

ICSK board resigns after dispute with sponsor



Trump rolls unrivaled, Sanders takes West Virginia



The Real Fouz: Homemade recipes for dry skin



Westbrook shines as Thunder stun Spurs



94 DEAD IN TRIPLE IS CAR BOMBINGS IN BAGHDAD

BLOODIEST ATTACKS IN IRAQI CAPITAL THIS YEAR



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Max 39°
High Tide 04:35 & 14:59
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INFANT TRAFFICKING THRIVES IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: A senior interior ministry official said infant trafficking is on the rise in Kuwait and babies are being offered for sale at brothels for KD 250 each. "It is already sad enough that human trafficking is becoming a fact in a country like Kuwait that cares for humanity and humane activities, but this is a disaster," said Lt Col Haitham Al-Othman, manager of the ministry's vice and anti-trafficking department.

Othman said newborn baby trafficking cases have increased due to the delivery of illegitimate babies at homes, where a midwife purchases the baby from mothers who wish to get rid of them and resell it to buyers, who register them at their countries' embassies. Othman added six cases had so far been referred to the public prosecution involving human trafficking and buying Asian women who are forced to work as prostitutes. "This includes a Syrian who ran the largest prostitution network ever busted in Kuwait, comprising of Asian women," he said.

Speaking at a workshop hosted by the Kuwait Society for Human Rights, Othman stressed selling illegal babies was a strange phenomenon in Kuwait and that several such cases take place at the maternity hospital on a daily basis. "In some cases, a pregnant woman prefers giving birth at home and sell the baby to the midwife," he explained. Notably, Ahmadi detectives recently arrested a Filipina who worked as a midwife for women who got pregnant outside wedlock and wished to get rid of their babies. The suspect sold each baby for KD 250, and when arrested, still had several more infants waiting to be sold. — Al-Rai



BAGHDAD: Iraquis inspect the scene after a car bomb explosion at a crowded outdoor market in the Iraqi capital's eastern district of Sadr City yesterday. — AP

BAGHDAD: Three car bombs in Baghdad, including a huge blast at a market, killed at least 94 people yesterday, the bloodiest day in the Iraqi capital this year. The attacks, all claimed by the Islamic State group, came with the government locked in a political crisis that some have warned could undermine the fight against the jihadists. The worst bombing struck the frequently targeted Sadr City area of northern Baghdad at about 10:00 am, killing at least 64 people, officials said.

The blast set nearby shops on fire and left debris including the charred, twisted remains of a vehicle in the street. Dozens of angry people gathered at the scene of the bombing, blaming the government for the carnage. "The state is in a conflict over (government positions) and the people are the victims," said a man named Abu Ali. "The politicians are behind the explosion." Abu Muntadhar echoed his anger. "The state is responsible for the bombings that hit civilians," the local resident said. The politicians "should all get out."

Cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, who spearheaded a protest movement demanding a cabinet reshuffle and other reforms, has a huge following in the working-class neighborhood of Sadr City, which was named after his father. Another suicide car bomb attack killed at least 17 people at the entrance of the northwestern neighborhood of Kadhimiya, which is home to an important Shiite shrine. Access to the neighborhood, which has also been repeatedly targeted over the years, is heavily controlled. Several members of the security forces were among the victims, hospital sources said.

In the Jamea district in western Baghdad, another car bomb went off in the afternoon, killing at least 13 people, an interior ministry official and medics told AFP.

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NOD TO NATURALIZE 4,000 IN 2016

News

in brief

Qatar water use jumps 70% in seven years

DOHA: Water consumption in desert country Qatar increased by 70 percent in the seven years up to 2013, the first ever water statistics published by Doha revealed yesterday. More than 740 million cu m of water were used in 2013, up from just over 437 million in 2006, reflecting the country's rapid expansion, figures from the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics (MDPS) show. "Government" water consumption grew the most during that time period, increasing by almost 400 percent, said the MDPS. Industry use was up by more than 200 percent, though the biggest consumers were agriculture and residential households. Some 245 million cu m of water were used by residential households in 2013, up from 130 million in 2006.

UAE happiness minister seeks positive stories

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates' minister for happiness says part of her mission is to encourage local media to tell more positive stories because "happiness is contagious".



Ohood Al-Roumi

Ohood Al-Roumi, who was appointed to the newly-formed post in February, says focusing on positive aspects of everyday life could help give people in the Middle East hope. She says when people are optimistic, they are more productive and creative. Speaking yesterday at Dubai's Arab Media Forum, she said the media cannot ignore the hard realities facing the region, but that to focus on negative stories exposes people to depression and leads to people "thinking the world is an awful place".

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The National Assembly yesterday overwhelmingly passed a law in principle allowing the government to naturalize up to 4,000 people during 2016 amid strong criticism by MPs of the government's treatment of stateless people locally known as bedoons. Similar laws were passed by previous national assemblies in order to help resolve the problem of bedoons, but the government has only naturalized a small number of people, especially in the past few years.

MP Mohammad Taba warned of the problem of bedoons, saying their numbers now are 110,000 and wondered when will the government resolve their problem. "Is it until they become a million," he asked. MP Yousef Al-Zalzalah slammed the government's treatment of bedoons, saying some of them can't get married, get an education or get the least of their basic rights. "This is a form of oppression and there are people who are deliberately oppressing bedoons," he said. "Bedeons must be allowed to live a dignified life whether they have Kuwaiti citizenship or not," said Zalzalah, adding that many of them became stateless because their parents failed to register them on time.

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SHAYBAH, Saudi Arabia: The base of Saudi Aramco's natural gas plant and oil production in Saudi Arabia's remote Empty Quarter desert close to the UAE is seen on Tuesday. — AFP

'EMPTY QUARTER' FULL OF SAUDI OIL FIRM'S HOPES

SHAYBAH, Saudi Arabia: Reddish-brown sand dunes twist across the desert, their canyon-like ridges accentuated by late afternoon sun as a Saudi Aramco jet approaches the site of a remote gas plant. "Not many people live down there," the captain announces in an American accent. The Empty Quarter, a vast desert in the southern Arabian peninsula, conjures an image of what Mars might look like. But it is here that technological advances enabled Saudi Arabia's state energy giant to build the plant, and drill for oil despite the isolation and harsh environment.

The Shaybah facility stands at the heart of Saudi Aramco's long-standing

dominance of the world oil industry, and its path for the future. "Of course the location of Shaybah is a challenge," said Faisal Shihabuddin, a 28-year-old Saudi engineer among about 1,500 workers at the site. Despite the challenges, it has been successfully developed over the past 20 years "in the middle of nowhere," he added.

Although global oil prices have collapsed, production is expanding at Shaybah, as it is in other units of the company at the centre of the kingdom's Vision 2030 drive for diversification away from oil. The government plans to sell less than five percent of the firm in what

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QUEEN AND CAMERON IN TWIN DIPLOMATIC GAFFES

LONDON: Queen Elizabeth II was caught on camera describing some Chinese officials as "very rude" in a rare diplomatic gaffe by the British monarch over a visit that drummed up billions in Chinese investment. Her comments, aired yesterday, came just hours after Prime Minister David Cameron on Tuesday also made inadvertently public remarks, referring to Afghanistan and Nigeria as "most corrupt".

Dressed in a pink coat and hat with white gloves, the queen could be heard

during a garden party at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday making unguarded comments about a Chinese state visit last year. Police commander Lucy D'Orsi was introduced to the queen as the woman who oversaw security for the state visit of President Xi Jinping and his wife in October, to which the monarch replied: "Oh, bad luck". The queen went on to say to D'Orsi that members of the Chinese delegation "were very rude to the ambassador" and exclaimed:

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BANGKOK: Asst Prof Pakarat Jumpanoi shows a smartwatch used by students caught cheating in exams for admission to medical and dental faculties. — AP

HIGH-TECH DEVICES TAKE CHEATING TO NEW LEVEL

BANGKOK: Glasses with embedded cameras and smartwatches with stored information seem like regular spy equipment for the likes of James Bond, but for three students applying to medical school in Thailand, they were high-tech cheating devices. Bangkok's Rangsit University canceled its examinations on Saturday and Sunday for admission to its medical and dental faculties following the discovery of the unusual modus operandi by three female students.

While cheating has long been a problem in Thai schools and colleges, the use

of high-tech gear - the cameras were used to take pictures of the test sheet and the smartwatches to receive answers from someone outside - has taken the practice to a whole new plane. "We've never found cheating of this level - involving high-technology," university official Kittisak Tripipatpornchai told AP yesterday. "We've had some cases of students copying from one another, which is quite normal. But now we're going to be paying much closer attention," said Kittisak, the director of academic standards office at the private university.

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PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES IN TOKYO

TOKYO: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation arrived in the Japanese capital Tokyo yesterday for an official visit, the fourth and last leg of an Asian tour.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak praised the depth of the historic relations with Japan, which dates back to the 1960s. His Highness, in a statement, stressed keenness of Kuwait and Japan on the development of bilateral relations and promoting prospects of cooperation in various fields.

His Highness said Kuwait is looking to Japan as an economic partner, as well as to increase trade and joint investment opportunities, especially in infrastructure, energy, oil industries and technology. He also praised the level of trade exchange between the two countries, pointing out that Japan is a leader of technology exporting, while Kuwait is a major source of oil supply to Japan. Upon arrival, His Highness the Premier was received by Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Masakazu Hamachi, Foreign Ministry officials, Kuwait Ambassador to Japan Abudurrahman Al-Otaibi and embassy members. — KUNA



TOKYO: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah is pictured shortly after arriving in Tokyo, Japan yesterday. — KUNA

SOUTH KOREA, KUWAIT SHARE VIEWS ON IMPORTANCE OF WORLD OIL PRICE STABILITY

SEOUL: Kuwait and South Korea yesterday expressed identical views on the significance of world oil price stability. The remarks came during a joint statement at the conclusion of His Highness the Premier's visit to South Korea, which started on May 8th and ended yesterday.

The South Korean side also expressed appreciation and satisfaction over Kuwait's keenness of ensuring oil supply, hoping that such bilateral cooperation continue in the oil and natural gas sectors, among other economic fields, including energy and industry, due to their vital importance.

During the visit, Kuwait briefed the South Korean side on its vision and efforts to energize Kuwait's economic and diversify its resources, including a briefing on Kuwait's short-term development plan of 2020 and long-term development of 2035, hoping that the two sides play a decisive role in contributing to such plans, particularly in science and technology fields.

Economic forums

The two sides welcomed distinct achievements in economic forums between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Korea, which were held first in March 2015, and on November 2015, where the two sides agreed on the need for continuing holding similar forums that provide many favorable opportunities for the private sector of both countries, due to their valuable communication and discussion factors in joint economic, trade and investment areas.

The two sides also stressed that joint committee headed by the ministers of Finance of both countries is considered the basic tool and the best way to develop relations and push them forward into wider horizons, and agreed to develop them as means of cooperation between the two countries.

The two sides agreed, in this regard, to ensure a second Korean-Kuwaiti Committee to take place in the near future to follow up the work of the first joint commission held on March 2007. The two sides also stressed the importance of increasing and developing bilateral trade and mutual investment and to achieve common interests of both nations.

The two sides agreed to make efforts to increase investment volume, noting that Kuwait has worked on the development of laws and procedures that will attract foreign investment and modify existing tax laws to help out foreign investors significantly. Meanwhile, the South Korean side emphasized its commitment in providing optimal conditions for foreign investment, and make more efforts to provide a suitable environment for commercial transactions. The two sides also expressed willingness to expand prospects for cooperation in a number of cultural, educational and health-related fields. The two sides reaffirmed the need to encourage dialogue between the two countries in trade, investment and economic policies. The South Korean side also noted the important role of GCC countries in the stability of global economies, expressing satisfaction over being an important trade partner to them.

Meanwhile, both sides hailed the increasing cooperation, especially in building new cities, and in recognizing the strategic importance of energy sector and the role they play in order to achieve economic and social development. Both sides agreed to boost joint efforts and cooperation in cultural and information fields, including technology, education, scientific research, civil aviation, health care, media and sport.

International affairs

On regional affairs, the two sides reviewed current development in the area, as the views were "identical" in terms of strengthening cooperation with

the UN in general, and with other international organizations on issues that both countries' positions are similar, such as the promotion of global peace and security. Kuwait, in this regard, expressed appreciation to South Korea's efforts in the promotion of international peace and security, recalling Seoul's stand and support in the operations to liberate Kuwait in 1991. The two sides expressed keenness to boost political cooperation and to intensify political dialogue and consultations, including expanding high-level mutual visits, namely parliamentary visits.

With regard to North Korea's nuclear tests, both sides denounced provocative actions by the North, and stressed their support and stand with UN Security Council resolutions in this regard. The two sides also expressed deep concern on developments in the Middle East, especially in Iraq and Syria, and agreed to resume consultations and cooperation on issues of common concern in this regard. Both sides reaffirmed resolve to abide by principles of the UN Security Council resolutions in relation to the Middle East. The South Korean side expressed sincere gratitude to Kuwait for hosting the intra-Yemeni talks, which began on April 21, 2016; a move considered to be a valuable contribution on the part of Kuwait to world peace and security in the Middle East.

Finally, the two sides expressed satisfaction over fruitful outcomes and constructive spirit of cooperation that prevailed in the talks, which reflected on the close ties that bind South Korea and Kuwait. After the talks, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak invited South Korea counterpart Park Geun-hye to visit Kuwait, and the latter accepted the invitation, which would take place at a mutually-convenient timing.

Medical cooperation

On Tuesday, Health Ministry's Undersecretary Dr Khalid Al-Sahlawi discussed with a senior South Korean health official means of promoting medical cooperation and putting in place the two memoranda of understanding signed between the two countries on Monday. The two sides also dealt with opportunities of training Kuwaiti doctors in South Korea. Sahlawi said there are two successful experiments in this regard in France and Canada. The Kuwaiti official expressed his admiration of South Korea's high-tech medical equipment, voicing desire of his country to extend cooperation to cover many sectors. They focused on a proposal of South Korea's management of one of the ninth hospitals currently built in Kuwait and sending Kuwaitis to train on management at hospitals in Seoul.

Sahlawi said the first MoU was signed on Monday for exchanging expertise and training Kuwaiti doctors at Korean hospitals, adding that it was inked after "we noticed of Korea's advancement and development in the medical sector. He noted that South Korea spends about 6 percent of its GDP on this sector, compared with 16 percent in the US and 11 percent in Europe. The second memo is pertaining to the possibility of sending Kuwaiti patients suffering from cancer for treatment in Korea's medical centers, he pointed out.

Meanwhile, the Korean official said his country sees great opportunities for developing medical cooperation with Kuwait, adding that Korea's medical technology lives up to international standards. He revealed that Korea provides better and cost-effective medical services compared with the services in the US and other countries. He said Korea has a successful experiment in managing hospitals; it sent last year a 250-member team to manage and operate Sheikh Khalifa Specialty Hospital in UAE. —KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Kuwait National Guard's Deputy Chief Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

AMIR RECEIVES REPORT ON FIRST INT'L TRADING FAIR

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousef Mohammad Abdullah Al-Ali and Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Trade and International Organizations Affairs Sheikh Nimr Fahad Al-Malik Al-Sabah. During the meeting, His Highness the Amir was presented with a report on the first International Kuwait Trading Fair which was held on February 21-27. Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah attended the meeting. Dr Yousef Al-Ali and Sheikh Nimr Al-Sabah also presented a copy of the report to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Earlier, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Crown Prince, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Kuwait National Guard's Deputy Chief Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as well as Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled and Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Jarrah Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also received KUNA Board Chairman and Director General Sheikh Mubarak Al-Duaji Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives a report on the first International Kuwait Trading Fair from Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousef Al-Ali, in presence of Assistant Undersecretary Sheikh Nimr Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan photos

KUWAIT BRIEFS FAO CONFERENCE ON ITS FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVES

ROME: Kuwait delegation to the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East (NERC-33) on Tuesday put the conferees in the picture of their country's efforts to ensure food security through good management of the natural and human resources.

Led by Board Chairman and Director General of the Public Authority of Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) Faisal Al-Hasawi, the delegation includes the country's permanent delegate to FAO Yusuf Mejhel and alternate delegate Sheikhha Manar Al-Sabah.

In his speech to a high-level meeting chaired by FAO Assistant Director-General Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, Mejhel welcomed the current Chair of NERC, the Lebanese Minister of Agriculture Akram Chouhaib. He said the agricultural sector in Kuwait, as in many other countries in the region, faces the challenges of arid climate, desert land and water scarcity.

The State of Kuwait has introduced the latest agricultural technologies to overcome these challenges, tame nature and increase the flora

and fauna productivity, he said, noting that the domestic dairy products and meat cover 30 percent of the country's needs at present.

Over the last decades, PAAAFR was able to import the best species of cattle and sheep, and ensure their good health and the safety of their meat products for consumption, Mejhel pointed out. He highlighted the importance of cooperation between Kuwait on one hand, and the specialized agencies such as FAO, the World Organization for Animal Health and the World Health Organization, on the other hand, in preventing any outbreak of communicable diseases. Regarding the development of fish resources, he said PAAAFR backs up the FAO Blue Growth initiative aiming to unlock the potentials of the fisheries sector.

Regarding empowering small-scale farmers of both gender in the region, Kuwait delegate noted that the State of Kuwait provides legislative frameworks of the agriculture and food sector through the organizing regulations and laws, including the relation between PAAAFR and

owners of agricultural holdings. He said: "We are proud as many women manage several farms and contribute effectively to promoting the country's fish, agriculture and food production." There are about 2000 farms ranging between 50 and 100 square meters at which female and male farmers work, along with small breeders at fisheries, poultry and animal farms, he added.

Despite progress in all sectors, Kuwait still needs the organization's expertise for investing farmers' capabilities in achieving food security and helping farmers, especially the small-scale ones, to market their products, he pointed out.

Kuwait, through PAAAFR, intends to reconsider the relations with farmers so as to contribute to coping with the modern agricultural developments in developed countries in order to ensure direct and indirect support for male and female farmers, he said. FAO's Regional Conference of Near East and North Africa is held every two years to guarantee the effectiveness of the organization's efforts in serving member states and regional economic societies. — KUNA

JUSTICE MINISTER STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF BOOSTING ARAB COOPERATION AGAINST CRIMES

CAIRO: Kuwaiti Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane stressed the importance of boosting Arab cooperation to combat organized crimes and terrorism. The Minister made his statement yesterday after the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Justice Ministers concluded their 58th meeting.

The Kuwaiti Minister discussed few recommendations, most importantly, a Kuwaiti proposal to establish a center for precautionary

measures against these crimes. Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies was designated to study this proposal. Sane added that holding periodical meetings to address crucial issues are essential to strengthen ties among Arab nations.

During the meeting, Saudi Justice Minister Walid Bin Mohammed Al-Samani stressed that judicial and legal Arab and international cooperation should be enhanced in all possible domains in order to combat terrorism. — KUNA



CAIRO: Kuwaiti Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane attends the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Justice Ministers meeting yesterday. —



KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas A. Shannon, at Bayan Palace yesterday, where they discussed bilateral ties. Shannon stressed his country's supporting stance to the security and safety of Kuwait. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister of the two Americas Affairs Reem Al-Khaled, US Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas A Silliman and a number of senior officials. — KUNA

IMF-CEF ANNOUNCES ECONOMIC SYMPOSIUM

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Oussama Kanaan, IMF Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF) Director, announced an upcoming symposium on economic diversification in Kuwait and other GCC countries. The symposium will be held on Monday at the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development's headquarters in Shuwaikh. The event will be jointly hosted by the Arab Fund and IMF-CEF.

"The Path to Economic Diversification in Kuwait and other GCC Countries' symposium will be moderated by CEF's Director, yours truly, and discussions will include Professor Ha-Joon Chang of Cambridge University, author of seminal work on the role of the state in economic development, and Dr Reda Cherif and Dr Fuad Hasanov, leading IMF economists in the field of economic diversification. The focus is on the economic challenges Kuwait is facing today, the decline of oil prices, both the short term and long term effects, and questions regarding various issues like tax reform, reforming subsidies and the economic prospects in the region," Kanaan said.

The event will be open to the public and

especially students, economics professors and people who want to get some insight on the economy in the region. "Experts will help us understand the subject of diversification in the global context and more - it is very important for a country like Kuwait to diversify so we will not just be depending on oil revenues," he said.

The symposium is the fourth in the series of events organized by the CEF jointly with the Arab Fund aimed at stimulating discussion on economic policies for Kuwait and other GCC countries to ensure durable development on the basis of a long-term strategy to reduce dependence on oil. The first three symposia focused on the design and implementation of subsidy reform in Kuwait and the GCC countries; the implications of economic globalization; and the challenges of tax reform in the Arab world.

"This will be very informative, and we expect people to ask questions and exchange ideas. We have invited many people including ambassadors to attend and be ready for the questions they may have in mind and we have provided experts to address all your enquiries. We hope to be of great help to everyone," Kanaan said.

The adoption of a bold diversification strategy has become particularly important



KUWAIT: Oussama Kanaan, IMF Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF) Director. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

in the face of low oil prices, and a critical one to prevent a marked decline in GCC countries' living standards. Drawing on international country experiences, the upcoming symposium will discuss the core ingredients of successful economic diversification strategies, including infrastructure and human capital investments conducive to private sector growth and the development of sophisticated non-oil export industries.



Group photo of the winners.



Abdullatif Al-Sharikh receives a memento from Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.



The photo that won the grand prize.

KUWAIT GRAND PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST AWARDS WINNERS

WITH STRATEGIC SPONSORSHIP FROM ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES

KUWAIT: Alghanim Industries, one of the largest private companies in the region, announced its Strategic Sponsorship of The Kuwait Grand Photography Contest, the largest photography contest in the region, and one of the largest in the world.

The company participated in awarding the first place winners during the final ceremony, which was held under the patronage of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and in the presence of the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

The contest was founded to support photographers of all classes and categories. It aims to develop the art of photography by stimulating and attracting the largest possible number of photographers through the introduction of a professional-class contest with highly valuable prizes.

Alghanim Industries supports the art of pho-

tography, as well as other initiatives of such global relevance. Commenting on that, the Head of the Corporate Communications Department in Alghanim Industries said: "This event brought together photographers hailing from 118 different countries. Historically, Kuwait has always been open to a multitude of cultures as one of the region's oldest trading hubs. Alghanim Industries was proud to be a Strategic Sponsor, as competitions like Kuwait Grand Photography Contest embody our belief that we can all be innovative, creative and ambitious. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all of the judges and photographers that participated, and helped make this event a success."

The founder of the contest, Jassim Jassim, praised Alghanim Industries and the other sponsors of the event for their significant role in making the contest a huge success and helping to expand it internationally after only three years since its founding. He also thanked Alghanim Industries for supporting such initiatives, which

put Kuwait's name on the map and help support artistic talent within the country. Jassim also noted the growth in the competitive edge of the contest since there were many more participants from around the world who provided high quality submissions across various categories.

The participating photos revolved around seven topics, and they are: The Hero, Kuwait, Sports, People and Portraits, Landscape, Wild Life, and General Photos. 38 winners were awarded with prizes that totaled USD 200,000.

The winners were chosen by a judging panel that featured international experts of journalism photography, contemporary artists, photography collectors and gallery owners. The panel included Majed Al Za'abi and Dr Mohammed Ali Alkandari from Kuwait, Riccardo Busi from Italy, Reza Deghati from France, Guo Jing from China, Ahmad Al-Busaidi from Oman, and Caroline Metcalfe from the UK. They reviewed 20,000 photos submitted by more than 4,000 participants from around the world.



KUWAIT: The investment studies center at the Union of Investment Companies (UIC) held a training program titled 'Modern Portfolio Management' on May 9-11, 2016. The event took place in cooperation with Euromoney and with support from the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).



ICSK BOARD RESIGNS

KUWAIT: Indian Community School's board resigned yesterday after the recent dispute between the sponsor and the board erupted over allegations of mismanagement, financial allegations, violation of the constitution, no action taken to teachers' complaints, overstaying of their tenure by elders and the board members, etc. The crises first erupted in March when the sponsor locked out the board temporarily and then dismissed them completely in April following the board's lack of response to the allegations, pressure from the community and counter allegations against the sponsor.

The sponsor had immediately inducted a five-member Audit committee from the Indian community to investigate all allegations leveled against the board.

The strong resentment among the Indian community for long time about the BoTs functioning and the board's indifference to community concerns led to their eventual dismissal.

In view of the above circumstances, member of Indian community present a memorandum to President of India, The Prime Minister of India, Minister of External Affairs, and Minister of HRD requesting them to give needed mandate forthwith to the Ambassador of India, Sunil Jain to intervene in this matter on behalf of the Indian Community in Kuwait for a permanent solution to the present crisis.

Thomas Mathew Kadavil General Convener of The Save ICSK Forum has decided to make an online signature campaign related to the memorandum by all the registered associations under Indian Embassy and all the Indian community members. All Indian community members, parents, teachers, students are requested to sign the memorandum online through the website specially designed for this purpose: saveicsk.com

Memorandum:

1. We request the Government of India and Indian Ambassador to intervene in the present predicament keeping the best interest of the Indian

Community in Kuwait.
2. Necessary mandate should be given to the Indian Ambassador to act in this matter on behalf of the Government of India and Indian Community in Kuwait.

3. An Adhoc Board of Trustees should be constituted by the Indian Embassy forthwith to govern the school with immediate effect with due representation of the Indian Community for an interim period of one year in order to have a democratically elected BoT to take over the charge of the school from May 1st 2017.

4. A Constitution Committee should be formed under the auspices of the Indian Embassy to revamp the ICSK constitution where many anomalies and lacunae occurred due to the tampering of the constitution from time to time by the ICSK BoT to suite to their requirements and the new constitution should be published in the School website to uphold democracy and transparency of the Constitution.

5. Impartial Social Audit and Financial Audit Committees should be constituted under the Indian Embassy regarding the allegations of irregularities and misappropriations leveled against the BoT by the sponsor and the various Indian community organizations. Legal recourse should be taken based on its report and recommendations.

6. The Indian Embassy and the Adhoc board should ensure that the land allotted to the ICSK by Honorable Kuwait Government, as a humanitarian gesture remains as the property of Indian Community and ICSK as its rightful owner, before any type of construction activities and allotment of fund for the new school construction.

7. The government of India should ensure that about 3 million Kuwaiti Dinars presently in the school fund should not be operated by anybody other than BOT. Funds of the ICSK should be overseen by the Indian Embassy until such time an Adhoc board is entrusted with task of administration of the school and its funds.

INFO MINISTER HAILS COPYRIGHT LAW APPROVAL

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah hailed the National Assembly's approval of a law on copyright ownership, saying that it represents Kuwait's eagerness to protect intellectual property.

In a press statement yesterday, Sheikh Salman noted that "copyright ownership is no less important than protecting human rights." The law will help develop cultural, artistic and literary works in the country and encourage youth to showcase their talents and creativity in these fields, he added. "Pirates of thought and ideas have no place in Kuwait now thanks to this bill; an umbrella, under which every talent and intellectual, either Kuwaiti or not, is protected, which reflects the state's vision towards enriching cultural and intellectual creativity," Minister Salman Al-Sabah underlined. He further pointed out that approval of such bill stresses stature of Kuwaiti constitutional institutions in supporting cultural and artistic movements, as well as alleviating the level of media services within national efforts in human resources and intellectual development.

The law, according to the manifesto, includes 45 articles distributed on three



Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah

chapters, most importantly of which is the article designating an item as "Every scientific, artistic or literature innovation regardless of means of expression, significance or purpose." The law's approval Tuesday came in time of Kuwait's celebration for being chosen as a capital of Islamic culture for 2016, and the anniversary of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on April 26. —KUNA

INT'L CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN SCIENCE STARTS MONDAY

KUWAIT: The International Conference on Women in Science and Technology in Developing World and the Fifth General Assembly of Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) will be held in Kuwait on Monday, said Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR).

The conference, which will be organized by the KISR and Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD), is supported by local, regional and international organizations and institutions, including the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS), OWSD and the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, KISR's Acting Director-General Fayeza Al-Yamani told a news conference yesterday.

The conference mainly aimed at stimulating and spurring cooperation, shar-

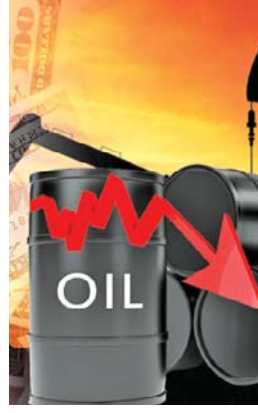
ing knowledge and expertise among the OWSD member states and participants, and involving women in science and technology, she said.

The event is also meant to facilitate variation in the formulation of scientific knowledge and expansion in new criteria in the field of science and technology, and the promotion of better understanding for challenges women face in this field, she added. Meanwhile, Chairwoman of the Organizing Committee Dr Afaf Al-Naser said the conference, which coincides with Kuwaiti Women's Day, will spotlight women's scientific achievements through an exhibition to be held on the sidelines of the event. The event will also feature a scientific workshop and various lectures to be delivered by a number of male and female scientists in Arab and foreign countries. —KUNA

In Brief

GCC STATES ABLE TO COPE WITH LOW OIL PRICE: OFFICIAL

MANAMA: Member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are able to cope with the low oil price via creating economic policies that would lessen dependency on petroleum as the main energy resource, an official said yesterday. Director General of the GCC Council of ministers of labor and social affairs Amer Al-Hajri said that low oil prices have been a challenge to the GCC countries. Through sound economic policies, Gulf nations could overcome deficits to their budgets, said the official, noting that the upcoming years require Gulf countries to change their production levels to cope with the new status quo.



