pegged at \$2.2 bn, a more than three-fold increase from \$676m in 2014, whereas value of net cross-border purchase transactions increased by almost 60% to \$16.4 bn in 2015 as compared to \$10.6 bn in 2014. Qatar continues to remain one of the biggest in terms of net M&A purchases abroad with the highest value in cross border purchase transactions in 2015 recorded at \$8.8 bn followed by UAE at \$5.2 bn.

FDI in the GCC

FDI Inflows	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	5-Y CAGR	Share in GCC F	DI Inflows
GCC	45,404	29,509	26,674	23,555	23,086	19,840	-15.3%	2014	2015
Saudi Arabia	29,233	16,308	12,182	8,865	8,012	8,141	-22.6%	34.7%	41.0%
UAE	8,797	7,152	8,828	9,491	10,823	10,976	4.5%	46.9%	55.3%
Qatar	4,670	939	396	-840	1,040	1,071	-25.5%	4.5%	5.4%
Kuwait	1,305	3,259	2,873	1,434	953	293	-25.8%	4.1%	1.5%
Oman	1,243	1,753	850	876	739	822	-7.9%	3.2%	4.1%
Bahrain	156	98	1,545	3,729	1,519	-1,463	-256.5%	6.6%	-7.4%
FDI Outflows	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	5-Y CAGR	Share in GCC FD	Outflows

	_,	-,							
Bahrain	156	98	1,545	3,729	1,519	-1,463	-256.5%	6.6%	-7.4%
FDI Outflows	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	5-Y CAGR	Share in GCC FD	Outflows
GCC	15,507	26,792	16,919	38,982	11,971	25,566	10.5%	2014	2015
Saudi Arabia	3,907	3,430	4,402	4,943	5,396	5,520	7.2%	45.1%	21.6%
UAE	2,015	2,178	2,536	8,828	9,019	9,264	35.7%	75.3%	36.2%
Qatar	1,863	10,109	1,840	8,021	6,748	4,023	16.6%	56.4%	15.7%
Kuwait	5,890	10,773	6,741	16,648	-10,468	5,407	-1.7%	-87.4%	21.1%
Oman	1,498	1,222	884	10	1,670	855	-10.6%	14.0%	3.3%
Bahrain	334	-920	516	532	-394	497	8.3%	-3.3%	1.9%

FDI stock in the GCC

FDI Inward Stock (USD Mn)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Share in	GCC
GCC	312,836	344,438	371,677	402,603	416,314	430,649	2014	2015
Saudi Arabia	176,378	186,850	199,032	208,330	215,909	224,050	51.9%	52.0%
UAE	63,869	85,406	95,008	105,496	115,561	111,139	27.8%	25.8%
Qatar	30,564	30,477	30,804	29,964	31,004	33,169	7.4%	7.7%
Kuwait	11,884	10,765	12,767	21,242	15,362	14,604	3.7%	3.4%
Oman	14,987	15,005	17,240	19,756	19,707	20,027	4.7%	4.7%
Bahrain	15,154	15,935	16,826	17,815	18,771	27,660	4.5%	6.4%

FDI Outward Stock (USD Mn)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Share in	GCC
GCC	133,501	140,622	154,634	188,203	200,835	247,564	2014	2015
Saudi Arabia	26,528	29,970	34,360	39,303	44,699	63,251	22.3%	25.5%
UAE	55,560	57,738	60,274	63,179	66,298	87,386	33.0%	35.3%
Qatar	12,545	18,572	20,413	28,434	35,182	43,287	17.5%	17.5%
Kuwait	28,189	22,059	24,501	40,247	36,531	31,577	18.2%	12.8%
Oman	2,796	3,507	5,387	6,289	7,453	7,438	3.7%	3.0%
Bahrain	7,883	8,776	9,699	10,751	10,672	14,625	5.3%	5.9%

ACCOUNT-RELATED PUSH MESSAGES DELIVERED TO SMS KFH SUBSCRIBERS' MOBILE PHONES

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced yesterday the successful launch of a new e-service which allows KFH customer subscribed to KFH's SMS Baitak notification service to receive Push message-type notifications - in addition to the regular SMS notifications - onto their smartphones. KFH's e-Banking customers who are also SMS Baitak subscribers will be able to register to - and receive - the Push messages for free via the KFH Online Smartphone app, and will also be able to receive and view the Push messages using the smartphone apps.

Moreover, as the Push messaging feature is now part of the modern smartphone's programming, customers will always be able to receive their banking Push messages as long as their device is connected to the internet. This means that customers will now no longer require any SIM card to be inserted in their smartphones.

Further to this announcement, Meshal Al Obaid, Executive Manager of the Alternative Delivery Channels Department at KFH, said that the Push notifications service is considered to be the first of its kind among the Banking sector in Kuwait, and is considered to be a new development aimed to better serve KFH's customers, as well as a technological innovation that is both secure to use and easy to enroll. Customers who have already subscribed to KFH's highly useful SMS Baitak notifications service can now also activate the Push notifications themselves via the KFH online banking app. Alternatively, customers can also call the Allo Baitak Contact Center on 180 3333 for assistance on how to subscribe and activate the Push notifications.

"This new service was brought about after a careful study of the market, and the customers' needs and requirements, as well as acknowledging that our customers increasingly more reliant on internet connectivity and banking services that come with them. This has directed us to cater this service to address our customers' needs, as well as to utilize the technologies that most customers use, such as Apple's iOS and Google's Android mobile operating systems" Al Obaid added.

He continued "KFH will continue to upgrade and improve its technological service offerings in an effort to



become the best and most technologically advanced bank in the area, using the highest and most advanced specifications and developments in both banking and innovation."

Al Obaid clarified that of the various uses of this new Push service is its ability to tie-in the customers who are already subscribed to SMS Baitak with their banking accounts at KFH - using the KFHOnline smartphone app and an internet connection, the customers would be able to receive push notifications on any balance change to their accounts, both in Kuwait and overseas, instantly and without the need for any SIM. This makes the subscribers completely covered for notifications, whether they're using a Kuwaiti or non-Kuwaiti SIM card, or none at all, as long as there is an internet connection, customers will continue to be in touch with their banking accounts all the time. Moreover, customers have the choice of receiving either an SMS notification by itself, or both an SMS and a Push Notifications message together.

Al Obaid further gave assurances that KFH is currently reviewing many other technologies that can be incorporated into innovative, comprehensive, safe and simple e-banking service. He stressed that this new Push notification service is only the beginning, and that KFH had been - and will always be - a pioneer of innovative banking services and products that address the needs of people from all walks of life, and will continue to impress everyone with its technological deployments.

WARBA BANK TV COMMERCIAL 'DEFINED SOLUTIONS' EARNED HIGHEST RATES IN RAMADAN ADVERTISEMENT

KUWAIT: Warba Bank Ramadan TV commercial was highly rated among viewers and gained their admiration on YouTube and other social media since it was first launched in the beginning of the Holy Month. Warba's commercial reflects the bank's defined financial and social solutions to the public. Warba Bank, the fastest growing bank which provides a series of banking and investment services compatible with Islamic Shariah according to local and international levels, advertisement falls under the slogan "Defined Solutions", as well as it reflects the bank's Islamic identity and its outstanding social role.

The advertisement is guided by the Muslim scholars who have reached solutions forming fundamental boundaries in civilizations and made a difference over the centuries in different sectors, including Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al Fazari, Jabir ibn Hayyan, Abbas Ibn Firnas, Mohammed Al-Idrisi and Ibn al-Haytham along with accompanying its achievements that carries the confirmation tone around its incredible role that includes banking solutions, health, cultural and religious awareness.

This advertisement was broadcasted extensively on different media platforms including Al-Rai TV, where it is displayed on a daily basis, shahed.net, Warba Bank social networks including its YouTube channel, and other social media, praising its viewers and followers on the



idea of the advertising and its tremendous message, which brings to mind the extent of useful scientific contributions made by Muslim scholars impact that is still evident on our lives to this day.

For the occasion, Warba Bank relates its clients in a competition that is inspired and

influenced by its television advertisement by giving them a chance to create their own ad revolving around the bank's advertisement idea. In order to win KD 500 the ad. Should be sent by email as well as, posting it on Instagram hashtaging (#defined_solutions) and mentioning Warba Bank.

GET READY TO TRAVEL WITH X-CITE



KUWAIT: With the beginning of the summer season, X-cite by Alghanim Electronics is putting on offer its amazing array of travel items including cameras, mobile phones, chargers, tablets, drones and accessories. Before you embark on your next vacation, check out their essential travel selection offers that will run from June 24 until August 7, 2016.

From the moment you reach to the airport, step into your own world with the best noise cancelling headphones with Bose's QC25 or Sennheiser's Momentum 2.0. If you are heading to a beach destination, you can listen to your favorite tunes with the new Beats Pill or the water resistant JBL Flip 10. Stay connected with your loved ones with the latest Huawei P9+, HTC 10 or the iPhone SE without ever running out of battery with their selection of universal adapters and power banks. Let your memories last forever with the Canon 1300 DSLR and capture the best views with the latest LG and Ricoh Theta S 360 degree view cameras or DJI Phantom and 3DR drones.

Get ready to pack your bags with X-cite's travel products and amazing bundle deals including bag packs, selfie sticks and phone covers before takeoff. Visit any of their 18 showrooms spread across Kuwait. You can also shop without leaving the comfort of your home, with X-cite's free-to-download app as well as the store's official website www.xcite.com.

To stay updated on latest product launches, monthly promotions and offers customers are invited to subscribe to the daily newsletter on xcite.com or follow X-cite's social media channels: Facebook.com/XcitebyAlGhanim, or Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter @xcitealghanim, and youtube.com/xcitealghanim.

JAZEERA AIRWAYS CELEBRATES GIRGEAN ACROSS KUWAIT AND ONBOARD

KUWAIT: JAZEERA Airways, the largest airline serving the Middle East out of Kuwait, recently concluded its annual distribution of Girgean packs to children and families on board Jazeera Airways.

This activation took place on board all flights flying from Kuwait to different destinations including: Dubai, Cairo, Beirut, Bahrain and Alexandria. Cabin crew staff all welcomed the passengers with candy and sweets packed in beautifully designed Girgean boxes, distributed to all children and families. Moreover, Jazeera Airways staff also contributed in spreading the vibes of kindness throughout Kuwait by distributing candy and chocolates to the kids on the streets in different districts using Jazeera airways bus.

Commenting on this initiative, Dr. Mohammed Barakat - VP Marketing and Product at Jazeera Airways said: "During this month of giving and sharing, Jazeera Airways is celebrating this popular Kuwaiti tradition, and engaging with the children of the community on ground across different parts of Kuwait and on board our aircraft. On behalf of Jazeera Airways, we are wishing Kuwait and its people a blessed Ramadan."

As an integral part of Ramadan and Kuwaiti culture, the airline's initiative awakened a sense of kindness and giving within the hearts of all people, during the holy month of the year. It is worth mentioning that Jazeera Airways' annual Girgean celebration comes as part of its solid corporate social responsibility strategy which aims at engaging with all segments of the society.

To learn more about Jazeera Airways offers, promotions and destinations, customers can contact the Call Center on 177 or visit the airline's website on www. jazeeraairways.com. Customers can also download the Jazeera Airways app on the iPhone or Android or Windows.





WORLDWIDE SALES OF TOYOTA HYBRIDS SURPASS 9M UNITS

KUWAIT: Toyota Motor Corporation announced that the cumulative figures for global sales of its hybrid vehicles reached 9.014 million units as of April 30, surpassing the 9 million-unit mark. This latest million-unit milestone was achieved in just nine months.

Helping to mitigate the environmental effects of automobiles is a priority for Toyota. Based on the stance that ecofriendly vehicles can only truly have a significant positive impact if they are widely used, Toyota has endeavored to encourage the mass-market adoption of hybrid vehicles across the globe. As of the end of April 2016, Toyota is selling 33 hybrid passenger car models and one plug-in hybrid (PHV) model in more than 90 countries and regions.

Commenting on this milestone, Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative of Middle East & North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation said, "The steady increase in hybrid sales reflects the worldwide appeal of hybrid vehicles backed by Toyota's significant efforts in developing ever better cars. Hybrid is the practical way towards green motoring and it actually delivers a more relaxed and rewarding drive than a conventional car. Our constant efforts in developing the most innovative technology combined with customer acceptance of hybrid vehicles as a viable and sophisticated motoring alternative has enabled us to reach this prominent milestone. We sincerely appreciate the support of our customers for our environmentally friendly initiatives, which have encouraged us to continue our efforts in developing hybrid technologies."

Toyota announced the Toyota Environmental Challenge 2050 in October of last year, setting challenges that it will undertake in order to reduce the negative impacts automobiles have on global environmental health to as close to zero as possible, and to contribute to the creation of a sustainable society. In order to fulfill these challenges, Toyota is working to expand its lineup of hybrid vehicles even further and will work to contribute to the environment by achieving annual sales of 1.5 million units, and cumulative sales of 15 million units by 2020.

Toyota calculates that as of April 30, the use of Toyota hybrid vehicles in lieu of conventional vehicles of similar size and driving performance has resulted in approximately 67 million fewer tons of CO2 emissions? Believed to be a cause of global warming. Toyota also estimates that its hybrid vehicles have saved approximately 25 million kiloliters of gasoline compared to the amount used by gasoline-powered vehicles in the same class.

Toyota launched the Coaster Hybrid EV in August 1997 and the Prius, the world's first mass-produced hybrid passenger vehicle, in December of the same year. Since then, Toyota hybrid vehicles have received tremendous support from consumers around the world.

SPAIN STRUGGLES TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT AND DEBT

MADRID: Spain, which goes to the polls today in a repeat general election, is the eurozone's fourth largest economy and one of the fastest-growing nations in Western Europe, although it suffers from high unemployment and debt.

GROWTH

Spain's gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 3.2 percent in 2015 and growth has remained steady this year despite a political stalemate that has left the country without a government since inconclusive December elections.

GDP expanded by 0.8 percent between January and March from the previous three months, higher than the average in the eurozone. Acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's conservative government predicts the economy will expand by 2.7 percent this year, then slow to 2.4 percent in 2017.

Spain in 2014 posted its first full-year of growth since a 2008 property crash sent the economy into a tailspin. Consumer spending is up as is investment by firms while export growth, which help lift Spain out of recession, has lost some of its steam.

FAVOURABLE TAILWINDS

Spain has benefited from favourable tailwinds that have propelled growth such as low interest rates set by the European Central Bank, a favourable euro exchange rate that helps exports, and falling oil prices that have reduced production costs.

Spain is highly dependent on energy imports and the price of a barrel of oil has dropped to around 50 euros from the record highs of over 140 euros a barrel reached in 2008.

But the Bank of Spain warned earlier this month that these beneficial conditions will progressively fade, leading to a slower pace of economic expansion.

LABOUR MARKET REFORM

The outgoing conservative government reduced the amount of compensation which companies must pay workers that

they fire and created a new open-ended contract with a one-year trial period.

The government and its backers argue these reforms helped lower Spain's unemployment rate from a record 26.94 percent in the first quarter of 2013 to 21 percent in the first quarter of 2016.

They say the flexibility it introduced especially helped the auto sector.

Spain is the second-largest automobile producer in Europe after Germany.

Critics charge that part of the fall in unemployment is due to the drop in the size of Spain's total workforce as emigration has risen due to the lack of jobs.

The bulk of the jobs that have been created are short-term and low-wage, they add. The average duration of a new contract in 2015 was just 53.4 days. Spain's monthly minimum wage, which is paid 14 times a year as in other southern European nations, is 655 euros (\$740).

The average annual income in Spain is 10,400 euros per person, according to national statistics institute INE.

DEBT

Spain's public deficit came in at 5.1 percent of GDP in 2015, compared with 2.2 percent in 2007, the year before the country's property bubble burst.

Spain is facing possible sanctions from the European Commission for repeatedly violating its deficit targets. The European Union has set a public deficit limit of 3.0 percent of GDP. The outgoing government predicts it will take Spain until 2018 to bring the deficit below this limit.

EDUCATION

The other Achilles heel of the Spanish economy is education and professional development.

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), over 27 percent of Spaniards aged 15-29 are not employed or in school, compared with an average of 15 percent in the 34 nations that make up the body. — AFP

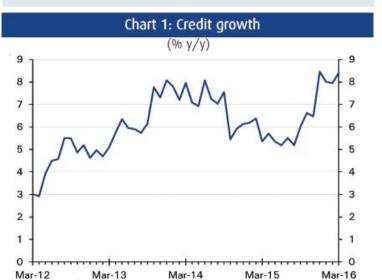
KUWAIT: MARCH CREDIT GROWTH STRONG AT 8.4%

NBK'S ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: Credit growth saw a relatively strong gain in March, with growth improving to 8.4% year-onyear (y/y). Total credit was up by KD 388 million during the month. Gains were dominated by household borrowing, credit for securities purchases and, surprisingly, nonbank financial companies. The data release also included an upward revision of the credit figure for December 2015, which boosted growth at the close of 2015 to 8.5% y/y from a previous 8%. Meanwhile, private deposits saw a strong bounce, rising by KD 1.5 billion.

Household debt growth in March picked up from February, adding a healthy KD 83 million, with growth steady at 12.2% y/y. Consumer loans (for the purchase of cars, etc.) saw a small increase on the month but continued to register a 1.1% decline y/y. Installment loan growth moderated slightly to 14.1% y/y, but remained the main source of growth in household debt.

Nonbank financial companies saw a large net gain in credit in March, pushing the sector to its first positive y/y growth since August 2010. With nonbanks' net gain in credit of KD 76 million during the month, the sector appeared



to end over five years of deleverag-

Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

All remaining credit was up a healthy KD 229 million, with growth accelerating to 6.9% y/y. A large part of the March gain was in lending for the purchase of securities, which rose by KD 155 million. Still, credit to business sectors (excluding securities lending) also improved in March, rising to 5.8% y/y. "Other sectors" added KD 69 million, while real estate, trade and

industry made smaller gains. Construction was the only sector to see a net decline in credit during the month of KD 26 million.

Private deposits saw a large gain in March, the second in two months. Private deposits rose by KD 1.32 billion, pushing up money supply (M2) growth to 4.1% y/y and narrower money supply (M1) to its first positive growth in seven months, up 0.6% y/y. Gains in private deposits were largely in KD

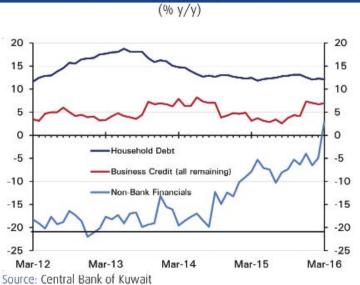
time and KD sight deposits; foreign currency deposits also benefited.

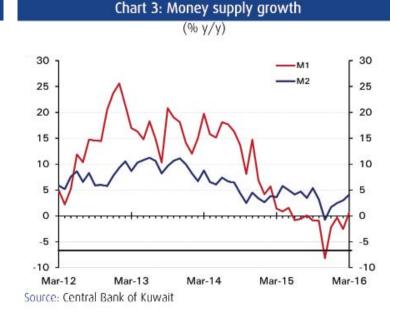
Government deposits, which have helped offset some of the decline in private sector deposits in recent months, were up again in March. Government deposits with domestic banks increased by KD 105 million during the month, and were up by KD 780 million on the year, or 15% y/y. Their ratio to total bank assets was steady at10% in March.

Banking system liquidity received another boost in March on financial inflows. Bank reserves (which include cash and deposits with the CBK, as well as CBK bonds) rose by KD 740 million to KD 6.3 billion or 10.5% of total bank assets (Chart 4). The main boost appeared to come from financial inflows, as CBK foreign reserves rose by KD 866 million to KD 9.3 billion.

March had seen dinar interest rates steady. The 3-month Kuwait interbank offered rate (Kibor) decreased slightly to 1.71% in March, down four basis points (bps) on the month. Rates have fallen since, recording a drop of 15bps in May, to settle at 1.56% (Chart 5). Customer deposit rates on dinar time deposits saw a small 1 bps increase in March.

Chart 2: Credit growth by component





NEWLY EXPANDED PANAMA CANAL OPENS FOR BUSINESS

PANAMA CITY: Panama is preparing to officially open its canal this weekend to far bigger cargo ships after nearly a decade of expansion work aimed at boosting transit revenues and global

Today, a VIP ceremony will be held on the banks of the canal to inaugurate the completion of the works. President Juan Carlos Varela will unveil the new locks and third shipping lane built into the 102-year-old canal. Foreign dignitaries, including the presidents of Taiwan, Chile, and other Central American nations, will be present at the ceremony.

A Chinese-owned Neopanamax-class cargo ship will be the first vessel to officially test the new infrastructure, entering from the Atlantic and exiting into the Pacific a few hours later.

The Neopanamax vessels are much bigger than the Panamax-class ships that previously were the largest able to pass through the 80-kilometer (50-mile) long canal. Each is able to haul three times as much cargo as the smaller predecessors.

predecessors.

