

Kuwait Times



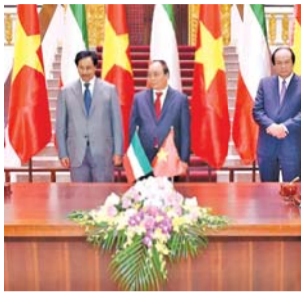
THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016

RAJAB 30, 1437 AH

No: 16866

PM urges expansion of Kuwait oil industry worldwide



US military supporting Yemen in fight against Qaeda



Sevilla, Liverpool advance to Europa League final



150 Fils

SADIQ KHAN LONDON'S FIRST MUSLIM MAYOR

LABOR SUFFERS NATIONWIDE SETBACKS



Min 29°
Max 39°



LONDON: Britain's Labor party candidate for London Mayor Sadiq Khan (C) arrives at City Hall in central London yesterday. —AFP

LONDON: Labor lawmaker Sadiq Khan was elected mayor of London yesterday, beating the ruling Conservatives' candidate Zac Goldsmith to the coveted position, Sky News reported.

The official announcement was expected later and Sky based the report on its own calculations. The position of London mayor provides an influential platform to lobby the government in the interests of London's 8.6 million residents. Thus London became the first EU capital with a Muslim mayor with the election of Khan in elections that also saw Labor party suffer nationwide setbacks.

The race to replace Boris Johnson pitched two very different candidates against each other—Khan, the son of a Pakistani bus driver and a seamstress, against Goldsmith, whose father was a wealthy financier. A Khan victory would offer some cheer for embattled Labour chief Jeremy Corbyn after local election losses elsewhere in England failed to dispel questions over the veteran socialist's leadership. Corbyn, who has faced opposition from centrists in his party since becoming leader last year, insisted his party had "hung on" and surpassed expectations.

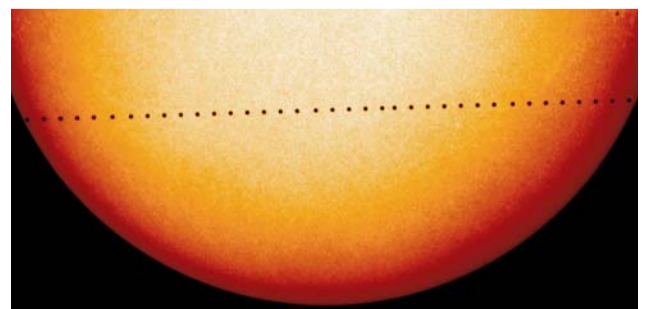
"All across England last night we were getting predictions that we were going to lose councils. We didn't," he said. "We hung on and we grew support in a lot of places."

With results in from 110 out of 124 councils, Labor had 55, down one, and 1,176 seats, down 25. Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservatives had control of an unchanged 30 councils and 650 seats, down 23. A BBC projection suggested that Labor would win 31 percent of the vote share nationally compared to 30 percent for the Conservatives. — Agencies

SKYGAZERS BRACING FOR RARE MERCURY SIGHTING

PARIS: Earthlings will witness Mercury make a rare passage between our planet and the Sun Monday, appearing as a black dot tracking the surface of the star we share with the solar system's smallest planet. Mercury completes an orbit every 88 days, and passes between the Earth and the Sun every 116 days, according to the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS).

But its orbit is tilted in relation to Earth's, which means it usually appears from our perspective to pass above or below the Sun. Thirteen times each century, however, the two orbits align such that even amateur astronomers can see the tiny planet tens of millions of kilometres away. "It is always exciting to see rare astronomical phenomena such as this transit of Mercury," RAS president Martin Barstow said in a statement. —AFP



This composite image of observations by NASA and the ESA's Solar and Heliospheric Observatory shows the path of Mercury during its November 2006 transit. — AP

SAUDI POLICEMAN SHOT DEAD IN HOLY MAKKAH

RIYADH: A Saudi police officer has been shot dead in the holy Makkah region, the interior ministry said yesterday, after four suspected jihadists died during a raid in the same area. Corporal Khalaf Al-Harithi was on duty in the western region on Thursday evening when he was hit by gunfire from an unknown source, a ministry statement said.

Saudi Arabia also published the names yesterday of four people it said were Islamic State fighters killed in a raid by security forces outside holy Makkah and vowed to protect the country from further attacks by the group. Security forces shot dead two of the men and two others blew themselves up outside the holy city on Thursday. The raid followed a spate of shootings and bombings against security forces which raised concerns about security in the world's top oil exporter.

An investigation is under way. It occurred several hours after officers shot dead two "terrorists" in an exchange of fire at their hideout between the holy city of Makkah and the mountain resort of Taif, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) to the east, the ministry said. Two other suspects killed

themselves by detonating suicide belts, it said.

Yesterday, the ministry identified the four, saying they had been wanted by police. Saeed Al-Shahrani, 49, was sought in connection with the suicide bombing of a mosque inside a Saudi special forces compound in the southwestern city of Abha last August. Fifteen people died. He was also wanted over an October suicide bombing which killed two at an Ismaili Shiite mosque in the southern city of Najran, and the February shooting of a retired security officer in the Jazan region. Groups claiming affiliation with the so-called Islamic State claimed those attacks.

Also killed was Mohammed Al-Inzi, 46, wanted over suicide bombings at Shiite mosques that killed 25 people last May and June. Police said he was also involved in the November 2014 shooting of seven Shiite worshippers, which began the series of attacks allegedly linked to IS in the Sunni-dominated kingdom. The other dead suspects were Mubarak Al-Dosari, 25, and Adil Al-Majmaj, 27. Majmaj had been arrested in 2013 during a protest demanding the release of Islamist prisoners. — Agencies

ARAB HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER COMMENDS PAM

KUWAIT: Deputy Chairman of the Arab League human rights committee Dr Abdulmajid Zaalani said the Kuwaiti center for sheltering foreign workers is a pioneering center in the region in providing basic services for the expatriates and solving their problems. "The center, an affiliate of the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM), provides a humanitarian treatment, including dwelling and healthcare, for the expatriates, males and females, who lost their livelihoods and enables them to solve their legal problems," he said.

Zaalani, now on a visit to Kuwait, made the press remarks after inspecting the center along with other members of the com-

mittee known also as "the charter committee." "The delegation took note of the existence of places of worship at the center which signals the country's respect for different faiths of the expatriates and keenness on helping them to coexist with each other," he said.

The delegation was briefed on the role of the authority in caring for the expatriates and solving their problems in coordination with the competent ministries such as the ministries of justice, interior and foreign affairs. "We have also met representative of civil society institutions advocating for human rights protection and discussed with senior officials of the Ministry of

Interior the legitimate rights of prisoners," he added.

Meanwhile, PAM Director General Abdullah Al-Motawtah welcomed the visit of the delegation and reaffirmed keenness on full cooperation with the Arab League committee out of belief in its important role. He added that the center provides the expatriates with medical, psychological and livelihood services until they are able to integrate with the community or leave for home in coordination with their respective embassies. Founded four years ago, the center receives the expatriate workers who are willing to live there until their work or residency problems are solved. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Photo shows palm leaves baskets - a Kuwaiti ancient house tools from the past. — KUNA

KUWAIT PARTICIPATES IN PALESTINIAN BOOK FAIR

KUWAIT: Kuwait's participation in the Palestinian International Book Fair as a "guest of honor" is a crowning of its leading and effective cultural role regionally and internationally, said Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Sabah. Sheikh Salman, also Minister of State for Youth Affairs, made the statement to KUNA prior to his departure to Ramallah City in the West Bank to take part in the event, adding that there is a close relation between the cultural scenes of the two countries.

He referred to the depth of relations between Kuwait and Palestine on all levels -

expressing his gratitude to Palestinian brothers for this invitation which was welcomed by Kuwaiti intellectuals to support the Palestinian cause. Kuwait's participation in the event, which will kick off on May 9-12, coincides with the naming of Kuwait as the capital of Islamic culture for 2016, he said. He noted that Kuwait was a guest of honor at Cairo International Book Fair in 2014, the largest one in the Arab world. The minister stressed the important role of culture in cementing relations among nations and countries as culture promotes values of love, tolerance and accepting of others.

Ministry of Information and National

Council for Culture, Letters, Arts (NCCLA) prepared a good program in the fair which reflects Kuwait's image and leading role on Arab and Muslim cultural map, he made clear. The cultural week includes varied activities and events in which a number of intellectuals take part, he revealed. He voiced his gratitude to Kuwait's youth participating in the fair and events of the cultural week for their huge and sincere efforts in showing the bright image of Kuwait. Sheikh Salman is leading a high-level delegation from Ministry of Information and NCCLA that includes some senior officials to the event. — KUNA

News

in brief

Health Minister in Cairo

CAIRO: Kuwait's Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi arrived in Cairo yesterday, heading an official Kuwaiti delegation to take part in a seminar organized by the regional office of the World Health Organization (WHO). It is expected that participants in the seminar will discuss over a two-day period such topics as the nexus between providing health services and foreign policy, and between health issues and national security, as well as dealing with wide-scale emergencies and catastrophes, and the connection between humanitarian crises and expected achievement of national development goals.

Info Minister honored

HAMMAMET: The Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) has honored Kuwait Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and a number of Arab ministers for their efforts in improving media. The ceremony was attended by Kuwait Information Ministry Assistance Undersecretary for Media Planning and Development Affairs Mohammad Al-Awash, who received the award on behalf of Sheikh Salman at the concluding ceremony of the 17th ASBU-sponsored Arab Festival for Radio and Television. ASBU also honored Sudanese Information Minister Ahmad Belal and Algerian Information Minister Hamid Qarin, among other Arab senior media officials. Al-Awash said, "Such honoring to Sheikh Salman comes in recognition of his efforts in enhancing media development in the country." Meanwhile, Kuwaiti media, represented by Radio and Television sectors, won a number of awards.

MoH battles counterfeits

KUWAIT: All forms of counterfeit medications will be thoroughly eliminated and legal action will be taken against companies involved in fraudulent processes, the Ministry of Health (MoH) said. In a press statement during a campaign to generate awareness on the perils of forged medications, head of the medical inspections department at the MoH Dr Jaber Al-Khalidi said that the ministry has gotten rid of all advertisements of these products. The ministries of health and interior are continuously cooperating to take care of that issue, he added. The campaign, hosted by the Avenues Mall, is part of efforts to inform the youth on potential ill effects of certain drugs. The MoH, over the last two years, has confiscated a total of 640 counterfeit products that have infiltrated the healthcare market.

China-Arab research institute

TOKYO: A national-level China-Arab research institute was launched on Thursday in northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, where many of the country's Muslim Hui ethnic minority live, state-run Xinhua News Agency reported. The institute, affiliated with Ningxia University in the regional capital of Yinchuan, will bring together Chinese and Arabic scholars, according to the report. It will focus on such areas as Sino-Arabic diplomatic affairs, Sino-Arabic cooperation in finance, technology transfer and industry, and cultural and educational exchanges between China and Arab countries. Yahya Eslayyem Salman Qaralleh, Jordanian ambassador to China, said the research institute will help China deepen its understanding of Arab people and culture and help the Chinese government make more objective and convincing decisions with regard to Arab countries. About one-third of Ningxia's population of 6.7 million is Muslim.

US-Hormuz operation

WASHINGTON: The US will "continue to fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows," a military official said in response to threats to close the Strait of Hormuz to the US. "We would have concerns with comments like that. You know that we will continue to fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows," Department of Defense spokesman Peter Cook said in a press briefing. The comments were made in response to reports that Iran's Revolutionary Guard Deputy Commander Gen Hossein Salami said that Tehran would close the strategic waterway to the US and its allies if Iran felt it was under threat. "Any effort to cut down, to somehow shutdown, a waterway of critical importance to the global economy is something that we would treat with a great degree of concern," added Cook. "Obviously we have our forces present in that part of the world to make sure that there is the free flow of commerce and that certainly American interests are maintained," the US official underlined.

CITIZENSHIP FORGERY CASE

KUWAIT: In another citizenship forgery case, a Kuwaiti couple was recently arrested for registering two twins in their citizenship file. The mother was found to be 55 on the first registry and 58 on the second, said security sources. Both forgeries were discovered when an employee noticed the parents age and notified her superior who referred them to citizenship detectives. The suspects admitted to receiving money to add the kids to their file. A case has been filed amid further investigations.

Ethiopian dupes Kuwaitis

An Ethiopian has been arrested for fraud. Security sources said the suspect admitted to swindling 100 citizens a huge sum of money (KD 20,000) and promising to supply them with domestic servant and collecting KD 200 per each laborer. Security sources said that only 20 of the victim filed cases against the suspect and Farwaniya detectives have urged the other 80 victims to file cases against the suspect.

Sailors rescued

Five people were recently rescued by the Marine Firefighter Squad. The victims were trapped onboard after high waves (36 feet long) hit their boat off Kuwait Towers' coast during the sand storm that blew Thursday night. Security sources said that the five sailors were brought ashore safely. The sources added that four other sailors were rescued when their boat broke down off Fintas shores.

Multiple robberies

Two Asians were recently arrested for multiple robberies. The robbers attacked taxi drivers - threatening them with knives and robbing them of their money and possessions. Investigations led to arrests of the two suspects who were identified in a lineup. The suspects admitted to committing several other robberies.

Bank SMS messages?

A female citizen reported that she received three SMS messages from her bank - reporting three transactions of a total sum of KD 118. The lady added that the transactions were made online with restaurants delivery website and stressed that she had never had any dealings with that website. A case was filed.

Kuwaiti accuses doctor

A female citizen recently filed a case against a Kuwaiti female doctor accusing her of committing a medical error. The lady explained that the doctor subjected her to a Caesarean operation even though she did not need one, which resulted in giving birth to a pre-mature baby.

20 bottles of liquor

An Asian was recently arrested in Mangaf with 20 bottles of home-made liquor, said security sources. Case papers indicate that the suspect ran away when

he saw the police - dropping a bag that was found full of 20 bottles of liquor. The suspect was chased and arrested.

Wife detained

An Egyptian lady was recently detained for withholding information about her husband's whereabouts, said security sources. Case papers indicate that the husband quarreled with a Pakistani over traffic issues and then drove away. The Pakistani reported the matter to the police and gave them his license plate number which happened to be that of the suspect's wife car. On summoning her to the station, she claimed that her husband assaulted the man when he made a bad sign to her. However, the woman denied knowing where her husband was and was accordingly detained.

Fight over girlfriend

Two citizens were recently arrested for fighting in a parking lot in Fintas. Security sources said that the fight started when one of them kept annoying the other's girlfriend on phone.

Robber jumps off the roof

In an attempt to avoid being caught, an Asian robber jumped off a citizen's house roof in Mangaf and landed with several fractures all over his body. The suspect was rushed to Adan hospital's ICU.

— Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa

KJA PARTAKES IN WPF DAY

KUWAIT: In collaboration with the Moroccan National Press Syndicate, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) recently celebrated the World Press Freedom Day in Casablanca under the theme -Getting Information and Basic Liberties in the Arab World. Represented by board member and head of the foreign affairs committee, Duhairan Abalkhail, Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA) took part in the conference that included a number of workshops and seminars and attended by members of the Arab Journalists Union, EU ambassadors and a number of human rights organizations. Commenting on the conference, Abalkhail said it was a good opportunity to discuss reports about establishing regional mechanism and declaring the principles of press freedom in the Arab world. The conference discussed the role of unions and NGOs in democratization in the Arab world.



Duhairan Abalkhail



2016/5/15 الى 2016/4/6 م. 944-943-942/ف



SALE UP TO 30%

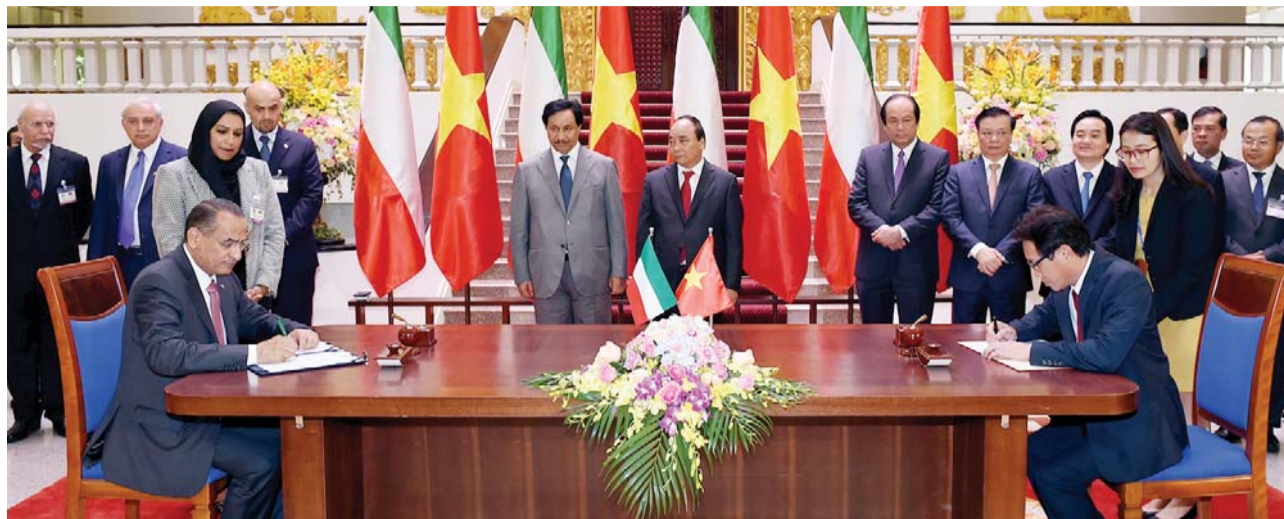
Tableware, crystal, silverware & gift items



• Al-Tilal Complex, Shuwaikh area
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• Galaria 2000 (Abdel Wahab),
Salmia, Tel.: 25712025

• Avenues Mall (Phase 2),
Tel.: 22598101



HANOI: Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) CEO Bakheet Al-Rashidi and General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam and Chairman of PetroVietnam Nguyen Phu Trong seen during the signing ceremony. — KUNA



His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Phu Trong. — KUNA

KPI, PETROVIETNAM INK DEAL

PM URGES EXPANSION OF KUWAIT OIL INDUSTRY WORLDWIDE

HANOI: Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) and PetroVietnam have signed a cooperation agreement that aims at re-focusing their refining and petrochemicals strategies. KPI's Chief Executive Officer Bakheet Al-Rashidi said yesterday, that the agreement will enhance KPI's manufacturing and refining strategies in order to provide a safe venue for Kuwaiti crude. On his part, KPI's Vice President Ghanim Al-Otaibi said that this agreement will be an "added value" to both companies.

The two companies will conduct future talks on raising the level of cooperation, he added. The agreement was signed in conjunction of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's visit to Vietnam. PetroVietnam is owned by Vietnamese central government. That is responsible for all oil and gas resources in the country and has become its country's largest oil producer and second-largest power producer.

Operations worldwide

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah has stressed the imperative to expand Kuwait's oil industry operations worldwide. His Highness the Premier said that-in the course of his visit to Vietnam as he attended a presentation by Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) on the work being done on the Nghi Son Refinery and Petrochemical Project which is jointly operated by Kuwait, Vietnam, and Japan.

His Highness Sheikh Jaber praised KPI's work on the vital project and its penchant to absorb international technical expertise in the field of petroleum production. During the presentation, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Nizar Al-Adsani extolled the importance of the Nghi Son Refinery and Petrochemical Project and the role KPI plays in,

noting that the project would generate long-term dividends for KPI and the Kuwaiti oil industry in general.

In his turn, KPI's Chief Executive Officer Bakheet Al-Rashidi gave a similar presentation in which he described the project's associative operations in the continents of Asia and Europe, noting that KPI's objective is to augment Kuwait's dividends from its international oil and refinery productions. Nghi Son Refinery is considered among the most important oil facility in Asia. It is located about 200 kilometers south of Hanoi in Vietnam. Construction began on 23 October 2013, and refinery operations are targeted for 2017. Planned capacity is 200,000 barrels per day.

Nghi Son refinery, when completed, would have a designed capacity of 10 million tons of crude oil per year with possibility to increase the capacity to 20 million tons. It is expected to cost \$9 billion. The refinery project will also include a

petrochemical complex, energy facilities, pipelines and storage systems. In addition to LPG, unleaded gasoline, kerosene, jet fuel, diesel, the refinery is projected to produce bitumen, propylene and BTX as a raw material for the petrochemical industry.

The refinery will be supplied with crude oil imports from Kuwait. The project is developed by a consortium of international companies: Petrovietnam holds 25.1%, Idemitsu Kosan and Kuwait Petroleum International each hold a 35.1% each, and Mitsui Chemicals has the remaining 4.7% of shares. A contract to set up a joint venture was signed on 7 April 2008. The refinery and petrochemical project integrates for Kuwait refinery operations with petrochemical chemical ones with the aim of generating solid dividends by working with international partners to minimize risks while selling Kuwaiti oil products in Vietnam and elsewhere in Asia and Europe. — Agencies

KUWAIT, BANGLADESH DEEPEN COOPERATION

DHAKA: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah ended a three-day official visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, a final statement said. During the visit, His Highness the Prime Minister paid a courtesy call on President of Bangladesh Mohammed Abdul Hamid, where they emphasized the importance of deepening cooperation between Bangladesh and Kuwait both in bilateral, regional and multilateral arenas, the statement said.

Deep relations

The two counterparts praised deep relations between Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. They also recalled the visit of His Highness the Amir in 1974 and the Foreign Minister of Kuwait to the OIC Summit in Lahore in 1974. During the visit, the two sides agreed to cooperate in various fields and to expand the scope of the partnership in the fields of trade, investments, energy and power, defense, human resources, infrastructure and in the priority sectors in the Economic Zones under Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (BEZA) and IT parks.

They also expressed satisfaction at the signing of the agreement on promotion and reciprocal protection of investment between Bangladesh and Kuwait, where they affirmed that it would facilitate Kuwaiti investments in Bangladesh, the statement added. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh appreciated the development assistance extended by Kuwait to Bangladesh, in particular KD-15-million economic assistance from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic

Development for the construction of Paira Bridge in Pauakhali.

The visit also saw the participation of a high-level business delegation representing the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI), which held fruitful talks with peers from the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), as they signed a Protocol of Cooperation. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh deeply appreciated the Government of Kuwait for hosting a large number of Bangladeshi work force.

Agreement signed

The two Prime Ministers also signed an agreement on visa exemption for diplomatic, official or special passport holders, where they affirmed that this would facilitate official contacts and visits to the mutual benefit of the two peoples. The two Prime Ministers also expressed satisfaction over the excellent level of cooperation in the field of defense, as they stressed that signing of the Agreement on Cooperation in military field would expand the defense cooperation.

Furthermore, Bangladesh Prime Minister deeply appreciated Kuwait's active role in humanitarian assistance, including its hosting of a series of international humanitarian pledging conferences for Syria. Both sides welcomed the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 2254 and commended the efforts of the concerned countries and the UN Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura. They also reaffirmed their commitment to the Geneva-I Communiqué as basis for a political solution to the Syrian crisis that would put an end to the bloodshed, preserve the independence and territorial integrity of Syria, and fulfill the aspirations of the Syrian people for a democratic state. — KUNA

KUWAIT, JORDAN SEEK CLOSER TIES

AMMAN: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said that Kuwait and the Kingdom of Jordan share the desire to strengthen their already deep-rooted relationship. Sheikh Salman, leading a cultural and media delegation arrived here on a visit to Jordan before proceeding to the West Bank to take part in the Palestinian International Book Fair to be held in Ramallah city on May 8-17 under auspices of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

"The Kuwaiti-Jordanian ties grew remarkably in the recent years thanks to the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Jordanian King Abdullah II," the minister said in statements to KUNA and Kuwait TV. He lauded as fruitful the cooperation between the two countries in all fields, including the cultural and media domain, and thanked Jordanian Minister of State for Media Affairs and Communication Mohammad Al-Mo'mani for the warm reception and hospitality.

On the Palestinian book fair, Sheikh Salman said Kuwait, as guest of honor at the event, sent a large delegation made of cultural and media celebrities out of keenness on cooperation with, and support to, the brotherly people of Palestine. "We seek to deliver a message of solidarity with our Palestinian brothers and affirm that Palestine question is a top priority for all Arab nations," he stressed. Meanwhile, the Jordanian minister, who received Sheikh Salman and his delegation along with Kuwait Ambassador to Jordan Dr Hamad Al-Du'a'ij, spoke highly of Sheikh Salman's great role in promoting culture on the regional level. — KUNA



'WOMEN IN CORPORATE WORLD' CONFERENCE KICKS OFF

ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES, GULF BANK ADDRESS GENDER DIVERSITY IN WORKPLACE

KUWAIT: Alghanim Industries and Gulf Bank kicked off their conference on 'Women in the Corporate World: Beyond the Glass Ceiling', taking place on Wednesday at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel. The press conference to start off the event included International Keynote Speaker Randi Zuckerburg as well as representatives from Alghanim Industries, Gulf Bank, and conference supporting partner KIPCO.

The conference, which features major international and local speakers as well as panel discussions, aims at creating a networking platform for business people to exchange ideas on achieving success in the corporate environment. This conference is being held in partnership with KIPCO, with support from Cadillac, and Everything Kuwait. The keynote international speaker is entrepreneur Randi Zuckerburg, CEO of Zuckerberg Media and author of Dot Complicated. She is passionate about ele-

vating women in the workplace and has mentored several successful business-woman and entrepreneurs. She will be delivering a keynote speech on the topic of gender diversity in the workplace.

During opening remarks at the press conference, General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank, Salma Al-Hajjaj said: "At Gulf Bank we invest in human resources, not only to cultivate the bank's performance and reach our targets of providing excellence, but also to develop the whole society. We are proud that at Gulf Bank women represent 25% of top management, which is above international standards and represents 40% of our total workforce. I believe all participants will be inspired by the experience exchange, knowledge transfer and the different case studies presented at the conference".

Ms. Zuckerburg remarked: "It's such a pleasure to be here today and to take part of an important conference which I consid-

er as a magnificent event for Kuwait, the region and the whole globe. Ten years ago I used to be one of the few females in a room where any business issue was discussed, so it's a real pleasure to be here today with males and females discussing challenges faced by women in the workplace, working on finding solutions for them, which is an achievement on its own".

"Hopefully this conference will result in links between local women's groups and like-minded groups in the United States" added Zuckerburg. Chief Human Resources Officer at Alghanim Industries, George Lambros said: "I am amazed at the level of interest 'Women in the Corporate World' has generated. The conference brings together many international, regional and local influencers to share their views and experiences. This is a vital topic, and I hope that the discussion will enrich the knowledge of participants and will inspire them to apply these new ideas to create a

healthy working environment that ensures equal opportunities for both men and women".

Commenting on the women in the workplace, Eman Al Awadhi, KIPCO Group Communications Director, commented: "At KIPCO, we believe that it is important to understand the key challenges that women face in the workforce and what could be done to motivate and drive more of them to join the private sector, as well as to create an internal culture where women can thrive in their work and also rise up the ranks to the top. Partnering with Alghanim Industries and Gulf Bank on this conference will offer us the opportunity to further support gender diversity to improve corporate culture and to create a more socially and economically balance environment."

The conference includes local speakers Sheikhha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, who is presently Undersecretary at the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs and received the Arab Woman Award for being the "Inspirational Woman of the Year" in 2015, and Sara Akbar, Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder of Kuwait Energy and one of the first women to hold a senior position in the oil and gas industry. The 'Women in the Corporate World' conference also hosts two major discussion panels.

The first panel, entitled 'The Work/Life Balance' and moderated by Nima Abu Wardeh, Columnist and award-winning broadcast journalist, and the second, 'The Role Identity' by Richard Mosley, Vice President of Global Strategy at Universum, the international employer branding company. The conference will also announce results of a nation-wide survey by Alghanim Industries and Gulf Bank to better understand the key motivating factors for women in Kuwait workforce; the survey targeted both students and professional women in Kuwait and generated over 2,000 responses. The findings will be presented to participants of the conference to help enrich understanding of the main drivers that incentivize women to work.



NBK INTRODUCES ITS PRACTICES TO GUST STUDENTS

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) visited the Mass Communications' students at The Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST). The purpose of the visit was to introduce the students to NBK's Communications Department, its strategy and expertise in order to enrich their academic and theoretical studies. A presentation was given to the students evolving around NBK's communication and media structure, the way it operates and the tasks it handles.

"NBK is committed to its corporate social responsibility activities and to promote the education and

development of the country's youth. This visit aimed to better understand the function of our communication department at NBK," said Joanne Al Abdul Jaleel, NBK Public Relations Officer. This visit is part of other initiatives including providing summer training programs for students, hiring fresh graduates and offering professional development programs for new hires; in addition to professional training and development programs especially designed and provided by worldwide renowned institutions to enhance the leadership skills of the Bank's young members.



KFH PARTICIPATES IN FINANCE CLUB WEEK

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) took part in the Finance Club Week closing ceremony held at the College of Business Administration in the framework of the strategic partnership between both sides and as part of the bank's social responsibility. The Finance Club Week was full of activities meant to enrich the students' financial, commercial and scientific experience. This participation comes as a continuation of a series of sponsorships and initiatives with the College of Business Administration and the Finance Club such as the latest honoring ceremony of the distinguished students at the College that was held

in presence of MP-Rakan-Al-Nisf and a number of the university teaching staff and representatives.

KFH was a platinum sponsor of the job fair organized by the college. The job fair aims at offering a number of job opportunities for graduates, while educating students on the banking sector and market requirements. Moreover, the bank participated in the annual freshman orientation week in coordination with the Finance Club at the college. This contributed in providing freshman students with all what they need, while educating them on the scientific subjects and the educational process at the university.

INTRA-YEMENI TALKS PROVIDES AN HISTORIC CHANCE FOR PEACE

KUWAIT: The Yemeni stakeholders are poised for reaping the fruits of the direct UN-facilitated peace talks which started here a fortnight ago under auspices of the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed. The three negotiating teams of the Yemeni government, the General People's Congress and Ansarullah movement have proceeded to the topics of the agenda put forward by the UN envoy for a peaceful settlement to the conflict through addressing the political, security, economic and humanitarian aspects of the crisis.

In this context, Cheikh Ahmed said Thursday he will leave no stone unturned to set in motion a mutually-acceptable solution based on the UN Security Council Resolution 2216, the GCC initiative for peace and the outcomes of the previous rounds of the Yemeni National dialogue. At a press conference one day after the

resumption of the talks which hit a snag four days ago when the government delegation suspended their participation, he called on all parties to engage in substantive discussions to realize the aspirations of the Yemeni people for peace, security and prosperity.

The UN envoy stressed the need to activate the recently-agreed truce monitoring committee, demilitarize the armed groups, and release of political detainees. However, he expressed concern over "numerous" violations of the truce agreement, noting that this should not be detrimental to the peace talks. Cheikh Ahmed said that he is reviewing this issue with firm support from the international community. "Tension on the ground should not affect peace talks, instead, we should help to facilitate these talks," he said, adding that a solution to the conflict in Yemen can only be a political one. — KUNA

KUWAIT CHARITY SENDS RELIEF AID TO BESIEGED SYRIANS IN ALEPPO

ANKARA: Kuwait-based Al-Najat Charitable Society announced yesterday it would send humanitarian aid post-haste to those residents of the Syrian city of Aleppo who are caught up in the current strife there. This emergency aid will be delivered in coordination with the Humanitarian Relief Foundation, a Turkish organization at work inside Syria. The Kuwaiti aid is made up of foodstuff and medicine, among other items, at a cost of \$66,000, said director of relief aid operations at Al-Najat, Thamer Al-Suhaib, in a telephone call to KUNA, noting there will be more relief aid in the pipeline for Aleppo residents in the ensuing few days.

He thanked Kuwaiti donors to the plight of the residents of the Syrian city, stressing that Al-Najat has been running numerous convoys of trucks laden with food and medicine and other incidentals to stricken people in Syria. For instance, last March a relief convoy of four trucks were sent by Al-Najat from a donation by a Kuwaiti philanthropist to orphaned children in Syria.

Aid drive to Iraqi families

Meanwhile, Kuwait has ended its humanitarian drive to distribute relief aid to thousands of displaced Iraqi families in Basra, a Kuwaiti official said. The aid drive involved

addressing the pressing needs of no less than 3,300 displaced families and was carried out in coordination between the Kuwait consulate in Basra, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), and the Red Crescent Society of Basra, said Kuwait's general consul in Basra Yousef Al-Sabbagh, according to a statement issued by the consulate today and a copy of which was obtained by KUNA.

He said now that the drive is over with, there will be more logistical and medical aid coming up in the pipeline for these displaced families as soon as proper statistics are collated regarding their needs, which will be done in conjunction with the Red Crescent Society of Basra. KRCS envoy to Basra, Ahmad Al-Faqa'an, said that the relief aid distribution reached all the known displaced families in the city of Basra.

The aid drive was first announced by the Kuwait consulate on April 26 at the behest of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in a generous gesture to come to the assistance of the displaced Iraqi families in Basra. The drive has been achieved over two time periods, the first concluded on April 7, and the second today. Both have been part of Kuwait's donation of \$200 million to alleviate the plight of the displaced Iraqi families in Basra. — Agencies



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ADEN: Yemeni loyalist security forces pose as passengers disembark from a Yemeni aircraft coming from Jordan on Thursday at the International Airport of the southern port city of Aden, as it is the first passenger plane landing after the airport reopened after months of closure due to security issues.—AFP

US MILITARY SUPPORTING YEMEN IN FIGHT AGAINST QAEDA

WASHINGTON: The Pentagon is providing military support, intelligence, ships and special operations forces to help in the ongoing operations against al-Qaida militants in Yemen, US officials said Thursday.

The US military is helping Yemeni, Emirati and Arab Coalition forces that are battling al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, and were recently able to retake the port city of Mukalla from AQAP control.

A senior US official said that American special operations forces are advising the Yemeni and Emirati forces in the region, and that they are working at the headquarters level and are not near the conflict. The official was not authorized to discuss the issue publicly so spoke on condition of anonymity.

Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, said the US is providing "limited support" to the Arab Coalition and Yemeni operations in and around Mukalla. He said that includes planning, airborne surveillance, intelligence gathering, medical support, refueling and maritime interdiction.

Davis declined to discuss whether or not special operations forces were in the country. But he said the US has sent a number of ships to the region including the USS Boxer

amphibious ready group and the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which is embarked with the group. The USS Gravelly and USS Gonzalez, both Navy destroyers, are also in the area.

"Trained and supported by an Arab Coalition led by Saudi Arabia and the UAE, Yemeni government forces and resistance fighters have retaken Mukalla and continue their offensive against AQAP in eastern Yemen," said Davis. "AQAP remains a significant security threat to the United States and to our regional partners and we welcome this effort to specifically remove AQAP from Mukalla and to degrade, disrupt and destroy AQAP in Yemen."

Late last month forces loyal to Yemen's internationally recognized government drove AQAP militants from Mukalla, a year after they captured it. Mukalla had been their stronghold. Al-Qaida had gained ground amid the chaos that has reigned in Yemen since 2014 with Yemen's Shiite Houthi rebels fighting the internationally backed government and its allies with the Saudi-led coalition.

Security officials and witnesses also said Thursday that al-Qaida militants in Yemen were pulling out of Zinjibar and Jaar, two

coastal cities east of the key southern port of Aden, following tribal-led negotiations. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity

because they were not authorized to talk to reporters while the witnesses requested anonymity out of safety concerns.—AP

EX-SANITATION WORKER GUILTY OF 'GRIM SLEEPER' LOS ANGELES MURDERS

LOS ANGELES: A former sanitation worker was convicted on Thursday of murdering nine women and a teenage girl as the "Grim Sleeper," a Los Angeles serial killer who preyed on prostitutes and drugs addicts in a crime spree dating back 30 years.

The Superior Court jury reached its verdict on all 10 counts of first-degree murder against Lonnie David Franklin Jr., 63, after deliberating a day and a half, capping a trial that ran more than 11 weeks. Franklin, who could face the death penalty, was also convicted of attempted murder for an attack on an 11th victim, Eniarta Washington, who survived being shot in the chest, raped, pushed out of a car and left for dead in 1988. Washington took the witness stand during the trial to identify Franklin as the man who attacked her. Judge Kathleen Kennedy

instructed jurors to return to the courtroom on May 12 for the start of the trial's penalty phase. Franklin was convicted of shooting seven women to death between August 1985 and September 1988, then strangling a 15-year-old girl and strangling or shooting two other women in a second round of killings between March 2002 and January 2007.