UNIFIED GCC PLANNING STRATEGY

RIYADH: Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Ministers of Planning agreed in a meeting yesterday to hold a workshop aimed at setting a unified strategy for the year 2030, a Kuwaiti minister said. Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Development and Planning Affairs Hind Al-Subaih made the remark after the 26th meeting of GCC ministers of planning, which she described as 'fruitful and positive'. She noted that the core of this unified strategy lies in efforts to curb reliance on oil, in line with plans for sustained development in the region. — KUNA



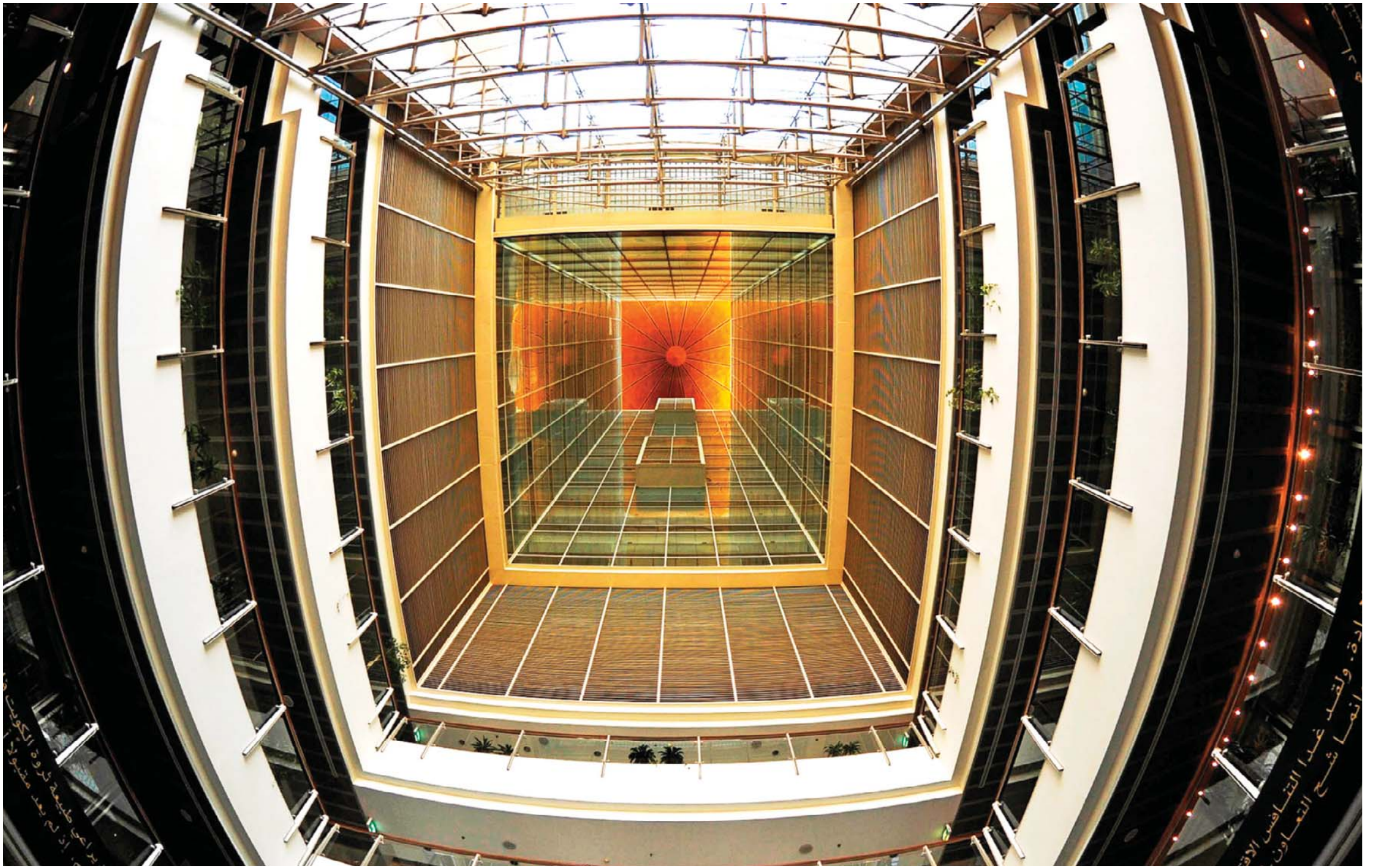
CBK SPONSORS KUWAITI ECONOMISTS CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) recently took part as a golden sponsor in a conference titled 'Diversifying the Economic Base in Kuwait' which was inaugurated by Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousif Al-Ali. The inauguration ceremony was also attended by CBK's CEO Elham Mahfouz and Assistant Manager for Public Relations and Advertising Amani Al-Wera in addition to a number of banking sector officials. Speaking on the occasion, CBK's CEO, Elham Mahfouz said that the bank's sponsorship of the conference came within its keenness to support various economic activities, namely diversifying Kuwait's economic base.



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A panoramic view showing architectural designs inside the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry's building in Kuwait City. — KUNA

PALESTINIAN BOOK FAIR VISITORS RESONATE WELL WITH KUWAITI PAVILION: OFFICIAL

RAMALLAH: The influx of Palestinian visitors to Kuwait's pavilion at the 10th Palestinian International Book Fair delineates vividly the interest of Palestinians in the state of Kuwait, a Kuwaiti official at the fair said yesterday. Head of the Kuwaiti delegation to the fair Mansour Al-Enizi said Palestinian visitors were snapping up Kuwaiti novels and books on science. He urged Arabs to visit Palestine to firm up their ties and

communication with Palestinians feeling somewhat out of touch with the rest of the Arab world. He said "The Kuwaiti delegation here in Ramallah has seen up close the suffering of the Palestinian people under the burden of occupation, and has felt their determination to challenge the difficulties of daily existence such as holding a book fair of the magnitude we see today."

Secretary general of the Palestinian writers union, Murad Al-Sudani said the Kuwaiti pavilion at the fair has become a hit with the public because of its moderate prices, enabling Palestinian book buyers to afford Kuwaiti publications. The fair opened last Saturday under the slogan Palestine Reads, with the participation of 400 local, Arab, and foreign publishers. The last day of the fair will be May 17. — KUNA



RAMALLAH: Kuwait's pavilion at the Palestinian book fair. — KUNA

PRIVATE SECTOR COULD CATALYZE ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION: EXPERTS

KUWAIT: Speakers at the 'Diversifying the Economic Base in Kuwait' conference agreed Tuesday that the revitalization of the private sector is pivotal to economic growth through alleviating the burdens on the state. The private sector can shoulder the responsibility of the state for providing a lot of services and economic activities particularly the industrial activities, they said.

They urged raising the percentage of the industrial sector in the GDP and encouraging the public to take part in the economic reforms through facilitating the launching of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Secretary-General of the Department of Planning and Development Dr Khaled Mahdi said the economic development process requires effective management by the government and diversification of the economic structure. In his speech to the opening session, he called for reconsideration of "the state hegemony over all economic activities and services," and privatization of these activities in a way that could relieve the state of a lot of burdens. Dr Mahdi criticized "the lack of clear-cut timetables for many economic projects and development plans" which made the rate of achievement lag behind the increasing demand for government services.

Meanwhile, Dr Abbas Al-Megren, professor of economics at Kuwait University, said the lack of direct taxation resulted in financial imbalances and negatively impacted on the revenues of the state budget. "Taxes are one of the main tools of the financial policy that enables the state to direct the private investment to specific development projects in a verifiable way," he said.

"The components of the state revenues in Kuwait reflect a clear imbalance due to overreliance on oil revenues while non-oil revenues represent only 6.5 percent of the GDP," Dr Al-Megren said, citing figures of the FY 2014-2015. Meanwhile, Bader Al-Humeidhi, a renowned economist and financial expert, highlighted the need of amending the laws relating to privatization and public-private partnership, besides stepping up the executive procedures in this regard.

In his address to the second session of the conference, Al-Humeidhi urged cutting the red tape facing the local and foreign investments to enhance the competitive edge of the country vis-à-vis other economies in the region. On a similar note, Mohammad Al-Shatti, an economist, said the public sector maintains hegemony over the economic activities. "The Kuwaiti economy needs practical, radical and well-calculated solutions to ensure diversification of its base in the long-run and make the economy immune to risks of fluctuations of the oil prices," he said at the third session. The one-day conference is organized by Kuwait Economic Society. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Firefighters inspect the scene after tackling a blaze inside in Abdullah Mubarak house.



KUWAIT: This handout photo shows members of a gang arrested yesterday for running a fake domestic help office.

FIVE RESCUED AFTER BEING LOST FOR 10 HOURS IN SEA

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Kuwait Fire Services Directorate's (KFS) Public Relations and Media Department said five citizens were found after being lost at sea for over 10 hours and rescued back to shore in good health. Notably, the five citizens had headed out on jet skis, but were late in returning, which made their friends waiting ashore report them missing. Coastguard boats and choppers launched a search operation that lasted 10 hours before they finally found them on Um Al-Namel island where their jet skis got stuck in the mud due to low tide. Accordingly, marine fire squad manager Lt Col Bader Al-Kadem urged all seagoers to notify the coastguard before they sail, out reporting on their destination and the time they expect to be back.

Sales licenses

Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Assistant Undersecretary for Commercial Supervision and Customer Protection Eid Al-Rasheedi stressed that due to the advent of Ramadan, his department would issue sales licenses in 48 hours instead of a week.

Social security

MP Rakan Al-Nisf hailed the efforts exerted by Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih and her team in discovering forgeries in social security. "Such manipulations confirm that corruption is prevailing and need more persistent efforts to fight it," he said, noting that tackling the issue would help do justice to those who actually deserve social aid. Nisf also urged Subaih to

exert more efforts to expose all officials and employees involved in the process regardless of any pressure to kill the investigation.

Project site

The Supreme Council for Planning and Development's secretariat general for follow up and predictions yesterday visited the environmental fuel project site, said secretary general Iman Al-Mutairi, noting that the visit included a meeting with the project manager Hashim Al-Refaei and a number of his assistants, where they reviewed the project's phases and challenges. Mutairi added that the project was one of the most significant ones in the second five-year development plan and that it would cost KD 4.6 billion and earn monthly revenues of \$50 million. Mutairi added that the project aims at developing Ahmadi and Mina Abdullah refineries and building new ones. "The project will provide around 1,200 job opportunities," she stressed, noting that it would also open new markets for Kuwaiti petrochemical products in the US and Europe.

Cleaning companies

Head of the environment committee at the Municipal Council Mane Al-Ajmi said the committee recommended putting into practice the recommendations made by the environment police concerning monitoring cleaning companies' handling of waste and cooperation with the Municipality. Ajmi explained that the recommendations included appointing an liaison officer from the municipality to link all municipality emergency teams with the environment police to provide them with the needed equipment.

COURT REJECTS CHALLENGE TO 'NATIONAL UNITY' LAW

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The constitutional court yesterday rejected a case contesting the constitutionality of the 'national unity' law and stressed that it was issued as a 'necessity law'. The court also rejected a case imposing taxes on tobacco for the same reasons. In addition, the court also rejected a case contesting the constitutionality of Article 4 of the state security law number 31/1970 that incriminates jeopardizing Kuwait's relations with friendly and brotherly countries. The case was filed by a blogger.

Ramadan timings

The Ministry of Health (MoH) yesterday announced the working hours of polyclinics and hospital outpatient departments during the month of Ramadan. According to the announced timings, some clinics will open in three shifts while others will only work two - 9:00 am to 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm to midnight, while some would work round the clock. The ministry added that some clinics will also operate nonstop from 7:00 am to midnight. The ministry explained that hospital OPDs would work from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm and 9:00 pm to midnight. Hospitals' accounting departments will work non-stop from 9:00 am to midnight.

Alternate houses

Director of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Bader Al-Weqayyan said priority to apply for alternate houses for those who had sold their own would be for those who got loans from the credit bank to purchase or build a house.

ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IMPORTANT: EXPERT

KUWAIT: Despite being a problem affecting some 70 percent of women worldwide, violence against women in Kuwait had been one of these topics that are usually "swept under the rug" for various reasons, mostly connected with social considerations.

In 1993, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. The Declaration defines violence against women as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

Speaking on the issue, member of the social studies department at Kuwait University Dr Seham Al-Gabandi told KUNA that social norms played a part in either solving or amplifying the problem, stressing that many women in Kuwait suffered from either psychological or verbal abuses, which sometimes come from people that they hold dearest to their hearts.

Part of the cure is to enable women to feel more confident about their selves, informing them about their rights and duties, as well as educating them on how to say no to abuse, said the academic. She also affirmed that society, no matter how advanced, should change its attitudes towards women to prevent violence from occurring in the first place.

Providing her input on the issue, family relations' consultant Mona Al-Saqer said that physical abuse against women could be found in Kuwaiti society. "There are no clear statistics regarding violence against women in Kuwait, with many people deeming the issue as a private matter," said Saqer, who added that even if the case ends in courts or police stations, people tend to try and resolve matters without fixing the problem.

Regarding possible solutions to the dilemma, official at the Ministry of Education Dr Suad Al-Suwaidan said that revitalizing laws against women abusers will be a key solution. She also stressed that Islam, as a religion, prohibited any acts that degrade or harm women in any shape or form, noting that this fact was one of the main tools that should prevent such horrible act from occurring. — KUNA

GANG ARRESTED FOR RUNNING FAKE DOMESTIC HELP OFFICE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Residency detectives arrested an Ethiopian gang that swindled citizens and expats through a bogus domestic help office. Members of the gang also sheltered absconders and employed them in violation of the law. Detectives learned about the gang's activity, then formed a team that collected all the necessary information. A total of eight men and ten women were arrested in an ambush. They all were sent to concerned authorities.

ties, along with 28 forgers and 19 persons with passports that do not belong to them. Deportation fingerprints were taken from 58 deportees, and 203 persons were returned because they are banned from traveling, while 959 travel ban orders were lifted. The department said 826,249 persons used Kuwait airport for departure and arrival during April, according to airport security statistics.

Fire

Jleeb Al-Shuyukh firefighters put out a fire in an Abdullah Mubarak house. Three persons were rescued, including one who suffered smoke inhalation, and was treated onsite by paramedics.

Airport security

Airport security arrested 161 wanted persons during the month of April and sent them to concerned authorities.

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الانباء Al-Anbaa

PEOPLE ARE OF DIFFERENT TYPES

By Nermin Al-Houti

It was until recently that people were categorized according to the environment and societies, but today people are different, and their social and mental behaviors have changed according to life's variables and daily events. Our focus today is on some of those patterns that became deviant images in our society until they made differences multiply, in a society that used to share many customs and traditions. These patterns came to change its image and made it a society that includes many deviant behaviors in its environment, and here are some of these patterns:

* It used to be that each one of us had a writer that he read, liked and became an example for him, and in fact he followed him to read all what is new, but today, as technology advances, we find the writer himself presents and imposes himself on the society through sending what he writes to his readers, and the purpose of this is not reading but to increase the number of followers!

* Those who used to practice sports wore sports attire, but today sports has become a venue to show off, as we find the majority wearing the best designer clothing, and sometimes we see women wearing a large quantity of gold jewelry and diamonds. Please, you are going to exercise and not to a wedding!

* It used to be that someone who wanted to marry asked about pedigree, family and religious practice, but today questions are about who will design the wedding decor? Where are we going to buy the wedding dress? Who will come and who will sing? Bear in mind that this is a link for life, not a concert. May Allah help us!

* When we used to go to school, many of us felt sleepy, and wanted to finish our dreams, but today, some of our girls wake up at dawn to fix their eyelashes and makeup to be at their best looks, and not nurturing the brain and soul with prayers, reading the Holy Quran and reviewing their books.

All what we say is that people are of different types. Final word: "When people who are right keep silent towards the wrongful, the wrongful are right" - Imam Ali bin Abi Taleb.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



الانباء

Al-Anbaa

DONATE YOUR TEETH

By Saad Al-Motesh

Out of solidarity, Kuwait and Kuwaitis have been innately giving aid and donations to countries regardless of them being Muslim or non-Muslim. This is a good point for Kuwait, that strongly believes in its humane role led by His Highness the Amir, the humanitarian leader. Talking about donations, I urge all Kuwaitis to donate for Kuwaiti students according to each donor's capabilities. And before anybody feels annoyed by my call for this campaign because it lacks media propaganda that some people like to accompany their donations with, let me explain that my campaign is not a fundraising one.

Our sons studying dentistry in Jordan, namely at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, have been deprived of 'clinic allowances' that other dentistry stu-

dents dispatched to study in other countries get. They don't know why they have been deprived of an allowance that helps them continue their studies. Accordingly, I would like to launch this donation campaign, and urge anybody who has extra pliers or extraction sets to donate them.

In addition, and because I know that dentistry students need to purchase real teeth for practical clinical studies, I declare my intention to donate all of my teeth to Kuwaiti students. They are fully free either to sell, lease or even throw them in the face of officials at the Ministry of Education, on the condition that they do not say the same as we used to when we threw our teeth to the sun (tooth fairy) as kids!

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Crime

Report

RETIRED OFFICER ARRESTED WHILE BEING INTOXICATED

KUWAIT: Director of Farwaniya Governorate Brig Saleh Matar ordered the detention of a retired colonel at Farwaniya police station after he was caught drunk on the road. The Interior Ministry received a call about a man in an abnormal condition walking and disturbing passersby. The man was arrested and detained to be sent to the public prosecution.

Fatal fall

Two citizens told Adailiya police that they found an injured man between a cafe and a cooperative society, and it was discovered that he fell from a height and suffered extensive injuries to the face and hands. The Indian man was taken by ambulance to Amiri Hospital, but died en route. The deceased man arrived in the country two days ago, and had a departure stamp on his passport.

'Liquor factory'

Ahmadi Security Director Brig Abdallah Saffah ordered the detention of four Indians after they were caught running a liquor factory in Ali Sabah Al-Salem, while the equipment and liquor were seized by Interior Ministry workers. A security source said Ahmadi patrols were on a routine tour in Ali Sabah Al-Salem, and when they asked a person for his ID, he fled. He was chased until he entered a house where the liquor was noticed. The suspect was found absconding, while others in the house were making and bottling the liquor. Police found 29 bottles of liquor, 38 sugar sacks, 277 large liquor drums, two distillation tanks, five large tanks and KD 378.

Weapon possession

Weapons detectives arrested a Saudi male nurse for having an AK-47 and ammunition, both unlicensed. A security source said information was received about the nurse who works at the military hospital having an unlicensed weapon, so police raided his house in Sulalbiya where they found AK-47 ammunition. The suspect told police he has a farm in Kabd where he kept the weapon, which was found buried 1.5 m deep. The suspect was sent to the prosecution.

Travel document

A citizen found it strange that his Asian domestic helper left the country while he still had her passport with him. The citizen had first taken the maid to Rumaithiya police station and told them her actions indicate she is not stable, so the officer in charge referred her to the psychiatric hospital. The citizen then took the woman to the hospital. A security source said the citizen went two days later to apply for a new maid, where he was surprised to find the woman he left in hospital had left the country, although her passport is with him. He went back to the police station and told them what happened. It is possible that she left using a travel document from her country's embassy.

Harasser

A citizen resorted to police after being fed up with a harasser's calls, who invited her to have juice with him. A security source said the woman went to Fahd Al-Ahmad police station and told them she received a call from a person she does not know, who claimed it was a wrong number. But he called her again and invited her to have juice with him. She admonished him, telling him she was married, but he said "that's not a problem", so she ended the call, but he kept calling many times. The woman gave police the telephone number of the harasser, and police are working on the case.

Swindler questioned

Detectives are interrogating a citizen who was involved in swindling citizens and expats as he sold them properties with fake contracts in Turkey, Egypt and Lebanon. A security source said several complaints were received by police about a citizen's involvement in running a bogus real estate office which he used to lure his victims. He used to show interested people pictures and plans of bogus projects in Egypt, Lebanon and Turkey, claiming they belong to his office, and he was able to make several deals and received deposits. The suspect, who was outside the country, was arrested upon his return and sent to concerned authorities.

Blackmail suspect arrested

Cybercrime detectives arrested a student at a commercial institute who stole photos of girls to blackmail them. The girls went to criminal detectives and told them that their emails were hacked and photos downloaded, followed by messages demanding money to prevent publishing them. Detectives were able to identify the suspect, a citizen, and he was sent to concerned authorities. — Al-Anbaa

BANKS SUSPECT TRANSFERS THROUGH SWIFT

KUWAIT: Local banks have told their money exchange company customers to stop all foreign money transfers through SWIFT operations, after receiving warnings from American banks that such dealings have a high risk of the possibility of money laundering and financing terrorism. Banking sources said dealings with exchange companies are now constituting a burden on banks and threaten their dealings with banks in the US, especially since

transfers and dealings are in dollar worldwide, and are under American law. They said dealings with exchange companies are done through opening a bank account where money is deposited to buy the required amount of dollars to be transferred from the bank. Such operations bring good returns for banks, but the cost will be higher if they lose their relations with American banks.

Sources said that some transfers

made through exchange companies did not have all required documents, and some are doubtful, making some banks to decide to stop dealings with those companies, including a bank that officially informed its exchange company customers of the decision. The sources said repercussions may go beyond the banks and exchange companies, with a request from security authorities asking for information on the operations that were monitored. —Al-Qabas

CENTRAL BANK INTRODUCES SHORT-TERM BONDS

KUWAIT: Banking sources said Kuwait Central Bank introduced short-term bonds worth KD 200 million, adding that banks' demand for them reached KD 1.048 billion, which is 524 percent. The sources said the return on the bonds is around 1 percent, adding that all banks participated in covering this issue and demanded it as an easy option to manage liquidity and their current and long-term financial needs. They said the banking sector enjoys abundance and the bonds do not constitute a burden, especially since the Central Bank withdraws them when needed, and there are government projects that absorb large sums of money. —Al-Jarida

OIL SPILLS UNDER CONTROL

KUWAIT: Deputy Director General of the Environment Public Authority Mohammad Al-Enezi said oil spills that appeared on Kuwait's beaches two weeks ago are under control. Enezi said floating monitoring systems are being checked, noting that 15 more stations will be installed. He said the sites of the new stations have been located and are part of another network being installed in cooperation with the communications ministry to help the ministry with sea navigation to serve the environmental monitoring operations in the coming period. — Al-Anbaa

SOCIAL MEDIA USER SELLS EXAM PAPER FOR KD 20 EACH

KUWAIT: A person on Instagram claims he can get secondary final exam papers and their solutions and send them on a group on WhatsApp 10 minutes before the exam for KD 20. This person offers this service on social media and claims that the test reaches the buyer with the answers by specialized teachers in all subjects. But an educational official said the final exam papers are sealed in a way that prevents any mishandling, and if anyone opens the envelope, it will be known. The ad also mentioned that the final exam questions can be delivered to homes along with answers. —Al-Qabas



KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Border Security Affairs Major General Faisal Al-Seneen met with a team from the United States Embassy in Kuwait yesterday to discuss security measures taken at Kuwait International Airport. Seneen attended the meeting on behalf of the Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad.

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Duterte set for wild foreign policy ride

CLASHES IN BANGLADESH AFTER EX-ISLAMIST LEADER'S HANGING



SALEM: US Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders addresses a campaign rally. — AFP

TRUMP UNRIVALED, SANDERS TAKES WEST VIRGINIA
 SANDERS STAYING STRONG, UNWILLING TO GIVE UP FIGHT

WASHINGTON: Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump cruised to victory in two more states Tuesday, while Bernie Sanders beat rival Democrat Hillary Clinton in West Virginia, bolstering his case for remaining in the race. Massive wins in West Virginia and Nebraska put Trump ever closer to clinching the 1,237 delegates he needs to be declared the party's nominee at its convention in July. "Thank you West Virginia!" and "Thank you Nebraska!" he said in a pair of tweets. Now the sole Republican candidate in the contest after his remaining rivals dropped out last week, Trump is transitioning from the fierce primary battles with the likes of Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio to a general election showdown with Clinton, even amid deep Republican discord about the celebrity billionaire. He has narrowed his picks for running mate, telling Fox News he is considering five vice president options. "I think they are excellent," he added. "I'll announce whoever it will be at the convention" in Cleveland, Ohio, Trump said. With Republican concern about

their nominee sizzling, a Quinnipiac University poll out Tuesday showed Trump closing in on Clinton's lead in two major battleground states—Florida and Pennsylvania—and overtaking her in swing state Ohio. No candidate has won the presidential election without taking at least two of those three states. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell seized on the polls, telling reporters, "the early indications are that our nominee is likely to be very competitive." **Unyielding Sanders** Despite Clinton's overwhelming delegate lead, Sanders ensured the race would go on with his win in West Virginia, where he won more than 51 percent to Clinton's 36 percent with more than 95 percent of the vote counted. With eight contests remaining, "we think we have a good chance to win many of those states," Sanders told supporters Tuesday in San Francisco, according to CBS News. "We now have won primaries and caucuses in 19 states," Sanders was reported as saying at

another rally in Oregon. "Let me be as clear as I can be: We are in this campaign to win the Democratic nomination." Quinnipiac's poll also found that Sanders, a democratic socialist who commands an enthusiastic following on the left, would do better against Trump than Clinton in all three states if he were the Democratic nominee. The 74-year-old Vermont senator, who defeated Clinton in Indiana, has mounted an unyielding come-from-behind challenge that has exposed weaknesses in the former secretary of state's campaign. Although almost certain to win the Democratic nomination—she is only about 160 delegates short of that goal—Clinton's ability to excite young and white working-class Democrats going into the general election has been put in doubt by Sanders's primary successes. But she has used her campaign stops in Appalachia—including an event in Kentucky, which holds its Democratic primary on May 17 — as opportunities to win over blue-collar white voters. However, in coal-mining West

Virginia, Clinton shot herself in the foot in March by telling voters in neighboring Ohio she would slash mining jobs and put coal companies "out of business." She later apologized and suggested her remarks were misunderstood, but in a state where livelihoods have hinged on coal for generations, many are unconvinced. **Trump challenges** While Clinton still has Sanders to worry about, Trump faces a rebellion within the Republican leadership over the insulting tone and shifting substance of his candidacy. House Speaker Paul Ryan last week announced he was "not ready" to support Trump, a rare rebuke that put the power struggles within the Republican Party on very public display. Ryan and other Republican congressional leaders were due to huddle with Trump Thursday in Washington in highly anticipated meetings that could help gauge GOP support for the real estate tycoon. Trump appeared to

offer an olive branch late on Tuesday, saying he wants Ryan to remain chairman of the Cleveland convention. "I'd love frankly for him to stay and be chairman," he told Fox News. McConnell said he expected "a cordial meeting to discuss the way forward." It may be thorny, however. Although a defeated Cruz ruled out a third-party bid, when pressed by reporters as he returned to the US Senate he declined to say whether he would endorse Trump. Rubio said he would "support the Republican nominee" but not offer an outright endorsement. The Republican establishment is still reeling from Trump's hostile takeover of the party, aghast at positions he's taken on trade, foreign policy and taxes that fly in the face of conservative dictums. But Trump has shown no sign of backing down as some Republicans are looking to heal, embrace the nominee and turn to defeating Clinton in November. "I think the party needs to come together," said Senator John McCain, the 2008 Republican nominee. — AFP

NEW LONDON MAYOR KHAN: I'M NOT A MUSLIM LEADER

LONDON: New London mayor Sadiq Khan said yesterday that he was not a Muslim leader but represented everyone in the city, after making history by becoming the first mayor of his faith in a major Western capital. "Let me be very clear, I'm not a Muslim leader or Muslims' spokesperson, I'm the mayor of London. I speak for all Londoners," the 45-year-old said in a wide-ranging media briefing. Khan, the son of Pakistani immigrants, added however that his election proved "that it's possible to be Muslim and a Westerner. Western values are compatible with Islam." He repeated his criticism of presumptive US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, who has proposed banning all Muslims from entering the United States. Khan, a member of Britain's opposition Labour party, said Trump was "ignorant about Islam" and was "playing into the hands of the extremists." Trump made the proposal in December, days after a terror attack killed 14 people in San Bernardino, California, saying Muslims should not be able to enter the

US "until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on." Khan also repeated his support for Britain to stay in the European Union in the June 23 referendum, saying membership was crucial for London's prosperity. "It's crucial for London to remain in the EU... Half a million jobs are directly dependant on the union," he said. He added that Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo at their meeting on Tuesday had joked that in case of Brexit, she "roll out the red carpet to welcome London companies" to the French capital. He said he would be happy to campaign alongside Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron "because it's more important than political parties". The latest census showed that 12.4 percent of Londoners are Muslim, 48.4 percent Christian, 1.8 percent Jewish and 20.7 percent have no faith. The British capital's Muslim community is hugely varied, covering multiple ethnic and social backgrounds as well as a variety of moderate and traditionalist views. —W AFP



NEW DELHI: An Indian Hindu priest performs a Hawan (The Sacred Fire) ritual alongside posters bearing the image of US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump. — AFP

INDIA HINDUS PRAY TO GODS TO HELP TRUMP

NEW DELHI: Donald Trump may find it tough to get Republican leaders behind his campaign, but he's got some faraway fans trying to get the gods on his side. Around a dozen members of a right-wing Indian Hindu group lit a ritual fire and chanted mantras yesterday asking the Hindu gods to help Trump win the US presidential election. While Trump has dominated the Republican primary race to decide the party's candidate for the November election, his calls for temporarily banning Muslims from America and cracking down on terrorist groups abroad have earned him some fans in India. "The whole world is screaming against Islamic terrorism, and even India is not safe from it," said Vishnu Gupta, founder of the Hindu Sena nationalist group. "Only Donald Trump can save humanity." Members of the group gathered on a blanket spread out in a New Delhi protest park along with a collection of statues depicting gods including Shiva and Hanuman - as well as photos of a smiling Trump. Above them hung a banner declaring support for Trump "because he is hope for humanity against Islamic terror." The group chanted Sanskrit prayers asking the gods to favor Trump in the election, and threw offerings such as seeds, grass and ghee - or clarified butter - into a small ritual fire. — AP

LIBYAN FORCES PREPARE ATTACK ON ISLAMIC STATE STRONGHOLD

MISRATA: Forces in western Libya are preparing to advance on the city of Sirte, seized by Islamic State last year, their spokesman said, pushing ahead with plans for a counter-attack after the Islamists made territorial gains in the last week.

The fighters based in the city of Misrata would like international logistical support to help retake what has become Islamic State's most important base outside Syria and Iraq, but will not wait for it before launching the operation, they said. "We are ready and we are preparing our security arrangements to attack Sirte," said Brigadier General Mohamed Al-Gasri, spokesman for a newly formed military operations room in Misrata. The operations room was set up by a UN-backed unity government that arrived in Tripoli at the end of March. European powers and the United States hope the unity government will be able to unite Libya's rival political groups and armed factions to take on Islamic State, though it is unclear how far its authority extends on the ground. Misrata's brigades have largely transferred their support to it from a self-declared government formed in Tripoli in 2014. But the unity government has struggled to win support from another administration based the east and the military forces allied to it. They have also said they would move against Sirte, though past announcements have come to nothing.

Late last month the unity government urged both sides to hold off attacking Sirte before a unified command is created, fearing an uncoordinated offensive could lead to civil war. "We need logistical support from the international community, and we need weapons and ammunition," Gasri said. "Whether they're going to support us or not, we will be there soon. We will not stand and watch."

Trenches and mines

Islamic State took advantage of the

political turmoil and security vacuum after the uprising that overthrew Muammar Gaddafi five years ago to build a power base in Libya. The Misrata brigades were present in Sirte as Islamic State began to establish control, but withdrew last summer. Though it has struggled to win support and hold territory in parts of Libya, Islamic State controls a strip of more than 250 km (155 miles) of Libya's central coastline, from which it has launched attacks to the east, west and south.

Over the last week it has made gains, carrying out suicide attacks in the sparsely populated area between Sirte and Misrata, including at a major checkpoint at Abu Grain. Gasri confirmed that Islamic State took several villages in the area and that the line of defence was now at Assdada, about 80 km south of Misrata. The militants have dug trenches and planted mines around the Abu Grain checkpoint, he said.

Thirteen members of the security forces were killed and 110 wounded in last week's fighting, Gasri said. Wounded fighters at a hospital in Misrata said suicide bombers had attacked in armoured vehicles, one of which approached a checkpoint behind cars carrying families fleeing Sirte.

Misrata brigade members fought to defend the Abu Grain checkpoint for nearly an hour but were forced to withdraw as they were outnumbered, one said. The eastern military has made some advances against its armed opponents, including fighters loyal to Islamic State, in Benghazi, Libya's second city.

Late on Monday Islamic State said it had executed three men captured during fighting in Benghazi last month. A hospital spokesman in Benghazi said two of those killed - including one who was beheaded - were volunteer nurses who had been helping treat wounded troops. — Reuters



DHAKA: Bangladeshi men read about the execution of Jamaat-e-Islami party chief Motiur Motiur Rahman Nizami, on newspapers, pasted on a wall at an alley.—AP

CLASHES IN BANGLADESH AFTER EX-ISLAMIST LEADER'S HANGING

500 JAMAAT ACTIVISTS PROTESTING EXECUTION

DHAKA: Clashes erupted in Bangladesh yesterday after the execution of a top Islamist leader, heightening tension in a country reeling from a string of killings of secular and liberal activists. Motiur Rahman Nizami, leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, was hanged at a Dhaka jail late Tuesday for the massacre of intellectuals during the 1971 independence war with Pakistan.

Police said they fired rubber bullets after hundreds of Nizami's supporters attacked them with stones in the northwestern city of Rajshahi, where a liberal professor was killed by suspected Islamists last month. "There were 500 Jamaat activists who were protesting the execution. We fired rubber bullets as they became violent," Rajshahi police inspector Selim Badsah told AFP, adding that about 20 were arrested.

Jamaat and ruling party supporters also clashed in Chittagong, where about 2,500 Islamists attended a service for the executed leader, the port city's deputy police chief Masudul Hasan told AFP. Security was tight across the country, with checkpoints erected on main roads in Dhaka to deter violence, and thousands of police patrolling the capital.

Nizami, a 73-year-old former government minister, was the fifth and the most senior opposition figure executed since the secular

government set up a controversial war crimes tribunal in 2010. Security was also stepped up in Nizami's ancestral district of Pabna, where his body was taken under armed escort for burial in his family's grave.