The expansion work began in 2007 and was meant to have been completed in 2014, but it ran well past deadline, and over budget.

The expansion is estimated to have cost \$5.5 billion. But there are outstanding disputes between the Spanish- and Italian-led consortium that carried out the work and the Panamanian government that could hike that figure by hundreds of millions more.

PRIDE, AND OPPORTUNITY

For Panama, the unveiling of the broader canal is a moment of pride and of opportunity.

Now, ships as long as the Eiffel Tower is tall,

and as broad as Olympic-sized swimming pools,

will be able to use the canal. Annual cargo volumes should double over the next decade, leading Panama to hope to triple the \$1 billion in shipping fees it receives each year.

Also, with the country these days linked to the "Panama Papers" scandal of offshore businesses owned by the world's wealthy and influential, the expanded canal is seen as a chance to burnish the country's tarnished image.

This will show the "real face of Panama," the head of the Panama Canal Authority, Jorge Quijano told AFP in an interview this week.

World trade should also benefit from what

World trade should also benefit from what will essentially be an inter-oceanic highway for goods between the United States and Asia.

More cargo on bigger ships should mean lower transport costs.

Panama is also avidly eying the lucrative market of transporting liquefied natural gas between the United States and Asia, principally to Japan. The ships carrying the gas were too big to use the old canal. With the expansion, they now can.

"The inauguration of the expanded Panama Canal means new opportunities for international trade," Panama's president said. Currently some five percent of global maritime commercial traffic uses the canal, which provides a valuable shortcut between North America and Asia. — AFP



AQUA CLARA: The Malta flagged cargo ship named Baroque, a post-Panamax vessel, navigates the Agua Clara locks during a test of the newly expanded Panama Canal in Agua Clara, Panama, Friday. The canal's expansion project will be officially inaugurated today. — AP





ARMS REACHING FOR HER DREAMS, TWIRLING IN PIROUETTES AND LEAPS, SHE WAS GRACE IN MOTION...

Amber one carat diamond collection

Diamonds and grace translates into a timepiece in the latest choreography of time-telling from ESCADA. Inspired from the beauty and poise of a ballerina, the Maison dresses the art of the timepiece with the magnificence that paints the soul of her dance.

Set within a one carat diamond bezel, the delicate hour hands are encased within a tutu-inspired motherof-pearl dial.

A stunning statement of luxury and elegance, Lady Amber is a ballet of effortless grace and breathtaking beauty.

A GRAND VISION OF THE FUTURE OF LUXURY MOBILITY

ROLLS-ROYCE VISION NEXT 100

LONDON: In a spectacular event at London's Roundhouse earlier this week, the Rolls-Royce VISION NEXT 100 was presented. The car defines the future of luxury mobility. Codenamed 103EX, it is the marque's first ever pure 'Vision Vehicle'.

The Rolls-Royce VISION NEXT 100 presents an intriguing and aesthetically dynamic vision of the future of luxury mobility - a completely personal, effortless and autonomous Rolls-Royce experience, wrapped in a design that ensures a 'Grand Sanctuary' for its occupants, and a 'Grand Arrival'.

The Rolls-Royce VISION NEXT 100 anticipates the mobility demands of the luxury customer of the future. Brought to life by Rolls-Royce after many months of study and consultation with current patrons of the brand, the car represents their clearly expressed desire for an assurance that the marque's plans for the future of luxury personal mobility will continue to embody the key attributes that have made Rolls-Royce the preferred marque of the most discerning and powerful patrons in the world for over a Century.

"Today, Rolls-Royce, the world's leading luxury brand, has defined the future of luxury mobility. The Grand Arrival of the Rolls-Royce VISION NEXT 100 boldly points to a bright future for our marque where our patrons' individual demands for complete and authentic personalisation will be met through an exquisite fusion of technology, design and hallmark Rolls-Royce craftsmanship." Said Torsten, Chief Executive Officer, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars. Giles Taylor, Director of Design, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, added: "With the Rolls-Royce VISION NEXT 100 we were mindful not to dwell on the past. We wanted to be as innovative as possible and at the same time transcend the design history of the marque".

In creating the Rolls-Royce VISION NEXT 100, the Rolls-Royce Motor Cars design team, led by Director of Design Giles Taylor, distilled four key tenets that not only underpin the elegant solution that is the Rolls-Royce VISION NEXT 100, but epitomise the future of luxury mobility as a whole:

THE PERSONAL VISION

The Rolls-Royce VISION NEXT 100, as presented in London on Thursday 16 June 2016, is but one example of a number of possible personal visions of a Rolls-Royce of the future.

In the spirit of the great coachbuilt cars of the past, Rolls-Royce will create the chassis of the future, hand-built from the most advanced materials and powered by a zero emissions powertrain. Advanced manufacturing technologies will enable customers to involve themselves even more in the design of the nape, size and silhouette of their personal Rolls-Royce vision. The future customer will commission his or her own concept. Rolls-Royce will design and manufacture this personal vision of each customer and make every Rolls-Royce a unique Bespoke masterpiece.

THE EFFORTLESS JOURNEY

For the 105 years since her creation in 1911, the Spirit of Ecstasy, modelled by sculptor and artist Charles Sykes, on Eleanor Thornton, has silently guided every Rolls-Royce and its owner through the momentous events of their lives. She has stood as an elegant presence at some of history's most notable events. Today, the 'Voice of Eleanor' inhabits the Rolls-Royce VISION NEXT 100, delivering the dream of an effortless future to her owners. Digitally connected to every aspect of her owners' lives and her surrounding environment, 'Eleanor' becomes their

virtual assistant and chauffeur, freeing them of all effort and encumbrance. Imbued with her own artificial intelligence, she works intuitively to advise her owners on itineraries, schedules and options before they leave their residence, reminding about appointments and tasks and making suggestions to ease any anticipated impediments.

This Effortless Journey is enhanced by the hallmark Rolls-Royce 'magic carpet ride' delivered through a blend of a futuristic, powerful, zero-emission drivetrain and advanced suspension that sees the vehicle almost skim across the road surface. As a V12 combustion engine is most unlikely to exist in the future, one can only surmise how this Rolls-Royce will be powered.

THE GRAND SANCTUARY

Entering the Grand Sanctuary, our passengers step in unbowed, with consummate grace and dignity, as with the state carriages of old, taking their place on the best seat in the house. Cocooned in the futuristic but handcrafted lounge atmosphere, the coach door and clamshell canopy glide closed to envelop them in uninterrupted silence and luxury. The cabin is encircled by the most modern handcrafted fine-line Macassar wood panelling, sweeping across the interior from the coach door, continuing around behind the generous OLED screen and up beside the second passenger to the side of the sofa. This ensures a continuous, beautifully clean and sculptural surface when the screen is extinguished.

This sense of space is accentuated as our passengers' view from their seats is uninterrupted by a cockpit or steering wheel which are now superfluous. From their powerful position within the Rolls-Royce VISION NEXT 100, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players..".

THE GRAND ARRIVAL

The Rolls-Royce VISION NEXT 100's iconic, imposing and futuristic presence ensures a Grand Arrival for its occupants. Yet whilst it powerfully expresses the future of luxury, it remains constant to the iconic tropes of any true Rolls-Royce: The Spirit of Ecstasy, the Pantheon grille, the long bonnet and the iconic proportions of the entire vehicle.

The Grand Arrival of the Rolls-Royce VISION NEXT 100 is first signalled by the Spirit of Ecstasy and Pantheon grille illuminating to cast an ethereal, otherworldly glow from the front of the car. As this vision of the future gracefully sweeps up to its destination, the ethereal glow spreads from the trailing edge of the front wheel arch to the rear of the single coach door, signalling Royce VISION NEXT 100 gracefully comes to a halt, something magnificent occurs.

Hinged on the left of the vehicle, the glass canopy lifts to allow the occupant to stand whilst providing shelter from above and behind. Then, in one effortless movement, the single coach door sweeps open and a step emerges from below the running board. As a final flourish, a red light is projected, carpet-like, from the underside of the step as a welcome.

"The Grand Arrival gesture of the Rolls-Royce VISION NEXT 100 creates a stage for our important passengers as they arrive at their ultimate destination," comments Taylor. "It is an expression of our intrinsic understanding of the possibilities for a true luxury brand and the desires of its customers." The Personal Vision, the Effortless Journey, the Grand Sanctuary and the Grand Arrival. Rolls-Royce's vision of the next 100 years. Rolls-Royce VISION NEXT 100. A vision of the future of luxury.



MALAYSIAN PM OPENS FIRST HYPERMARKET IN KUALA LUMPUR

LULU FURTHER STRENGTHENS FAR EAST OPERATIONS

KUALA LUMPUR: UAE based retail major, Lulu Group further consolidate its retail presence in the Far Eastern by opening the first LULU mall with Hypermarket in Malaysia. The 250,000 sq ft hypermarket was inaugurated by the Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak in the presence of Dato Sri Dr Ahmed ZahidHamidi, Dy Prime Minister, Minister of Agriculture, Govt. officials, Ambassadors of UAE and High Commission of India and other dignitaries.

The group had recently announced its plans to invest \$300 million (RM 1.3 billion) as part of its expansion and intends set up 10 hypermarkets in the next 5 years in the country.

The new hypermarket is ideally located in the Cap Sqaure, Jalan Munshi area of Kuala Lumpur is expected to be one of its kind in the country and will attract large segment of population from all walks of life with its attractive product offers and range. The new hypermarket is spread in 3 levels and combines everything from grocery and supermarkets products to fashion, household and latest electronics & gadgets. Hot food from around the world, fresh seafood and locally grown produce are some of the key highlights in the supermarket area.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Prime Minister Najeeb Razak said "we are very pleased to welcome LULU brand to Malaysia as this will pave way for more international brands to come and invest in Malaysia. I am also hopeful that Lulu will surely open many more hypermarkets and malls not only in Kuala Lumpur but also in other parts of Malaysia."

"With an initial investment of \$300 million in the first phase, we plan to open 10 hypermarkets by end-2021 and a central logistics and warehousing facility in Malaysia. These projects are likely to generate more than 5,000 job opportunities for Malaysians," said Yusuff Ali MA, Chairman, Lulu Group (Perak), Malacca, Penang and Kuala Terengganu.



while commenting about the first Lulu hypermarket in the country. "We also plan to set up contract farming to ensure continuous supply of high quality products and to support the Malaysian agriculture sector," he added.

"Today the whole world knows about Malaysia's economic stability, investor friendly approach, liberalized policies and world-class infrastructure and we are confident about our success here and our hypermarkets encompass both supermarket and department store formats and we intend to bring a whole new world of shopping to the residents of Malaysia." He added that other hypermarkets would be opening in Kota Baru (Kelantan), Shah Alam (Selangor), JoharBaru, Bangi, Ipoh





FLYDUBAI ANNOUNCES DAILY FLIGHTS TO PRAGUE FROM JULY

KUWAIT: Dubai-based flydubai has announced that it will begin daily operations to Prague from 01 July, an increase from four weekly flights. With this additional frequency, flydubai will operate a total of 49 flights a week to 11 points in Central and Eastern Europe.

"We are delighted to offer more flights to Prague," commented Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer of flydubai. "Prague remains a popular destination for our passengers in the GCC. We also look forward to providing those in Europe with more choice and more opportunities to visit Dubai and beyond on our network. Our strategic base in Dubai allows passengers to benefit from flydubai's interline agreements with other carriers, providing opportunities for onward travel to more than 200 destinations."

flydubai has been operating flights to Prague since 2014. Alongside Belgrade, Bratislava, Bucharest, Skopje, Sarajevo, Sofia and Zagreb, it is part of the airline's network in Central and Eastern Europe. Renowned for its cathedrals, courtyards and culture, Prague is one of Central Europe's most popular destinations. Travellers can enjoy the Baroque architecture in the Old Town, take in the stunning views from Charles Bridge, discover the largest ancient castle complex in the world at

Prague Castle and watch time go by at the Prague Astronomical Clock. "With the start of daily flights to Prague we are offering greater convenience and the value for money that our passengers expect. With WiFi connectivity and Live TV as our latest product offerings, flydubai is an airline that continues to innovate, "said Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President Commercial (UAE, EU, ME, CIS) for flydubai.

flydubai offers its passengers a variety of features onboard including an award-winning in-flight entertainment system, comfortable seating and hot meals. Business Class passengers can enjoy a spacious seat, a choice of meals from an internationally-inspired menu, a generous checked baggage allowance and fast track through immigration and security. In addition, Business Class passengers have access to business lounges across the network and a dedicated 24-hour Business team to assist with bookings and attend to enquires throughout their journey. Operating out of Terminal 2, Dubai International, flydubai offers its passengers a convenient and fficient way to arrive and depart from Dubai.

flydubai recently introduced WiFi connectivity and Live TV for the first time on selected flights as the airline continues to roll out the service across the rest of its fleet.





MEMAC OGILVY PR VOTED ME PR CONSULTANCY OF THE YEAR

KUWAIT: Memac Ogilvy Public Relations was voted Middle Show. In addition, Memac Ogilvy PR, the Middle Eastern East PR Consultancy of the Year during the 12th annual EMEA Sabre Awards. The EMEA SABRE Awards, is the premier showcase for work produced by public relations agencies around the world, recognizing Superior Achievement

in Branding Reputation & Engagement. The Agency also picked up a Gold Sabre Award for Geographic Categories for the Middle East for "Coca-Cola: Ramadan Dark Iftar" by MOPR Dubai, also nominated as a finalist for the Platinum Sabre Award for Best in work for our clients," said Saada Hammad, Regional

operation of Ogilvy PR, was selected for the Diamond Sabre Award for Research and Planning for Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign by Roche Lebanon with Ogilvy & Mather Beirut.

This recognition by The Holmes Report underscores the hard work, creativity and innovation of our people. It is the result of six years of planning, investing in top talent and working tirelessly to deliver effective creative

Director, Memac Ogilvy Public Relations. "I am incredibly proud of this achievement and would like to thank and congratulate our people, clients, and partners in EMEA and beyond. This network commits itself every day to crafting and delivering best-in-class PR that truly earns influence on behalf of our clients and their brands. Special congratulations to our Chairman and CEO, Eddie Moutran, who has, and continues to, believe in the power of the discipline, and in the talent and commitment of the PR army," she added.



OPR EMEA CEO Michael Frohlich receiving the trophy.

US KEEPS ELECTROMAGNETIC CANNON IN ITS SIGHTS

WASHINGTON: The US Navy is quietly pushing ahead with a radical new cannon that one day could transform how wars are fought, even though some Pentagon officials have voiced concerns over its cost and viability. Named the railgun, the weapon in question represents a paradigm shift in ballistic technology. Instead of using gunpowder and explosive charges to shoot a shell from its barrel, it employs vast amounts of electromagnetic energy to zoom a projectile along a set of copper-alloy rails.

Thanks to four small fins on its rear, the hefty round can then be guided toward a moving object - such as an enemy ship, drone or incoming ballistic missile - relying purely on the kinetic energy from its vast momentum to destroy the target. Ultimately, scientists expect the railgun rounds to travel at speeds up to Mach 7.5, which at 5,700 mph (9,100 kph) is more than seven times the speed of sound, and cover a distance of about 160 km.

"The railgun is revolutionary in terms of how much it can accelerate the bullet," Tom Boucher, the railgun program manager for Office of Naval Research, told AFP at the Pentagon as he displayed six interconnected steel plates that all had been shredded by a single test round. "Powder guns have been matured to the point where you are going to get the most out of them. Railguns are

The futuristic weapon has long been a darling of the Navy's research wing, along with other game-changing technologies such as laser beams that can track a boat in choppy water and blast holes in its hull. Yet the railgun, which so far has cost more than \$500 million, may find itself becoming something of a victim of its own success - even before it is made operational.

That's because of its special shells designed to hurtle through the skies at jaw-dropping speeds. These rounds, called High Velocity Projectiles, can be guided in flight. They can also be fired from a conventional fiveinch cannon. Though the HVPs would travel slower than they would out of a railgun, they still outperform regular shells, making them a tempting proposition for the Navy to deploy across its fleet. "It turns out that powder guns firing the same hyper-velocity projectiles gets you almost as much as you would get out of the electromag rail gun, and it's something we could do much faster," Deputy Defense Secretary Bob Work told US lawmakers last month. Each HVP eventually will cost about \$50,000 - still considerably more expensive than a conventional shell but an order of magnitude cheaper than guided missiles such as the Tomahawk, that cost more than \$1 million apiece.

Hungry for Power

Currently, it requires about 25 megawatts of energy to power a railgun. That kind of juice, and the space needed to generate or store it, rules out many vessels from hosting it, but researchers are optimistic the technology will grow more compact. The Navy hopes to install a railgun on the USS Zumwalt, a brand new guided-missile destroyer that produces the large amounts of power needed to charge the weapon.

The railgun has also suffered from technical setbacks during its development. The enormous forces generated by the HVP leaving the gun caused early versions to fail after only a few shots, but scientists say they are now working toward a solution that could see the barrel last for thousands of rounds. Boucher said he is optimistic the gun will ultimately end up being operationally deployed, probably within a decade. "We are going to be OK," he said. "We are showing our progress, and the proof will be in what we do."

It's not just the Navy with its sights on the railgun. The Army would one day like to put the electric blasters on its tanks, but is currently constrained the gun's power requirements. Army Chief of Staff General Mark Milley this week said he envisions a time in the not-so-distant future where railguns and lasers are deployed on land. "We are looking at all those technologies," he said. "My professional opinion is that I think we are on the cusp of a fundamental change in the character of ground warfare." — AFP



This public service announcement provided by the US Forest Service shows a poster warning people not to fly drones near wildfires. — AP

AGENCY ENLISTS HIGH-TECH HELP KEEPING DRONES FROM WILDFIRES

BOISE, Idaho: When Brian Cresto and his fel-governor said those evacuations might have low firefighters fly toward a wildfire at just a few hundred feet off the ground, he's scouting for the best spot for them to land when they parachute down. Lately, he's also been keeping an eye out for hobby drones that could take out their twin-engine propeller craft before it climbs to 1,500 feet, where the eight smokejumpers exit. "It's dangerous anytime you drop an aircraft down to a certain level," said Cresto, a smokejumper with the US Bureau of Land Management. "Drones are starting to be a part of that conversation."

Hobby drone ownership has spiked in recent years, and more and more of the devices have been spotted flying illegally over active wildfires, where they can endanger the airplanes and helicopters being used to battle the blazes. It's a high-tech problem, and federal authorities are thinking high-tech to stop it: The US Interior Department is working with drone makers and mapping companies to create a system that uses smartphone apps already on the market to quickly alert drone fliers to temporary flight restrictions at wildfires.

Initial attacks on a wildfire are crucial, but firefighting aircraft can't fly if a drone is in the restricted area because a collision could be catastrophic, officials say. Retardant bombers and helicopters typically fly even lower than smokejumpers, at just above the trees or rooftops, and have little time to react in an emergency. A drone collision could take out an engine or break a windshield. The devices also can get sucked into a helicopter's intake

In just the past week, drone sightings have grounded aerial firefighters on three different days at a Utah blaze that has forced the evacuation of 100 homes. Utah Gov Gary Herbert

been avoided if not for the drones. According to Federal Aviation Administration rules, hobby drones are limited to 400 feet above ground level and within sight of the operator. But Internet videos show a stream of violators, including at wildfires.

"I've heard sometimes that at a wildfire, there might be 20, 30 guys out there flying their quadcopters," said Patrick Harper of the Meridian-based Idaho Drone Co. Wildfires tend to attract spectators, including drone pilots who can use their devices to capture stunning aerial footage from a unique perspective. Authorities across the US recorded 20 incidents in which drones flew too close to wildfires last year, with more than half hindering firefighting efforts. It has happened again at least nine times so far this year.

In Utah, a helicopter pilot refused an assignment after one of the recent near-drone collisions, fire spokeswoman Carissa Silvis said. A \$1,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the drone pilot's conviction. On Thursday, hobby drones grounded flight operations at an Arizona fire where more than 15,000 people are under pre-evacuation notice. The Interior Department hopes the new smartphone notifications will keep drone fliers at a safe distance. Its plan is to post data online that companies can start using in August to keep the notification apps up-to-date. "It will be successful if we are able to provide real-time information and have it depicted on those mapping programs," said Brad Koeckeritz, the department's division chief for unmanned aircraft systems. The next step is asking drone builders to make it possible for drone operators to activate systems that would automatically prevent a drone from entering temporarily restricted airspace, Koeckeritz said. — AP

GOOGLE, FACEBOOK MOVING TO AUTO-BLOCK EXTREMIST VIDEOS

SAN FRANCISCO/WASHINGTON: Some of the web's biggest destinations for watching videos have quietly started using automation to remove extremist content from their sites, according to two people familiar with the process. The move is a major step forward for Internet companies that are eager to eradicate violent propaganda from their sites and are under pressure to do so from governments around the world as attacks by extremists proliferate, from Syria to Belgium and the United States.