The 13-year interval between the two spates of murders earned the killer the "Grim Sleeper" moniker. Since his 2011 indictment, police said they had gathered evidence tying Franklin to at least six more unsolved slayings, some of which occurred during the previously presumed lapse in killings. Detectives said those came to light from reviewing old case files and seeking the public's help in identifying women and girls pictured among 180 photos found in Franklin's possession.—Reuters

ERDOGAN WARNS EU OVER VISA DEAL AFTER TURKEY PM EXITS

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday warned the EU that Turkey would not change an anti-terror law for the sake of a deal on visa-free travel and migrant flows, throwing up a major potential stumbling block a day after his prime minister said he was stepping down.

In a typically combative speech just 24 hours after Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said he would surrender his positions of premier and ruling party chief, Erdogan vowed to put to a referendum his controversial plan of a presidential system in Turkey as "quickly as possible".

Davutoglu had championed the landmark March deal with the European Union under which Turkey would help reduce the flow of migrants to the bloc in exchange for incentives including the promise of visa-free travel for Turks to the passport-free Schengen Area.

The European Commission this week recommended that Turks enjoy visa-free travel but Turkey must complete five more benchmarks by the end of next month to complete the EU's list of 72 criteria. Crucial among these are changes to anti-terror law as well as protection of personal data. But Erdogan signaled Ankara had no intention of changing its anti-terror legislation to placate Brussels.

"The EU says: you will change the anti-terror law for visas," Erdogan said in a televised speech in Istanbul. "Pardon me but we are going our way and you can go yours." Amanda Paul, senior policy analyst for the independent thinktank European Policy Centre told AFP there "is a huge risk, very big risk now, that the migration deal will collapse" after Erdogan's warning. "If Turkey doesn't change the anti-terror legislation in line with what's being demanded by the EU, it's difficult to see how the EU can justifiably go ahead with the visa liberalization," she added.

'EU watching closely'

The departure of Davutoglu, who had cut the migrant deal after months of tough negotiation with EU leaders including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, has already sent ripples of concern through European capitals.

Erdogan kept his distance from the talks and an anonymous online blog that surfaced earlier in the week claimed he had been furious at being sidelined over the accord and not being fully informed. Merkel expects Turkey to stick to the deal having "worked very well until now" with Davutoglu, German government spokesman Georg Streiter told reporters in Berlin.

"The EU and Germany will continue to fulfil all their obligations under the agreement and we expect this from the Turkish side as well," he added. EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said Brussels was closely following the developments. "We will obviously discuss this, first of all, with the Turkish authorities and define together how to move forward," she said on a visit to Kosovo.

Erdogan has previously warned Brussels that Ankara would stop fulfilling its side of the migrant deal-which has seen the numbers making dangerous crossings across the Aegean fall sharply-if promises like visa-free travel were not kept. Turkey's EU Affairs Minister Volkan Bozkir said earlier that Turkey did not "have the luxury" to change its anti-terror laws for the sake of the visa deal while the government was fighting the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

In another swipe at Brussels, Erdogan said: "Why aren't you changing your mindset when you allowed terrorists who put up tents close to the EU Parliament?" in apparent reference to tents set up by Kurdish activists near the EU Council building in Brussels in March.

'Referendum as soon as possible'

Tensions had already been surging between Erdogan and the West over accusations the president was imposing a creeping authoritarianism over the country he has ruled as premier from 2003 and as president from 2014.

After the departure of Davutoglu, Erdogan is determined to realise his dream of creating a presidential system in Turkey that would cement his status as number one, a plan for which the outgoing premier had only shown lukewarm enthusiasm.

Erdogan needs parliament to approve the holding of a referendum that could agree the constitutional changes. But the AKP is short of the three-fifths majority needed, raising the prospect of early elections. Without mentioning early elections, he said in the Istanbul speech that the idea would be put to a referendum "as soon as possible". —AFP



GAZA CITY: An Israeli tank rolls along the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip.—AFP

HAMAS NOT SEEKING WAR BUT WILL FIGHT ISRAELI INCURSIONS

GAZA CITY: Hamas's leader in Gaza said yesterday his Islamist movement did not seek war with Israel but would resist incursions into the Palestinian enclave, following the worst cross-border violence since the 2014 war.

Three days of mortar and tank fire between Israel and Palestinian militants, as well as Israeli air strikes, have raised concerns of a new conflict in the Hamas-run territory. Ismail Haniyeh accused Israeli forces of intruding nearly 200 meters into Gazan territory. "We are not calling for a new war, but we will not under any circumstances accept these incursions," he said in a Friday prayer sermon in the Gaza Strip.

Earlier in the day Israeli aircraft carried out their fourth air raid on the Palestinian enclave since Wednesday, attacking sites at Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza and near Khan Yunis in the south of the territory, witnesses said. There were no reports of any casualties. The Israeli army confirmed only one strike, saying it was a reaction to cross-border mortar fire. "In response to the ongoing attacks against Israeli forces, Israel Air Force aircraft targeted a Hamas terror infrastructure," an army statement said.

Since Wednesday, Hamas and other militant groups have fired at least 12 mortar rounds across the frontier, while Israeli tanks stationed on the border have fired repeatedly at what the army said were Hamas targets. The Palestinian fire targeted Israeli forces searching along the border, and short distances inside Gaza, for infiltration tunnels leading into southern Israel-among the most feared weapons of Hamas fighters during the

2014 conflict. On Thursday, Zeina Al-Amour, a 54-year-old Palestinian woman, became the first fatality of the flare-up after Israeli tank fire hit her home, medics said. The violence has raised concerns for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, the Islamist rulers of Gaza, that has held since the 50-day war in 2014 left 2,251 Palestinians and 73 Israelis dead.

Living in fear

On both sides of the border, residents said they were living in fear of a wider conflict. "In the night there is the sound of mortars, bombs, planes," said Jehan Berman, a resident of kibbutz Kerem Shalom which is only 40 meters from the border with Gaza. "We're tired. We're still recovering from the last war and the next one is already at our door," he told AFP.

Kerem Shalom is close to where the army has uncovered two Hamas tunnels, allegedly stretching into Israeli territory, in recent weeks, the most recent discovery coming on Thursday. Destruction of the tunnels became one of Israel's primary goals during the 2014 war, with more than 30 eliminated, according to the army.

Since the conflict, Hamas has continued to build what it calls "resistance tunnels." Citing Hamas activities, Israel maintains a tight blockade on Gaza which human rights groups say is collective punishment against its more than 1.8 million residents.

Ali al-Moghrabi, 40, a tailor from Gaza City's Al-Hanan Zeitun neighborhood which was bombed on Thursday, said he still had not recovered from the last conflict. "We do not want war, but the occupier (Israel)

never stops," he said.

"People are already suffering from the blockade, unemployment and poverty." Hanane Akkaoui, a 53-year-old mother, said she was scared for her children. "Bombs don't differentiate between civilians and resistance (fighters)," she said.

Hamas has accused Israeli soldiers of incursions into Gazan territory in recent days, saying this constitutes a violation of the 2014 truce. The Israeli army admits it has operated inside Palestinian territory but said it was within 100 meters of the border, where it says it has operated since the 2014 war.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convened his security cabinet on Friday to discuss the latest developments, public radio reported. A spokesman for Netanyahu's office said only that "an update was provided by security officials on IDF (Israel Defense Forces) activities of the past few days and the exposure of the tunnel." Army spokesman Peter Lerner said on Thursday that Israel had "no interest whatsoever" in a military escalation but added that it would continue to act against Hamas as "it continues to breach Israeli sovereignty and build tunnels." Israeli media reported on Friday that a pending report on the conduct of the 2014 war is set to be highly critical of Netanyahu, Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon and others.

Yediot Aharonot newspaper said the report by the state comptroller, a national watchdog, would conclude that during the conflict "the security establishment did not have a comprehensive plan for dealing with Hamas's offensive tunnels." — AFP



HOMS, SYRIA: Syrian citizens gather at the scene where two explosions struck in the village of Mukharam Al-Fawkani Thursday.—AP



ALEPPO, SYRIA: A firefighter tries to extinguish a fire at the scene where one of the rockets hit the Dubeet hospital in the central neighborhood of Muhafaza on Tuesday.—AP

RUSSIAN, SYRIAN OFFICIALS DENY THEIR PLANES HIT REFUGEE CAMP

BEIRUT: Russian and Syrian officials denied yesterday that their aircraft struck a camp for people displaced by fighting in an airstrike that killed 28 the previous evening. The denials came as activists said a coalition of rebels and militants, including Syria's Al-Qaeda branch, seized a strategic village from pro-government forces near the contested city of Aleppo.

According to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, some 73 fighters - 43 on the opposition side and 30 pro-government troops - have died since Thursday afternoon in the battle for the village of Khan Touman. The advance signals a reemergence of a powerful, ultraconservative coalition on the opposition's side in the Syria conflict.

A Syrian military official, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media, denied the army had carried out any operation against the Sarmada refugee camp on Thursday, where 28 people died, including women and children, and dozens were wounded. The official said all reports about the attack are false.

Renewed fighting

A Russian military official said yesterday that no Russian or any other aircraft made flights over the camp in Sarmada, home to about 2,000 internally displaced people who fled the fighting from the surrounding Aleppo and Hama provinces over the past year.

Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said in remarks carried by Russian news agencies that the Russian military had closely studied data from an air space monitoring system and determined that no aircraft had flown over the camp on Wednesday or Thursday.

Konashenkov said the destruction seen on photographs and videos suggested the camp could have been shelled, whether intentionally or by mistake, from multiple rocket launchers that the Syrian Al-Qaeda affiliate, known as the Nusra Front, has been using in the area.

Meanwhile, renewed fighting broke out yesterday around the village of Khan Touman, the Observatory reported. Fighter jets, presumed to belong to either Syria or its powerful ally Russia, were launching strikes on opposition positions.

Leading the opposition side was the coal-

ition known as Jaish Al-Fatah, or Army of Conquest, an ultraconservative group led by the Nusra Front, and the jihadi Jund Al-Aqsa and Ahrar Al-Sham. The Observatory said other non-jihadi factions were fighting at Khan Touman on the side of the coalition, as well.

The Army of Conquest seized Idlib, a strategic and symbolically important provincial capital, from government forces last year and threatened to make advances towards government strongholds on the Mediterranean coast and toward the capital, Damascus. Russia intervened militarily on the side of the government partly in response to that threat.

But the coalition is internally divided over who it considers enemies and how it rules areas under its control. "The ... Jund Al-Aqsa brigade is ideologically close to Daesh," said Britain-based Syrian activist Asaad Kanjo, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group, a top rival of Al-Qaeda in Syria. Kanjo followed the coalition's politics when he was living in Saraqib, in Idlib province.

Terror groups

Both the Islamic State and the Nusra Front have been designated terror groups by the United Nations and were not included in a cease-fire that went into effect in late February. The cease-fire revealed further divisions in the Army of Conquest. Jund al-Aqsa and Nusra Front fighters suppressed popular demonstrations across Idlib province against the black Jihadist flag, and moderate rebel factions seized on the discontent to try to sideline the militants within the opposition. The political shifts split the allegiances of the internally-divided Ahrar al-Sham group.

But the recent collapse of the cease-fire and resumption of hostilities in April appears to have reunified the anti-government opposition. Khan Touman is just 6 kilometers (4 miles) from Aleppo, Syria's largest city and onetime commercial capital. It overlooks the main route between Damascus and Aleppo, parts of which remain under opposition control. "It is part of the government's defensive line in south Aleppo," said Observatory's chief, Rami Abdurrahman. Aleppo-area opposition media activist Bahaa al-Halaby said the opposition fighters took control of Khan Touman around 7 am yesterday morning.

Meanwhile, militant websites published photos said to be taken from the Shaer gas

field district in central Homs province, showing Islamic State militants helping themselves to a large government weapons cache, including tanks and military vehicles. The vital gas fields, which were in government hands, fell to the extremist fighters Wednesday.

In the central city of Hama, some 800 inmates - including political prisoners - continued their days-long strike as government

forces threatened to storm the prison yesterday, the Observatory said. Authorities have cut electricity to the prison and are preventing food from getting in, the Observatory added. The Opposition's High Negotiations Committee called on all international organizations and human rights groups to help political prisoners in the central prison of Hama. — AP

POPE FRANCIS TELLS EU TO TEAR DOWN MIGRANT WALLS

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis said yesterday he dreamed of a Europe in which "being a migrant is not a crime", as he urged EU leaders to "tear down the walls" and build a fairer society. Invoking the memory of the EU founding fathers' pursuit of integration in the aftermath of World War II, the pontiff said they inspired because they had "dared to change radically the models" that had led to war.

"Today more than ever, their vision inspires us to build bridges and tear down walls," he told a Vatican audience including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who has been at the centre of the EU's attempts to resolve its biggest refugee crisis since the war ended in 1945.

And in a rhetorical flourish with echoes of Martin Luther-King's legendary 'I have a dream' speech, the pope said he dreamed of a new European humanism that embraced the poor, the elderly, the young and the sick. "I dream of a Europe where being a migrant is not a crime but a summons to greater commitment on behalf of the dignity of every human being," he said.

Francis's comments came in a speech as the 79-year-old pontiff was presented with the EU's Charlemagne Prize for his contribution to European unification. Having unexpectedly decided to accept the award, Francis delivered a typically hard-hitting message to listeners that also included the heads of the EU's main institutions, the Council, the Commission, the Parliament and its central bank. "What has happened to you, the Europe of humanism, the champion of human rights, democracy and free-

dom?" he asked. "What has happened to you, Europe, the home of poets, philosophers, artists, musicians, and men and women of letters?" Francis has made the cause of migrants trying to reach Europe one of the defining themes of his papacy. He has regularly railed against the "indifference" of western societies to their plight and last month he made a high-profile visit to Lesbos, the Greek island on the frontline of the crisis, returning to the Vatican with three Syrian families seeking asylum from the civil war ravaging their homeland.

He has also attacked what he says is an arbitrary division being made between asylum seekers and so-called economic migrants—a distinction at the heart of Merkel and other EU leaders' vision of how to resolve the crisis.

Borrowing a phrase from writer and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, the Argentinean pontiff said Friday that Europe needed a "memory transfusion" to free itself from the temptation of "quick and easy short-term political gains."

And after that reference to the migrant crisis, Francis went on to say Europe had to fundamentally change its economic model to give the continent's youth the security they needed to build a new world.

"If we want to rethink our society, we need to create dignified and well-paying jobs, especially for our young people," he said. "To do so requires coming up with new, more inclusive and equitable economic models, aimed not at serving the few, but at benefiting ordinary people and society as a whole." —AFP

ALGERIAN CLEARED OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN COLOGNE CRIMES TRIAL



COLOGNE, GERMANY: A 26-year-old Algerian man, whose name hasn't been released, is being led into the courtroom yesterday. — AP

BERLIN: An Algerian man who was accused of being part of a group that groped a woman in Cologne on New Year's Eve was cleared Friday of attempted sexual assault, though he was convicted of handling stolen goods.

The 26-year-old was the first person to go on trial for a sexual offense after the New Year events in Cologne that heightened tensions over Germany's migrant influx.

However, the victim of the assault didn't recognize him and the Cologne regional court ruled there was no proof that the man was part of the group of alleged assailants, news agency dpa reported. More than 1,000 criminal complaints were filed over the crimes in Cologne, blamed largely on foreigners, with several

hundred alleging sexual offenses. Several suspects already have been convicted of theft.

The suspect, whose name hasn't been released in keeping with German privacy rules, was accused of being in a group of around 10 men who surrounded and groped a woman in the central train station, and of stealing her cell phone. He also was charged with attempted theft over a Dec. 13 incident in which he and another man were accused of trying to break into a car.

The woman's cell phone was found on the suspect, but he said he had bought it from an acquaintance. The defendant was convicted of handling stolen goods and of the attempted car break-in, and was given a six-month suspended sentence. — AP

KENYA TO STOP HOSTING SOMALI REFUGEES

NAIROBI: Refugees from Somalia will no longer be accepted in Kenya, the government said Friday citing security fears. "The Government of the Republic of Kenya, having taken into consideration its national security interests, has decided that hosting of refugees has to come to an end," said a statement signed by interior ministry official Karanja Kibicho.

Under the directive, newly-arrived asylum seekers will not automatically receive refugee status, and the government will step up efforts to have those already living in the country removed.

Kenya hosts around 550,000

refugees in two camps at Kakuma and Dadaab, the world's largest, many of whom have fled decades of war in neighboring Somalia. "The message is clear, we are closing the camps and we will not accept more refugees in the country," said Mwenda Njoka, interior ministry spokesman.

Njoka added that the new regulations were aimed at refugees from Somalia but those from other countries may also be affected. "The problematic ones are the Somalis. They're the ones we're starting with," he said.

In 2013 the governments of Kenya and Somalia together with the UN

refugee agency (UNHCR) signed a so-called tripartite agreement aimed at encouraging Somali refugees to return home voluntarily. Only a few thousand have taken up the offer, however, leaving Kenya frustrated at the slowness. "Kenya has been forced by circumstances to reconsider the whole issue of hosting refugees and the process of repatriation," Kibicho said, adding that the Department of Refugee Affairs (DRA) responsible for refugee registration and management had been "disbanded".

Refugees fled Shebab

A DRA employee reached by phone at work on Friday afternoon expressed surprise, saying he knew nothing of the directive. Government and security officials regularly assert that Islamic militants from the Shebab group hide, thrive and recruit among Somali refugees, claims denied by independent observers and by refugees themselves who point out many of them have fled Shebab's depredations.

Following deadly Shebab assaults on Nairobi's Westgate mall and Garissa university senior officials threatened to close Dadaab and kick out the refugees. In April 2015, days after the Garissa attack, Deputy President William Ruto promised to close Dadaab "in three months", but that deadline-like previous ones-passed.

Friday's statement again conflated refugees and terrorists emphasizing, "the immense security challenges such as threat of the Shebab and other related terror groups that hosting of refugees has continued to pose to Kenya."

New arrivals from Somalia will no longer receive 'prima facie' refugee status but will have to argue their cases individually, however the agency tasked with processing those applications, the DRA, is to be shut down. — AP



LONDON: Counting staff at the ExCel Centre in east London sort through ballot papers cast Thursday in the elections of the London Mayor and the London Assembly yesterday. — AP

VOTERS PUNISH THE LABOR PARTY IN SCOTLAND

LONDON: Voters punished the opposition Labor Party in Scotland as the results rolled in yesterday for local and regional elections - races that underscored divisions in the public mood across the United Kingdom.

The elections demonstrated the complexity of British politics in the final weeks before Britons vote in a critical June 23 referendum on whether the country should remain in the European Union. The strength of opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn is particularly under scrutiny, as the races were the first nationwide poll since he took over as leader last year.

The most closely watched race is for mayor of London - an election that may give the capital its first Muslim leader. Sadiq Khan, a 45-year-old Labor lawmaker, is the favorite to replace Conservative Boris Johnson, after a race marred by American-style negative campaigning and allegations of extremism and fear-mongering.

Conservative candidate Zac Goldsmith, a wealthy environmentalist, has described Khan as "dangerous" and accused his opponent of giving "platforms, oxygen and even cover" to Islamic extremists - a charge repeated by Prime Minister David Cameron and other senior Conservatives. With about half the vote counted, Khan was leading. Final results were not expected until yesterday evening.

A victory for Khan would offer a bit of gloss to what is shaping up as a grim day for Labor, which was pushed to third place in Scotland - where it was once dominant. The Conservative Party has become the main opposition - an unprecedented situation in a region that had shunned the party for decades because of the fury that resulted from economic policies under former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, which cost thousands of jobs in mining and heavy industries.

The pro-independence Scottish National Party secured a third term in government in the county's parliamentary elections, but failed to secure a majority by only two seats. SNP Party Leader Nicola Sturgeon told jubilant supporters that the voters showed trust in the party. "The SNP has won a third consecutive Scottish Parliament election," she said. "That has never been done before in the history of the Scottish Parliament. We have tonight made history." — AP



Sydney : A participant holds portrait of a Somali refugee, who set herself on fire on the remote Pacific island of Nauru, during a candle light vigil on Wednesday. — AP

AFGHAN FORCES RAID FREES 60 FROM TALEBAN PRISON

KANDAHAR: Afghan special forces backed by helicopter gunships freed more than 60 people held captive in a Taleban prison in southern Afghanistan, officials yesterday, in a major raid against the resurgent Islamist group.

The operation conducted Thursday in Now Zad district in the southern opium-rich province of Helmand comes in the midst of the Taleban's annual spring offensive, expected to be the bloodiest in 15 years. "Afghan Special Forces liberated over 60 pris-

oners from an illegally run Taleban prison... during the cover of darkness via helicopter assault," NATO said in a statement.

"The liberated prisoners were safely transported to Kandahar where they were turned over to... Afghan authorities." NATO, which backed the mission in a "train, advise and assist" role, added that two insurgents were killed during the operation, and many others were wounded and detained.

Afghan forces, backed by US Special Forces, launched a similar raid

in Now Zad in December, freeing more than 40 soldiers and police held in a makeshift Taleban prison. The raids marks a rare success for Afghan forces struggling to beat back the stubborn insurgency. The Taleban last month announced the start of their annual spring offensive, vowing "large-scale attacks" across Afghanistan.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani recently threatened diplomatic reprisals against Pakistan if it refuses to take action against insurgent

havens on its soil. His unusually strong remarks were in response to a Taleban assault on a security services office in the heart of Kabul, which left 64 people dead in what appeared to be the deadliest attack on the Afghan capital since 2001.

The carnage on April 19 cast a pall over international efforts in recent months to jumpstart Pakistan-brokered peace talks, which stalled last summer after the Taleban belatedly confirmed the death of longtime leader Mullah Omar. — AFP

LAWMAKER IN INDIA'S GOA CHARGED WITH BUYING, DRUGGING AND RAPING TEEN GIRL

NEW DELHI: A lawmaker in India's beach state of Goa has been charged with buying, drugging and raping a 16-year-old girl in a case which will be closely watched by anti-slavery activists as the country moves to crackdown on human trafficking.

Atanasio Monserrate, an independent legislator in Goa's assembly, was detained on Thursday after the teenager told police she was sold to him by her mother and another woman.

The former Goa education minister may be one of the first Indian lawmakers to be charged under recently enacted human trafficking legislation, said police yesterday. "We have charged him with various offences. These include drugging, sexual assault of a minor and trafficking," a police officer involved in the investigation told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone from Panaji, Goa's capital. "I don't have the figures, but yes, this could be one of the first MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) charged under Section 370 which deals with human trafficking."

The crime branch officer, who did not wish to be named, said Monserrate, a former member of main opposition Congress Party, has denied the charges and says conspiracy against him has been hatched by his political opponents.

The girl, who is from St Cruz - the constituency which Monserrate represents - told police her mother sold her to work for him, but that he kept her confined, gave her drinks laced with drugs and raped her several times.

Police did not disclose the amount she was sold for, but local media reported the teenager had cited a figure of five million rupees (\$75,000) in her statement to police. Her mother has also been charged under the human trafficking law and is currently being questioned and a search is on for the second woman, said police.

Palm-fringed beaches

India is home to more than 14 of the world's 36 million victims of slavery, ranging from bonded labor to prostitution, according to the 2014 Global Slavery Index.

Activists in Goa estimate thousands of women and children from Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand and from other Indian states are duped by traffickers into the western coastal state, famed for its palm-fringed beaches and night life.

Many end up being exploited in brothels fronted by hotels, beauty salons, spas and bars or used in forced labor such as domestic work or in the hospitality industry.

Section 370, which was enacted after the fatal gang rape of a young woman on a New Delhi bus in December 2012, broadens the definition of trafficking to include the buying or selling of a person as a slave and carries a jail term of up to 7 years. National Crime Records Bureau data shows that in its first year, 720 cases out of a total of 5,466 human trafficking-related cases were registered under Section 370 in 2014.

But activists say this is a gross under-estimation of the scale of the problem and have welcomed government moves to draft more comprehensive legislation by the end of the year. This will not only unify several existing laws including Section 370, but also raise penalties for offenders and provide victims with rehabilitation and compensation.

The legislation also provides for the establishment of a central investigative anti-trafficking agency to coordinate and work between states as well as special courts to hear cases.

Activists said they would closely follow this case. "Certainly this case is a test case because the person is a powerful politician. The investigation should be very precise and rely more on scientific and circumstantial evidence," said Ravi Kant from Shakti Vahini, a Delhi-based anti-trafficking charity. — Reuters

BANGLADESH PROFESSOR UNDER 24-HOUR ARMED GUARD AFTER THREATS

NEW DELHI: After a Dhaka University professor asked a woman to remove her veil during his class, Muslim extremists called for his death, posting his personal details online along with tips on how to kill. Today, he remains under constant guard by armed police, stays mostly at home and bars his front door.

Azizur Rahman is among a growing number of political moderates and intellectuals seeking protection in Bangladesh, where at least 15 writers, activists, religious minorities and foreign aid workers have been killed in targeted attacks since the start of 2015. Islamic extremists have claimed responsibility for the killings, which have prompted some Bangladeshis to go into hiding, and others to seek asylum in the United States and Europe.

Some of the violence has taken place at Rahman's university in Dhaka, the Bangladeshi capital. Last year, secular writer and blogger Avijit Roy was hacked to death and his wife was critically injured in a savage attack on campus. In 2004, members of a banned Islamist group stabbed poet and linguist Humayun Azad at a campus book fair; he died months later.

Rahman, a psychology professor, pleaded with the government for 24-hour armed security outside his classes and at the modest campus apartment where he lives with his wife. Plainclothes policemen follow his every move around the sprawling, tree-filled open campus where he teaches five days a week. Rahman said in an interview that he had asked the student to remove her veil because "I should know whom I am teaching. ... I told her if you show your face in the (student) identity card, you can also do so in class."

As the girl refused, the exchange was captured on a cell phone video by another student in the class. The next day, it had been uploaded onto the Facebook page of an Islamic extremist group called Salauddiner Ghora, or The Horses of Salauddin - along with a clarion call for its followers to murder Rahman, whom they called "un-Islamic."

With the video, the group also posted Rahman's photograph, personal phone number and Facebook account. It also posted a link to an online blog detailing strategies for killing someone quietly, and links to two videos on YouTube on how to cut with a knife.

Rahman said he believes extremists have had their eye on him for some time, and are "capitalizing on the veil issue." "Militants and persons belonging to religion-based organizations have carried out



DHAKA: Dhaka University professor Azizur Rahman poses for a portrait at his home. — AP

a hate campaign against me in a planned manner," he said.

Rahman has been critical of those who opposed Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan, won through a brutal war fought in 1971. The issue has exacerbated tensions between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's secular government and the country's Islamist opposition since the government set up special tribunal proceedings to prosecute 1971 war crimes. Though some rights groups and foreign governments have called the proceedings flawed, the trials have continued to convict opposition leaders and sentence them to death.

On Thursday, the Supreme Court rejected a petition from the leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami opposition party, Motiur Rahman Nizami, seeking a review of his war-crimes conviction and death sentence. Amnesty International urged Bangladesh to stay Nizami's execution and avoid stoking tensions, noting the court's decision had already triggered countrywide protests. "Taking another life will just perpetuate the cycle of violence," the group's South Asia campaign director, Jameen Kaur, said in a statement.

All 15 attacks on writers, minorities, activists and foreigners have been claimed by the Islamic State group or various Al-Qaeda affiliates in Bangladesh, but the government denies any involvement by

transnational jihadist groups. It blames the political opposition, which denies involvement and says it is being scapegoated.

The Bangladeshi government insists it is working to stop the attacks, but so far it has charged no one in any of the 15 killings since 2015. Meanwhile, the brutality continues, usually by a handful of young men wielding knives or cleavers to hack their targets to death. On April 30, a Hindu tailor was murdered. The government has advised people at risk to simply lie low and try not to offend anyone.

This week Singapore announced that it had detained eight Bangladeshi workers suspected of planning attacks linked to the Islamic State group in their home country, and Bangladesh detained another five who had been deported back from Singapore for suspected IS ties.

Rahman is not the only Dhaka University teacher to receive death threats, Vice Chancellor A.A.M.S. Arefin Siddique said.

"Threats from unnamed senders are nothing new, but an open declaration to kill the professor is a precise one," Siddique said. He has urged the city's police chief to be proactive in the case by going after those posting threats online. "The persons calling for murder should be arrested," Siddique said. He added that university officials "are doing everything to ensure (Rahman's) security and safety." — AP



MANILA: Former first lady Imelda Marcos, center, waves to the crowd as she attends the last campaign rally of her son vice presidential candidate Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Thursday. — AP

IMELDA MARCOS ON SON'S RISE: 'TRUTH AND JUSTICE WILL COME'

MANILA: Imelda Marcos expressed elation over her son's strong pre-election ratings in the Philippine vice presidential race, saying "at last, truth and justice will come."

The widow of dictator Ferdinand Marcos helped campaign for her son Thursday night in a rally in suburban Mandaluyong city where she handed out fans to close friends with his picture and political motto: "Unity and progress."

In the latest pre-election survey by independent pollster Pulse Asia and commissioned by ABS-CBN TV network, administration-endorsed candidate Rep. Leni Robredo led with 30 percent while Marcos Jr. trailed closely with 28 percent of the 4,000 respon-

dents. Marcos has led in previous surveys. The April 26-29 survey has a margin of error of 1.5 percent.

When sought for comment on how her son, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., has come close to the seat of power her husband occupied for years, she told The Associated Press in an interview that her son grew up as a child in the presidential palace. "We were there for more than 20 years. Well, it will look familiar," she said.

President Benigno Aquino III and human rights victims during the Marcos dictatorship have campaigned against Marcos Jr., citing his refusal to categorically apologize for rights abuses and economic plunder blamed on the late leader.

Aquino's father, a former senator who opposed the dictatorship, was assassinated at the Manila airport in 1983 while returning from U.S. exile, sparking protests that spread and culminated in the 1986 "people power" revolt that ousted the strongman.

The dictator lived in exile with his wife and children in Hawaii, where he died in 1989. His remains were later returned to his northern Philippine hometown of Batac, where his glass coffin has become a tourist attraction.

Asked if Mrs. Marcos felt vindicated with her son's strong poll ratings ahead of Monday's elections despite the many allegations against the Marcoses, she did not answer categorically but thanked God and the Filipino people. "At last truth and justice will come," she said. "Sometimes the truth and justice grinds exceedingly slow but it grinds exceedingly well."

Marcos is running for re-election for a seat in the House of Representatives representing her husband's northern provincial bailiwick of Ilocos Norte. A daughter is also seeking re-election as Ilocos governor. Both are running unopposed.

Mrs. Marcos was seen in a wheelchair in a church in February and reportedly had been feeling sick around that time. She looked upbeat, however, as close family friends greeted and took selfies with her at her son's campaign rally late Thursday. "I just came from Ilocos and I'm going back again in a few hours," she said, suggesting she was strong enough to travel back and forth from Manila to the far northern province. Mrs. Marcos said she still felt strong "because I'm only 86," letting out a hearty laugh. — AP



NAYPYITAW, MYANMAR: Myanmar's President Htin Kyaw waves just before taking off from the capital yesterday. — AP

MYANMAR LEADER SUU KYI MAKES FIRST OFFICIAL TRIP, TO LAOS

YANGON, Myanmar: Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar's de facto leader and foreign minister, has visited neighboring Laos in her first official trip abroad. Myanmar and Laotian state media reported that Suu Kyi accompanied Myanmar President Htin Kyaw on an official visit Friday at the invitation of the president of Laos, Bounnhang Vorachit.

The Laotian state news agency KPL said the purpose of the visit was to strengthen relations and cooperation between the countries. It said both sides also exchanged points of view on regional and international issues of common interest, and discussed restarting direct flights between major destinations in both countries. — AP

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, NORTH KOREA OPENS RULING PARTY CONGRESS

PYONGYANG: North Korea opened the first full congress of its ruling party since 1980 behind closed doors yesterday, in an anticlimactic start to what officials have portrayed as a showcase of the country's stability and unity under young leader Kim Jong Un despite tough new sanctions over its nuclear and missile programs.

North Korea's information committee said the congress began yesterday morning, and bused more than 100 foreign journalists to the venue for a look. But only from the outside. No one but presumably the thousands of delegates and officials were allowed inside the ornate April 25 House of Culture, draped in red party banners and flags.

Officials had another surprise as the day wore on for the news-hungry media guests - brought in to give the congress a global audience - who were then taken not to the meeting, but to a wire factory. Despite the tight lid kept on the first day of the congress, the event is a major political milestone for Kim Jong Un, who was not yet born when the previous congress was held 36 years ago.

In preparation, Pyongyang, the capital, has been spruced up and large groups of students and workers could be seen around the city as a light rain fell Friday preparing for parades and rallies that are to be held in conjunction with the congress.

North Korea has held other big meetings of its ruling Workers' Party since the 1980 congress - notably in 2010 and 2012 - but all six previous congresses came under national founder and "eternal president" Kim Il Sung, who died in 1994.

This one could provide a major opportunity for Kim, who is still largely a mystery to the outside world and has yet to travel abroad or meet any world leaders, to step out of the shadows of his grandfather, Kim Il Sung, and father, Kim Jong Il.

Kim Jong Un has patterned himself more closely after his charismatic grandfather than his notoriously reticent father, who almost never spoke in public. He spoke at length before a huge military parade last October and is widely expected to address the congress in some sort of public manner before it is over. Kim Il Sung spoke on the first day of the 1980 congress.

But, like so much else in North Korea, how the congress will play out still remains a mystery. As of Friday evening, the government had not announced an itinerary, or even when it is to end. The congress is the party's highest-level decision-making body, though the real decisions are made by Kim and his inner circle. The delegates at the congress - there were about 3,000 in 1980 - will be there more to endorse than debate.

If the state media are any guide, the focus will be on praise of Kim and his successes on the nuclear front, along with improvements since he assumed power to boost the nation's standard of living - themes the media hit hard as the congress approached and trumpeted again loudly on Friday.

The congress will also be colored by the anti-US bravado that marks so much of North Korea's worldview - that it is an underdog forced to pursue nuclear weapons in defense against the Goliath that is Washington.

"Now we are greeting the new era of Marshal Kim Jong Un," said Pyongyang resident Choe Un Su, a 75-year-old retiree. "We should make the American soldiers get out of South Korea and under the leadership of our marshal we can open up the path of reunification." North Korea's government has made clear it has no intention of backing down in its nuclear development program. — AP



SEOUL: People pass by a TV screen showing a file image of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, at the Seoul Railway Station yesterday. — AP

CLOCK STARTS FOR VOTERS TO REJECT THE NEW CALIFORNIA TOBACCO AGE

SACRAMENTO: California has become the second state in the nation to raise the legal age to buy tobacco from 18 to 21, starting the clock for opponents to ask voters for a reversal this November.

Gov. Jerry Brown's signature on Wednesday means, beginning June 9, it will be a crime in California to sell or give tobacco to anyone except military personnel under age 21. He did not say why he signed the measure along with four others restricting tobacco use in various ways.

Tobacco interests have threatened to target the changes at the ballot box if they are signed into law. Industry or other opponents would need to collect 366,000 valid signatures by early August to ask voters to reject the new laws in November.

"The fierce opposition from Big Tobacco on this measure proves just how important this law is and how much their business model relies on targeting our kids," state Sen. Ed Hernandez, an Azusa Democrat and author of the tobacco age bill, said in a statement.

Supporters of the law said it aims to deter adolescents from the harmful, sometimes fatal effects of nicotine addiction. The Institute of Medicine reports that 90 percent of daily smokers began using tobacco before turning 19.

Lawmakers and health advocates applauded the move and expect other states to follow California's lead. "By increasing the tobacco age to 21, the nation's largest state provides incredible

momentum to similar efforts nationwide," Matthew Myers, president of Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, said in a statement.

Representatives of tobacco organization Altria Group Inc. declined to comment, and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. did not return calls Wednesday. California joins Hawaii, which in April became the first state in the nation to raise the legal smoking age to 21. Other jurisdictions around the country have made the change, including New York and San Francisco.