"At least 16 activists of Jamaat were arrested (in Pabna) Tuesday night as part of the security clampdown," local police inspector Ahsanul Haq said. Jamaat called a nationwide strike for Thursday in protest at Nizami's execution, saying the charges against him were false and aimed at eliminating the party's leadership.

Jamaat 'death knell'

Executions of Jamaat officials in 2013 triggered the country's deadliest violence in decades. Around 500 people were killed, mainly in clashes between Islamists and police. But a fresh wave of bloodshed is considered unlikely following a major crackdown by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government that has seen tens of thousands of Jamaat supporters detained.

Secular protesters cheered the midnight hanging, with hundreds gathered outside the jail and at a square in central Dhaka overnight to celebrate what they described as an historic moment. Mubashar Hasan, an assistant professor at Bangladesh's University of Liberal Arts, said Tuesday's execution may

sound the death knell for the already embattled Jamaat.

"With the execution of Nizami, the Jamaat leadership who revived the fortune of the party in the post-1971 period are now almost gone," he said. It comes amid a wave of gruesome murders by suspected Islamists, with an atheist student, two gay rights activists, a professor, a Hindu tailor and a Sufi Muslim leader hacked to death since last month.

The Islamic State and a Bangladesh branch of Al-Qaeda have claimed responsibility for several murders, but the government blames homegrown extremists and accuses the opposition of trying to destabilise the country. Nizami took over as Jamaat leader in 2000 and played a key role in the victory of an Islamist-allied government in the 2001 general election.

The 1971 conflict, one of the bloodiest in world history, led to the creation of an independent Bangladesh from what was then East Pakistan. Prosecutors said Nizami was responsible for setting up the pro-Pakistani Al-Badr militia, which killed top writers, doctors and journalists in the most gruesome chapter of the war. He was convicted in October 2014 by the International Crimes Tribunal, which has sentenced more than a dozen opposition leaders for war crimes in trials criticized by rights groups. —AFP



KABUL: Ali Haidar Gilani, son of a former Pakistani prime minister, center, shakes hand with Pakistani Ambassador Abrar Hussain and Afghan Army Officials, as he arrives at the Afghan Ministry of Defense.—AP

PAKISTAN EX-PM SON ARRIVES HOME AFTER HOSTAGE ORDEAL

LAHORE: The freed son of a former Pakistani premier was reunited with his family in a shower of rose petals in Lahore yesterday, three years after he was kidnapped then taken to Afghanistan. Ali Haider Gilani, son of Yousaf Raza Gilani, was rescued during a counter-terror raid by US and Afghan forces in eastern Afghanistan Tuesday.

Crowds of well-wishers dancing to drum beats greeted the 30-year-old's arrival at his family's home in Lahore in a black SUV strewn with pink rose petals. Later, up to ten goats were sacrificed in celebration. Faiza Malik, a Punjabi politician, said she was "very emotional" after witnessing the scene inside the house.

"Almost everyone had tears in their eyes after meeting Ali Gilani," she said. "There was nobody-brother, sister, uncles-who was not weeping after hugging him." Gilani, who is a triplet, was accompanied by his brother Ali Kasim on the journey from Kabul in a plane that the Pakistani foreign ministry said was sent by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

His father was reportedly absent from the reunion, with television channels reporting his appearance in a court in Islamabad on corruption charges. "I really appreciate the... Afghan forces efforts," Gilani, bearded and wearing a white T-shirt and camouflage baseball cap, told media at a ceremony earlier yesterday in Kabul. "I would also like to thank the US forces which at the critical moments of my release provided me with shelter, food and medical care. "And, at this time, I am looking forward to be reunited with my family, just getting back to normal life."

Rare moment of diplomatic warmth

Gilani was rescued in the Giyan district of Paktika province Tuesday by US

Special Operations Forces and Afghan commandos, according to NATO. The Afghan presidency said the raid targeted an Al-Qaeda cell. He was kidnapped by militants in the outskirts of Multan in the central Pakistani province of Punjab on May 9, 2013, just two days before a bitterly contested national election in which he was campaigning.

In May last year, he was able to phone his father to tell him he was well. At the ceremony in Kabul, Gilani also thanked Pakistani soldiers fighting in the tribal areas on the porous border who "forced my captors to flee from Pakistan to Afghanistan". In 2014 the Pakistani military launched an offensive in the tribal areas where militants had previously operated with impunity, killing thousands and sweeping others over the border.

The offensive has improved security in Pakistan but added to Afghan resentment of Islamabad, which it has long accused of supporting Taliban insurgents. Gilani's release allowed for a rare moment of cordiality between Pakistan and Afghanistan. NATO said the raid was carried out under Operation Freedom's Sentinel, the US mission focusing on counter-terrorism as well as training, advising and assisting Afghan troops. Four "enemy combatants" were killed during the raid, it said. The Pentagon was tight-lipped about events leading up to the raid, but said it occurred after US and Afghan forces had "identified terrorist activity". "There were terrorists where they struck and conducted this raid, and during that activity they were able to rescue Mr Gilani," US Central Command spokesman Colonel Pat Ryder said. US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter heralded the raid as evidence of progress by Afghanistan's struggling security services. — AFP

SYRIAN ARMY BATTLES IS JIHADISTS NEAR PALMYRA

BEIRUT: Syrian regime forces yesterday battled jihadists who cut a key supply route west of ancient Palmyra, after new bombardments hit Aleppo city where a ceasefire is due to expire at midnight. The latest fighting comes as world powers prepare to meet in Vienna next week to try to revive peace talks aimed at ending a five-year conflict that has killed more than 270,000 people. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor, said the Islamic State (IS) group on Tuesday cut the main road from Homs city to Palmyra just weeks after the army recaptured the city, a UNESCO world heritage site.

A military source told the SANA official news agency that the Syrian air force had carried out strikes against IS around the main facility in the Shaer gas field northwest of Palmyra. A security source told AFP: "Military operations are ongoing in the Shaer gas field, which is one of the biggest in the central province of Homs. Both sides have been battling each other in the desert around Palmyra since IS was ousted from the city in late March. The jihadist group last week seized the Shaer gas field from the regime."

Palmyra surrounded

President Bashar Al-Assad's troops retook Palmyra with support from Russian air strikes on March 27 — an achievement his regime celebrated with concerts in its ancient amphitheatre last week. But today IS surrounds Palmyra from all directions except the southwest, the head of the Observatory said, adding that IS was within 10 kilometers of the city.

Rami Abdel Rahman said the group was "attempting to surround regime forces in Palmyra and isolate the city from its surroundings". In the northern battleground city of Aleppo, an AFP correspondent said the city's rebel-held east was calm yesterday after fighting overnight. A local truce-brokered by Russia and the United States after a spike in violence in the city last month is set to expire at midnight yesterday. The former economic hub has been divided between the regime-held west and rebel-controlled east since 2012. Two people were wounded early yesterday when regime aircraft strafed rebel positions in two eastern

neighborhoods with heavy machinegun fire, an AFP correspondent reported.

Late Tuesday, government warplanes struck two other rebel-held neighborhoods, the correspondent added. Rebel rocket fire hit two government-controlled districts in the west of the city, the Observatory said. Rebel sniper fire killed a garbage collector late Tuesday, SANA reported.

A local truce took effect in Aleppo last Thursday after a surge in fighting killed more than 300 people in the city and threatened to unravel a nationwide ceasefire between regime forces and non-jihadist rebels in force since February. The truce has led to a sharp reduction in the death toll. Rebel rocket fire on government neighborhoods killed three civilians on Sunday but otherwise it has largely held. It has been extended twice after 11th-hour diplomatic intervention from major powers, but there was no immediate word of any new extension ahead of yesterday's expiry time.

Last obstetrician dies

In the rebel-held bastion of Eastern Ghouta, outside Damascus, the area's last obstetrician

and gynaecologist has died of wounds sustained during fighting between rebels around the city of Douma, the Observatory said. Moscow and Washington pledged on Monday to redouble efforts to shore up the nationwide truce and reach a political settlement to the conflict.

The February 27 ceasefire applies to all areas except those where IS and Al-Nusra Front, Syria's Al-Qaeda affiliate, are present. Britain, France, the United States and Ukraine on Tuesday blocked a Russian request to add two rebel groups to a UN terror blacklist and sideline them from the peace process.

Russia had requested that Jaish Al-Islam (Army of Islam) and Ahrar Al-Sham be added to the sanctions list for their ties to Al-Qaeda and IS. Jaish Al-Islam is a member of the opposition group that has taken part in peace negotiations in Geneva. It counts the group's chief negotiator Mohammed Alloush among its members. Russia's foreign ministry on Tuesday said global powers would gather in Vienna on May 17 to discuss the crisis in Syria. The civil war has displaced millions since it erupted after the brutal repression of anti-government protests in 2011. — AFP



DARAA: Opposition fighters drive a tank in a rebel-held area of the southern Syrian city of Daraa, during re-newed clashes with regime loyalists.—AFP

VICTIMS OF PAST ABUSE FIND JUSTICE IN SOME US STATES

MINNESOTA: Minnesota's reform of child sex abuse laws has given Laura Adams a chance to come forward with accusations she long feared to make public: That an employee of a children's theater in Minneapolis abused her in the early 1980s when she was a teenager.

Adams, 48, and another woman sued the Children's Theatre Company and former employees for abuse and failure to prevent it. The lawsuit was filed last year during a legal window the state created for victims.

Hundreds of people have brought similar lawsuits in Georgia, California, Delaware and Hawaii, which enacted similar reforms to eliminate or extend statutes of limitations for up to three years to allow victims to bring civil actions. Without reforms such as these, people who say they survived sex abuse decades ago have little hope for seeking

justice. Criminal prosecutions of decades-old abuse cases remain impossible since the US Supreme Court ruled in 2002 that it is unconstitutional to retroactively change statutes of limitations. Still, advocates say civil cases give victims a chance to break decades of silence. Most such lawsuits lead to out-of-court settlements, according to lawyers who handle sex abuse cases.

"This window of opportunity is the biggest gift I can even imagine," Adams said in a telephone interview. "For me it's about making the conversation around child sexual abuse no longer a taboo subject." While one of the founders of Children's Theatre Company pleaded guilty to sex abuse charges in 1984, Adams said she and others were too intimidated at the time to bring up abuse by other staff.

Fist of justice

The Children's Theatre said in a statement when the lawsuit was filed that it stands with abuse victims in their desire to see justice done, but does not believe the company was negligent. A lawyer for former actor and teacher Jason McLean, whom Adams names as her abuser, did not respond to a request for comment.

The difficulty in addressing old sex abuse cases was seen recently in the case of ex-US House Speaker Dennis Hastert, who admitted in federal court he molested high school wrestlers in the 1960s and 1970s while he was a coach. However, he cannot be prosecuted or sued under the laws of Illinois.

After Hastert was sentenced for a financial crime related to the sex abuse cases, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan called for the complete elimination of the state's statute of limitations

on sexual abuse crimes against children. Other states are also looking at reforming statutes of limitations.

In Pennsylvania, the state Senate may consider reforms that were passed in April by the House, shortly after a grand jury report said bishops at the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese covered up sexual abuse of hundreds of children over four decades.

Justice will be done

Opponents of reforms include the Roman Catholic Church and insurance companies that say evidence is difficult if not impossible to find after so much time has passed, and that litigation drives institutions into bankruptcy. Backers of reforms say it can take decades for victims to break through denial and shame, and seek legal action.

That was the case with Barry Singer,

who along with 33 other victims has claimed abuse by staff at the private Yeshiva University High School for Boys in Manhattan in the 1970s. Singer said he is disappointed New York state senators have resisted reform, even though the state's lower house has backed initiatives to do so.

He and other victims sued the school for covering up the abuse, but the case was thrown out due to the statute of limitations. The school investigated abuse complaints and issued an apology in 2013 and said it was adopting new policies to prevent abuse. In a phone interview, Singer said: "I didn't realize that the manhandling and the wrestling and the fondling and the groping that I endured as a child was sex abuse until my own children were in school and I began to think, 'What if this had been done to them?'" — Reuters

RUSH ON PILLOWS AT CANADA EVACUATION CENTER

EDMONTON: There was a rush on pillows at Canada's largest fire evacuation center Tuesday as many who fled wildfires in Alberta province's oil region looked forward to their first good sleep in days. It will be at least two weeks before Fort McMurray residents can return home, but the damage now appears to be less than anticipated with 90 percent of structures still standing. And several of the evacuees told AFP they feel they can finally rest easier. Officials at the Northlands Exposition Center in Edmonton, which was converted into a shelter, said hundreds of donated pillows had been handed out throughout the day. The 48,000-square-meter (522,000-square-foot) complex is one of 13 emergency centers across the province housing an estimated 7,000 evacuees and providing supplies to tens of thousands living in hotels or at campsites.

"I'm happy I got a pillow," said Samantha James. She has been staying at her niece's vacant student apartment in Edmonton since the evacuation of Fort McMurray a week ago. She learned her home was untouched by the fires, and so the worst she expects upon returning to Fort McMurray is a bunch of dead house plants.

As she spoke, a man walked past, struggling to carry half a dozen pillows to his truck, where his wife and three kids were waiting. The man, who chose not to give his name, said he found a place to stay with friends—a room. "We're just trying to keep safe and make ourselves as comfortable as possible," he said. Judy Ramsay, who was taken in by strangers, stopped here to pick up pillows herself, her husband and her 11-year-old daughter. "It never even occurred to me (at first), but I thought if I could have a little bit more

comfort and sleep a little better," she said.

'Back to a normal life'

At the end of a hectic week settling into a basement apartment in Edmonton that would allow them to keep their nine-year-old bulldog, Amanda and Don Prophet also came for pillows. "The very little money that we have (right now), every little bit helps," said Don. The couple had packed a bag in anticipation of the evacuation order.

But they now realize they packed too lightly. "Not enough (womens) shoes," Don quipped. They had stuffed into their car "things that meant the most to us," including family photos, a mixed tape she made for him, a scrapbook of their vacations together and a wooden duck carved by Don's father. There was also a heart pendant given to Amanda by her mother inscribed with the words: "Times can be tough but you'll get through it." They have been busy all week filing insurance claims and late tax returns, taking their dog to a veterinarian, "trying to find our way in this city, it's huge compared to Fort McMurray."

Upon learning they may be able to return home soon, they said they might take in a movie as they push for normality. But the couple remains anxious. "It will be hard to get back to a normal life, our normal routines, because there's nothing further from normal what we're doing right now," Don said.

"We love our town and we just want to get back to it." "But it's overwhelming thinking what our next move is going to be, insurance-wise, living-wise, also our work," he said. "We don't know if we have jobs to go back to. We don't know if we have a house. It's touch and go. We're really in limbo right now." — AFP



BRASILIA: Overview of the Senate session during a debate of a vote on suspending President Dilma Rousseff and launching an impeachment trial. — AFP

BRAZILIAN SENATE OPENS PREZ ROUSSEFF IMPEACHMENT VOTE

ALLIES SAY SHE HAS NO CHANCE OF SURVIVING VOTE

BRASILIA: Brazil's Senate opened debate yesterday ahead of a vote on suspending President Dilma Rousseff and launching an impeachment trial that could bring down the curtain on 13 years of leftist rule in Latin America's biggest country.

Even allies of Rousseff, 68, said she had no chance of surviving the vote. She is accused of illegal accounting maneuvers but says the charges are trumped up and amount to a coup d'etat by her center-right opponents.

Debate was expected to last all day with a vote during the night or early hours of Thursday. A simple majority in the 81 member Senate would be enough to trigger Rousseff's six-month suspension pending judgment, in which a two thirds majority would force her from office permanently.

Senate President Renan Calheiros, who was overseeing the proceedings, told journalists that impeachment would be "traumatic" for Brazil, which is already struggling with the worst recession in decades and a corruption scandal that has ripped apart the political and business elite. "The process of impeachment... is long, traumatic and does not produce quick results," Calheiros warned.

'No miracle'

Rousseff's government lawyer lodged a last-ditch appeal with the Supreme Court on Tuesday to block the vote, but the court had not even responded before senators sat down in their futuristic building in the capital Brasilia. "There won't be any miracle. She'll be suspended for six months and then we'll open the debate on the merits" of the case, Paulo Paim, a senator of Rousseff's Workers' Party (PT), told reporters.

He said the impeachment drive was "a symbol of Brazilian politicians' incompetence, to accept a tainted process against a president they know is honest." But Magno Malta, a senator of the opposition PR party, said impeachment was needed to heal a sick country.

"As soon as we vote for impeachment, the dollar will fall (strengthening Brazil's currency), our stock market will rise and the patient will breathe again," said Malta. "The doctor will say the patient is showing signs of life and is in intensive care," he added. "But it is a long, painful process which depends on all of us."

Fight to the end

Rousseff is accused of breaking budgetary laws by taking loans to boost public spending and mask the sinking state of the economy during her 2014 re-election campaign. She says the accounting maneuvers were standard practice in the past. She describes the impeachment as a coup mounted by her vice president, Michel Temer, who will take over if she is suspended.

Temer, whose center-right PMDB party broke off its uneasy partnership with Rousseff's party, has already prepared a new government. He said his priority will be to rescue the economy, now in its worst recession for decades. Rousseff vowed to resist.

"I am going to fight with all my strength, using all means available," she told a women's forum in Brasilia on Tuesday. Rousseff called her opponents "people (who) can't win the presidency through a popular vote" and claimed they had a "project to dismantle" social gains made by millions of poor during 13 years of Workers' Party rule. In an effort to cripple Temer's ambitions, Rousseff allies also went to the top electoral court asking that the probable acting president be barred from appointing his own ministers.

However, analysts say Rousseff's fightback probably comes too late and that she had already burned many of her political bridges before the crisis erupted with an awkward style and inability to negotiate.

The country's first female president has also become deeply unpopular with most Brazilians, who blame her for presiding over the recession and a massive corruption scandal centered on the state oil company Petrobras.

Street tensions

Workers' Party faithful on Tuesday burned tires and blocked roads in Brasilia and in Sao Paulo in a potential taste of more street trouble to come. Lawmaker Jose Guimaraes, a Rousseff ally, said that despite almost certain defeat in the initial Senate vote, the impeachment trial itself would be an all-out fight as his side fought to win over Senators. Police responded to heightened tension by building a huge metal barricade outside Congress in Brasilia to separate rival groups of protesters during the Senate vote. A separation corridor 80 meters (yards) wide and more than a kilometer (half a mile) long will also be enforced. A square where major government institutions are located will be declared a "national security zone" made off-limits to the public, the Brasilia security authorities announced. The Senate impeachment trial could last months, running through the Olympics, which open in Rio de Janeiro on August 5 — the first Games to be held in South America. — AFP



EDMONTON: Fire evacuees sift through donated clothing at an Emergency Relief Centre. — AFP

TRUMP NARROWS VP LIST AS GENERAL ELECTIONS LOOM

NEW YORK: Shifting swiftly to the general election, Donald Trump says he's narrowed his list of potential running mates to "five or six" people and doesn't want to accept public money to finance a fall campaign against likely Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

But in a break from recent major party nominees, Trump does not plan to invest heavily in a data-driven effort to target voters in the fall campaign. Despite pressure, the billionaire businessman also does not expect to release his tax returns before the November election.

"There's nothing to learn from them," Trump told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday. He's cited an ongoing audit of his finances as the main reason for withholding the information, and also has said he doesn't believe voters are interested.

Trump's comments came as he begins to ramp up for a long, expensive general election campaign. His two remaining Republican rivals suddenly dropped out of the race last week, anointing him the party's presumptive presidential nominee faster than even the confident candidate expected.

As part of his general election planning, Trump told the AP at his office in New York that he's moving aggressively to identify a running mate with deep political experience. While he would not provide a full list of names, he did not rule out New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, the former rival whom he's already tapped to head his transition planning.

Joining forces

Trump's campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, is running the vice presidential vetting effort "with a group," Trump said, that includes former competitor Ben Carson and himself. "Honestly, we're all running it. It's very much a group effort," said Trump.

A first-time political candidate, the celebrity businessman said there's no need for another business person on the Republican ticket and he wants a running mate who can help him pass legislation as president. By joining forces with a political veteran, Trump would also signal a willingness to work with the Republican establishment that he's thoroughly bashed during his campaign.

Trump said he doesn't plan to announce his running mate until the Republican National Convention in July, a four-day event that he's planning to remake with a showman's touch. "The concept of some entertainment from a great singer, a great group I think would be something maybe to break things up," Trump said. "You'll be hearing plenty of political speeches."

In the interview, Trump outlined a general election campaign that banks heavily on his personal appeal and trademark rallies while spurning the kind of sophisticated data operation that was a centerpiece of Barack Obama's winning White House runs. "I've always felt it was overrated," Trump said. "Obama got the votes much more so than his data processing machine. And I think the same is true with me." — AP

TRUMP CAMPAIGN BLAMES PC ERRORS FOR DELEGATE MIX-UP

LOS ANGELES: Donald Trump's campaign said a computer error resulted in a prominent white nationalist being mistakenly included on a list of his potential California delegates, an embarrassment for a candidate who has been criticized before for being too slow to distance himself from former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke. The campaign said in a statement Tuesday that the name has been withdrawn and a corrected list resubmitted to state officials.

Trump California director Tim Clark released a statement blaming a "database error" for the inclusion of William Johnson, which said he been rejected and removed from the campaign's list in February 2016. Johnson, a white nationalist leader and Trump supporter, told The Associated Press that he received an email from Clark earlier Tuesday informing him that his name had been "erroneously listed" as a delegate. Johnson runs the American National Super PAC, which made automated phone calls supporting Trump's candidacy across the country.

The Los Angeles attorney told the AP it had been a mistake for him to submit his name for consideration. In California, Republican candidates pick potential delegates to the GOP's summer convention. They are selected based on the outcome of voting in the state's June 7 primary.

"I was naive," Johnson said. "I thought people wouldn't notice, and if they did notice I didn't think it would be a big deal." He added that he is resigning from his role as delegate, effective immediately. Johnson's appearance on the list was first reported by Mother Jones magazine.



LOS ANGELES: Attorney William Johnson, a leader of the American Freedom Party and self-proclaimed white nationalist, pauses for photos in his office. — AP

Previously, Trump has drawn criticism for hesitating before denouncing former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, who said not voting for Trump was "treason to your heritage." Johnson said he never disclosed his white nationalist beliefs in his application.

"You answer the questions that they ask, and they asked, 'What have you done to support Donald Trump?' They didn't ask, 'Are you a white nationalist?'" he said. Trump "wants to build the wall (along the border with Mexico). He wants to cut off illegal immigration, and he wants to cut back on foreign trade, bring jobs back to America," Johnson added. "We believe Donald Trump will help lead the country in a proper direction." — AP

EU-TURKEY MIGRANT DEAL IS 'BOTCHED JOB', SAYS SPAIN

MADRID: Spain's foreign minister yesterday described the EU's deal with Turkey to stem the influx of migrants as a "botched job", blasting Europe's "inadequate" response to its worst migration crisis since World War II. Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo said he was unhappy with leaving the solution to the crisis in the hands of a country outside the European Union, despite Madrid having backed the controversial deal with Ankara.

"This deal we have signed with Turkey, it's a botched job," he told the Cope radio station. "For Turkey to help us so that (refugees) do not come by sea en masse is good-before, they were risking their lives and criminal gangs... were benefiting from their misfortune," he added. "But that does not mean that this is not a botched job, and it leaves the solution in the hands of a third country." Under the deal, Turkey has agreed to

take back migrants landing on Greek islands in exchange for political incentives including billions of Euros in aid and visa-free European travel for its citizens. The Turkish agreement is the cornerstone of the EU's plan to curb a crisis that has seen 1.25 million Syrian, Iraqi, Afghan and other migrants enter since 2015, though the numbers of arrivals have dropped since March. Garcia-Margallo criticized EU efforts

on refugees as "very inadequate" compared to countries like Lebanon, which has taken in more than a million people fleeing the Syrian war-equivalent to more than a quarter of its own population. In April, acting Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy faced heavy criticism from lawmakers over the fact that Spain had taken in only 16 asylum-seekers under an EU relocation plan, out of a promised 16,000.

Garcia-Margallo blamed problems with registering migrants for the slow progress, claiming registration centers in Greece simply "don't work". Greece does not have the civil servants to resolve all these problems and the rest of the countries are waiting for someone to tell us "the process has begun and you must start taking in the refugees," he said. He called for a "genuinely shared European asylum agency" to speed up the process. — AFP

ITALY ISSUES THE GREEN LIGHT FOR GAY UNIONS

ROME: Italy's parliament yesterday gave a green light for the introduction of gay civil unions in the last major Western country not to legally recognize same-sex relationships. Lawmakers in the lower-house Chamber of Deputies voted 369-193 in favor of a vote of confidence in the government which makes final approval of the divisive civil unions bill automatic. The long-awaited and much-disputed legislation was hailed as a civil rights landmark but also criticized as falling short of full equality for gay couples, particularly in relation to adoption rights.

Prime Minister Matteo Renzi called the confidence vote to short-circuit potential last-minute blocking or delaying amendments by opponents of the legislation, who include rebels in his own party as well as the Catholic right. "Today is a day of celebration for so many people," Renzi wrote on his Facebook page ahead of the vote.

"We are writing another important page of the Italy we want... it was no longer acceptable to have any more delays after years of failed attempts." The government used the same confidence vote tactic to get the bill approved by the upper house Senate in February, but only after the original text had been diluted to appease opponents threatening to scupper it altogether.

A draft article that would have granted gay couples the right to adopt their partners' biological children was dropped. While adoption will not be ruled out entirely, family judges will decide on a case-by-case basis.

'A bittersweet victory'

In the face of concern that civil unions would be too similar to marriage, references to a need for faithfulness were also removed. Gay couples will be able to take each other's names and inherit each other's residual pension rights, but critics say the new rules fall short of legal protection offered to same-sex couples in other European countries, Canada and the United

States. "For Italian homosexuals and all those who support civil rights, it's a bitter-sweet victory," said Claudio Rossi Marcelli, a commentator for Internazionale magazine, who lives with his husband and children in Denmark. "The glass is half full," Gabriele Piazzoni, national secretary of the Arcigay organisation, said in a statement. "The text contains the recognition and protection many gays and lesbians have been waiting for all their lives... (but) everything this law has failed to guarantee leaves a bitter taste."

Several previous attempts to legalise civil unions in Italy have foundered, often due to opposition orchestrated by the Catholic church. In 2007, a mass protest led the centre-left government of Romano Prodi to drop a much less ambitious civil union project-and the failure of the bill was cited as one of the causes behind the fall of his government in early 2008. The current bill risked running aground over the adoption clause, with critics insisting it would open the door to surrogacy, which is illegal under Italian law. Renzi's Interior Minister Angelino Alfano was among the most fervent opponents of providing a legal framework for surrogacy, saying in January the use of paid surrogate mothers should be treated like a sex crime.

At the same time, the centre-left premier faced pressure to get a bill onto the statute book from the European Court of Human Rights. Judges at the court ruled last year that Italy had breached its commitments under the European Convention on Human Rights by denying gay couples legal unions.

Opinion polls suggest Italian public opinion has moved decisively in favour of civil unions in recent years but that a majority of voters remains opposed to extending equal adoption rights to gay couples. The decision to use a confidence vote to push the bill through angered the Church, with Nunzio Galantino, secretary general of the Italian Bishops' conference, describing it as "a defeat for everyone." — AFP



ROME: This file photo taken on January 28, 2016 shows supporters of same-sex civil unions holding a banner reading "It's time to be civil, wake up Italy make the first step towards equality" as they demonstrate in Rome's Piazza delle cinque Lune. — AFP

'SOCIAL FRIDGES' OPEN FOR POOR IN ARGENTINA AS POVERTY RISES

SCHEME ADOPTED FROM EUROPE'S ECONOMIC CRISIS

BUENOS AIRES: With hardship rising due to job cuts and inflation, Argentina has adopted a scheme from Europe's economic crisis: Putting food in outdoor "social fridges" for the needy. "I was sick of seeing how food got thrown away and then shortly afterwards people were foraging for it" in the trash, said Luis Pondal, a restaurant owner in the northern city of Tucuman. "I said to myself, 'Why not give it to them with dignity?'"

So-called social or solidarity fridges, where people leave food for those who need it, popped up in countries such as Spain and Germany in recent years during the recession in Europe. Now the trend has spread to Argentina, one of Latin America's richer nations. Pondal launched his fridge in February and says there are now at least 50 others around the country. In one case, a vet even set up a fridge for pets, he said.

Eating 'too expensive'

With its countless fields and livestock, Argentina is one of the world's biggest food producers. But with inflation close to 40 percent, domestic prices are soaring and Argentines are finding their salary is not enough to buy the food they need.

"It is not just beggars going through the rubbish for a piece of bread or a few vegetables. You also see well-dressed people doing it-people who apparently have jobs," said Pondal. "Eating has become too expensive." Researchers at the country's Catholic University estimated in a study that 1.4 million people fell into poverty in the first three months after Conservative President Mauricio Macri took office on December 10. It said 34.5 percent of the nation's 40 million people are living below the poverty line.

The fridges typically stand on the sidewalk outside restaurants. One is plugged in and operating in the central Plaza de Mayo square in Buenos Aires, in front of the presidential palace. "Take what you need," reads a sign. Out in the open air during the day and shut up in a wooden cabin at night, the fridge is run by the charity Red Solidaria. Local restaurants provide ready-made meals to stash in it.

Every Friday, a traditional soup kitchen is set up alongside the fridge. "The idea is for people not to look like they're begging," said Gabriel Schneider, coordinator of that project. "They can come and take food without anyone handing it to them. It is a notion of solidarity that aims to make those in need feel more dignified."

'Zero poverty' goal

Macri promised to achieve "zero poverty" over the long-term when he took office. He set out to reverse 12 years of leftist policies by his predecessors, vowing that his reforms will strengthen the economy in the long run. Macri blames the high inflation on the policies of his leftist predecessor Cristina Kirchner and vowed to bring it down. He has lifted foreign trade and currency restrictions, raised utility prices and cut public sector jobs. Labor unions say 140,000 people have lost their jobs since Macri took office.

Maria Belen Aragon said she ran several "social fridges" in the northern region of Salta. "In Salta there are people who take the bus to get to the fridges and pick up food," she says. "There is a lot of need for them." In Buenos Aires, where she has now opened a restaurant, she worries that such fridges would be shut down by health inspectors. So she is handing out food parcels instead.

Although Argentina set up a national food bank during an economic crisis in 2001, many charities say they cannot run food projects

because of a lack of regulations to authorize them. A so-called Good Samaritan Law to regulate food donations ground to a halt in the legislature in 2005. In the central city of Cordoba, however, local lawmakers are proposing tax

breaks and regulations for restaurants to set up social fridges. "It was an idea based on common sense and also on guilt," Pondal said of the initiative. "The feeling of outrage that in a country of such plenty, there can be such need." — AFP



BRUSSELS: Vincent Spronck, the director of Forest prison, leaves after a meeting between the French-speaking prison directors and the Minister of Justice during the general strike of the prison wardens. — AFP

BELGIAN PRISONS LIKE 'NORTH KOREA' AS STAFF STRIKE CRISIS CONTINUES

FOREST: Belgium faces a growing crisis in its prisons, with the army called in to help and inmates stuck in their cells 24 hours a day as the government struggles to end a strike by prison staff. "The situation has become unbearable, there is a lot of tension inside," said Vincent Spronck, the governor of Forest prison on the outskirts of the capital Brussels.

"The inmates can't go out, they are stuck in their cells all day, they aren't getting fresh air, the bedsheets aren't getting changed, they are not allowed any visits," he told journalists on Tuesday. "We have to find a solution to this crisis." The unprecedented strike is now in its third week and the government of Prime Minister Charles Michel is facing growing criticism at home and abroad for failing to get a grip on the problem. The crisis has also put the spotlight back on Belgium's ability to govern itself in the face of deep communal and linguistic divisions, after criticism of the country's actions before and after the March 22 Brussels attacks. Violence has broken out in many of the 17 prisons affected by the strike in the French-speaking region of Wallonia and mainly francophone Brussels as inmates become increasingly frustrated. "The situation is nearly insurmountable" in some of the prisons, said lawyer Alexis Deswaef, president of Belgium's Human Rights League, adding that "detention conditions have become completely inhuman."