YouTube and Facebook are among the sites deploying systems to block or rapidly take down Islamic State videos and other similar material, the sources said. The technology was originally developed to identify and remove copyright-protected content on video sites. It looks for "hashes," a type of unique digital fingerprint that internet companies automatically assign to specific videos, allowing all content with matching fingerprints to be removed rapidly. Such a system would catch attempts to repost content already identified as unacceptable, but would not automatically block videos that have not been seen before. The companies would not confirm that they are using the method or talk about how it might be employed, but numerous people familiar with the technology said that posted videos could be checked against a database of banned content to identify new postings of, say, a beheading or a lecture inciting violence.

The two sources would not discuss how much human work goes into reviewing videos identified as matches or near-matches by the technology. They also would not say how videos in the databases were initially identified as extremist. Use of the new technology is likely to be refined over time as internet companies continue to discuss the issue internally and with competitors and other interested parties.

In late April, amid pressure from US President Barack Obama and other US and European leaders concerned about online radicalization, Internet companies including Alphabet Inc's YouTube, Twitter Inc, Facebook Inc and CloudFlare held a call to discuss options, including a content-blocking system put forward by the private Counter Extremism Project, according to one person on the call and three who were briefed on what was discussed.

The discussions underscored the central but difficult role some of the world's most influential companies now play in addressing issues such as terrorism, free speech and the lines between government and corporate authority. None of the companies at this point has embraced the anti-extremist group's system, and they have typically been wary of outside intervention in how their sites should be policed. "It's a little bit different than copyright or child pornography, where things are very clearly illegal," said Seamus Hughes, deputy director of George Washington University's Program on Extremism. Extremist content exists on a spectrum, Hughes

said, and different web companies draw the line in different places. Most have relied until now mainly on users to flag content that violates their terms of service, and many still do. Flagged material is then individually reviewed by human editors who delete postings found to be in violation. The companies now using automation are not publicly discussing it, two sources said, in part out of concern that terrorists might learn how to manipulate their systems or that repressive regimes might insist the technology be used to censor opponents.

"There's no upside in these companies talking about it," said Matthew Prince, chief executive of content distribution company CloudFlare. "Why would they brag about censorship?" The two people familiar with the still-evolving industry practice confirmed it to Reuters after the Counter Extremism Project publicly described its content-blocking system for the first time last week and urged the big internet companies to adopt it.

Wary Of Outside Solution

The April call was led by Facebook's head of global policy management, Monika Bickert, sources with knowledge of the call said. On it, Facebook presented options for discussion, according to one participant, including the one proposed by the non-profit Counter Extremism Project. The anti-extremism group was founded by, among others, Frances Townsend, who advised former president George W Bush on homeland security, and Mark Wallace, who was deputy campaign manager for the Bush 2004 re-election campaign.

Three sources with knowledge of the April call said that companies expressed wariness of letting an outside group decide what defined unacceptable content. Other alternatives raised on the call included establishing a new industry-controlled nonprofit or expanding an existing industry-controlled nonprofit. All the options discussed involved hashing technology. The model for an industry-funded organization might be the nonprofit National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which identifies known child pornography images using a system known as PhotoDNA. The system is licensed for free by Microsoft Corp. — Reuters

USE OF DRONES FOR DISASTER MISSIONS PUT TO THE TEST

CAPE MAY, New Jersey: How to distribute lifesaving supplies quickly and safely after a natural disaster has long been a puzzle for responders. Now, drones might be the lifesaver. That idea was put to the test this week in New Jersey as a drone delivery service conducted test flights to help determine whether drones can be used to carry human medical samples to and from areas that cannot be accessed or communicated with during major storms, earthquakes or other disasters.

Experts say drones are becoming a more valuable tool in many humanitarian operations, where the unmanned aircraft can be quickly launched and used to collect data and images and help locate people who might be injured or trapped. But Timothy Amukele, an assistant professor of pathology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, said that biological samples "are not like a shoe or a book; they are pretty fragile items."

"For example, if blood is being carried on the back of motorcycle, shaking caused by the bike and its vibrations can ruin the sample," said Amukele, a volunteer adviser to Flirtey, the company that conducted the tests in New Jersey. "We want to see what tasks the drones can perform and if the drones have similar effects on samples they carry."

About 100 people looked on as the drones flew Wednesday between an onshore medical relief camp and a test facility on a vessel stationed on the Delaware Bay. They took medical supplies from the vessel to the medical camp, while blood and other medical specimens were flown between the sites. The tests were done at the invitation of the Field Innovation Team, a nonprofit that works with agencies and experts from various fields to develop solutions to humanitarian disaster scenarios.

The tests came a day after President Barack



LOWER TOWNSHIP, New Jersey: A drone with a payload of simulated blood and other medical samples flies during a ship-to-shore delivery simulation on June 22, 2016. — AP

Obama's administration approved the routine use of small drones by real estate agents, farmers, filmmakers and countless other commercial operators after years of struggling to write rules that would both protect public safety and free the benefits of a new technology. The Reno, Nevada-based firm conducted what it said was the nation's first autonomous urban drone delivery in the US in March. That happened in Nevada, one of six states the Federal Aviation Administration has designated as unmanned aircraft systems test sites.

Matt Sweeny, Flirtey's chief executive, believes medical drone delivery will happen "more quickly than people realize," possibly within the next three

years. He says such a service could potentially help hundreds of thousands of people, noting the number of residents affected by recent disasters such as Superstorm Sandy, which struck near the site where the tests were conducted. Eight of the world's 10 largest cities are coastal communities, and more than 3 billion people - or 44 percent of the world's population - live within 95 miles of the coast, according to the United Nations. Amukele believes it will probably take about five years before drones are used regularly in disaster situations. He notes that roughly 59 nations currently have drone regulations, so responders will need to know what rules other countries will put in place. — AP

CHINA TIGHTENS CONTROLS ON PAID-FOR SEARCH ADS

BEIJING: China's internet regulator said yesterday that search engines should tighten management of paid-for ads in search results, making clear which results are paid-for and limiting their numbers. The Chinese government already exercises widespread controls over the internet and has sought to codify that policy in law. Chinese regulators last month imposed limits on the number of lucrative healthcare adverts carried by Baidu Inc following the death of a student who underwent an experimental cancer treatment which he found using China's biggest internet search engine.

Wei Zexi, 21, died in April of a rare form of cancer, and the case sparked widespread public anger. The Cyberspace Administration of China said search engines should investigate the "aptitude" of clients offering paid-for ads, set a clear upper limit on such ads and clearly distinguish which are paid-for ads and which come from "natural searches". "Internet search providers should earnestly accept corporate responsibility towards society, and strengthen their own management in accordance with the law and rules, to provide objective, fair and authoritative search results to users," it said.

Users have been particularly concerned with medical ads, which are a threat to people's health, the regulator added. Baidu said in a statement that it was committed to providing the best search experience and will fully comply with the law. "Baidu will work closely with government agencies, internet users and the community to uphold a healthy internet environment, and strive to provide objective, impartial, and authoritative search results to our users," it said.

Search engines also have other problems, the regulator said. "Some search results contain rumors, obscenities, pornography, violence, murder, terrorism and other illegal information," it said. "Some search results lack objectivity and fairness, go against corporate morals and standards, misleading and influencing people's judgement." Officials say Internet restrictions, including the blocking of popular foreign sites like Google and Facebook, are needed to ensure security in the face of rising threats, such as terrorism. Foreign governments and business groups have pointed to restrictions on the Internet as a broader trade issue. — Reuters

ALGERIANS CELEBRATE SOCIAL MEDIA RETURN

ALGIERS: Algerian internet users flocked back to social media on Friday following several days of blackout as the government sought to prevent a repeat of leaks of high school test papers. A leak of the papers on social media meant 555,000 out of 800,000 high school leavers who took their final exams at the start of June had to retake them between Sunday and Thursday. Djamila, 45, a sales executive, said she was delighted to be able to connect "normally" at last. Social networks allow her, like many Algerians, to stay in touch with relatives overseas.

From Saturday to Thursday, Internet-hungry Algerians were blocked from accessing Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites. Fraud in the exams "cannot justify what happened," Ali Kahlane, an expert on information technology and communication, told AFP. "This caused the blocking of a whole country," he said. Many tech-savvy Algerians

were able to get around the block, connecting via VPN - a type of "secure tunnel" in the Internet that allows users to appear to be connecting from a different country.

As well as the social media block, Internet access in general was slow and faced interruptions. The government denied having disrupted the country's entire Internet service. But the cuts also hurt businesses. Hassen Khelifati, chief of an insurance company, said he had lost 50 percent of his turnover for the week due to difficulties getting online. "The problem is the surprise. We weren't prepared for the Internet to be cut. The two first days, there was a total blackout," he said. Algeria has around 20 million internet users including 16 million who use mobile services. Sharing of messages, photos and video has become wildly popular since the launch of 3G services in 2013. — AFP

UNO'S INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

By Pani J Anthony

■his silent killer, drugs have become the open killer in this modern era. This chemical or non-infectious, capable of altering the body's functions, brings nothing, but ruin and disaster; equivalent to a 'devil's den' and a global threat. Despite of numerous drawbacks, why do people still resort to this evil?

Listing out the reasons why people fall prey to drugs - curiosity, need for adventure and excitement; peer group pressure; disturbed children; stress and mental agony; academic, career pressure; out of addiction - but also it is timely to discover the consequences.

destruction of life and property. Usage of drugs ruins the mind, body and moral values of the individual. "On repetitive usage, the receptors in the body become immune to the drug and thus do not produce the desired effects. This forces the individual to take excessive doses, that cause respiratory and heart failures and even brain hemorrhages, ultimately leads to the death.

2. The drug addict has a feeling of general fatigue, hallucinations, nausea, and dizziness and is unaware of the happenings in his surroundings.

3. He is unaware of the social norms and hence results in social

1. Drug addiction leads to total rejections. The worst part of drug abuse is that he becomes 'a burden to all'.

> 4. It can also affect education, productivity and social acceptance of a person. This growing evil can be checked and prevented by these following 'golden.

> 5. Education and Counseling is the most effective method of prevention and cure of drug abuse. Once the youth and adults are well fed with the consequences of drug usage, they will surely not resort to it.

> 6. Seeking professional and medical help at an early stage will surely help curb drug abuse and to provide necessary assistance to the patients.

7. Curbing the selling, being effectively implemented in India under the "Drug Abuse Actî will surely prove a milestone by restricting the availability of drugs.

8. Knowing the problems: To be aware of what the adolescent is going through and solve their problems

These golden rules can bring a drug ñ free environment. To summarize, this silent killer should be exploited only for useful reasons like medicine and other aspects of science rather than for 'personal destruction'.

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking by the United Nation's Office for Drug and Crime (UNODC) has given a clarion call, "Our life, our community and no place for drugs". It focuses on dealing with drug problems - Drug abuse, Drug production and Illicit Drug Trafficking.

There are more than 200 million drug addicts, according to the statistical analysis (4.7% of the world population above the age of 14). This theme implies that drugs affect the individual physically and mentally, and causes a threat to the family. Drug crops and drug cartels cause economic, social and political threats to the community. Hence, drugs at large cause threat to the global economy as a



NEW YORK: This June 21, 2016 photo shows a smartphone held for a photograph. —AP

OUCH! FLU SPRAY FAILS AGAIN, PANEL URGES SHOT INSTEAD

Vaccine failed to protect kids last year

NEW YORK: The nasal spray version made from a killed virus, it is made ing flu in healthy kids ages 2 against H1N1, a type of flu that of the annual flu vaccine failed to from a live but weakened flu virus. through 8. But since then, studies often causes more deaths and hosprotect kids again last year, the lat- The nasal spray accounts for just 8 have shown the vaccine didn't work pitalizations among children and est in a string of failures that has prompted an expert panel to recommend that doctors stop giving it to patients. Health officials reported Wednesday that the spray performed dismally for the third straight year, while the traditional flu shot - the one that stings worked reasonably well this winter. "We could find no evidence (the spray) was effective," said Dr Joseph Bresee, a flu expert at the US Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention The product, AstraZeneca's FluMist, was once regarded as the best vaccine for protecting children against flu. Only two years ago, officials advised doctors that whenever possible they should use FluMist on young kids instead of flu shots. On Wednesday, a federal advisory committee on immunization voted to retract its endorsement of the vaccine after preliminary CDC study results presented to the committee showed it provided no protection from the flu strain that made most people sick last year. Recommendations from the committee are usually adopted by the government, which sends the guidance

Most Americans get the vaccine in the form of a shot. FluMist is the only spray-in-the-nose vaccine on the market. It was first licensed in 2003 and is approved for healthy people ages 2 to 49. Unlike shots

out to doctors.

percent of the total flu vaccine doses produced each year. But because it's mainly used in kids, about a third of the flu vaccinations of children were done with FluMist, health offi-

well against the most common flu strains in any of the past three flu seasons. All flu vaccines performed poorly two winters ago, but data show FluMist performed poorly the two other seasons as well.



ST LEONARD: In this Oct 4, 2005 file photo, Danielle Holland reacts as she is given a FluMist influenza vaccination. —AP

No clear evidence

Early studies, including randomized trials coordinated by the manufacturer, showed FluMist was highly effective, and in children performed better than traditional flu shots. The numbers looked so good that in 2014 the committee made the unusual decision to advise doctors that FluMist was better at prevent-

During the winter that just ended, flu shots were nearly 50 percent effective against the flu strain that made most people sick. But FluMist didn't work at all, CDC researchers said, citing preliminary results from a study of about 2,300 US children. Experts were particularly worried that FluMist hasn't protected

young adults. But there's no evidence of a jump in flu deaths among kids who were thought to have been protected by FluMist, Bresee said.

It's not clear why the vaccine isn't working. Some have argued that FluMist's former reputation hinged on studies that were done before flu vaccine was encouraged for most children and when vaccination rates were much lower. Experts said it is possible that kids who have received the spray many times no longer respond as well to it. Bresee said some suspect that it is has to do with the decision a few years ago to incorporate four strains of flu in FluMist instead of the traditional three. It could be that the added strain reduced the body's response to another strain, he said.

AstraZeneca presented its own US study that found the FluMist vaccine was somewhat effective this past season, but still not did not work as well as flu shots. A spokeswoman said the company is evaluating the committee's decision. Many doctors, hospitals and flu clinics place their orders for flu vaccine early in the year. So the panel's decision may pose a problem for fall flu vaccination campaigns that target kids. "It would really disrupt the vaccine supply," said Dr William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University vaccine expert. —AP

TEMPORARY BLINDNESS TIED TO SMARTPHONE USE IN DARK

LONDON: Warning: Looking at your smartphone while lying in bed at night could wreak havoc on your vision. Two women went temporarily blind from constantly checking their phones in the dark, say doctors who are now alerting others to the unusual phenomenon. The solution: Make sure to use both eyes when looking at your smartphone screen in the dark.

In Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, doctors detailed the cases of the two women, ages 22 and 40, who experienced "transient smartphone blindness" for months. The women complained of recurring episodes of temporary vision loss for up to 15 minutes. They were subjected to variety of medical exams, MRI scans and heart tests. Yet doctors couldn't find anything wrong with them to explain the problem.

But minutes after walking into an eye specialist's office, the mystery was solved. "I simply asked them, 'What exactly were you doing when this happened?" recalled Dr. Gordon Plant of Moorfield's Eye Hospital in London. He explained that both women typically looked at their smartphones with only one eye while resting on their side in bed in the dark - their other eye was covered by the pillow. "So you have one eye adapted to the light because it's looking at the phone and the other eye is adapted to the dark," he said. When they

put their phone down, they couldn't see with the phone eye. That's because "it's taking many minutes to catch up to the other eye that's adapted to the dark," Plant

Easily avoidable

He said the temporary blindness was ultimately harmless, and easily avoidable, if people stuck to looking at their smartphones with both eyes. One of the women was relieved the short-term blindness didn't signal a more serious problem like an imminent stroke. He said the second woman was more skeptical and kept a rigorous monthslong diary tracking her fleeting vision loss before she finally believed him. But she couldn't stop checking her phone for messages from bed, he said.

Dr Rahul Khurana, a spokesman for the American Academy of Ophthalmology, called it a fascinating hypothesis but said two cases weren't enough to prove that one-eyed smartphone use in the dark caused the problem. He also doubted whether many smartphone users would experience the phenomenon. Khurana, who acknowledged that he's an avid cellphone user, said that he and his wife tried to recreate the scenario on a recent evening, but had difficulty checking their phones with only one eye. "It was very odd," he said. —AP

ATLAS ROCKET LAUNCHES FOR 1ST TIME SINCE MARCH GROUNDING

CAPE CANAVERAL: America's Atlas rockets are flying again, successfully launching a communications satellite for the Navy. The unmanned Atlas V rocket blasted into a brilliantly clear sky Friday morning. It was the first Atlas flight by rocket maker United Launch Alliance since March, when a fuel-valve problem popped up on a space station delivery for

The first stage of that rocket shut down six seconds too soon, but the second stage took control and put the Cygnus cargo ship in the proper orbit. United Launch Alliance grounded its Atlas fleet until it could fix the problem. Everything worked right Friday, according to the company, and the satellite reached its targeted orbit. The launch was the fifth in a series of advanced Navy communication satellites for use by the US military worldwide.

Less than two weeks ago, the company's Delta IV rocket hoisted a secret spy satellite for the National Reconnaissance Office. Atlas rockets have been launching for almost 60 years. John Glenn rode an Atlas to become the first American to orbit the Earth in 1962. The considerably bigger, more powerful Atlas V will be used to launch Boeing's Starliner capsules with space station crews in another couple of



CAPE CANAVERAL: A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket carrying a US Navy communications satellite lifts off from Complex 41 at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. —AP

RIO DE JANERIO: In this Monday, May 23, 2016 photo, an Aedes aegypti mosquito is kept in a glass tube at the Fiocruz institute which has been screening for mosquitos naturally infected with the Zika virus. —AP

ABORTION PILL REQUESTS SPIKE IN ZIKA OUTBREAK COUNTRIES

NEW YORK: Online requests for abortion pills spiked dramatically this year in Brazil, Ecuador and some other Latin American countries that ban abortions, an indication that women may be choosing to end pregnancies rather than risk birth defects stemming from a Zika virus outbreak. Researchers reported the trend after trying to understand how pregnant women are responding to the threat of Zikarelated birth defects in countries where abortion is banned but the government is warning women to avoid pregnancy because of Zika outbreaks.

The study, which was published Wednesday, has some major limitations. Researchers analyzed requests for abortion pills from just one online service, which is not believed to be representative of all the women in any of the nations studied. And the research does not answer how many abortions actually occurred in those countries.

But it gives a first-of-its-kind look at an issue many have been wondering about. In the US, the states where Zika outbreaks are considered most likely - like Florida and Texas - are places where abortion restrictions have been increasing and the number of abortion providers shrinking. "If Zika does begin to transmit locally, you're looking at situations for (US) women that may not be that different from countries like Brazil or Ecuador," said the lead author, Dr Abigail Aiken of the

University of Texas. The Zika virus, which is spread mainly by a tropical mosquito, causes only a mild illness, at worst, in most people. But during recent Zika outbreaks in Latin America, scientists determined that infection during pregnancy has led to severe brain-related birth defects. For every 100 pregnancies involving women infected early in their pregnancy, an estimated 1 to 15 will result in severe birth defects, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The researchers approached Women on Web, an international online service that tries to help women access abortion services.

Warnings and abortion bans

The nonprofit organization, which gets 1 million visits a month, provides online consultations. In some situations, Women on Web can arrange for shipment of a combination of pills that will induce an abortion. In other situations - like Brazil, where authorities have been confiscating medicines sent through the mail - Women on Web gives advice on where women might travel for an abortion, said Dr Rebecca Gomperts, a Dutch physician who founded the online service. That's why the study reflects requests for services, and not pills provided or actual abortions, said Gomperts, who is a co-author of the study.

The research was published online Wednesday by the New England Journal of Medicine. It looked at requests to Women on Web from 19 countries from 2010 through early this year, including eight where Zika outbreaks, government

warnings and abortion bans all were occurring at the same time. The researchers determined how many requests are made, and compared the average to how many requests came in between last November and early this March - when Zika outbreaks and government warnings were occurring in much of Latin America.

They found twice as many request from Brazil and Ecuador as normally occur, and nearly double in Venezuela and Honduras. The overall number of requests to the abortion service, while far higher than expected, is tiny compared with the number of abortions thought to be performed. The number of requests from Brazil was about 1,200. Yet an estimated 1.4 million abortions are performed there every year, even though it is illegal.

Some experts noted that the women who use this service may not be representative of women across the region because they have access to computers, they know about entities like Women on Web, and they may even have the resources to travel to get abortions. It's not clear whether poor women in rural areas - who tend to be more exposed to mosquitoes and are at a higher risk of infection - would be as likely to pursue abortions, said Paula Avila-Guillen, a program specialist at the New York-based Center for Reproductive Rights. She was not involved in the research but works on abortion issues with people in Latin American countries. —AP

HEALTH & SCIENCE





EXPERT PEDIATRICIAN DEFINES AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

More than two thousand people have an ASD in Kuwait

KUWAIT: Dr Elaine Clark, Consultant Pediatrician at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children (GOSH) in London, defines what is meant by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to help the public understand the condition this Autistic Pride Day.

"Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a term used that is used to describe a combination of difficulties which impacts on how an individual interacts with the world around them," Dr Clark explains. "ASD used to be referred to as autism, but specialists believe the term ASD better reflects how this neurodevelopment disorder presents across different individuals.

Individuals with ASD are motivated by what interests them and have difficulty seeing things from the perspective of other people. Individuals diagnosed with ASD demonstrate difficulties in how they communicate and interact with other people, in addition to this they may demonstrate unusual patterns of behavior or interests. "The reason that this is called a spectrum disorder is that there is a wide variability in how individuals present. Not all children display every listed feature."

The underlying cause of ASD is not yet known. It is believed to be a neurodevelopmental disorder which means ent genetic and environmental causes which may potentially have caused ASD, so it is likely that there are many different causes of ASD." Dr Clark states, "There is no cure for ASD but there are many things that can be done to make easier for the individual and the family.

As a neuro-developmental disorder ASD may occur alongside other difficulties such as general developmental impairment; Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD); difficulties with motor coordination (clumsiness); sleep difficulties; challenging behavior or a learning disability. This is not always the case - some individuals may have normal intelligence or have a specific area of skill or interest where they show above average intel-

Guidance indicates that assessment should be carried out within a multidisciplinary team which may include pediatrician, psychologist, speech and language therapist and occupational therapist. What are the features to look

Communication

"Within ASD language abilities can range non-verbal to those who have an excellent use of vocabulary." Dr

others may begin to develop language early in infancy but then become silent or appear to lose their language skills. This would be an early indication to seek professional attention.

Other early signs can be when a child is heard to frequently repeat words or use learnt phrases for no apparent reason. For those who develop the use of language, they may be a limitation to how much they use this to communicate with others. Individuals with ASD may also inter-

pret language very literally. "For those who are better at communicating," Dr Clark continues, "they may not know when to speak or when to listen. They a long period of time."

Clark describes. "Young children may

may be selective in their attention not always responding, or talking about topics they are interested in for **Social Interaction** "Individuals with ASD can vary in how socially interested they are." Dr

Typically developing children will look towards other people, however individuals with ASD may have limited use of eye contact and are less observant of people. They are less able to learn how to interpret how people use facial expression and

appear to be happily occupied in a

world of their own, but have no inter-

est in what others are doing and have

little response when other approach

them, or indeed move away when

also affects development of play Some individuals are more socially motivated and will respond when others approach them. However, they can find it difficult to make or keep friendships as they do not know instinctively what to do or say. Some can be very controlling in their relationships and show a preference for following rules

body language to communicate; it

Unusual patterns of **Behavior or Interests**

and can become very upset when

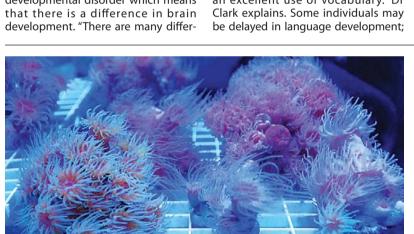
others do not follow the rules.

- Repetitive habits or movements may be observed e.g. hand flapping, spinning
- Repetitive play
- There may be an insistence on things being carried out in a specific

way and extreme distress can be shown at small changes to their routine • Distress may also be observed at times of change (transitions)

- Obsessions may be seen relating to certain toys, people, activities, TV
- programs • There may be preoccupations with unusual objects or subjects for
- their age Some individuals with ASD can show unusual responses to sensory experiences in the environment

Great Ormond Street Hospital in London is recognized as one of the few truly world-class hospitals for children. As a global leader, GOSH has top clinical and research experts working every day to find new and better ways to treat children. While breakthroughs and medical expertise are essential to the treatment of patients, GOSH also places great emphasis on the support and care provided for children by nurturing an open and supportive atmosphere, ensuring that parents and patients are well informed and closely involved in the treatment process. Children receive the highest standards of care and attention from the expert team of medical and support staff during their stay at GOSH, and are always treated with respect, trust, concern and openness.



HONOLULU: In a Thursday, Feb 11, 2016 photo, rare species of Hawaiian coral being used to create a seed bank grows in a tank at the Anuenue Fisheries Research Center's coral nursery. —AP

EXPERTS DEMAND INCREASED EFFORT TO SAVE CORAL REEFS

HONOLULU: As the largest international gathering of coral reef experts comes to a close, scientists and policy makers are moving ahead with plans for action to save the world's reefs, which are being rapidly damaged. "We are not ready to write the obituary for coral reefs," James Cook University professor Terry Hughes, who is also the president of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies in Australia, said about the "unprecedented" move by the scientific community. Scientists are not known for their political activism, he said, but they felt this crisis warranted such

A call to action from three Pacific island nations whose reefs are in the crosshairs of the largest and longest-lasting coral bleaching

event in recorded history was presented Friday at the conclusion of the International Coral Reef Symposium in Honolulu. The Associated Press was given advance access to the call for action and the scientific community's response.

The heads of state from Palau, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands attended the conference and will provide a plan to help save their ailing coral reefs, which are major contributors to their local economies and the daily sustenance of their people. The call to action, signed by the three presidents, asked for better collaboration between the scientific community and local governments, saying there needs to be more funding and a strengthened commitment to protecting the reefs.

"If our coral reefs are further degraded, then our reef-dependent communities will suffer and be displaced," the letter said. They also called for more integration of "traditional knowledge, customary practices and scientific research" in building a comprehensive coral reef policy. In response to the letter, the scientific community at the conference said: "We pledge to take up the 13th ICRS Leaders' Call to Action, and will work together with national leaders of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the world to curb the continued loss of coral reefs."

Killer bleach

Bleaching is a process where corals,

stressed by hot ocean waters and other environmental changes, lose their color as the symbiotic algae that lives within them is released. Severe or concurrent years of bleaching can kill coral reefs, as has been documented over the past two years in oceans around the world. Scientists expect a third year of bleaching to last through the end of 2016.

In the northern third of the Great Barrier Reef, close to half of the corals have died in the past three months, said Hughes, who focuses his research there. The area of the reef that suffered most is extremely remote, he said, with no pollution, very little fishing pressure and no coastal development. "That's an absolute catastrophe," Hughes said. "There's nowhere to hide from climate change."—AP



Kuwait Times 248 33 199



OOREDOO'S RAMADAN TVC WINS FIRST PLACE IN 'VIRAL' FORUM

ARTISTIC WORK PIECE THAT FOCUSES ON RAMADAN'S TRUE SPIRITUAL ESSENCE



Ooredoo Kuwait's Senior Manager for Branding Fatima Al-Mukhaizeem (left) and Corporate Communication Executive at Ooredoo Kuwait Nazem Al-Ghabra.

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, recently announced that its Ramadan 2016 TVC ranked first place in Tasaweeq's 'Viral' Forum, an annual event that aims to evaluate television commercials produced by different public and private entities in Kuwait in Ramadan. The award was presented by Tasaweeq's judging panel during a celebration ceremony that took place at Al-Shaheed Park on Wednesday evening, and was received by Ooredoo Kuwait's Senior Manager for Branding, Fatima Al-Mukhaizeem.

Commenting on this success, Mukhaizeem said: "We're glad to see that our television commercial this year succeeded in reaching

the hearts of as many audiences as possible, not just in Kuwait but across the entire region. We wanted to focus on the true spiritual essence of the Holy month of Ramadan, a very special and sacred time of the year, and the connection between man and God."

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire crew who worked on this production from A to Z, especially the team at Senyar Productions for their amazing execution to this project. I would like to also thank Tasaweeq for holding such an important annual event, which helps raise people's awareness on the importance of television commercials," she added.

The judging panel for this year includes Dr

le, Saleh Al-Shebl from King Fahad University's ion. College of Mass Communication, Dr Fatima Al-Salem from Kuwait University's College of Mass Communication, media and corporate communications specialist Lama Bouresli, Kuwaiti director Faisal Al-Ibrahim, and branding specialist Khaled Al-Ajeel. The ad was

Tasaweeq's social media channels.

The star-studded production's lyrics are written by Emirati lyricist Ali Al-Khawar and the music is composed by Kuwaiti composer Fahad Al-Nasser. The song is a duet performed by Saudi singer Rashed Al-Majed and Egyptian star Angham, and features Tunisian

among 48 competing entries, and the voting

was open for one week on an online poll on

singer Lutfi Boushnaq. The lyrics focus on the simplicity of making a strong connection with God by asking for His help sincerely and honestly, and it touches on the themes of God's support and unconditional love to all people, regardless of their background.

Ooredoo's TVC featured a number of well-known characters, including Turkish actor Burak Ozcivit, Kuwaiti retired actress Raja Mohammed and the actor couple Fouad Ali and Haya Abdulsalam, in addition to a number of social media influences known for their philanthropist work, such as Safa Al-Failakawi, an advocate of adoption, in addition to Kuwaiti university students in the USA, Group 228, Dr Majeda Al-Yatama, Sundus Al-Qattan,

and Oman footballer Ali Al-Habsi.

The commercial is produced by Senyar Productions, and is directed by Italian director Marco Bellone. This is the first joint production between Ooredoo Group's operating companies in the region, but it is not the first collaboration between Ooredoo Kuwait and Senyar; the production company is behind last year's Ramadan commercial, which won 3 national awards for its innovation and creativity. The commercial focused on Kuwait's golden era of television in the 1970's through the





OOREDOO'S VOLUNTEERS VISIT YARMOUK HEALTHY CITY



oredoo's volunteer program members have recently visited Al-Yarmouk healthy city to learn about the health initiatives and activities, in addition to learning about the Q8 Heart Saver initiative, which is a program accredited by the American Heart Association aims to familiarize its members with its accredited programs.

Fareed Al-Fouzan, one of the cofounders of the Q8 Life Saver initiative, welcomed the volunteers and gave them a tour in the center. Explaining the goal behind the initiative, he said: "We are pleased to meet Ooredoo's volunteers to provide them with a clearer idea about the city's activities. Our initiative aims at providing CPR and first aid training to 10% of

the city's residents, to help them contribute to the city's overall wellbeing."

Commenting on the visit, Mijbil Alalyoub, Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait said: "As a company we always aim at fully support all initiatives and humanitarian campaigns, which benefits the local community with all its categories. Also,

we want to spread the awareness about different causes among individuals that will help improving the community in different ways. In addition to reinforce the voluntarily concept in the Kuwaiti society and encourage youth to

participate it different voluntarily activities."

Ooredoo Kuwait has recently announced a
number of key initiatives for Ramadan, mostly

focused on its volunteer program. Ooredoo's volunteer program is fully operating the daily iftar meals during the holy month at Ooredoo's tent. Additionally, Ooredoo collaborated with Abdullah Al-Nouri institution to aid Syrian refugees in different part of the world, in addition to other charitable initiatives.



he Australian College of Kuwait's (ACK) "Smoking Awareness Initiative" has won the prestigious Kuwait Oil Company's (KOC) CEO Health, Safety, Security and Environment (HSSE) Award 2016. The annual ceremony is hosted by KOC, playing an important role in recognizing some of the most outstanding initiatives in the field of HSSE, with ACK being the only educational institution awarded for its efforts this year.

s year. This is the third time ACK's "Smoking Awareness Initiative" has been recognized. The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative has previously received recognition from Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) during its "Annual CEO HSE Award" event in 2015 and the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) in 2016. As part of the College-wide initiative, students from ACK's Engineering program designed and constructed models to demonstrate the effects of smoking on

els were then handed over to ACK's Business students who prepared activities and presentations for school visits to interact and engage directly with young children and educate them on the harms of smoking.

Representatives of ACK's Smoking Awareness Committee - Advisor to the Chairman Dr. Usameh Jamali, Academic Advisor Rawa Al-Wadani and Business Development Manager Mariam Al-Maraghi - received the award from KOC's CEO Jamal Jaafar.





'BUBA' KIDS ACCOUNT CUSTOMERS CELEBRATE GIRGEAN AT BURGAN BANK'S DISCOVERY CENTER, AVENUES MALL BRANCHES

urgan Bank recently concluded its Girgean celebration for all BuBa kids account customers. The event, which took place at the bank's Discovery Center and the Avenues Mall branches on 16 and 17 June 2016, witnessed a large turnout by children and their families who enjoyed a wide array of fun-filled activities.

As an integral part of Ramadan and Kuwaiti culture, the bank's Girgean

visits awakened a sense of kindness and giving within the hearts of all people, during the holy month of Ramadan. During the event, the bank distributed sweets and chocolates, while children were entertained with the bank's "BuBa" Kids Account character.

It is worth mentioning that Burgan Bank's support to this initiative falls under its recently launched fullfledged community program entitled 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change. This program sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural, social and health initiatives. Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the Kuwaiti

TAMDEEN GROUP LAUNCHED 'MY BOOK MY FRIEND' PROGRAM AT 360 MALL





—photos by Joseph Shagra

he program is designed to revive interest in reading and to increase the awareness of the impact of reading on communities, families and children.
Embodying an aim to open to different cultures, and help them reach highest levels of success in their future lives, through reading "Our objective is to create a nation of readers." Muath Al-Roumi, General Manager - Corporate Marketing Group at Tamdeen.

During his speech, Roumi stated Tamdeen Group's vision is to change the world for the better and make 'My book, my friend' program to be a national activity for everyone. He expressed his sadness for the Arab world lags far behind when it comes to a culture of reading, especially the Kuwaitis' community where he hoped to be known as nation of well-read individuals in the near future.

"The Arab world was known for its story-telling culture which does not exist any-more. We are not encouraging our children enough to be imaginative and adventurous with their thoughts and ideas. We can only do this if children love to read, but for that to be happen we need their parents to also love reading by saving this tradition by sharing the stories with our young children and the wider community." Roumi explained.

He added "We will host weekly reading sessions from July 23 for everyone to partici-

pate at 360 Mall. The themes will cover science, fiction, history, geography, sports, arts, culture amongst others. We also encourage everyone to take the reading pledge at #MyBookMyFriend and encourage your family and friends to join."

The event was attended and addressed by prominent Kuwaiti authors and poets Dr. Naif Al Mutawa, Hayatt Al Yaqout, Amal Randy, Yousef Khalifa, Nejoud Al-Yagout and Heba Mendany. The six Kuwaiti authors endorsed the program which aspires to engage at least 5000 Kuwaiti adults to read to 20000 children in the age group of 5 to 12 years old by the end of 2017.

Tamdeen group asked all the Kuwaiti

authors and poets to contact them to be part of 'my book my friend' program. There will be also a book donation drive at 360 Mall where people can deposit old books in good condition. Since the acquisition of Tamdeen Real Estate Company in 1996, Tamdeen Group has grown dynamically into the regional powerhouse that it is today.

Consisting of Real Estate Development, Investment and Entertainment arms the group has consistently delivered growth for its partners and shareholders alike. The success of Tamdeen Group is defined by its continuous evolution, and outstanding track record of innovation in its offering. Several international awards and recognition have followed for innovative design, state-of-theart architecture, outstanding marketing and pioneering use of technology.

TAMDEEN's vision has had positive impacts on the urban and social landscape of Kuwait through significant projects that add prestige to the community it serves. Tamdeen Group's subsidiaries are the engines that promote the growth and development of the group. These entities include: Tamdeen Real Estate, Tamdeen Investment, Kuwait National Cinema, Tamdeen Shopping Centers, Tamdeen Entertainment Co.











The National Bank of Kuwait shared iftar with firefighters at the Hawally Fire Station recently, in appreciation to their efforts throughout the year.

Congratulations



ou are certainly the most beautiful gift that we have received in our lifetime. Happy Birthday to the most wonderful daughter in the whole world! From Baba, Amma. Aanish and Afroz.

NESPRESSO WELCOMES THE MONTH OF RAMADAN

very year around the world, masses of people come together to share moments with friends, families and communities to honor Ramadan. It is a time to welcome our neighbors and appreciate special moments together. Coffee has always played an integral role in Arabic hospitality, a sign of respect and generosity. To celebrate Ramadan and the spirit of welcoming, Nespresso is marking the occasion with a campaign that takes coffee drinking to a new level, allowing proud hosts to create exceptional coffee experiences for visiting friends and family.

Building on the successful 2015 campaign, Nespresso is continuing to pay testament to the Arabic cultures and customs, but this year is bringing a unique modern twist to the execution. The brand has partnered with Karim Zakria, an Arabic Calligrapher, to create an eye catching piece of digital calligraphy. The bespoke design - that simply reads "Ahlan Bikom" or "welcome", exquisitely captures this guiding principle of Ramadan and will adorn all of Nespresso's campaign materials.

"One of the things I most look forward

to about Ramadan is the time I get to spend catching up with the many varied people in my life, from casual acquaintances through to those who I am closest with. When Nespresso approached me with this project, it really made perfect sense, as coffee is an important sign of hospitality both during Ramadan and throughout the rest of the year" said Zakria.

"Expressing the traditional art of calligraphy via a digital medium represents the evolution of Ramadan and what it means to our society today, the fusion of old and new to create something beautiful that celebrates a custom that is so special to us."



Almond Chai Tea Latte

Throughout the month long period, Nespresso is welcoming coffee connoisseurs to the Boutique where they will find all the elements they can to give their visitors a warm welcome. This includes a selection of exclusively designed Ramadan recipes guaranteed to delight guests. In the Boutique, there will be the chance to learn how to prepare these recipes, as well as sample the exquisite blend of spices and flavours of the region which have been used in the creations:

- Kazaar Con Panna combines the intense flavors of the Kazaar Grand Cru with the sweetness of dates, the ideal drink to enjoy after iftar.

 Oriental Spiced Delight offers a distinctive and rich coffee taste, which is complemented by an aromatic cinnamon kick.

- Orange Cappuccino has a strong character with a fruity undertone, served warm.

- Caramel and Chai Tea Latte brings together the satiny smooth flavor of the Dulsao do Brasil with the full flavor of Chai Tea, softened with a rich caramel.

Those looking to delight acquaintances with a token of their generosity, a trait intrinsic to Arabic culture, can take advantage of a special promotion [Receive up to KD 30 immediate discount



Kazaar Con Panna

when you purchase any Nespresso Milk-Solution machine, also receive a Set of Touch Espresso Cups when you purchase 15 sleeves of your choice]. Any purchases made will be delightfully packaged with a limited edition Ramadan gift wrap.

Further information about the campaign can be found on a microsite on Nespresso's online platform (www.buynespresso.com). Here, users can discover stories from a selection of Club Members, sharing how they celebrate Ramadan and how coffee features in their celebrations. They will also be able to discover the exquisite new recipes and follow the step-by-step guides.