Veterans organizations and Republican lawmakers in California objected to the bill, saying people old enough to die for their country are old enough to use tobacco.

The California proposal stalled for six months until lawmakers agreed to retain the 18-year-old tobacco age for military personnel and passed it in early March. The Institute of Medicine reported in March 2015 that increasing the smoking age to 21 would immediately deter 15 percent of people 18-20 from taking up a lasting tobacco habit.

The study, conducted at the request of the US Food and Drug Administration, found that raising the minimum smoking age above 20 "will mean that those who can legally obtain tobacco are less likely to be in the same social networks as high school students."

Brown, a Democrat, has signed laws banning the sale of e-cigarettes to minors and reining in the use of tobacco at day



SACRAMENTO: State Sen. Ed Hernandez, D-Azusa, urges lawmakers to approve his bill to raise the smoking age from 18 to 21 at the Capitol.—AP

care and community facilities.

Brown was out of public office when California became the first state in the nation to ban smoking in public places in 1995 then expand the law in 1998. He did not chime in publicly on 1998, 2006 or 2012 ballot initiatives that sought additional fees on cigarettes.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg donated \$500,000 to support the 2012 initiative, which was heavily outspent by

tobacco interests and narrowly defeated.

Brown also signed legislation Wednesday to regulate electronic cigarettes, set annual tobacco license fees, push for all charter schools to be tobacco free and expand existing requirements for tobacco-free workplaces to include small businesses, break rooms and hotel lobbies. He vetoed a bill that would have allowed local governments to establish tobacco taxes.—AP

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TRUMP SAYS HE WAS SURPRISED BY PAUL RYAN'S REBUFF

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump said yesterday he was surprised by House Speaker Paul Ryan's rebuff of him as the presumptive Republican presidential nominee. "He talks about unity but what is this about unity?" he said in a nationally broadcast interview. "With millions of people coming into the party, obviously I'm saying the right thing."

Ryan's declaration that he wasn't yet ready to embrace Trump sent shockwaves through the very Republican establishment that the New York billionaire is asking for help as he transitions from the primary season to a general-election campaign, most likely against Democrat Hillary Clinton. "I was really surprised by it," Trump said in a phone-interview with Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends." He added: "It's not a good thing. It's something the party should get solved quickly."

Trump also took a swipe at Ryan's own failed bid for the White House when Ryan ran as Mitt Romney's No. 2 in 2012. "That was a race that should have easily been won," Trump said. "That was an easier race than we have this year."

Trump says he will meet with Ryan, R-Wis., next week, possibly as early as Wednesday. As for choosing a running mate, Trump would say only that the person will not be a Democrat. He had indicated earlier this week following his win in the Indiana primary that he would likely settle on a political person with Washington experience - someone who could help him get legislation through Congress. "I'm going to pick a Republican and we'll have a tremendous victory," Trump said Friday, noting he was particularly pleased to have the backing of former 2016 presidential campaign rival Rick Perry of Texas.

When asked about backing Trump, Ryan told CNN on Thursday: "I'm not there right now," although he hoped to be eventually. "I think what is required is that we unify this party," Ryan said. Meanwhile, Trump's advisers commenced conversations with the Republican National Committee on coordinating fundraising and tapping into the committee's extensive voter data file and nationwide get-out-the-vote operation. RNC officials sent a draft of a joint fundraising proposal to the Trump campaign on Thursday that details how they would divide donations between the campaign, the national committee, the national convention committee and several state parties. The agreement, standard practice in modern-day campaigns, is expected to be finalized in the coming days.

Trump on Thursday named a finance chairman, Steven Mnuchin, a private investor with ties to New York and Hollywood who has never led a major political fundraising team. Many major GOP donors have never heard of him - or even know how to pronounce his name (muh-NOO-chiehn). Like his new boss, Mnuchin has a record of giving both to Republicans and Democrats, including Democrat Hillary Clinton during her 2008 presidential run.

Trump also has received a cool reception from the 2012 GOP standard bearer, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and former President George W. Bush. Neither Bush nor his father, former President George H.W. Bush have embraced Trump, and neither plans to attend the party convention in Cleveland in July.

The divisiveness within the top echelons of the party sends an unmistakable signal to Republican fundraising networks, which include most of the GOP's best-connected donors. "You might have a lot of these donors sit on the sidelines," said Spencer Zwick, who led Romney's fundraising efforts and now serves as Ryan's national finance chairman.

Trump has not yet ruled out accepting public financing for his general-election effort.—AP



CHARLESTON, W.VA.: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump gestures during a rally on Thursday.—AP



FORT MCMURRAY, ALBERTA: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Alberta, an RCMP officer surveys the damage on a street in fire-ravaged.—AP

CANADIAN CONVOY BEGINS, HOPING TO FLEE WILDFIRE ZONE

FORT MCMURRAY, ALBERTA: A convoy of evacuees began the long drive out work camps north of the fire-ravaged Fort McMurray area yesterday morning. Meanwhile, a mass airlift of evacuees was expected to resume, a day after 8,000 people were flown out.

In all, more than 80,000 people have left Fort McMurray, in the heart of Canada's oil sands, and officials say no deaths or injuries related to the fire have been reported. Crews battling the fire got a little help with temperatures forecast to fall overnight to 16C (61F) from the low 30s.

The Alberta provincial government, which declared a state of emergency, said more than 1,100 firefighters, 145 helicopters, 138 pieces of heavy equipment and 22 air tankers were fighting the fire, but Chad Morrison, Alberta's manager of wildfire prevention, said rain is needed.

"Let me be clear: air tankers are not going to stop this fire," he said. "It is going to continue to push through these dry conditions until we actually get some significant rain."

Environment Canada forecast a 40 percent chance of showers in the area on Saturday. About 25,000 evacuees moved north in the hours after Tuesday's mandatory evacuation, where oil sands work camps were converted to house people. But the bulk of the more than 80,000 evacuees fled south to Edmonton and elsewhere, and officials are moving everyone south where they can get better support services. Some 8,000 evacuees had been flown to Edmonton and Calgary by Thursday night. It appeared the highway is safe enough on Friday to move thousands more south on the highway. It was not safe Thursday. Officials said a helicopter would lead the evacuation convoy on Friday morning to make sure the highway is safe. The convoy will pass through Fort McMurray where the fire has torched 1,600 homes and other buildings. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police is escorting 50 vehicles at a time, south through the city itself on Highway 63 at a distance of about 20

kilometers south and then releasing the convoy. At that point another convoy of 50 cars will begin.

Fort McMurray is surrounded by wilderness, and there are essentially only two ways out via road. Aided by high winds, scorching heat and low humidity, the fire grew from 75 square kilometers (29 square miles) Tuesday to 100 square kilometers (39 square miles) on Wednesday, but by Thursday it was almost nine times that - at 850 square kilometers (330 square miles). That's an

area roughly the size of Calgary, Alberta's largest city.

Unseasonably hot temperatures combined with dry conditions have transformed the boreal forest in much of Alberta into a tinder box. Morrison said the cause of the fire hasn't been determined, but he said it started in a remote forested area and could have been ignited by lightning. The region has the third-largest reserves of oil in the world behind Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.—AP

PRESCHOOLERS WITH ADHD OFTEN GIVEN DRUGS BEFORE THERAPY

NEW YORK: Too many preschoolers with ADHD still are being put on drugs right away, before behavior therapy is tried, health officials say.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Tuesday that three in four young kids diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder are put on medicines. New CDC data shows that's continued, even after research found behavior therapy is as effective and doesn't give children stomach aches, sleep problems or other drug side effects.

Why? Health insurance coverage for behavior therapy may vary from state to state and company to company. And in some areas, therapists are in short supply, some experts said. On Tuesday, CDC officials doubled down on its previous recommendations, calling on doctors and families to try behavior therapy first. ADHD makes it hard for kids to pay attention and control impulsive behavior. More than 6 million US children have been diagnosed with it. "By the time a parent comes to meet with me, they are tired and worried," Dr. Georgina Peacock, a CDC developmental pediatrician who works with ADHD families. "They are concerned their child might jump down a flight of stairs,

that the child could get lost in a grocery store, or that the child could be kicked out of preschool."

There's no blood test for ADHD. Diagnosis is a matter of expert opinion. Studies have shown medications like ritalin help older children with ADHD. That success has fed a trend to treat younger kids the same way, but there's been less study of how effective and safe the drugs are for preschoolers.

In behavior therapy, a therapist trains parents - commonly over eight or more sessions - how to guide a child's behavior through praise, communication, routine and consistent discipline. However, it can take longer and demand more of parents. In its new analysis, the CDC looked at insurance claims data for children ages 2 to 5. About a third of ADHD diagnoses in children are made by age 6, and many of those children have more pronounced symptoms.

The CDC found 75 percent of the children were on medicine. That was true both of Medicaid-covered children in low-income families, and kids covered by private insurance. In contrast, only around half of children had received psychological services that might include behavior therapy training, the CDC found.—Reuters

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

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India, Iran agree to clear
\$6.4bn in oil payments 16

Toshiba hires new chief to
endure accounting scandal 17

Colombia arrests alleged big
money-launderer from Panama 18



US employers add
160K jobs in April 20



YANGON: People carrying buckets of water in Dala township on the outskirts of Yangon. The resource-rich country now has one of the fastest growing economies in the world, and commercial hub Yangon has morphed from a crumbling relic to a rapidly transforming metropolis, with an ever-changing skyline. — AFP

SHIFT IN SAUDI OIL THINKING DEEPENS OPEC SPLIT FRUSTRATED DELEGATE DECLARES CARTEL 'DEAD'

LONDON/DUBAI: As OPEC officials gathered this week to formulate a long-term strategy, few in the room expected the discussions would end without a clash. But even the most jaded delegates got more than they had bargained with. "OPEC is dead," declared one frustrated official, according to two sources who were present or briefed about the Vienna meeting.

This was far from the first time that OPEC's demise has been proclaimed in its 56-year history, and the oil exporters' group itself may yet enjoy a long life in the era of cheap crude.

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's most powerful member, still maintains that collective action by all producers is the best solution for an oil market that has dived since mid-2014. But events at Monday's meeting of OPEC governors suggest that if Saudi Arabia gets its way, then one of the group's central strategies - of managing global oil prices by regulating supply - will indeed go to the grave. In a major shift in thinking, Riyadh now believes that targeting prices has become pointless as the weak global market reflects structural changes rather than any temporary trend, according to sources familiar with its views. OPEC is already split over how to respond

to cheap oil. Last month tensions between Saudi Arabia and its arch-rival Iran ruined the first deal in 15 years to freeze crude output and help to lift global prices. These resurfaced at the long-term strategy meeting of the OPEC governors, officials who report to their countries' oil ministers.

According to the sources, it was a delegate from a non-Gulf Arab country who pronounced OPEC dead in remarks directed at the Saudi representative as they argued over whether the group should keep targeting prices.

Iran, represented by its governor Hossein Kazempour Ardebili, has been arguing that this is precisely what OPEC was created for and hence "effective production management" should be one of its top long-term goals.

But Saudi governor Mohammed al-Madi said he believed the world has changed so much in the past few years that it has become a futile exercise to try to do so, sources say.

"OPEC should recognize the fact that the market has gone through a structural change, as is evident by the market becoming more competitive rather than monopolistic," Al-Madi told his counterparts inside the meeting, according to sources familiar with the discussions.

"The market has evolved since the 2010-2014 period of high prices and the challenge for OPEC now, as well as for non-OPEC (producers), is to come to grips with recent market developments," al-Madi said, according to the sources.

ORCHESTRATION

For decades Saudi Arabia had a preferred oil price target and if it didn't like the prevailing market level, it would try to orchestrate a production cut or increase in OPEC. It would contribute the lion's share of the adjustment and forgive smaller and poorer members if they failed to comply with the group's agreement. Back in 2008, the late King Abdullah named \$75 a barrel as the kingdom's "fair" oil price, most likely after consultations with the long-serving oil minister Ali Al-Naimi. When the Saudis orchestrated the last output cut in 2008 - to support prices during the global economic crisis - oil jumped fairly quickly back above \$100 from below \$40. Later Riyadh again made known its price preference on a few occasions but in recent years it has effectively stopped sending any signals.

This follows the fundamental changes on oil markets. In the past five years, the development

of unconventional oil production from US shale deposits and other sources such as Canadian oil sands has made redundant the idea that crude is a scarce and finite resource. Russia, which is not an OPEC member, has also contributed to the ample global supply.

"NO FREE RIDERS"

Dispensing with price targets represents a massive change in Saudi thinking. This is now being driven largely by 31-year-old Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who took over as the ultimate decision maker of the country's energy and economic policies last year.

When oil was viewed as scarce, the kingdom thought it had to maximize its long-term revenues even if that meant pumping fewer barrels and yielding market share to rival producers, according to several sources familiar with the Saudi thinking. With the importance of oil declining, Riyadh has decided it is wiser to prioritize market share, the sources say. It believes it will be better off producing more at today's low prices than reducing output, only to sell the oil for even less in the future as global demand ebbs. — Reuters

INDIA, IRAN AGREE TO CLEAR \$6.4BN IN OIL PAYMENTS

IRAN WANTS FUNDS VIA GERMANY, ITALIAN, TURKISH BANK

NEW DELHI: The central banks of India and Iran have reached an arrangement to use European banks to process pending oil payments to Tehran, India's Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan told Reuters, unlocking \$6.4 billion in stalled funds.

Buyers of Iranian oil were prevented from using global banking channels to clear their transactions after sanctions were imposed on Iran in 2011 over its nuclear program. With the end of those sanctions in

January, after an agreement to curb the program, Iran is finally gaining needed access to the funds. Iran hopes the money will revive its moribund economy and raise Iranian living standards as well as help to integrate the country into the global economic system.

Indian refiners have been holding 55 percent of its oil payments to Iran after a route to make payments through Turkey's Halkbank was stopped in 2013, although

payment of some of those funds was allowed after an initial temporary deal to lift the sanctions.

"There is an agreement between (India and Iran's) central banks. European banks will be the clearing agent. They will be dealing with Iranian banks and we have to pay those European banks," Pradhan told Reuters in an interview.

He did not elaborate further, saying the finance ministry was dealing with the issue. Also because of the previous sanctions, Indian refiners have been depositing 45 percent of their oil payments to Iran in rupees with India's UCO Bank. Tehran has been using the funds, currently about 130 billion rupees (\$1.95 billion) to import non-sanctioned goods from India.

Indian government sources said during Pradhan's visit to Tehran last month Iran had asked India to consider clearing the oil payments through Europaisch-Iranische Handelsbank (EIH) of Germany, Central Bank of Italy and Halkbank of Turkey.

One of the sources said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has ruled out channelling funds through Halkbank. "Halkbank's Iran-related foreign trade activities with Iran have been carried out since 2004 ... Halkbank will continue its operations in accordance with international law," a senior Halkbank official told Reuters.

No immediate comment was available from EIH and Central Bank of Italy. The government sources said Indian refiners will remit funds to Iran through state-owned UCO Bank. UCO Bank's chairman did not respond to calls from Reuters to his mobile phone. Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan said on April 5 India will make payments to Iran in a staggered manner. — Reuters

OIL FALLS AS INVESTORS CASH IN ON MONTH-LONG GAINS

LONDON: Oil prices fell yesterday as investors cashed in on a 20-percent rise over the past month, outweighing the impact of crude production cuts in Canada where a huge wildfire has disrupted oil sands operations. Oil prices were down around one percent by 1234 GMT, with global benchmark Brent prices set for their biggest weekly loss in nearly four months.

"Currently prices are falling even with only few bearish fundamentals," said Frank Klumpp, oil analyst at Stuttgart-based Landesbank Baden-Wuerttemberg. "It seems that investors take profits regardless of the newsflow which should be supportive."

Despite Friday's losses, Brent crude prices have risen 64 percent since a near 13-year low reached in mid-January and as much as 20 percent over the past four weeks, triggering some profit taking among investors. Brent futures were

down 48 cents at \$44.53 a barrel at 1234 GMT. WTI futures traded at \$43.90, down 42 cents day on day.

The dollar, which has a huge impact on greenback-denominated commodities such as oil futures, was also on track for a weekly gain. This in turn weighed down oil prices.

At least 690,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude production capacity were offline because of the Canadian wildfires, an issue that was not having much influence on the market yesterday.

Adding to the supply outage in Canada is an ongoing decline in US oil output. Data by the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) shows US crude oil output has fallen by 410,000 bpd this year, and by 800,000 bpd since mid-2015, as producers succumb to a rout that saw prices tumble more than 70 percent between mid-2014 and early-2016. — Reuters

NIGERIA'S BUHARI FINALLY SIGNS DELAYED BUDGET

ABUJA: Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari yesterday signed into law the 2016 federal budget after months of delay caused by mistakes and discrepancies in the original spending plan. Buhari had last December 22 presented a 6.08 trillion naira (around \$30-billion, 26.5-billion-euro) budget to parliament but Friday's document was slightly lower at 6.06 trillion naira.

"It is a great pleasure to sign the budget. It is a serious article of faith for the Nigerian people," the president said at a ceremony attended by ministers, the Senate president and officials.

"The signing of the budget today will trigger concerted efforts to reflate the Nigerian economy, a key element of which is an immediate injection of 350 billion naira into the economy by way of capital projects." The budget for Nigeria's oil-dependent economy is based on a price of \$38 per barrel, slightly below the current global market rate of just over \$40.

Buhari delayed signing the budget after finding errors that civil society groups indicated possible graft, such as multiple purchases of the same vehicles, computers and other equipment. The former military head of state, who has embarked on a widespread anti-corruption campaign since taking office last May, has claimed some lawmakers removed and replaced proposals. He has promised to punish those involved. The delay contributed to the stagnation in Africa's biggest economy caused by the slump in global oil prices, panicking investors already cautious about slowing growth and high inflation.

Buhari admitted on Friday that Nigeria was "experiencing probably the toughest economic times in the history of our nation" but was pinning its hopes on the expansionary budget. The government is hoping to diversify the economy, produce more food, revive manufacturing and generate employment to help kick start growth. Infrastructure development is also badly needed, particularly in roads, housing and power supply for Nigeria's 180 million people. — AFP

GREECE PARALYZED BY STRIKE OVER PENSION, TAX REFORMS

ATHENS: Greece's public transport networks ground to a halt yesterday after trade unions called for a 48-hour strike to protest controversial government plans to overhaul pensions and increase taxes, as demanded by international creditors.

No public transport service in Athens was working yesterday morning as metro, tram, bus and rail workers began a strike that is set to run through Sunday, unions said. The only mode of transport still available in the capital was taxis. The announcement on Thursday of a general strike came after Greece's parliament said the government's pension and taxation reform bills would be debated and voted on this weekend. Train services across the country were halted, and ferries linking mainland Greece to the islands remained anchored in port.

The powerful PNO seafarers union's strike, which also began Friday, is set to last until Tuesday morning. Intercity coach services and air travel were not affected by the strike.

The journalists' union joined the work stoppage, leading most public and private radio and television stations to cancel their news bulletins. Changes to Greece's pensions system were demanded by creditors as a condition of the country's third bailout in five years, worth 86 billion euros (\$95 billion), agreed in July last year.

At least 6,000 people gathered in Athens for a protest organized by a leftist union, a police source said. Other unions called for more protests later Friday at the iconic Syntagma square next to the Greek parliament.

The strike comes ahead of a meeting of eurozone finance ministers to discuss Greece's bailout on Monday in Brussels. The meeting was initially scheduled for Thursday but was cancelled amid disagreements between Athens and the International Monetary Fund, which has demanded more reforms from Greece. Further demonstrations are expected in Athens and other cities on Sunday, coinciding with celebrations for International Workers' Day which were postponed from May 1 owing to the timing of Orthodox Easter. The strikes are the fourth to be called since Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras's leftist government won re-election last year, after organizing a referendum on the country's bailout. — AFP



YANGON: A vendor selling wall posters in downtown Yangon. The resource-rich country now has one of the fastest growing economies in the world, and commercial hub Yangon has morphed from a crumbling relic to a rapidly transforming metropolis, with an ever-changing skyline. —AFP

RIO TINTO TO INVEST \$5.3BN EXPANDING MONGOLIAN MINE

SYDNEY: Anglo-Australian miner Rio Tinto said yesterday it would start work on a \$5.3 billion expansion of its Oyu Tolgoi copper and gold mine in Mongolia after years of gridlock over the controversial project. The development is expected to start within months, Rio said in a statement, with the mega-project expected to contribute up to one third of Mongolia's gross domestic product once fully operational.

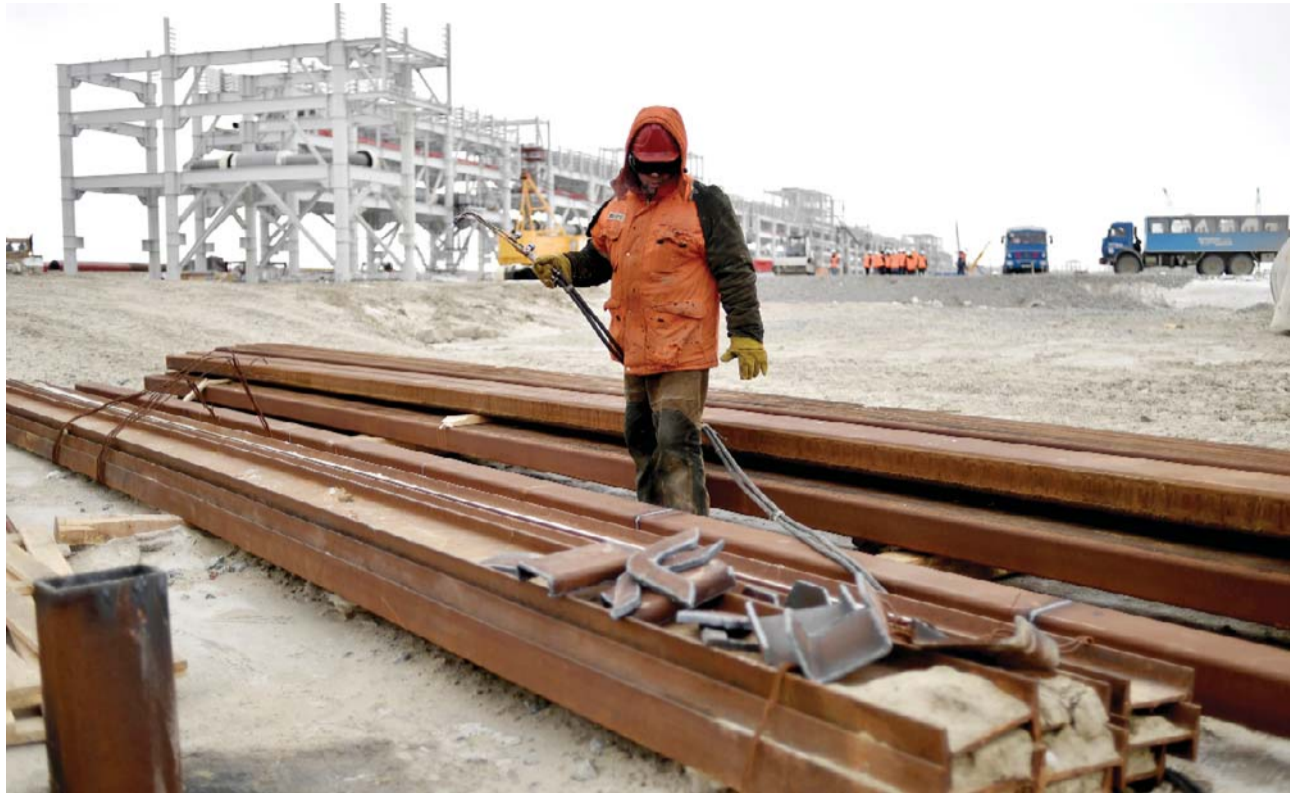
"The development of the underground mine will start in mid-2016 following the approval of a \$5.3 billion investment by the partners and the recent granting of all necessary permits," Rio said. French coal and copper chief Jean-Sebastien Jacques, who has been involved in the project and is set to become Rio's next chief executive in July, said it would "transform Oyu Tolgoi into one of the most significant copper mines globally, unlocking 80 percent of its value".

"Long-term copper fundamentals remain strong and production from the Oyu Tolgoi underground will commence at a time when copper markets are expected to face a structural deficit," he added.

Mongolia, with only three million people but sitting on an estimated \$1 trillion of natural resources, has enjoyed an economic boom in recent years on the back of foreign investment and mineral exports.

But rising resource nationalism and political infighting over the role of foreign firms in extraction has hurt projects such as Oyu Tolgoi, with disputes stalling progress on the underground phase for three years.

Mongolian Prime Minister Chimediiin Saikhanbileg described the Rio statement on underground development as "a proud day for Mongolia ... a clear demonstration that the country is back to business". The announcement came after Rio secured a \$4.4 billion deal with international financial organisations and 15 commercial banks in December to finance the expansion. Oyu Tolgoi LLC is 66 percent owned by Turquoise Hill Resources, a Rio Tinto subsidiary, and 34 percent by the Mongolian government. — AFP



MOSCOW: An employee welds reinforcing steels at the construction site of a gas processing plant at the port of Sabetta in the Kara Sea shore line on the Yamal Peninsula in the Arctic circle, some 2450 km of Moscow on Thursday. — AFP

TOSHIBA HIRES NEW CHIEF TO ENDURE ACCOUNTING SCANDAL

NEW LEADERSHIP CRUCIAL AS TOSHIBA RESTRUCTURES ITS BUSINESS

TOKYO: Scandal-hit Toshiba yesterday appointed a new president to steer the vast conglomerate past a huge accounting scandal that has hammered its reputation.

Company veteran Satoshi Tsunakawa, 60, a senior vice president who joined Toshiba in 1979, will replace incumbent chief Masashi Muromachi in June, Toshiba said. Muromachi became interim president in July last year after top executives resigned over the scandal.

The company yesterday also named a new chairman, saying that new leadership was crucial as Toshiba restructures its business. "The decision was made on the basis that a series of business restructuring initiatives is on track, and that the company should move forward to focus on growth with a new management team," it said.

A once proud pillar of corporate Japan, Toshiba has been besieged by problems, most notably a profit-padding scandal in which bosses for

years systematically pushed subordinates to cover-up weak financial results. Toshiba publishes its full-year earnings next week but it has already warned of a 470 billion yen (\$4.4 billion) net loss for the last fiscal year as it booked a massive write-down of its US nuclear unit Westinghouse.

However, the shortfall is lower than a previous estimate of a 710 billion yen loss, partially offset by the sale of Toshiba's medical devices business to Canon. — AFP

GLOBAL STOCKS SOFT AFTER WEAKER US JOBS REPORT

LONDON: Global stocks fell yesterday after the US jobs report showed hiring fell in April to its slowest pace in seven months - a sign of weaker growth that could delay the Federal Reserve's next interest rate hike.

KEEPING SCORE: France's CAC 40 fell 1.6 percent to 4,251, and Germany's DAX lost 1 percent to 9,754. Britain's FTSE 100 was 0.9 percent lower to 6,063. U.S. shares were set to drift lower with Dow futures down 0.6 percent and S&P 500 futures down 0.6 percent.

US JOBS: The monthly US jobs report showed the world's largest economy added 160,000 jobs in April, below the average increase of 200,000 over the past three months. The slower pace may raise uncertainty over the economy's growth, though wages showed signs of picking up. Overall, the data suggests the Fed may be marginally less likely to raise its interest rates again next month.

THE QUOTE: "Today's US jobs report was a bit of a mixed bag," said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at Oanda. "Of course we can often see a lot of volatility in the immediate aftermath of the data and only once the dust has settled do we see what investors really think of the numbers."

ASIA'S DAY: Earlier, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 lost 0.3 percent to close at 16,106.72 as Tokyo resumed trading after the three-day "Golden Week" national holidays. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 edged 0.2 percent higher to 5,292.00, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index slipped 1.7 percent to 20,109.87. The Shanghai Composite sank 2.8 percent to 2,913.25. Markets were closed in South Korea for a national holiday.

ENERGY: Benchmark US crude oil lost 45 cents to \$43.87 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained 54 cents on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, was down 75 cents at \$44.26 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The euro fell to \$1.1440 from \$1.1490 and the dollar declined to 106.52 yen from 107.10 yen. — AP



TOKYO: Vice President of Japan's Toshiba Corporation Satoshi Tsunakawa (left) answers questions beside Vice President Shigenori Shiga (C) and President Masashi Muromachi (right) during a press conference at the headquarters in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP



PANAMA CITY: General view of the Soho Mall, property of the Waked family, in Panama City on Thursday. The United States named Panama's prominent Waked family, who run a large luxury goods, duty-free shop and real estate business, as a major drug money-laundering organization. — AFP

COLOMBIA ARRESTS ALLEGED BIG MONEY-LAUUNDERER FROM PANAMA

PANAMA CITY: Colombian authorities have arrested a prominent Panama businessman sought by the United States and dismantled an empire of businesses that the US says were part of a top worldwide money-laundering organization for drug traffickers.

The coordinated operation was announced Thursday as the US Treasury Department froze US assets owned by 68 companies in this Central American nation and in Colombia under a drug kingpin designation.

As part of the effort, Colombian police arrested Nidal Waked the previous day at an airport in Colombia's capital, Bogota. The Colombian police on Friday showed reporters several videos of Waked taken after his arrest. In one, he is reading the charges against him and a list of rights for prisoners held in Colombia.

Waked and his father, Abdul Waked, are accused of being the co-leaders of an organization that laundered drug profits through a web of companies including a luxury mall, a bank and the duty-free zone at Panama City's international airport, which had attracted US law enforcement's scrutiny before. The family also owns Panama's oldest newspaper, the Estrella de Panama.

Grupo Wisa, the family's holding company, issued a terse statement saying the accusations "are false and unfounded." The company said it had instructed its lawyers to cooperate fully in the investigation announced by Panama's attorney general.

The action comes as Panama is struggling to overcome international rebuke of its offshore banking system in the wake of a damaging leak of 11.5 million documents detailing how a prominent law firm helped the world's rich and famous hide their wealth. Panama's tradition for financial secrecy and crossroads location along the path of South American cocaine heading to the US has long made it an attractive money-laundering center. The Drug Enforcement Administration described Waked as "one of the world's most signifi-

cant drug money launderers and criminal facilitators." It said he faces money laundering and bank fraud charges in Florida.

A law enforcement official, who agreed to discuss the matter only if not quoted by name because he was not authorized to discuss the case publicly, said the Waked family is accused of laundering funds on behalf of Colombian and Mexican drug cartels as well as independent drug-trafficking organizations.

Nidal Waked was arrested by anti-narcotics police minutes after clearing customs when arriving Wednesday night on a Copa Airlines flight to Bogota, Colombian migration officials said. Born in the Colombian city of Barranquilla, he remained in custody in Bogota pending an extradition request from the U.S., they said. The DEA said he faces federal money laundering and bank fraud charges in Florida.

Grupo Wisa led a consortium in 2007 that paid \$173 million for control of the duty-free zone in Panama City's airport, a major hub. A leaked 2009 US diplomatic cable published by Wikileaks described the airport as "tainted by a seamy underside of alien smuggling, money launder, narcotics trafficking and corruption." Passengers in transit could launder money through the many jewelry, perfume and electronics shops found at every turn and which face little regulatory scrutiny, the cable said. "The duty-free zone at Tocumen is a good example of the kind of live-and-let live attitude permeating the airport," the cable said.

Balboa Bank & Trust was one of the businesses named in the kingpin designation. Panama's banking supervision office said it had taken control of the bank to protect the interests of depositors. Police were also posted outside its main office. — AP

BOSSSES TAKE BIGGER SHARE OF TOP BRITISH FIRMS' PROFITS

LONDON: Chief executives at Britain's largest companies had a pay cut last year. But profits fell further, ensuring a decade-long trend of bosses taking a rising share of corporate profits continued. The average pay for chief executives of a company in the blue chip FTSE 100 index was 5.23 million pounds (\$7.6 million) last year, down from 5.36 million in 2014, a Reuters examination of corporate filings shows.

However, FTSE 100 profits fell over 40 percent, helping to lift CEOs' earnings to the equivalent of 0.58 percent of their companies' total profits for the year, from 0.32 percent in 2014.

This represents a leap over the past decade. In 2005, CEO compensation, including pensions and share awards, was just 0.1 percent of pre-tax earnings,

the Reuters analysis of annual reports over the period shows. Rapid growth in executive pay has long drawn criticism from some politicians and media headlines denouncing corporate "fat cats". Now shareholders are increasingly raising their concerns, notably over a bumper deal for BP Plc's boss Bob Dudley as the oil giant reported its biggest ever annual loss.

Measured against share prices, the balance of gains and losses has also tipped in CEOs' favour. The FTSE 100 index dropped around five percent last year but CEO pay at the component stocks fell only 2 percent. Between 2005 and the end of 2015, the index gained almost 30 percent, while CEO pay doubled at the 87 current FTSE companies where comparable data is available. — Reuters

MOZAMBIQUE'S TUNA FLEET RUSTS AS AN AFRICAN SUCCESS STORY FADES

MAPUTO: The 24 fishing boats rusting in the harbor of Mozambique's capital were meant to be a modern tuna fleet that would rake in hard currency, create jobs and provide a cheap source of protein for one of the world's poorest countries. Instead, they have become monuments to government mismanagement and heavy lending by Western banks that has buried a promising African economy in a deep debt crisis.

The boats, moored in the harbour of Maputo, were paid for out of an \$850-million loan arranged in 2013 by Credit Suisse and Russia's VTB to finance "fishing infrastructure". The cash came in the form of a government-backed bond to state tuna-fishing company Ematum.

Nearly three years later, the fishing project, initially touted as self-sustaining, is defunct and has contributed to a sovereign foreign debt mountain equal to 80 percent of GDP that could bankrupt the southeast African nation's government. Not only did Ematum fall short of its targets but \$500 million of the "tuna bond" was found to be for maritime security and had to be reallocated to the defence budget.

"Sorry sir, we don't have tuna on the menu," said Raul, a waiter at a restaurant overlooking the dormant fleet. "The boats never go out. They are resting." Even when they did sail, in Ematum's early days, the fleet never caught the amount of fish that would have been needed over a long period to pay off the debt.

Ematum's results published last year pointed to the fleet catching just \$450,000 of tuna a year, compared with sales of \$18 million forecast at that stage of its life in a 2013 feasibility study circulated by the government. Ematum officials did not respond to requests for comment.

DEFAULT

Mozambique, a former Portuguese colony, emerged from 16 years of civil war in 1992 to become one of Africa's best-performing economies, with annual growth averaging around 8 percent between 1996 and 2008. Foreign investment flowed into infrastructure, mining and services, while a huge offshore gas find-enough to supply Germany, Britain, France and Italy for nearly two decades-offered the chance to create a middle-income country.

But Mozambique has been hit by the fall in global commodity prices, and vast gas projects planned by US firm Anadarko and Italy's Eni have stalled. Growth is still robust but the metical currency lost a third of its value in 2015 and another concern for investors is fighting between government forces and guerrillas in some parts of Mozambique. The fate of the "tuna bond" is emblematic of the difficulties facing the country of 26 million, and particularly of the debt problem.

The overall loan was restructured last month in what ratings agency Standard & Poor's described as "selective default" after the government struggled to make repayments.

Deepening the mire, a further \$1.35 billion of debt then emerged. Most of it was also from Credit Suisse and VTB, according to an International Monetary Fund source. This provoked a furious response from multilateral lenders and donors who suspended aid because of concerns their cash will be diverted to pay off private creditors.

Anti-debt activists are demanding the banks take a hit in any future restructuring for what they described as uncritical lending after the 2008-09 global financial crisis, when interest rates in the developed world were ultra-low and banks sitting on billions of dollars were looking elsewhere for high yields. "Both lenders and borrowers are responsible for ensuring loans are given and used responsibly," said Tim Jones, a policy officer at the British-based Jubilee Debt Campaign.

"Credit Suisse and VTB should pay the price for these illegitimate loans, and should not be bailed out indirectly by the IMF or anyone else." Credit Suisse, whose Ivorian chief executive was quoted by the Wall Street Journal as saying in October that it was "madness" for poor countries to finance infrastructure through dollar borrowing, declined to comment.