'Like Russia or North Korea'

Fights have begun between prisoners deprived of exercise and visits from family, while furniture has been smashed and fires have been started, Deswaef said. Over the weekend, prison wardens rejected a draft agreement between Justice Minister Koen Geens and their unions aimed at ending the strike which began over staffing cuts.

As a result Belgium has been forced to call in six platoons of up to 30 soldiers each to help out, with three of them already deployed at three of the worst-hit prisons, including Forest.

The decision to call in the army is controversial. "It looks like the blackest days of eastern Europe or like present-day Russia or North Korea," said Marc Dizier, president of the Association of Francophone Prisons. Deswaef, the rights advocate, added: "This sets a dangerous precedent, to use the army to sort out a social issue." Dozens of striking workers gathered outside Forest prison on Tuesday to call on the government to resolve the row.

Olivier Masset, a delegate for the CGSP union at Forest, said it was "totally irresponsible to let the military with their pepper spray and batons" into prisons when the situation was already tense. The crisis has set Belgium soul-searching again about its failure to tackle long-standing divisions between the Flemish and French-speaking communities which frequently paralyse official business.

"Is there nothing in our country that works as it should any more?" Belgium's Flemish-language newspaper Het Laatste Nieuws said in a blistering editorial this week. It recalled the recent "Belgium-bashing" in the international press over the institutional failures by the police, justice and intelligence services that let the jihadists behind both the Brussels attacks and last November's Paris massacre slip through the net. Belgium's prisons have also faced scrutiny for being breeding grounds for extremism with several people involved in recent terror plots having allegedly been radicalised while in jail. The strike in French-speaking Belgium has been viewed with incomprehension in richer Flanders, where prisons are in a far better condition than in the poorer Wallonia.

The Council of Europe in March ranked Belgium as second in Europe after Hungary for overcrowded prisons-at 129 inmates for every 100 places available-with the problem being worse in Wallonia than in Flanders to the north. The rights body's anti-torture committee in recent days made an ad-hoc visit to look at some of the prisons affected and will provide a report to Belgian authorities soon. — AFP



BUENOS AIRES: Maria Belen Aragon loads with food her so called "social fridge" at her restaurant in Buenos Aires on April 28, 2016 to feed poor and homeless people. — AFP

CATTLE RUSTLING CRACKDOWN FUELS KIDNAPPING SPREE IN NORTH NIGERIA

KANO: Abdulaziz Umar thought he was going to be robbed when about 16 armed men on motorcycles dragged him from his car as he drove to Nigeria's capital, Abuja, from the northern city of Kaduna. It was only when he was taken into the bush that he realized he'd been kidnapped. He was released 12 days later after his family agreed to pay a one-million-naira (\$5,000, 4,400-euro) ransom.

Umar, 37, considers himself lucky. The kidnapers, who operated from thatched huts in the thick vegetation of the forest with machine guns for security, initially demanded \$25,000. "They're never hostile to their victims but they won't think twice about shooting you dead once they are sure they're not going to get any payment from your family," he told AFP. Kidnapping for ransom has been a longstanding problem in Nigeria's oil-rich south, where criminal gangs target the wealthy and expatriate workers. But the problem has now spread to the north, normally associated with Boko Haram's Islamist insurgency which has killed at least 20,000 people and made more than 2.6 million homeless since 2009.

Security personnel say the kidnapers' camps dot connecting forests between the northern and northwestern states of Kaduna, Katsina, Kano, Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara and Niger. Kidnappings have increased since the middle of last year and more than 200 people are believed to have been abducted since January, said a senior police source. "This is only a fraction of the true number of abductions because many cases are never reported," said the officer, who is involved in tackling the issue.

Fall-out

Nigeria's federal police in early April declared a state of emergency in Kaduna following the murder of an army colonel who was kidnapped from Kaduna. Vigilante groups sprung up to spot potential kidnapers, and villagers in the southern part of Kano state, near the Falgore Game

Reserve, began leaving in droves to avoid the threat. The authorities in the north and many victims blame nomadic Fulani tribesmen. Armed bandits have regularly attacked Fulani settlements in the region, stealing cattle, setting fire to homes and raping women, prompting the herders to move south and across the border.

In response, young Fulani men have become involved in cross-border rustling and armed robbery syndicates in West Africa, according to the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN), the umbrella body of Fulani herders in Nigeria. They have turned on their kinsmen for not helping them out during decades of conflict between herders and farmers over grazing and watering rights, which led to loss of their entire herds, creating poverty, said MACBAN national secretary Saleh Bayeri.

In July 2015, the seven state governments formed joint military and police squads, raiding hideouts that led to the recovery of stolen herds. But that prompted a change in direction. "The issue of kidnapping... is a fall-out of the fight against (cattle) rustling," Katsina state governor Aminu Bello Masari said in January. "The culprits may have decided to go into kidnapping since they have been blocked from stealing cattle."

Emmanuel Dziggau, a Pentecostal Christian priest, was kidnapped with two colleagues in March from a church property on the outskirts of Kaduna. He was held for nine days and said he was in no doubt his abductors were Fulani "from their accent". But Fulani herders themselves are still the most targeted of the kidnapers, said Aliyu Harazimi, the local chief of Doguwa district near the Falgore reserve, where more than 100 people, including women and children, have been seized since February. "Instead of stealing cattle, the rustlers either kidnap a member of the herding family and demand ransom or send a letter asking for protection money, which is always huge," he said. — AFP

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THAILAND FACES 'MOMENT OF SHAME' AT UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL REVIEW

BANGKOK: Thailand faces a "moment of shame" when the UN Human Rights Council reviews its rights record yesterday, a rights group said, amid fresh arrests of online critics accused of criticizing the junta. The crackdown comes as Thailand's military government prepares to put a widely criticized military-written constitution to the public in August.

The military seized power in a May 2014 coup saying it had to end a bitter cycle of political unrest that had rocked Thailand since 2006 when the army ousted former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Rights groups say the junta has tightened its grip on power and severely repressed rights in the past

year. It has jailed critics, introduced new laws aimed at curbing freedom of speech, censored the media and restricted political debate.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a cyclical review of the human rights record of the 193 United Nations member states. Thailand, which was last reviewed in 2011, is one of 14 countries being questioned by the UPR working group in the current session, which ends on Friday.

"It will be a moment of shame for the Thai government at a major international forum where Thailand once was honored and respected," Sunai Phasuk, Thailand researcher for Human Rights

Watch, told Reuters. "I hope it will send a clear message back to Bangkok that they immediately have to reverse their course."

Colonel Winthai Suvaree, a spokesman for the junta, said it wants the Thai delegation to "tell the truth about what is happening in Thailand". On April 27, troops arrested eight activists over Facebook comments critical of the junta and the draft constitution. The eight were released on bail on Tuesday.

Two of the eight face separate charges of royal insult. They were charged yesterday with insulting the revered monarchy in private Facebook messages, the latest in a growing num-

ber of royal insult charges under the junta. "We have additionally charged them with royal defamation and computer crimes," Police Lieutenant Colonel Chaiporn Nittayapat, who is in charge of the case, told Reuters.

Issues raised in documents seen by Reuters submitted to the UN by rights groups and UN member countries include the expansion of internal policing powers for the military and the use of military courts to try critics. More than a decade of political strife has seen at times violent street protests by both Thaksin's supporters and their opponents. — Reuters

'FLESH BANQUETS' OF CHINA'S REVOLUTION STILL UNSPOKEN

WUXUAN: At the height of the frenzy of China's Cultural Revolution, victims were eaten at macabre "flesh banquets"; but 50 years after the turmoil began, the Communist Party is suppressing remembrance and historical reckoning of the era and its excesses.

Launched by Mao in 1966 to topple his political enemies after the failure of the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution saw a decade of violence and destruction nationwide as party-led class conflict devolved into social chaos. Teenaged Red Guards beat teachers to death for being "counter-revolutionaries" and family members denounced one another while factions clashed bitterly for control across the country. But the Communist Party—which long ago decided that Mao was "70 percent right and 30 percent wrong"—does not allow full discussion of events and responsibility.

Some of the worst excesses happened in Wuxuan, in the far southern region of Guangxi, where the hearts, livers and genitals of victims were cut out and fed to revelers. Now, five decades after the declaration of the Cultural Revolution on May 16, the town has frozen yoghurt shops, men fish a river beneath mossy limestone karsts, and red banners hang from trees proclaiming the ruling party's dedication to the people.

Some residents say they have never heard of the dozens of acts of cannibalism, motivated by political hatred rather than hunger, that once stained the streets with blood. At least 38 people were eaten in Wuxuan, a high-ranking member of an early 1980s official investigation told AFP, asking not to be named for fear of repercussions. "All the cannibalism was due to class struggle being whipped up, and was used to express a kind of hatred," he said. "The murder was ghastly, worse than beasts."

'No meaning'

Scholars say the violence resulted from Wuxuan's remote location, the ruthless regional Communist leader, poverty and bitter factionalism. "In 10 years of catastrophe, Guangxi not only saw numerous deaths, they were also of appalling cruelty and viciousness," the retired cadre wrote in an unpublished manuscript seen by AFP.

"There were beheadings, beatings, live burials, stoning, drowning, boiling, group slaughters, disemboweling, digging out hearts, livers, genitals, slicing off flesh, blowing up with dynamite, and more, with no method unused." In 1968 a geography instructor named Wu Shufang was beaten to death by students at Wuxuan Middle School. The body was carried to the flat stones of the Qian River where another teacher was forced at gunpoint to rip out the heart and liver. Back at the school the pupils barbecued and consumed the organs.

Today the institution has been relocated and rebuilt, and current students shook their heads when asked if they were aware of what happened. Residents of the old

town say they do not know the history or meet questions with silence. The few willing to discuss the violence say memories are fading and the town is eager to escape its past. "Cannibalism? I was here then, I went through it," a man named Luo told AFP. But Wuxuan has developed rapidly in recent years and now, he said, that history "has no meaning".

Breaking the silence

"This was not cannibalism because of economic difficulties, like during famine," XL Ding, a Cultural Revolution expert at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, told AFP. "It was not caused by economic reasons, it was caused by political events, political hatred, political ideologies, political rituals."

For 15 years, rumours of the carnage in Guangxi—which one official estimated left as many as 150,000 people dead—rippled across China, and eventually authorities sent a group to investigate. The report was never released publicly. The outside world only learned of the slaughter when journalist Zheng Yi smuggled documents out of China after the 1989 Tiananmen Square killings and published his book "Scarlet Memorial"—banned on the mainland.

More recently a senior inquiry team member has sought to spread awareness in China, but his efforts have been suppressed, he said. The cadre once wrote an article for a small-circulation liberal Chinese magazine, describing the investigation findings, and saying tens of thousands died, with more than 100 people taking part in cannibalism.

Retired regional officials responded with a written denunciation sent to top Communist bodies, accusing him of falsifying facts and demanding he submit a self-criticism, rectify his errors, and apologies personally. "They said I was anti-party, anti-socialist, anti-Mao Zedong Thought," he said. In recent months he took a manuscript to a publisher, but refused to cut some passages. "Before I retired I didn't dare say 'no' to the Party," he said.

Suppressed history

Nowadays government control over the media and public opinion is tightening, said the cadre: "It's absolutely clear, that to establish their own authority, they control public opinion." No official commemorations of the anniversary are expected.

Academic Ding said the Communist Party fears recalling the officially-sanctioned chaos and violence could undermine its legitimacy. "The more you talk about such things, the more current CCP leaders are worried," he said. The suppression of knowledge and discussion worries author Zheng, who is now a dissident living in the United States. He told AFP: "Because the government has never permitted a deep examination of history, it's impossible to say that lessons have been learned." — AFP



DAVAO CITY: A resident stays in the shade behind a campaign billboard of leading presidential candidate Mayor Rodrigo Duterte along a boulevard at his hometown. — AP

DUTERTE SET FOR WILD FOREIGN POLICY RIDE

THRILLING SUPPORTERS BUT OUTRAGING CRITICS

MANILA: After proposing a jet-ski mission to defend remote islands against China, daring the United States to sever ties and joking about burning Singapore's flag, Rodrigo Duterte is set for a wild foreign policy ride as the next Philippine president.

The firebrand politician stormed to victory in national elections this week using an incendiary brand of populism and nationalism that his aides insist he will moderate once he has the keys to the presidential palace on June 30. Duterte angrily told the US and Australian ambassadors to "shut their mouths" after they criticized a joke he made about rape.

The 71-year-old offered no apologies when asked by AFP on election night for a message to members of the international diplomatic community who may be concerned. "It is not to contribute to the comfort of other nations. I have to make the Filipino comfortable first before I give you comfort, outside my country," he said.

Duterte, the long-time mayor of southern Davao city, thrilled his supporters but outraged his critics with a series of diplomatic firebombs on the campaign trail. While his insults caused gasps in various capitals, his foray into a delicate maritime dispute with China-involving many nations but with the Philippines a key player—may have the most far-reaching impact. Playing to nationalist sentiment, Duterte vowed to ride a jet ski to plant a Philippine flag on remote South China Sea islands, where Beijing is accused of using bully-boy tactics to intimidate smaller nations with rival claims.

But he also signaled a potentially significant reversal of government policy, saying he would be prepared to hold direct talks with China on the issue—potentially shattering the united front of

claimant nations backed by the United States.

"By the Philippines breaking ranks over this issue, it might affect... efforts to fend off China's intrusion. There is a need to be united over this issue," said Faisal Syam Hazis, head of the Centre for Asia Studies at the National University of Malaysia.

Insults fly

Other foreign policy stumbles sprang from Duterte's no-holds-barred election pitch. At one rally he recounted how he had personally killed inmates who had staged a 1989 Davao prison riot. But he also said that in the aftermath of the riot he discovered that an Australian missionary had been raped and murdered.

"I was mad she was raped. But she was so beautiful. I thought: 'The mayor should have been first,'" said Duterte, who on the campaign trail also repeatedly boasted about his mistresses and sexual prowess. The Australian and US ambassadors criticized the comments, triggering a furious reaction from the contender, who told them not to interfere and raised the prospect of cutting diplomatic ties. Duterte also enraged Singapore when he said at a rally he would burn its flag in reaction to its embassy disavowing a hoax statement which purportedly said it endorsed him.

A different Duterte?

Diplomats can expect a different Duterte when he becomes president, according to his spokesman, Peter Lavina. "You have to understand the Philippine style of elections. The context is most of our politicians need to communicate to our audience so many of our politicians sing and dance," Lavina told reporters on Tuesday when explaining

that the Singapore flag burning remark was a joke.

"Some make jokes, some make funny faces. Some dress outrageously. So it is all in this context that all these jokes, bantering, happen during the campaign. We don't expect the same attitude of our officials thereafter." Lavina acknowledged there were "problems" with the US, Australian and particularly the Singaporean embassies.

"We need to send out personal envoys to open lines of communication and express openness to cooperate," he said. However on election night Duterte appeared to still be in campaign mode when asked if he would seek to fix ties with the United States and Australia. "I will not mend," he said. "It is up to them if they want to mend their ways."

China thaw?

In China, at least, his foreign policy platform has been welcomed—despite the jet ski jibe. Relations went into deep freeze during the current administration of President Benigno Aquino due to the maritime dispute which has seen Washington send warships close to the islands.

"The United States will be concerned if, in the new regime, they have a leader that is more willing to negotiate some of the... red lines that are shaping up around the South China Sea disputes," said Ashley Townsend from the University of Sydney.

The Communist Party-backed Global Times yesterday sounded a hopeful note. "He opposes the idea of going to war with China, wants direct negotiation with Beijing about the South China Sea, and doesn't believe in solving the conflict through an international tribunal," it said. "If there is anything that can be changed by Duterte, it will be diplomacy." — AFP



BEIJING: This file photo taken in June 1966 shows Red Guards, high school and university students, waving copies of Chairman Mao Zedong's "Little Red Book" as they parade in Beijing's streets at the beginning of the "Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution". — AFP

DO BLUNDERS MEAN S KOREA'S SPYING APPARATUS IS BROKEN?

SEOUL: When it comes to spying on North Korea, rival South Korea seems to be wrong almost as much as it's right. Seoul's intelligence agents get battered in the press and by lawmakers for their gaffes, including one regarding Ri Yong Gil, the former head of North Korea's military. Officials in Seoul's National Intelligence Service, the country's main spy agency, reportedly said Ri had been executed, but at this month's ruling-party congress, he was seen not only alive but also in possession of several new titles.

While spying on perhaps the world's most cloistered, suspicious, difficult-to-read country is no easy task, repeated blunders raise questions about whether South Korea's multibillion-dollar spying apparatus is broken.

Knowing what's happening in North

Korea is crucial for the South, whose capital city, Seoul, is within easy striking range of thousands of North Korean missiles bristling along the world's most heavily armed border. But it's also important for the United States and Japan, who rely in part on South Korean spies for details about the North and its push for nuclear-armed missiles.

There's no single answer for what's going wrong, but the mistakes have been linked to the closed nature of North Korea, the way information is verified and disseminated, and agents' alleged penchant for playing politics and for choosing face-saving over gathering solid information. Internal South Korean politics and the near-constant state of animosity between the Koreas also play a part. — AP

JAPAN HAPPY OBAMA TO VISIT HIROSHIMA, APOLOGY OR NOT

TOKYO: Japanese are welcoming President Barack Obama's decision to visit the atomic-bombed city of Hiroshima, and those interviewed yesterday said they aren't seeking an apology. Even those who want one realize that such a demand would have ruled out a US presidential visit.

"Of course everyone wants to hear an apology. Our families were killed," said Hiroshi Shimizu, general secretary of the Hiroshima Confederation of A-Bomb Sufferers Organizations. "However, by setting conditions we limit world leaders from visiting, so we decided to eliminate that," he said in Tokyo. "We would first like for them to come and stand on the grounds of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and take a good look at what is in front of them and give it good thought." The American and Japanese governments announced Tuesday that Obama would become the first sitting American president to visit Hiroshima, a city almost entirely destroyed by a U.S. atomic bomb on Aug. 6, 1945. Some 140,000 people were killed, and others have endured after-effects to this day.

The US dropped a second devastating atomic bomb on the city of Nagasaki three days later. Japan announced it would surrender on Aug. 15, 1945, ending World War II. Obama will visit Hiroshima with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on May 27, after attending the annual Group of Seven summit in Japan.

"I don't live in Hiroshima or Nagasaki, but I am overcome with emotion when I think that someone who wants to offer understanding is finally about to arrive," said Mieko Mori, a 74-year-old woman who stopped at a memorial in Tokyo to pray for the victims. A poll released this week by national broadcaster NHK found that 70 percent of

Japanese want Obama to visit Hiroshima, and only 2 percent were opposed.

Divided America

The visit is contentious in the US, where many believe the atomic bombs hastened the end of the war, saving countless other lives. The White House went out its way to stress Obama will not apologize. Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes said Obama would "not revisit the decision to use the

atomic bomb," and instead spotlight the toll of war and offer a forward-looking vision of a non-nuclear world. "I hear America is still divided over atomic bombings, but it's been almost 71 years since the war ended, and I think it's about time Obama should be able to visit Hiroshima," said Kohachiro Hayashi, who was reading a newspaper at a Tokyo park. "He wouldn't have been able to come in the middle of his term, but now it's almost the end, so it's like now or never," the retired teacher said. — AP



TOKYO: Mieko Mori prays in front of the Flame of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a memorial monument for A-bomb victims where the flames collected from the ruins in the two cities since dropping of atomic bombs in 1945 have been kept burning at Ueno Park. — AP

HIGH-TECH DEVICES TAKE CHEATING TO NEW...

Continued from Page 1

Cheating is a marked aberration in the list of good behavior expected of Thais. From a young age, Thais are taught to be polite, tolerant, respectful and to avoid confrontation. But educators say cheating has flourished because of an education system that makes exam scores the only criterion for assessing a student's ability and granting admission into places of higher learning.

The three students caught red-handed have been blacklisted by the university and will not be allowed to take the replacement exams on May 31 and June 1. It was an elaborate scheme. Three agents posing as students photographed the question sheets with tiny cameras embedded in their eyeglasses. They left the room after the mandatory 45 minute lock-in period and transferred the pictures to a laptop manned by another person. That person transmitted the images to one or more private tutorial institutes where the three students were enrolled. Exam answers were then electronically transmitted to the smartwatches worn by the women, still in the examination room.

Test supervisors were alerted after the first watch was

seized during the Saturday morning session, the second was found on the same day in the afternoon session. The third watch and two glasses were seized Sunday. Kittisak said the three students purchased 100 percent-guaranteed admittance packages from the private tutorial institutes for 800,000 baht (\$23,000).

Cheating is so rampant that schools have tried to find creative ways to combat it. Chulalongkorn University installed overhead cameras in some of its examination rooms, while in 2013 Kasetsart University created anti-cheating hats made from stapling two A4 paper sheets to a headband to resemble blinders worn by horses.

Rangsit's president, Dr Arthit Ourairat, posted pictures of the electronic devices on his Facebook page, getting nationwide attention from the media and the public. "If you can't take responsibility for your own life, you don't deserve to become a doctor, which is a career that has to take responsibility for others' lives," wrote Namstok Punika, a Facebook user in response to Ourairat's pictures. One student's parents met with university officials. The father said he didn't know anything about the cheating, said Kittisak. "But then how would a high school student be able to pay 800,000 baht on their own?" — AP

'EMPTY QUARTER' FULL OF SAUDI OIL FIRM'S HOPES

Continued from Page 1

officials say will be the world's largest-ever share offering, while transforming Saudi Aramco into "a global industrial conglomerate".

At Shaybah, near the United Arab Emirates, hundreds of kilometres southeast of Saudi Aramco's headquarters at Dhahran, that transformation was on display to foreign journalists invited for a rare tour. Their shift finished, workers in hardhats and blue overalls walk out from a complex of pipes, stacks and holding tanks at Shaybah's plant for Natural Gas Liquids as the sun drops behind.

Products of the plant, opened late last year, include propane and butane recovered from natural gas and used in petrochemical production, a focus of Saudi Aramco's move away from simple oil extraction. By 2020 the company says it will have tripled its gas processing capacity from levels at the turn of the century. "Our gas program is expanding significantly," Saudi Aramco president Amin al-Nasser said in Dhahran.

The company says gas will help reduce the amount of oil the kingdom uses for electricity. It is also an ingredient for other industries, aiding diversification, while being more environmentally friendly than other fossil fuels - all goals of the Vision 2030 plan.

More oil is also being pulled from rocks in a field of more than 600 sq km below the soft Shaybah dunes. "We're going to one million (barrels per day) in two weeks," said Anwar Al-Hejazi, the production manager. That is an increase from Shaybah's current 750,000 barrels a day and only a part of Saudi Arabia's total daily output of more than 10 million barrels from inland and offshore fields. Saudi Aramco manages the world's second-largest crude oil reserves at 261.1 billion barrels, as well as 294 trillion standard cubic feet of natural gas reserves.

At Shaybah, drilling occurs underground at hundreds of wells controlled remotely by operators who receive data by satellite from tentacle-like probes exploring the rock. The

information appears as squiggly lines resembling an electrocardiogram on their computer consoles at a room like a small lecture hall in Dhahran. At a bigger control center, about half the length of a football pitch, the kingdom's entire hydrocarbon stock is monitored on multicolored floor-to-ceiling screens.

Dispatchers sit at several semi-circular stations monitoring flow and pressure data "to listen to the heartbeat of the system" and ensure its safety, said Abdullah Al-Mansour, manager of the Oil Supply Planning and Scheduling Centre. Along with graphs and other numerical displays, the screens show icons of tanker ships on an electronic calendar. The work is so sensitive and vital that cameras are forbidden and a smaller backup center has been readied elsewhere, Mansour said.

The center is located within a series of modern grey office buildings, around a pedestrian plaza, that include a research centre and a training facility for engineers and geoscientists. Among its tools is a three-dimensional theatre where trainees can virtually travel into the layers of oil, gas and water under the Shaybah sands. For Shaybah-based workers like Abdullah Al-Aiderous, Dhahran is a weekly refuge, reached by Saudi Aramco's own fleet of passenger planes flying into the company's private terminal.

Aiderous, a 31-year-old senior operations adviser, said living in Shaybah "basically reminds you of college life." He is among the 84 percent of the company's roughly 66,000 employees who are Saudi. Shihabuddin, the Shaybah-based engineer, said working in the desert outpost is not so hard, "except that you're far away from home. Beside that, everything is available here." Well, not exactly. Dhahran has "The Camp", home to 20,000 in what resembles suburban America with bungalows and parks. Unlike the rest of Saudi Arabia, Dhahran and other major Aramco facilities even have their own cinemas. At Shaybah, the best show is the sun setting behind the dunes in the quiet wilderness, before orange lights from the gas facility glow in the vast darkness around it. — AFP

94 DEAD IN TRIPLE IS CAR BOMBINGS IN BAGHDAD

Continued from Page 1

A total of around 150 people were wounded in the three bombings. IS issued an online statement claiming responsibility for all three attacks. It said they were carried out by suicide bombers, for whom they each provided a nom de guerre.

The UN's top envoy in Iraq, Jan Kubis, condemned the bloodshed. "These are cowardly terrorist attacks on civilians who have done nothing but going about their normal daily lives," he said. IS, which overran large areas in 2014, considers Shiites, who make up the majority of Iraq's population, to be heretics and often targets them with bombings. Government spokesman Saad Al-Hadithi went on state television hours after the Sadr City bombing and said that IS now only controls 14 percent of Iraq, down from 40 percent. But the jihadists have retained their ability to strike in the heart of Baghdad and other government-held areas with bomb attacks.

The months-old political crisis has led to repeated mass demonstrations that required a huge security deployment and hampered government action at a time when Iraq is still battling jihadists on several fronts.

Security forces are currently engaged in large-scale military operations in the provinces of Anbar and Nineveh as they close in on Fallujah and Mosul, IS's two major remaining hubs in Iraq. The United States and the United Nations have warned the political impasse could undermine the fight against IS.

Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi has sought to replace the cabinet of party-affiliated ministers with a government of technocrats, a move opposed by powerful parties that rely on control of ministries for patronage and funds. Angry demonstrators last month broke into central Baghdad's fortified Green Zone and stormed parliament after lawmakers again failed to approve new ministers. While the protesters withdrew the following day, parliament has still yet to hold another session.

Zainab Al-Tai, a lawmaker from Sadr's political movement, said the most recent efforts to resume the parliamentary process were still floundering yesterday. "Some disagreements remain, there is no session and we have yet to set a date for the next session," she told AFP. "Parliament is divided in three groups... I don't think we can reach a result, the decision will be in the hands of the people," she added. — AFP



Two cyclists drive through a lane flanked by small trees in Frankfurt yesterday. — AP

QUEEN AND CAMERON IN TWIN DIPLOMATIC...

Continued from Page 1

"Extraordinary!" The BBC said that the queen's comments were blanked out on BBC World transmissions in China. The British monarch never expresses overtly political views in public and is known for her discretion, never granting an interview in her 64-year reign. Her husband Prince Philip on the other hand is notorious for his gaffes and off-color jokes. He told a group of British students during a visit to China in 1986 that they would become "slitty-eyed" if they remained in the country.

Prince Charles has had a famously fraught relationship with China because of his friendship with the Dalai Lama and has yet to make an official visit to the country's mainland.

He referred to Chinese leaders as "appalling old wax-works" in a private journal entry about the Hong Kong handover ceremony in 1997. London and Beijing both hailed Xi's visit as a high watermark in Chinese-British relations at the time. A clutch of contracts said by Cameron to be worth almost £40 billion (\$58 billion) were announced during the visit.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang yesterday said the visit had been "very successful". "Both sides have high level recognition of that," he said. Foreign minister Philip Hammond, however, was quoted by British media as saying that the visit had been "a bit stressful". Buckingham Palace said it would not comment on the queen's private conversations.

Rana Mitter, director of Oxford University's China Centre, said the comments were unlikely to hamper ties and "a significant pushback" from Britain on security for

Xi's visit could have been expected. "I think the Chinese are extremely pragmatic on these sorts of things. There is a perception that the UK is an important enough trading and political partners that this sort of incident isn't going to get in the way," he said. "I suspect that Chinese officials are far more concerned about the prospect of Britain leaving the European Union than they are about the overheard comments of high-level figures," he said.

On Tuesday, Cameron was overheard at another Buckingham Palace event to mark the queen's birthday calling Nigeria and Afghanistan "possibly the two most corrupt countries in the world". He was filmed making the remarks to the queen and Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, ahead of an anti-corruption summit in London on Thursday where the Afghan and Nigerian presidents are expected. "We've got some leaders of some fantastically corrupt countries coming to Britain," the prime minister said. "Nigeria and Afghanistan, possibly the two most corrupt countries in the world," he added.

Welby, who worked as an oil executive in West Africa before joining the church and who has also undertaken conflict resolution work in Nigeria, noted that "this particular president is actually not corrupt". "He's really trying," Cameron agreed, and the queen noted to Welby: "He is trying, isn't he?" It was not clear to whom they were referring, but Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari and Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani are both due to attend the summit. In anti-bribery watchdog Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index for 2015, Afghanistan ranks 166th and Nigeria 136th out of 168 countries and territories. — AFP

NOD TO NATURALIZE 4,000 IN 2016

Continued from Page 1

MP Madhi Al-Hajeri said that many bedoons deserve to get Kuwaiti citizenship, especially those who fought wars as members of the Kuwaiti army, and those who worked in the oil sector or those who provided honorable services to Kuwait. The lawmaker said those who deserve should be naturalized and those who do not qualify must be allowed to lead a dignified life, adding that some officials in the government committee for bedoons improperly deal with them.

MP Saleh Ashour said the current law will not resolve the problem of bedoons, adding that those who think that the current government will resolve the issue are "dreaming". He said that in the past, dozens of similar laws were passed but failed to resolve the problem, "because we need the government to believe in resolving the problem". Ashour said that most of those who

were naturalized after the liberation in 1991 were not bedoons but people holding other nationalities who were close to influential people.

"There is a group in the country that is more powerful than the National Assembly and which does not want bedoons to be naturalized," he charged. Can the government naturalize the 32,000 bedoons whom the committee said qualify for citizenship? No, because this influential group is more powerful than the government," said Ashour.

But MP Abdullah Al-Turajji objected to naturalizing bedoons, saying that the Kuwaiti citizenship should not be given to "anyone". Liberal MP Faisal Al-Shaye said naturalization should be halted until new guidelines were worked out for the process. But the lawmaker stressed that the Assembly does not accept the inhumane treatment of bedoons. The Assembly also passed a law regulating government financial aid to local sport clubs.



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Focus

FAMILIES, FRIENDS
DIVIDED ON BRAZIL
POLITICAL CRISIS

By Maira Renou

Like Brazil itself, Dayse Lima's family is deeply split over the political freestorm threatening to force President Dilma Rousseff from power. Lima, a 54-year-old government worker and staunch Rousseff supporter, got so angry at her son Gustavo for bashing the president that she stopped speaking to him. Gustavo, a 27-year-old energy analyst who lived with his mother, then decided to leave home and move in with his girlfriend.

Brazil, a sprawling country of great diversity and huge inequalities, is a house divided as the Senate prepares to vote on impeaching Rousseff. And the vitriolic political debate has sometimes played out over kitchen tables and between friends. Often, the fights break out through the screen of a computer or cell phone, and that was how Dayse and Gustavo started their spat. "My son was making provocative comments on Facebook, so I unfriended him," Dayse said.

Dayse, who lives in a middle-class neighborhood in Rio de Janeiro and works at the National Nuclear Energy Commission, is a fierce defender of the progressive social programs rolled out by Rousseff's Workers' Party, which has governed Brazil for the past 13 years. Like the embattled president, she calls the impeachment proceedings a "coup".