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03:10 Wreckers 04:35 Futureworld 06:20 The Magnificent Seven 08:25 Punks Seven Years In Tibet Charge Of The Light Brigade 12:15 14:20 Overboard

One Summer Love 17:45 Waking Up In Reno Crimes And Misdemeanors 19:15 Cold Mountain 23:35 **True Confessions**

Vigilante Force

01:20

03:25 Natural World 04:15 Into The Pride 05:02 Lion Man: One World African 05:49 Cute To Killer Treetop Cat Rescue 06:36

Treetop Cat Rescue 07:25 Dog TV 08:15 Restoration Wild 09:10 Wild Capture School 09:35 Wild Capture School 10:05 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner

11:00 Dog TV 11:55 In Search Of The King Cobra 12:50 Bahama Blue 13:45 Wildest Middle East 14:40 Yankee Jungle15:35 Biggest And Baddest

16:30 Ninja Sharks 17:25 Wildest Latin America 18:20 Restoration Wild 19:15 Wild Capture School 19:40 Wild Capture School 20:10 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner 20:35 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner

21:05 Village Vets 21:35 Village Vets 22:00 Restoration Wild 22:55 In Search Of The King Cobra 23:50 Gator Boys 00:45 Gator Boys 01:40 Bahama Blue

Wildest Middle East Discovery

03:15 Outback Truckers 04:05 Outback Truckers 05:00 Outback Truckers 06:00 Yukon Men Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up 06:50 07:40 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater

08:30 Dirty Money 08:55 Storage Wars Canada 09:20 Storage Hunters UK 09:45 How Do They Do It? How It's Made: Dream Cars 10:35 Alaskan Bush People 11:25 The Last Alaskans

Siberian Cut 13:05 Dirty Money 13:30 Storage Wars Canada Storage Hunters UK 14:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up 15:10 16:00 Fast N'Loud: Demolition

Theate 16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars 17:15 How Do They Do It? 17:40 Fat N' Furious: Rolling

Thunder 18:30 Street Outlaws: New Orleans 19:20 So You Think You'd Survive? 20:10 Storage Wars Canada Storage Hunters UK 21:00 Impossible Engineering 21:50 Telescope 23:30 Fast N'Loud: Demolition

Theater 00:20 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up 01:10 Impossible Engineering

Siscovery

03:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman 03:50 You Have Been Warned 06:20 How It's Made Adventure 8: Zoo Games 07:50 Dick'n' Dom Go Wild 08:40 You Have Been Warned

12:00 How It's Made 13:40 Mythbusters 17:00 Marooned With Ed Stafford 17:50 Ultimate Survival 18:40 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse

19:30 Out Of Egypt 20:20 Ways To Save The Planet 22:00 Untamed & Uncut 00:30 Ecopolis 02:10 Through The Wormhole With



03:00 03:48 Murder Among Friends 04:36 True Crime With Aphrodite

05:24 California Investigator 05:49 California Investigator Southern Fried Homicide 07:00 Dr G: Medical Examiner 07:50 I Almost Got Away With It The Perfect Murder 16:10 Nightmare Next Door 21:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron

22:00 Disappeared 22:50 True Crime With Aphrodite

23:40 Obsession: Dark Desires 00:30 Paranormal Lockdown The Haunted



03:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman

06:12 Food Factory USA 07:00 Food Factory 11:10 How Do They Do It? How It's Made 15:20 Secret Space Escapes

16:10 Strip The Cosmos 17:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman 19:30 Through The Wormhole

21:10 Capturing The Universe: In 4k 22:50 Uncovering Aliens 23:40 Food Factory USA Capturing The Universe: In 4k



03:00 Kids Baking Championships 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage 05:00

03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage

06:00 Man Fire Food

Chopped

Chopped

08:00

10:00

Kingdom

Kingdom

07:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin

Amazing Wedding Cakes

The Pioneer Woman

Siba's Table: Fast Feasts

Ching's Amazing Asia

Guy's Grocery Games

Man Finds Food

19:30 Luke Nguyen's United

21:00 Chopped South Africa

Cutthroat Kitchen

01:00 Chopped South Africa

20:00 Cutthroat Kitchen

22:00 Man v Food

02:00 Man v Food

03:40 Shipping Wars 04:05 Shipping Wars

05:00 Lost Worlds

Ax Men

Swamp People

09:20 American Restoration 09:45 Counting Cars: Best Of

Counting Cars

Grave Trade

Storage Wars

Storage Wars

Counting Cars

Swamp People

American Pickers

22:15 Pawn Stars 22:40 Officers And Gentlemen

Pawn Stars

18:30 Grave Trade

16:00 Ax Men 16:50 Search For The Lost Giants

Shark Wranglers The Curse Of Oak Island

12:15 American Pickers

10:35 Counting Cars 11:00 Counting Cars

07:40 Search For The Lost Giants 08:30 Shipping Wars

American Restoration

04:30

06:00

13:05

13:55

14:45

19:20

20:35

21:00

21:50

23:30

00:20

00:45

23:00 Mystery Diners

04:10 Hank Zipzer 04:35 Binny And The Ghost 05:00 Violetta 05:45 The Hive 05:50 Mouk

06:00 Hank Zipzer 13:00 06:25 Sofia The First 15:00 06:50 Gravity Falls 07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug 17:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes18:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts And Cat Noir 07:40 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug 18:30 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts And Cat Noir 19:00 Luke Nguyen's United 08:05 Shake It Up

08:30 Shake It Up 08:55 Hannah Montana Forever Wizards Of Waverly Place 09:45 16 Wishes 12:05 The 7D 12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse 12:20 Austin & Ally

12:45 Girl Meets World 13:10 Best Friends Whenever 15:15 Descendants Wicked World 15:20 Jessie

17:25 Liv And Maddie 17:50 The 7D 18:00 Radio Rebel **Evermoor Chronicles** 20:45 Good Luck Charlie 21:10 H2O: Just Add Water Binny And The Ghost 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

23:10 Hank Zipzer Binny And The Ghost 00:00 Violetta 00:45 The Hive Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 01:40 Hank Zipzer Binny And The Ghost

02:30 Violetta

03:10 Henry Hugglemonster 03:20 Calimero 03:35 Zou 03:45 Loopdidoo 04:00 Art Attack 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 Art Attack 07:00 The Hive 07:10 Zou Loopdidoo

07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 08:05 Sofia The First Miles From Tomorrow 08:30 08:45 PJ Masks 09:10 The Lion Guard Doc McStuffins 10:00 Sofia The First 10:25 Unbungalievable

Goldie & Bear 11:00 Jake And The Never Land **Pirates** The Lion Guard 11:50 Miles From Tomorrow 12:15 Henry Hugglemonster Sheriff Callie's Wild West 12:55 Unbungalievable13:00 Sofia The First

Goldie & Bear 13:50 Miles From Tomorrow 14:15 The Lion Guard Mickey Mouse Clubhouse 15:10 Doc McStuffins 15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates

16:00 Sofia The First 16:25 Jungle Cubs Aladdin 17:15 The Lion Guard 17:40 Goldie & Bear Doc McStuffins

Pirates

21:50 Jungle Cubs 22:20 Aladdin

22:50 Zou

23:35 Zou

22:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons

Calimero

Art Attack

Art Attack

Calimero

23:50 Loopdidoo

00:45 Calimero

01:15 Loopdidoo

02:30 Loopdidoo

06:00 Boyster 06:10 Super Matrak

07:25 K.C. Undercover

08:15 Annedroids

Cars

08:40 Lab Rats

11:20 Lab Rats

Supa Strikas

11:10 Phineas And Ferb

11:45 K.C. Undercover

Kickin' It

16:30 Kirby Buckets

Much Everything 17:25 K.C. Undercover

18:40 K.C. Undercover

20:00 Kirby Buckets 20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty

20:55 K.C. Undercover

22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse

23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am

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Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

Much Everything

21:20 Supa Strikas

22:10 Mighty Med

21:45 Lab Rats

18:15 Lab Rats

Supa Strikas

19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse

19:10 Annedroids19:35 Star vs The Forces Of Evil

15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse 15:15 Rocket Monkeys

16:05 Star vs The Forces Of Evil

16:55 Gamer's Guide To Pretty

13:30 Phineas & Ferb: The O.W.C.A.

Guardians Of The Galaxy

Star vs The Forces Of Evil

01:00 Zou

02:20 Zou

01:30

07:00

Files 14:20

17:50

23:05 Henry Hugglemonster

00:30 Henry Hugglemonster

18:30 Sofia The First 19:00 PJ Masks Unbungalievable 19:30 The Lion Guard 20:00 Goldie & Bear

01:30 Emmerdale Sofia The First 21:00 Jake And The Never Land 21:25 PJ Masks

people ED

03:05 Places We Go 03:30 Carnival Eats 04:20 Bangkok Airport Adventure

John Torode's Malaysian 06:50 Street Food Around The World Carnival Eats 09:45

07:40 Miguel's Feasts 08:05 One Man & His Campervan Jose Andres: Dinner In Haiti World's Best Chefs 10:35 Maximum Foodie 11:25 This Is Brazil

12:15 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita 12:40 A Marriage Of Flavours 13:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of

Australia 13:35 Testing The Menu With Nic 14:00 Meat v Veg 14:30 American Food Battle

14:55 Places We Go 15:25 Carnival Eats 15:50 Carnival Eats 16:20 Bangkok Airport 17:15 Bangkok Airport18:10 City Chase Marrakech

19:05 Places We Go 19:30 Carnival Eats 20:00 Carnival Eats 20:25 Bangkok Airport 21:15 Bangkok Airport 22:05 City Chase Marrakech

22:55 A Marriage Of Flavours 23:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia 23:45 Testing The Menu With Nic

Watt 00:10 Meat v Veg 00:35 American Food Battle 01:00 One Man & His Campervan 01:25 One Man & His Campervan 01:50 Poh & Co.

02:15 World's Best Chefs

NAT GEO

02:40 Testing The Menu With Nic

03:45 Animal Fight Club 04:40 Fish Tank Kings 05:35 Unlikely Animal Friends 06:30 Monster Fish 07:25 Salmon Wars 1000 Days For The Planet 09:15 Mission Critical 10:10 My Dog Ate What? 11:05 Bandit Patrol 12:00 That Shouldn't Fly
12:55 Ultimate Animal Countdown

13:50 Mission Critical 14:45 Animal Fight Club 15:40 Incredible Diggers 16:35 Hunting The Hammerhead 17:30 World's Deadliest Snakes 18:25 Swamp Men 19:20 Animal Fight Club

20:10 Incredible Diggers 21:00 Hunting The Hammerhead 21:50 World's Deadliest Snakes 22:40 Swamp Men 23:30 That Shouldn't Fly 00:20 Ultimate Animal Countdown 01:10 Mission Critical

NATIONAL

GEOGRAPHIC

CHANNEL HD

02:00 Raptor Force

03:20 Brain Games 03:50 Locked Up Abroad

05:40 X: The Generation That

06:35 Genius By Stephen Hawking

04:45 Megacities

Changed The World

07:30 Brain Games 07:55 Brain Games

08:25 Wicked Tuna

10:15 Megacities

11:10 Building Wild

16:00 Wicked Tuna

20:00 Wicked Tuna

09:20 Alaska Fish Wars

12:05 Cesar To The Rescue 13:00 Cesar To The Rescue

14:00 Outsiders: Living Off The

17:00 Genius By Stephen Hawking

20:50 Genius By Stephen Hawking

01:00 Genius By Stephen Hawking 02:00 Nazi Megastructures

Edge 15:00 The Great Human Race

18:00 Nazi Megastructures

21:40 Nazi Megastructures

22:30 Nazi Underworld 23:20 Alaska Fish Wars

02:55 Nazi Underworld

00:10 Wicked Tuna

19:00 Nazi Underworld

02:50 Lion Ranger



American Restoration

03:00 Coronation Street 03:25 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs 03:50 Masterpiece With Alan

Titchmarsh 04:40 Masterpiece With Alan 05:30 Masterpiece With Alan

Titchmarsh 06:20 Midsomer Murders 08:00 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs The Doctor Blake Mysteries 13:15 Don't Tell The Bride

15:00 Sunday Night At The 15:55 Doctor Thorne 16:50 Lewis Doc Martin

18:30 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of 19:00 Sunday Night At The Palladium 19:50 Don't Tell The Bride

Don't Tell The Bride 21:30 Midsomer Murders23:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries 00:10 Masterpiece With Alan

Titchmarsh 01:00 Emmerdale 02:00 Coronation Street 02:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries

MOVIES HD **ACTION** 47 Ronin 07:00

Airplane vs. Volcano Age Of Dinosaurs 10:30 Extinction 13:30 47 Ronin 15:45 The Berlin File

18:00 Dying Of The Light Edge Of Tomorrow 20:00 22:00 Mercy 00:00 Dying Of The Light 01:45

MOVIES HD COMEDY

Three Men And A Little Lady 05:45 The Hundred-Foot Journey 08:00 Mr. Destiny Three Men And A Little Lady 12:00 The Hundred-Foot Journey 14:15 Planet 51 Mr. Destiny

Cas & Dylan 18:00 The Starving Games 20:00

What We Do In The Shadows Mr. Destiny The Starving Games

M MOVIES DRAMA

03:00 The Disappearance Of Eleanor Rigby: Him The Melancholy Fantastic Tracks The French Minister A Valentine's Date

09:00 The Melancholy Fantastic 13:00 15:00 Foreverland 17:00 The French Minister 19:00 The Disappearance Of

Eleanor Rigby: Her A Mother Betrayed 23:00 Cake The French Minister 01:00

OM MOVIES HD

03:30 Turner & Hooch Ice Age: The Meltdown 05:15 Ernest Goes To Camp 07:00 09:00 11:00 A Bug's Life 13:00 A Far Off Place

15:00 Paddington The Parent Trap 17:00 19:15 The Mighty Ducks

Paddington

21:15

23:15

01:15

FAMILY The Gabby Douglas Story

D2: The Mighty Ducks

The Mighty Ducks

Marco Macaco 22:00 MOVIES HID Daddy I'm A Zombie 23:30 Hatching **FESTIVAL** The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble

12:00

14:00

17:45

20:00

22:00

00:00

03:00

03:30

05:00

07:00

09:00

10:45

12:45

16:45

18:45

20:00

21:00

22:00

Broadway

00:00

01:15

02:10

47 RONIN ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

KEANU REEVES

47 RONIN

When A Man Loves A Woman 06:45 Listen To Me Marlon 09:00 **United Passions** Middle Of Nowhere 13:00 Sunshine On Leith

15:00 Listen To Me Marlon 19:00 Begin Again 21:00 **Every Day** 23:00 The Doctor Listen To Me Marlon 01:00

OM MOVIES HD

Boychoir Tomorrowland The Best Of Me 04:45 07:00 Boychoir 10:45 Tomorrowland 13:00 Miss Julie

From Up On Poppy Hill 17:00 The Rewrite The Imitation Game 19:00 Still Alice 23:00 October Gale

Break Point

01:00

OM MOVIES HD

KIDS 03:30 Hook 06:00 Scooby-Doo! Moon Monster Madness 07:30 Hatching Tom And Jerry: Spy Quest

10:30 **Pixies** 12:00 Hook Marco Macaco 14:30

16:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie Tom Ánd Jerry: Spy Quest 18:00

The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble

OM MOVIES HD **PREMIERE** 04:00 **Barely Lethal** 06:00 50 To 1

Project Almanac

Ballers

The Wire

Yesterday

Daybreak

Daybreak

The Knick

23:00 Lewis Black: Black On

The Knick

People vs O.J. Simpson

Grey Gardens

The Leisure Class

Witness Protection

Love Crimes Of Kabul

Love Crimes Of Kabul

From The Earth To The Moon

American Crime Story: The

OM FIRST

MORE

Funny Or Die Presents

So Undercover

Criminal Minds Rosewood Prison Break A Gift Of Miracles 12:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show Seventh Son 14:00 Graceland Stonehearst Asylum 15:00 Godzilla Last Knights

05:00

06:00

08:00

S.H.I.E.L.D.

Live Good Morning America The Ellen DeGeneres Show 18:00 Prison Break Kidnapping Mr. Heineken 19:00 Bones Marvel's Agents Of 20:00 S.H.I.E.L.D.

ON FIRST

The Ellen DeGeneres Show

Good Morning America

Marvel's Agents Of

Prison Break

21:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond **Borders** 22:00 Code Black 23:00 Damien

00:00 Rosewood 01:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond **Borders** Code Black 02:00

nickelodeon HD

03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninia 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 From The Earth To The Moon 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 15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants 16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

16:36 Harvey Beaks 17:00 Get Blake 17:24 Harvey Beaks 17:48 The Loud House

18:12 Henry Danger 18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn 19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School

19:24 Game Shakers 19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants 20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 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

02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants

KIDNAPPING MR. HEINEKEN ON OSN MOVIES PREMIERE HD



CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016



0065

00421

00386

00677

Iceland

India

Ibiza (Spain)