BREACH OF TRUST

Without the support of the International Monetary Fund and foreign donors, whose aid accounts for a third of government revenues, Mozambique is likely to struggle to pay for basic services.

The metical is likely to continue its decline, inflation- already running at an annual rate of more than 13 percent- will soar, and foreign and public investment will drop, with a knock-on impact on economic growth, analysts say. "The debt that we just found out about is a huge burden on the economy. What's worse is it has a multiplying effect, multiplying problems," said economist Ragendra de Souza, criticising the habitual secrecy of the dominant Frelimo party. — Reuters

SOUTH AFRICAN FIRMS BET ON COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS

JOHANNESBURG: A fortnight after the first Starbucks in South Africa opened in a trendy Johannesburg district, queues still snaked onto the pavement, a sign of the craving for international brands despite an economic slowdown. South African companies Taste Holdings and Grand Parade Investments are betting that demand for relative luxuries such as coffee to go and doughnuts from international chains will endure, even as disposable incomes are squeezed.

"It's my first time," said student Sheldon Sharma, 22, at the Starbucks in Johannesburg's Rosebank district on Friday, a frappuccino in his hand. "I'm not saying I'll be regular, but I'll come back again when I'm in the area." Taste Holdings reckons South Africa can support as many as 150 Starbucks stores and it has opened a second in the new Mall of Africa, one of the largest in Africa's most advanced economy.

Grand Parade, which has opened 65 Burger King outlets in South Africa, plans to open the first of 250 Dunkin' Donuts stores across the country in Cape Town within two months. Queues snaked onto the street too when Krispy Kreme opened its first doughnut store in Johannesburg last year.

At first sight, the rush to launch international fast food chains seems at odds with the prevailing macro-economic backdrop. Growth is set to be its weakest since 2009, interest rates have climbed two percentage points since 2014, food prices are on the rise after the worst drought in South Africa on record and unemployment is hovering stubbornly around 25 percent.

And the lines of poor and elderly South Africans queuing each month for government-sponsored social grants at retailers such as Shoprite are far longer than those for a \$2 flavored latte at Starbucks.

GRAB AND GO

But analysts reckon there a couple of factors which could help the international fast food brands survive, even if the overall retail sector is unlikely to grow anytime soon. South Africans are flooding to cities with Gauteng, the richest and most urbanized province which includes Johannesburg and Pretoria, becoming 30 percent more populous in a decade.

Analysts say urbanization goes hand in hand with a move to convenience as South Africans put in longer hours and forego home cooked meals to eat on their feet, while other cash-strapped consumers opt for take-aways over restaurant dining. "The hectic urban lifestyle is driving the growth in fast foods over the long term," First National Bank retail sector analyst John Loos said.

"For the sector as a whole, there is not much room for expansion with low growth and real disposable income going nowhere, but that is not to say a specific brand can't do well," he said.

Grab a bite when you can seems to be the plan for Grand Parade's Dunkin' Donuts stores. If they price similar to Krispy Kreme at 50 U.S. cents a doughnut, they will be relatively cheap, but Grand Parade is also hoping to feed a new category of consumption, notwithstanding the economic challenges. "We are not going for a flagship destination store, more for grab and go stores on every corner," Grand Parade Chief Executive Alan Keet told Reuters. "Our growth and development targets were modelled for this economy."

At Starbucks in Rosebank, engineering student Shaun van Zyl, who travelled 40 minutes from Pretoria to stand in line for his first Starbucks coffee, is planning to pick up a Krispy Kreme doughnut as well from the nearby outlet. That is what Taste Holdings Chief Executive Carlo Gonzaga hopes will happen, that international brands will attract customers and make the cake bigger for everyone. "Whenever Starbucks enters a country, it grows the coffee market in that country," said Gonzaga. — Reuters



FLORANGE: An ArcelorMittal logo pictured at the entrance of ArcelorMittal steel headquarters in Florange, northeastern France. Top global steelmaker ArcelorMittal said yesterday.—AFP

ARCELORMITTAL STEELMAKER CUTS LOSSES, EYES BETTER TIMES AHEAD

PARIS: Top global steelmaker ArcelorMittal said yesterday it had narrowed its first-quarter losses and saw a more upbeat period ahead but warned the market remained "fragile" due to excess capacity in China. The company, which like other steelmakers has been hit by falling iron ore prices and cheap Chinese steel imports, said it was still hoping to reach its full-year target for core profit. Lakshmi Mittal, ArcelorMittal chairman and chief executive, said the results for January to March "reflect the very tough operating conditions in the second half of 2015". "Since that time we have seen a recovery in spreads in our core markets to more sustainable levels, which is expected to result in improved results in the coming quarters. "This is a welcome development, although given the lev-

els of excess capacity in China the market remains fragile and we must continue to be vigilant and active against the threat of unfair trade," he said in a statement.

European steelmakers have long been battling overcapacity and cheap prices from Chinese rivals, spurring a number of national governments to press Brussels to erect barriers against Chinese steel imports. The company reduced its net losses in the first quarter to \$416 million (364.3 million euros) compared to \$728 million in the same period a year earlier, it said. However it confirmed that it expected core profits, as measured by EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation), for 2016 to exceed \$4.5 billion. Shares in ArcelorMittal slumped more than four per-

cent on the Paris stock exchange in mid-morning trading. The drop, said Xavier de Villepion of HPC, was due to poor visibility of developments on the steel market "considering Chinese overcapacities", as well as some profit-taking. Since January 1, shares in the company have increased just over 49 percent. First-quarter EBITDA fell, as expected, to \$927 million compared to the last three months of 2015 "primarily reflecting the lagged effect of weak steel pricing, offset in part by higher steel shipments". Sales in the quarter dropped nearly 22 percent from a year earlier, to \$13.4 billion, it said. Steel shipments reached 21.5 million tons in the first quarter, an 8.8-percent increase compared to the previous quarter in 2015.—Reuters

EXCALIBUR TEAM TO MEET BANKS OVER FUNDING FOR TATA UK BID

PENSIONS LIABILITY WOULD PUT OFF BIDDERS

LONDON: Excalibur Steel, the management buyout group interested in purchasing Tata Steel's assets in Britain, will meet bankers yesterday to seek financing for the deal. Tata UK executive Stuart Wilkie, who leads the group, said that it will hold talks with one British and three international banks to present its proposal to save the loss-making business from the threat of closure.

"Ideally, by the end of next week we will have secured necessary lines of finance," Wilkie told Reuters. Excalibur and Indian-born Sanjeev Gupta's metals group Liberty House both submitted letters of intent to buy Tata's UK operations this week.

The two groups have emerged as potential bidders after India's Tata Group announced plans in March to sell its entire UK steel operation, which had been hit by cheap Chinese imports, soaring costs and weak demand. Keen to avoid the loss of 10,000 jobs, the Conservative government has offered hundreds of millions of pounds in support to potential buyers and said it could take a 25 percent stake in the firm.

However, Excalibur expects to shed about 1,000 jobs from Tata's UK workforce. Wilkie, based in south Wales as head of Tata's UK strip steel business, expects the British government to back its statement on funding.

"All the discussions we've had with government are in line with that," Wilkie added that efficiencies achieved since last year, when the company was losing about 1 million pounds (\$1.45 million) a day had now reduced losses to a quarter of those levels. "That's significantly better than what was in the (turnaround) plan," added Wilkie, who has decades of experience in the industry after started his career in the giant Ravenscraig steel mill in the Scottish town of Motherwell.

CAR INDUSTRY APPEAL

Liberty House has outlined a plan to replace the giant blast furnaces with facilities to process imported slab steel instead. Wilkie said however that such steel would not be suitable for Tata UK's current customers in the motor industry.

"Over 60 percent of what we make goes to downstream business and key

within that are the automotive and packaging industry. To the best of my knowledge nobody at this moment is using electric arc furnaces to make steel (for those sectors) on a mass production basis." He said the advantage of Excalibur's plan was that it would use the two existing blast furnaces. "We have to work with the equipment we have, on an ongoing basis, to keep employment going." The group confirmed that it wants 10 percent of its funding to come from employees, including those in the management buyout team. Tata's sizeable pension obligations would be a sticking point for anyone wanting to take on the business. The retirement fund is estimated to be in deficit by around half a billion pounds. "We would expect the government in conjunction with the pension regulator, the company and trustees of the pension would close the pension scheme and make it secure," Wilkie said, adding that Excalibur would start a new pension scheme. "If the liability for the pension was on the table, then everybody would walk away," he said. — Reuters

GOLD JUMPS AFTER US DATA MISSES FORECASTS

LONDON: Gold jumped 1 percent yesterday after US non-farm payrolls data for April came in weaker than expected, boosting expectations the Federal Reserve will delay further interest rate increases.

The Labor Department report showed the US economy added 160,000 jobs in April, the fewest in seven months, and Americans dropped out of the labor force in droves, signs of weakness that cast doubts on whether the Fed will lift rates before the end of the year.

Spot gold hit a high of \$1,293.65 an ounce after the data and was up 0.6 percent at \$1,285.70 an ounce at 1338 GMT. US gold futures for June delivery were up \$14.80 at \$1,287.10. Spot prices have risen nearly 21 percent this year on expectations the Fed will slow the pace of rate hikes.

US short-term interest rate futures contracts rose after the data, suggesting traders see a better chance the Fed will wait longer before raising rates. "Anybody who was thinking there was going to be a June rate hike is probably going to be disappointed," Citi analyst David Wilson said.

Stock markets slid sharply and the dollar fell after the numbers came in well short of forecasts, adding to concerns over the pace of economic growth that have weakened investors' appetite for risk globally. Wall Street opened lower, while the dollar extended its earlier losses versus a basket of currencies as news of lower-than-forecast US hiring in April reinforced the view of slowing economic growth. The Fed raised rates for the first time in a decade in December but has since held back from increases. Gold is highly exposed to rising rates, which lift the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion.

"The report falls into the camp of the US monetary policy doves who do not want to see the Federal Reserve raise interest rates any time soon," Kitco Metals Inc said in a note.

The post-data jump in the metal erased the bulk of its losses for the week. A close above \$1,294 would mark a second week of gains, after it posted its biggest weekly increase since early February last week. Investor sentiment toward gold had shown signs of optimism, with assets of SPDR Gold Trust, the world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, rising to 829.44 tons on Thursday to the highest in over two years. Among other precious metals, silver was flat at \$17.31 an ounce, platinum was up 1 percent at \$1,068.70 and palladium was up 0.3 percent to \$598.70. — Reuters

CENTRICA RAISES \$1BN IN SURPRISE SHARE SALE

LONDON: Britain's largest energy supplier Centrica raised 700 million pounds (\$1.01 billion) in a surprise share sale on Thursday to pay off debt and protect its credit rating after being hit by weak energy prices and tough retail market competition. Ratings agency Moody's said the share sale was credit positive, three months after warning the company it could be downgraded. It will keep its rating under review until mid-May. The British Gas owner said it had placed 350 million new shares, equivalent to roughly 7 percent of its issued share capital, at 200 pence, roughly 4 percent below market value.

The utility said its intention was to raise money to pay off its debt pile, in order to maintain its credit rating, and to finance two acquisitions.

Its shares closed down 9.8 percent, by far the biggest loser on London's bluechip FTSE 100 index. The utility is in the middle of a strategic turnaround spearheaded by former BP executive Iain Conn who wants to shift the utility's focus away from oil and gas production to energy supply and trading.

"The credit metrics required for the current strong investment grade credit ratings are under pressure," Centrica said in a statement. "A 7 percent placing therefore allows ... for lowering of net debt, reducing pressure on credit metrics and the group's targeted strong investment grade credit ratings, in what remains an uncertain environment," it said.

Moody's placed Centrica's Baa1 rating on 'negative watch' in February, one step before an actual downgrade that would make it more difficult for the company to raise funds.

The utility had a net debt mountain of 4.4 billion pounds at the end of the first quarter and announced a 170 million pound acquisition of Danish energy management company Neas Energy two weeks ago. — Reuters



PITTSBURGH: Recruiters speak to attendees at a job fair in Pittsburgh. The US government issued the April jobs report yesterday. — AP

US EMPLOYERS ADD 160K JOBS IN APRIL

JOBLESS RATE REMAINS AT LOW OF 5%

WASHINGTON: US employers pulled back on hiring in April, adding 160,000 jobs, the fewest in seven months after a streak of robust monthly gains. The unemployment rate remained at a low of 5 percent, roughly where it has been since the fall. The employment gain was down from the average increase of 200,000 over the past three months. But it is still enough, over time, to reduce the unemployment rate. The slowdown might raise some concerns that weak US economic growth has discouraged some employers from hiring. The economy's growth has slumped to a sluggish 1 percent annual rate since October. Still, wage gains showed signs of picking up. Average hourly pay rose 2.5 percent in April from a year earlier, above the sluggish 2 percent annual pace that has been typical for the past six years. The proportion of adults either working or searching for work fell last month after four months of gains. Those increases were a positive sign because they suggested that many Americans were resuming job hunts amid signs of stronger hiring. Weak growth in the United States and overseas has led to volatility in financial markets and complicated the Federal Reserve's plans to gradually raise interest rates. Fed policymakers have signaled that they could raise rates twice this year. But slower hiring, if sustained, could disrupt those plans.

"By adding to signs that economic weakness is lingering into the second

quarter, these disappointing numbers greatly reduce the likelihood of the Fed hiking rates this side of the presidential election," Chris Williamson, chief economist at Markit, wrote in a research note.

Hiring in March and February, meanwhile, was revised lower by a combined 19,000, though remained healthy at 233,000 and 208,000, respectively. April's tepid hiring gain might not signal a sustained pullback. Job growth slumped as recently as January only to snap back in the following months.

Last month, job growth fell sharply in retail, construction and government, and remained weak in manufacturing. Retailers shed 3,100 jobs, down from an average gain of 52,500 in the first three months of the year. Construction hiring slipped to 1,000 from an average of 24,000, and government shed 11,000 after adding an average of 16,000 in the first quarter.

Unseasonably cool weather in the Northeast may have delayed shopping for summer clothes, causing stores to cut workers. Manufacturing added a slight 4,000 jobs, after two months of cutbacks.

Job gains in higher-paid industries, such as management consulting and computer systems, picked up from March. Hiring in education and health care remained steady, climbing 54,000 last month, above its three-month average of 49,000. Growth has sagged in the past six months as slower

economies overseas and a stronger dollar cut into US exports of factory goods. Low oil and gas prices have also caused energy companies to sharply curtail the construction of new rigs, lowering overall business spending. Consumers have also been cautious, boosting their savings from lower gas prices and increased hiring, rather than spending. Still, there are some signs the economy could be improving. Auto sales picked up in March, suggesting that Americans are still willing to make large purchases. And a private survey found that services firms, which include retailers and restaurants as well as professional services such as engineering, expanded in April at the fastest pace this year.

The US job market is still outperforming many of its counterparts overseas. The unemployment rate in the 19 European nations that share the euro currency is more than double the US rate, at 10.3 percent. Some of those countries are doing better, however: Unemployment rates in Germany and the Czech Republic are both below the US rate. Japan's economy contracted in the final quarter of last year, though its unemployment rate is also below the United States'.

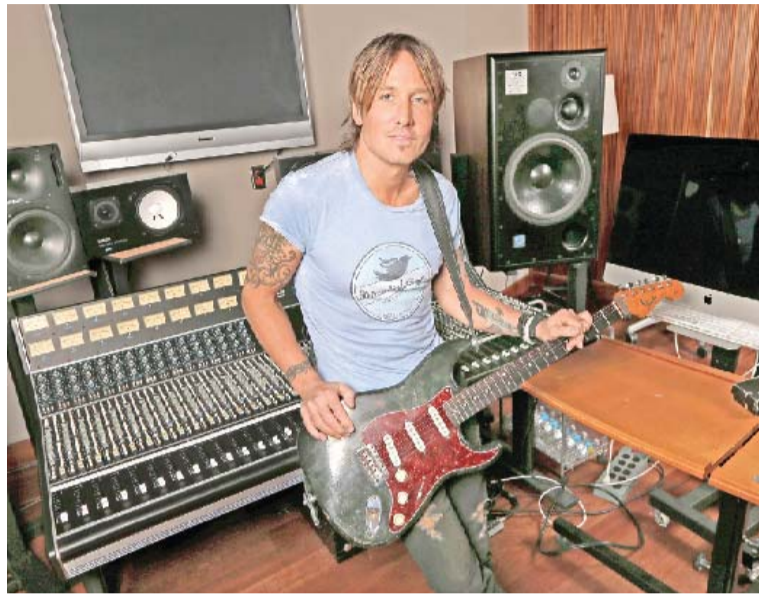
China's economy, meanwhile, grew 6.9 percent last year, the slowest pace in a quarter-century. But it expanded by 6.7 percent from a year ago in the first quarter, leading some analyst to forecast that it may be leveling-off. — AP

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016

Weekender

Visitors take pictures of the installation 'Affluent No 2' (2016) by Cuban artist Humberto Diaz presented at the show 'Kuba Libre' at the Kunsthalle Rostock art gallery in Rostock, northeastern Germany, yesterday. The exhibition of contemporary Cuban art will be running until June 19, 2016. — AFP

Algeria builds giant mosque as 'blow' to Islamists



Keith Urban poses in Nashville, Tenn, to promote his latest album, 'Ripcord.' — AP

Keith Urban explores rhythmic roots on diverse new record

Keith Urban was on a cross-country flight last year trying to finish a new song about living in the moment and not holding onto regrets. But he was also thinking about two men close to him that had recently passed away. "I was thinking about my dad who had passed away the month before and Nic's dad had died 12 months before," Urban said, referring to his wife, actress Nicole Kidman. "All these people, where do they go? Forgetting all those spiritual beliefs, they were here and then they are gone." That song, "Gone Tomorrow (Here Today)," sets the stage for Urban's eighth studio album, "RIPCORD."

Dreams and light

The platinum-selling country singer explored his rhythmic roots while blending genre with a diverse musical cast including Carrie Underwood, rapper Pitbull, guitarist and producer Nile Rodgers, hip-hop and pop producer Jeff Bhasker and Urban's longtime Nashville producer Dan Huff.

Each time Urban previewed "Gone Tomorrow" to family or friends, each listener seemed to hear a different sound in the synthesizer-heavy track that features a six-string banjo, thumping drums and mystical EDM lyrics about dreams and light. One person thought it was bluegrass, another heard Middle Eastern influences, he said. "I wouldn't know how to describe stylistically what the song is because it encompasses so many things," Urban said.

"The fusion of all the various things, from

melody to lyric to instrumentation to production to arrangement to the mix, every single aspect felt like I was planting a new flag for me. It was such that any song could go after it." For over 15 years, Urban, 48, has been a broad musical thinker, but he balanced that with his songwriting. "For me, the songs you can take the most liberty on with production are the ones with pretty centric lyrics," he said. "Not too obtuse, not too abstract. If the lyric is earthy in its imagery, rural, you can even take more sonic liberties with it." The album's 13 songs are only a part of what Urban created in an 18-month time period. He recorded several more songs and spent a week working with producer Rick Rubin on music that ultimately didn't make the finished record.

Commercially viable

It was Urban's idea to team up with Rodgers, the legendary Chic guitarist who has worked with Daft Punk, Pharrell Williams, Madonna and David Bowie. Urban thought Rodgers' rhythm guitar playing was a natural fit for his style of banjo playing, but Urban said he had to prove it to Rodgers. "He had that expression like I knew he would when I walked into the studio with a six-string banjo, like, 'Are you kidding? What did you bring that thing for?'" Urban said. Urban and Rodgers spent hours putting together riffs and chords for the funky, groovy dance song "Sun Don't Let Me Down," but Urban felt it was still missing something. He asked Pitbull to write a rap verse for the song. — AP

Cyndi Lauper takes the country roads on 'Detour'

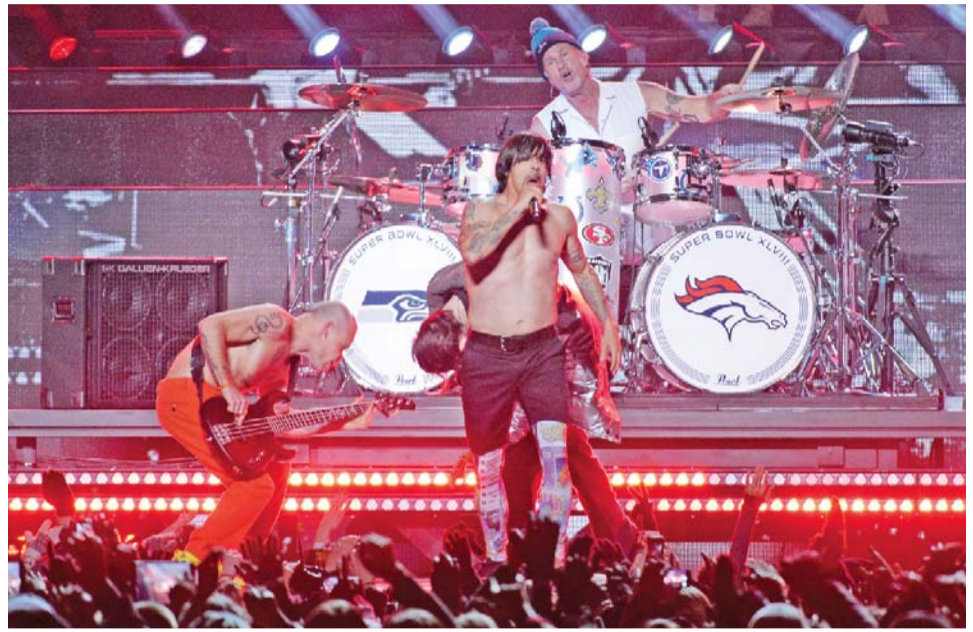
Cyndi Lauper's "Detour," a trip into country territory after earlier forays into blues and pop standards, is all over the map, held together by her true north of a voice. Lauper brings out her trademark hiccups on the opener, rockabilly queen Wanda Jackson's wild and wacky "Funnel of Love," which would have been a great fit on "She's So Unusual," her 1984 smash solo debut. She tackles several country evergreens on her own, including a pair of Patsy Cline hits - "I Fall to Pieces" and "Walking After Midnight" - but sounds most at ease singing duets with giants of the genre, including the witty title track with Emmylou Harris.

Lauper refuses to take out the curlers but frees up her natural Noo Yawk accent with Vince Gill on "You're the Reason Our Kids Are Ugly," which is sure to draw a smile. Jewel's yodeling on "I Want to Be a Cowboy's Sweetheart" is also a hoot. If the album's artistic compass seems unsteady, Lauper's splendid abilities as an interpreter are indisputable. — AP



Cyndi Lauper poses in Nashville, Tenn, to promote her new country album, "Detour," releasing yesterday. — AP

Red Hot Chili Peppers ready with first album in five years



This file photo shows the Red Hot Chili Peppers performing during Super Bowl 48 at MetLife stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. — AFP

Red Hot Chili Peppers on Thursday announced their first album in five years, with the rockers switching producers but keeping their signature funky touches. The Los Angeles band, among leading figures in the alternative rock boom of the 1990s, said that its 11th studio album, "The Getaway," would come out on June 17. The Chili Peppers immediately put out a single from the album, "Dark Necessities," which opens with a solo by bassist Flea before building over five minutes.

In classic Chili Pepper style, the rock style is infused with a subtle funky beat and the lyrics take a dark turn, with frontman Anthony Kiedis singing from the perspective of an addict needing a fix. The album is the first by the Chili Peppers since 2011's "I'm With You," which brought in guitarist Josh Klinghoffer, who is a generation younger than his bandmates. In a departure, the band did not work

with veteran producer Rick Rubin, who has guided each of the band's albums since 1991's mainstream breakthrough "Blood Sugar Sex Magik."

Instead of Rubin, a prolific producer of rock and rap known for his hard-edged sound, Red Hot Chili Peppers tapped Danger Mouse, another diverse producer whose background lies in hip-hop but notably worked on Adele's blockbuster latest album "25." The Chili Peppers plan to promote "The Getaway" with a string of appearances at major festivals including Japan's Fuji Rock, Roskilde in Denmark, Reading and Leeds in England and the 25th anniversary of Lollapalooza, which started as an alternative rock extravaganza that traveled the United States and now is held every summer in Chicago. The Chili Peppers on Thursday announced additional dates, with the tour now scheduled to end October 16 at the Bercy arena in Paris. — AP

Mary Chapin Carpenter shines on wistful new set

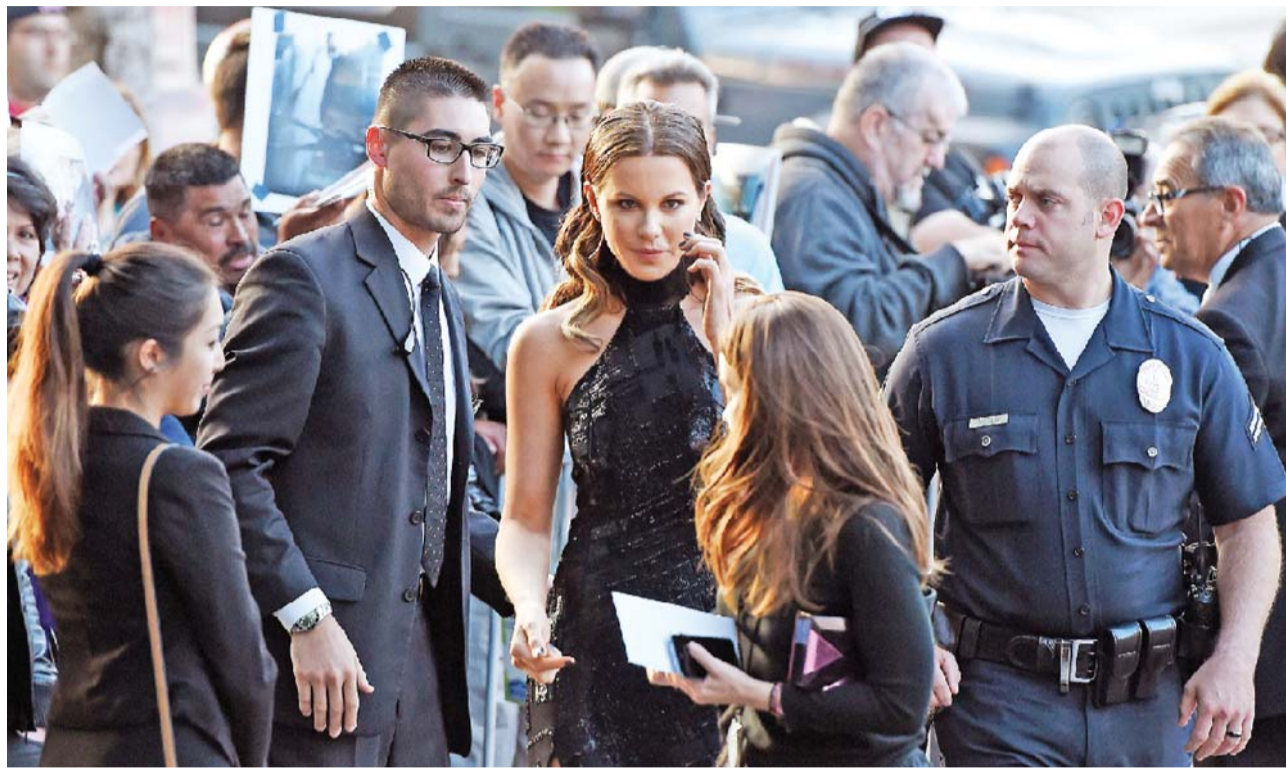
Mary Chapin Carpenter at her best doesn't really do mainstream country. She's tried here and there, as with the too-catchy but Grammy-winning "Shut Up and Kiss Me," but she's always been better when she wasn't straining for a hit. On her latest release, "The Things That We Are Made Of," the five-time Grammy winner is back in her comfort zone with an evocative collection of songs backed by a soothing guitar-piano ensemble with occasional violin touches - and, yes, on this record, it's more violin than fiddle. Carpenter's finest work could best be described as ache-country, or maybe Sunday-morning back porch music. It's polite and unobtrusive, but still capable of drawing listeners in with an unexpectedly poignant turn of phrase. She's at a different place in her life now but still looking for emotional connections - whether walking through New York pondering the underappreciated gospel legend Sister Rosetta Tharpe or driving down a lonely road.

"I'm staring down the great big lonesome," she sings wistfully on "Something Tamed Something Wild." "As I'm listening for the dwindling of time." The album is put together with flair by red-hot producer Dave Cobb, whose work with Jason Isbell, Chris Stapleton and oth-



Mary Chapin Carpenter

ers has brought some dignity back to the airwaves in recent years. He's a good match for Carpenter's warm, conversational voice, and the elegant production lends gravity to her perspective as an artist further along in her career. Carpenter's album fits neatly into NPR Music's First Listen series, where it's streaming exclusively. It's easy to picture these sweetly gentle songs being met with approving murmurs by an NPR-influenced crowd at Nashville's Bluebird Cafe or some other quiet venue. Or even on the back porch on a quiet Sunday morning. — AP



Kate Beckinsale, center, a cast member in "Love & Friendship," is escorted inside after signing autographs outside the premiere of the film at the Directors Guild of America on Tuesday. — AP

Beckinsale dishes on her Silverman girl crush

Friendly exes are nothing new among Hollywood's consciously uncoupled, but Kate Beckinsale says her feelings run deep for ex-boyfriend, Michael Sheen, and his girlfriend, Sarah Silverman. "Michael and I have obviously not been together for a very long time, what 16 years or 15 years, something like that? And we've always got on really well. So I'm always surprised when people find that surprising because it's quite well-established. It's just that I'm quite deeply in love with his girlfriend. So that's new," she joked in an interview Thursday in Los Angeles.

Beckinsale, Sheen and Silverman shared an emotional reunion at Tuesday's Los Angeles premiere of Beckinsale's new

period comedy, "Love & Friendship." The celebrity trio was all hugs and smiles as they greeted each other and posed for photos on the red carpet. Beckinsale wiped tears from Silverman's beaming face before the group headed into the screening. "We just like each other. I always get really excited when I see Sarah. I forgot there was that many cameras there. But yeah, we had just been to see my daughter's school play about three days before so there's really no excuse for everyone getting over-excited like that," Beckinsale explained.

Beckinsale and Sheen have a 17-year-old daughter, Lily. "Love & Friendship," from writer-director Whit Stillman, was

shot in Ireland and is set in the 18th century. Beckinsale's favorite part was the local lore surrounding U2's Bono. "We shot in Dublin, which is a gorgeous and beautiful city and full of the most incredible people. And everybody's got a story about Bono, which I found fascinating. So you're going to a pub and someone will say 'let me tell you my story about' and then the driver would tell it and the man who cleaned out the trailers had a Bono story. Bono gets around apparently in Dublin! And everyone's got one, which I loved," she said. Beckinsale stars as a recently widowed social climber with a delightfully devious partner in crime, played by Chloë Sevigny. It opens May 13. — AP

Justin Timberlake returns with cheery pop

Pop superstar Justin Timberlake returned yesterday with his first new song in three years, a cheery pop number that will appear on his upcoming movie "Trolls."



This file photo shows US singer and actor Justin Timberlake arrives to the 2016 Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, California. — AFP

Timberlake released a video for "Can't Stop the Feeling" in which the singer dances across his studio with appearances by other voice actors from the movie including actress Anna Kendrick and fellow pop star Gwen Stefani. "Trolls," a three-dimensional animation to be released by studio DreamWorks on November 4, is based on troll dolls, the frazzled-hair toys that have enjoyed periodic popularity in the West since the 1950s and are based on the mischievous small hermits of Norse mythology.

But "Can't Stop the Feeling" has little obvious connection to trolls and instead takes on a summery party vibe, with an electronic backdrop to the chorus in which Timberlake sings, "Nothing I can see but you when you dance, dance, dance."

The sound is stylistically consistent for Timberlake, who has recently appeared with country stars Little Big Town and Chris Stapleton, raising speculation he would make a musical turn back to the genre rooted in his native state of Tennessee.

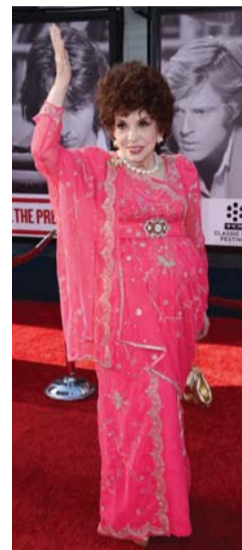
Timberlake became a superstar in the late 1990s as a member of NSYNC, one of the most successful boy bands. He managed not only to stay successful but to win critical respect as a solo artist, often adopting an R&B sound. The song is his first release since his double-album "The 20/20 Experience" in 2013 and since he and his wife, actress Jessica Biel, had a child a year ago. Timberlake, 35, has also been an active actor, playing roles in films such as the Facebook drama "The Social Network" and "Inside Llewyn Davis," the Coen Brothers' dark take on a struggling folk singer. — AFP

Hollywood cashes in on golden age cinema revival

Cinema from Hollywood's golden age is enjoying a revival with the emergence of retro video streaming and a burgeoning festival scene belying the old joke that nostalgia ain't what it used to be. More than 25,000 fans from as far afield as Australia and Japan hit Hollywood over the weekend for the TCM Classic Film Festival, run by cable network Turner Classic Movies for a seventh year. The smaller but more established Cinecon, which has drawn aficionados to Tinseltown for more than 1,500 screenings over half a century, returns in September with a schedule of "rare, unusual and unjustly forgotten movies."

Meanwhile LA-based American Cinematheque hosts a three-day festival over the weekend of Laurel and Hardy's work, photochemically and digitally restored from the original 35mm film. The opening night program includes a screening of "The Battle of The Century" (1927), featuring the largest pie fight ever filmed, footage of which went missing for 60 years. Further afield, showcases like the Denver Silent Film Festival and the Plaza Classic Film Festival in El Paso, Texas, have been popping up all over the United States in the last decade.

"In our current political landscape of uncertainty, older films provide a safe refuge, where problems could be solved in 90 minutes with a glamorous wardrobe to boot," classic film analyst Kristen Lopez says. The TCM event draws 80 percent of its audience from outside California, with the top \$1,649 all-access four-day passes selling out this year within 14 minutes of going online, organizers said. The festival featured more than 80 screenings, with highlights including "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "All The President's Men" and "It's a Wonderful Life." — AFP



This file photo shows Gina Lollobrigida attending the Opening Night Gala of the 2016 TCM Classic Film Festival celebrating The 40th Anniversary Screening of "All the President's Men" in Hollywood, California. — AFP

JWoww of 'Jersey Shore' announces birth of 2nd child, a boy

Former "Jersey Shore" star Jenni "JWoww" Farley has welcomed her second child, a boy. In an Instagram post, JWoww says Greyson Valor Mathews was born Thursday night, weighing in at just over 7 pounds. She says the "most beautiful part" was that husband Roger Mathews was able to help with the delivery.

JWoww's publicist confirmed the announcement. This is the second child for JWoww and Mathews, who was a regular on "Jersey Shore" and its spinoff "Snooki & JWoww." The couple also has a daughter named Meilani, who was born in July 2014. — AP



File photo shows Jenni "JWoww" Farley and Roger Mathews attend WE tv's "Marriage Boot Camp: Reality Stars" party in New York. — AP



Visitors meander through the Bruce Munro "Water-Towers" Sonoran Light exhibition light-based installation at the Desert Botanical Garden, in Phoenix. — AP photos



A cactus wren sits atop a flowering saguaro cactus at the Desert Botanical Gardens in Phoenix.

Phoenix Essentials: Dining, hikes, art and sunshine

With hundreds of golf courses and 300 days of sunshine a year, it's easy to cast metropolitan Phoenix as a retiree's paradise that leaves everyone else out in the cold. But within the desert beats the heart of an actual urban core that has come into its own. There's an emerging restaurant-and-retail scene along with classic attractions like the view from Camelback Mountain, plus newfound treasures like peeking inside a little-known house designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

What's new

A house built by Frank Lloyd Wright that dodged the wrecking ball is Phoenix's latest

tourist attraction. The David and Gladys Wright House, named for the architect's son and daughter-in-law who lived there, is in the Arcadia neighborhood. There are free public tours daily. The spiral walkway offers a spectacular view of Camelback Mountain. Events on the grounds range from an Easter egg hunt to yoga classes.