'Intolerant Times'

Her son Gustavo claims no party, but says he likes the right-wing protest movement pushing to oust Rousseff and jail the corrupt politicians implicated in the swirling scandal at state oil company Petrobras. To his mother's ire, he has also posted comments on social media criticizing the Workers' Party for creating a "welfare culture" with its pro-poor programs. "It's been very hard to handle," said Dayse. After reaching a truce of sorts in the wake of their Facebook fight, she and Gustavo are on speaking terms again.

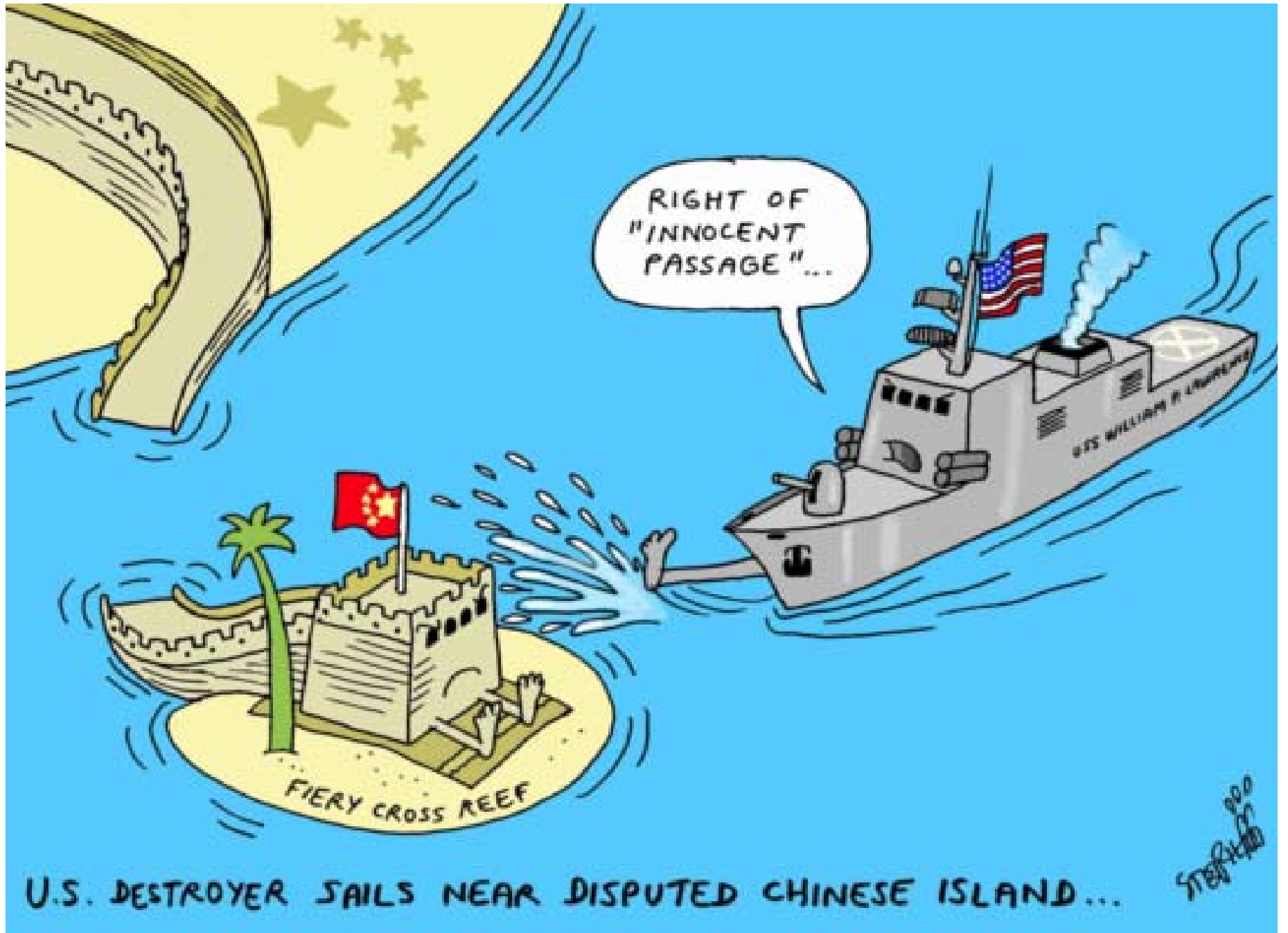
But the tension flares any time politics comes up. "He's more interested in disagreeing than contributing ideas. That's why we're all living through these intolerant times. I see that rivalry everywhere - at work, among friends and of course at home," Dayse said. Those divisions are repeated across the country. Pro- and anti-impeachment protesters have flooded the streets in recent months, and outside Congress police have set up a huge metal barricade to separate the rival camps during the Senate vote.

Less Football, More Politics

The tension has had a visceral effect on Dayse. She was so upset the day the lower house of Congress voted to impeach Rousseff, on April 17, that she broke out in a rash. She says social networks have only made things worse in Brazil, a highly connected country that has the third-most Facebook users in the world, after the United States and India. But Gustavo welcomes the heightened interest in politics in a nation where football is often the only topic capable of arousing such passion.

"There had never been such a large political debate in Brazil, and that is mainly driven by the increased reach of the media," he said. "But I've started trying to voice my opinions less on social networks, because you can't have a true political debate there. It just creates friction." Jose Antonio Martinuzzo, a political analyst and professor at the Federal University of Espirito Santo, said Brazil's "political polarization" online reflects its deeper divisions. "The attacks on social networks are the sign of a torn society, in which we try to destroy anything different," he said. Dayse and Gustavo agree on one thing: Neither places much faith in politics these days. But whether Rousseff is ousted or not, they may still be a long way from making peace. — AFP

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EGYPT ARRESTS SIGNAL NO-TOLERANCE POLICY

By Hamza Hendawi

Hours after marching in a peaceful protest against the government late last month, Yassin Mohammed and his friends were lingering in the area in a district of the Egyptian capital when police descended on them, piled them into a minibus and took them to a police station. There, he said, he was blindfolded, handcuffed and beaten by security agents.

Now the 21-year-old Mohammed, released on bail, faces trial on charges of breaking a 2013 law that virtually bans any street demonstrations. He knows how heavy the penalty can be. Two years ago, he was sentenced to a total of 17 years in prison for joining protests - and he said he nearly committed suicide in his cell out of despair until a fellow inmate stopped him. Mohammed is among those caught up in one of the biggest waves of arrests in the past two years in Egypt, a sweep that signals a fierce zero-tolerance stance by the government of President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi over any sign of unrest. The detentions were sparked by demonstrations against Sisi's decision last month to hand over two Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia, which galvanized activists who had been largely silenced by previous crackdowns.

But activists have been startled by the scope of the arrests and how little it takes to bring severe charges, including accusations of seeking to overthrow the government or fomenting terrorism, over demonstrations that gathered only a few hundred people. In just the last three weeks, human rights lawyers say nearly 1,300 were detained. Most of them have been released, but 277 have been formally charged and face trial, according to Mohammed Abdel-Aziz, a rights lawyer who has been tracking the arrests and is representing 20 of the detainees.

In recent speeches, Sisi has demanded that all criticism of the handover of the islands stop. He told a visiting US congressional delegation that human rights issues in Egypt should be not approached from a "Western perspective" because of the challenges it faces, including a fight with an Islamic militant insurgency. Sisi also increasingly repeats that Egypt faces existential threats from "evil forces" or "evil people" conspiring to push the country into chaos and bloodshed like Syria or Iraq, though he has never explained what these forces are.

"It is like an old dam and the state is worried that allowing one crack to open will unleash a flood. The regime has no solution except suppression," said rights lawyer Gamal Eid. Besides charges of violating the protest law, detainees often face other, broad and undefined charges, including spread-

ing propaganda that harms security and hurting or disrupting national unity, security or social peace.

Arrests

In recent days, police arrested five members of a satirical street performing group that produces videos on social media mocking Sisi. One of them, 19-year-old Ezzadeen Khaled, was detained Saturday and, though a court ordered his release on bail, was charged with inciting protests and posting videos containing foul language and insults directed at state institutions, according to his lawyer, Mahmoud Othman. The remaining four were arrested Monday and have been slapped with an even heavier charge of inciting terror attacks and protests.

A prominent rights lawyer, Malek Adly, who had filed a legal suit against the decision to hand the islands to the Saudis, was arrested last week and is under investigation for a range of allegations, including attempting to overthrow the government. Another rights advocate, Ahmed Abdullah, whose non-governmental group had been advising the family of an Italian student kidnapped, tortured and killed in Egypt earlier this year, was arrested last month and has been charged with a long list of accusations including membership in a terror group and inciting protests.

On April 25, when activists called for protests against the islands' handover, police appeared to sweep up any young men who they believed intended to join in or were just in the area of planned demonstrations. Abdel-Aziz said that among the 20 defendants he represents are young men who were detained just for being at the wrong place at the wrong time or because anti-government material was found stored on their mobile phones. Others, he told AP, were picked up from downtown Cairo cafes, a favorite hangout for secular activists.

Mohammed told the AP he and his two friends were detained well after the day's marches were dispersed. They were still in the area looking for other friends who were missing. Mohammed had previously been sentenced to a total of 17 years in prison in two separate cases for involvement in protests. A 15-year sentence handed down in one of the cases was reduced to three years in a retrial. He was then pardoned for that case last September, but his appeal against the remaining two-year sentence in the second case was rejected last month. So he now faces that prison term and a trial on the new arrest. "Nothing is really achieved by arresting me and others," he said. "It is the other side that is losing the love of the people when they arrest anyone they see." Another of those arrested said he and several friends were detained six hours before the protests were to start on April

25, when they arrived in the area. "We parked our car and started to walk looking for a place where we can eat breakfast. Five minutes later we were cordoned off by police and detained," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity to avoid further police retaliation. The 26-year-old said he was taken to a riot police base on the city's outskirts where he was interrogated and beaten. He was released on bail and faces charges that include seeking to overthrow the government. Sisi and government officials have argued that strict measures are necessary at a time when Egypt is battling Islamic militants based in Sinai and trying to repair an economy gutted by years of turmoil since the 2011 ouster of autocrat Hosni Mubarak. Hundreds of policemen and soldiers have been killed by the militants - most recently eight policemen gunned down this week in an attack on the southern outskirts of Cairo.

Vague Fears

Officials and the media also drum up vague fears of threats to the nation. Cairo airport officials often report the seizure of "spy" drones and secret cameras found hidden in the luggage of arriving foreigners, but there's never any further word on the "spies" or the nations behind them. Newspapers often speak of unidentified conspiracies and enemies. Hosts of political TV talk shows nightly engage in conspiracy theories complemented by incitement against government critics.

"Sadly, there is a significant level of social acceptance for these arrests because of the fear-mongering by Sisi and his loyalists in the media," Abdel-Aziz said. Sisi still appears to enjoy widespread public backing, though it has shown some erosion. The Egypt-based polling agency Baseera, one of the few that conducts polls in the country, said its latest survey in April showed 79 percent approve of Sisi's performance, though that was down from 85 percent in November. The poll surveyed 1,541 people above the age of 18 with a margin of error of 3 percent.

Since leading the army's July 2013 ouster of Islamist President Mohamed Morsi, Sisi has overseen what is possibly Egypt's biggest ever crackdown on opposition. Initially, and most bloodily, the crackdown targeted Islamists, arresting thousands and killing hundreds who protested demanding Morsi's reinstatement. But security forces have also crushed the ranks of secular young activists. Middle East analyst Michael W Hanna of New York's Century Foundation does not see anyone or any group currently in Egypt that is capable of seriously challenging Sisi's rule. "They are overreacting, of course, no question about it, in ways that are both strange and inappropriate," Hanna said. — AP

NORTH KOREA LOOKS BACK TO THE FUTURE

By Giles Hewitt

North Korea's first ruling party congress for nearly four decades proclaimed the formal start of the Kim Jong-Un era, but the event was more notable for nods to the past than promises for the future. Analysts looking for signs of substantive policy shifts or reforms under the young leader were given little to go on, as the 33-year-old Kim signalled few changes at home and a continued foreign policy of belligerent defiance backed by an expanding nuclear arsenal.

Widely seen as a formal coronation for Kim, who inherited power after the death of his father, Kim Jong-Il, in late 2011, the congress had always threatened to be more about spectacle than substance. But even the symbolic highlights were backward looking, with the final session of the four-day conclave on Monday appointing Kim to the post of party chairman. The "chairman" title was used by his grandfather, the country's revered founding leader Kim Il-Sung, during the 1950s and 60s - a relative golden period of rapid post-Korean War recovery and industrialization that saw the North's economy race ahead of the capitalist South's.

The young Kim bears a striking physical resemblance to his grandfather - a similarity he has played up in a clear attempt to co-opt the founder's legacy. During the congress, Kim sported a western-style suit and tie -

a look also favored on occasion by Kim Il-Sung, while Kim Jong-Il always opted for a so-called "Mao suit" buttoned to the neck for formal events.

Party Time Again

If the leader's new title and sartorial choices harked back to a previous era, so in one sense did the entire congress, which sealed a comeback - engineered by Kim Jong-Un - for a ruling party that had ceded significant political power to the military during his father's rule. "It's a return to the ruling structure of his grandfather, when the whole governing system was more functional," said Michael Madden, editor of North Korea Leadership Watch website. "It seems Kim Jong-Un is not only interested in looking like his grandfather, he also wants to govern in the same way," Madden said.

Elections to key party organizations at the congress saw a cut in the number of uniformed military officers in senior posts, and the downsizing of the party's central military commission. But the generational shift in the senior leadership that some analysts had predicted

never came about. "You have to remember that these systems move at a glacial pace," said Madden. "We were never going to see a bunch of 25-year-olds suddenly climbing on to the rostrum."

Policy Stagnation

On the policy front, the congress largely opted to reinforce the status quo, trumpeting the North's view of itself as a full-fledged nuclear weapons state and firmly endorsing the push to both improve and expand the country's nuclear arsenal. There were few signs of any economic reform, with Kim Jong-Un unveiling a new five-year plan that was short on detail but full of rhetorical ambition about boosting production.

"The pivot to the economy disappointed," said Stephan Haggard, a North Korea expert at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. "It showed a leadership still unable to clearly distinguish between grandiose objectives and showcase projects, and the less glamorous slog of incremental reforms," Haggard said. "If this congress sought to send any messages to the outside world ... the message was 'get used to us continuing to do what we have been doing'," he added.

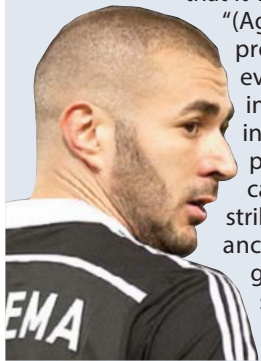
Political Theatre

The lack of policy innovation raises the question of what the congress - the first to be held since 1980 - was actually for. For some, it was essentially nothing more than a piece of political theatre, with Kim Jong-Un firmly front and centre stage for the duration. After more than four years in power characterised by purges, nuclear tests and missile launches, Kim has consolidated his position as North Korea's only leading man, and one who will remain top of the bill for the foreseeable future. "The congress was a purely political event for the leadership to justify itself," said Chang Yong-Seok, a senior researcher at the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies at Seoul National University. "It was all about idolizing Kim and demonstrating loyalty. In the end, that was really the only purpose," Chang said. — AFP



BENZEMA'S RETURN TO BOOST REAL MADRID AHEAD OF FINAL

VALENCIA: Karim Benzema is returning to full fitness at just the right time for Real Madrid, who will play Atletico Madrid in the Champions League final on May 28. Coach Zinedine Zidane was relieved to see the Frenchman come back from a hamstring problem and score in Sunday's 3-2 triumph over Valencia, a result that kept Real just a point behind Barcelona with one game to go in the race for the league title. "He's not been at 100 percent for a while. We've seen that it wasn't easy for him physically," Zidane told Real's website. "(Against Valencia) he coped with it well and without any problems. We've got two games left. He's getting better every day and he's not feeling any discomfort from his last injury." Benzema has missed 15 games this season through injury but has still scored 28 goals in 34 games in all competitions - close to his record of 31 goals in the 2011-12 campaign, the year Real last won La Liga. The 28-year-old striker has found the back of the net in 20 of his 34 appearances for Real in the 2015-16 campaign, scoring six more goals than last season. Cristiano Ronaldo is Real's leading scorer in the league with 33 goals. — Reuters



BILL BEAUMONT ELECTED WORLD RUGBY CHAIRMAN

DUBLIN: Former England captain Bill Beaumont was yesterday elected chairman of World Rugby and vowed to strengthen the game around the world and increase player protection. Beaumont, 64, succeeds Frenchman Bernard Lapasset and will work alongside new vice-chairman Agustín Pichot, the former Argentina captain. Both men, who stood unopposed, will officially take up their roles on July 1. "I am honored to accept the mandate of council to serve as World Rugby chairman at what is an exciting and pivotal time for the sport," Beaumont said in a World Rugby statement. Beaumont won 34 caps for England and captained his country to a Five Nations Grand Slam success in 1980. He also captained the British and Irish Lions, for whom he played seven times. After retiring, he carved out a career as a regular guest on British television quiz show 'A Question of Sport', before returning to rugby as an administrator. He is the Rugby Football Union and Six Nations Rugby chairman, was World Rugby vice-chairman from 2007 to 2012 and also served on the body's executive committee and the Rugby World Cup board.—AFP

DJILOBODJI UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR A THROAT-SLITTING GESTURE

BERLIN: Werder Bremen defender Papy Djilobodji is being investigated by state prosecutors for making a throat-slitting gesture during a Bundesliga game in March. The Senegal international was banned for two games and fined 15,000 euros (\$16,757) by the German FA for unsportsmanlike conduct after pulling his index finger across his throat in the direction of Mainz winger Pablo de Blasis during a league game. He has already apologized to De Blasis for making the gesture. But just three days before Bremen's crucial home match against fellow relegation candidates Eintracht Frankfurt, it has emerged the on-loan Chelsea player is being investigated by public prosecutors. "We're investigating a Werder player for threatening behaviour," senior public prosecutor Frank Passade told German daily Bild. Djilobodji has played 13 of Bremen's 16 league games in the second half of the season since joining Werder from Stamford Bridge in January. He has scored one goal and created another, while picking up six yellow cards in Germany's top flight. Bremen's director of sport Thomas Eichin says the club will deal with the legal implications after their final game of the season against Frankfurt on Saturday.— AFP



TEXAS: Texas Rangers left fielder Ian Desmond dives for a single by Chicago White Sox's Brett Lawrie that bounced up off the ground and hit him in the neck area during the eighth inning of a baseball game on Tuesday, May 10, 2016. — AP

CUBS DOWN PADRES FOR EIGHTH STRAIGHT WIN

CHICAGO: Ben Zobrist went 4 for 4, Addison Russell had three RBIs and the Chicago Cubs beat the San Diego Padres 8-7 on Tuesday night for their eighth straight win. Jon Lester (4-1) pitched six innings of three-run ball as Chicago improved to 25-6 for the best start by a major league team since the 1984 Detroit Tigers won 26 of their first 31 games. Kris Bryant drove in two runs and Jason Heyward scored twice, helping the Cubs open an 8 1/2-game lead over second-place Pittsburgh in the NL Central. Zobrist had run-scoring singles in the third and fourth against rookie Cesar Vargas (0-2). Zobrist also singled in the second and seventh, and scored in each inning on a hit by Russell. Alex Dickerson became the first player in Padres history with a pinch-hit grand slam for his first career homer, according to STATS, but San Diego lost its third consecutive game. Melvin Upton Jr. also went deep for the Padres.

TIGERS 5, NATIONALS 4

Andrew Romine drove in the tiebreaking run on a play that withstood a replay challenge under the new slide rule. Miguel Cabrera tacked on a pinch-hit RBI, and Detroit overcame Ryan Zimmerman's two homers to beat Washington and end a seven-game losing streak. Bryce Harper came up as the potential go-ahead run in the ninth, but closer Francisco Rodriguez intentionally walked the NL MVP to put two men on with one out for cleanup hitter Zimmerman. Rodriguez struck out Zimmerman swinging, then got .402-hitting Daniel Murphy to fly out for his eighth save. The Tigers trailed 3-2 before scoring three runs in the sixth off Joe Ross (3-2). Michael Fulmer

(2-1) went five innings in his third big league start, allowing three runs and seven hits.

YANKEES 10, ROYALS 7

Brett Gardner doubled home the tiebreaking run off Kelvin Herrera in the eighth inning, and New York overcame three home runs by Lorenzo Cain to beat reeling Kansas City. In a back-and-forth game, Kansas City rallied from deficits of 1-0, 5-3 and 7-6 as Cain tied his career high with five RBIs. Cheslor Cuthbert also homered for the Royals. An error by Gold Glove shortstop Alcides Escobar led to Gardner's RBI double off Herrera (0-1) for an 8-7 lead. Brian McCann added a two-run double. Aroldis Chapman, who returned from a 29-game domestic violence suspension on Monday, followed with a hitless ninth for his first Yankees save. New York (13-18) trailed 2-1, 3-2 and 6-5 before winning for the fourth time in five games. The Yankees are 13-3 when scoring three or more runs. World Series champion Kansas City has lost 11 of 14, dropping two games under .500 at 15-17. Cain hit a solo homer in the third and a three-run drive in the fifth, both off starter Masahiro Tanaka. Cain added a tying homer off Andrew Miller (2-0) leading off the eighth and became the seventh Royals player to hit three homers in a regular-season game.

DODGERS 3, METS 2

Pinch-hitter Trayce Thompson connected for a solo home run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Los Angeles a victory over New York. Thompson fought back from an 0-2 count against Hansel Robles (0-2) to get to 2-2 before homering into the left-

field pavilion, snapping the Dodgers' four-game skid against the Mets. Thompson's two-run drive accounted for the team's only runs in a 4-2 loss in the series opener Monday night. Kenley Jansen (1-0) worked a scoreless inning for the win. Chase Utley started against the Mets for the first time since the NL playoffs last year, when his takeout slide broke Ruben Tejada's leg. He went 1 for 4. Corey Seager had an RBI double for the Dodgers off Jacob deGrom, who went seven innings.

BREWERS 10, MARLINS 2

Jonathan Villar got two hits, stole two bases and scored twice, and Milwaukee won its rematch against Adam Conley by beating Miami. Conley (2-2) won when he held Milwaukee hitless for 7 2/3 shutout innings on April 29 before exiting because of a career-high pitch count. This time the young left-hander gave up seven hits and four runs in four innings, and the Brewers stole four bases against him. Ryan Braun had a pair of RBI singles. Aaron Hill added three hits, including a two-run double. Hernan Perez had two hits and two stolen bases. Zach Davies (1-3) allowed two runs in five innings and lowered his ERA to 6.29.

ORIOLES 5, TWINS 3

Adam Jones broke out of a long slump in a big way, delivering the go ahead, two-run single in the ninth inning after a towering homer in the fifth to lead Baltimore over skidding Minnesota. Manny Machado also went deep while going 3 for 3 with two walks to raise his batting average to .365, and Zach Britton earned his eighth save for the Orioles. Kevin Jepsen (2-4) intentionally walked Machado in the ninth to get to Jones, who made him pay. Trevor Plouffe homered and drove in three runs for the Twins, who have lost six straight. Chris Davis had three hits, and Darren O'Day (2-0) won in relief of Kevin Gausman.

RED SOX 13, ATHLETICS 5

Mookie Betts, Hanley Ramirez and Travis Shaw each homered and Boston continued its strong hitting with a victory over Oakland. The Red Sox had a season-high 16 hits. Jackie Bradley Jr. extended his major league-best hitting streak to 16 games as Boston won its third straight. Shaw tied his career-high with five RBIs. The Athletics lost their fourth consecutive game. First-inning home runs by Betts and Ramirez gave the Red Sox a 3-0 lead. Then the Red Sox followed that up with a five-run third inning to blow the game open. Sean O'Sullivan (1-0) got the victory in his first start with the Red Sox after signing a minor league contract in December. Oakland's Sean Manaea (0-1) had his second straight rough outing, giving up 10 hits and eight runs in 2 2/3 innings.

INDIANS 4, ASTROS 0

Trevor Bauer pitched seven scoreless innings and Bryan Shaw and Cody Allen completed the four-hitter to help Cleveland over Houston for its sixth victory in the past eight games. Bauer (3-0), who started the season in the bullpen, allowed three hits and struck out seven to extend his winning streak to a career-high three games. He's been dominant in his career against the Astros and entered the game 3-0 with a 0.90 ERA in three outings against Houston. Lonnie Chisenhall drove in a run with a double in Cleveland's two-run second inning. Jason Kipnis tripled in the eighth and scored on a single by Francisco Lindor as the Indians added two runs in the eighth. Houston rookie starter Chris Devenski (0-2) remains winless in nine career appearances after allowing five hits and two runs with five strikeouts in a career-high 6 2/3 innings.

PHILLIES 3, BRAVES 2

Adam Morgan allowed only one run in seven innings, Mikael Franco homered and Philadelphia extended Atlanta's home misery. Morgan (1-0) matched the longest start of his career, allowing four hits and one walk. Franco hit his seventh homer off Matt Wisler (1-3) to lead off the eighth. Freddie Freeman led off the ninth with his fifth homer off Phillies closer Jeanmar Gomez. Gomez gave up a two-out single to Kelly Johnson before ending the game on Reid Brignac's fly ball to center field for his 12th save. The Braves (7-24) own the majors' worst record and are 1-16 at Turner Field.

BLUE JAYS 4, GIANTS 0

Troy Tulowitzki homered and drove in three runs, JA Happ allowed five hits in 8 2/3 innings and Toronto beat San Francisco for its sixth victory in eight games. Happ (5-0) was one out from his first complete game since August 2010. He walked three and struck out five in beating the Giants for the first time in five starts. He also singled in the eighth. Roberto Osuna came on to walk Matt Duffy, loading the bases, before striking out Jarrett Parker for his eighth save. Matt Cain (0-5), winless in his last 14 starts dating to last year, gave up two runs and six hits over eight innings in his longest outing of the season. He did not walk a batter and struck out seven.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, ROCKIES 1

Rubby De La Rosa took a shutout into the eighth inning before running out of steam, Paul Goldschmidt homered and Arizona beat Colorado for its fifth straight victory. The hard-throwing De La Rosa (4-4) handcuffed the Rockies for 7 1/3 innings with a fastball that routinely hit 95 mph. He allowed four hits and struck out six. The only run he allowed was on a wild pitch. De La Rosa also drove in his first

run of the season with a sacrifice bunt as part of a four-run sixth that broke open the game. Chris Rusin (1-1) was cruising along until he unraveled in the sixth. He allowed four runs and 10 hits in 5 2/3 innings as the Rockies dropped their seventh straight game at Coors Field - their longest skid at home since 2012.

RANGERS 13, WHITE SOX 11

Ryan Rua hit a three-run homer to cap a seven-run rally in the eighth inning that carried Texas past Chicago. The White Sox led 11-6 before the Rangers broke loose. Pinch-hitter Mitch Moreland singled home a run, Adrian Beltre drove in another with a sacrifice fly and Ian Desmond hit a two-run triple before Rua's homer against Matt Albers (1-1). Winning pitcher Alex Claudio (1-0) went a career-high 4 1/3 innings. Shawn Tolleson pitched a perfect ninth for his 11th save in 13 opportunities. Rua also had two singles and four RBIs. Desmond and Bryan Holaday each homered and drove in three runs. Avisail Garcia and Todd Frazier each had three RBIs for Chicago in a game delayed 78 minutes by rain.

CARDINALS 8, ANGELS 1

Matt Carpenter homered twice, including a leadoff shot on the fifth pitch of the game, and St. Louis had nine extra-base hits in a rout of Los Angeles. Randal Grichuk and Matt Holliday also homered for the Cardinals, who finished one shy of their season high for extra-base hits. Mike Leake (1-3) took a shutout into the eighth inning for his first win with St. Louis after signing an \$80 million, five-year contract in the offseason. Hector Santiago (2-2) lasted 4 1/3 innings for the struggling Angels, who have lost four straight and eight of 10. He permitted seven hits - five for extra bases - and four runs in his shortest outing of the season.

MARINERS 6, RAYS 4

Franklin Gutierrez hit a two-run homer in the first inning, Dae-Ho Lee added a three-run shot in the fourth and Seattle beat Tampa Bay. The Mariners took the first two games of the three-game series and won for the 18th time in the past 25. This time it was thanks to home runs from an unlikely duo, both off Tampa Bay starter Drew Smyly. Steve Pearce hit a pair of solo homers and Steven Souza Jr. added a solo shot for the Rays. But those were the only costly mistakes made by Wade Miley (3-2), who allowed four hits over six-plus innings in winning his third straight decision. Tampa Bay had two runners on with two outs in the eighth, but Nelson Cruz made a sliding catch of Souza's fly ball down the right-field line to end the threat. Steve Cishek got four outs for his 11th save in 12 chances. Smyly (1-4) went five innings. He tied a career high with six runs allowed and gave up 10 hits.—AP

MLB Results/Standings

Detroit 5, Washington 4; NY Yankees 10, Kansas City 7; Milwaukee 10, Miami 2; Boston 13, Oakland 5; Philadelphia 3, Atlanta 2; Texas 13, Chicago White Sox 11; Chicago Cubs 8, San Diego 7; Baltimore 5, Minnesota 3; Cleveland 4, Houston 0; Arizona 5, Colorado 1; St. Louis 8, LA Angels 1; LA Dodgers 3, NY Mets 2; Seattle 6, Tampa Bay 4; Toronto 4, San Francisco 0.

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	19	12	.613	-	NY Mets	20	12	.625	-
Boston	20	13	.606	-	Washington	20	13	.606	0.5
Toronto	18	17	.514	3	Philadelphia	19	14	.576	1.5
Tampa Bay	15	16	.484	4	Miami	17	15	.531	3
NY Yankees	13	18	.419	6	Atlanta	7	24	.226	12.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Chicago White Sox	23	11	.676	-	Chicago Cubs	25	6	.806	-
Cleveland	16	14	.533	5	Pittsburgh	17	15	.531	8.5
Detroit	15	17	.469	7	St. Louis	17	16	.515	9
Kansas City	15	17	.469	7	Cincinnati	14	19	.424	12
Minnesota	8	24	.250	14	Milwaukee	14	19	.424	12
Western Division					Western Division				
Seattle	20	13	.606	-	LA Dodgers	17	16	.515	-
Texas	19	15	.559	1.5	Arizona	17	18	.486	1
Oakland	14	20	.412	6.5	San Francisco	17	18	.486	1
LA Angels	13	19	.406	6.5	Colorado	15	18	.455	2
Houston	13	21	.382	7.5	San Diego	13	20	.394	4



Santiago Cordero

ARGENTINA'S DUO PLAYING FOR RUGBY PLACES: COACH

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina backs Santiago Cordero and Matias Moroni, who thrilled fans at the 2015 World Cup in Britain, will be back at Twickenham this month looking to cement places in the new franchise's debut season in Super Rugby, have been drafted into the Pumas party for the last two legs of the world sevens circuit in Paris this week and London a week later, their final competition before the August Games. Coach Santiago Gomez Cora called the Olympics the ultimate sporting experience, and Argentina will be playing close to home, but he told Reuters it was not about simply taking seven top internationals to the Games and expecting to win a medal.

"Cordero and Moroni are players who can boost the team we've been building throughout the season so we think they can give us a nice leap in quality," the coach said in an interview after training. "But we want the competition (for places) to be fair. We know they play brilliantly but we ... want to see them," added Gomez Cora when asked how sevens regulars might feel about big-name players coming in to snatch Olympic places. "It was agreed last year with Pumas head coach Daniel Hourcade they would take part in the last two stages of the circuit ... to avoid switching back and forth from one code to the other.