Indian Ocean

0034

00354

0091

00873

Singapore

Slovakia

Slovenia

Solomon Islands

Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

		hts on Sunday 26/6/2016		KAC	678	Muscat/Abu Dhabi	17:50	KAC	362	Colombo	08:20
Airlines THY	Flt 772	Route Istanbul	Time 00:10	QTR JZR	1080 483	Doha Istanbul	17:55 18:20	UAE ABY	855 125	Dubai Sharjah	08:25 09:05
JZR	267	Beirut	00:10	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05
JZR	239	Amman	00:50	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35	IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:10
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	QTR	1070	Doha	09:20
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35	IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC KAC	542 618	Cairo	18:55	FDB SAW	055	Dubai	09:40 09:45
JZR KAC	539 1802	Cairo Cairo	01:20 01:30	KAC	166	Doha Paris/Rome	18:55 19:05	CCE	703 341	Damascus Alexandria	10:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	UAE	873	Dubai	10:40
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	MEA	404	Beirut	11:00
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	JZR	561	Sohag	11:25
MSC CEB	403 018	Asyut Manila	02:10 02:20	ABY MSR	123 606	Sharjah Luxor	19:15 19:30	FDB SAW	075 701	Dubai Damascus	12:25 12:35
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35	FEG	961	Sohag	12:55
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
MSC	415	Sohag	03:10	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50	QTR	1078	Doha	14:05
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	KAC	102	New York/London	19:55	KAC	672	Dubai	14:05
ETD MSR	305 612	Abu Dhabi Cairo	03:15 03:15	DLH KAC	634 514	Frankfurt Tehran	20:05 20:10	AXB KKK	393 6502	Kozhikode Istanbul	14:10 14:10
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	MEA	402	Beirut	20:10	JZR	1773	Jeddah	14:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	FDB	057	Dubai	14:20
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	JZR	802	Taif	20:55	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30
LMU	510	Cairo Alexandria	04:00	FDB ETD	5053 307	Dubai Abu Dhabi	20:55 21:05	KAC KAC	742 788	Dammam	14:55 15:00
JZR ETH	555 3403	Addis Ababa/Riyadh	04:15 04:30	UAE	859	Dubai	21:05	KAC	788 529	Jeddah Jeddah	15:00
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KLM	417	Amsterdam	21:25	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
QTR	8511	Doha	05:15	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:50	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	QTR	1082	Doha	21:55	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
BAW FDB	157 5061	London Dubai	06:40 07:15	GFA ETD	219 309	Bahrain Abu Dhabi	22:00 22:10	RJA FDB	640 051	Amman Dubai	16:00 16:10
KAC	382	Delhi	07:13	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	RBG	551	Alexandria	22:30	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	BBC	044	Dhaka/Dammam	22:40	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:35
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	782	Jeddah	22:50	NIA	251	Alexandria	16:50
KAC KAC	302 354	Mumbai BLR	07:50 08:00	THY JAI	764 574	Istanbul Mumbai	22:55 23:20	KAC	562	Amman	16:55
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30	SYR SVA	341 510	Damascus Riyadh	17:00 17:15
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	CCE	345	Sohag	17:35
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	PIA	205	Lahore	23:40	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20					JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20		Departure F	lights on Sunday 26/6/2016		KAC	678	Muscat/Abu Dhabi	17:50
IIAE				A iulius a a			Time				
UAE ABY	855	Dubai	08:25	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time 00:10	QTR	1080	Doha	17:55
ABY ETD		Dubai Sharjah		Airlines THY JZR	Flt 772	Route Istanbul	00:10	QTR JZR	1080 483	Doha Istanbul	17:55 18:20
ABY ETD IRC	855 125 301 528	Dubai Sharjah Abu Dhabi Ahwaz	08:25 09:05 09:05 09:10	THY JZR JZR	FIt 772 267 239	Route	00:10 00:30 00:50	QTR JZR MSR	1080 483 620	Doha Istanbul Cairo	17:55 18:20 18:30
ABY ETD IRC QTR	855 125 301 528 1070	Dubai Sharjah Abu Dhabi Ahwaz Doha	08:25 09:05 09:05 09:10 09:20	THY JZR JZR FDB	Flt 772 267 239 069	Route Istanbul Beirut Amman Dubai	00:10 00:30 00:50 00:55	QTR JZR MSR KAC	1080 483	Doha Istanbul	17:55 18:20 18:30 18:35
ABY ETD IRC QTR IRA	855 125 301 528 1070 665	Dubai Sharjah Abu Dhabi Ahwaz Doha Shiraz	08:25 09:05 09:05 09:10 09:20 09:25	THY JZR JZR FDB DLH	Flt 772 267 239 069 635	Route Istanbul Beirut Amman Dubai Doha	00:10 00:30 00:50 00:55 01:00	QTR JZR MSR KAC KAC KAC	1080 483 620 502 786 774	Doha Istanbul Cairo Beirut	17:55 18:20 18:30 18:35 18:35 18:35
ABY ETD IRC QTR IRA FDB	855 125 301 528 1070 665 055	Dubai Sharjah Abu Dhabi Ahwaz Doha Shiraz Dubai	08:25 09:05 09:05 09:10 09:20 09:25 09:40	THY JZR JZR FDB DLH QTR	Flt 772 267 239 069 635 1086	Route Istanbul Beirut Amman Dubai Doha Doha	00:10 00:30 00:50 00:55 01:00 01:15	QTR JZR MSR KAC KAC KAC KAC	1080 483 620 502 786 774 542	Doha Istanbul Cairo Beirut Jeddah Riyadh Cairo	17:55 18:20 18:30 18:35 18:35 18:35 18:55
ABY ETD IRC QTR IRA FDB SAW	855 125 301 528 1070 665 055 703	Dubai Sharjah Abu Dhabi Ahwaz Doha Shiraz Dubai Damascus	08:25 09:05 09:05 09:10 09:20 09:25 09:40 09:45	THY JZR JZR FDB DLH QTR JZR	Fit 772 267 239 069 635 1086 539	Route Istanbul Beirut Amman Dubai Doha Doha Cairo	00:10 00:30 00:50 00:55 01:00 01:15 01:20	QTR JZR MSR KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC	1080 483 620 502 786 774 542 618	Doha Istanbul Cairo Beirut Jeddah Riyadh Cairo Doha	17:55 18:20 18:30 18:35 18:35 18:35 18:55
ABY ETD IRC QTR IRA FDB SAW CCE UAE	855 125 301 528 1070 665 055 703 341 873	Dubai Sharjah Abu Dhabi Ahwaz Doha Shiraz Dubai Damascus Alexandria Dubai	08:25 09:05 09:05 09:10 09:20 09:25 09:40 09:45 10:00 10:40	THY JZR JZR FDB DLH QTR JZR KAC PGT	Fit 772 267 239 069 635 1086 539 1802 858	Route Istanbul Beirut Amman Dubai Doha Doha Cairo Cairo Istanbul	00:10 00:30 00:50 00:55 01:00 01:15 01:20 01:30 01:40	QTR JZR MSR KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC	1080 483 620 502 786 774 542 618 166	Doha Istanbul Cairo Beirut Jeddah Riyadh Cairo Doha Paris/Rome	17:55 18:20 18:30 18:35 18:35 18:35 18:55 18:55 19:05
ABY ETD IRC QTR IRA FDB SAW CCE UAE GFA	855 125 301 528 1070 665 055 703 341 873 213	Dubai Sharjah Abu Dhabi Ahwaz Doha Shiraz Dubai Damascus Alexandria Dubai Bahrain	08:25 09:05 09:05 09:10 09:20 09:25 09:40 09:45 10:00 10:40	THY JZR JZR FDB DLH QTR JZR KAC PGT ETH	Fit 772 267 239 069 635 1086 539 1802 858 620	Route Istanbul Beirut Amman Dubai Doha Doha Cairo Cairo Istanbul Addis Ababa	00:10 00:30 00:50 00:55 01:00 01:15 01:20 01:30 01:40 01:45	QTR JZR MSR KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC	1080 483 620 502 786 774 542 618 166 217	Doha Istanbul Cairo Beirut Jeddah Riyadh Cairo Doha Paris/Rome Bahrain	17:55 18:20 18:30 18:35 18:35 18:35 18:55 18:55 19:05
ABY ETD IRC QTR IRA FDB SAW CCE UAE GFA MEA	855 125 301 528 1070 665 055 703 341 873 213 404	Dubai Sharjah Abu Dhabi Ahwaz Doha Shiraz Dubai Damascus Alexandria Dubai Bahrain Beirut	08:25 09:05 09:05 09:10 09:20 09:25 09:40 09:45 10:00 10:40 11:00	THY JZR JZR DB DLH QTR JZR KAC PGT ETH RJA	Fit 772 267 239 069 635 1086 539 1802 858 620 642	Route Istanbul Beirut Amman Dubai Doha Doha Cairo Cairo Istanbul Addis Ababa Amman	00:10 00:30 00:50 00:55 01:00 01:15 01:20 01:30 01:40 01:45	QTR JZR MSR KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC	1080 483 620 502 786 774 542 618 166	Doha Istanbul Cairo Beirut Jeddah Riyadh Cairo Doha Paris/Rome	17:55 18:20 18:30 18:35 18:35 18:35 18:55 18:55 19:05
ABY ETD IRC QTR IRA FDB SAW CCE UAE GFA MEA JZR	855 125 301 528 1070 665 055 703 341 873 213 404 561	Dubai Sharjah Abu Dhabi Ahwaz Doha Shiraz Dubai Damascus Alexandria Dubai Bahrain Beirut Sohag	08:25 09:05 09:05 09:10 09:20 09:25 09:40 09:45 10:00 10:40 11:00 11:25	THY JZR JZR DB DLH QTR JZR KAC PGT ETH RJA KKK	Fit 772 267 239 069 635 1086 539 1802 858 620 642 6506	Route Istanbul Beirut Amman Dubai Doha Doha Cairo Cairo Istanbul Addis Ababa Amman Istanbul	00:10 00:30 00:50 00:55 01:00 01:15 01:20 01:30 01:40 01:45 01:45	QTR JZR MSR KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC FFAB	1080 483 620 502 786 774 542 618 166 217 875 614 063	Doha Istanbul Cairo Beirut Jeddah Riyadh Cairo Doha Paris/Rome Bahrain Dubai Bahrain	17:55 18:20 18:30 18:35 18:35 18:35 18:55 18:55 19:05 19:05 19:05 19:10 19:10
ABY ETD IRC QTR IRA FDB SAW CCE UAE GFA MEA	855 125 301 528 1070 665 055 703 341 873 213 404	Dubai Sharjah Abu Dhabi Ahwaz Doha Shiraz Dubai Damascus Alexandria Dubai Bahrain Beirut	08:25 09:05 09:05 09:10 09:20 09:25 09:40 09:45 10:00 10:40 11:00	THY JZR JZR DB DLH QTR JZR KAC PGT ETH RJA	Fit 772 267 239 069 635 1086 539 1802 858 620 642	Route Istanbul Beirut Amman Dubai Doha Doha Cairo Cairo Istanbul Addis Ababa Amman	00:10 00:30 00:50 00:55 01:00 01:15 01:20 01:30 01:40 01:45	QTR JZR MSR KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC AC KAC AC A	1080 483 620 502 786 774 542 618 166 217 875 614 063 123	Doha Istanbul Cairo Beirut Jeddah Riyadh Cairo Doha Paris/Rome Bahrain Dubai Bahrain Dubai Sharjah	17:55 18:20 18:30 18:35 18:35 18:35 18:55 19:05 19:05 19:05 19:10 19:10 19:15
ABY ETD IRC QTR IRA FDB SAW CCE UAE GFA MEA JZR FDB SAW FEG	855 125 301 528 1070 665 055 703 341 873 213 404 561 075 701	Dubai Sharjah Abu Dhabi Ahwaz Doha Shiraz Dubai Damascus Alexandria Dubai Bahrain Beirut Sohag Dubai Damascus	08:25 09:05 09:05 09:10 09:20 09:25 09:40 10:40 10:40 11:25 12:25 12:35 12:55	THY JZR JZR FDB DLH QTR JZR KAC PGT ETH RJA KKK MSC CEB UAE	Fit 772 267 239 069 635 1086 539 1802 858 620 642 6506 403 018 853	Route Istanbul Beirut Amman Dubai Doha Doha Cairo Cairo Istanbul Addis Ababa Amman Istanbul Asyut Manila Dubai	00:10 00:30 00:50 00:55 01:00 01:15 01:20 01:30 01:45 01:45 02:05 02:10 02:20 02:25	QTR JZR MSR KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC GFA UAE KAC FDB ABY MSR	1080 483 620 502 786 774 542 618 166 217 875 614 063 123 606	Doha Istanbul Cairo Beirut Jeddah Riyadh Cairo Doha Paris/Rome Bahrain Dubai Bahrain Dubai Sharjah Luxor	17:55 18:20 18:30 18:35 18:35 18:35 18:55 19:05 19:05 19:05 19:10 19:10 19:15 19:30
ABY ETD IRC QTR IRA FDB SAW CCE UAE GFA MEA JZR FDB SAW FEG MSR	855 125 301 528 1070 665 055 703 341 873 213 404 561 075 701 961 610	Dubai Sharjah Abu Dhabi Ahwaz Doha Shiraz Dubai Damascus Alexandria Dubai Bahrain Beirut Sohag Dubai Damascus	08:25 09:05 09:05 09:10 09:20 09:25 09:40 10:40 10:40 11:25 12:25 12:35 13:00	THY JZR JZR FDB DLH QTR JZR KAC PGT ETH RJA KKK MSC CEB UAE OMA	Fit 772 267 239 069 635 1086 539 1802 858 620 642 6506 403 018 853 643	Route Istanbul Beirut Amman Dubai Doha Doha Cairo Cairo Istanbul Addis Ababa Amman Istanbul Asyut Manila Dubai Muscat	00:10 00:30 00:50 00:55 01:00 01:15 01:20 01:30 01:45 01:45 02:05 02:10 02:20 02:25 03:05	QTR JZR MSR KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC MAC MAE MAC MAE MAC MSR JAI	1080 483 620 502 786 774 542 618 166 217 875 614 063 123 606 572	Doha Istanbul Cairo Beirut Jeddah Riyadh Cairo Doha Paris/Rome Bahrain Dubai Bahrain Dubai Sharjah Luxor Mumbai	17:55 18:20 18:30 18:35 18:35 18:35 18:55 18:55 19:05 19:05 19:05 19:10 19:10 19:15 19:30 19:35
ABY ETD IRC QTR IRA FDB SAW CCE UAE GFA MEA JZR FDB SAW FEB MSR QTR	855 125 301 528 1070 665 055 703 341 873 213 404 561 075 701 961 610 1078	Dubai Sharjah Abu Dhabi Ahwaz Doha Shiraz Dubai Damascus Alexandria Dubai Bahrain Beirut Sohag Dubai Damascus Sohag Cairo Doha	08:25 09:05 09:05 09:10 09:20 09:25 09:40 10:40 10:40 11:25 12:25 12:35 12:55 13:00 14:05	THY JZR JZR FDB DLH QTR JZR KAC PGT ETH RJA KKK MSC CEB UAE OMA MSC	Fit 772 267 239 069 635 1086 539 1802 858 620 642 6506 403 018 853 643 415	Route Istanbul Beirut Amman Dubai Doha Doha Cairo Cairo Istanbul Addis Ababa Amman Istanbul Asyut Manila Dubai Muscat Sohag	00:10 00:30 00:50 00:55 01:00 01:15 01:20 01:30 01:40 01:45 02:05 02:10 02:20 02:25 03:05 03:10	QTR JZR MSR KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC GFA UAE KAC FDB ABY MSR	1080 483 620 502 786 774 542 618 166 217 875 614 063 123 606	Doha Istanbul Cairo Beirut Jeddah Riyadh Cairo Doha Paris/Rome Bahrain Dubai Bahrain Dubai Sharjah Luxor	17:55 18:20 18:30 18:35 18:35 18:35 18:55 19:05 19:05 19:05 19:10 19:10 19:15 19:30
ABY ETD IRC QTR IRA FDB SAW CCE UAE GFA MEA JZR FDB SAW FEG MSR QTR KAC	855 125 301 528 1070 665 055 703 341 873 213 404 561 075 701 961 610 1078 672	Dubai Sharjah Abu Dhabi Ahwaz Doha Shiraz Dubai Damascus Alexandria Dubai Bahrain Beirut Sohag Dubai Damascus Sohag Cairo Doha Dubai	08:25 09:05 09:05 09:10 09:20 09:25 09:40 10:40 10:40 11:25 12:25 12:35 12:55 13:00 14:05	THY JZR JZR FDB DLH QTR JZR KAC PGT ETH RJA KKK MSC CEB UAE OMA MSC RJA	Fit 772 267 239 069 635 1086 539 1802 858 620 642 6506 403 018 853 643 415 644	Route Istanbul Beirut Amman Dubai Doha Doha Cairo Cairo Istanbul Addis Ababa Amman Istanbul Asyut Manila Dubai Muscat Sohag Amman	00:10 00:30 00:50 00:55 01:00 01:15 01:20 01:30 01:45 01:45 02:05 02:05 02:20 02:25 03:05 03:10	QTR JZR MSR KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC GFA UAE KAC FDB ABY MSR JAI KAC FDB KAC	1080 483 620 502 786 774 542 618 166 217 875 614 063 123 606 572 674 059 102	Doha Istanbul Cairo Beirut Jeddah Riyadh Cairo Doha Paris/Rome Bahrain Dubai Bahrain Dubai Sharjah Luxor Mumbai Dubai Dubai Dubai Dubai	17:55 18:20 18:30 18:35 18:35 18:35 18:55 19:05 19:05 19:05 19:10 19:10 19:15 19:30 19:35 19:45 19:50 19:50
ABY ETD IRC QTR IRA FDB SAW CCE UAE GFA MEA JZR FDB SAW FEG MSR QTR KAC AXB KKK	855 125 301 528 1070 665 055 703 341 873 213 404 561 075 701 961 610 1078 672 393 6502	Dubai Sharjah Abu Dhabi Ahwaz Doha Shiraz Dubai Damascus Alexandria Dubai Bahrain Beirut Sohag Dubai Damascus Sohag Cairo Doha Dubai Kozhikode Istanbul	08:25 09:05 09:05 09:10 09:20 09:25 09:40 10:40 10:40 11:25 12:25 12:35 12:55 13:00 14:05	THY JZR JZR FDB DLH QTR JZR KAC PGT ETH RJA KKK MSC CEB UAE OMA MSC	Fit 772 267 239 069 635 1086 539 1802 858 620 642 6506 403 018 853 643 415 644 305 612	Route Istanbul Beirut Amman Dubai Doha Doha Cairo Cairo Istanbul Addis Ababa Amman Istanbul Asyut Manila Dubai Muscat Sohag	00:10 00:30 00:50 00:55 01:00 01:15 01:20 01:30 01:45 01:45 02:05 02:10 02:20 02:25 03:05 03:10 03:15 03:15	QTR JZR MSR KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC KAC GFA UAE KAC FDB ABY MSR JAI KAC FDB KAC FDB	1080 483 620 502 786 774 542 618 166 217 875 614 063 123 606 572 674 059 102 634	Doha Istanbul Cairo Beirut Jeddah Riyadh Cairo Doha Paris/Rome Bahrain Dubai Bahrain Dubai Sharjah Luxor Mumbai Dubai Dubai Dubai Dubai New York/London Frankfurt	17:55 18:20 18:30 18:35 18:35 18:35 18:55 19:05 19:05 19:05 19:10 19:10 19:15 19:30 19:35 19:45 19:50 19:55 20:05
ABY ETD IRC QTR IRA FDB SAW CCE UAE GFA MEA JZR FDB SAW FEG MSR QTR KAC AXB KKK JZR	855 125 301 528 1070 665 055 703 341 873 213 404 561 075 701 961 610 1078 672 393 6502 1773	Dubai Sharjah Abu Dhabi Ahwaz Doha Shiraz Dubai Damascus Alexandria Dubai Bahrain Beirut Sohag Dubai Damascus Sohag Cairo Doha Dubai Kozhikode Istanbul Jeddah	08:25 09:05 09:05 09:10 09:20 09:25 09:40 10:40 11:00 11:25 12:25 12:35 12:55 13:00 14:05 14:10 14:10 14:15	THY JZR JZR FDB DLH QTR JZR KAC PGT ETH RJA KKK MSC CEB UAE OMA MSC RJA ETD MSR FDB	Fit 772 267 239 069 635 1086 539 1802 858 620 642 6506 403 018 853 643 415 644 305 612 067	Route Istanbul Beirut Amman Dubai Doha Doha Cairo Cairo Istanbul Addis Ababa Amman Istanbul Asyut Manila Dubai Muscat Sohag Amman Abu Dhabi Cairo Dubai	00:10 00:30 00:50 00:55 01:00 01:15 01:20 01:30 01:45 01:45 02:05 02:10 02:20 02:25 03:05 03:10 03:15 03:15	QTR JZR MSR KAC	1080 483 620 502 786 774 542 618 166 217 875 614 063 123 606 572 674 059 102 634 514	Doha Istanbul Cairo Beirut Jeddah Riyadh Cairo Doha Paris/Rome Bahrain Dubai Bahrain Dubai Sharjah Luxor Mumbai Dubai Dubai Dubai The Companion on the Companion of the Companio	17:55 18:20 18:30 18:35 18:35 18:35 18:55 18:55 19:05 19:05 19:05 19:10 19:10 19:15 19:30 19:35 19:45 19:55 20:05 20:10
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Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
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Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surg	eons
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Bash	er 25327148
Internists, Chest	& Heart
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

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Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maaroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatolog	у
Dr. Mohammed Salam	
Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
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Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologis	ts
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135

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25716707

Noor Clinic

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	Endocrinologis	it
-	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
	Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888	
	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924	
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	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291	
	Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees	22666288
	Rheumatologist	ts:
	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060	
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Gibraltar Greece	00350 0030	Saint Helena Saint Kitts	00290 001869
Greenland	00299	Saint Lucia	001758
Grenada Guadeloupe	001473 00590	Saint Pierre Saint Vincent	00508 001784
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ACROSS

- 1. A man who serves as a sailor.
- 4. A canvas or leather bag for carrying game (especially birds) killed by a hunter.
- 11. Informal terms for a mother.
- 15. The month following March and preceding May.
- 16. (statistics) Approximating the statistical norm or average or expected value.
- 17. A republic in the Middle East in western
- 18. Of or relating to or characteristic of
- Thailand of its people. 19. A group of trees and shrubs and herbs
- mostly with polypetalous flowers. 20. (British) An informer or spy working for
- the police. 21. A case or sheath especially a pollen sac or
- moss capsule.
- 23. Joint consisting of a line formed by joining two pieces.
- 25. Not plain.
- 26. United States chemist (1839-1903).
- 28. Of or related to the genital and urinary organs or their functions.
- 30. Being one hundred more than three hun-
- 32. The inner and longer of the two bones of
- the human forearm.
- 36. A state in the western United States.
- 40. Relating to or located near a tibia. 42. Give equal rights to.
- 45. (British) Tavern consisting of a building with a bar and public rooms.
- 46. (informal) Of the highest quality.
- 47. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- 49. The amount a salary is increased.
- 51. A member of an agricultural people in southeastern India.
- 53. An inhabitant of an island. 55. The superior of a group of nuns.
- 57. A mythical Greek warrior who was a
- leader on the Trojan side of the Trojan War. 58. Type genus of the Otariidae.
- 61. A pendent spear of ice formed by the freezing of dripping water.
- 63. The officer below the master on a com-
- mercial ship. 65. Any culture medium that uses agar as the
- gelling agent. 69. The administration of a strong electric cur-
- rent that passes through the brain to induce convulsions and coma.
- 73. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control
- using precision approach radar. 74. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat
- trimmed off. 76. Having much flesh (especially fat).
- 77. A river in north central Switzerland that
- runs northeast into the Rhine. 78. Any of several plants of the genus
- Hepatica having 3-lobed leaves and white or pinkish flowers in early spring.
- 79. The federal agency that insures residential mortgages.

DOWN

- 1. A United Nations agency created by a multinational treaty to promote trade by the reduction of tariffs and import quotas.
- 2. Large elliptical brightly colored deep-sea fish of Atlantic and Pacific and Mediterranean. 3. Of short duration or distance.

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- 4. A semiautomatic rifle.
- 5. 100 avos equal 1 pataca.
- 6. Dirty and disorderly. 7. A member of an Iroquoian people formerly
- living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
- 8. A member of an agricultural people of southern India.
- 9. A lizard of the family Agamidae.
- 10. A unit of force equal to the force exerted by gravity. 11. Submersible vessel for one or two per-
- 12. An Arabic speaking person who lives in
- Arabia or North Africa. 13. A member of a rural Finnish people living
- in eastern Russia. 14. A town and port in northwestern Israel in
- the eastern Mediterranean. 22. A hidden storage space (for money or
- provisions or weapons). 24. A metallic element of the rare earth
- group.
- 27. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake
- 29. A city in central New York.
- 31. Mature female of mammals of which the male is called `buck'.
- 33. Any oily organic compound insoluble in
- water but soluble in organic solvents. 34. The state that precedes vomiting.
- 35. United States painter born in Germany. 37. In bed. 38. West Indian tree having racemes of fra-
- grant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
- 39. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- 41. Jewish republic in southwestern Asia at eastern end of Mediterranean.
- 43. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation.
- 44. A doctor's degree in dental surgery. 48. Marked by prudence or modesty and wise
- self-restraint. 50. Anneal or toughen by a process of gradu-
- ally heating and cooling.
- 52. A river in north central Switzerland that
- runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 54. Made of or resembling lace. 56. A range of mountains (usually with
- jagged peaks and irregular outline). 59. Genus of tropical plants with creeping
- rootstocks and small umbellate flowers. 60. Essential oil or perfume obtained from
- 62. Large short-tailed lemur of Madagascar having thick silky fur in black and white and
- fawn. 64. Make secure by lashing.
- 66. A spar rising aft from a mast to support the head of a quadrilateral fore-and-aft sail. 67. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
- 68. (Roman Catholic Church) The supreme ecclesiastical tribunal for cases appealed to the Holy See from diocesan courts.
- 70. A hormone secreted by the anterior pituitary gland that controls the degree of pig-
- mentation in melanocytes. 71. Any of various primates with short tails or
- no tail at all. 72. A loose sleeveless outer garment made

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- from aba cloth.
- 75. Being nine more than ninety.