Changing Hands Bookstore, about 5 miles (8 kilometers) north of downtown near a light rail stop, opened in May 2014 but already feels like the place where everybody knows your name. Patrons can grab a book with some beer or wine at the store's First Draft Book Bar. Next door, the Southern Rail restaurant, named for its proximity to the light rail

and its "low-country" cuisine, serves tasty Southern and Creole-influenced food like red beans and rice and fried chicken.

Another new hub is DeSoto Central Market in downtown. The property, once a vacant brick building and former car dealership, is now a market with food stalls, bar and patio. It's known for happy hour, live music and swing dance nights. Drool-worthy delicacies include fried chicken-skin po'boys at the larder + the delta.

Classic attractions

The 140-acre (57-hectare) Desert Botanical Garden boasts more than 50,000 plants and five trails that illustrate the role desert plants

play in the environment. The latest exhibit incorporates eight light-based installations using colorful fiber optics.

With all the sunshine, take a hike. Two popular summits are the 2,704-foot (852-meter) Camelback Mountain and 2,608-foot (795-meter) Piestewa Peak. Both are north of downtown and offer views of the entire metropolitan Phoenix valley. A less crowded alternative is South Mountain Park 10 miles (17 kilometers) south of downtown, where you'll find ancient petroglyphs. The Heard Museum is known for art and artifacts showcasing Southwestern tribal culture, including Hopi katsina dolls, Navajo textiles and Zuni jewelry.



Visitors trek along the pathways at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix.



Light rail trains make a stop along the roughly 23-mile light rail system in Phoenix.



In this Jan 14, 2015 file photo, customers are serviced at the counter of The Phoenix Public Market Cafe restaurant in Phoenix.



This June 23, 2004 file photo shows the facade of the Heard Museum's Steele Auditorium in Phoenix.

Frank Lloyd Wright fans may want to drive 30 minutes to tour his winter home and studio in Scottsdale. Galleries at the Musical Instrument Museum in north Phoenix are organized by world regions. Special headphones play music samples when you near the corresponding display. One gallery spotlights instruments and clothes belonging to icons from Elvis Presley to Taylor Swift.

Tips

Phoenix's roughly 23-mile (37-kilometer) light rail system makes the ideal hop-on-hop-off tour bus with a \$4 all-day pass. Several stops have free park-and-ride areas too. The tracks run through downtown, the college town of Tempe and the suburb of Mesa. In Tempe, stroll around Tempe Town Lake, popular for jogging, fishing and even dragonboat racing. Mill Avenue is lined with shops, restaurants and bars. In Mesa, get off at the Main Street/Sycamore stop and walk five minutes to Mekong Plaza. The shopping center is a smorgasbord of authentic Asian cuisine - dim sum, pho or Taiwanese specialties like simmered pig ear.

Also available: green Grid Bike Share bicycles all around central Phoenix. Download the app to find and reserve a bike. Rescues of out-of-state visitors who aren't accustomed to the heat are unfortunately not rare.

If you're hiking, dress properly, go with a buddy, carry a fully charged cellphone and hydrate (pets too). Every March, spring training brings 15 Major League Baseball teams to Phoenix suburbs as part of the Cactus League. Because the stadiums are relatively small, fans



In this March 20, 2015 file image taken with a fisheye lens, Milwaukee Brewers shortstop Jean Segura signs autographs before a spring training baseball exhibition game against the Arizona Diamondbacks in Phoenix.

who arrive early have a good chance of interacting with favorite players.

Hanging out

Phoenix's artsy Roosevelt Row neighborhood is the best place for quirky people-watching along a seven-block stretch with restaurants, bars, galleries and street art. The first Friday of each month, the neighborhood

hosts outdoor musicians, artists and vendors.

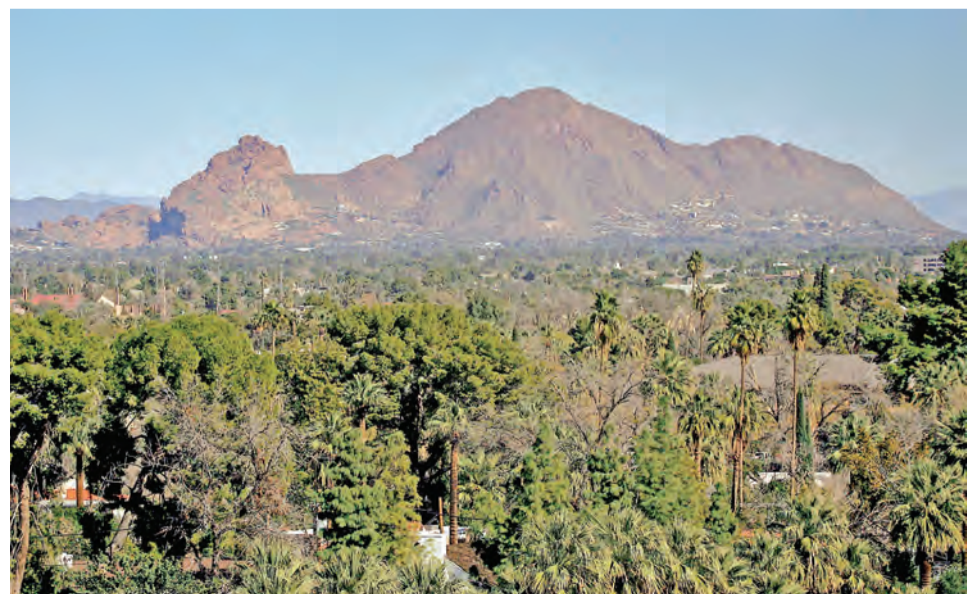
For a respite from the desert landscape, the 10-acre (4-hectare) Farm at South Mountain in south Phoenix feels like a country garden party.

Onsite eateries include a breakfast-brunch cafe and fine-dining restaurant serving locally-grown produce. You can also grab lunch in a basket and use picnic tables in the

farm's pecan tree grove. Mexican restaurants in Phoenix are like Starbucks: There's practically one on every corner, from gourmet taco houses to casual mom-and-pop joints. Barrio Cafe is a local institution known for its collection of some 300 different tequilas and for dishes made from cochinita pibil (slow roasted pork) flavored with sour orange and a blend of spices. — AP



In this Oct 28, 2010 file photo, a cyclist pedals up an incline, past several saguaros, in the South Mountain Park and Preserve in Phoenix.



This Jan 31, 2008 file photo shows Camelback Mountain in Phoenix.

New eggplant hybrid seeks a place on meatless menus



Eggplant seedlings being planted in containers.

— AP photos

Eggplant hasn't been a favorite of American home gardeners, but a new hybrid that's billed as an alternative to meat could be changing that. The hybrid dubbed "Meatball" has powered its way into the home-garden market this spring. Sales rival those of tomatoes and peppers, among the most popular items in the W Atlee Burpee & Co seed catalog, said the company's chairman and chief executive officer, George Ball. "This new one is not like any eggplant we've ever bred or found or seen," he said.



A typical purple-colored eggplants grows in a raised garden near New Market, Va.

The Meatball contains more water, which resists oil in the frying pan, Ball said. "That makes for a more refreshing and less oily product," he said. "It also is seedless, giving it two important genetic virtues." Kitchen trials were held with friends, family and focus groups using the Meatball as a hamburger or steak-like primary ingredient, Ball said. "It won hands-down when compared to both veggie burgers and meat" in taste tests, he said.

Maturity dates for the new eggplant range from 55 to 78 days, depending on location. Eggplants are native to India, much of China and Southeast Asia, so most species thrive in high heat. Many of the later European versions were white or yellow, resembling chicken or goose eggs; hence the name eggplant. Their earliest use was believed to be more medicinal than culinary. Eggplants' fruit, roots and leaves were used for treating abscesses and intestinal problems. Thomas Jefferson often has been credited with importing eggplants into American gardens in the late 1700s, but they were slow to gain popularity as a cooking staple, a trend that continues today. "I took some of my surplus eggplant to a local food bank last year and they said it was the first time they'd ever gotten it," said Marianne Ophardt, Benton County director for Washington State University Extension. "Recipes are limited for making it more flavorful, which may account for some of its slow acceptance," she said. "It generally doesn't have the same crispness or flavor as tomatoes. A lot of people harvest it when it's over-mature, which makes it taste bitter and seedy."

Eggplants are easy to grow, however, and are tougher in the garden than peppers, Ophardt said. "I grow mine in a half wine barrel," she said. "I learned the hard way not to put too many (plants) in. They can grow fairly large and take up containers." Eggplants have few pest problems, she said: "Some aphids, maybe, but even without treating them they'll go away." And the vegetable has changed over time. — AP

Wild, natural and local: Trends in floral centerpieces



This undated photo provided by Ten Speed Press shows a floral centerpiece featured in the book "The Flower Workshop" by Ariella Chezar. — AP photos



A floral centerpiece featured in the book "The Flower Workshop" by Ariella Chezar.

Whether designing with flowers for a huge formal event or a small casual affair, the trend is toward a more wild and natural look, according to floral designer Ariella Chezar of the FlowerSchool in New York. That can include blooms, branches, fruit and foraged materials, like rosemary and jasmine, she said. And the best place to start is with your local flower farmer or farmer's market. "It's important to consider the setting before deciding on the arrangement. Mason jars are great, but they wouldn't work at the Waldorf," said Chezar, who has designed floral arrangements for hundreds of weddings as well as for the White House. She is co-author with Julie Michaels of the new "The Flower Workshop" (Ten Speed Press, March 2016), which has tips on everything from textures and colors to foliage and containers. It includes step-by-step instructions for more than 45 floral projects.

Useful resource

Another important factor in selecting flowers and arrangements is which colors suit the bride, Chezar said in an interview from her home in upstate New York. "It seems like 90 percent of the blonde brides choose pastels and 90 percent of brunettes opt for jewel tones, since people tend to be drawn to the colors they look best in," Chezar said. But the most crucial element is finding out what flowers are in season in the vicinity of the wedding, said Chezar, who is also a flower grower. "About 80 percent of the flowers used in the US come from abroad, and there's a real interest now in using locally grown flowers," she said.

"Just as there is a 'slow food' movement, there is also a 'slow flowers' movement," she explained, and local or foraged varieties are "very much the look du jour pretty much anywhere you go." Slowflowers.com is a directory of over 700 flower growers in every state except North Dakota, she said. Debra

Prinzing of Seattle, who launched the site two years ago, said: "Farmers who sell to the public are an incredibly useful resource for brides, a real repository of knowledge. And the ethos of local, or at least US sourcing is something brides really want these days."

Farmers know what's in season, and having a story behind the flowers at your wedding - a sort of provenance - adds to the event, said Prinzing, who adds stationery tags to centerpieces for local weddings telling where the flowers were grown and what variety they are. "It's a cultural pivot toward local sourcing for all things. And in terms of the aesthetic, it's a mindset of looking for all things seasonal and natural," she said. Chezar says that look can be attained through a generous use of foliage, branches and vines, as opposed to "just stuffing the flowers together tightly. People don't necessarily think about the foliage, but it's what breaks up and highlights the flowers and gives them a more natural look." Containers are also important.

More elegant

"The idea is to let things extend beyond the edge of a vase, to give a sense of movement and direction. Cylindrical vases are the least friendly to this because they are too vertical. Urns or bowls or anything that allows flowers to extend outward is much more wonderful to work with," Chezar says. Besides flower growers and farmers markets, she said, "another great resource is nurseries. If you don't want to deal with cut flowers, you can have a mass of pansies in a pot. Nice containers elevate even humble plants to something more elegant, and a plant is almost always cheaper than cut flowers, plus it lasts."

She warned, however, that those trying to make their own wedding centerpieces should think carefully before deciding to do so. "Nobody realizes how much work it takes to do your own flowers," she said. "Don't think you can do it the last week.



A floral centerpiece featured in the book "The Flower Workshop" by Ariella Chezar.

You need to plan way ahead, do some research to get a sense of what's going to be available when you'll be needing it, put together an idea board of varieties and colors, and practice doing it ahead of the event itself."

For those who do opt for creative homemade arrangements, there are infinite options. "I've found wild grapevines contorted in shapes I could never reproduce, fiddlehead ferns unfurling with the day, and spiky chestnuts still green on the tree. Take advantage of generous gifts like these," Chezar writes in her book. "They are nothing you can plan, but they can make all the difference between an ordinary arrangement and one that turns heads." — AP

New ways to see Philly from up high and down low

With classic rowhouse architecture, brick sidewalks and narrow streets, some charming neighborhoods in Philadelphia can almost make you forget about cheesesteaks, Rocky and that whole American Revolution thing. Almost. It will be hard to escape the Cradle of Liberty references this summer as the city hosts the Democratic National Convention. But Philly has plenty to offer even the most non-political visitor.

Things have been really hoppy, er hoppin', during the warm months thanks to an influx of beer gardens and revamped civic spaces where you can socialize, people-watch and Instagram your heart out. New vantage points from up high and at the water's edge will give you a whole new way to look at The City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection.

What's new

What started as an experimental pop-up park on the Delaware River has become so popular it's back for a third summer season. With food, beer, hammocks and boardwalk games, Spruce Street



In this file photo, people rest in hammocks at the Spruce Street Harbor Park in Philadelphia. — AP photos

Harbor Park has revived a faded area known as Penn's Landing. The vibrant destination includes a waterfront roller rink and seaport museum complete with historic ships.

The city's other river boasts a scenic recreational trail that recently received an eye-catching extension. The Schuylkill (pronounced SKOO'-kul) Banks Boardwalk offers postcard views of the skyline from its start at the South Street Bridge. Bikers, joggers and walkers can take the path up to the Art Museum and beyond. For a bird's-eye view of both rivers, try the new One Liberty Observation Deck, which occupies the 57th floor of one of the city's tallest skyscrapers. The space offers 360 degree views, day and night. At street level, it's hard not to smile at Dilworth Park. Visitors of all ages delight in running - or watching people run - through the in-ground fountains on this renovated plaza outside City Hall. Amenities include a small cafe and occasional programming like live music and outdoor movies. Dilworth Park is also temporarily hosting Robert Indiana's LOVE sculpture, as its regular home undergoes a complete overhaul across the street.

Classic attractions

The biggies, of course, are Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. Timed tickets for the hall where the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were signed are free, but plan ahead. A limited number are released each morning at the Independence Visitors Center, or they can be reserved in advance online (\$1.50



Runners jog along the Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk in Philadelphia.



A visitor photographs a bronze Rocky statue outside the Philadelphia Museum of Art in Philadelphia.

fee per ticket). Seeing the Liberty Bell is also free but does not require tickets. However, the line can get long. The back of the bell is visible through the pavilion windows without going inside, but you won't be able to see the famous crack. The other famous bronze in town - the Rocky statue - was actually a prop from the movie "Rocky III." Fans usually have to wait in a quick-moving line at the foot of the Art Museum steps to take their picture with the fictional hometown fighter. Cynics, please note real Philly heavyweight champ Joe Frazier now has his own impressive statue at the sports complex.

Need a cheesesteak after all that sightseeing? Pat's and Geno's - those dueling South Philly landmarks - are open 24/7. You can also try Reading Terminal Market, Jim's on South Street and Tony

Luke's, which is somewhat off the beaten path. Note that many locals prefer roast pork sandwiches with sharp provolone and broccoli raab.

Tips

A pair of comfortable shoes will get you pretty much anywhere in Philadelphia's extremely walkable downtown, known as Center City. The Indego bike share program is popular and convenient, and there's a good network of bike lanes. The Philly Phlash shuttles visitors around for \$2 per ride or \$5 for an all-day pass. The Big Bus offers a more expensive tour with narration, and tickets allow you to hop on and off all day.

Quirlier options: Take a trolley tour to see some of the 4,000 murals in the city. Or hop on a Segway for a novel way to travel to some hidden neighborhood gems like the Magic Gardens, a breathtaking artistic creation. Public transit in Philly, known as SEPTA, can be convenient, but its arcane payment system frustrates even city residents. Plan ahead by either purchasing tokens or a one-day Independence Pass. Beware, though: Tokens and passes are not sold at every station, and machines don't accept credit cards.

Hanging out

Venture into the buzzing East Passyunk and Fishtown neighborhoods for lively bars, BYOBs, gastropubs and unpretentious but world-class dining. The coffeehouse culture is strong, too, with many indie storefronts.

The phenomenon of beer gardens, which began popping up a couple of years ago, continues unabated. The immensely popular open-air spaces range from rooftops and restaurant patios to office building breezeways and reclaimed vacant lots landscaped by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

But for the simplest respite, try one of the city's original green spaces as laid out by founder William Penn.

Logan Circle has the beautiful Swann fountain with a gorgeous view of City Hall; Rittenhouse and Washington squares offer green lawns and park benches; and Franklin Square offers family fun with a carousel and mini-golf. Through June 12, Franklin Square hosts a Chinese lantern festival, featuring huge illuminated displays of a dragon, three-story pagoda and more. — AP



National Park Service guide Terry Papavasilis talks with visitors about the Liberty Bell at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia.

Sandringham is British royals' much-loved country retreat



This undated image provided by VisitBritain shows the Sandringham estate in Sandringham, England. — AP photos

It is unique among royal residences, a country retreat that is the private property of Queen Elizabeth II, a place at once so private and so beguiling that King George V pronounced it "the place I love better than anywhere in the world." Today it is the treasured country home of the queen, who loves to spend time there with her extended family, particularly during the Christmas season, when she traditionally greets local people gathered outside a church where senior royals worship on Christmas morn.

Located some 110 miles (175 kilometers) north of London, Sandringham has been a private royal home since 1862, sheltering four generations of British monarchs. It's great for kids, too: Acres of open grounds, perfect for playing around. And the tall trees, chosen by Elizabeth in the 1960s, provide welcome shade and shield the royals from public view, giving them a luxurious sense of privacy.

Official residences

"Unlike all the other royal residences apart from Balmoral, Sandringham is owned by the Queen privately, it's her own private home," says Helen Walch, Sandringham Estate's public enterprises manager. "Unlike say Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, which are official residences of the monarch, this is her quiet country retreat."

It was at the nearby St Mary Magdalene Church that Princess Charlotte, the daughter of Prince William and Kate Middleton, the Duchess of Cambridge, was christened last July. Princess Charlotte celebrated her first birthday Monday. Sandringham House, set among 60 acres of gardens, first opened to the public in 1908. Every generation of the royal family that's lived there is said to have left a mark on the property.

"It's a fantastic garden from the point of view of history," says Sandringham Estate's head gardener, Martin Woods, one of seven gardeners who maintain the various lawns, glades and rose bushes. During the Second World War, many of Sandringham's gardeners went away to fight. Labor-intensive gardens were dug up and replaced with sweeping lawns. Sandringham Museum, in the former coach houses, is a treasure trove of royal-related artifacts. Its wide collection includes several former royal automobiles, commemorative china and gifts given to the queen and her husband Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. Key vehicles include a 1900 Daimler purchased by King Edward VII, thought to be the first-ever royal car. Other highlights include a

converted electric golf buggy used by Queen Elizabeth II's late mother, also Elizabeth, known as the Queen Mother.

Racing buggy

Nicknamed the "racing buggy," it was first used in the late 1990s to assist her at public appearances when she was in her 90s. It's painted in the Queen Mother's horse racing colors - pale blue and yellow - and even has a black racing cap with gold tassels attached to the roof. Racing colors are worn by jockeys in horse races to indicate who they work for.

"This little electric buggy was the ideal way for her to do walkabouts and it was painted in her racing colors, as a joke I think, but it's very fetching," says Walch. The museum's varied



In this Nov 19, 1956 file photo, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, left, and the Queen Mother take their Corgi dogs out for a stroll during a visit to the royal stud at Sandringham, England.



In this July 5, 2015 file photo, Britain's Prince William, Kate the Duchess of Cambridge, their son Prince George and daughter Princess Charlotte in a pram arrive for Charlotte's Christening at St Mary Magdalene Church in Sandringham, England.

collection of gifts includes an intricately-carved chess set presented to the queen in 1996 by then South African President Nelson Mandela. "It's beautifully done and showing tribal chieftains and oxen and all hand-painted," says Walch. Some aren't so lavish, such as a handmade wood and string eel trap, presented to the queen by the president of Kiribati during a visit to Windsor in 1986. This year, Sandringham's house, gardens and museum are open to the public from late March to late October, except for July 27 when the estate holds the Sandringham Flower Show. — AP



An aerial view taken on April 26, 2016, from a police helicopter above Algiers shows the construction site of the third largest mosque in the area and the largest in Africa. — AFP

Algeria builds giant mosque as 'blow' to Islamists

Algeria is building one of the world's largest mosques which officials say will serve as a buffer against radical Islam and crown the legacy of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. The Djamaa El Djazair mosque is being built facing the picturesque bay of Algiers as part of a complex that will include a one-million book library, a Koranic school and a museum of Islamic art and history. It will also have a 265-metre high minaret (874 feet) — the world's tallest — as well as a 20,000 square meters prayer hall capable of accommodating up to 120,000 worshippers.

The complex will be located between a future tourist hotspot and working class districts that were once a bastion for Islamist extremists. The North African country was battered by a civil war in the 1990s between the government and Islamists that killed some 200,000 people. More than two decades later, armed groups remain active in parts of Algeria and the country has been hit by several devastating attacks claimed by Al-Qaeda in recent years. "Some have accused us of building a temple for the extremists," said Ahmed Madani, an adviser to the minister of housing responsible for the construction, which is being carried out by a Chinese firm.

"On the contrary, it will be a heavy blow for the extremists. They are the ones hostile to this project," said Madani. The new mosque — due to be completed in 2017 — will be "an emblem of moderate Islam in Algeria and a shield against all forms of extremism," said Madani, who hopes it will draw Muslims away from Islamist-run houses of worship.

'Faith and culture'

According to Madani, Algerian officials have been mulling the idea of building a mega-mosque since 1962, the year Algeria gained its independence from France. "The dream started becoming a reality" after the election of Bouteflika, a man known for his piety and devotion to Muslim art and culture, Madani said. The 79-year-old president has been in power since 1999. He is respected by many for his role in ending the civil war but his opponents and rights groups accuse him of having an authoritarian streak.

The new mosque "will not only serve as a house of worship. It will be a place where links between faith and culture will be reinforced thanks to its ultra-modern library and the Koranic school which will be open to some 300 students," said Madani. Oil-rich Algeria is already home to more than 30,000 mosques. The construction of Djamaa El Djazair — dubbed "Bouteflika Mosque" by some — was launched in 2012, when oil prices were high, said Housing Minister Abdeladji Tebboune. Four years later, Algeria is facing revenue shortages due to weaker oil prices and its foreign exchange reserves have fallen. The new mosque complex has a price tag of 1.2 billion euros (\$1.4 billion), with online critics saying the cost is "mind-boggling" and that the money should have been used to build hospitals and improve health care.

Experts questioned by AFP have bemoaned what many have described as an "unsound" project, and warned that the cost of this mammoth construction could further grow if deadlines are not met. "Most of the work is far from over and it will take a lot of time to finish everything," said an architect, referring to technical installations as well mural decorations including calligraphy that is still unfinished. The mosque will be equipped with solar panels and a sophisticated system to retain rain water which will then be recycled for other uses. Experts have also warned against the risks of the mosque being destroyed in an earthquake. — AFP



In this file photo, people stand and jog, in front of the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. —AP photos

DC celebrates another year of record-breaking tourist crowds

More than 19 million US tourists visited Washington in 2015, an increase of 1 million over the previous year and a record for the nation's capital as its tourism industry continues to make steady progress since the Great Recession. Foreign and domestic tourists spent a record \$7.1 billion in Washington, according to data released Tuesday by Destination DC, the city's tourism bureau.

The domestic visitation total was up by 5.3 percent over 2014, according to the data, and the total amount spent was up 4 percent. International tourist totals from 2015 will be released in August. The tourism industry supports 74,000 jobs in the District of Columbia, according to Destination DC. "Year after year, more visitors are coming to the District, which is a huge boon for our city," Democratic Mayor Muriel Bowser said in a statement.

Spending on hotels and retail increased, and tourism officials were particularly encouraged that spending on entertainment was up by 2.6 percent, suggesting visitors are being less cautious with their dollars than they were during the recession. Tourism in Washington decreased after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and again



In this file photo flags around the Washington Monument fly in the gentle breeze at daybreak on a warmer than average day in Washington.

during the recession of 2007-2009. In 2011, the city finally broke the domestic-visitation record set in 2000, and the number of visitors has increased steadily since then.

One reason for the increase: more hotels. Nine new hotels opened between 2010 and 2015, adding more than 3,000 rooms to the city's inventory.

The largest is the Marriott Marquis

adjacent to the city's convention center, which opened in 2014. A study commissioned by Destination DC showed the city received \$2.65 in taxes for every dollar it spent to promote tourism. "These coveted numbers represent the impact of tourism investment in the nation's capital," Destination DC president Elliott Ferguson said in a statement. — AP



In this photo people walk in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington.



LAS VEGAS: Alison Weber (left) instructs Peijun Guo on using the Oculus Rift VR headset at the Oculus booth at CES International in Las Vegas. After delaying orders because of component shortages and angering wannabe early adopters, VR company Oculus is confronting another headache as it seeks to technologically and culturally establish the immersive medium. — AP

FOR VIRTUAL REALITY MAKERS, A NEW VERSION OF AN OLD STRUGGLE

LOS ANGELES: When it comes to virtual reality, how exclusive is exclusive? After delaying orders because of component shortages and angering wannabe early adopters, VR company Oculus is confronting another headache as it seeks to technologically and culturally establish the immersive medium. It's now possible to play titles that were intended to only be used with the Oculus Rift system on an entirely different VR headset.

In less than four weeks after the March 28 launch of the \$600 system, cunning amateur coders figured out how to unlock the cartoony platforming game "Lucky's Tale" and VR vignette collection "Oculus Dreamdeck" for the HTC Vive, an \$800 competing VR system released April 5 by smartphone maker HTC and gaming company Valve, which operates online marketplace Steam.

And in recent weeks, additional "only on Oculus" content has been cracked. For now, the reverse isn't an issue for HTC and Valve, whose online hub is headset agnostic,

meaning content purchased from Steam can be used for the Vive or Rift. However, titles from the Oculus Home online store are meant to only work with the Rift system, although neither Oculus nor HTC restrict developers from selling content elsewhere.

It's another blow to Oculus, the Facebook-backed VR pioneer that's struggled to fulfill the promise of high-fidelity VR in consumers' homes and faced questions over its privacy policies. While most VR developers are designing for as many systems as possible, several are initially releasing titles for either the Rift or Vive, which currently have different control schemes.

"We're focused on the Vive right now because of the ability to create room-scale experiences, but we're planning to release on every platform available," said Kjaran Pierre Emilsson, co-founder and CEO at Solfar Studios, which crafted the "Everest VR" simulator. "In these early days, we think it's important for 'Everest VR' to be experienced by as many people as possible."

FACEBOOK LOSES FIRST ROUND IN SUIT OVER STORING BIOMETRIC DATA

PALO ALTO: Facebook Inc lost the first round in a court fight against some of its users who sued the social networking company, alleging it "unlawfully" collected and stored users' biometric data derived from their faces in photographs. The judge presiding over the case in a California federal court on Thursday turned down Facebook's motion seeking dismissal of the suit. Facebook filed the motion arguing that the users could not file a complaint under Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act (BIPA) as they had agreed in their user agreement that California law would govern their disputes with the company, and that BIPA does not apply to "tag suggestions."

The court found that Illinois law applies and that the plaintiffs have stated

a claim under BIPA. The complainants had alleged that Facebook's face recognition feature that suggests "tags" on photos unlawfully collected and stored biometric data, in violation of the Illinois BIPA.

The case was filed by some Illinois residents under Illinois law, but the parties agreed to transfer the case to the California court, the court order showed. Facebook was also hit with a lawsuit over its plan to issue new stock last month. The company said in April it will create a new class of non-voting shares in a move aimed at letting Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg give away his wealth without relinquishing control of the social media juggernaut he founded. Facebook was not immediately available for comment. — Reuters

For decades, video game exclusivity has mostly been restricted to consoles, which are more difficult to crack than PCs. For instance, gamers can only hop into a "Super Mario Bros." installment on systems created by Nintendo, while the "Uncharted" series is exclusively on PlayStation machines. For gamers with an Xbox, they have the "Halo" franchise to themselves.

Console wars

It's an on-going conflict known as "the console wars." Despite the Rift and Vive both requiring high-powered PCs to operate and providing similar windows into 360-degree virtual worlds, they currently have different approaches to VR. The Vive's sensors and wand-shaped controllers offer VR across a room, while the Rift only works seated with a traditional gamepad, until Oculus releases its Touch controllers later this year.

Sony will enter the marketplace in October with the comparable PlayStation VR system. The difference? Unlike the Rift and Vive, PS VR will cost \$400 and only work in tandem with a PlayStation 4 console. It'll also arrive with many more exclusive titles, including the robot battle game "RIGS: Mechanized Combat League" and a VR rendition of "Star Wars: Battlefront."

"We think content is king," said Shawn Layden, president of Sony Interactive Entertainment America. "We have six months not only to educate consumers about VR but also make sure we have a robust line-up when we launch in October. I think we'll have a nice, healthy line-up when we bring PS VR to market. It's so important to have all the software there."

By the end of 2016, all three major VR systems are slated to essentially feature the same functionality: a headset and a pair of controllers capable of mimicking hands in virtual world. With each operating their own marketplace for VR experiences, it is possible that consumers could see the dawn of "the VR wars," depending on how Sony, Oculus and HTC tackle content exclusivity. — AP

GOP STATES BENEFITING FROM SHIFT TO WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY

WASHINGTON: If there's a War on Coal, it's increasingly clear which side is winning. Wind turbines and solar panels accounted for more than two-thirds of all new electric generation capacity added to the nation's grid in 2015, according to a recent analysis by the US Department of Energy. The remaining third was largely new power plants fueled by natural gas, which has become cheap and plentiful as a result of hydraulic fracturing.

It was the second straight year US investment in renewable energy projects has outpaced that of fossil fuels. Robust growth is once again predicted for this year.

And while Republican lawmakers in Washington have fought to protect coal-fired power plants, opposing President Barack Obama's efforts to curtail climate-warming carbon emissions, data show their home states are often the ones benefiting most from the nation's accelerating shift to renewable energy.

Leading the way in new wind projects are GOP strongholds Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, home to some of the leading critics of climate science and renewable energy incentives in Congress. Republican-dominated North Carolina trails only California in new solar farms, thanks largely to pro-renewables policies enacted years ago under a Democratic legislature.

The most dramatic change has been seen in the plummeting cost of emissions-free wind energy, which has declined by two-thirds in the last six years thanks to the availability of cheaper, more efficient turbines. An annual analysis by the investment firm Lazard determined that wind energy is now the lowest-cost energy source, even before federal green-energy tax incentives are factored in.

"We are entering the era of renewables," former Vice President Al Gore said Thursday at the Climate Action 2016 conference in Washington. "It's a very exciting new reality."

Billions of dollars in private equity are going to construct massive new renewables projects, especially in the Sun Belt and Great Plains. Thousands of miles of new high-voltage transmission lines are also under construction to send power from the wind and sun from the sparsely populated areas where it is collected to the urban centers where it's needed.

Even with the surge in new projects, energy from such renewable sources as wind, solar and water accounted for only about a tenth of total US power generation last year.

Still, the US leads the world in wind energy with about 48,800 utility-scale turbines operating across the country, generating enough electricity to power about 20 million homes. By 2030, the Energy Department estimates wind will provide a fifth of the nation's electricity.

"Wind energy is very low-cost and not subject to the fuel price risk that both natural gas and coal face," said Michael Goggin, senior director of research at the American Wind Energy Association, an industry trade group. "Adding wind is cheaper than new gas or new coal. It is by far the lowest-cost resource."

Coal has dropped over the last decade from providing half of all US electricity to about one-third.

Peabody Energy, the world's largest coal company, last month joined a growing list of major mining firms forced to seek bankruptcy protection. Wall Street appears to also be writing coal's financial obituary. JPMorgan Chase recently announced it will no longer finance new coal mines or coal-fired power plants, following similar announcements from other big banks. — AP



GOOD YEAR: Electricians install solar panels on a roof for Arizona Public Service company in Goodyear, Ariz. Wind turbines and solar panels accounted for more than two-thirds of all new electric generation capacity added to the nation's grid in 2015, according to a recent analysis by the US Department of Energy. The remaining third was largely new power plants fueled by natural gas, which has become cheap and plentiful as a result of hydraulic fracturing. — AP

APPLE'S COOK TO VISIT CHINA FOR GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

BEIJING: Apple Inc Chief Executive Tim Cook plans to visit Beijing later this month to meet high-level government officials, at a time when it is facing some setbacks in its most important overseas market, a source familiar with the matter said. Cook has frequently traveled to China since taking the helm of Apple five years ago, but his latest visit comes during a critical period.

From weakening smartphone sales to the loss of an iPhone trademark dispute

and the suspension of some of its online entertainment services, the US technology giant has been facing a flurry of problems in recent weeks in its second-largest market after the United States.

That has raised concerns over Apple's growth momentum, as the company reported last week its first quarterly revenue drop in 13 years. Last week, billionaire activist investor Carl Icahn said in an interview with cable television network CNBC that he had sold his entire stake in

Apple, citing China's economic slowdown and worries about whether the government could make it very difficult for Apple to conduct business.

During his China visit, Cook plans to meet senior government and Communist Party leaders - including officials in charge of propaganda, said the source, who declined to be named as the plan is not public yet. Apple did not respond to Reuters' requests for comments.

STRICT CURBS

In recent weeks, the company has wandered into the crosshairs of the government's ongoing campaign to control Web content and ensure localization of data storage. Apple's online book and film services were shut in China last month, cutting off a potential source of income, following Beijing's introduction of regulations in March imposing strict curbs on online publishing, particularly for foreign firms. — Reuters

TECH WORLD EYES DIGITAL LIFE BEYOND THE SMARTPHONE

WASHINGTON: The smartphone revolutionized how people live and work, but the technology world is now struggling to see what comes next. As smartphone sales have peaked in most major markets, Apple, Samsung and others are being forced to rethink their business models to keep growing and connecting with consumers.

The trend in smartphones appears to follow similar peaks in tablet sales and personal computers, said Bob O'Donnell, chief analyst at Technalysis Research.

"We are clearly entering a new era where growth of traditional devices has ended and you have to think differently," O'Donnell said. It's not clear what will be the "next big thing" in technology or even if there is one, and that is troubling for an industry that has been living off growth from smartphones and their ecosystems of Android and Apple iOS applications.

John Curran, managing director of Accenture's communications, media, and technology group, said that in a maturing smartphone market, consumers are not hesitating about new purchases. "Consumers are basically satisfied with their current devices," said Curran. Curran said the Internet of Things appears to be a promising market but that no single device has proved compelling so far.

"We're seeing a broad range of devices, smartwatches, home automation, drones and the like," Curran said. "But these are not taking off (because) people don't see the personal value in their lives yet." An Accenture survey released in January, based on polls in 28 countries, found declines in purchase intent for new smartphones and other big-ticket electronics devices. Only a relative small number of consumers expressed interest in new Internet of Things devices such as smartwatches or drones-expressing concerns over cost, security and complexity of use.

Curran said the smartphone became wildly popular because it addressed a key problem of communications for people on the go, but that the next big thing is not clear. "Consumers are looking for things that solve practical, tangible problems," he said. "They want to see things that make their lives easier, that delight and amaze them."