"If they are chosen for the Games they will stay with us after the June (international) window," the 37-year-old Gomez Cora said, referring to the fact the pair may represent the 15-man Pumas against Italy and France in Argentina. Cordero and Moroni are quick and well suited to sevens, having played on the circuit before becoming established Pumas, but getting back into the shorter game will not be easy. "It's harder to move from the XV (game) to sevens ... because you feel lost in the physical aspect and the technical adjustments for not being there for the whole process," said Gomez Cora who captained Argentina to second place at the 2009 World Cup and

holds the sport's record of 230 tries.

High emotions

Going to the Games is an emotional experience for competitors and he had to rein in their excitement, Gomez Cora said. "The Olympics is everything but we must go step by step. It's so emotional that you have to be wary of clouding or distorting your vision," he explained. "I would wish every sportsman to be a part of an Olympic team, it's the ultimate and next to being a player, the closest one can get is as a trainer so I'm really grateful, I feel fortunate." (The 2015 Pan-American Games in Toronto was perfect with all the athletes in a modern village but now it will be multiplied by five continents and other greats, seeing top basketball players, golfers, (sprinter) Usain Bolt with his little tray next to you in the meal queue," said Gomez Cora.

"I'd be happy to stay there for two hours, you usually curse when a queue is long but I'd want it to be eternal and it's not a forced situation, it's natural and you're all there as equals," Gomez Cora said it was magical for a sportsman to compete at the Olympics. "The big professionals want to recover the reason they went into a sports career, for the fun," he added. "They've lost a lot of that because of the money, the fame, but going to a Games takes you back to where it all started for you. 'I'm convinced sevens is a game with the same (Olympic) spirit in which amateurism flourishes.' Argentina will get a boost playing close to home and without suffering from the time difference that is a big factor on the sevens circuit. "The Pumas say there is nothing nicer than playing at home and although this is not at home, we always play so far away, we don't have any tournament in which we are hosts, the nearest is 14 hours by plane," Gomez Cora said. "Playing near home will lift the lads because they say 'I want to show what I do around the world because they never see it because I play far away,' friends and family will be there and that can be a plus." — Reuters



Matias Moroni

AUSTRALIA'S CRICKET TOUGHENS ITS HELMET STANDARDS AFTER REVIEW

MELBOURNE: Australia's cricket board will make it compulsory for players to wear helmets when facing fast and medium-paced bowling in line with recommendations from a review into the death of test batsman Phillip Hughes. Wicketkeepers and players fielding close to the wicket will also have to wear helmets in first class matches in accordance with the David Curtain review, which was released yesterday.

The helmets, mandatory in games and during practice, must adhere to the highest British standard, Cricket Australia (CA) said. Hughes was struck on the back of the head by a rising delivery when batting for South Australia in a domestic match in November 2014. He died two days later in a Sydney hospital aged 25. "There's not a day that goes by where we don't think of Phillip," CA boss James Sutherland told reporters at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday. "This report won't bring him back and it won't do anything to ease the pain of his family or his loved ones who miss him most.

"But we have a responsibility and a duty to ensure nothing like this ever happens again." Hughes's death shocked the cricketing world and ignited a debate about safety standards, particularly for batsmen, who face fast bowling that can exceed 150 kilometers per hour (93 mph). Hughes was wearing an Australian standard helmet when he was struck but the Curtain report said even the newer British standard helmet available at the time

would not have afforded him extra protection from the blow.

The report also said an apparent delay in the arrival of the ambulance team that treated Hughes played no part in his death. "I am of the opinion the attention received by Phillip after being struck had no role whatsoever on his subsequent demise, due to the nature and severity of his injury," it said. The report also recommended wicketkeepers play with protective eye-wear but stopped short of endorsing the clip-on neck guards on the back of helmets, which some players have worn after Hughes's death.

Sutherland said CA still encouraged players to wear the guards but conceded, like the report, that more research was required to determine whether they actually increased safety. "We're certainly taking up the running on that to make sure we understand it better," he said. Sutherland said the board had also sought approval from the International Cricket Council to trial the use of injury substitutes who could bat and bowl in domestic games. Substitutes have been permitted to replace injured or ill players in matches for over 100 years but are not allowed to bat, bowl or act as wicketkeepers or captains, according to the laws of the game. Initially the substitutes would replace players ruled out by concussion but in future their use could be expanded to include other forms of injury, Sutherland added. — Reuters

AMERICAN FOOTBALL IN SOCCER-MAD NIGERIA?

TURNOVERS AND TOUCHDOWNS; AMERICAN FOOTBALL TAKES OFF

LAGOS: At the Campos Mini stadium in Lagos, cheerleaders dance as spectators root for their local team. However, the players at this game are not the usual defenders guarding posts or strikers scoring goals but linebackers and quarterbacks huddled round the line of scrimmage and aiming for touchdowns. In soccer-mad Nigeria, American Football, a sport usually played thousands of miles away in the United States but growing in popularity around the world, is slowly winning over new fans.

The West African country this year hosted what organizers said were its first two games as its two amateur American Football teams, the Lagos Marines and Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Titans, battled it out on the pitch. Before the first game in March at the Titans' home ground in northern Kaduna state, few Nigerians had heard of either team. A few weeks later in Lagos, dozens of

fans waved banners and cheered in support.

"It's not exactly the NFL (National Football League), or college football," sports journalist Colin Udoh said. "But for a first effort this is not bad at all. I think it's long overdue." With no official game structure in place, the two matches were one-offs, but the teams are hopeful Nigeria could one day have a league for the sport just like soccer. ABU has been training its players for several years, holding inhouse matches. In Lagos, German coach Dominick Muller founded the Marines in late 2013, recruiting players more used to soccer, basketball and volleyball.

"Accepting the sport in Nigeria is very difficult but so far...everything is looking up," said quarterback Adesina Pelumi, who cites New England Patriots' Julian Edelman as his favorite player. "My personal aim is to get (into) the NFL." The Marines train four times a week. With no major sponsor, it

was Muller who paid for about 65 kits for his players. Raising awareness of the sport in a country where the NFL is rarely followed is a challenge, but Pelumi believes developing the sport could play a role tackling Nigeria's mass youth unemployment, which experts worry could create social problems and raise the risk that young people turn to radical groups.

"The basic thing American football is doing for (us), Nigerians as youths is that it controls aggression," he said. "We have lots of people that are really angry and if they can channel that anger to playing a sport I don't think we will have any issue with security in Nigeria." For now, no immediate games between the teams are planned but the players expect to face each other again. "We're coming back," Titans player Paul Bakwak said. "This is the beginning of American Football in Nigeria." — Reuters



FLORIDA: Kelly Elmlinger heads to the finish line to win the women's 200 meter IT4 and IT5 combined race at the Invictus Games on Tuesday, May 10, 2016. —AP

AMPUTEE FROM 9/11 ATTACKS WINS SEVEN MEDALS AT INVICTUS GAMES

ORLANDO: Sarah Rudder was on the verge of a key promotion in the US Marines on Sept 11, 2001, when the terrorist attacks struck and eventually left her without a leg. But she has come back from that setback to thrive on another stage, winning seven medals through Tuesday in two days of Paralympic events ranging from rowing to shot-put at the international Invictus Games founded by Britain's Prince Harry for wounded members of armed services. "It was amazing," Rudder said in an interview Tuesday. "It shows that just because I'm an amputee doesn't mean I can't go out and put my heart and soul on the track or any event that I do."

Rudder, awaiting her promotion ceremony, was unscathed in the Sept 11 attack on the Pentagon and able to help others to safety, but two days later she was not so lucky. When she returned to the defense complex to help remove remains of victims, her left ankle got stuck in a concrete barrier and was crushed. The injury, which required five reconstructive surgeries, eventually led to her left leg being amputated two years ago.

"The pain was debilitating," Rudder said. "I couldn't take it anymore." After struggling to deal with the loss of a limb, Rudder found a way to turn despair into triumph through sports. She became a part of the military's Wounded Warrior program, which paved the way for Rudder to compete in the Invictus Games, held this year at Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports complex in Orlando following an opening ceremony Sunday evening. By Tuesday, Rudder already had won seven medals for Team USA, taking home the first gold medal of the games on Monday when she finished first in the lightweight powerlifting competition.

She also won gold in the one-minute indoor rowing competition. On Tuesday, Rudder won gold in the discus and 100 meters and also took home silver medals in four-minute indoor rowing, shot-put and 200 meters dash for a two-day total of seven medals. Excelling at the Invictus Games, which includes nearly 400 wounded and sick servicemen and women from 14 countries around the world, allows Rudder to prove that her injury won't limit what she can accomplish. That was the precisely Prince Harry's goal when he started the Invictus Games a year ago. "I served along with soldiers from all over the world," Prince Harry said at the opening ceremony. "I saw the sacrifices they and their families



FLORIDA: Marion Blot (standing) of France, winner of the women's 200 meter IT1 race, catches Sarah Rudder after she fell crossing the finish line at the Invictus Games on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, in Kissimmee, Fla. —AP

made to serve their nations. I learned about the importance of team work and camaraderie in the way that only military service can teach you." Rudder, who won nine medals in last year's Warrior Games, said it was amazing to see competitors with so many different kinds of injuries.

"I might be missing a leg but there are people out there missing two and three limbs or are paralyzed from the waist down or chest down. They are my inspiration. "Me just having one leg missing, I'm able to look at them and say, 'If they can do it, I can do it.'" — AP

GANGULY QUESTIONS DHONI'S FUTURE AS INDIA CAPTAIN

NEW DELHI: Batting great Sourav Ganguly has called for Mahendra Singh Dhoni to be ditched as India's limited overs captain unless selectors are convinced he can lead the team into the 2019 World Cup. After India's semi-final exit at the recent World Twenty20, Dhoni tried to brush off suggestions that he might struggle to make the next 50 over World Cup being held in England in July 2019 when he will turn 38.

But Ganguly, who was Dhoni's predecessor as captain of both the Test and one-day side, cast doubt on whether the man known as 'Captain Cool' had the staying power to remain at the helm for another four years. "The selectors need to find an answer to whether they see Dhoni leading

India in 2019. If the answer is no, then find a new captain," Ganguly told the India Today television network on Tuesday. "If the answer is yes, which I will find very, very surprising, Dhoni continues."

Dhoni, a wicketkeeper-batsman, stepped down as India's Test captain in December 2014 after leading his country to a record 27 victories and was succeeded by Virat Kohli. However, he stayed on as ODI and T20 skipper, leading the team in last year's World Cup as well as the recent World T20, which India hosted. When quizzed on his future after India's defeat to the West Indies in the World T20, Dhoni asked his questioner: "Do you think I am unfit, looking at my running? Do you think I can survive until the 2019 World Cup?"

Although his acumen as a Test captain was often questioned, Dhoni is seen as one of the greatest skippers in short-form cricket after leading India to victory in the inaugural World T20 in 2007 and the 2011 ODI World Cup.

Since the World T20, Dhoni has struggled in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL), with his Rising Pune Supergiants team languishing near the bottom of the table. Ganguly, however, said that even if Dhoni was replaced as skipper, he still merited a place in the team, and insisted that he had great respect for his successor's achievements. "There's no disregard to him (Dhoni), he has been one of the greatest captains of the country," said Ganguly. — AFP



TRIPURA: Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar (right) stretches with her coach Bisweshwar Nandi during a practice session ahead of the forthcoming Olympic Games in Agartala. — AFP

BORN FLAT-FOOTED, INDIAN VAULT STAR NOW EYEING OLYMPIC GLORY

NEW DELHI: As Dipa Karmakar flawlessly executes yet another dizzying somersault routine, it's hard to believe that the first Indian woman gymnast to ever qualify for the Olympics was born with flat feet. "Gymnastics didn't actually interest me much in the beginning," Karmakar said, as she recalled the start of her unlikely journey from an impoverished Indian backwater to the glamour of an Olympics in Rio. "But after winning a few medals in the junior championships I took a shine to it." Karmakar could become the first Indian woman to stand on an Olympics medal podium in Brazil if she repeats her success at the 2014 Commonwealth Games, when she won a bronze in the artistic gymnastics.

She can already boast of being one of only five female gymnasts to have successfully performed the Produnova vault—a front handspring into a double-front somersault that is one of the sport's ultimate challenges. But as her long-standing coach Bisweshwar Nandi explained, the 22-year-old has had to learn a whole series of obstacles that few of her opponents in Rio would ever have had to contend with. Hailing from the remote and neglected northeastern state of Tripura, the young Dipa spent big chunks of her childhood and teenage years training in rat-infested gyms where power cuts were a regular occurrence.

Borrowed leotard

Even more of a challenge was the curse of being born with flat feet, meaning she had to go through exhausting conditioning exercises in which she trained herself to point her toes. "Having flat feet is very bad for a gymnast, because you need to jump

in every movement," Nandi said, as he recalled putting Karmakar through endless routines designed to make her curve her feet more naturally. She had to borrow a leotard for her first competition, while her gym equipment was often well short of international standards.

"She had a lot of trouble with some of the equipment but she didn't realize that it was not up to international standard and we worked hard to make her feel comfortable using it," said Nandi. As her reputation in the sport grew, funding started to flow from the Sports Authority of India which paid for a foam pit that enabled her to master the Produnova vault without fear of injury. "It is a difficult vault, but then you have got to take risks in order to achieve something," said Karmakar. The Produnova vault requires an awesome combination of balance and muscle power. Karmakar's father, who is a weightlifting coach, also played a key role in his daughter's development.

"Having such a good coach as Nandi and the strong support from my family helped me sail through all the problems that I had to face at the beginning of my career," said Karmakar. By qualifying for Rio, Karmakar now has another chance to take on one of her main rivals in Asia, the veteran Uzbek Oksana Chusovitina. The 40-year-old Chusovitina, who is competing in her seventh Olympics, won vault silver at the last Asian Games in South Korea in 2014, effectively depriving Karmakar of a medal as she finished in fourth place. Karmakar will also be up against the American Gabrielle Douglas, the 'Flying Squirrel', who won all-around and team gold at the 2012 Olympics in London.—AFP

OLYMPICS - US BASKETBALL LOSING PLAYERS, NOT SLEEP

NEW YORK: Anthony Davis can't play. Chris Paul doesn't want to. Three months before the Olympics, the US men's basketball team has already been losing players. Not just any players, but some of the best in the sport. Davis and Paul are NBA All-Stars, perhaps two of the top 10 players in the league, and could have been the starting center and point guard when the Americans took the floor for their Olympic opener. Paul seems like a particularly big loss, given how many key plays he made four years ago against Lithuania and Spain in the only close games the US faced.

This has to be cause for concern, right? "We have too many players over here to kind of get worried about that," US veteran Carmelo Anthony said. The Americans are losing bodies, but clearly not any sleep. Not when they're armed with a roster pool of 31 players, giving them quality backups and then if necessary, backups to those backups. They hope everyone would say yes to playing but are prepared when some of them say no. Even when a couple of them happen to be at the top of the list? "No, I don't think of things that way," USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo said. "We have a lot of terrific players and athletes and flexibility, and we're going to be just fine."

The original list of 31 is probably down to

the mid-20s. Blake Griffin had a procedure on his left quad tendon after aggravating an injury in the playoffs on the same day that Clippers teammate Paul broke his right hand, which may have knocked him out of a third Olympics even if he hadn't already decided he wouldn't play. Washington's John Wall had surgery on both knees and fellow point guard Mike Conley had his season cut short by injury as he heads into free agency, though they would've had a tough time making the team at perhaps its deepest position.

Colangelo knows there could be other injuries, or players who pull out because of contract situations or simply because they don't want to give up their summers. The Americans sustained heavy losses just four years ago, when Derrick Rose, Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh and Dwight Howard all had to withdraw in the months leading up to the Olympics. The Americans then went to London and rang up stats that rivaled the Dream Team's while winning their second straight gold medal. "It goes all the way back to the reason for developing this national team concept, to create the depth that we have and the culture that we have," Colangelo said. "And so I think we're blessed to have that kind of a roster where we can take a few hits and still be very strong."—AP

PENGUINS EDGE CAPITALS 4-3 IN OT TO WIN SERIES

PITTSBURGH: A three-goal lead gone - and his team's momentum right along with it - Pittsburgh Penguins coach Mike Sullivan provided a reminder heading to overtime of Game 6 of a relentlessly entertaining playoff series against the Washington Capitals. Keep skating. Play fast. Be confident. In the span of a dozen frantic seconds early in the extra period on Tuesday night, Carl Hagelin, Phil Kessel and Nick Bonino did all three, sending their resilient club to the Eastern Conference final in the process.

Bonino tapped in a rebound of Hagelin's shot by Braden Holtby 6:32 into overtime to give the Penguins a 4-3 win to wrap up the series in six games and set up a showdown with Tampa Bay for the right to play for the Stanley Cup. Kessel went to the corner to retrieve the puck and passed it to Hagelin in the slot. Hagelin's shot caromed off Holtby's right pad directly to Bonino, who had little trouble pushing it into the net for his 10th career playoff goal, and easily his most important. "I just went to the front," Bonino said. "The puck always ends up there and I was able to get a stick on it. It wasn't pretty, but they're usually not."

Not that style points mattered much during a taut dozen days in early spring. The Capitals overcame a three-goal deficit in the final 22 minutes of regulation and earned a break when Jay Beagle went to his belly on the goal line to steer a shot by Patric Hornqvist out of harm's way early in the extra period. There was no stopping Bonino's tap-in, however, sending the Presidents' Trophy winners to their dressing room with an all-too-familiar feeling. Nine times the longtime rivals have met in the playoffs. Eight times the post-series handshake line has ended with Pittsburgh celebrating while Washington trudges toward the offseason. "It's just kind of setting in right now that it's over," Beagle said. "We had high expectations."

The Cup was our goal all year and unfortunately we didn't (make it). Thanks in part to an inability to keep Bonino, Hagelin and Kessel in check. While Washington kept Pittsburgh stars Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin under wraps - they combined for all of four points in six games - the Capitals struggled to keep up with one of the fastest lines in the league. Kessel scored twice and helped set up the winner. Hagelin added a goal and two assists for Pittsburgh, including the shot that allowed Bonino to send Consol Energy Center into a frenzy. "I thought we did a really good job on Crosby and Malkin the whole series, but a lot of the other people hurt us," Washington coach Barry Trotz said.

TJ Oshie, Justin Williams and John Carlson scored during Washington's comeback, one completed after three straight delay of game penalties against the Penguins gave one of the league's best power plays enough time to tie it up. Chris Kunitz, Ian Cole and Bonino all flipped the puck over the glass from the defensive zone in a span of 2:02, a sequence that led to Carlson's fifth playoff goal, a shot that bounced and skipped by Murray to provide another compelling twist in a series that lived up to - and perhaps beyond - its billing. "It was the worst feeling I think I ever had in hockey when I whacked the puck out of play," Bonino said. "Then Cole did it after (Kunitz) did it. That's something you'll never see." Sullivan tried to remain upbeat in the dressing room before the third overtime game of the series. "What we talked about was taking a deep breath, not changing what's happened and letting it go," he said. "These guys to their credit have done an amazing job of not allowing any sort of ebbs and flows of the game to affect them." It's that resiliency that allowed the Penguins to recover from a shoddy start that cost Mike Johnston his job in mid-December. Pittsburgh ended the regular season as the hottest team in the league and has now cruised through two rounds by relying on the supporting cast general manager Jim Rutherford has cultivated behind his stars.

All but two of Pittsburgh's 16 goals during



PITTSBURGH: Phil Kessel #81 of the Pittsburgh Penguins scores past Braden Holtby #70 of the Washington Capitals in Game Six of the Eastern Conference Second Round during the 2016 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs on May 10, 2016. — AFP

the series were scored by players who were not on the roster when Rutherford replaced Ray Shero two summers ago. That group includes Kessel, acquired from Toronto last July to take some of the scoring load off Pittsburgh's two franchise cornerstones, Hagelin and Bonino, who were easily Pittsburgh's best line in the series while combining for seven goals and 11 assists. "It shows the depth of our team," Bonino said. "We've

had it all year." And in the playoffs, the Penguins remain Washington's tormentor. The Capitals have just four wins beyond the second round of the postseason in franchise history after another promising spring ended abruptly. "We made some progress but obviously not enough," Trotz said. "We need to get through this round. That's part of the deal. That will always be thrown at us until we get through that."—AP

SEVEN UP, ROSBERG AIMS FOR FAMOUS 5

BARCELONA: Nico Rosberg will have Formula One history in his sights in Spain this weekend, even if Dutch teenager Max Verstappen seizes his share of the limelight. The championship leader has won seven races in a row, including the last three of 2015, and can join fellow-German Michael Schumacher (2004) and Britain's Nigel Mansell (1992) as the only drivers to start a season with five successive victories. The chances of that happening looked remote this time last year, when Mercedes team mate Lewis Hamilton had won three of the first four and was heading for a third title, but Rosberg is now 43 points clear of the Briton.

As 18-year-old Verstappen would agree, after his rapid promotion from Toro Rosso in a swap with demoted Russian Daniil Kvyat, Formula One moves fast off the track as well as on it. "I'm just enjoying the moment and the form I'm in, doing my best to keep it going and hoping I can carry it through to the end of the season," said Rosberg, 11/10 at bookmakers' William Hill with Hamilton at 5/4. Another triumph for Mercedes would equal McLaren's run of 11 in a row from 1988, and that looks more than likely given that the champions have won 36 of the last 42 races.

Rosberg will pick up plenty of good vibes at a circuit where he won from pole last year, his first victory of that season, but he has plenty of rivals for attention. Hamilton, who went from 10th to second at Sochi after his second successive power unit failure pushed him down the grid, will be even more determined to turn the tide while McLaren's Fernando Alonso can

count on strong home support. "I'm confident they'll get to the bottom of the problems we've been having. I know I'm still quick," said Hamilton. "I've known that since day one in testing and, when I've had clean air and a damage-free car this season, I've shown it on track."

Barcelona marks the real start of the European season, the sport's historic heartland, even if Russia preceded Spain this year for the first time. A circuit where teams test pre-season, it is both predictable and surprising—there have been nine different winners in the last nine years yet all but two of the last 15 pole-setters have won. The paddock 'motorhomes', the palatial hospitality units used only at European races, will gleam in the sunshine with teams bringing major upgrades to the track and hoping for a change of fortunes.

A good result in Spain bodes well for the rest of the year. "Barcelona is a very good indication of where you are with the car," said Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, whose team are hoping for a clean weekend to show their real potential after a nightmarish string of mishaps and failures. Renault, who took their first points of the campaign in Sochi, have said already that Barcelona and the first in-season test that follows will mark the start of their real development program. "We look at this race as a marker in the sand: the exit point of our recovery from the takeover (of Lotus) and the first race as 'our' team," said Renault F1 managing director Cyril Abiteboul. "It will start small but I'm confident we will gain momentum as we go forward."—Reuters

FEDERER MAKES A WINNING RETURN TO CLAY

ROME: Roger Federer made a winning return to the clay after last week's back pain, with the Swiss icon beating German teenager Alexander Zverev 6-3, 7-5 in the second round of the Rome Masters yesterday. The match, lasting 89 minutes, was the first for the 34-year-old Swiss since losing a Monte Carlo quarter-final to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga nearly a month ago. The 17-time Grand Slam winner was due to play last week in Madrid but withdrew with back pain. He came to Rome early to train, drawing 6,000 fans to a weekend practice session.

He has laid low in recent days, declining pre-match media responsibilities as he waited to let his racquet speak for him and his current clay form. Federer is playing at the Foro Italico for the 16th time as he seeks his first title here. The Swiss has finished runner-up four times, most recently last year against Novak Djokovic. Rome marks only the fourth tournament of the season for Federer, who underwent knee surgery in early February, the first operation of his career.

Victory over Zverev sent Federer's record in 2016 to 11-3. He next plays promising young Austrian 13th seed Dominic Thiem, who defeated Portugal's Joao Sousa 6-3, 6-2. Zverev, aged 19 and ranked 44th, could not have asked for a more challenging Rome debut as he faced off against his tennis idol. His loss left him 0-8 against top 10

opponents. Federer broke for 4-2 on his way to collecting the opening set in 28 minutes. The Swiss then earned a break in the third game of the second set but then lost serve for 2-all.

The veteran broke back on his fourth opportunity in the 11th game for a 6-5 lead and finished off the welcome win a game later, a drop shot setting up two match points with Zverev driving wide on the first. In women's second-round play, Spanish third seed Garbine Muguruza crushed Russian Ekaterina Makarova 6-1, 6-0 while Madrid quarter-finalist Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania upset injured fourth seed Victoria Azarenka 6-3, 6-2. The Belarusian withdrew last week from Madrid with back pain and was unable to fight off her Rome challenger after winning all five of their previous meetings. "I was trying but it didn't work," Azarenka said.

"The back is not good right now. I'm very disappointed obviously with that. I thought I was okay and was ready to play and came back, so I'm just disappointed. We'll see what happens. I'm not going to think about the future." Czech Barbora Strycova beat Britain's Heather Watson 6-4, 6-2, while Muguruza called her winning effort "a great match". "Everything I did was working. For sure, it's one of the best matches of the year because everything went well," said the Spaniard, who will face Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko next.—AFP



ROME: Switzerland's Roger Federer serves to Germany's Alexander Zverev during the ATP Tennis Open tournament at the Foro Italico yesterday in Rome. — AFP

Euro 2016

GERMANY'S '100-MILLION-EURO-MAN' MUELLER

BERLIN: Famously mistaken as a ball-boy by Diego Maradona after his Germany debut in 2010, Thomas Mueller will need no introduction at Euro 2016. Despite having earned 70 caps and scored 31 goals for Germany, Mueller is still only 26 and is a shoe-in for club or country whether as a winger, attacking midfielder or striker. He insists he is just an average guy and his name is so typically German that 700,000 countrymen are also called Thomas Mueller, except this one has well over nine million followers on Facebook. Bayern fans dubbed him the '100-million-euro-man' after Manchester United reportedly tabled a massive bid for the Bavarian-born product who joined Bayern from regional team TSV Paehl as a 10-year-old. His brother Simon still plays for the club.

"It's basically crazy the numbers which are currently kicking around in football—that's just business," Mueller replied when asked about his bling nickname. "No one is worth 100 million euros, it's just a trade figure." Last December, Mueller signed a contract extension with Bayern until June 2021, reportedly making him 15 million euros (\$17 million) per season. But the sky's the limit in terms of what a Premier League club would potentially pay for the forward Bayern regard as 'irreplaceable.' Thomas Mueller embodies every-

thing which distinguishes FC Bayern Munich," enthused the club's director of sport Matthias Sammer. "He is an absolute role model, an absolute gem and he's irreplaceable."

Sunny sense of humor

Perhaps the greatest testament to Mueller's talent is that in a squad of superstars at Bayern, head coach Pep Guardiola, much like Germany boss Joachim Loew, is a fellow convert to Louis van Gaal's famous dictum that, when fit, "Mueller always plays". Off the field, he is not your typical footballer. His wife is not a model, but a dressage rider. The couple own several horses. He has neither a fancy haircut or a flash tattoo and the lanky Jack-the-lad is the joker in the Germany and Bayern squad.

He was asked, in English, straight after winning the 2014 World Cup final if he was disappointed to have missed out to James Rodriguez on winning the Golden Boot as the tournament's top scorer. Using a thick Bavarian dialect, Mueller jokingly told the baffled female reporter to stick the trophy where the sun doesn't shine, because "we've just won the World Cup!" He left giggling team-mate Bastian Schweinsteiger to translate. Schweinsteiger declined. Mueller looks like he would be just as comfortable bantering with locals and



NUREMBERG: This file photo shows players of Germany's national football team posing prior to the UEFA 2016 European Championship qualifying round Group D in Nuremberg, southern Germany. — AFP

servicing frothy mugs of beer in his upper Bavarian home village's beer garden as scoring goals for club and country. He grew up a Bayern fan, slept under a duvet in the club's colors and went to games at the Olympic Stadium with his cousins. Mueller is the first to admit that he is not the fastest in a sprint, "but I'm pretty good over 10kms", in reference to

his high work rate. When Germany finished third at the 2010 World Cup, he left South Africa with both the Golden Boot and the best young player award and wrote himself into German football folklore with two goals in the 4-1 trouncing of England in the last 16. Four years on, Maradona, who by then knew exactly who he was talking about, dubbed

Mueller 'El Flaco'—the Skinny One—after the German's hat-trick in the 4-0 win over Portugal in the opening group match of Brazil 2014 playing as a False Nine. Should Schweinsteiger fail to recover in time from a medial knee ligament injury, Mueller could find himself going from Jack-the-lad to captaining his country in France. — AFP



SAINT-DENIS: This file photo shows Ukraine's head coach Mikhail Fomenko attending the FIFA World Cup 2014 qualifying football match at the Stade de France, outside Paris. — AFP

STEELY FOMENKO LEADS UKRAINE TO EURO 2016

KIEV: Drilled in Soviet discipline, Mykhalyo Fomenko has taken a no-frills Ukraine side to the European Championship finals giving hope to a country at war. As a teenager, Fomenko was plucked from a machine plant team and virtually forced to become one of Dynamo Kiev's most influential players of the 1970s. As a coach, Fomenko guided Dynamo to a famous Champions League victory over a Barcelona side coached by the late Johan Cruyff.

If he can recreate such a force at Euro 2016, the 67-year-old Fomenko—who took over the national side after they crashed out of the Euro 2012 that they co-hosted in the first round group—will certainly become a football legend. Ukraine start in one of the toughest groups in France however against Germany, Poland and Northern Ireland. The silver-haired Fomenko's meandering route to Euro 2016 started at a local machinery plant at the age of 16. "I joined the factory team just for fun," he said. "I guess I was doing something right because (Spartak Sumy) coaches invited me to play more serious football," he said.

After four years with the regional capital's club, Fomenko moved to Zarya Voroshilovgrad, who had just been promoted to the top flight. His strong positional play and agility brought a transfer in 1972 to Dynamo Kiev, the flagship Ukrainian side in the Soviet system. Fomenko was reluctant to join the big-time club and only moved to the Communist party's insistence. Fomenko told Ukrainian television in 2014 how he informed officials that he wanted to stay with Zarya.

"Two weeks later one of the secretaries of the regional Communist party branch took me to Kiev and handed me over to Central Committee secretary."

He quickly stood out on the field and was named in the Soviet national team that finished second at the 1972 European Championship. Fomenko gained 24 caps in all. Fomenko played under legendary coach Valery Lobanovsky, who made him Kiev's captain in 1975, the year they won the Soviet league, the European Cup Winners' Cup and the European Super Cup. Fomenko hung up his boots at the age of 30 because of a back injury but joined a coaching academy to start a new career in the game that has taken him to nearly 20 clubs and national sides, including Iraq and Guinea.

Barcelona upset

He joined his mentor Lobanovsky at Dynamo Kiev, serving as his assistant from 1980 to 1985. Fomenko then managed lower-division teams in the Ukrainian league before enjoying his first success as manager with Georgian club Guria Lanchkhuti. He took them into the Soviet first division in 1989. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Fomenko returned to take over Dynamo Kiev. They won their first Ukrainian title and the national cup in 1993.

But he fell out with club owners and left to take on other Ukrainian sides as well as the Guinean national team. Fomenko returned to Kiev in 1993 to prepare the team for a stunning 3-1 win over Barcelona in the first round first leg of the Champions League. — AFP

INJURY SHADOW CLOUDS LOEW'S EURO CAMPAIGN

BERLIN: Joachim Loew will look to add the European crown in France to Germany's 2014 World Cup triumph, but die Mannschaft's head coach has team worries. With the clock ticking down to Germany's first Group C game against Ukraine in Lille on June 12, Loew is waiting on captain Bastian Schweinsteiger, defenders Jerome Boateng, Emre Can and Benedikt Hoewedes, plus midfielder Julian Draxler. "That's five players capable of playing an important role that are injured. I admit a certain concern," Loew said recently. "You always get such problems ahead of every tournament. In 2014, Sami Khedira and Bastian Schweinsteiger were injured but we managed it. But of course now I hope they'll all stay fit and their injuries won't return." Manchester United's Schweinsteiger is the biggest concern having injured knee ligaments before the March friendlies against England and Italy. "We're in regular contact about how his progress is coming along and I'm hopeful," said Loew. To add to his worries, Loew's team is suffering from erratic form. They backed up a 3-2 defeat to England, having thrown away a 2-0 lead in Berlin, with a 4-1 thumping of Italy in Munich in March.