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STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

A depressed friend may need cheering up. Your ability to nurture and listen sympathetically will prove beneficial, Aries. Take care not to absorb any of this person's dejection. Your own life should continue to go well, with business and career successes leading to new friendships and goals. Hang onto your own enthusiasm and optimism while extending a compassionate ear



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Too many projects to complete might have you feeling just a little bit pressured, Taurus. However, your innate determination is likely to drive you on to try to get it all done even if it seems impossible. Don't try to do it all yourself. Don't be afraid to ask for a little help. This might accomplish your ends without putting undue burdens on yourself.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You've been doing well, Gemini, but today you might be feeling more focused than ever. The path ahead seems clear and well defined. You're looking forward to the future with motivation and anticipation. You might be considering a long trip abroad or perhaps going back to school for an advanced degree. Today is a good day to start doing some research and finalizing your plans. Go to it.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

The astral energy indicates positive financial news. A settlement, grant, or bonus of some kind that you've anticipated for a long time may finally manifest. You might want to celebrate, Cancer. A chance to attend a large gathering might come your way. Have fun. Tonight, don't be surprised if you have vivid dreams - some great, some sad. Keep paper and pen handy so you can write them down.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Today you'll put a lot of energy into business, personal, or romantic partnerships. They're likely to be especially beneficial now, Leo. So even if you prefer to work alone, this is the time to explore the possibility of joining with those who share your ambitions. Romantic partnerships formed or advanced today are likely to prove stable and enduring. Don't let fear stand in your way. Move ahead.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Too much work and the resulting pressure over the past few days could have you feeling too tired to do anything more, Virgo, although your optimism and enthusiasm are still intact. Don't be too hard on yourself if you're dragging a little toward the end of the day. You'll be able to recharge your batteries before tomorrow. In the evening, relax at home with a good book.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Comedy Movies 2 - Word Search Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

RCLUELESSDDHETTWP EREMUADTOQAXCSHPB KRAVAFNOWPMHITEEU CLETSHHIPICRUINRL NOGATRYRTNHJRAEW LKTCNTGUEBMSECKHO SGXEAIOLDXAJLRETR QRBLLFUCLTSTADGT SAAMPUHWIMLREZGNH P B O R D S D E O L E U E Y U I S ERUOHHSURBLVBHNEC IGRZBOBROBERTSBH **HEGHOSTBUSTERSTG** OKINVFPMUGTSERROF

BABE BEETLEJUICE BEING THERE **BOB ROBERTS** BOWFINGER BULL DURHAM BULWORTH

FLETCH FORREST GUMP **GHOSTBUSTERS** HAPPY GILMORE **LOCAL HERO** OH GOD PARENTHOOD

RATATOUILLE

RUSH HOUR SABRINA SHREK SLACKER STIR CRAZY THE NAKED GUN **TWINS**

easy

Libra (September 23-October 22)

Romance blossoms for you tonight, Libra, perhaps after a long period of standing still. A new sense of stability and security may settle on love relationships and close friendships. Children could also be a source of warmth and pleasure. You might want to channel some of this positive energy into creative activity of some kind, which will increase your sense of contentment and well-being.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Tonight you might host a social event in your home, perhaps for business associates. You could be nervous at first, Scorpio, wondering if all will go as well as you hope, but your efforts should produce the results you want. You might be introduced to new contacts, leading to increased opportunities. Take a walk after everyone has gone. Your mind will be churning and you'll want to clear your head.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Paperwork, perhaps contracts or other legal documents of some kind, might need attention so you can move ahead with some of your projects. These projects could involve writing or speaking. Your mind is in just the right space to participate in anything involving communication, Sagittarius, and doors of opportunity may open up for you in this field. Gird your loins and get to it. You'll be glad you did.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

The financial picture continues to improve, Capricorn. At some point during the day, you might have the feeling that you aren't working hard enough to keep the forward motion going, and you might feel panic rise. This could prove a good motivating factor, but you don't need to push yourself harder than you're going now. You're on a roll and it's likely to continue. Just pace yourself.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Even though all continues to go well for you, Aquarius, your mood may go up and down today. In spite of all the great things in your life, you might find yourself feeling a little blue sometime during the day. Don't read too much into it. It's probably just the result of low biorhythms. Try to distract yourself with work. This evening get out with some friends and have a good time.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Trying to get too much work done in the course of one day might prove self-defeating today, Pisces. Your energy isn't what it usually is, and you're probably operating on nervous energy. Consider the situation and list your tasks in order of urgency. The world won't come to an end if you don't get them all done today. In the evening, rent a pile of videos, order a pizza, and

Yesterday's Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles



ALL OF ME **ANIMAL HOUSE BANANAS** BIG **BLUES BROTHERS**

CAT BALLOU

GET SMART

CLERKS

HAPPY GILMORE HARVEY HITCH MANHATTAN MASH MIDNIGHT RUN

MOONSTRUCK

GROUNDHOG DAY PATCH ADAMS **PLAZA SUITE QUICK CHANGE** STRIPES THE RUTLES TOOTSIE **ZOMBIELAND**

A **Daily SuDoku**

CLUELESS



Yesterday's Solution

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Yesterday's Solution

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Did you know ..?



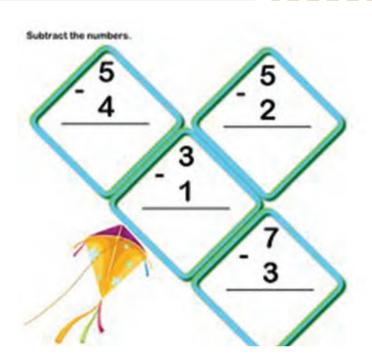
- Magnets are objects that produce an area of magnetic force called a magnetic field.
- Magnetic fields by themselves are invisible to the
- Iron filings can be used to show magnetic fields created by magnets (such as in the picture to the
- Magnets only attract certain types of metals, other materials such as glass, plastic and wood aren't
- Metals such as iron, nickel and cobalt are attracted to magnets.
- Most metals however are not attracted to magnets, these include copper, silver, gold, magnesium, platinum, aluminum and more. They may however magnetize a small amount while placed in a magnetic field.
- Magnetism can attract magnetic objects or push
- Magnets have a magnetic north pole and a magnetic south pole. If the same pole of two magnets are placed near each other they will push away (repel), while if different poles are placed near each other they will pull together (attract).
- Magnetic objects must be inside the magnetic field to respond, which is why you may have to move a magnet closer for it to have an effect.
- The Earth's core is believed to be a mix (alloy) of iron and nickel, giving the Earth its own magnetic
- The Earth's magnetic field is responsible for deflecting the solar wind, charged particles that come from the Sun.
- Magnetic compasses use the Earth's magnetic field to help navigate in north, south, east and west directions.
- Electromagnets are created by an electric current running through a surrounding coil. They have many uses including the generation of electricity in hydroelectric dams.

SUDOKU

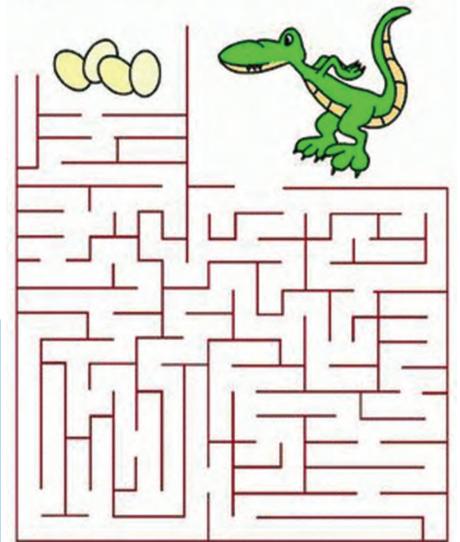
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Help the crocodile to reach its eggs.



RECIPES FOR KIDS

Mediterranean Pasta Soup

What you need

- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1/2 cup diced onion
- 11/2 cups water 16 ounces chicken broth
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper 1 can garbanzo beans (chickpeas),
- drained 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1/2 cup uncooked ditalini pasta (short
- tube-shaped macaroni) 2 teaspoons chopped parsley

What to do

1. Heat olive oil in pot over medium heat. (Be sure to get an adult's help when using the stove.)

- 2. Add onion and saute until lightly browned.
- Add water and next 6 ingredients. Bring to a boil, cover, and reduce heat.
- Simmer for 5 minutes. Add pasta and cook additional 10 min-
- utes, or until pasta is tender but not overcooked.
- 6. Stir in parsley.



ACTIVITY

Easy DIY Felt Pillows

YOU'LL NEED

Cushion pad Thread Sewing machine Compass Pencil

Craft paper Fabric marking pen (erasable)

INSTRUCTIONS

Draw a 12"square on craft paper. Use a compass to draw 4" semi circles around the square edges (3/4 circles at the corners). Cut out. Pin the template to felt. Trace with a fabric pencil and cut out. Mark a line across the template 2/3 of the way down and cut, discarding the remaining third. Use this template to cut 2 pieces. Overlap the 2 shorter pieces to make a square and place on top of the larger piece. Pin the pieces together and sew a 12" square inside the scalloped edges. Dampen and erase any markings from the fabric pen.



Lachu Picchu or Machu Pikchu is a 15th-century Inca citadel situated on a mountain ridge 2,430 meters above sea level. It is located in the Cusco Region, Urubamba Province, Machupicchu District in Peru, above the Sacred Valley, which is 80 kilometers northwest of Cuzco and through which the Urubamba River

Most archaeologists believe that Machu Picchu was built as an estate for the Inca emperor Pachacuti (1438-1472). Often mistakenly referred to as the "Lost City of the Incas", it is the most familiar icon of Inca civilization. The Incas built the estate around 1450 but abandoned it a century later at the time of the Spanish Conquest. Although known locally, it was not known to the Spanish during the colonial period and remained unknown to the outside world until American historian Hiram Bingham brought it to international attention in

Machu Picchu was built in the classical Inca style, with polished dry-stone walls. Its three primary structures are the Inti Watana, the Temple of the Sun, and the Room of the Three Windows. Most of the outlying buildings have been reconstructed in order to give tourists a better idea of how they originally appeared. By 1976, thirty percent of Machu Picchu had been restored and restoration continues.

Machu Picchu was declared a Peruvian Historical Sanctuary in 1981 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983. In 2007, Machu Picchu was voted one of the New Seven Wonders of the World in a worldwide Internet poll.

History

Machu Picchu was built around 1450, at the height of the Inca Empire. Its construction appears to date to the period of the two great Inca rulers, Pachacutec Inca Yupanqui (1438-71) and T?pac Inca Yupanqui (1472-93). It was abandoned just over 100 years later, in 1572, as a belated result of the Spanish Conquest. It is possible that most of its inhabitants died from smallpox introduced by travelers before the Spanish conquistadors arrived in the area.

Although located only about 80 kilometers (50 mi) from the Inca capital in Cusco, the Spanish never found Machu Picchu and so did not plunder or destroy it, as they did many other sites.[11] The conquistadors had notes of a place called Piccho, although no record of a Spanish visit exists. The types of sacred rocks defaced by the conquistadors in other locations are untouched at Machu Picchu.

Machu Picchu, Peru



Over the centuries, the surrounding jungle overgrew the site, and few outside the immediate area knew of its existence. The site may have been discovered and plundered in 1867 by a German businessman, Augusto Berns. Some evidence indicates that German engineer J. M. von Hassel arrived earlier. Maps show references to Machu Picchu as early as 1874.[13]

In 1911 American historian and explorer Hiram Bingham travelled the region looking for the old Inca capital and was shown to Machu Picchu by a local farmer. Bingham brought Machu Picchu to international attention and organized another expedition in 1912 to undertake major clearing and excavation. He returned in 1914 and 1915 to continue with excavation.

In 1981, Peru declared an area of 325.92 square kilometers (125.84 sq mi) surrounding Machu Picchu a "Historical Sanctuary". In addition to the ruins, the sanctuary includes a large portion of the adjoining region, rich with the flora and fauna of the Peruvian Yungas and Central Andean wet puna ecoregions.

Tourism

Machu Picchu is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, both cultural and natural. Since its discovery in 1911, growing numbers of tourists visit the site yearly, reaching

400,000 in 2000. As Peru's most visited tourist attraction and major revenue generator, it is continually exposed to economic and commercial forces. In the late 1990s, the Peruvian government granted concessions to allow the construction of a cable car and a luxury hotel, including a tourist complex with boutiques and restaurants and a bridge to the site. Many people protested the plans, including Peruvians and foreign scientists, saying that more visitors would pose a physical burden on the ruins. A no-fly zone exists above the area. UNESCO is considering putting Machu Picchu on its List of World Heritage in

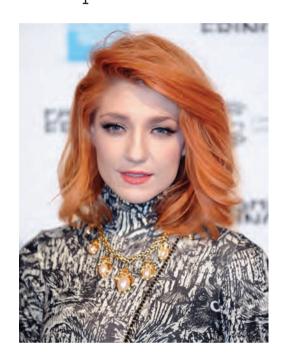
During the 1980s a large rock from Machu Picchu's central plaza was moved to a different location to create a helicopter landing zone. In the 1990s, the government prohibited helicopter landings. In 2006, a Cusco-based company, Helicusco, sought approval for tourist flights over Machu Picchu. The resulting license was soon rescinded.

Authorities have struggled to maintain tourist safety. Tourist deaths have been linked to altitude sickness, floods and hiking accidents. UNESCO received criticism for allowing tourists at the location given high risks of landslides, earthquakes and injury due to decaying structures.

Gossip



Nicola Roberts has given up alcohol



he 30-year-old singer ditched drink in February and whilst she loves to go out partying with her pals, she can't stand going clubbing. She said: "I gave up alcohol in February. I love to go out to gigs or if a friend is having a party and there's a great DJ playing, but I don't go to clubs - I don't like them." The Girls Aloud star also admitted she "feels good" when she is able to head out while being make-up free. She added to OK! magazine: "I like to run. There's something about tying your hair up and wearing no make-up, just moisturiser, then putting on your leggings and going for a run. It makes me feel good." In 2012, Nicole revealed she used to try to get her hands on alcohol when she was underage to deal with depression. She previously said: "I would beg my driver to buy me vodka when I was still underage." The flame-haired beauty was once branded "the ugly one" of the girl band - which also includes Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Nadine Coyle, Sarah Harding and Kimberley Walsh - by DJ Chris Moyles on his Radio 1 show. She said: "Being singled out as 'the ugly one' led to depression. It's funny I was too young for so many things but you thought I'd cope with being told I'm ugly over and over."

Kylie Jenner and Tyga are back together

■he 26-year-old rapper and the 18-year-old reality TV star called time on their romance earlier this year but the pair have reportedly recently started seeing each other again, although they are keeping things casual. A source told E! News: "They are not back together officially but started seeing each other again romantically."It's not as much pressure this time around because they both have had some space over the past few weeks apart. Tyga wants to get back with Kylie though. Tyga says that [she is] his wifey, in good or bad." Tyga hinted at a romantic reconciliation by posting a picture of Kylie on his bed on his Instagram account but later deleted it. And it has been claimed that although Kylie is not quite convinced she wants to get serious with Tyga again, she is enjoying the attention from him. A source told PEOPLE: Tyga seems more interested in getting back together than Kylie does. Kylie still seems to enjoy being single. She acts like she is figuring things out." "But she likes Tyga's attention and the fact that she has the upper hand now. Tyga is working hard to get her back." Reports that the pair have gotten back together come after Tyga recently claimed their relationship overshadowed his career. He said: "When you're in a very public relationship like that, it's hard for other people to see you differently than that. Being in that it took a lot, career wise, everything. It overshadowed a lot of my talents and a lot of things that I worked hard for." However, Tyga - who has a three-year-old son King Cairo with former fiancee Blac Chyna - admitted they could reconcile eventually.



Cooper and Irina are planning a family together

brated their first anniversary as a couple in April and their relationship is believed to be getting extremely serious. A source told E! News: "Things are getting more serious between them. They have spoken about having a family soon and building a future together. Irina would like to have kids in the next few years. Being a mother is something that is very important to her...Things are moving in an amazing direction." However, right now the couple are both being kept extremely busy with work. The insider explained: "Irina has been working nonstop and is pretty exhausted but still has been making time to see Bradley. Bradley is very supportive. Irina is doing so well in her

■he 41-year-old actor and the 30-year-old model cele- career at the moment. She has been getting gigs left and right - the demand for her with new campaigns is insane. She has to turn down jobs at this point." This is not the first time it has been claimed that Bradley and Irina are hoping to start a family together. Last November, just months after they started dating, it was reported that they had "discussed" having children. A source said: "They couldn't be happier with how their relationship is progressing. Things are really heating up and they are growing very, very close while getting to know each other. Everyone that is close to the couple really thinks this is it for the two of them.





Lambert says 'Eclipse' helped him with a break up

he 'For Your Entertainment' hitmaker admits he was left "sobbing" when he heard the track soon after he split from his other half. When asked what song makes him cry, he said: "It's not one of her singles but I remember listening to this song one time and just sobbing. Something about it just hit me at that particular moment in time. "I was getting out of a relationship and I remember being really struck by the lyric 'There's and eclipse in your eye where I used to shine'. She's such a great songwriter." And the 34-year-old star - who now tours alongside Queen's Brian May and Roger Taylor - also opened up about John Lennon's "sentimental" track

'Imagine'. When asked what song he'd like playing at his funeral, he added to NME magazine: "I don't know if it's a funeral song but there's something very sentimental about it. It's melancholy but not too full-on. There's something kind of 'greater than us' about this song." Meanwhile, Adam previously revealed performing alongside Queen has given him "great confidence". He said: "[It has given me] a great confidence. Public reaction to the group's concerts [have been] wonderful and the tour gave me the opportunity to make myself known to more people."



Susan Sarandon feels we live in a 'self-conscious' world

he 69-year-old actress says there is a real sense of disconnect with social media and the pressures to look a certain way, which is only amplified by having to maintain an online profile. She said: "I think the whole culture with selfies and all of this business has made us more and more self-conscious and less and less attached to our tribe." The 'Thelma & Louise' actress loves to interact with people in real life but can't understand why every time she enters a room people turn to their phones to tell people she's there. She said: "I love talking to people that I meet, that I'm important to for whatever reason. That might

seem somewhat artificial, but I don't mind. I don't find that a burden at all. But what's interesting is that now when I enter a room ... everybody picks up their phone and starts saying that I'm there." The flame-haired beauty isn't bothered about people stopping and staring at her in the street but is more concerned with people who use their phones. She added to Irish Tatler magazine: "I don't necessarily think I deserve it more than someone else. When you go to a place where that doesn't happen, you're still affected by it because now you're noticing that it's not there."



Gossip



Khalifa has not forgiven Kanye West

he rapper became the target of Kanye's wrath in January after the 39year-old star mistakenly thought Wiz - who has a three-year-old son Sebastian with ex-wife Amber Rose - had dissed his spouse Kim Kardashian West and Wiz is not ready to forget about it. Speaking on 'The Breakfast Club', Wiz, 28, said: "We spoke on the phone [after the rant]. He apologized. I wouldn't necessarily say it's squashed though because when you see him talk about it, it doesn't add up to what he said to me on the phone. "I don't feel like I really went at him. That was his bad." And Wiz went on to hint that all is not well, despite Kanye's apology, saying: "Do I

like him? Who would in that situation?" Kanye's furious tirade of tweets came after Wiz blasted the title of his album 'Waves' - which has since been changed to 'Life of Pablo' - and wrote: "Hit this kk and become yourself (sic)" Kanye assumed "kk" referred to his wife but the 'Black and Yellow' star insisted he was referring to a strain of marijuana. During the row, the 'All Day' rapper blasted: "You wouldn't have a child if it wasn't for me... You own waves???? I own your child!!!! (sic)" Kanye also slammed Amber - who he dated from 2008 to 2010 - as a "stripper" who had "trapped" Wiz by getting pregnant.

Trainor has increased security following shooting

down by obsessed fan Kevin James Loibl after a concert performance earlier this month and 'All About That Bass' hitmaker Meghan admitted that the tragedy left her in fear for her own safety. She explained to the New York Post's Page Six: "The two days following [Grimmie's murder] I was like, 'I'm not going out to see fans, I'm too afraid now.' "I want to make sure we have good security. I'm not that artist yet, I don't have security with me all the time, I don't have 'my guy.' I asked my team, 'Should I be getting a guy? Should I have someone?' I go out all the time without security, and you just never know. You have no idea who's out there obsessed

■he 22-year-old singer was gunned with you to the point that they would do something like that. "I did go out recently and sign [autographs] for some fans... and I do feel better about this. I do need to be careful, but I can still do this. I don't have to be afraid of the world. That's my biggest fear on top of that, to be afraid to go outside." Christina had opened for the band Before You Exit at The Plaza Live in Orlando and stayed on afterwards to sign autographs for fans when Loibl - who was carrying two handguns, two loaded magazines and a hunting knife - approached her and opened fire. Police believe he came to the gig with the intention of killing Christina.