Looking for integration

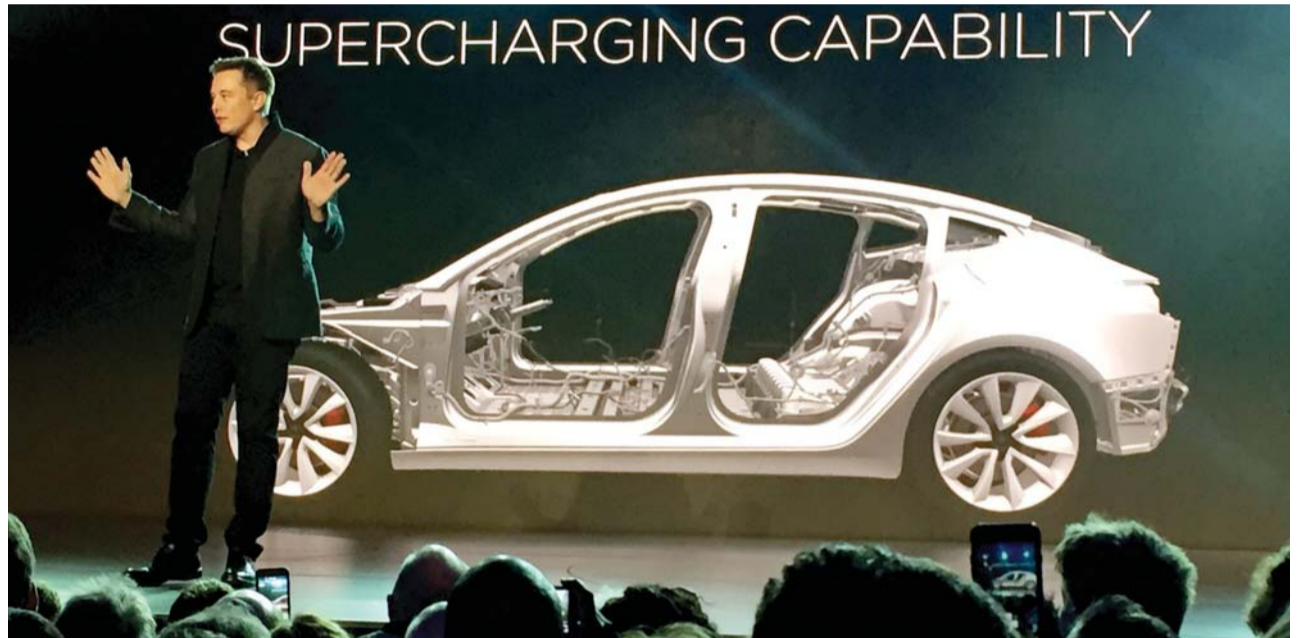
Ramon Llamas, analyst at the research firm IDC, said consumers want to see how all their new gadgets and services can be interconnected. "The smartphone will still have a privileged place in our lives, but it needs to connect to all our other devices," he said.

"You want your smartphone to talk to your home security system and your wearable device."

Global smartphone sales in the first quarter showed their slowest growth on record of 0.2 percent, according to IDC. A separate report by Juniper Research was even more gloomy, saying global sales fell nearly six percent.

The market for devices such as smartwatches, fitness bands and smart home technology is growing, but in a more disjointed fashion, with a number of competing operating systems that can often confuse consumers.

"In all of those environments, you will need some level of computing or connectivity, so the companies that can deliver those kinds of things will be better positioned," O'Donnell said. With no single important device dominating, O'Donnell said the future tech landscape will see players emerge that can combine hardware, software, virtual reality and artificial intelligence. That could open the door to important roles for Facebook, Amazon, Intel and other players. — AFP



HAWTHORNE: Tesla Motors Inc CEO Elon Musk speaks at the unveiling of the Model 3 at the Tesla Motors design studio in Hawthorne, California. More than 276,000 people pre-order the Tesla Model 3 in less than a week. Is it the "Tesla phenomenon," or has the \$35,000 electric car with a range of 200-plus miles taken finally taken the electric car to the masses. — AP

TESLA'S BOLD PRODUCTION PLAN BRINGS OUT SKEPTICS

MANY DOUBT IF TESLA HAS CASH, PLANT CAPACITY OR EXPERTISE

DETROIT: Once again, Tesla Motors is starting down the naysayers. CEO Elon Musk's surprised investors Wednesday with a promise to make 500,000 cars per year by 2018, two years ahead of plan - a rash projection given that Tesla has missed smaller production targets in the past. Auto industry analysts balked. Many doubt that Tesla has the cash, plant capacity or manufacturing expertise to pull off those numbers.

"This is beyond challenging," said Jeff Schuster, senior vice president for forecasting at the consulting firm LMC Automotive. "There are so many things that would have to be lined up in a very short amount of time for that to happen."

Tesla's shares dropped 5 percent to \$212.02 Thursday. But the auto industry and some on Wall Street have been wrong before about 13-year-old Tesla. It has sold more than 110,000 vehicles worldwide even without a traditional dealer network. The company has never made a full-year profit but its market value is more than half that of General Motors Co. US sales of Tesla's Model S luxury sedan jumped 51 percent last year, even as luxury competitors from Mercedes and Audi saw big sales declines. It doesn't advertise, but drew lines hundreds deep in March when it started taking deposits for its newest car, the lower-cost Model 3.

Tesla has plenty of believers. Among

them is Andrea James, a longtime Tesla analyst with Dougherty and Co. She announced Wednesday she was resigning and said she can't wait to buy Tesla shares.

"Does Tesla have a technology lead that is real? Can Tesla build it? Will people come? Yes, yes and yes," James said. Skeptics point to Tesla's significant issues with bringing vehicles to market in the past. The Model X SUV, Tesla's latest vehicle, was delayed by more than 18 months while Tesla fiddled with its complicated features, like gull-wing rear doors and free-standing rear seats. That has many doubting Tesla can meet its goal of producing 100,000 to 200,000 Model 3 sedans in the latter half of 2017.

"We want to believe, but we simply cannot," said Brad Erickson of Pacific Crest Securities in a note to investors. Tesla has also missed production targets before. In the summer of 2014, Musk said Tesla expected to achieve a run rate of 100,000 vehicles by the end of 2015. But this year, the company only expects to deliver between 80,000 and 90,000 vehicles. Musk said production of the Model X can't be compared to the much less complex Model 3. Musk says the company can apply lessons from the Model X to the Model 3, including setting firm deadlines for suppliers.

"Tesla is really hell-bent on being the world's best at manufacturing," Musk said.

Musk hinted that Tesla will soon hire a big-name vice president to improve manufacturing. Tesla's vice presidents of manufacturing and production recently stepped down.

Others question whether Musk has the money to meet his goals. Tesla ended the first quarter with \$1.4 billion in cash, but Schuster says adding an assembly line and tooling to make 250,000 or more Model 3s would cost an estimated \$1 billion alone. And while Tesla collected an estimated \$400 million in deposits for the Model 3, the money is refundable if customers decide not to buy.

Tesla said it now expects to spend more than \$2 billion on capital projects this year, up from its forecast of \$1.5 billion. Musk said Tesla is open to raising capital but he didn't give a timeframe. Schuster said he predicts Tesla will make around 200,000 vehicles in 2018, or less than half the forecast of 500,000. Morgan Stanley analyst Adam Jonas says 500,000 vehicles is possible for Tesla - but not until 2025. "I can't argue with what he has been able to accomplish so far, but we're taking about a complete magnitude change in complexity," Schuster said of Musk. Musk said he may yet change minds. "What I find ironic about a lot of the naysayers is that the very same people will transition from saying, 'It was impossible' to saying 'It was obvious,'" he said. — AP



00:40 The Believer
02:20 The Blair Witch Project
03:40 High Tide
05:20 Charge Of The Light Brigade
07:25 Clifford
08:55 Pieces Of Dreams
10:35 Mirromask
12:15 Big Screen
12:30 Teen Witch
14:00 Robinson Crusoe
15:30 The Magnificent Seven Ride!
17:10 Groundhog Day
18:55 Big Screen
19:10 Follow That Dream
21:00 Fear The Walking Dead
22:00 Talking Dead: Fear Edition
23:00 Fear The Walking Dead

07:00 Bloomberg West
08:00 Countdown
09:00 Countdown
09:30 On The Move
10:00 On The Move
11:00 The Pulse
12:00 Bloomberg Surveillance
13:00 Bloomberg Surveillance
14:00 Bloomberg Go
15:00 Bloomberg Go
16:00 Bloomberg Go
17:00 Bloomberg Markets
18:00 Bloomberg Markets: European
Close
19:00 Bloomberg Markets
20:00 Bloomberg Markets
21:00 Bloomberg Markets
21:30 Brilliant Ideas
22:00 Bloomberg Markets
23:00 What'd You Miss?



00:00 News Update
00:30 Dialogue
01:00 News Update
01:15 China 24
02:00 The Heat
02:30 News Update
03:00 Global Business
04:00 News Update
05:00 News Update
06:30 Dialogue
07:00 News Hour
08:00 Global Business
09:00 News Update
10:30 Sports Scene
11:00 Global Business
12:00 News Update
12:30 Culture Express
13:00 Africa Live
14:00 News Update

14:30 Dialogue
15:00 News Update
15:15 China 24
16:00 News Update
16:15 Global Business
17:00 News Update
17:15 World InSight
18:00 Asia Today
18:30 Culture Express
19:00 News Update
19:30 The Heat
20:00 Africa Live
21:00 Global Business
21:30 Dialogue
22:00 News Update
22:15 China 24
23:00 News Update
23:15 World InSight



00:00 CNBC Conversation: Felipe Calderon
00:30 CNBC Conversation: Kyriakos Mitsotakis
01:00 U.S. Squawk Alley
02:00 Asia Squawk Box
05:00 Asia Street Signs
07:00 Capital Connection
08:00 Squawk Box Europe
11:00 Europe Street Signs
12:00 Worldwide Exchange
13:00 U.S. Squawk Alley
16:00 Squawk On The Street
18:00 U.S. Squawk Alley
19:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report
20:00 U.S. Power Lunch
22:00 U.S. Closing Bell



00:20 Fast N' Loud
01:10 Salvage Hunters
02:00 Redwood Kings
02:50 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
03:40 Extreme Collectors
04:05 Storage Wars Canada
04:30 Auction Hunters
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:30 Fifth Gear
06:00 You Have Been Warned
06:50 Troy
07:40 The Carbonaro Effect
08:05 Superhuman Science
08:30 The Island With Bear Grylls
09:20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
10:10 So You Think You'd Survive?
11:00 Salvage Hunters
11:50 Redwood Kings
12:40 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
13:30 Misfit Garage
14:20 Overhaulin'
15:10 Extreme Car Hoarders
16:00 So You Think You'd Survive?
16:50 So You Think You'd Survive?
17:40 So You Think You'd Survive?
18:30 So You Think You'd Survive?
19:20 So You Think You'd Survive?
20:10 So You Think You'd Survive?
21:00 Misfit Garage
21:50 Overhaulin'
22:40 Extreme Car Hoarders
23:30 Killing Fields



00:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman

01:08 Secret Space Escapes
01:55 Moon Machines
02:42 How The Earth Works
03:29 Mythbusters
04:16 Secret Space Escapes
05:03 Moon Machines
05:50 Nyc: Inside Out
06:37 How Do They Do It?
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:23 Mythbusters
08:08 How The Earth Works
08:53 Nyc: Inside Out
09:38 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
10:23 Secret Space Escapes
11:08 Moon Machines
11:53 Nyc: Inside Out
12:38 Mythbusters
13:23 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
14:10 How The Earth Works
14:57 Invent It Rich
15:44 Moon Machines
16:31 Future Firepower
17:18 How The Earth Works
18:05 Mythbusters
18:50 Da Vinci's Machines
19:40 Moon Machines
20:25 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
21:15 How The Earth Works
22:00 Da Vinci's Machines
22:45 Moon Machines
23:35 Mythbusters



00:00 Crime Stories
01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
02:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
03:00 My Crazy Ex
04:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
05:00 50 Ways To Kill Your Lover
06:00 I Killed My BFF
07:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
08:00 Crime Stories
09:00 Surveillance Oz
09:30 Private Crimes
10:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
11:00 After The First 48
12:00 The FBI Files
13:00 I Killed My BFF
14:00 Crime Stories
15:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
16:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
17:00 After The First 48
18:00 The FBI Files
19:00 I Killed My BFF
20:00 Crime Stories
21:00 The First 48
22:00 The Killer Speaks
23:00 Nightmare In Suburbia



00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopdidoo
01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
02:05 Calimero
02:20 Zou
02:30 Loopdidoo
02:45 Art Attack
03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopdidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopdidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopdidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopdidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Goldie & Bear
08:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
09:35 Doc McStuffins
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Goldie & Bear
10:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
11:00 Miles From Tomorrow
11:25 Special Agent Oso
11:40 The Hive
11:50 Handy Manny
12:15 Jungle Junction
12:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
13:00 Sofia The First
13:25 Miles From Tomorrow
13:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
14:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:10 Miles From Tomorrow
15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:00 Sofia The First
16:25 Jungle Cubs
16:50 Aladdin
17:15 Gummi Bears
17:40 Goldie & Bear
18:05 Miles From Tomorrow
18:30 Sofia The First
19:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
19:30 Miles From Tomorrow
20:00 Goldie & Bear
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 Jungle Cubs
21:25 Aladdin
21:50 Gummi Bears
22:20 Lilo And Stitch
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster



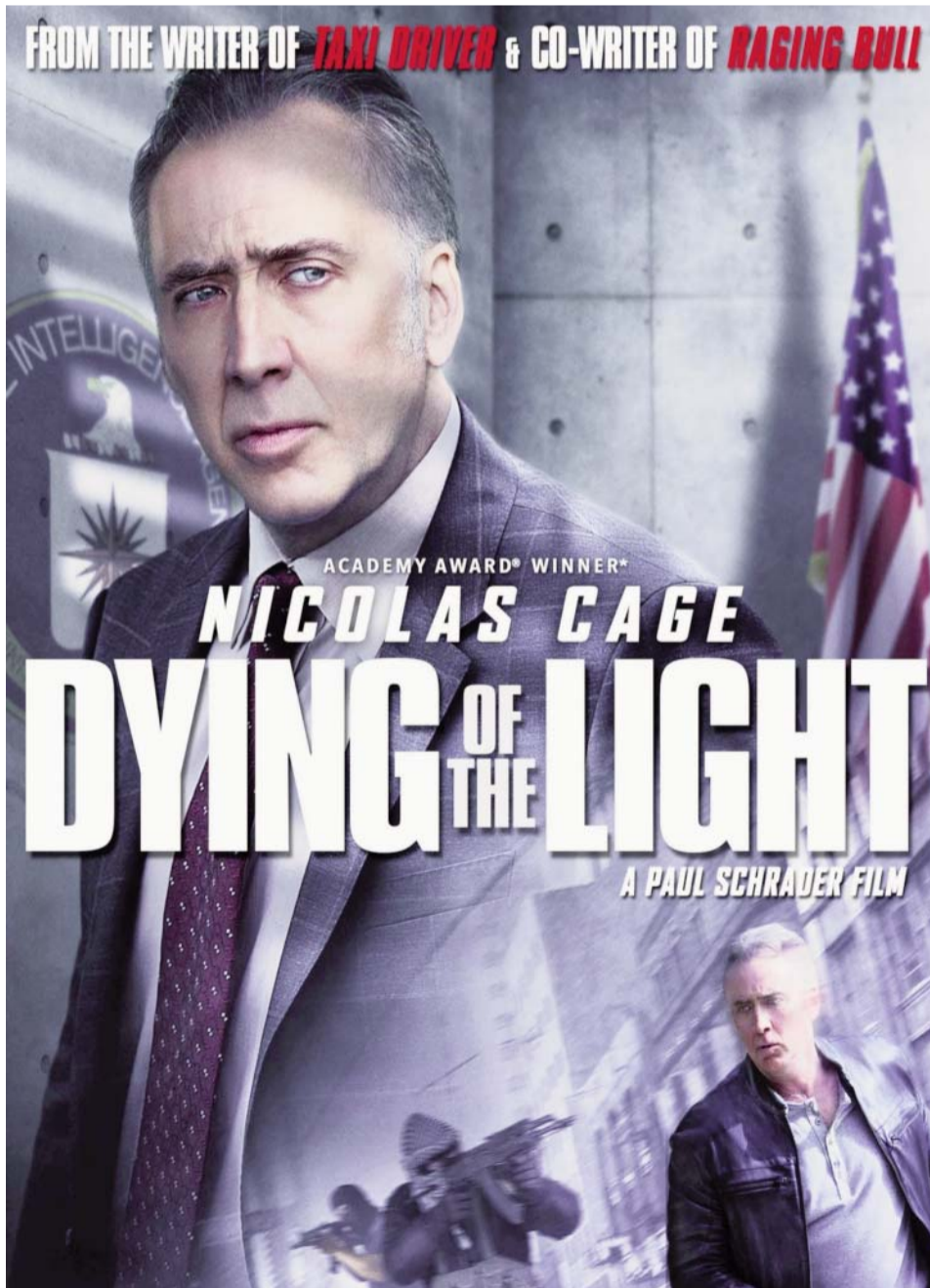
00:45 Human Prey
01:40 River Monsters
02:35 Tanked
03:25 Shamwari: A Wild Life
03:50 Shamwari: A Wild Life
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 River Monsters
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Treehouse Masters
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Treehouse Masters
11:00 Dog TV
11:55 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven
12:50 Queens Of The Savannah
13:45 Queens Of The Savannah
14:40 Queens Of The Savannah
15:35 Animal Cops South Africa
16:30 Shamwari: A Wild Life
17:00 Shamwari: A Wild Life
17:25 Queens Of The Savannah
18:20 Rugged Justice
19:15 Gator Boys
20:10 In Search Of The King Cobra
21:05 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven
22:00 Rugged Justice
22:55 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven
23:50 Gator Boys



00:20 Eastenders
00:50 Holby City
01:50 Stag
02:45 Silent Witness
03:40 Waking The Dead
04:40 Eastenders
05:10 Doctor Who
06:00 Holby City
06:55 Doctors
07:30 Eastenders
08:00 Dickensian
08:50 Death In Paradise
09:45 Doctor Who
10:50 Doctor Who
11:40 Doctor Who
12:35 Doctor Who
13:25 Holby City
14:25 Doctors
14:55 Eastenders
15:25 Death In Paradise
16:20 Death In Paradise
17:15 Death In Paradise
18:15 Doctors
18:45 Doctors
19:20 Father Brown
20:05 Happy Valley
21:00 Happy Valley
22:00 Undercover
23:00 Stag
23:55 Doctors



00:00 Charlie Rose
01:00 Bloomberg West
02:00 First Up With Angie Lau
03:00 First Up With Angie Lau
04:00 Trending Business
05:00 Trending Business
06:00 Asia Edge



DYING OF THE LIGHT ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Lolirock
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Gravity Falls
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:40 Jessie
08:05 Shake It Up
08:30 Shake It Up
08:55 Hannah Montana
09:20 Hannah Montana
09:45 Girl Meets World
10:10 Girl Meets World
10:35 A.N.T. Farm
11:00 A.N.T. Farm
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Jessie
12:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Fish Hooks
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 Cars Toons
14:30 Liv And Maddie
14:55 Dog With A Blog
15:20 Dog With A Blog
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:10 Violetta
17:00 Violetta Recipes
17:10 Invisible Sister
18:40 Best Friends Whenever
19:05 Evermoor Chronicles
19:30 Violetta
20:20 Violetta Recipes
20:30 Wizards Of Waverly Place - The Movie
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016

23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou



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



00:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
00:55 The Grace Helbig Show
01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
02:20 E! News
03:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
04:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
05:05 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
07:50 Style Star
08:20 E! News
09:15 Giuliana & Bill
10:15 Giuliana & Bill
11:10 The Grace Helbig Show
11:35 The Grace Helbig Show
12:05 E! News
13:05 Dash Dolls
14:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
16:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
17:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
18:00 E! News
19:00 Christina Milian Turned Up
20:00 WAGs
21:00 WAGs
22:00 E! News
23:00 Botched



00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Private Chef
01:30 Private Chef
02:00 Valerie's Home Cooking
02:30 Valerie's Home Cooking
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Iron Chef America
06:00 Chopped



THE EXPENDABLES 3 ON OSN MOVIES HD

07:00 Man Fire Food
07:30 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
09:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 Anna Olson: Bake
11:30 Anna Olson: Bake
12:00 Chopped
13:00 The Pioneer Woman
13:30 The Pioneer Woman
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Man Fire Food
15:30 Man Fire Food
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 Anna Olson: Bake
18:30 Anna Olson: Bake
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Iron Chef America
21:00 Chopped
22:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
23:00 Kitchen Casino



00:20 Pawn Stars
00:45 Pawn Stars Australia
01:10 Down East Dickering
02:00 Ice Road Truckers
02:50 Ax Men
03:40 American Restoration
04:05 American Restoration
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Grave Trade
06:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
06:50 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
07:40 Hunting Hitler
08:30 American Restoration
08:55 Mountain Men
09:45 Ax Men
10:35 Swamp People
11:25 Fifth Gear
12:15 Counting Cars
12:40 Counting Cars
13:05 American Pickers
13:55 Grave Trade
14:45 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
15:35 Hunting Hitler
16:25 Counting Cars
16:50 Shark Wranglers
17:40 Aussie Pickers
18:30 Duck Dynasty
18:55 Duck Dynasty
19:20 Ax Men
20:10 Swamp People
21:00 Storage Wars: New York
21:25 Storage Wars: New York

21:50 Pawn Stars
22:15 Pawn Stars Australia
22:40 Hunting Hitler
23:30 The Curse Of Oak Island



00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
01:05 Emmerdale
01:30 Eggheads
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 Keep It In The Family
03:25 Black Work
04:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
05:15 Prince Philip: The Plot To Make A King
06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
07:00 Eggheads
07:30 Black Work
08:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
09:20 Keep It In The Family
10:15 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
11:05 Eggheads
11:35 Prince Philip: The Plot To Make A King
12:30 Who's Doing The Dishes?
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Emmerdale
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 Keep It In The Family
15:35 Royal Stories
16:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
16:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
17:25 Home Fires
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Emmerdale
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Royal Stories
20:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
20:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
21:25 Home Fires
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Emmerdale
23:40 Tracey Ullman's Show



00:10 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
00:35 Tom's Istanbul Delight
01:00 Cesar To The Rescue
01:50 Chefs Run Wild
02:15 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
02:40 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
03:05 Cruise Ship Diaries
03:30 Tales From The Bush Larder
03:55 Street Food Around The World
04:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
04:45 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of

Australia
05:10 Tales From The Bush Larder
05:35 Tales From The Bush Larder
06:00 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
06:50 Cesar To The Rescue
07:40 Chefs Run Wild
08:05 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
08:30 Ariana's Persian Kitchen
08:55 Cruise Ship Diaries
09:20 Tales From The Bush Larder
09:45 Street Food Around The World
10:10 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
10:35 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
11:00 Tales From The Bush Larder
11:25 Tales From The Bush Larder
11:50 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
12:40 Cesar To The Rescue
13:35 Chefs Run Wild
14:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
14:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
14:55 Cruise Ship Diaries
15:25 Miguel's Feasts
15:50 Street Food Around The World
16:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
16:45 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
17:15 Tales From The Bush Larder
17:40 Tales From The Bush Larder
18:10 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
19:05 Cruise Ship Diaries
19:30 Miguel's Feasts
20:00 Street Food Around The World
20:25 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
20:50 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
21:15 Tales From The Bush Larder
21:40 Tales From The Bush Larder
22:05 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea
22:55 Cesar To The Rescue
23:45 Chefs Run Wild



00:30 Hot In Cleveland
01:00 The Tonight Show With Larry Wilmore
01:30 Web Therapy
02:00 The Brink
02:30 You're The Worst
03:00 Mad Love
03:30 Living With Fran
04:00 Two And A Half Men
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 My Name Is Earl
06:00 The Bernie Mac Show
06:30 Community
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers

08:00 Two And A Half Men
08:30 My Name Is Earl
09:00 Mad Love
09:30 Kevin From Work
10:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
10:30 Community
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 The Bernie Mac Show
12:30 Two And A Half Men
13:00 My Name Is Earl
13:30 Community
14:00 Living With Fran
14:30 Kevin From Work
15:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
15:30 Hot In Cleveland
16:00 The Tonight Show With Larry Wilmore
16:30 The Bernie Mac Show
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Fresh Off The Boat
18:30 Black-ish
19:00 2 Broke Girls
19:30 The Simpsons
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Hot In Cleveland
21:30 The Tonight Show With Larry Wilmore
22:00 Comedians
22:30 The Brink
23:00 You're The Worst
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:00 Inside
02:00 Stranded
04:00 Destruction: Las Vegas
06:00 Non-Stop
08:00 Crimson Tide
10:00 Dying Of The Light
12:00 The X Files
14:00 Non-Stop
16:00 The Marine 4: The Moving Target
17:45 Crimson Tide
19:45 Oblivion
22:00 Sin City: A Dame To Kill For



00:00 The Starving Games
02:00 The Bounty Hunter
04:00 My Father The Hero
06:00 Mr. Destiny
08:00 Sweet Home Alabama
10:00 My Father The Hero
12:00 The Bounty Hunter
14:00 Bottle Rocket
16:00 Sweet Home Alabama
18:00 The Devil Wears Prada
20:00 I Give It A Year
22:00 American Reunion



DRAMA

01:30 One Last Look
03:00 Foxcatcher
05:15 A Valentine's Date
07:00 1911
09:00 10 Years
11:00 A Valentine's Date
13:00 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike
15:00 God Help The Girl
17:00 10 Years
19:00 Not Fade Away
21:00 A Walk Among The Tombstones
23:00 By The Gun



FESTIVAL

01:00 Vanity Fair
03:30 Gattaca
05:30 The Apostle
08:00 Won't Back Down
10:30 Happiness
12:30 What Dreams May Come
14:30 Gattaca
16:30 Won't Back Down
19:00 True Colors
21:00 Jersey Boys
23:15 The People vs Larry Flynt



01:15 The Expendables 3
03:30 McFarland, USA
05:45 JLA Adventures: Trapped In Time
06:45 The Theory Of Everything
09:00 The Maze Runner
11:00 McFarland, USA
13:15 Ant-Man
15:15 Batman: Assault On Arkham
16:30 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes
18:45 Tomorrowland
21:00 The Water Diviner
23:00 Son Of A Gun



01:00 Hatching
02:45 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama
04:30 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
06:00 Tarzan
08:00 Blackie And Kanuto
10:00 Zarafa
11:30 Marco Macaco
13:00 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama
14:45 Snow Queen
16:30 Jungle Shuffle
18:15 Zarafa
20:00 Echo Planet
22:00 Snow Queen
23:45 Jungle Shuffle



PREMIERE

00:00 Careful What You Wish For
02:00 Next Goal Wins
04:00 Not Safe For Work
06:00 Marvel's Hulk vs. Thor & Wolverine
08:00 Until She Came Along
10:00 Son Of Batman
12:00 Fast Girls
14:00 Ashes
16:00 Until She Came Along
18:00 High Road
20:00 No Good Deed
22:00 Sleeping Beauty



00:30 Super League
02:30 Inside The PGA Tour
03:00 PGA Tour
06:30 European Tour Weekly
07:00 Golfing World
08:00 World Rugby
08:30 Welsh Open Snooker
10:00 Super Rugby Highlights
10:30 Live Super Rugby
12:40 Live Super Rugby
15:00 World Rugby



ASSE BEACH CLEAN UP DRIVE

American Society of Safety Engineers, Kuwait organized a Beach Cleanup Drive on 16th April 2016 at Mahboula Beach. During the amazing signature event around 200 people including school children from Indian Educational School, Jaleeb Al-Shyoukh and India International School, Mangaf, ASSE Members and their family members, General public from all over Kuwait.

The program started with a welcome speech from ASSE Kuwait Chapter where in Jignesh Shah, Secretary, welcomed all the participants. He thanked all for their presence and active participation. G Sampath Reddy, President, ASSE Kuwait Chapter informed the participants that "Our goal for Cleanup

Day at Mahboula Beach is not only to pick up every piece of trash we can reach, but also to educate the public on the responsibility of keeping the beaches clean and save our mother environment".

Safdar Ali Khan, Head Outreach Committee delivered a safety talk on the Do's & Don'ts. T Shirts, Caps, Hand Gloves, Trash Bag were distributed to all the participants and the trash collection kicked off. The volunteers spent 2 hours picking up everything from cigarette butts, plastic bottles and food wrappers to lost fishing nets and major appliances etc. The group Leaders coordinated the trash collection and the trash bags were collected at identified collection centers and then later

all the trash bags were loaded in a heavy truck and transported. The Cleanup Drive started at 8:00 am and stretched till 10.30 am. During the closing notes as part of appreciation and recognizing the efforts of the people, ASSE Kuwait Chapter Executive Committee members handed over mementos to Bhavans and IIS School Principals for their support. The event was supported by the Kuwait Municipality, Ahmadi Governorate Finally the participation certificates were distributed to all the school children for their active role in the event. The ASSE - Kuwait Chapter, has been organizing these events in Kuwait for several years; targeting a new beach every year.





LAIF HOLDS ALL NATIONS NIGHT

It was a glorious event and an atmosphere of praise at the NECK compound last Friday as the Life Abundantly International Fountain Church (LAIF) held its All Nations Night. The event featured praise worship, bible teachings, and exaltations. Christians from different nationalities praise God in different languages. They include Christians from USA, Jamaica, India, Nigeria, Egypt, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Congo, Cameroon, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Togo etc. LAIF Church is founded upon God's unchanging word with a mission - 'Discipling and sharing God's abundant life to all nations, kindred and tongues.'



WORLD'S LARGEST PARTICLE SMASHER SET TO PUSH PHYSICS INTO UNKNOWN

GENEVA: The world's most powerful proton smasher is preparing for its biggest run yet which scientists hope will uncover new particles that could dramatically change our understanding of the Universe. "We are exploring truly fundamental issues, and that's why this run is so exciting," physicist Paris Sphicas told AFP at Europe's physics lab, CERN, last week. "Who knows what we will find." Late last year, before CERN shut down its Large Hadron Collider (LHC) for a technical break, two separate teams of scientists said they had discovered anomalies that could possibly hint at the existence of a mysterious new particle.

The discovery of a new particle could prove the existence of extra space-time dimensions, or explain the enigma of dark matter, scientists say. The LHC, housed in a 27-kilometre (17-mile) tunnel straddling the French-Swiss border, has shaken up physics before. In 2012 it was used to prove the existence of the Higgs Boson—the long-sought maker of mass-by crashing high-energy proton beams at velocities near the speed of light. A year later,

two of the scientists who had in 1964 theorized the existence of the Higgs, also known as the God particle, earned the Nobel physics prize for the discovery.

'Totally unthinkable'

The Higgs fits in with the so-called Standard Model—the mainstream theory of all the fundamental particles that make up matter and the forces that govern them. But the anomalies, or "bumps", seen in the data last December could indicate something completely new. Going beyond the Standard Model would "mean that there is yet another unbelievable idea out there. Something that is totally unthinkable," Sphicas said. The LHC, he said, could unveil whole new dimensions, help explain dark matter and dark energy, of which we have no understanding but which together make up 95 percent of the universe.

The giant lab might also prove the exotic theory of supersymmetry, SUSY for short, which suggests the existence of a heavier "sibling" for every particle in the universe. The unexpected excess pair of

photons spotted last year could be a larger cousin of the Higgs, according to one theory. "Who knows, maybe there's a whole Higgs family out there," Sphicas said. But to determine whether the observed data "bump" is merely a statistical fluctuation or could actually be the first cracks in the Standard Model, much more data is needed.

Scientists had been gearing up to resume experiments at the LHC this week, but the plans were delayed after a weasel wandered onto a high-voltage electrical transformer last Friday, causing a short-circuit. CERN told AFP that experiments were now expected to get underway next week. When the massive machine comes back online, it is expected to quickly pile up astounding amounts of data for scientists to pick through for clues.

Very rare phenomena

After the Higgs discovery, the LHC underwent a two-year upgrade, reopening last year with double energy levels which will vastly expand the potential for groundbreaking discoveries. The LHC ran

for six months last year at the new energy level of 13 teraelectronvolts (TeV), but since the machine was just getting started again, it was not pushed to create the maximum number of collisions. Once it gets started again, the machine at its peak should see two beams each containing around 273,600 billion protons shoot through the massive collider in opposite directions, slamming into each other with a joint energy level of 13 TeV to produce two billion collisions a second.

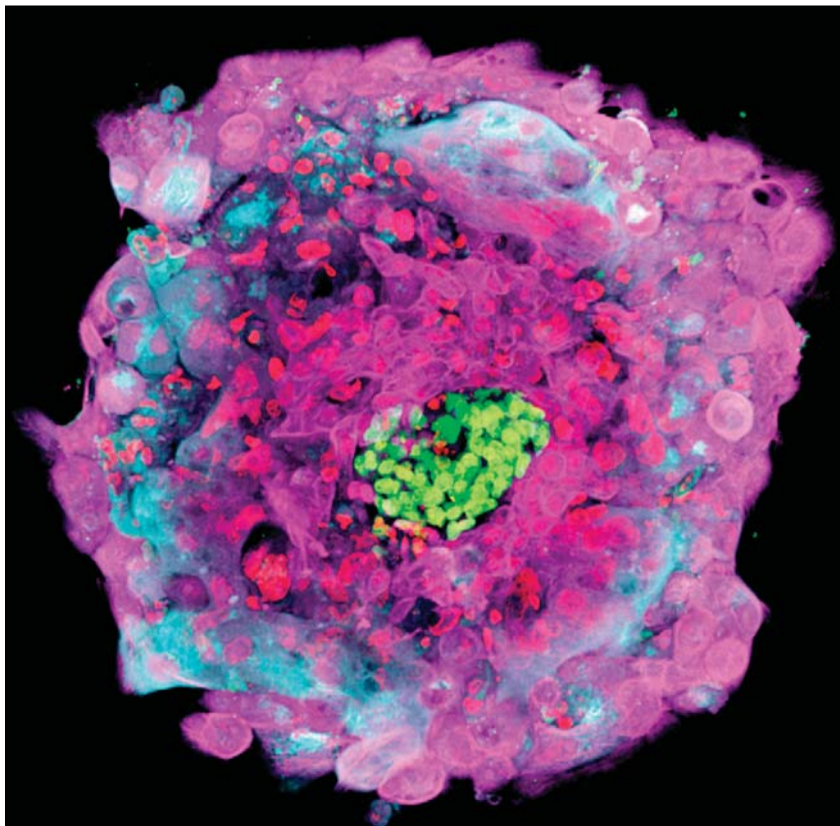
"What we are looking for are very rare phenomena, (and) when you are looking for very rare phenomena you need a very large number of collisions," Frederick Bordry, CERN director for accelerators and technology, told AFP. "We are really at an energy level that enables discoveries," he said, adding that he expected the lab to have clarity by the end of summer on whether the data "bump" was more than "statistical noise". "If we have nature on our side, I think we will discover new particles and open a new road for physics beyond the Standard Model," he said. —AFP

LABORATORY ADVANCE PROVIDES VIEW OF EARLY EMBRYO DEVELOPMENT

NEW YORK: New lab techniques have provided the first good look at a crucial but mysterious stage in the development of human embryos, scientists reported Wednesday. The researchers said follow-up research might eventually lead to new treatments for infertility and perhaps new forms of birth control. The work extends the amount of embryonic development that can be observed in a laboratory. In the first week after fertilization, an egg grows into a hollow ball of cells, and scientists have long been able to watch that happen. But then this early embryo - about the size of a grain of salt - attaches itself to a woman's uterus and undergoes radical change, and that stage has been a "complete black box," said Ali Brivanlou of Rockefeller University in New York.

He's a member of one of two scientific teams that reported on Monday that they were able to extend embryonic development into a second week in a lab dish. Neither team simulated implantation, because the embryos attached themselves to the plastic of lab dishes rather than to uterine tissue. But even without any direction from a mother, the embryos proceeded with critical steps toward making a body. They flattened into disks, which then assumed a volcano-like shape. They produced primitive internal structures and specialized cells. Brivanlou's team spotted an unexpected type of cell that he said had not been detected in any other mammal species. Researchers have "no clue" what it does, he said.

"We can now ask how the fundamental structures of the embryo are formed after implantation," said Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz of Cambridge University in England, who led the second team. Both groups worked independently to modify a lab technique Zernicka-Goetz's lab had developed for working with mouse embryos. Brivanlou and colleagues reported results in the journal



NEW YORK: This microscope photo provided by The Rockefeller University shows a human embryo 12 days after fertilization in vitro, with different cell types marked by separate colors. — AP

Nature, while Zernicka-Goetz's team reported in Nature Cell Biology. Both teams used embryos donated by couples who'd used fertility clinics.