With Mats Hummels as his only World Cup winner in the back four, Germany's defense crumbled against England when the Borussia Dortmund captain went off and Loew's side found themselves out-muscled and out-thought in midfield. Things improved against Italy, but Loew will expect his team to improve their finishing and urgency in their final friendlies against Hungary and Slovakia and Hungary before their departure for their Euro base in Evian, south-west France. The Germans finished top of their Euro 2016 qualifying group, but their defensive frailties were exposed by defeats away to both Poland, who they will again meet in Group C, and the Republic of Ireland.

10th anniversary

"There are a few areas which are important and we have to improve on, such as our behavior in defense, our build-up play and our patterns of running," said Loew. He will celebrate 10 years as Germany's head coach after Euro 2016



Germany's head coach Joachim Loew

having never played for his country at senior level. Under his stewardship, Germany have cemented their reputation as a tournament team-capable of raising their performances for the big occasions. He replaced Jurgen Klinsmann as head coach in 2006 as Germany went onto finish as runners-up at Euro 2008, then third at the 2010 World Cup.

They reached the last four of Euro 2012, beaten 2-1 by Italy in Warsaw, before qualifying unbeaten for the 2014 World Cup finals. Loew's crowning glory came in Brazil where they beat the hosts 7-1 in one of the most incredible World Cup games ever before lifting their fourth world title. His contract will take him through to the 2018 World Cup. His record of 86 wins in 129 matches, with 22 draws and 21 defeats, gives him a win-ratio of 66 percent.

Ever the innovator, he added Munich-based yoga instructor Patrick Broome to his backroom staff for Brazil 2014, to encourage players to

stretch and lessen the risk of injury. If yoga kept Ryan Giggs playing past his 40th birthday, it can work for the Germans. Loew can still rely on the core of his World Cup-winning squad. Manuel Neuer is a shoe-in at goalkeeper, as are centre-backs Jerome Boateng, who is back in training at Bayern Munich after a groin injury, and Mats Hummels in front of defensive midfielders Schweinsteiger and Sami Khedira.

In attack, Thomas Mueller, Mesut Ozil and Toni Kroos can be confident of their places, but both wing-back roles are up for grabs while Mario Goetze and Mario Gomez are vying for the striker's berth. Loew will demand high standards at a pre-Euro camp in Switzerland and he is not one to pull his punches, especially with fringe players. Wolfsburg striker Max Kruse was kicked out of the squad in March for minor indiscretions, including arguing with a reporter in a nightclub and forgetting 75,000 euros (\$85,306) in a Berlin taxi. — AFP

HEAT IS ON KONOPLYANKA TO HELP UKRAINE AT EURO

KIEV: Ukraine's great hope Yevhen Konoplyanka chose La Liga, dismissing England's more physical Premier League, and has since become a bench warmer at Sevilla. Ukraine's fans still hope that he can fire the country to success at Euro 2016. The 26-year-old winger attracted interest from big clubs from across the continent with dashing displays with Dnipro in the 2014-2015 Europa League. Konoplyanka looked like one of the few players from Ukraine capable of making a mark on the European game like Andriy Shevchenko and Sergiy Rebrov. He chose a move to Spain. "I was two-and-a-half meters tall and didn't know how to control a ball then I

may have gone to England," Konoplyanka was quoted as saying.

"But here (in Spain), the football's more technical. It's the best," said the super-sub who reportedly has a 40 million euro buyout clause in his contract. Despite that confidence, and a goal as a substitute in his debut against Barcelona in the UEFA Super Cup, Konoplyanka has struggled for a first team place. His flashes of form have persuaded Sevilla coach Unai Emery to keep faith with the Ukrainian. "I am confident that if Konoplyanka has not been successful yet, he will be in the future," Emery told Spanish media. "The team will need him and we will sup-

port him, as we do with the rest of the players."

Teen wonder

Before his travails in Spain Konoplyanka made an impressive rise in his home country. Born in the central town of Kirovograd as the Soviet Union was crumbling in 1989, he was spotted by Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk scouts playing for a local team and signed at the age of 16. "I knew that Dnipro were interested," Konoplyanka said last year. "They sent their scouts to watch me." "I tried hard to show my worth in that match, even scored a goal. After the game we signed a deal." A year later in 2007 Konoplyanka made his debut in the Ukrainian top flight. His career only really took off however after Spanish manager Juande Ramos took over in 2010. A natural right-footer who plays mostly on the left wing, Konoplyanka scooped the first of three crowns as Ukraine's Player of the Year.

His eye-catching performances attracted Ukraine manager Myron Markevych and led to a call-up for the first of 51 caps. He has scored 11 goals. At Euro 2012, which Ukraine co-hosted with Poland, Konoplyanka started all three group games, setting up Andriy Shevchenko's winner in the opening match before the team crashed out. He scored three goals in qualifiers for the 2014 World Cup finals, including a long-range screamer in a 1-1 draw with England at Wembley. But Ukraine failed again to reach the finals. In 2014, Ramos left Dnipro as fighting raged between pro-Russian separatists and government troops in eastern Ukraine.

In his place came former national coach Markevych and despite the turmoil he led Dnipro to the Europa League final against Sevilla. Despite a rousing effort by Konoplyanka and his teammates, Dnipro lost 3-2 to the Spanish club. — AFP



Yevhen Konoplyanka

FOCUS ON GERMANY

BERLIN: Five facts about Germany ahead of the European Championships in France:

Beware the Azzurri

Germany are still waiting for a first win over Italy at a major tournament in nine meetings—they have won none of their three matches at European championship finals, or five at a World Cup, against the Azzurri. At France 2016, the two European powerhouses could potentially meet in the quarter-finals.

Early European exits

Germany have advanced to the knock-out stages in every one of their World Cup appearances, but in European Championship they have suffered group stage exits three times: finishing third in their section in 1984 and 2004, and bottom in 2000.

Record holders

Germany holds the joint record with Spain of three European championships. Die Mannschaft has won 23 of their 43

finals matches, more than any other team. Despite their excellent record, Germany failed to win a finals match between winning the Euro '96 final in London and beating Poland in Klagenfurt in 2008 with three draws and a defeat.

Loew's strong record

Joachim Loew will have been head coach of Germany for a decade after Euro 2016 and has won 66 percent of his 129 matches with 86 victories, 23 draws and 20 defeats. Only Spain's coach Vicente Del Bosque has a better win-ratio of 78 percent, with 75 victories in his 96 matches, of the top coaches at Euro 2016.

Yoga masters

Germany are set to be the only team at Euro 2016 to have a yoga teacher in their back-room staff. Munich-based yoga guru Patrick Broome, who has worked with music stars Madonna and Sting in the US, will take die Mannschaft through daily sessions to help them avoid injuries with stretching sessions in France. — AFP



FIFA President Gianni Infantino

FIFA UNVEILS TIMETABLE FOR 2026 WCUP BIDDING PROCESS

MEXICO CITY: FIFA unveiled the timetable of its delayed bidding process for the 2026 World Cup on Tuesday, with president Gianni Infantino's plans for a 40-team tournament to be decided upon by October and a final decision on the hosts to be made in May 2020. Soccer's world governing body said it would consider giving the green light to joint bids and review a rule which currently allows a continent to stage the tournament every eight years. A FIFA source said they had considered increasing this wait period to 12 years or more and that there had been no discussions about allowing a continent to host successive World Cups.

This could mean that with Russia hosting the 2018 World Cup, Europe would have to wait until at least 2030 before staging the tournament again. The decisions were among the first passed by the new-look FIFA Council, which was holding its maiden meeting since it replaced the old executive committee under reforms passed in February. The Council, which has a strategic role, ruled that bidding nations would have to meet requirements on human rights, sustainable event management and environmental protection. Bidders who did not meet "technical requirements" would be excluded, it said.

Infantino was elected as FIFA president in February when one of his main promises was to increase the number of teams in the finals from 32 to 40, a proposal which is strongly opposed by Europe's biggest clubs. FIFA said that decisions were expected by October on the number of teams, the format for the tournament, the "eligibility of (continental) confederations to bid" and whether to allow joint bids. Joint bids were banned in 2011 but Infantino has said he wants to encourage them, possibly spreading the tournament around several countries in a region.

SCANDAL-PLAGUED CONCACAF TO PICK NEW CHIEF PRESIDENT

MEXICO CITY: The scandal-plagued football confederation of North America, Central America and the Caribbean (CONCACAF) will pick a new president today, after its last three leaders faced corruption allegations. CONCACAF members will meet in Mexico City to choose a new leader some five months after its last president, Alfredo Hawit, was arrested in December. The two finalists for the job—Canadian Soccer Association president Victor Montagliani and Bermuda Football Association president Larry Mussenden have both vowed to clean up the organization. Antigua and Barbuda official Gordon Derrick, who had been seeking the presidency, was barred from running last month after a background check by world football governing body FIFA, which did not reveal the reason for his exclusion. CONCACAF has been at the heart of the global corruption scandal engulfing world football since May last year.

Long-time CONCACAF president Jack Warner, from Trinidad and Tobago, is currently fighting against extradition to the United States after being indicted for racketeering and conspiracy. Jeffrey Webb, who succeeded Warner, pleaded guilty to racketeering, money laundering and wire fraud last year after being extradited from Switzerland. Hawit, who is from Honduras and was extradited from Switzerland in

Criminal investigation
FIFA said that a "consultation process", outlining new standards for bidders, would run until May 2017, followed by a preparation phase running until December 2018 when countries would have to submit their bids. The bids would be evaluated from January 2019 to February 2020 with a final decision three months later. FIFA was forced to reform its bidding process after the 2018 and 2022 tournaments to Russia and Qatar respectively.

That vote is the subject of a criminal investigation by Swiss authorities, while Qatar's preparations have also been marred by allegations of abuse of migrant workers in the construction industry. Qatar says it is working to solve the issue. Under revised statutes, the hosts will be chosen by the 209 members of FIFA at its annual Congress. The Council, however, will still draw up a shortlist of three candidates. Previously, hosting rights were decided by the old executive committee.

FIFA said that Gibraltar and Kosovo's applications for membership would be submitted to the Congress on Friday and that both would be allowed to take part in the 2018 World Cup qualifying competition if accepted. Benin was suspended with immediate effect due to legal interference in the country's football federation. A decision not to suspend Greece was ratified by the Council. FIFA Council member Fernando Sarney praised Infantino's leadership on Tuesday. "Things are getting calmer in FIFA," the Brazilian representative told reporters. "Gianni is talking about football, he is travelling around, talking to people and trying to put football back into our conversations because before we talked about everything apart from football."—Reuters

January, appeared in a New York court last month and pleaded guilty to four criminal charges, including racketeering and wire fraud in connection with the FIFA scandal. While the regional grouping will pick a new leader, FIFA will hold a Congress today and tomorrow during which new president Gianni Infantino will push reforms to clean up world football.

Montagliani: backed by big nations
Montagliani, 50, has headed Canada's football association since 2012 and serves on the FIFA reform committee. He has the backing of the United States, Mexico, Canada, the seven Central American associations and four from the Caribbean (Cuba, Haiti, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic). Montagliani, who has worked in the insurance business, has vowed to bring more transparency at CONCACAF, starting from the top. The scandals "have sullied our sport and badly undermined the public's trust in football's governing bodies," Montagliani wrote in an open letter announcing his candidacy in February. He said the game must be "governed in a principled and professional way that, above all else, protects the integrity of the game." He has also said the organization, which has groups 41 football associations, must be less fragmented between the interests of its different regions.—AFP



VANCOUVER: Canadian Soccer Association President Victor Montagliani, CEO of the National Organizing Committee, attends the closing news conference for the FIFA Women's World Cup soccer tournament in Vancouver. Montagliani is one of two candidates running for president of soccer's governing body for North and Central America and the Caribbean, or CONCACAF.—AFP

LEICESTER A 'MOTIVATION' FOR ALL: ROVERS OWNER

LEICESTER SET TO OFFER RANIERI LONG-TERM CONTRACT

DOHA: Newly-crowned English Premier League champions Leicester City provide "extreme motivation" for all lower league football clubs, the Middle Eastern owner of Bristol Rovers said yesterday. Wael Al-Qadi, who watched his Rovers team dramatically promoted to the third tier of the English league last weekend, said Leicester's exploits this season should give hope to everyone outside the traditional big clubs. "What happened with Leicester, it just gives extreme motivation not only to clubs but for fans, for players," the Jordanian said.

"It's fantastic for us in the lower leagues, you think any of your players can become the next Jamie Vardy." Vardy, famously, was playing non-league football just four years ago but his rapid rise will likely see him named as a member of England's European Championship squad to play in France next month. And even if it may not be possible to emulate Leicester and win the league, their success should spur clubs like Rovers to achieve the "highest level possible", added Qadi. The Qatar-born businessman took 92 per cent ownership of the English southwestern club in February.

In a 15-match run since he took charge, Rovers only lost twice and snatched the final automatic promotion spot to Football League One last Saturday with an injury-time winner. "It was amazing, really something special," said Qadi, now back in Jordan. A member of the Jordanian Football Association, Qadi has denied reports he is a billionaire or has limitless funds, and says Rovers will not be big spenders next season despite promotion. "Darrell Clarke (Rovers' manager) believes in this group of players more than going out and buying three or four players," he said. Next season Rovers will play teams such as Coventry, Charlton and Sheffield United, the latter also having Middle Eastern owners, as they are the club of Saudi prince Abdullah Bin Mosaad Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

Ranieri long-term contract

Leicester City will discuss a possible contract extension with manager Claudio Ranieri at the end of the season as a reward for his role in the



ROME: Claudio Ranieri (left), Italian coach of the English football club Leicester, poses with President of the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI) Giovanni Malago after receiving the 'Palma d'Oro'—top annual award for achievements by Italian coaches, during a ceremony on at the CONI headquarter in Rome.—AFP

club's maiden Premier League title victory, vice-chairman Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha has said.

Italian Ranieri took over from Nigel Pearson on a three-year contract in July and Leicester are keen to offer him improved terms and tie him down to a long-term deal in the wake of his spectacular achievement. "At the end of the season we will talk about that (extending Ranieri's contract) with him," Srivaddhanaprabha told British media. "We will sit down together and when we talk about something, it's long term, not just until September. I like people to work for me when they are happy and enjoy working with the group of people."

Srivaddhanaprabha, son of Leicester's billion-

aire Thai owner Vichai, reiterated the club's commitment to keeping their best players and strengthening the squad in the close season. Speculation has mounted in the days following Leicester's remarkable title triumph that the likes of midfielder Riyad Mahrez, midfield enforcer N'Golo Kante and top scorer Jamie Vardy may be lured away by bigger rivals in England or Europe. "We will try everything that we can to build the team and to secure the same group of players and add some quality," Aiyawatt added. "I have to talk to all of the scouts when they give me the lists. I have to talk to Claudio about which player he wants. I always support, always."—Agencies



Ilkay Gundogan

GO OR STAY LONG-TERM, DORTMUND TELL MAN CITY'S TARGET GUNDOGAN

BERLIN: Borussia Dortmund have told injury-hit Manchester City target Ilkay Gundogan to either leave at the end of the season or sign a long-term contract extension. After Bayern Munich announced on Tuesday they have signed Borussia's captain Mats Hummels on a five-year deal, Dortmund are looking to keep hold of their other stars as they plan for next season when Borussia will be back in the Champions League.

Midfielders Gundogan and Henrikh Mkhitaryan have been linked to Premier League clubs with City and Chelsea respectively reported to be interested. Gundogan's agent met with City's director of sport Txiki Begiristain in Amsterdam in March and reports in the German media say the deal is set to be finalised at the end of the season. But the situation has been complicated after Gundogan, who has a year left on his current Dortmund contract, dislocated his knee in training last week.

The injury has ruled him out of next month's European championships in France with Germany and no date has been given as to when he can play again. "I have spoken to him, he's very down after another serious injury. He knows we'll stand by him," Dortmund's CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke told local newspaper the Ruhr Nachrichten. "There are two options, which we have discussed with Ilkay for a while. "Either he leaves or he stays and extends his contract, but it must be long-term."

Gundogan is injury prone and missed most of the 2013-14 season, including Germany's World Cup triumph, with a persistent back injury. In recent seasons, he has only signed year-long extensions, but Borussia now want a longer commitment while Watzke says discussions with Mkhitaryan are still ongoing. Meanwhile, Hummels will play his final league game for Dortmund at home to Cologne on Saturday and Watzke says the farewell will have to be handled sensitively. The Germany centre-back was booed and jeered during Dortmund's previous home game after news first broke that he would

join Bayern for next season. Hummels has become the latest Borussia star, after Mario Goetze and Robert Lewandowski, to join Bayern, but Watzke hopes there will be no more negativity from the Dortmund fans. "I hope and wish that it'll be the case," said Watzke. "I'd be happy if the whole club showed how big we are, there is no reason for bitterness, we respect his decision, also when it's a pity." According to reports, the

sale of Hummels will make Dortmund 38 million euros (\$43.3m) and Watzke has said the team will be "just as good as this year" as they look to sign a replacement. Austrian international Aleksandar Dragovic at Dynamo Kiev has expressed an interest in joining Dortmund while Germany defender Shkodran Mustafi at Valencia and Real Madrid's Raphael Varane are also reportedly on Borussia's wish list.—AFP

FIFA WARNS NEPAL'S FA TO GET HOUSE IN ORDER

BERLIN: Nepal's troubled football association could have a "normalization committee" imposed on it, unless it reinstates suspended executives and calls an immediate congress, FIFA has warned in a letter seen by Reuters. In the letter, sent to ANFA General Secretary Dharendra Pradhan on May 9, FIFA's acting Secretary General Markus Kattner said ANFA had failed to act according to its own statutes. Ganesh Thapa, former president of ANFA, was banned in November 2015 for 10 years and fined 20,000 Swiss francs (\$20,542.32) for a series of acts of misconduct. Former footballer Thapa had acknowledged receiving money from former Asian Football Confederation President Mohammad bin Hammam, who has been banned from football for life after allegations he paid bribes.

Thapa said the money had been lent by bin Hammam for business purposes. As well as two decades leading Nepal's football association, Thapa had also served as a vice-president of the Asian Football Confederation, the continent's 47-nation soccer bloc. Since his departure, however, critics have said little has changed with officials, including acting presi-

dent Narendra Shrestha, seen as close to Thapa. Members of ANFA's executive committee, including two former vice presidents who had been critical of Thapa and had taken the issue to FIFA last year, have been dismissed for allegedly missing meetings.

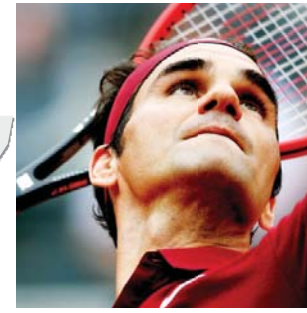
"FIFA and AFC would kindly ask you to abide by the following: first to reinstate the four dismissed ANFA members by May 23, 2016 the latest, and second, to convene an ordinary congress of ANFA as soon as possible thereafter," Kattner said in the letter. "It now appears their dismissal was not done properly," FIFA said, adding ANFA had also failed to convene its congress for more than two-and-a-half years instead of annually. "This is a contravention to the ANFA statutes," it said.

FIFA said the members' dismissal was also undermining the proper functioning of the association and questioned whether the meetings they had allegedly missed had been properly convened. "Should these steps not be followed FIFA and AFC would have no choice but to submit the issue to the appropriate FIFA bodies, which would possibly include the establishment of a normalization committee."—Reuters

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TEXAS: Kawhi Leonard #2 of the San Antonio Spurs strips Russell Westbrook #0 of the Oklahoma City Thunder of the ball in game Five of the Western Conference Semifinals during the 2016 NBA Playoffs at AT&T Center on May 10, 2016. — AFP

WESTBROOK SHINES; THUNDER STUN SPURS

LOS ANGELES: Russell Westbrook scored 35 points as the Oklahoma City Thunder fought back to stun the San Antonio Spurs 95-91 and take a 3-2 series lead in their Western Conference semi-final playoff series on Tuesday. Oklahoma City had trailed by as much as 13 points at one point as the Spurs looked to seize the initiative in front of their home crowd at the AT&T Center. But a scintillating fourth-quarter fightback transformed the contest and means the Thunder can clinch a series victory back in Oklahoma City in Thursday's game six. San Antonio appeared to be headed for victory after Kawhi Leonard punished a sloppy Thunder pass to put the Spurs 88-82 ahead with just over four minutes remaining.

However, Leonard's basket became the cue for an

eight-point run from Oklahoma City, who edged clear of their rivals. Oklahoma City's Enes Kanter played a key role, hitting a layup and then blocking the Spurs' Tim Duncan before running the length of the court to collect from Westbrook to hit another layup that put the Thunder up 90-88. San Antonio's Tony Parker tied the game with a jump shot to make it 90-90, but two free throws from Kevin Durant restored Oklahoma City's two-point lead at 92-90.

Parker could have tied but instead missed one of two free throws to make it 92-91. The French star then missed a jumper with just over nine seconds remaining. Westbrook gathered and converted a layup while being fouled before adding a free throw with 6.3 seconds on

the clock to effectively clinch the win. Westbrook only narrowly missed out on yet another triple-double, finishing with 11 rebounds and nine assists in addition to his 35-point haul. "We got stops and Russ was a maniac tonight," Durant said afterward. "We didn't panic late in the game-it was a good win for us." "We did a good job of making them shoot mid-range shots and keeping them out of the paint," he added. "We just kept fighting."

Durant was the next highest scorer for Oklahoma City, chipping in with 23 points with six rebounds and five assists. Spurs coach Gregg Popovich bemoaned his team's failure to make crucial shots when it mattered. "It's not like we got beat by 30 - the game went down to the wire and both teams played really well," he said. "You got-

ta make shots down the stretch, and sometimes things have to go your way," he added. "We lost a couple of boards there at the end, just like the last game." Leonard was top scorer for San Antonio with 26 points, followed by LaMarcus Aldridge and Danny Green, who both finished with 20 points each. But it was a disappointing night for veterans Parker and Tim Duncan. Parker had nine points while Duncan finished with five after 32 minutes on court. Green meanwhile insisted the Spurs could square the series and force a decisive seventh game back in San Antonio. "I hope we respond by being a little angry and with a chip on our shoulder," he said. "We have to go into their building and force another game back here. It's not over by any means." — AFP



LONDON: The bus carrying the Manchester United team is escorted by police after having a window smashed on its way to West Ham's Boleyn ground before the English Premier League football match between West Ham United and Manchester United. — AFP

WEST HAM FAREWELL MARRED BY ATTACK ON MAN UNITED



LONDON: English football authorities launched an investigation after fans pelted Manchester United's team bus with cans and bottles, injuring two people and delaying the last ever game at West Ham's Boleyn Ground. Manchester United's players took refuge on the floor of the coach after it was held up near the stadium by chanting fans who hurled dozens of missiles and let off smoke bombs, as mounted police tried to keep order. The bus was left with gaping holes in the protective glass covering its windows in the ugly scenes, which held up kick-off for 45 minutes on Tuesday.

The incident carried echoes of England's notorious hooliganism of the 1980s and overshadowed the final game after 112 years at the Boleyn Ground, also known as Upton Park. The Football Association and police both said they would investigate. During the game, won 3-2 by West Ham, Manchester United goalkeeper David de Gea appeared to have bottles thrown at him after his team's first goal. "The FA strongly condemns the unsavoury incidents this evening involving both the Manchester United team coach outside West Ham United's Boleyn Ground and objects thrown from a section of the home support during the game," it said.

"We will work closely with both clubs and the Metropolitan Police to fully investigate these matters." A short video surfaced on

Twitter which seemed to be filmed by midfielder Jesse Lingard and showed Manchester United's players lying on the floor of the bus. Lingard could be seen pulling faces at the camera and shouting "Mummy, mummy!" as players shouted, laughed and swore. Phil Jones, Michael Carrick and Adnan Januzaj, all wearing their club suits, were seen squeezed together on the floor in the aisle between the seats.

Manchester United captain Wayne Rooney later said the vehicle was "smashed up". "We know it's a big game for West Ham, a big night for them, leaving the stadium, but I'm sure West Ham as a club will be disappointed with what the fans have done," Rooney told Sky Sports television. "It wasn't nice," he said. The Times called it a "night of shameful violence" and Guardian columnist Barney Ronay criticized the lack of crowd control. But West Ham co-chairman David Sullivan said the bus had not been damaged and blamed United for not arriving earlier. "I don't understand why United couldn't get here at four o'clock," he told BBC Radio 5 Live. "They could have got here early. They knew it would be busy. It's crazy. There was congestion in the street and they couldn't get the coach in. There were people around the coach, but there was no attack on the coach. If you check the coach there won't be any damage to it."

United manager Louis van Gaal echoed his captain, Rooney, saying: "What do I have to tell? The images tell everything. The way we have been received is not the proper way," he added. Police said that one officer and a member of the public were injured, but there were no arrests. "We are aware that a number of items were thrown towards Man Utd's coach this evening," the Metropolitan Police football unit wrote on Twitter. "Where criminal offences are committed we will seek to work with the clubs to bring those that break the law to court." West Ham are moving to the nearby Olympic Stadium at the end of season and a farewell ceremony followed Tuesday's game. — AFP



LONDON: Manchester United's English striker Marcus Rashford (top) vies with West Ham United's New Zealand defender Winston Reid during the English Premier League football match between West Ham United and Manchester United on May 10, 2016. — AFP

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SYDNEY: Merino sheep are seen on display from the Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) in the Central business district of Sydney yesterday. The AWI is a non-profit company that invests in research, development and marketing to increase the long-term profitability of Australian woolgrowers. —AFP

DONALD TRUMP, THE ECONOMIC CHAMELEON

ECONOMY POLICY FLUCTUATES WITH TIDES OF POPULISM

WASHINGTON: A pinch of conservatism and a generous dose of populism spiced with a good handful of U-turns: Donald Trump's economic policy escapes classification as much as it fluctuates with the tides of public opinion.

But the pronouncements so far of the presumptive Republican presidential candidate have already stirred up concerns in Washington and on Wall Street, where people are anxious for more clarity on his thinking. "Trump's doctrine is very hard to define as he treats concrete policy proposals as a kind of weakness that can be used by his opponents," said Alan Cole, an expert at the non-partisan Tax Foundation think tank.

Trump's fickleness on economic policy-flexibility, his supporters say—was apparent this week when he turned to the heated subject of raising the minimum wage across the country.

Last year the New York real estate tycoon brushed off the idea, insisting that the official federal government standard at \$7.25 an hour was already "too high" to compete in the international economy. But in a sharp reversal, this week Trump said he was for "an increase of some magnitude," though he wants individual states to make their own decisions. "I don't know how people make it on \$7.25 an hour," he said. "His approach of economics is mercantilist in many ways. His plan changes depending on what he thinks people want to hear," Stan Veuger of the conservative think-tank the American Enterprise Institute told AFP.

On taxes, the candidate has defended a deep cut for the huge US middle class, which would mean that over 50 percent of households would not pay any income tax. But amid concern about the rise in income inequality in the country, he said at the weekend he may have to raise taxes on the wealthiest people—also a longtime no-no for Republicans. "For the wealthy, I think frankly, it's going to go up." The next day Trump sought to clarify in a call with US media that he was not considering raising rates on the wealthy compared to current levels—only in relation to his original tax plan.

Trump has also raised fears that he would permit the country to default on its bonds when he suggested last week that under a President Trump, the United States might consider "renegotiating" its debt in a future economic crisis. Days later, he backpedaled: "People said I want to go and buy debt, and default on debt, and I mean, these people are crazy." Trump defends himself against critics of his apparent shifts. "I put up a plan, it's a sim-



OMAHA: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump looks at supporters after speaking at a rally in Omaha, Nebraska. — AP

Against the current

Even on issues where he has shown consistency, "The Donald" remains hard to figure. He often takes the opposite tack of the traditional line of the Republican party which he expects to represent in the November 8 election. While Republicans are traditionally steadfast defenders of free trade, Trump wants to erect barriers to imports from China. And he has aligned with much of the Democratic Party in condemning the huge transatlantic and transpacific trade agreements negotiated by President Barack Obama's administration.

"If you are a TV show host, the only way to gain audience is to steal one of your rivals' audience, and that's how he thinks of international trade," said Veuger. Most significantly, Trump has declared himself in support of social security and the Medicare government health care program for retirees. Both are expensive programs that his Republican Party has vowed to cut back

as part of efforts to cut spending and shrink government. "What Trump has been doing is putting a minus sign in front of every major tenet of conservative economics," said William Galston, a former advisor to president Bill Clinton. The only thing Trump, who spent a life in the real estate business, seems to agree on with the Republicans is the idea of slashing corporate taxes from 35 percent to 15 percent.

In keeping so many of his positions vague, Trump leaves himself open to attack. But he also deprives his expected Democratic rival in the race—former secretary of state Hillary Clinton—of an angle of attack. "If you say what you're going to do, then your opponent can start targeting a message to the people who would lose out to these proposals," said Cole. How can the Democrats fight against a chameleon like Trump? According to Galston, fighting over substance with someone like Trump is useless. "If someone's words don't mean very much, all you can do is allow the American people to reach a judgment as to whether this kind of instability is what they want in their next president." — AFP

GULF MARKETS EDGE UP, EARNINGS HIT EGYPT

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Most major Gulf stock markets edged up yesterday, buoyed by an overnight rise in oil prices and US bourses, while Egypt's market was hit by weak corporate earnings.

Saudi Arabia's index closed 0.1 percent higher after rising as much as 0.5 percent at one stage. Much activity focused on second- or third-tier stocks favoured by local speculators. Saudi Printing and Packaging rose 1.3 percent in the heaviest trade since it listed in July 2007.

Publisher Saudi Research and Marketing surged 4.4 percent to 47.10 riyals, breaking out of the 36-45 riyal range it had traded in since mid-February. Dubai's stock index rose 0.5 percent as Islamic mortgage provider Amlak added 3.5 percent. It reported first-quarter profit jumped to 123 million dirhams (\$33.5 million) from 6 million dirhams and managing director Arif Alhamri predicted modest growth for the rest of the year.

Gulf Navigation fell 2.8 percent after posting a 28 percent jump in profit to

6.3 million dirhams, which had been expected. Abu Dhabi's index slipped 0.9 percent.

Abu Dhabi National Energy Co dropped 1.8 percent after reporting a first-quarter net loss of 608 million dirhams (\$165.5 million) versus a year-earlier profit of 256 million dirhams. Qatar edged up 0.1 percent as Dala Brokerage continued its uptrend of the past month, rising 4.6 percent. Egypt's index dropped 1.6 percent. Palm Hills Development fell a further 2.4 percent, having tumbled 3.5 percent on Tuesday after reporting a 40 percent drop in first-quarter net profit. GB Auto sank 2.5 percent after saying quarterly net profit plunged 70 percent, hit by Egypt's hard currency shortage, which has made importing vehicles more difficult.

Investment bank EFG-Hermes, which posted a first-quarter net loss of 63.66 million Egyptian pounds (\$7.17 million) against a year-earlier profit of 181.55 million pounds after taking a non-cash impairment charge, dropped 0.6 percent. — Reuters

UAE BANKS TO ASSESS IMPACT OF NEW RULES ON IMPAIRMENTS

DUBAI: Banks in the United Arab Emirates have been given until June 16 to assess the impact of new accounting standards, which are likely to raise the impairments required against bad loans, according to a central bank document seen by Reuters. Lenders across the world are preparing for a change to international accounting rules governing bad loans due to take effect on Jan. 1 2018.