Khloe hopes sisters are planning a surprise birthday party for her



■he 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star hasn't got much planned yet to mark her 32nd birthday on June 27 but has her fingers crossed that her siblings Kourtney, Khloe and Rob Kardashian or her half sisters Kylie and Kendall Jenner have put some ideas together. She told E! News: "I don't have any plans as of yet. I'm not a big planner. Things just kind of like happen. "I don't like to plan my own birthday. Who wants to do that? I hope someone else is [planning], like one of my sisters. I'm just not a big birthday girl though." Meanwhile, the 31-year-old television personality previously revealed she hates people "meddling" in her business when someone is genuinely asking er way, haha! (sic)"

questions out of sincerity. The minute you feel like someone is being nosy, be as vague as possible. I know who is being effing nosy and I make it a point to give very short answers if they're meddling in my bidness. "A 'One-Upper' relative is super annoying. My tip? Smile through your teeth and have a point person who will keep an eye on you. Whenever they see the one-upper chatting you up, it's their responsibility to call you in another direction. (sic)" And Khloe admits she has "empathy" for 'The Over Sharer' and can't resist passing them over to sister Kim Kardashian West. She added: "I have empathy for this person. They just need to talk - so let them and has shared a list of tips on how to talk! When it gets to be too much, call deal with "annoying" party guests. She someone else over. I'm like, 'Hey Kim!' wrote: "First, you have to be able to tell and then pass them off and run the oth-



Swift has introduced Hiddleston to her parents

Ithough the pair have only been dating for a few weeks, Taylor, 26, has already brought him home to Nashville to meet her father and mother, Scott and Andrea Swift. Taylor enjoyed a lunch date with her parents on Thursday before they returned to her house to meet the 35-year-old 'Thor' actor, according to E! News. The happy couple later enjoyed a dinner date with friends including Holly Williams, granddaughter of Hank Williams who Tom played in 'I Saw The Light'. And it was recently claimed that even though they have only been dating for a few weeks, following Taylor's shock split from Calvin Harris, she is hoping the British hunk is "the one". A source said: "Taylor said she thinks he is the one, as odd and new as it sounds... Taylor was hesitant to get involved so quickly after Calvin. But she felt that Calvin was not giving her what she wanted for some time so she was ready to move on towards the tail end of their relationship anyway." Taylor shocked fans across the world when she was spotted smooching Tom during a romantic walk on Misquamicut beach near her home in Watch Hill, Rhode Island just weeks ago. The pair stopped and posed for selfies and enjoyed a kiss whilst sitting on the rocks and the actor even gave his girlfriend his jacket to protect her from the strong winds.

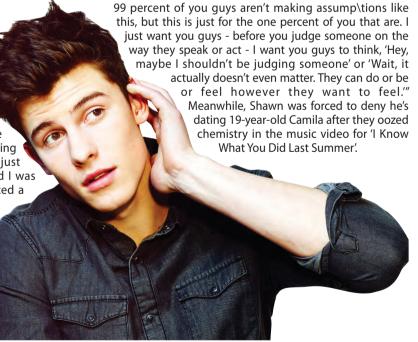
Amber Rose spent \$30,000 at a strip club

■he 32-year-old model is still incredibly close with her ex-husband, with whom she has three-year-old Sebastian, and revealed they blew a lot of money on a night out at the club. She revealed: "It's so crazy that we are literally the best of friends. We hang out all the time. We have family days with the baby. "We just went out to a strip club the other night together - without the baby. Just me and Wiz. We had a great time. We spent like [\$30,000] on strippers. It was sick. It was so cool." And Amber hasn't ruled out a chance of the pair getting back together one day but thinks they made a mistake the first time around by getting married. Speaking on SiriusXM's B Real With Bethenny show, she added: "I feel like that we just rushed into marriage because we were so deeply in love, and we kind of had a rough patch in our marriage. And because we were married, it kind of like brought it to the next level. I feel like if we just stayed in just a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship longer, we could have worked it out and then got married later. "I just feel like right now he should go be a ho for a while and work on his businesses, and then maybe later we can get back. If God wants us together, we will be together." Meanwhile, Amber previously revealed Wiz will always be the "love of her life". She shared: "We love our son so much, and Sebastian is the happiest when we're together. Wiz will always be my best friend, forever - we're best friends. It's kind of weird, because it's like ... we're almost better divorced, you know? It just really worked out for us that way.



Shawn Mendes has declared he's heterosexual

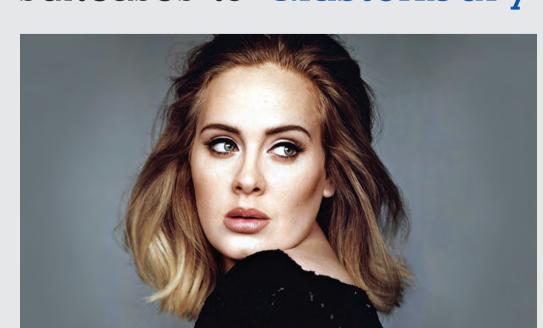
■he 17-year-old singer - who was rumored to be dating Fifth Harmony singer Camila Cabello - clarified his sexual orientation in a video posted on his Snapchat account and said he was responding to comments made online that he emits a "gay vibe". In the video posted on the photo and video sharing app, he said: "So I don't usually do this and bring up problems, but I was on YouTube just watching some of my interviews, and I was going down the comments and noticed a lot of people were saying that I gave them a 'gay vibe'. "First of all, I'm not gay. Second of all, it shouldn't make a difference if I was or if I wasn't. The focus should be on the music and not my sexuality." The heartthrob went on to urge fans who are quick to "judge" to think before they comment on a person's attributes. He added: "Now I know



Adele taking four suitcases to Glastonbury

he 'Hello' hitmaker showed she isn't a fan of travelling light as her make-up artist Michael Ashton shared a picture of her luggage on the way to Worthy Farm, Somerset as she prepares to headline the Pyramid stage on Saturday night. He wrote on Instagram: "just a few essentials packed for #Glastonbury (sic)"The 28-year-old singer is thought to already be at the festival, after her partner Simon Konecki was spotted roaming around the site earlier in the week. A source told Mirror Celeb: "Simon was smoking in the hospitality area at the site before walking to take photographs and video footage of revelers at the Pyramid Stage, and he made sure he got involved by enjoying the other acts on smaller stages. "He looked as though he was really getting into the spirit of Glastonbury as he strolled around the site in the sunshine with a male friend. Nobody recognized him. It was amusing to see fans walking past him singing Adele's Hello. He was beaming. Simon has full access to the swanky toilet facilities on site, but instead chose to stop by a Portaloo. He's clearly as laid back as Adele is." Meanwhile, Adele previously hit back at those who dubbed her too "boring" to headline the music extravaganza.

Bangshowbiz



Features

After 'rape' analogy row, Khan says he needs to talk less

ollywood superstar Salman Khan, who sparked uproar hashtag #InsensitiveSalman has been trending. in India by saying his heavy training schedule for an upcoming film left him feeling "like a raped woman", said Thursday he needs to talk less to stay out of trouble. Khan, who has played a bad boy with a heart of gold in dozens of Indian blockbusters, made the controversial comments in an interview to promote his latest Bollywood movie "Sultan", which tells the story of an ageing wrestler trying to make a comeback

"When I used to walk out of the ring, after the shoot, I used to feel like a raped woman. I couldn't walk straight," 50-yearold said in an interview with Indian news site Spotboye.com published on Monday. India's National Commission for Women demanded a public apology, calling the comments "reprehensible", following an outcry on social media where the

In the wake of the row all eyes were on Khan as he took the stage Thursday night in Madrid alongside a handful of other top Bollywood stars to promote the International Indian Film Academy awards which will be held over the weekend in the Spanish capital. "I know it has been a long evening, I will make it short, quick," he said, prompting a woman in the audience to yell out: "No! Long!"

Khan then said: "I have to. Knowing me the shorter I keep it the better it is." The audience, made up largely of Indian journalists and entertainment industry workers, broke out into cheers and applause. Khan is nominated for best actor in the International Indian Film Academy awards for his role in "Bajrangi Bhaijaan", the biggest-grossing Bollywood film of

The movie, about a man who embarks on a journey to reunite a mute six-year-old Pakistani girl stuck in India with her parents in Pakistan, is expected to be one of the big winners at th 17th edition of the awards, which are held in a different city outside of India every year. Last year Khan was cleared of killing a homeless man in a hit-and-run crash and he is battling allegations he used unlicensed arms to shoot antelopes in western India. — AFP

> This file photo taken on October 2, 2015 shows Indian Bollywood actor Salman Khan at a promotional event in Mumbai. — AFP





This file photo taken on June 8, 2016 shows filmmaker George Lucas as he arrives at the 2016 American Film Institute Life Achievement Awards Honoring John Williams, in Hollywood, California. — AFP

'Star Wars' creator scraps

or George Lucas, Chicago might as well be a galaxy far, far away. The "Star Wars" creator invented an entire sci-fi universe and multibillion-dollar empire. But he could not manage to build his legacy museum in the US city. Thwarted by local politics, the 72-year-old filmmaker said Friday that the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art would now be built somewhere in California.

Lucas had planned to spend some \$700 million of his own fortune to build the museum on prime real estate along Lake Michigan, which the city offered to lease for 99 years at a price of \$10. That plan, which would have seen the museum replace a parking lot, went awry soon after it was announced in 2014 when a local preservation group sued to prevent construction.

The group contended that the museum, which would have replaced a parking lot, should be built at another site away from the lakefront, which is considered land reserved for public use. Lucas on Friday strongly criticized the group's stance. "No one benefits from continuing their seemingly

unending litigation to protect a parking lot," he said in a statement.

Formidable art collection

The filmmaker had hoped to display his formidable art collection that focuses on narrative forms such as comic art, photography, film, and magazine illustrations, as well as "Star Wars" memorabilia. The museum also would have included his collection of paintings by Norman Rockwell - the celebrated 20th century master illustrator of everyday American life.

But plans were stopped in their tracks when US District Judge John Darrah refused to dismiss the case against Lucas, saying there was a persuasive argument that the proposed museum would "impair public interest in the land." Attempts to negotiate between the parties soon thereafter stalled. Within minutes of Lucas' announcement Friday, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel lamented the loss of "a gift worth approximately \$1.5 billion."

"Chicago's loss will be another city's gain,"

Emanuel said in a statement. "This missed opportunity has not only cost us what will be a worldclass cultural institution, it has cost thousands of jobs for Chicago workers, millions of dollars in economic investment and countless educational opportunities for Chicago's youth." Juanita Irizarry, executive director of Friends of the Parks, the group that brought the suit, reiterated that point.

"It is unfortunate that the Lucas Museum has made the decision to leave Chicago rather than locate the museum on one of the several alternative sites that are not on Chicago's lakefront," Irizarry said. The lakefront was supposed to have been one of the museum's key draws, putting it in close proximity to other institutions with which it hoped to collaborate, including the Art Institute of Chicago. Lucas' previous efforts to build the museum on federal parkland in San Francisco also

Kanye unveils 'Famous' video of him and naked celebrities

'anye West has unveiled a video on a Swift; producer Ray J; former girlfriend subject he knows something about: Fame. The video for a single titled "Famous" - unveiled Friday night at a promotional event in the Los Angeles Forum features what appears to be a naked West with images of 11 other famous people, some of whom he has had good and bad relationships with, Vanity Fair magazine

The celebrities, who appear to be naked in a huge bed with West, are his wife, Kim Kardashian West; former President George W Bush; presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump; Vogue editor Anna Wintour; singers Rihanna, Chris Brown and Taylor

Amber Rose; transgender activist Caitlyn Jenner; and comedian Bill Cosby.

West included an image of Bush, who he famously criticized on national TV right after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. "Maybe in some alternative universe me and George Bush could have been friends. I could have been his OJ Simpson black friend on the golf course," West told the magazine in a phone interview. As for including Cosby, who West once tweeted was innocent of sexual abuse allegations, the rapper said: "It's not in support or anti any of (the people in the video.) It's a comment on fame."— AP



In this Sept 10, 2015 file photo, Kanye West appears at the Brother Vellies Spring 2016 collection presentation during Fashion Week, in New York. — AP

Judge blocks planned sale of Whitney Houston's Emmy

federal judge blocked the sale of an Emmy Award that Whitney Houston won 30 years ago after it was put on the auction block by the late singer's family. US District Judge Percy Anderson issued a temporary restraining order Thursday against Heritage Auctions and the pop star's estate, which planned to sell the Emmy. Houston won the TV award in 1986 for her performance of "Saving All My Love for You" during the Grammy ceremony.

Anderson's ruling says the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences has initially shown it owns the award, is likely to win the case and would suffer irreparable harm if the award was sold. He set a hearing for July 7 to extend the order.

"We fought the good fight, but we respect the court's decision," Heritage Auctions spokesman Eric Bradley said. "As ordered, the award will be withdrawn from the auction and returned to the Houston family." Anderson agreed with arguments by lawyers for the television academy that Emmy trophies are loaned to an artist but that it retains ownership rights to them and

they cannot be sold after the artist dies. If an heir no longer wants an Emmy Award, it must be returned to the academy for storage in "memory of the recipient," according to court filings.

Other items of Houston memorabilia went on sale as planned Friday and earned more than \$500,000. The top bid was \$20,000 for a pair of Nike Air Jordan sneakers given to Houston by NBA great Michael Jordan around 1990. Several of Houston's other awards, including a Billboard Award given for her song, "I Will Always Love You," in 1993 were also sold.

One bidder agreed to pay \$16,250 for a Dolce & Gabbana fur coat Houston wore on stage. Other items sold included gold records, a passport used during her world tours, and other performance costumes, Heritage Auctions said. Houston was found dead at age 48 in a hotel room in Beverly Hills on the eve of the 2012 Grammys.

'Game Of Thrones' will go on, despite Brexit vote

he modern British isles may have been rocked to their core by this week's vote to exit the European Union, but the move will have no immediate impact on the mythical continents of Westeros and Essos. "We do not anticipate that the result of the EU Referendum will have any material effect on HBO producing 'Game of Thrones," makers of the hit series said in a statement

Some productions could be harmed because of disappearing tax breaks or subsidies, but people close to "Game of Thrones" said the series already has succeeded without support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDC) for the past few

Most of the big studios and other Hollywood production companies, taking a wait-and-see attitude, declined to comment on the passage of the measure known as "Brexit"-for Britain exiting the 28-nation alliance that lowers barriers to trade, travel and immigration. One physical production executive said that her studio stood to realize a short term gain, because it waited until after the vote to negotiate terms for shooting an upcoming film in the United Kingdom. The passage of Brexit led to a crash in the British pound-which dipped to a three-decade low of just over \$1.32 before recovering slightly to \$1.37 — a net drop of 7.4 percent.

Some people bought their currency forward last week and so this kind of stinks for them," said the executive, who declined to be named. "We have a shoot coming up later this year and we waited and so we are getting a lot better conversion rate. It certainly impacts our ultimate costs."

In converse, film receipts coming from Britain in the form of the weakened Sterling will be worth less to their overseas producers. "Our production manager was having a drink to celebrate but our friends on the distribution side are not so happy," said the source. Several entertainment executives said it was uncertain how the diverging forces would eventually net out.

Other Hollywood executives said they

are concerned that the change will mean it will be harder to move talent and equipment in and out of Britain. Visas that were not needed under the EU will now be required to move crews in and out of the country. "It's just one more bureaucratic step we have been freed from that will begin again," said one official, who also declined to be named. "But the unwinding of England from the organization and figuring out what processes and regulations will be changed is impossible to know right now."

The Motion Picture Assn. of American called for a measured response. "While it will take time to understand the full implications of the referendum result, we urge the UK Government to prioritize a stable environment for the film and television sector," said the MPAA's statement, "to ensure it continues to be a driver for jobs and growth in the years to come." — Reuters



In this Feb 13, 2011 file photo, singer Whitney Houston performs at the pre-Grammy gala & salute to industry icons with Clive Davis honoring David Geffen in Beverly Hills. — AP



Paris fashion Week























Models present creations by Kenzo, Givenchy and Comme des garcons during the men Spring summer 2017 collection fashion show on June 25, 2016 in Paris. — AFP photos

Kuwait Times LILOS SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016

After 'rape' analogy row, Khan says he needs to talk less









A man practices his contact juggling skills in Manila yesterday. — AFP

The most ridiculous things about 'Independence Day: Resurgence'

t would be fun to think that "Independence Day: Resurgence" is as godawful as a lot of people want to say it is-that it's the "John Carter" of bombastically over scaled paramilitary '90s-nostalgia alien disaster flicks. But seriously, it ain't that bad. (And let's be honest: The 1996 original isn't that good.) It's a greasy high-cheese blockbuster served up by people who know (mostly) what they're doing-which is to say, director Roland Emmerich, in the 20 years since "ID4," has not lost his touch for shamelessly grandiose and derivative sci-fi schlock spectacle. That said - a movie like this one wouldn't be a movie like this one if it didn't offer at least a few invitations to giggle at it. Viewers, of course, are free to choose their own, but just to get you started, here are the 5 most ridiculous things about "ID4: Resurgence."

The most ridiculous character

His name is Dikembe Umbutu (Diobia Oparei), but then, what's in a name? You will know him simply as "the warlord" (we meet him in the Central African desert where the carcass of the old alien spaceship is docked), and he has his own special technique for combating the deadly extraterrestrial menace. The other characters use machine guns, military jet fighters, cold-fusion bombs, and other stuff like that, but not our warlord: He's sticking with what he knows best-the two machetes he carries around, criss-crossed on his back, for the entire film. Don't get in the way of his blades, alien people! "You kill them from behind," he gruntingly explains, and he means it, literally. There's a great moment when a science nerd places his hands on an alien sphere, and suddenly he's glued to it, and it's sucking him in-and as everyone in the room rises up in alarm, you can glimpse the warlord in the background...reaching for that machete! He's the closest thing the movie has to a character out of "Airplane!"

The most ridiculously timely political allusion

The "ID4" films are not exactly big on topical relevance. How could they be, when the original film was so busy raiding



This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows a scene from "Independence Day: Resurgence." — AP photos

the 1970s with its mash-up of "Close Encounters" and a twodozen-characters-you-could-hardly-care-less-about disaster film? But in "Resurgence," there's one character who rings an unmistakably timely bell, and that's the President of the United States-played by Sela Ward with a steely grin and a studiously tenacious "I am woman, hear me project my strongon-defense military bona fides" resolve that's a little too reminiscent of a certain presumptive Democratic presidential nominee to be coincidence. As much as the film would like to pretend that the casting is gender neutral, it's not: Moments after she issues a terse command like "Take 'em out, commander!" the president then says, "Let's hope to God we did the right thing!" in a way that no Morgan Freeman president would ever need to do. And the surest (unconscious) sign that the filmmakers may be a little nervous about the prospect of a

Hillary presidency is the fact that...well, let's just say that no one stays president forever.

The most ridiculously sincere bromantic line

"ID4," of course, had Will Smith, and it made him a megaplex ultrastar, just as he made the movie an ultrasmash. In lieu of the late great Capt. Hiller, "Resurgence" has two joystick fighter jocks: Hiller's military-hero son, Dylan (Jessie T. Usher), and his rival, Jake Morrison (Liam Hemsworth), who was nearly responsible for Dylan's death. Attempting to mend fences. Jake says (in reference to the loss of Dylan's parents), "I've been where you are. And I know how deep it hurts." It takes about 20 minutes for the movie to recover from that line and regain its proper attitude of folks-gettin'-blowed-up-realgood nonchalance. What the movie never quite defeats is the

cruise-control innocuousness of this "Top Gun Lite" pair, with Hemsworth and Usher as such smooth, bland, unruffled bros that even their dive-bombing scenes feel like they're happening on autopilot.

The most ridiculous person carried over from 'ID4'

If the new movie-theoretically-is built around nostalgia for 1996, and the "Top Gun"-vs.-alien dogfights take us back to 1986, then what can you say about a character who makes us feel like it's 1976? That would be Judd Hirsch's Julius Levinson, who in the film's deadliest scenes drives a school bus full of children across the desert, all so that he can drop words like "schmuck" and "putz" (are you laughing yet?) and then rendezvous with his son David (Jeff Goldblum), which allows him to deliver the rim-shot line, "We had to wait until the end of the world to get together?" (Okay, you can laugh now.) That Hirsch says all of this in a showbiz-Yiddish accent makes you think that he isn't so much playing the leftover knish in an alien tentpole movie as auditioning for his very own Normal

The ridiculous one-size-fits-all alien designs

Even if you haven't seen "Resurgence" yet, you already know exactly what they look like: the jaws, the HR Giger skull head, the rasta tentacles that seem to have come out of a "Predator" sequel. Just as every description of an alien by anyone who was ever "abducted" used to have to look exactly like that slit-eyed, Charm Pop-headed prototype immortalized in 1977 by "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," there's an unstated law in Hollywood that every hostile alien invader has to be a direct variation on the ones in the "Alien" films. Admittedly, the queen alien in "Resurgence" does make for an impressive image, mostly through the sheer size of the thing. Which makes you realize that it may be about time to put this creature into the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. — Reuters



This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows Liam Hemsworth as Jake Morrison in a scene from "Independence Day: Resurgence."



This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows Sela Ward as President Lanford, left, and Jessie Usher as Dylan Hiller in a scene from "Independence Day: Resurgence."



This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows Jeff Goldblum as David Levinson, left, and Charlotte Gainsbourg as Dr Catherine Marceaux in a scene from "Independence Day: Resurgence."