Brivanlou's team terminated its research at the embryonic stage corresponding to 14 days after fertilization, and Zernicka-Goetz's experiments were stopped on days 12 or 13. That's because of the "14-day rule," an international ethical standard that limits laboratory studies of human embryos. Experts not involved in the research were impressed by the results. The "beautiful

work" provides new ways to look at how early embryos develop, said reproductive biologist Bruce Murphy, a University of Montreal researcher who is president of the Society for the Study of Reproduction.

"You're seeing the way cells begin to organize in the very early stages of producing a new baby, and that is fascinating for anybody," said John Aplin of the University of Manchester in England. "It gives us all kinds of new ideas to work on," said D. Randall Armant of Wayne State University in Detroit. — AP

EU'S HIGHEST COURT UPHOLDS RESTRICTIVE NEW LAW ON CIGARETTES

EU: Europe's highest court yesterday upheld a tough EU law that will standardize cigarette packs, ban menthol flavoring and restrict e-cigarette advertising, paving the way for its adoption this month and dealing a blow to Big Tobacco.

The EU Court of Justice's rejection of a legal challenge brought by Philip Morris International and British American Tobacco (BAT), could weigh on profits for the industry and sets a precedent for other governments to crack down on a habit that causes nearly six million deaths a year worldwide. "The court finds that, in providing that each unit packet and the outside packaging must carry health warnings ... the EU legislature did not go beyond the limits of what is appropriate and necessary," the court said in its decision.

The legal challenge, which was also supported by Japan Tobacco International and Imperial Brands, can now be taken no further and the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD) will take effect on 20 May, though wholesalers and retailers will be given a year's grace to sell stocks manufactured before that date.

The TPD will ban menthol cigarettes by 2020, standardize packs and impose rules on e-cigarettes, such as limits on nicotine strength, tank size and advertising. The court's validation of TPD bodes poorly for another case tobacco companies have brought against the UK government over its new law aimed at reducing the lure of smoking by forcing tobacco to be sold in uniformly drab packs with no branding.

That law is also due to take effect this month, with the English High Court expected to issue a decision in the coming weeks. Britain's ability to enforce stricter plain packaging is also covered by the TPD.

Impact unclear

Shares of BAT and Imperial, the two big tobacco firms that trade in London, were each down by about 1 percent. Imperial also reported weaker than expected sales volume yesterday.

Imperial Chief Executive Alison Cooper told reporters that the new rules would affect different European markets to varying degrees and could lead to an increase in illicit trade. "Our view on this is that clearly consumers will be making some different choices given some of the changes in the market," Cooper said, adding that Imperial had budgeted tens of millions of pounds for implementation.

The impact of TPD remains unclear because of limited precedent. When it comes to plain packaging, only Australia serves as an example. In the year after implementation in Australia in December 2012 sales of mainstream and premium brands fell, but value brands rose, suggesting that smokers traded down to cheaper alternatives. Yet there was a significant increase in tobacco tax at the same time, so it's hard to isolate the impact of the switch to plain packaging. — Reuters

SPACE X LANDS ROCKET AT SEA 2ND TIME AFTER SATELLITE LAUNCH

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla: For the second month in a row, the aerospace upstart SpaceX landed a rocket on an ocean platform early yesterday, this time following the successful launch of a Japanese communications satellite.

A live web broadcast showed the first-stage booster touching down vertically in the pre-dawn darkness atop a barge in the Atlantic, just off the Florida coast. The same thing occurred April 8 during a spacestation supply run for NASA. That was the first successful landing at sea for SpaceX, which expects to start reusing its unmanned Falcon rockets as early as this summer to save money and lower costs.

Because of the high altitude needed for this mission, SpaceX did not expect a successful landing. But it was wrong. As the launch commentator happily declared, "The Falcon has landed."

SpaceX founder and chief executive Elon Musk was even more exuberant. "Woohoo!!" he exclaimed in bold letters via Twitter. "May need to increase size of rocket storage hangar," he added in a tweet.

Musk said this was a three-engine burn for the booster's return, "so triple deceleration from the last flight." Before liftoff from Cape Canaveral, Florida, he put the chances of a successful touchdown at "maybe even" because the rocket was coming in faster and hotter than last time.

Musk contends rocket reusability is key to shaving launch costs and making space more accessible. SpaceX is the only company to recover a rocket following an orbital launch. It achieved its first booster landing - on solid ground at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station - back in December. A landing at sea proved more elusive and required several tries.



CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida: A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lights up the sky during a launch from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station's Launch complex 40 early yesterday morning. — AP

Blue Origin, led by another wealthy high-tech entrepreneur, Jeff Bezos of Amazon.com, has landed and even reflown its booster rockets, but those did not put anything into orbit.

Following last month's landing, Musk said he plans to refly that booster, possibly as soon as June. The first recovered booster, from December, will grace the entrance of SpaceX headquarters in Hawthorne, California. Already in the delivery business for NASA, SpaceX hopes

to start transporting US astronauts to the International Space Station by the end of next year in the company's next-generation Dragon capsules. But its ultimate goal is Mars.

In a groundbreaking announcement last week, Musk said his company will attempt to send a Red Dragon to Mars in 2018 - and actually land on the red planet. His ambition is to establish a human city on Mars. He also runs Tesla Motors, the electric car company. — AP

UN'S BAN SAYS TIME TO SCALE UP ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

WASHINGTON: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday said action on climate change must be faster and broader to turn the promises of the Paris deal on combatting global warming into concrete measures. "It is time to take climate action to the next level," Ban told a gathering in Washington that included the mayors of New York and Paris, environmental campaigner Al Gore, business leaders and members of the US Congress. "We need to accelerate the speed, scope and scale of our response, locally and globally."

The meeting, dubbed Climate Action 2016, came two weeks after 175 countries signed the Paris climate deal at the United Nations, raising hopes that the landmark deal will be quickly ratified. The Paris agreement will come into force when 55 countries responsible for 55 percent of the world's greenhouse gases have ratified it. "We cannot afford to lose momentum because with each passing day the climate challenge grows," said World Bank president Jim Yong Kim. "It seems that every time we look it's worse than we thought," he added, citing record hot temperatures that have now "become the new norm."

Economic growth is already being hit, with some regions seeing a 6 percent drop because of water scarcity alone, said Jim. Agreed by 195 nations, the Paris deal sets the goal of limiting global warming to "well below" 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit (two Celsius) above pre-industrial levels, by moving to clean energy. French Environment Minister Segolene Royal sounded upbeat, saying there was a new awareness from many countries that were not fully committed to climate change.

Royal told AFP she wants the Paris agreement to enter into force before the end of this year. China and the United States have said they will ratify the Paris deal this year and are pushing for others to follow suit so that the agreement becomes operational, possibly as early as late 2016 or in 2017. Ban said he is convening a similar meeting to the Washington gathering in Beijing in September on the sidelines of the G20 summit to keep climate change high on the world agenda. — AFP

CLINIC
PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016

REQUIRED

Supervisor Housekeeping (male)

Send your CV to:
Email :elshereef1@gmail.com

ACCOMMODATION

Immediate sharing accommodation available for decent Indian Christian family or bachelor near Salmiya Garden, block 10. Contact 66884273, after 2 pm.
(C 5168) 2-5-2016

CHANGE OF NAME

I **Hafiz** son of Fakhruddin

and Salma bearing an Indian Passport No. Z1852600 residence of Marble Arch flora Co Op housing society, flat 5, 1st floor, Central Avenue, Santacruz west, Mumbai, India henceforth will be known as Hafiz Fakhruddin Chief for all purposes.

I **Anis** son of Fakhruddin and Salma bearing an Indian Passport No. Z2181848 resi-

dence of Nai Abadi, AT and PO Partapur, dist Banswara, Rajasthan, India henceforth will be known as Anis Fakhruddin Chief for all purposes.
3-5-2016

Kanagamani Packirisamy son of Packirisamy and Saroja bearing an Indian Passport No. Z2443141 and having address A2K Vilavanapadugai, Kalam Pulivalam, Thiruvurur Dt, Tamil

Nadu, India had embraced Islam and changed the name as Kamaludeen. **(C 5167)**

Balveni Dadala daughter of Dadala Pullaiah and Dadala Nagaratnamma bearing an Indian Passport No. G0613666 and having an address D.No 2-13-3, Plot No. 10/2 Reddy buildings Venkat Nagar Kakinada, east Godavari Dt, Andhra Pradesh, India, had embraced Islam and changed the name as Ayesha.



Kuwait

KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY

SHARQIA-1
THE TRUST 12:00 PM
THE TRUST 2:00 PM
MIDNIGHT SPECIAL 4:00 PM
THE TRUST 6:15 PM
THE TRUST 8:15 PM
MIDNIGHT SPECIAL 10:15 PM
THE TRUST 12:30 AM

SHARQIA-2
THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 7:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:00 PM
NO WED
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:15 AM
NO WED

SHARQIA-3
MOTHER'S DAY 1:15 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 1:30 PM
FRI
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 3:30 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 5:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 7:45 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 9:45 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 12:05 AM

MUHALAB-1
MOTHER'S DAY 1:00 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 1:30 PM
FRI
MOTHER'S DAY 3:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 5:45 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 7:45 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 10:00 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 12:05 AM

MUHALAB-2
THE TRUST 12:15 PM
THE TRUST 2:15 PM
THE TRUST 4:15 PM
BAAGHI: A REBEL FOR LOVE - Hindi 6:15 PM
THE TRUST 9:00 PM
THE TRUST 11:00 PM
THE TRUST 1:00 AM

MUHALAB-3
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 11:30 AM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 6:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 8:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:30 PM
NO WED
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 12:45 AM
NO WED

FANAR-1
THE TRUST 12:30 PM
THE TRUST 2:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 4:30 PM
THE TRUST 6:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 8:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 10:30 PM
THE TRUST 12:30 AM

FANAR-2
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 11:30 AM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 1:45 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 4:00 PM
BAAGHI: A REBEL FOR LOVE - Hindi 6:15 PM
FAN- Hindi 9:30 PM

THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 12:15 AM
FANAR-3
GREEN ROOM 12:00 PM
MIDNIGHT SPECIAL 2:00 PM
GREEN ROOM 4:15 PM
MIDNIGHT SPECIAL 6:15 PM
GREEN ROOM 8:30 PM
MIDNIGHT SPECIAL 10:30 PM
GREEN ROOM 12:45 AM

FANAR-4
THE JUNGLE BOOK 12:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 2:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 7:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 9:15 PM
NO WED
THE JUNGLE BOOK 11:30 PM
NO WED

FANAR-5
MOTHER'S DAY 12:45 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 3:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:30 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 7:45 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 10:00 PM
NO WED
MOTHER'S DAY 12:15 AM
NO WED

MARINA-1
MOTHER'S DAY 1:00 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 3:15 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 5:30 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 7:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 9:45 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 11:45 PM

MARINA-2
THE TRUST 11:30 AM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 6:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 8:45 PM
THE TRUST 11:00 PM
THE TRUST 1:00 AM

MARINA-3
I AM WRATH 12:15 PM
I AM WRATH 2:15 PM
I AM WRATH 4:15 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 6:15 PM
I AM WRATH 8:30 PM
NO WED
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 10:30 PM
NO WED
I AM WRATH 12:45 AM
NO WED

AVENUES-1
THE JUNGLE BOOK 11:30 AM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 1:45 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 4:00 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 6:15 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 8:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 10:45 PM
NO WED
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 1:00 AM
NO WED

AVENUES-3
MOTHER'S DAY 11:30 AM
MOTHER'S DAY 2:00 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 4:30 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 7:00 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 9:30 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 12:05 AM

AVENUES-4
FAN- Hindi 11:45 AM
THE TRUST 2:45 PM
FAN- Hindi 5:00 PM
FAN- Hindi 8:00 PM
THE TRUST 11:00 PM
NO WED
THE TRUST 1:15 AM
NO WED

AVENUES-5
MOTHER'S DAY 12:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:30 PM
NO WED
"THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR" WED 5:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 7:45 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 10:00 PM
NO WED
MOTHER'S DAY 12:30 AM
NO WED

AVENUES-6
THE TRUST 12:30 PM
THE TRUST 2:45 PM
THE TRUST 5:00 PM
THE TRUST 7:15 PM
THE TRUST 9:30 PM
NO WED
THE TRUST 11:45 PM
NO WED

AVENUES-7
GREEN ROOM 11:45 AM
GREEN ROOM 1:45 PM
GREEN ROOM 3:45 PM
GREEN ROOM 5:45 PM
MA3 AL KHATAR (Kuwaiti Film) 8:00 PM
GREEN ROOM 10:15 PM
NO WED
GREEN ROOM 12:30 AM
NO WED

360°- 1
THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 8:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:15 PM
NO WED
CRIMINAL 12:30 AM
NO WED

360°- 2
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 12:45 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 3:00 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 5:15 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 7:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 9:45 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 12:05 AM

360°- 3
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 11:45 AM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 2:00 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR -3D 4:15 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 6:45 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR -3D 9:15 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 11:45 PM

AL-KOUT.1
THE JUNGLE BOOK 11:30 AM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 6:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 8:30 PM
NO WED
THE JUNGLE BOOK 10:45 PM

NO WED
GREEN ROOM 1:00 AM
NO WED

AL-KOUT.2
I AM WRATH 11:30 AM
MOTHER'S DAY 1:30 PM
I AM WRATH 3:45 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 5:45 PM
I AM WRATH 8:00 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 10:15 PM
I AM WRATH 12:30 AM

AL-KOUT.3
THE TRUST 12:00 PM
THE TRUST 2:00 PM
THE TRUST 4:00 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 6:00 PM
THE TRUST 8:15 PM
THE HUNTSMAN WINTER'S WAR 10:30 PM
THE TRUST 12:45 AM

AL-KOUT.4
GREEN ROOM 11:30 AM
GREEN ROOM 1:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 3:30 PM
GREEN ROOM 5:30 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 7:45 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 9:45 PM
NO WED
GREEN ROOM 11:45 PM
NO WED

BAIRAQ-1
THE JUNGLE BOOK 12:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK -3D 2:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK -3D 6:45 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 9:00 PM
NO WED
THE TRUST 11:15 PM
NO WED

BAIRAQ-2
MOTHER'S DAY 1:00 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 3:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:30 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 7:45 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 10:00 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 12:15 AM

BAIRAQ-3
FAN- Hindi 11:45 AM
FAN- Hindi 2:45 PM
BAAGHI: A REBEL FOR LOVE - Hindi 5:45 PM
FAN- Hindi 8:30 PM
NO WED
FAN- Hindi 11:30 PM
NO WED

PLAZA
THE JUNGLE BOOK 3:45 PM
HASAN WA BOQLOZ 6:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 8:15 PM
NO WED
I AM WRATH 10:30 PM
NO WED

LAILA
MOTHER'S DAY 4:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK 6:15 PM
MOTHER'S DAY 8:30 PM
NO WED
THE TRUST 10:45 PM
NO WED

AJIAL.1
FAN- Hindi 3:30 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK- Hindi 6:30 PM



Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers use seats

Arrival Flights on Saturday 7/5/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	00:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30
JZR	125	Bahrain	01:40
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45
JZR	553	Alexandria	01:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40
KAC	514	Tehran	03:50
QTR	8301	Doha	04:10
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40
JZR	529	Asyut	06:55
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
SYR	341	Damascus	10:30
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
JZR	359	Mashhad	10:50
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:10
JZR	325	Al Najaf	11:20
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30
IRC	6511	ABD	11:40
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:55
NIA	151	Cairo	12:20
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30
JZR	241	Amman	12:30
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10
FDB	8053	Dubai	13:25
IRC	526	Mashhad	13:35
TBM	6313	Mashhad	13:45
FBA	831	Al Najaf	13:50
BON	101	Sarajevo	13:55
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20
JZR	779	Jeddah	14:25
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:30
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00
KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05
KNE	683	Madinah	15:05
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
RJA	640	Amman	16:00
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
JZR	257	Beirut	16:25
KAC	118	New York	16:30
KNE	531	Jeddah	16:35
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45
NIA	251	Alexandria	16:50
KAC	562	Amman	16:55
KAC	680	Muscat	16:55
IRA	669	Mashhad	17:10
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
KAC	792	Madinah	17:45
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50

QTR	1080	Doha	17:55
SVA	500	Jeddah	17:55
KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20
KAC	502	Beirut	18:35
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35
KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35
FDB	8061	Dubai	18:50
KAC	742	Dammam	18:50
CLX	856	Luxembourg	18:50
KAC	618	Doha	18:55
KAC	542	Cairo	18:55
KAC	104	London	19:00
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15
JZR	535	Cairo	19:30
JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35
KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
FDB	059	Dubai	19:50
JZR	177	Dubai	19:50
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05
KNE	381	Taif	20:10
ABY	121	Sharjah	20:10
MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30
QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05
UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25
KAC	676	Dubai	21:35
JZR	189	Dubai	21:45
QTR	1082	Doha	21:55
GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00
KAC	564	Amman	22:05
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
ABY	129	Sharjah	22:30
KNE	533	Jeddah	22:45
JZR	185	Dubai	22:55
THY	764	Istanbul	22:55
MSC	403	Asyut	23:10
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20
JZR	125	Bahrain	23:25
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30
MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
JAD	301	Amman	23:45

Departure Flights on Saturday 7/5/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JZR	528	Asyut	00:10
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40
KLM	413	Amsterdam	00:55
MSC	502	Alexandria	01:05
MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
SAI	442	Lahore	02:30
THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
OMA	644	Muscat	04:00
KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:05
FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
JZR	358	Mashhad	05:00
QTR	8302	Doha	06:10
RJA	643	Amman	06:25
QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	240	Amman	06:55
FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
JZR	324	Al Najaf	07:55
BAW	156	London	08:25
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	511	Mashhad	08:40
KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
JZR	778	Jeddah	08:50
JZR	256	Beirut	09:05
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
KAC	101	London/New York	10:00
QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
FDB	056	Dubai	10:40

KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
KAC	561	Amman	11:20
KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
KAC	679	Muscat	11:25
SYR	342	Damascus	11:30
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	356	Mashhad	11:40
KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
IRM	1189	Mashhad	12:20
IRC	6512	ABD	12:40
JZR	534	Cairo	12:40
IAW	158	Al Najaf	12:55
KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
KAC	791	Madinah	13:00
FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
NIA	152	Cairo	13:20
JZR	786	Riyadh	13:20
MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
SAW	702	Damascus	13:35
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
FDB	8054	Dubai	14:05
THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
IRC	527	Mashhad	14:35
TBM	6314	Mashhad	14:40
PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
KNE	382	Taif	14:55
MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
FBA	832	Al Najaf	15:10
QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KAC	617	Doha	15:15
JZR	176	Dubai	15:15
KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KNE	684	Madinah	16:00
KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05
OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	563	Amman	16:30
RJA	641	Amman	16:55
FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
JZR	188	Dubai	17:10
JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KNE	532	Jeddah	17:25
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
NIA	252	Alexandria	17:50
IRA	666	Esfahan	18:10
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
SVA	505	Jeddah	19:25
FDB	8062	Dubai	19:30
KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
CLX	856	Hong Kong	20:20
JZR	266	Beirut	20:20
FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
JZR	124	Bahrain	20:35
KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
DLH	634	Doha	20:50
ABY	122	Sharjah	20:50
KAC	353	BLR	20:55
KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
MSR	607	Luxor	21:30
QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
JZR	238	Amman	22:30
KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
ABY	120	Sharjah	23:10
KAC	155	Istanbul	23:15
QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25
KNE	534	Jeddah	23:35
JZR	554	Alexandria	23:45

WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

Old West 2

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 30 letters spell a Will Rogers quotation.

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

- ASSAY OFFICE
- BANK ROBBER
- BARN
- BLACKSMITH
- BOOTS
- BUCKBOARD
- BUNKHOUSE
- CALAMITY JANE
- CHAPS
- COAL OIL
- COWPOKE
- DAVY CROCKETT
- DOCTOR
- DRESSMAKER
- FENCE
- GENERAL STORE
- GOLD NUGGET
- GUNSLINGER
- HATS
- HIRE HAND
- HORSES
- ICE HOUSE
- LIASSO
- MARSHALL
- MINE SHAFT
- OUTLAWS
- PELTS
- PIGS
- PIONEERS
- POST OFFICE
- RANCH HAND
- REVOLVER
- RUSTLER
- SADDLER
- SALOON GIRL
- SCHOOLHOUSE
- SCOUTS
- SHOOTOUT
- SHOTGUN
- SPURS
- STIRRUP
- TOWN HALL
- TRADING POST
- TUMBLEWEED
- WAGON
- WANTED POSTER
- WHISKEY
- WILD BILL HICKOK

Yesterday's Solution

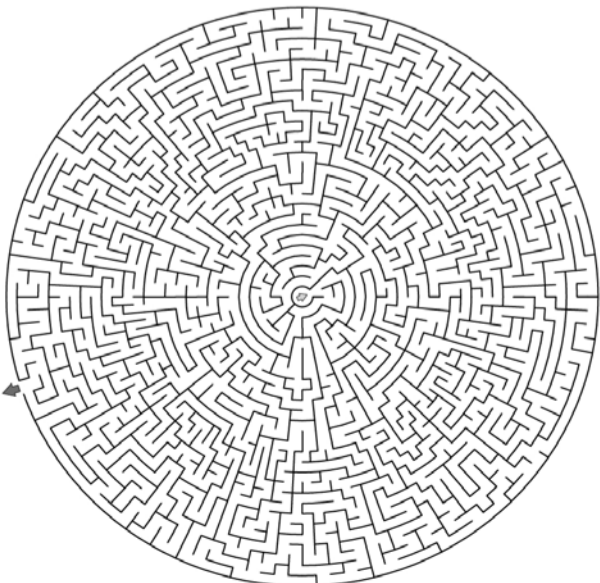
Spring

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

- ALLERGIES
- APRIL
- BASEBALL
- BEES
- CROCUSES
- CYCLAMENS
- DAFFODILS
- DANDELIONS
- EASTER
- EQUINOX
- FLOWERS
- FROGS
- GOLF
- GRASS
- GREEN
- GROWTH
- IRISES
- LILIES
- MARCH
- MAY
- NEW LEAVES
- PLANTING
- RAIN
- RENEWAL
- ROBINS
- SEASON
- SNOWMELT
- SOFTBALL
- SPRING BREAK
- SPRING CLEANING
- TULIPS
- WARMER
- WET

The hidden sentence is: APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS

CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1246

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

ACROSS

1. A machine-readable version of a standard dictionary.
4. Capable of having having clear evidence of eliminated without trace.
12. A former monetary unit in Great Britain.
15. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
16. Variably colored and sometimes variegated hard tough elastic wood of a sycamore tree.
17. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
18. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
19. A large group of islands in the south Pacific including Melanesia and Micronesia and Polynesia (and sometimes Australasia and the Malay Archipelago).
20. A piece of furniture that provides a place to sleep.
21. Joint capital (with Mecca) of Saudi Arabia located in the central oasis.
23. An herb with milky juice.
25. In such a manner as could not be otherwise.
26. English essayist (1775-1834).
27. Relating to or near the radius.
34. The female reproductive cell.
35. A long thin fluffy scarf of feathers or fur.
37. A very wealthy or powerful businessman.
38. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
40. Posing no difficulty.
42. (prefix) Indicating difference or variation.
43. A republic in southern Europe on the Italian Peninsula.
45. (Irish) The sea personified.
46. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
47. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
49. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
52. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
58. The Mongol people living the the central and eastern parts of Outer Mongolia.
62. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
64. Feed excessively.
66. God of fire.
67. Type genus of the Upupidae.
70. A master's degree in business.
71. A barrier consisting of a horizontal bar and supports.
72. The qualities of a hero or heroine.
74. An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
75. (Scotland) A slope or hillside.
76. An island in Antigua and Barbuda.
77. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
2. East Indian cereal grass whose seed yield a somewhat bitter flour, a staple in the Orient.
3. A low heavy horsecart without sides.
4. Submerged freshwater perennials.
5. (Old Testament) The second wife of Jacob and mother of Joseph and Benjamin.
6. (informal) Of the highest quality.
7. An area that includes seats for several people.
8. Slender bristlelike appendage found on the bracts of grasses.
9. Sealed vessel where water is converted to steam.
10. A surrounding or nearby region.
11. Excessive desire to eat.
12. Used as a Hindi courtesy title.
13. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
14. English monk and scholar (672-735).
22. Of the appetites and passions of the body.
24. Genus of tropical plants with creeping rootstocks and small umbellate flowers.
28. A new embodiment of a familiar idea.
29. Port city in the United Arab Emirates on the Persian Gulf.
30. The cry made by sheep.
31. A very loud utterance (like the sound of an animal).
32. The dialect of Ancient Greek spoken in Thessaly and Boeotia and Aeolis.
33. The rattling noise produced when snoring.
36. An unabridged dictionary constructed on historical principles.
39. Doglike nocturnal mammal of Africa and southern Asia that feeds chiefly on carrion.
41. A mark left by the healing of injured tissue.
44. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
48. United States Protestant theologian (1892-1971).
50. Cook and make edible by putting in a hot oven.
51. Lacking or deprive of the sense of hearing wholly or in part.
53. Moving or capable of moving readily (especially from place to place).
54. A crystalline metallic element not found in nature.
55. Any of several crested Old World birds with a slender down-curving bill.
56. Chromatic purity.
57. Region of western Asia Minor colonized by Ancient Greeks.
59. A subsidiary proposition that is assumed to be true in order to prove another proposition.
60. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
61. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
63. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
65. Characteristic of false pride.
68. Liquid excretory product.
69. Goddess of fate.
73. A state in north central United States.

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

CHAN MAKES HISTORY AS FEMALE COACH OF CHAMPION MEN'S TEAM

HONG KONG: At age 27, Chan Yuen-ting is younger than several of the players she coaches at Eastern Sports Club yet she has already secured a unique place for herself in soccer history by becoming the first woman to lead a men's team to a top-division national championship.

Chan took charge at Eastern in December, with the club not having won the Hong Kong league for 21 years, and last month the team clinched that elusive title and made their female coach the talk of the town.

"I'm really lucky," Chan said to SNTV. "Now I make history and then no one think that will happen in Hong Kong. I have to say thanks to the club that they trust me, give me support and also player encourage me a lot this season."

Chan had impediments in her path: a family that was skeptical of her career choice, conservative views about women's involvement in men's sports, and her own anxieties about whether she could command authority with players who were often verbally- and occasionally physically - aggressive.

"When I was like, maybe, 13 years old, and I wanted to play football, my family didn't allow it, because in Chinese culture, girls or woman shouldn't play football, you should go to dance or you go to draw something, something like this," Chan said.

A couple of years after that knockback by her family, Chan forged her mother's signature on a form to apply for a summer training program, and joined her local club at Sha Tin. Though her path into the sport, and her subsequent climb to the top of the game in Hong Kong, was littered with hurdles, her initial inspiration to get involved in soccer was a common one for teenage girls at the time - a love for David Beckham.

And her ardor and respect for the former Manchester United and England great has not dimmed. "Why I play football is because I love David Beckham," Chan said. "Yeah, every time I want to quiz something, I watch Beckham's match video and just try to get some message or positive energy, messages from him."

Eastern's title win gives it a shot at next year's Asian Champions League, and club bosses have promised to invest in the squad to pursue further success in 2017, but Chan has ambitions beyond Hong Kong.

"I want to go to another country, maybe just as an assistant coach to get more knowledge," Chan said. "Hong Kong football level is not very high compared with like Japan, Korea or even we go other country UK, US, so if I have chance I want to go out. And I want to learn something and then bring something to Hong Kong football." —AP



HONG KONG: Eastern Sports Club head coach Chan Yuen-ting, right, talks to her teammates during a training session. — AP



SEATTLE: In this Jan 18, 2015, file photo, Seattle Seahawks' Marshawn Lynch catches a pass during the second half of the NFL football NFC Championship game against the Green Bay Packers. — AP

BEAST MODE SILENT AS SEATTLE PUTS LYNCH ON RETIRED LIST

RENTON: Beast Mode is in retirement mode. The Seattle Seahawks placed running back Marshawn Lynch on the NFL's reserve/retired list Thursday, making official what was implied in February when Lynch indicated he was ready to end his football career.

The star running back was placed on the list Thursday. It was a procedural step, but one that needed to be taken to make Lynch's intended retirement official. Lynch stole attention from the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl in February when he posted a picture on Twitter with a pair of green football cleats hanging from a telephone or electrical wire. His agent confirmed a day later that Lynch intended to retire. Seattle made a series of moves this off-season that indicated the running back who led the Seahawks to their first Super Bowl title was ready to step away, including picking three running backs in the NFL draft last week. Lynch would have been an \$11.5 million cap hit if he remained on Seattle's roster for the 2016 season. The Seahawks will save \$6.5 million with Lynch's retirement. Lynch has spent the offseason promoting his clothing line, traveling to Egypt to participate in a football camp and ride camels, and doing relief work in Haiti. Basically doing everything but get ready for the upcoming NFL season.

Attitude and style

When Lynch was brought to Seattle

early in the 2010 season, he was acquired because the Seahawks desperately needed a running back. What he ended up providing was an attitude and style that became the foundation for bringing that first Super Bowl title to the franchise.

And for that, Lynch will forever hold a special place with the Seahawks. He may have been more of a headache off the field than anyone let on during his time in Seattle, but he'll ultimately be lauded as the running back that got the Seahawks to a place they had never been. Lynch will step aside after nine seasons in the league. Six of those came in Seattle, where he played in the postseason five times. He's second all-time in Seattle history for rushing touchdowns and fourth in yards rushing. He tied for the NFL lead in rushing touchdowns in 2013 and 2014 and is No. 8 all-time in total yards rushing during the postseason. He was an All-Pro, a Pro Bowl selection, and perhaps the most revered Seahawks player in the opinion of their fans.

Lynch concluded his career with 9,112 yards rushing and 74 touchdowns in the regular season, and another nine touchdowns in the postseason. He caused seismic activity with his tackle-shedding run against New Orleans in the 2010 playoffs and was rarely brought down by just one defender.

"Since I've been here he's been the heart and soul, the engine of our offense. A vocal leader. A great influence and one of the best teammates I've ever had," Seattle wide receiver Doug Baldwin said last month of Lynch. "I can't say enough about him."

Along with what Lynch provided on the field came his peculiarities when he wasn't carrying the ball. His contract disputes. His avoidance of the media. His memorable performances during two Super Bowl weeks that became as much a topic as the game itself: "I'm just here so I won't get fined." And during his injury-filled final season, ruling himself out of Seattle's NFC wild-card game at Minnesota just minutes before the team left for the airport.

There was almost certainly going to be a separation between Lynch and the Seahawks after the 2015 season for financial and evolutionary reasons. Seattle was always going to become Russell Wilson's team moving forward - the nature of a quarterback with a long-term contract agreement - and Wilson's performance last season showed the evolution was in process. But Lynch's will always be responsible for setting the foundation for what coach Pete Carroll wanted to create with the Seahawks. "He's a dog. His whole demeanor," Seattle safety Earl Thomas said before Super Bowl 49. "He's a man (among) boys out there." —AP

KHAN INSPIRED BY LEICESTER AS HE MEETS FAVORITE ALVAREZ

LAS VEGAS: Amir Khan chased big fights for years before finally winding up in a one against a fighter he freely admits is bigger and stronger than him. Khan wasn't going to let his chance get away, even if Canelo Alvarez is a heavy favorite when they meet in the ring tonight for a piece of the middleweight title.

Big underdogs can win too, says Khan, who doesn't want Leicester City's Premier League championship to be the only big sporting upset this week. "They were like 5,000-1 underdogs and no one expected them to win," Khan said of Leicester. "It shows it may be the year of the underdog. If they can do it I can too. It's all about having belief in yourself."

Khan is actually a Bolton fan, but says he was inspired by Leicester's run to the title. He knows a few things about being an underdog, too, with bookies in this gambling city making Alvarez a 5-1 favorite in their pay-per-view showdown.

It doesn't help that Khan had to move up in weight to get a shot at Alvarez, finally landing a spot in a big fight after years of chasing bouts with Floyd Mayweather Jr and Manny Pacquiao. The fight will be held at a catch weight of 155 pounds, 8 1/2 more pounds than Khan weighed in his last bout.

By the time the two get in the ring, Alvarez is likely to weigh 170 pounds or more. The size difference is expected to be noticeable, with Khan having fought most of his career at 140 pounds.

"I would have preferred it to be a little closer to 147 (welterweight limit)," Khan said. "But I'm going to beat him at his own weight fair and square, no excuses."

'Chess match'

Khan knows he has to be careful against Alvarez, the red-headed Mexican who has become his country's biggest boxing star in recent years. He does have a speed advantage, but will need to use it well to keep Alvarez from wearing him down.

"At times it's going to be a chess match," Khan said. "But at times it's going to be standing there trading with him."

That has gotten Khan into trouble in the past, and some in boxing question his chin after suffering two knockouts. But he says he's a smarter fighter under trainer Virgil Hunter and has the technical skills to beat Alvarez. Khan has watched tape of Alvarez's loss to Mayweather in 2013 to find a way to victory in a fight that could catapult him into the big money mix.

"Look how Floyd beat him," Khan said. "He wasn't running but he made the right steps at the right time. I have to do the same kind of thing." Though the bout is for a piece of the middleweight title, it will be fought at a 155-pound limit instead of the 160-pound class limit. Alvarez won the crown in November by beating Miguel Cotto, and put aside talks with Gennady Golovkin



LAS VEGAS: Amir Khan, right, and Canelo Alvarez pose for photographers during a news conference at the MGM Grand. — AP

for a mandatory defense to fight Khan instead.

Alvarez said this week that Golovkin needs to win fights against bigger opponents before fighting him, suggesting that the fight won't happen this year. Khan, who has fought only five times in

the last four as he chased Mayweather and Pacquiao, said he believes fighters have a responsibility to fight the best if they want to be the best. "You should take those big fights," he said. "That's what boxing is all about." — AP

MURRAY DESTROYS BERDYCH, INTO MADRID SEMI-FINALS

MADRID: Defending champion Andy Murray continued his serene passage into the Madrid Masters semi-finals by sweeping past eighth seed Tomas Berdych 6-3, 6-2 yesterday. Murray didn't even face a break point for the second consecutive match as he adjusted to the indoor conditions caused by the unusually inclement weather in the Spanish capital to extend his winning record over Berdych to 8-6.

"There were different conditions playing under the roof, I adjusted to them well and that was the most pleasing thing for me," said Murray. "I've only played three or four indoor clay matches in my life, so they weren't easy conditions against a tough opponent."

A fast start put Murray in control as he broke the Berdych serve at the first time of asking to lead 3-0 before serving out for the set. And the Scot's mixture of deep hitting, slices and drop shots caught the Czech even more off guard in the second set as he won the last five games to seal victory in just over an hour.

Favorable conditions

The two-time Grand Slam champion could face a resurgent Rafael Nadal in Saturday's semi-finals in a repeat of last year's final should the Spaniard overcome Joao Sousa later yesterday. Murray beat Nadal on clay for the first time in his career to claim his first Masters title on the surface in 2015.

However, Nadal has looked more like his old self in recent weeks with tournament victories in Barcelona and Monte Carlo, where he beat Murray in the semis. "I think he's definitely playing better for sure, I also think I'm playing better than I was this time last year," added Murray.

"You have to learn from every match that you play against the best players.



MADRID: Andy Murray from Britain celebrates after winning a point against Tomas Berdych from Czech Republic, during a Madrid Open tennis tournament match. — AP

When you get to the semis or finals you want to go onto the court with a very clear game plan and understanding of the things that work against them. "If he wins I need to learn from the match I played against him in last year's final and put in a good performance again tomorrow. "A lot depends on the conditions. It is pretty different to Monte Carlo, it is supposed to rain here the next few days and playing indoors changes things." Dominika Cibulkova booked her place in

the final of the women's Madrid Open as she routed American qualifier Louisa Chirico 6-1, 6-1.

Chirico was making her first appearance in a WTA semi-final and nerves seemed to get the better of the world number 130 as Cibulkova roared into a 5-0 lead. The Slovakian was just as dominant in the second set as she won the last five games to set up a final meeting on Saturday with sixth seed Simona Halep or Australian Sam Stosur. — AFP

BRAZIL'S 'LEICESTER' A WIN FROM GIANT-KILLING GLORY

SAO PAULO: Leicester City did it in England and Brazilian fans are hoping for their own rags to riches story this weekend when tiny Gremio Osasco Audax take on Santos in the Sao Paulo state championship final.

The club known as Audax only played their first professional match in 2007 but have surprised everyone this year with the kind of high-tempo passing game that is rare in Brazil. Formed by a supermarket chain to buy and sell young players, the club based in the Sao Paulo suburb of Rochdale has been sold once in the decade since and changed their name twice.

Although their home gates can sometimes be measured in the hundreds rather than the thousands, they have taken on the state giants this year and won. They hammered Sao Paulo 4-1 in the quarter-finals and then went to Corinthians and won on penalties in the last four.

Audax drew the first leg of the final 1-1 at home to Santos last weekend and will hope to hand Pele's former club a first home defeat since last July when they play the return leg tomorrow. But no matter the score, their feats so far have won the club comparisons with Leicester and their manager Fernando Diniz is talked of in the same breath as Foxes boss Claudio Rainieri.

"In terms of shocks, Leicester is greater than Audax," said Mauricio Barros, a former editor of Brazil's premier football magazine Placar. "(But) Audax is one of the biggest surprises in Brazilian football for years. They play such nice football, and always try to pass the ball. "Diniz has been there three years getting them to play the way he wants. It's innovative that way of playing football and so different from what we are used to. "In terms of novelty, I see the work of Fernando Diniz as more spectacular than Rainieri at Leicester."

Unlike Leicester, who have yet to sell any of their star performers, Audax are already resigned to losing players who took them so far this year. At least three of them have signed pre-contract deals with Corinthians and Palmeiras, two of the biggest clubs in the country. — Reuters

2018 WINTER GAMES CHIEF QUILTS

SEOUL: A former South Korean government minister was nominated to take over the organizing committee of the 2018 Winter Olympics on Tuesday, just hours after Cho Yang-ho quit amid escalating financial troubles at the business group his family controls.

Lee Hee-beom, a former minister of industry and energy, needs to be ratified by a vote of senior committee officials to officially become president of the organizing committee for the Pyeongchang Games.

Cho's sudden resignation marked the second change in less than two years at the helm of the local organizing committee, which had struggled to get preparations back on track in the face of venue construction delays, disputes over the location of the Olympic stadium and slow pace of domestic sponsorship.

The organizing committee said Lee's background in government and business filled the requirements "to lead the preparation of a complex mega sports event." The committee said it would soon convene a meeting to appoint Lee as the new president, a decision which would then need approval from the government's culture and sports ministry.

Cho is chairman of the Hanjin Group, which controls Olympic sponsor Korean Air and a major shipping company struggling with heavy debt. He said in a statement he couldn't continue with the Olympic job because he needs to focus on stabilizing Hanjin Shipping, South Korea's largest container carrier, which said last week that it will undergo a debt revamp program with creditors in its last-ditch efforts to stay in business.

Sudden resignation

Cho took over as president of Pyeongchang's organizing committee in July 2014 after the sudden resignation of Kim Jin-sun, the former governor of the region that includes Pyeongchang. "For the past two years, I have truly put forward my very best efforts to work with every member of the organizing committee to prepare a successful Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in 2018," Cho said in the statement. "I can proudly say that POCOG has become a strong team, and the challenges we have overcome have allowed us to achieve success at our first official test events this past February."

Pyeongchang organizers have faced a series of challenges in recent years, including the construction delays, local conflicts over venues and criticism about their financial planning, but preparations had seemed to turn a corner after the successful hosting of test events earlier this year in Olympic venues. Gunilla Lindberg, head of the International Olympic Committee's coordination commission for the 2018 Winter Games, said the IOC respected Cho's decision and appreciated his cooperation in recent years.

"Under his leadership, the organizing committee has made great progress and has delivered very successful test events," Lindberg said. "There remain a number of important steps to be taken ahead of the games and the IOC remains confident that through our close cooperation with the Pyeongchang 2018 organizing committee these will be successfully addressed."

The announcement of Cho's resignation came on the same day the Olympic flame was set to land in Brazil, where problems in preparations have sometimes overshadowed the build up to the Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro in August. — AP



SEOUL: In this Feb 3, 2016, file photo, Cho Yang-ho, president of the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympics Organizing Committee, speaks during a press conference about the alpine skiing test event for the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics. — AP



TBILISI: In this photo taken on Thursday, April 28, 2016, former champion Nino Salukvadze, left, and her son Tshotne Machavariani attends a training session. — AP

MOTHER AND SON SHOOTERS AIM TO MAKE HISTORY AT OLYMPICS

TBILISI, Georgia: Going into her eighth Olympics, former shooting champion Nino Salukvadze has plenty of reasons to be proud of her long career. She has something even more special to celebrate in Rio de Janeiro: She and her 18-year-old son will both be competing.

While there have been previous cases of parents and their children competing at the same games, this is believed to be the first time a mother and son will participate in the same Olympics. Salukvadze's son, Tshotne Machavariani, shot a personal best in the 10-meter air pistol at the European championships in February to snatch a surprise Olympic qualifying spot.

"I am very happy as the representative of the Georgian shooting federation but a million times happier as a mother that my son managed to do this," the 47-year-old Salukvadze told The Associated Press. In the 28 years since she won a 25-meter pistol gold medal for the Soviet Union at the 1988 Seoul Games, Salukvadze and her family have kept Olympic shooting alive in the former Soviet republic of Georgia.

Salukvadze and her father handle the coaching at a tiny range in the basement of the Sports Ministry which she helped pay to build. The main hall is bedecked with her medals, but the range can hold only five shooters at a time, meaning mother and son often head abroad to train at more modern facilities.

World-class shooters

Over the decades, Vakhtang Salukvadze has mentored his daughter and grandson as they became world-class shooters, but he won't be going to Rio because of his age. "His dream always was to see me and my son competing at the same Olympic Games. We made his dream true earlier than he thought," Nino Salukvadze said. "He's 85 and taking into account the Brazilian weather and the length of the flight, it was decided that he'll stay home."

Salukvadze briefly became a celebrity during the 2008 Beijing Olympics, which took place during a war between Georgia and neighboring Russia. After winning a

bronze medal, she kissed a Russian shooter on the podium in a demonstration of peace. "Why did it surprise everyone so much?" she said. "We're athletes. There's no conflict between us."

In the 120-year history of the modern Olympics, it has not been uncommon for fathers and sons to compete at the same games, a reflection of the historical preponderance of men's events on the program, but mother-child partnerships are much rarer.

Olympic historian Bill Mallon said there have been 56 cases of fathers and sons at the same games, 12 of father and daughter, two of mother and daughter, but none of mother-son - until now. While Salukvadze won gold at her first Olympics, her son said

he's not under pressure to match her achievement.

"My mother tells me that although she was almost my age when she won her Olympic gold, she represented the Soviet Union at that time and had better training conditions, more experience in tournaments," he said. "She tells me that we do not have that luxury and she does not demand any results from me. I think this her way to calm me down and minimize my nervousness during the tournament."

While she can provide on-the-spot coaching, any motherly advice will remain a family secret, Machavariani said with a smile. "At the Olympics I will be representing my mother, my country and myself," he said. — AP

CREDIBILITY REMAINS AN ISSUE AHEAD OF RUSSIA OLYMPICS

LONDON: Former World Anti-Doping Agency president Dick Pound said Thursday that it would be "very hard" to trust any Russian athlete at this year's Olympics Games in Rio should the country succeed in overturning its ban from international competition.

It was a report produced by an independent commission chaired by Pound, following undercover reporting by German broadcaster ARD, that led to Russia being suspended from all international competition in November after what the Canadian said was a program of "state-sponsored doping".

Following the Pound commission report, a WADA "task force" has been sent into Russia with the aim of rebuilding the country's anti-doping system with the aim of getting the nation back into the Olympics. Whether Russia gets the go-ahead is set to be determined by a meeting of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) council in Vienna on June 17. But Pound questioned whether Russia truly had the will

to make the required changes.

'Full speed ahead'

Speaking at the Sport Resolutions conference in London, the 74-year-old Canadian said: "When we delivered our report back in November, we said they could get back in if they went full speed ahead to do the job properly but it's up to them."

"There will be a lot pressure to get them back in and, from a system point of view, it would be nice to have everybody at the Games. "But whether that makes sense in terms of the changes they've made remains to be seen. "I think there's still some elements of denial (in Russia)."

Pound added that there would be immense suspicion surrounding any Russian athletes competing at Rio. "If I were IOC (International Olympic Committee) president and we let the Russians back in, are we absolutely certain that every Russian athlete isn't doping and everything has changed? "I think it's very hard to say that." — AFP



NASHVILLE: Goalie Pekka Rinne #35 of the Nashville Predators slides into position to make a save against Joonas Donskoi #27 of the San Jose Sharks during the second period of Game Four of the Western Conference Second Round during the 2016 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at Bridgestone Arena. —AFP

SERIES TIED 2-2 AS PREDATORS BEAT SHARKS 4-3 IN TRIPLE OT

NASHVILLE: Mike Fisher ended his own personal playoff drought with his first overtime goal in 12 years, giving the exhausted Nashville Predators plenty to celebrate. Fisher scored his second goal at 11:12 of the third overtime, and the Predators beat the San Jose Sharks 4-3 early yesterday morning in the longest game in franchise history.

"It took a long time, but thanks we have Fish," Nashville goaltender Pekka Rinne said. With the victory, the Predators won their first overtime game on home ice. More importantly, they tied this second-round, best-of-seven series at 2-2. The Sharks needed only five games in beating Nashville in the first round in both 2006 and 2007. Nashville coach Peter Laviolette, in his second season, said teams have a lot invested in a game that goes this deep. "To win a game like that is big," Laviolette said. "To think about the other scenario, you're 3-1 the other way. This ties it up 2-2. It shortens the series. Our guys played like champs tonight." James Neal scored with 4:21 left in the third period, tying it up at 3-3, and the teams went scoreless during the first two overtimes and headed to a third extra period - the first in the NHL playoffs this year.

Best road team

The Predators killed off six penalties, including one shortly before Fisher's winning goal at 1:03 am Rinne made 44 saves to give Fisher a chance at his second playoff overtime goal in Fisher's career and first since Game 6 with Ottawa in 2004. "I don't care how these wins come if we have to play all night," Rinne said. "It's 2-2 right now."

This was the longest game for the Sharks since a four-overtime game in Dallas in 2008. Now the Sharks, the NHL's best road team during the regular season, have lost two straight away from San Jose for the first time since Dec 18 and 20. Game 5 is Saturday night in San Jose - about 44 hours after this game ended. Sharks coach Pete DeBoer still was furious after the game over a goal Joe Pavelski scored at 7:34 of the first overtime period that could have ended it much earlier. Pavelski grabbed the puck out of the air and then tapped the puck across the line at 7:34, but officials immediately ruled no goal for goaltender interference. They upheld that ruling after review for Pavelski crashing into Rinne and pinning him down before the puck crossed the line.

DeBoer said he was told Pavelski did get his stick on the puck before it crossed the line but officials waived it off for incidental contact. "I don't understand," DeBoer said. "I guess incidental contact is you're cross-checked from behind while you are in the air and you have the opportunity to stop. I guess that's what it is. You know what, that rule has been clear as mud to every coach in the league all year, so why should it be different tonight." — AP

RAPTORS BEAT HEAT IN OT TO TIE SERIES

TORONTO: Toronto beat Miami 96-92 in overtime on Thursday to even their NBA Eastern Conference semifinal series at one game apiece. DeMarre Carroll scored 21 points and Jonas Valanciunas had 15 points and 12 rebounds. Virtually ignored through three quarters, scoring four points on three shots, Valanciunas came alive with 11 points and seven rebounds in the fourth quarter and overtime.

"He came through big," Raptors guard DeMar DeRozan said. "He's definitely the reason we won this game." Toronto made just 42 percent of its shots compared to Miami's 49.4 percent, but the Raptors survived. "There's a lot of different ways to win a game," Raptors coach Dwane

Casey said. "Fortunately our guys found a way." DeRozan scored 20 points, Kyle Lowry had 18 and Terrence Ross 10 for Toronto, which battled back late in the fourth quarter to force the second overtime of the series, then shut the Heat down to start it. That was the opposite of Game 1, in which Toronto couldn't score for the first 3:46 of OT.

"We were conscious of how the last overtime went," DeRozan said. "We told all the guys, 'We know what not to do and what we have to do this time around in overtime to get a win,' and that's what we did." Goran Dragic scored 20, and Dwyane Wade and Joe Johnson each had 17 for the Heat. Hassan Whiteside had 13

points and 13 rebounds, while Luol Deng had 12 points. Game 3 is today in Miami.

'That was big'

The Heat led 77-70 midway through the fourth, but back-to-back baskets by Valanciunas shaved the gap to 80-78 with 3:18 remaining. Ross tied it with a jumper at 2:01. DeRozan missed a pair of free throws with 1:22 remaining but Valanciunas grabbed the rebound on the second and tipped it home to give Toronto an 82-80 lead.

"That was big," Wade said. "If they get offensive rebounds, they're a tough team to beat." After a missed shot by Wade, Lowry hit a pull-up jumper with 45 seconds left, giving the Raptors a four-point cushion. Wade cut it to one with a 3 but Lowry replied with another jumper with 14.9 seconds to go, putting Toronto up 86-83. After a Miami timeout, Dragic tied with a 3 with 10.5 seconds left. Lowry, whose halfcourt shot sent Game 1 to overtime, got the last attempt for the Raptors but couldn't hit the rim with a long 3-point attempt. The Heat went cold in overtime, missing their first five field goal attempts, including three misses by Johnson. "I didn't think we did a good job at all executing (in overtime)," Wade said. "Our offense was poor. In a sense, we feel like we gave one up." Miami matched a franchise postseason record with 11 turnovers in the first, leading to 14 Toronto points. Miami finished with 21 turnovers. "If we don't turn the ball over 20-something times, we'll be fine," Wade said. — AP



TORONTO: Toronto Raptors' Terrence Ross (31) scores as Miami Heat defends during first half NBA playoff basketball action in Toronto. — AP

LYON, MONACO MEET IN CHAMPS LEAGUE DECIDER

PARIS: Lyon can wrap up direct qualification for next season's Champions League group stage with a win when they entertain Monaco on the penultimate weekend of the Ligue 1 campaign today. Both sides are on course to finish in the top three in France but both are desperate to avoid ending the season in third spot, and thus having to come through two qualifying rounds to make the Champions League proper. Lyon were the runners-up to Paris Saint-Germain last season, while Monaco came in third and ended up missing out on the Champions League group stage by losing to Valencia in a play-off.

The two teams come into the weekend level on points, but Lyon's superior goal difference is such that a win in front of a near-60,000 crowd at the Parc OL would rule out Monaco catching them on the final day. Lyon have the momentum on their side too, having closed the gap after being 10 points behind Monaco in late February.

Bruno Genesio's side have won seven and drawn two of their last nine games, while Monaco have won just three times over the same period. That has given Lyon the chance to claim the prize of best of the rest in France behind the utterly dominant Qatar-owned PSG, as OL's outspoken president Jean-Michel Aulas has been eager to point out.

"It is good to have a final to the French championship because Qatar is not part of France," the ever-provocative Aulas said. "There will therefore be a French title up for grabs. That is what we need to get in our heads and it will be marvellous for whoever wins. "We know that if we play with the necessary mental strength to win the game, we will be in the Champions League," added Aulas, whose club are unbeaten at their impressive new stadium since its inauguration in January. "We will see if our players, as well as being good footballers, are men with superior mental strength. We will also see if Bruno Genesio is capable of preparing the team for the Champions League because this is a Champions League game." Lyon are set to be without Corentin Tolisso but Mathieu Valbuena has returned to training after missing last week's win against Gazelec Ajaccio. Monaco have problems of their own, though, with Brazilian right-back Fabinho suspended and midfield duo Jeremy Toulalan and Joao Moutinho both struggling for fitness.

"This match is a final, it will be decisive," admitted Monaco coach Leonardo Jardim, whose team will be supported in Lyon by Prince Albert. "We want to finish second and qualify directly for the Champions League but they are a good team and are used to playing in big matches."—AFP

CELTIC WANT TO CLINCH TITLE IN STYLE SAYS SVIATCHENKO

GLASGOW: Celtic defender Erik Sviatchenko has promised to clinch the Scottish Premiership championship in style when they entertain Aberdeen at Parkhead tomorrow. The Glasgow giants all but secured their fifth title in a row with a 3-1 win over Hearts last weekend but the Dons' 4-1 thrashing of Motherwell temporarily suspended Celtic's official confirmation as champions. However, the Hoops hold a nine-point advantage with three games left and a goal difference that is vastly superior to Aberdeen's, meaning the title is firmly in the Glasgow club's grasp.

A point would be enough for Ronny Deila's side against Aberdeen on Sunday and Danish defender Sviatchenko says the players will put on a performance to please the supporters. "It's important to enjoy a victory together and sing and cheer together," said Sviatchenko, signed from Midtjylland in January. "It's our job to give the fans a performance but we have to be a unit.

Everyone is together at Celtic so we'll do our best to have a good game. "It's a good story that we will be facing Aberdeen at the weekend and if we get the result we want it'll be a good one." Celtic have only won five titles in a row twice before in their 138-year history and the Danish defender is keen to match the record set by former managers Willie Maley and Jock Stein.

"To win five titles in a row is unbelievable and it's not something that happens everywhere every day, so people cherish that achievement and it's important to talk about it because it's a big thing for the club," Sviatchenko said.

"I came as a champion from Denmark and it's a nice situation to have 11 months apart from winning the Danish championship and be close to the Scottish."—AFP



LONDON: Chelsea's Belgian midfielder Eden Hazard celebrates scoring their second goal to level the score at 2-2 during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur at Stamford Bridge. —AFP

KINGMAKERS CHELSEA TURNS ATTENTION TO SUNDERLAND

SUNDERLAND: After ending Tottenham Hotspur's Premier League title challenge on Monday, Chelsea can have a major influence on events at the other end of the table when they visit Sunderland today.

There was no doubting the motivation of Guus Hiddink's side in Monday's 2-2 draw against Tottenham, when they were clearly driven to prevent their London rivals becoming champions and in the process gift-wrapped the title for Leicester City. The explosive clash twice spilled over into mass confrontations between the two teams and both clubs were subsequently charged by the Football Association for failing to control their players.

Now Newcastle United and Norwich City-Sunderland's rivals in the fight to avoid relegation-will hope Chelsea maintain that level of desire when they visit the Stadium of Light. Chelsea have only pride to play for after a disastrous title defence and underwhelming Champions League campaign.

But with Antonio Conte waiting in the wings to take charge after he has taken Italy to Euro 2016, a number of players will be concerned they need to make an impression on the incoming coach before the transfer window opens.

Oscar has already paid the price for his failure to secure more regular play-

ing time by being omitted from Brazil's squad for this year's Copa America, although Willian, one of the few at Stamford Bridge to impress this season, has been selected.

Conte will also have noted Eden Hazard's belated return to something approaching his best, with the Belgium midfielder scoring his first league goals of the season against Bournemouth and then immediately adding another when he secured the draw that denied Spurs.

Hazard return to form?

Hazard admits he has endured a troubled season but believes the intensity of the Tottenham game has helped him return to form. "I like matches like that when they're very hard and there is so much rivalry between the two teams. It allows me to find my best form. It's football at its best," he said.

"Recently I have rediscovered the pleasure to play. When you're injured it's hard to get that pleasure back. I played 45 minutes and I gave my maximum. "It's been a complicated season for Chelsea and for me. It hasn't been like last season but we have three matches left and we want to finish well by winning all three." Chelsea's failure to mount another title challenge this season has stunned Sunderland manager Sam Allardyce.

"It's the biggest surprise apart from

Leicester winning the league," he said. "You would not have said Leicester would sustain what they were doing and you wouldn't have said Chelsea would keep going as they were. "Chelsea have now pulled away from the bottom, but it has been a poor season by their standards. That doesn't mean it will be easy for us though, especially when you see Eden Hazard's performance on Monday."

A full house is guaranteed for a game when all the pressure will be on third-bottom Sunderland, who are one point from safety with three games left, but Allardyce is certain his players will be able to handle the occasion. He certainly expects them to cope much better than Tottenham did on Monday when their draw against Chelsea cost them any chance of the title.

"You can see what pressure does. The first example is of Spurs losing control under that pressure. Perhaps it is because they are such a young team," Allardyce said. "Maybe that's why they lost the plot because you don't normally see a Tottenham team going around hacking a team like they did. "That's the last thing we want to see in our last three games, we want to see controlled passion, desire, and commitment, but we don't want to see us lose control. "We have to put everything into trying to beat a strong Chelsea side." — AFP



Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Norwich City v Man United	14:45
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Aston Villa v Newcastle	17:00
beIN SPORTS 11 HD EN	
Sunderland v Chelsea FC	17:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
West Ham United v Swansea	17:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Crystal Palace v Stoke City	17:00
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	
Bournemouth v West Bromwich	17:00
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Leicester City v Everton FC	19:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Hertha Berlin v Darmstadt	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Eintracht v Borussia Dortmund	16:30
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Hamburger v VfL Wolfsburg	16:30
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
FC Koln v SV Werder Bremen	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Schalke 04 v FC Augsburg	16:30
beIN SPORTS 10 HD	
VfB Stuttgart v FSV Mainz	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Monchengladbach v Bayer 04	16:30
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Hannover 96 v Hoffenheim	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Ingolstadt 04 v Bayern Munich	16:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

Inter Milano v Empoli	19:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Bologna FC v AC Milan	21:45
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	

FRENCH LEAGUE

Lyonnais v AS Monaco	22:00
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	
Montpellier v Stade Rennes	22:00
beIN SPORTS	
Marseille v Stade de Reims	22:00
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
Nantes v Caen	22:00
beIN SPORTS	
Bastia Angers	22:00
beIN SPORTS	
OGC Nice v Saint Etienne	22:00
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Toulouse FC v ES Troyes AC	22:00
beIN SPORTS	
Lille OSC v Guingamp	22:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Girondins v Lorient	22:00
beIN SPORTS	
Ajaccio v Saint-Germain	22:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	



LIMA: Peruvian FIFA female referee Melany Bermejo (L) arbitrates footballers a football match at a stadium. — AFP

GET IN THE KITCHEN!: LIFE AS A FEMALE FOOTBALL REFEREE

LIMA: A rough tackle, the whistle blows and a foul is given. "Get back in the kitchen!" the player yells at the referee. It's one of the kinder things male players have said to Melany Bermejo, one of the rare women referees in the macho world of Latin American football. Shoved, spat at, insulted and flirted with on the field, she and a handful of other women are nevertheless close to the top of their profession in men's football games. "You have to make double the effort a man makes," says Lixy Enriquez, 42, an assistant referee in Mexico.

Bermejo, a 37-year-old PE teacher, has served as referee at second-division masculine games in her native Peru. Like most of her female counterparts around the world, she has yet to break into the top league, where so far women serve only as lineswomen or fourth officials. There are exceptions. In Uruguay, Claudia Umpierrez, 33, made her top-flight debut in February as a referee in men's games. In Venezuela, Emikar Caldera and Yersinia Correa have been refereeing such games for three years. Outside Latin America, Gladys Lengwe of Zambia is among the very few women to have reached the top level as a referee. In Ukraine, Kateryna Monzul is expected to do the same.

'Go wash the dishes'

World football body FIFA has 720 women registered as referees for pro-

fessional football games — 324 main referees and 396 assistants. But of 209 national federations, 60 have no female referees registered, according to FIFA's data.

"For the time being, the women work mainly in women's and youth football or in games with reserve teams, or men's games of indoor football," said Carlos Coradina, director of a referees' training college in Argentina. The president of the Peruvian Referees' Commission, Julio Arevalo, denied the system was sexist.

Anyone who passes the tests set for male referees by FIFA and South American football governing body CONMEBOL can do the job, he said. Those who want to referee men's matches must be fit enough to keep up with top male athletes charging up and down the field. "Male football is very fast and the players are very skilled," says Loreto Toloza, 32, a female assistant referee in Chile.

But when a woman does make the grade, a different challenge begins. The worst insults from the stands come from women fans, Lixy Enriquez says. The male fans yell: "I want to take home the assistant."

The reception on the field is not always better. When Virginia Tovar became the first woman to referee a top-league men's match in Mexico in 2004, the star player Cuauhtemoc Blanco reportedly yelled at her: "Go and wash the dishes." In Argentina,

referee Salome di Iorio says players have asked her to take down their phone numbers when she gets out her notebook. Others just spit at her.

Strict women referees

The pressure of verbal abuse turns the job into a psychological as well as a physical challenge. "Some players do not want female referees and are not adapting to the idea," Peruvian referee Johanna Vega says. "I am very serious when I come onto the field," she adds. "You have to be a psychologist" to put up with the insults.

Bernardo Corujo, president of the Venezuelan Referees' Commission, reckons female referees are "stricter" than their male counterparts. But they have fought a strict, sometimes overtly discriminatory, system.

In Argentina, Florencia Romano went on hunger strike in 1996 to demand the right to be registered as a professional referee. The head of the Argentine Football Association at the time, Julio Grondona, said it was not "sensible" for a woman to do the job. Romano ended up being accepted anyway. For women who make the grade, the psychological pressure can even turn to violence. "One player jumped on me when I gave a foul and he didn't like it," says Tatiana Guzman, a 28-year-old referee in Nicaragua. "There is always the fear that someone foolish will do that. You have to be ready to run." — AFP

RANIERI URGES NO LEICESTER LET-UP

LONDON: Leicester City may be able to let their hair down now they have secured one of sport's most unlikely triumphs in winning the Premier League but manager Claudio Ranieri wants no let-up from his champions.

Fans at the King Power Stadium today will have Ranieri's fellow Italian Andrea Bocelli, one of the world's leading tenors, to serenade them before kick-off and after the match skipper Wes Morgan will collect the Premier League trophy-final proof that the 5,000/1 pre-season outsiders have indeed clinched the title.

But in between they face Everton, with the Merseyside club's manager Roberto Martinez desperate for a win that will help take the Toffees into the top half of the table and lessen the calls from angry fans demanding the Spaniard be replaced at Goodison Park. "Inside me there are two people. One is a very aggressive, I want to win, I won the Premier League but now I want to win on Saturday," said Ranieri.

Martinez said he did not expect Leicester to ease up after several days of rejoicing that started when second-placed Tottenham's draw with Chelsea on Monday meant they could no longer catch the Foxes. "I'm sure any sort of celebration could affect you in the long term if you had to face a difficult month. In a 90-minute game where the stadium is going to be an historic environment, I'm sure that can only be positive for the home team," Martinez said.

Huth ban

Leicester's Robert Huth will miss today's game after admitting a Football Association charge of violent conduct for pulling the hair of Manchester United's Marouane Fellaini in a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford last weekend.

Fellaini, who reacted by striking Huth with an elbow, was also banned for three games and will miss United's end to the Premier League season, although the Belgian midfielder will be available for the FA Cup final against Crystal Palace.

Tottenham, who were last crowned champions of England back in 1961, will look to put the crushing disappointment of their draw at Stamford Bridge—a match where a full-time melee could yet see the FA take disciplinary action—behind them at home to manager Mauricio Pochettino's former club Southampton.

Spurs are at least assured of a Champions League place, with two of their top four rivals going head-to-head when Manchester City face Arsenal on Sunday. City will still be smarting from Wednesday's 1-0 defeat by Real Madrid in the semi-finals of the Champions League as manager Manuel Pellegrini's time at Eastlands—he will be replaced by Bayern Munich boss Pep Guardiola next season—draws to a close.

Manchester United travel to relegation-threatened Norwich in a must-win game for both sides. United are four points off a top four place and manager Louis van Gaal is convinced a debilitating pre-Christmas injury list damaged their chances this term. "I can only say that in the end of November we had first position, after that we had a big decline. These are the facts," van Gaal said. "Also the injuries are a fact."

Sunderland will continue their bid to climb out of the bottom three at home to Chelsea while Newcastle, just above the drop zone, travel to already relegated Aston Villa. Palace, still not mathematically safe from relegation, face Stoke at Selhurst Park. Liverpool, fresh from reaching the Europa League final after beating Villarreal at Anfield on Thursday, host Watford tomorrow.—Agencies



LEICESTER: Leicester City football fans celebrate outside the King Power Stadium.—AFP



MUNICH: Bayern Munich players leave the pitch after the UEFA Champions League semi-final, second-leg football match between FC Bayern Munich and Atletico Madrid.—AFP

BAYERN LOOK TO HEAL EURO HURT WITH LEAGUE TITLE

BERLIN: Pep Guardiola's Bayern Munich will try to heal their Champions League hurt with a win at Ingolstadt today which would confirm a record fourth straight German league title. Atletico Madrid advanced to the Champions League final on away goals at Bayern's expense on Tuesday despite losing the second leg of their semi-final 2-1 in Munich having triumphed 1-0 in Spain last week. It was Bayern's third consecutive Champions League exit at the semi-final stage. With their dreams of winning the treble now gone, Bayern can still clinch the double as they also face Borussia Dortmund in the German Cup final in Berlin on May 21.

"We still have two major aims this season and I hope that we win the remaining three games and can celebrate the German title and the German Cup," said Bayern striker Robert Lewandowski. "We're still not champions yet, though, but I hope we will be in Ingolstadt." With 27 league goals this season, Lewandowski is the league's top scorer, two clear of nearest rival, Borussia Dortmund's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

Bayern have won the league in each of the last three seasons with games to spare, but the destination of this season's title has not been decided so late in the season since 2009/10. Bayern could have had the title confirmed last Saturday with a win over Borussia Moenchengladbach, but were held at home to a 1-1 draw.

Bavarian derby

Ingolstadt is 60 kilometers from Munich and the hosts, who are currently ninth, are relishing facing their illustrious neighbors in their last home game this season. "I can imagine that a few fans only bought season tickets just so they could come to this game," said Ingolstadt's assistant coach Michael Henke. "When you play an opponent like that, you only have a chance if you're cheeky and brave." For our fans, and the last home game of the season,

we'll give it all we have." This will be Guardiola's final away game in the Bundesliga before coaching Manchester City next season. Ingolstadt's defense has conceded just 37 goals this season—only Bayern, Dortmund and Bayer Leverkusen have leaked fewer.

But a 21st clean sheet for Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer would give the Germany shot-stopper a new Bundesliga record. Second-placed Borussia Dortmund are away to relegation-threatened Eintracht Frankfurt. Frankfurt are 16th in the table, a point from safety with two games left, while Dortmund are the only side unbeaten in the top flight in 2016. Dortmund have won all four of their matches since losing 4-3 to Liverpool in the Europa League quarter-finals—their only defeat this year. Borussia have scored a league-high 80 goals this season, five more than Bayern, and are one short of the club record of 81, set in the 2012/13 season.

Hertha Berlin are winless in their last six games and have lost all of their last four as they prepare to host Darmstadt in their bid to climb back into the top four.

The slide has seen the Berliners drop from third to fifth. They can finish no lower than seventh and are assured of a European place next season—at least the Europa League—for the first time since 2009. Darmstadt are only two points from the relegation zone with big-name clubs Werder Bremen, Frankfurt and VfB Stuttgart all desperate to avoid the dreaded drop.

Just a point separates Bremen, who are safe in 15th, from Stuttgart, who are second from bottom in 17th with Frankfurt in 16th. Bremen, who have won two of their last four games, are at mid-table Cologne, but only escaped the bottom three with a 6-2 thrashing of VfB Stuttgart on Monday. Stuttgart, who have one win in their last ten games, are home to high-flying Mainz.—AFP

BALE TO MISS VALENCIA CLASH, CHAMBERLAIN OUT OF EUROS

MADRID: In-form Real Madrid star Gareth Bale is set to miss the Spanish giants' crucial La Liga clash with Valencia tomorrow after the club confirmed on Friday he has suffered a knee sprain. "Bale has been diagnosed with a sprained right knee joint," Madrid said in a statement. "His recovery will continue to be assessed."

The Welsh star reportedly picked up the injury as Madrid progressed to the Champions League final against Manchester City on Wednesday. Various Spanish media sources reported he will miss Valencia's visit to the Bernabeu, but he is expected to fully recover well before Real's final date against local rivals Atletico Madrid to come on May 28.

Bale has been Real's match-winner in their last two Liga games,

away at Rayo Vallecano and Real Sociedad, to remain just a point behind leaders Barcelona and Atletico with two games remaining. However, Real will be able to call on three-time World Player of the Year Cristiano Ronaldo, who missed the games against Rayo and Real Sociedad, after he returned from a thigh injury against City in midweek.

England's Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain will miss the Euro 2016 finals in France after Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said yesterday the Gunners winger has suffered a new knee injury which will sideline him for up to two months.

Oxlade-Chamberlain has not played since injuring a knee in the Champions League defeat by Barcelona on February 23.—Agencies

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Sports



Raptors beat Heat in OT to tie series

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LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's Daniel Sturridge, center, celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during the Europa League semifinal, second leg, soccer match between Liverpool and Villarreal at Anfield Stadium. — AP

SEVILLA, LIVERPOOL ADVANCE TO EUROPA LEAGUE FINAL

HOME ADVANTAGE DEMOLISHES WARY VISITORS

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool stands in the way of a third straight Europa League title for Sevilla after the club's rich pedigree in Europe's second-tier competition reached the final on Thursday. Sevilla beat Shakhtar Donetsk 3-1 at home to advance 5-3 on aggregate and maintain its impressive recent history in the competition.

The Spanish club is looking to win the UEFA Cup/Europa League for a record-extending fifth time in the past 11 years.

Liverpool, a three-time winner, overturned a first-leg deficit against Villarreal by winning 3-0 at Anfield to go through 3-1 on aggregate. Daniel Sturridge and Adam Lallana scored second-half goals to add to a seventh-minute own goal by Bruno Soriano.

Liverpool has beaten Manchester United, Borussia Dortmund, and now Spain's fourth-best club in the knockout stages on a grueling path to

the final, which is in Basel, Switzerland, on May 18. "Wonderful night, brilliant game from my side. What a performance," said Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp, who cupped his ear toward the team's jubilant fans and punched the air wildly as he stood in the center circle after the final whistle.

The charismatic Klopp has guided Liverpool into its first European final in nine years, keeping alive the club's chances of playing in the Champions League next season. The winner of the Europa League qualifies for Europe's elite competition.

Sevilla is seventh in the Spanish league but continues to show a different side in the Europa League. Kevin Gameiro took his competition tally this season to seven goals by scoring early in each half at Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium, either side of Eduardo's goal for Shakhtar. Right back Mariano Ferreira smashed in a brilliant third for Sevilla from outside the area, his first goal for the club.

Spanish dominance ends

Spanish teams have dominated European competition this season - Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid will face off in the Champions League final this month - but there will be no all-Spanish final in the Europa League after Liverpool's comeback against Villarreal. Anfield was hosting its first match since a jury at an inquest absolved the club's fans of blame in the 1989 Hillsborough Stadium disaster, in which 96 Liverpool supporters were killed in a crush. It was an emotional evening, with a choir singing "You'll Never Walk Alone" before kickoff while a mosaic bearing "96 The Greatest Family" was held up.

Anfield was in full voice, and both the occasion and Liverpool's ferocious work rate appeared too much for Villarreal, which looked rattled early and lost its aggregate lead when Roberto Firmino sent the ball across the face of the six-yard box, Sturridge swiped it

into his own net. Sturridge put Liverpool 2-0 ahead in the 63rd when a mis-hit shot by Firmino landed in the striker's path inside the area. Sturridge's shot went between goalkeeper Alphonse Areola's legs, struck the post, and crept across and over the line.

Villarreal defender Victor Ruiz was sent off for collecting a second yellow card for a foul on Lallana, who ensured there would be no late tension by scoring from close range in the 81st, turning in Sturridge's weak effort. Villarreal coach Marcelino said his team "came up against a top side on top form" on another special European night at Anfield. However, he said he felt Liverpool's intensity and pressing was "maybe on the margins of the rules." Klopp was delighted to return Liverpool, a five-time European champion, back to a continental final. "There are lots of teams who want to go to finals. It's not too easy," Klopp said. "So now we are there and it's a great opportunity and we will take it." — AP