The UAE central bank has instructed banks to assess the changes they will have to make to comply with the International

Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) 9 rule, which is designed to improve the resilience of the banking system to shocks, the circular said. The regulations were expected to have significant impact on banks' operations and possibly raise impairment requirements, according to the central bank document. Many UAE banks have felt the pain of a rise in bad loans in the past year, partly as a result of financial problems besetting some small and medium sized companies. — Reuters

ENBD, CBD IN TALKS TO RAISE UP TO \$1.7 BILLION IN LOANS

DUBAI: Emirates NBD (ENBD), Dubai's largest bank, and Commercial Bank of Dubai (CBD) are both talking to banks to raise a combined total of up to \$1.7 billion in loans to refinance existing debt, sources close to the matter said. They are the latest lenders striving to raise funds from the market as liquidity comes under pressure from lower oil prices. The banking system has been hit by governments withdrawing deposits to cover budget shortfalls, while borrowing costs have risen as investors price regional debt higher.

One of the sources said the banks were keen to raise funds before a possible further rise in borrowing costs later in the year if the US Federal Reserve hiked interest rates again. ENBD is talking to banks about raising a three-year loan, the sources told Reuters yesterday. The final amount was not yet determined but could be up to \$1.2 billion, one said. The funds would refinance an existing \$800 million loan that matures in December, the sources said.

ENBD secured the loan in December 2013 with a pricing of 140 basis points over the London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor), according to Thomson Reuters data.

CBD was looking to refinance a \$450 million loan that matures in December, the sources added. The three year loan had a pricing of 125 basis points over Libor, according to Thomson Reuters data.

The bank was considering raising the amount to \$500 million over a three year period, the sources said. ENBD and CBD declined to comment.

Citing banking sources, Reuters reported on Monday that Qatar's Ahli Bank had started talks to raise a \$250 million three-year loan to refinance an existing \$200 million facility it signed in September 2014 and is due to mature next year. — Reuters



NEW YORK: Macy's shoppers leave the retailer's flagship store, in New York. Macy's Inc reported financial results yesterday. — AP

MACY'S STRUGGLES GO ON, OUTLOOK SLASHED

RETAIL CHAIN STRUGGLES TO LURE SHOPPERS

NEW YORK: Macy's slashed its full-year profit and sales expectations as the department store chain struggles to lure shoppers seemingly in an extended funk. First-quarter income tumbled 40 percent and revenue fell 7.4 percent, sending shares down almost 9 percent in before the opening bell yesterday. The report from Macy's, following dismal sales numbers from the Gap earlier in the week, dragged down the entire retail sector in premarket trading. After a brutal holiday shopping season, retailers are muddling through another spending slump that began in mid-March.

Macy's had been a stand-out among retailers following the recession. Yet in the last year, the malaise suffered by others

seemed to catch up with Macy's. Department stores are face increasing competition from online retailers like Amazon.com. Macy's also has acknowledged that Americans, rather than spending money on clothes and accessories, are going out to restaurants or spas, vacationing, or plowing money into their homes.

When they do shop for clothes, increasingly they are doing it at discount stores like TJ Maxx. Macy's is trying to overhaul its business to counter slumping sales. It opened a group of Macy's Backstage stores last fall to compete with T.J. Maxx and other off-price stores. It's also expanding online also acquired Bluemercury, an upscale beauty and spa company. The company said yesterday

that it plans to accelerate initiatives that are working and plans nine additional Macy's Backstage stores by the fourth quarter. It's also investing in more full-time sales people and enhanced online customer support. "We are not counting on the consumer to spend more, so we are working harder to give customers more reasons to buy from us," said Chairman and CEO Terry Lundgren in a company release.

First-quarter net income was \$115 million, or 37 cents per share. Adjusted per-share earnings were 40 cents per share, 4 cents better than Wall Street had expected, according to FactSet.

Revenue fell to \$5.77 billion from \$6.23 billion in the year-ago quarter. That was worse

than the \$5.93 billion analysts were projecting. Revenue at stores open at least a year fell 5.6 percent. That marked the fifth consecutive quarter of declines, and those declines are accelerating. Comparable store sales have now fallen in seven of the last 10 quarters. Macy's now expects earnings per share to be in the range of \$3.15 per share to \$3.40 per share for the year. That compares with previous guidance of \$3.80 to \$3.90 per share.

Macy's expects comparable store sales this year to fall between 3 percent and 4 percent, which was much worse than the 1 percent decline that industry analysts had been projecting. Shares fell \$3.46 to \$33.53 per share in premarket trading, heading for a four-year low. — AP

News

in brief

Kuwait oil price down \$1.29, settles at \$38.25pb

KUWAIT: Kuwait oil price went down \$1.29 yesterday, reaching \$38.25 per barrel (pb) against \$39.54 pb last Sunday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said yesterday.

Egypt's GB Auto reports 70% fall in Q1 net profit

CAIRO: Ghabbour Auto's first-quarter net profit fell 70 percent, the Egyptian auto distributor said in a bourse statement yesterday. The country's distributor of tuk-tuks and motorbikes made by India's Bajaj Auto has been affected by a currency crisis that has made importing more difficult. Net profit fell to 14.1 million Egyptian pounds (\$1.59 million) from 47.1 million a year earlier. Egypt's largest listed auto assembler and distributor said sales fell to 2.9 billion pounds from 3.2 billion. The country's reserves more than halved to \$17 billion in April and the central bank has been rationing dollars, giving priority to importers of essential goods and imposed a monthly cap of \$50,000 on cash deposits at banks to fight a black market for dollars. On March 14 the central bank devalued the Egyptian pound by around 13 percent and said it would adopt a more flexible exchange rate policy.

IPIC says paid interest after 1MDB default

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi's state-owned International Petroleum Investment Co (IPIC) said yesterday that it had paid interest of \$52.4 million due on bonds guaranteed by troubled Malaysian state fund 1MDB, after 1MDB defaulted on them. IPIC said this marked a third default by 1MDB. The Abu Dhabi company said it would step up its demands for 1MDB and the Malaysian government to compensate IPIC for its exposure to 1MDB; it said it was now owed \$1.2 billion plus accrued interest. 1MDB has been disputing its obligations to IPIC under a debt restructuring agreement involving the companies last June.

Turkey to create regional Islamic megabank

ISTANBUL: Turkey will partner with the Islamic Development Bank to create a regional Islamic finance "megabank", Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek said yesterday, as part of a government drive to become a powerhouse in Islamic finance. Simsek said the new lender would provide liquidity and investment banking services. He said Indonesia was looking to create a similar regional megabank with a \$300 million investment. Turkey was looking to invest more. "It's important for us that this bank is being founded in Istanbul as part of our efforts to make Turkey a global centre for interest-free finance," Simsek told reporters at an Islamic finance conference in Istanbul.

OIL GAINS ON NIGERIAN SUPPLY DISRUPTION

LONDON: Oil prices rose yesterday as worries about supply disruptions resurfaced after Shell announced the closure of a key Nigerian pipeline. Brent crude oil futures were up 27 cents at \$45.79 per barrel at 1146 GMT. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures were up 7 cents at \$44.73 a barrel.

Royal Dutch Shell's Nigerian unit, Shell Petroleum Development Co (SPDC), said it had declared force majeure on Bonny Light exports following the closure of the Nembe Creek Trunk line (NCTL) for repairs after a leak. This disruption to output will likely push Nigeria's production to its lowest in more than two decades, and follows a force majeure on the Forcados crude oil grade which is likely to last until June.

Production declines and disruptions in North America, Latin America, Asia, and elsewhere in Africa have also acted as a support to prices this week. The latest developments in Nigeria reversed a slight fall in prices earlier in the day after oil sands production in Canada restarted after forced closures due to the wildfires.

Oil sands companies around the Canadian energy hub of Fort McMurray began to restart operations on Tuesday after an out-of-control wildfire forced a week-long shutdown. Provincial and industry officials said produc-

tion in much of the region should ramp up soon. The fires in Canada's oil sands field region have knocked out around 1.5 million barrels of daily crude production, leading to a significant tightening of global markets. But a growing glut is back in the spotlight. Record-high inventories especially in the United States also acted as a drag on prices.

Industry group American Petroleum Institute (API) said on Tuesday that US crude inventories rose by 3.45 million barrels to 543.1 million barrels during the week ended May 6, enough to meet global crude demand for almost a week.

The US Energy Information Administration will release official weekly inventory data at 1430 GMT. Analysts polled by Reuters expect the EIA to report US crude stockpiles likely rose for the fifth consecutive week. In a sign of a fight for market share, Iran has set its June official selling prices (OSPs) for heavier crude grades it sells to Asia at the biggest discounts to Saudi and Iraqi oil since 2007-2008.

Iran on Tuesday set the June OSP for Iranian Heavy crude at \$1.60 a barrel below the Oman/Dubai average in the latest sign that producers especially in the Middle East are willing to accept low prices in return for market share. — Reuters

OWNER OF MOROCCAN REFINER SAMIR PLEDGES TO INJECT \$680M

RABAT: Corral Petroleum Holdings is committed to injecting \$680 million into its Moroccan refiner Samir to try to reverse a decision placing it in liquidation, a lawyer for Corral said yesterday.

Morocco's sole refiner halted production in August due to financial difficulties then a court ruling in March placed it in liquidation and named an independent trustee to run it. The fate of Samir is being closely watched by Morocco's government as it would be under pressure to nationalize the company if it goes under to save jobs in a country where unemployment has been a sensitive issue.

Morocco would also become reliant on energy imports should the refinery shut down, just at a time the North African kingdom is getting its finances back on track by tackling huge deficits.

"I presented a letter to the court from Mohammed Al-Amoudi (Saudi billionaire and owner of Corral Holdings) where he announces his commitment to inject \$680 million into Samir," Abdelkber Tabih said. The letter asked for legal redress instead of liquidation, Tabih said, adding that the court had postponed a

decision on Corral's appeal against its ruling for a week until May 18.

Tabih dismissed accusations that Amoudi had already announced a \$1.04 billion capital increase in September, but failed to keep his promise.

"This is a commitment to a court, not to the shareholders," he said. Samir has been battling creditors ranging from oil traders to banks who are owed millions, and the Moroccan government which says it owes 13 billion dirhams (\$1.4 billion) in taxes. Morocco's tax administration seized Samir's bank accounts in August 2015 when the refinery was shut down, in pursuit of the tax claims. The Moroccan government has said Samir's total debt is hovering around 44 billion dirhams.

The trustee that has controlled Samir since the court ruling is planning to restart its 200,000 barrel per day complex in an effort to attract buyers during the liquidation process. It said last month that the Commercial Court of Casablanca and the tax authorities had lifted the freeze on Samir's assets while it worked to restart production as quickly as possible. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.819
Indian Rupees	4.557
Pakistani Rupees	2.879
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.072
Nepali Rupees	2.840
Singapore Dollar	223.670
Hongkong Dollar	38.809
Bangladesh Taka	3.850
Philippine Peso	6.390
Thai Baht	8.616
Malaysian Ringgit	75.887

GCC COUNTRIES

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

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	32.250
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.393
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.213
Tunisian Dinar	151.430
Jordanian Dinar	425.460
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.013
Syrian Lira	2.153
Morocco Dirham	31.784

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	301.950
Euro	347.540
Sterling Pound	438.730
Canadian dollar	235.900

Turkish lira	104.120
Swiss Franc	313.880
Australian Dollar	226.010
US Dollar Buying	300.750

GOLD

20 Gram	259.130
10 Gram	132.570
5 Gram	67.130

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	301.900
Canadian Dollar	234.060
Sterling Pound	436.275
Euro	345.405
Swiss Franc	294.660
Bahrain Dinar	798.680
UAE Dirhams	82.435
Qatari Riyals	83.650
Saudi Riyals	81.185
Jordanian Dinar	425.285
Egyptian Pound	33.901
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.072
Indian Rupees	4.528
Pakistani Rupees	2.878
Bangladesh Taka	3.840
Philippines Peso	6.369
Cyprus pound	575.020
Japanese Yen	3.810
Syrian Pound	2.370

Nepalese Rupees	3.825
Malaysian Ringgit	76.225
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.795
Thai Bhat	9.570
Turkish Lira	103.200

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

COUNTRY	SELL CASH	SELLDRAFT
	Europe	
British Pound	0.429608	0.438608
Czech Korune	0.004807	0.016807
Danish Krone	0.042481	0.047481
Euro	0.0339479	0.0347479
Norwegian Krone	0.032955	0.038155
Romanian Leu	0.086616	0.086616
Slovakia	0.008986	0.018986
Slovenia Krona	0.033294	0.038294
Swiss Franc	0.304407	0.314607
Turkish Lira	0.098801	0.109101
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.214624	0.226124
New Zealand Dollar	0.200808	0.210308
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.230168	0.238668
US Dollars	0.297850	0.302350
US Dollars Mint	0.298350	0.302350
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003431	0.004005
Chinese Yuan	0.044989	0.048489
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036858	0.039608

Indian Rupee	0.004317	0.004707
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002751	0.002931
Kenyan Shilling	0.003106	0.003106
Korean Won	0.000248	0.000263
Malaysian Ringgit	0.071882	0.077882
Nepalese Rupee	0.002877	0.003047
Pakistan Rupee	0.002662	0.002942
Philippine Peso	0.006352	0.006632
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.219637	0.225637
South African Rand	0.014314	0.022814
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001691	0.002271
Taiwan	0.009238	0.009418
Thai Baht	0.008276	0.008826

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.794360	0.802360
Egyptian Pound	0.029710	0.034828
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000191	0.000251
Jordanian Dinar	0.421871	0.429371
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020745	0.044745
Nigerian Naira	0.001244	0.001879
Omani Riyal	0.777866	0.783546
Qatar Riyal	0.082227	0.083440
Saudi Riyal	0.079633	0.080583
Syrian Pound	0.001279	0.001499
Tunisian Dinar	0.147532	0.155532
Turkish Lira	0.098801	0.109101
UAE Dirhams	0.081229	0.082378
Yemeni Riyal	0.001364	0.001444

EXIT POLL: ECONOMY TOP ISSUE FOR WEST VIRGINIA VOTERS

WASHINGTON: Regardless of party, West Virginians voting in Tuesday's presidential primary are united on two things: They see the economy as the top issue facing the country, and they think trade is taking American jobs. In the state's Democratic primary, a significant portion of voters said they were not Democrats. Less than half of voters in that primary say they would support either former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton or Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in a November matchup against billionaire Donald Trump.

In Nebraska, where voters are going to the polls in the state's Republican primary, the overwhelmingly majority say their party is divided and a significant portion don't see that as changing by November. Those are among the early findings from exit polls conducted by The Associated Press and television networks by Edison Research.

Other highlights from the exit polls: ECONOMIC WORRIES

More than half of West Virginia Republicans and nearly two-thirds of Democratic primary voters in the state say the economy is the top issue facing

the country. About two-thirds in the Democratic primary say they're very worried about the economy and quarter say they're somewhat worried.

About two-thirds of the state's Republican primary voters and more than half of Democratic primary voters say trade with other countries mostly takes jobs from American workers.

In Nebraska, half of Republican primary voters say trade takes jobs, while about a third say it creates them. Still, far fewer than in West Virginia - just 3 in 10 - say the economy is the top issue facing the country. Another 3 in 10 say government spending, 2 in 10 say terrorism and 2 in 10 say immigration.

DEMOCRATS IN NAME ONLY

Just 6 in 10 of those voting in the West Virginia Democratic primary say they're Democrats, while the rest say they identify either as independents or Republicans. Among those voting in the state's Democratic primary, about a third say they would support Trump over either Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders in November. An additional 2 in 10 say they wouldn't vote for either candidate. Less than half say they would vote for either Clinton or Sanders in

a general election. Most West Virginia Republicans feel good about the possibility of a Trump presidency. About 8 in 10 say they're excited or optimistic about what he would do, and more than 9 in 10 West Virginia Republicans say they would vote for Trump in a general election matchup against Clinton. About 6 in 10 GOP voters in the state say it's very likely the billionaire would beat Clinton in West Virginia in the general election. An additional 3 in 10 say it's somewhat likely.

DISCONTENT WITH OBAMA, GOVERNMENT

Voters in the West Virginia Democratic primary are more likely to want the next president to have less liberal policies than more liberal policies or a continuation of President Barack Obama's policies. More than 4 in 10 say they want less liberal policies, while about a quarter want a continuation and another quarter want more liberal policies.

Half of West Virginia Republicans say they're angry about the way the federal government is working and an additional 4 in 10 say they're dissatisfied. More than half say they feel betrayed by politicians from the Republican Party.

Most West Virginia Republicans see their party as divided, but few think it will remain that way in November. Only 1 in 10 think their party is united now, but another 6 in 10 think it will unite by November. Just a quarter think it will remain divided. In Nebraska, hardly any GOP primary voters think their party is united, and they're less optimistic than West Virginians about that changing. More than 9 in 10 Nebraska Republican primary voters say their party is divided, and more than 4 in 10 say it will remain that way through the general election. Just half of the state's GOP primary voters think their party will unite by November. The surveys were conducted for The Associated Press and television networks by Edison Research as voters left their polling places at 25 randomly selected sites in West Virginia and 20 in Nebraska. Preliminary results include interviews with 427 Democratic primary voters and 390 Republican primary voters in West Virginia, and with 653 Republican primary voters in Nebraska. The results among all those voting in each contest have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 7 percentage points in West Virginia and plus or minus 5 percentage points in Nebraska. — AP



YANGON: A hawker sells watermelon to passengers on a ferryboat in Yangon, Myanmar yesterday. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts Myanmar's economic growth at 8.5 percent in 2016. — AP

EBRD TRIMS OUTLOOK FOR EUROPEAN ECONOMIES

ULTRA-LOW OIL PRICES ADD TO MARKET VOLATILITY

LONDON: Europe's development bank said yesterday its outlook for the regions it covers had weakened slightly owing to ultra-low oil prices, markets volatility and international tensions. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) gave the assessment for its 36-nation investment zone-comprising countries in eastern Europe, central Asia and the Mediterranean-on the first day of its annual meeting in London, where it is headquartered.

The 25-year-old bank's governing council will meanwhile on Wednesday vote on its president for the next four years. Sources close to the matter told AFP that Britain's Suma Chakrabarti—who has held the position since 2012 — is set to be re-elected. He is standing against Marek Belka, the outgoing governor of Poland's central bank.

"All of EBRD's annual meetings are special in their own way. But this year's is exceptional as it coincides with the 25th anniversary of our founding," Chakrabarti told delegates Wednesday.

"Over the last quarter of a century the EBRD has invested more than 105 billion euros (\$119

billion) in over 4,500 projects, and delivered significant impact." The EBRD on Wednesday forecast that average economic growth in its investment zone would stand at 1.4 percent in 2016.

That was modestly below its prior November guidance for 1.6-percent expansion. The performance would still mark a strong acceleration from the 0.5 percent experienced in 2015, and will be followed by an estimated 2.5-percent growth in 2017. "The slightly softer outlook reflects a further drop in the price of oil since the previous report, increased volatility in global financial markets, lower capital flows to emerging markets worldwide, weakness in global trade and increasing geopolitical tensions," the bank said in a statement.

The EBRD also highlighted "elevated" geopolitical risks, particularly in the Middle East and eastern Ukraine. However, acting chief economist Hans Peter Lankes warned that the 2016 forecast downgrade "masked a divided picture".

The Eastern Europe and the Caucasus area—which includes countries like Armenia, Belarus and Montenegro—was set to shrink by 0.2 per-

cent this year. That contrasted sharply with the previous forecast of 1.4-percent growth. This region—along with central Asia—has been hit hard by "weak commodity prices and the (ongoing) recession in Russia," the EBRD said.

The Mediterranean nations-comprising Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia were revised sharply down to 2.9-percent growth in 2016 from 4.1 percent previously. "Weaker tourism receipts partly due to security concerns and the slowdown in global trade are clouding the outlook in southern and eastern Mediterranean, as well as Turkey," the bank said. However, the EBRD's other regions—central Europe and the Baltics, and southeastern Europe—saw their prospects improve on the back of lower energy costs and accommodative monetary policy in the neighboring eurozone.

The bank, which invests in private enterprises together with commercial partners, was founded in 1991 to help ex-Soviet bloc countries make the transition to free-market economies and democracy. It has expanded its reach in recent years to Turkey, Jordan and north Africa. — AFP

CATERER COMPASS GROUP REVENUE BEATS ON STRONG NORTH AMERICA GROWTH

LONDON: Compass Group, the world's biggest catering firm, reported better-than-expected organic revenue growth on the back of strong demand for its services in North America and the UK, and stood by its full-year expectations.

The group's organic revenue grew 5.8 percent in the six months ended March 31, as strong growth in North America and a recovery in Europe more than made up for weakness in Australia, Brazil and some other businesses. At least two analysts said this was ahead of their expectations.

Shares in Compass, which serves about 5 billion meals a year, rose as much as 1.8 percent, outperforming the broader FTSE 100 index, which was down 0.3 percent on Wednesday. Compass was the third largest gainer on London's blue chip index.

In North America, which accounts for more than half of the company's business, organic revenue rose 8.3 percent in the first half, ahead of the 7.9 percent seen in the

first quarter. This strong growth mainly drove the results beat, analysts at Bank of America Merrill Lynch wrote in a client note. They upgraded their earnings expectations for fiscal year 2016-17 by 3-4 percent, citing a strong US dollar.

Chief Executive Richard Cousins told Reuters that in the second half, Compass could match the top end of the 7-8 percent organic growth it has generally had in North America. "I think we're going to have another very strong half, perhaps not quite as good as the first half but there or thereabouts," Cousins added. Europe, which makes up just under 30 percent of the group revenue, saw a 3.7 percent rise, with the company pointing to strong performance in the UK, its second largest market. The strong momentum in its two main markets encouraged Compass to maintain its full-year outlook, with the company saying that its pipeline of new contracts was encouraging. — Reuters

AFTER BRITISH CORRUPTION SLIP, NIGERIA DEMANDS STOLEN ASSETS BACK

LONDON: Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari demanded yesterday that Britain return assets held there by corrupt Nigerians, pointing the finger back at London after Britain's prime minister suggested Nigeria was "fantastically corrupt".

David Cameron's remarks during a conversation with Queen Elizabeth, caught on camera on Tuesday, have so far dominated the build-up to a global anti-corruption summit he is hosting on Thursday which Buhari will attend. During a pre-summit event in London, Buhari was asked to respond to Cameron's comment that Nigeria and Afghanistan were "possibly two of the most corrupt countries in the world".

He has since noted that the leaders of both countries are working hard to combat corruption. "I am not going to demand any apology from anybody. What I am demanding is the return of assets," Buhari said at an event, to applause from Nigerians in the audience.

"What would I do with an apology? I need something tangible," he said, rubbing his fingers together in a gesture commonly used to refer to money. The audience laughed.

Buhari has a reputation for personal probity and has pledged to crack down on corruption in Nigeria, Africa's top oil producer and most populous nation where generations of politicians have looted public coffers for their

personal gain. Buhari did not specify which assets he was talking about.

British police have conducted several investigations in recent years into assets held in Britain by Nigerian politicians, including two former state governors and a former oil minister. One of the ex-governors is serving a prison sentence in Britain after pleading guilty to money-laundering.

Nigeria is listed at number 136 out of 167 in campaign group Transparency International's latest Corruption Perceptions Index, an annual ranking of countries in which a higher number indicates a higher level of perceived corruption. — Reuters



SYDNEY: A man plays a song on a guitar on the Sydney Harbor in front of iconic Opera House yesterday. Australia's jobless rate was at 5.7 percent in March, but is forecast by the government in its annual national budget unveiled last week to fall to 5.5 percent in 2016-17. — AFP

GRAFT CRACKDOWN EARNS LATVIA OECD SEAT

RIGA: Latvia yesterday said it had been invited to join the OECD following a crackdown by the Baltic eurozone member on money laundering in its banking sector, which caters to clients from the former Soviet Union. "Latvia is invited to join the OECD!" Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics tweeted. The Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development had demanded that Riga crack down on graft in its banking sector as a precondition for joining the bloc.

In March, Latvia's financial regulator said it had shut down a bank catering mainly to non-

resident clients from the former Soviet Union due to its involvement in money laundering.

Half of Latvia's 26 registered commercial banks cater to foreigners, mostly from Russia and other countries from the former Soviet Union. Latvian 'boutique banks' have featured in a series of money-laundering scandals including the notorious Magnitsky case in Russia and the theft of one billion dollars from Moldova's state coffers. A formerly Soviet-ruled state of two million, Latvia joined the eurozone in 2014. The OECD said that for countries like Latvia the

accession process itself can serve "as a catalyst for important reforms".

In the run-up to membership, Latvia had committed to bringing back boards of directors in large state-owned companies "and has improved the anti-money laundering regulations". Calling Latvia "a successful reformer", OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría said the Baltic state "will be able to share its own important expertise with current and future members". Latvia's accession takes the number of OECD member countries to 35. — AFP

Taiwan Trade Meeting in Kuwait

One-on-One Trade Meeting with
25 Taiwanese Companies

May 17 (Tuesday) 2016

Grand Floor - 10:00AM To 6:00PM

Maha Ballroom - Regency Hotel
Salmiya

Hardware & Building Materials	Auto Parts, Motorcycle & Bicycles
Food & Food Machinery	Medical Products
Water System, LED lighting	IT, Electronics
Kitchen & Houseware	Baby & Beauty Products
Textile & Fashion Accessories	

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Organized by:

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Taiwan Trade Center,
Kuwait

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GLOBAL STOCKS DRIFT AS TRADERS LOOK FOR DIRECTION

LONDON: A promising start to the week by stocks fizzled out yesterday after a series of disappointing earnings reports. Profit-taking hit the dollar after it reached a two-week high on Tuesday. Germany's DAX snapped a four-day winning streak and the broader FTSEuroFirst 300 index of leading European shares erased much of Tuesday's rise, which was the biggest in three weeks.

US futures pointed to a fall of around a third of one percent on Wall Street. Shares in Walt

Disney Co were down nearly 5 percent in pre-market trade after reporting a rare earnings miss late on Tuesday.

"I'm still in the bearish camp, and any rallies on the market are for selling," said Terry Torrison, managing director at Monaco-based McLaren Securities. "Some company results have beaten expectations, but you have to remember by just how much some of these expectations had already been lowered." Financial services were among the biggest losers in Europe. Their 2 percent fall was led by a 10 percent plunge in Austria's Raiffeisen Bank International after it said it would look into a possible merger with RZB.

Shares in outdoor advertising firm JC Decaux slumped nearly 10 percent after it issued a weak second-quarter outlook. Several investment banks cut their ratings and price targets on the stock. The FTSEuroFirst 300, German DAX and French CAC 40 were all down around 1 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 slipped 0.1

percent lower. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan also fell 0.1 percent. It has risen only one day in the last three weeks and on Tuesday it hit an eight-week low. Japanese shares ended flat, with the Nikkei relinquishing earlier gains as a rally in the yen gathered steam.

MSCI's broad gauge of global stocks fell, too. On Tuesday it had climbed nearly 1.1 percent, its best session in about a month, in large part driven by the S&P 500's best day in two months, a 1.3 percent rise.

week, it traded at \$1.16, its highest this year. The dollar's index against a basket of six major currencies was down a quarter of one percent at 94.070, easing back from Tuesday's two-week high of 94.150.

Bonds remained well-supported, indicating investors were wary about riskier assets in an environment of sluggish global growth. An auction of three-year US notes on Tuesday was received well. Yields on 10-year debt were at 1.75 percent, not far away from a 2016 low of 1.53 percent.

German government bonds also reflected the cautious undertone. Ten-year yields were down a basis point to 0.11 percent. Longer-dated yields on peripheral Spanish and Italian bonds, however, climbed to multi-month highs on Wednesday as Spain began the sale of a 50-year bond and investors anticipated Italy might soon do the same.

Spain's benchmark 30-year bond yields rose to a two-month high of 2.95 percent and Italy's rose as high as 2.78 percent. Spain received orders of over 10 billion euros for its bond. In commodities, oil prices see-sawed after Tuesday's rally of around 4 percent. Brent crude futures were last up 1 percent at \$46.00 per barrel and US crude futures were up 0.3 percent at \$44.80 per barrel. Both had opened the European day around 1 percent lower. — Reuters

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MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT

In currency markets, the dollar weakened, led by losses against the yen. The US currency had risen to a two-week high after an economic adviser to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told Reuters on Tuesday that Japan would intervene if the yen strengthened to 90 to 95 per dollar. But dealers locked in profits on Wednesday, pushing the dollar down 0.7 percent to 108.50 yen. Last week the Japanese currency hit an 18-month high of 105.55 per dollar.

"The recent rise in dollar/yen might be seen as a victory for the Bank of Japan but, perhaps unfortunately, this looks more like a marathon than a sprint," said Steve Barrow, head of G10 strategy at Standard Bank. The euro rose 0.2 percent on the day to \$1.1390. Last

Global

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Wednesday 11 May 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price Index	▲ 24.48	5,376.28	5,351.80	5,376.64	5,348.74
Weighted Index	▲ 1.75	353.90	352.15	353.9	352.13
KSX 15	▲ 1.70	890.27	848.48	892.58	847.31

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104	▲ 0.1
KARJUS	42.5	41.5	769,690	32,294	46	41.5	▼ -1.5
IPG	390	340	38,577	12,721	7	350	▲ 10.8
NAFCSICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	▲ 0.1
FMFRVH	59	56	432,739	34,790	42	67	▲ 1.1
GPI	44.0	43.0	10,363,838	452,438	93	44.0	▲ 1.1
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	▲ 0.1
Oil & Gas			11,632,804	522,263	39	810.58	▲ 7.21

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	▲ 0.1
BPOC	540	540	4,290	2,296	3	440	▲ 10.8
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	410	▲ 0.1
ALQURAIN	212	208	555,037	116,629	26	210	▲ 0.1
Basic Materials			558,287	118,954	29	917.57	▲ 6.71

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	365	▲ 0.1
NEPRI	305	290	580	169	4	305	▲ 0.1
CABLE	400	375	1,046,880	411,063	36	400	▲ 25.4
SHF	62	144	1,151,385	166,749	34	162	▲ 10.8
PCEM	1020	1,000	244,410	244,415	25	1020	▲ 0.1
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	360	▲ 0.1
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	▲ 0.1
ACICO	295	295	594	54	1	395	▲ 0.1
GGRC	425	400	12,954	5,336	5	410	▼ -15.3
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	134	▲ 0.1
KBANC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	▲ 0.1
MCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	336	▲ 0.1
EQUIPMENT	53	50	1,300,849	66,411	39	51	▼ -1.9
MCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	▲ 0.1
GYPJUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.1
SALBOOKH	77	77	125,125	9,836	6	77	▲ 0.1
AGLY	510	500	1,351,454	682,477	36	500	▼ -10.3
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	194	▲ 0.1
CLEANING	39.0	39.0	11,300	429	1	38.0	▼ -1.8
CITYGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	120	▲ 0.1
KGL	46.0	46.0	2,300	115	2	46.0	▲ 1.1
KDCP	305	305	25,300	5,156	1	306	▼ -8.1
HUMANSOFT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1060	▲ 0.1
NAFAS	194	154	22	5	1	154	▲ 10.8
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	380	▲ 0.1
GFC	33.0	33.0	1,900	50	1	33.0	▲ 0.1
MAYADEEN	23.0	22.0	1,273,051	28,319	31	22.5	▲ 0.1
CGC	780	780	5,900	4,256	1	780	▼ -10.3
MTCO	78	77	20,500	1,586	4	78	▲ 0.1
UPAC	700	700	30	14	1	700	▲ 99.8
ALAFAC	308	306	1,105,605	229,985	18	308	▼ -1.9
MURRARD	65	63	360,997	25,260	19	64	▼ -1.8
LOGISTICS	80	77	340,274	26,789	16	80	▲ 2.1
SCEM	78	78	800,761	62,469	10	78	▲ 0.1
GCEM	81	81	20,100	1,626	2	81	▼ -3.8
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	68	▲ 0.1
FCEM	77	74	4,777,404	362,330	74	75	▲ 2.1
RKVC	93	93	39,567	3,686	2	93	▲ 0.1
SPEC	78	78	27,300	2,131	2	78	▲ 2.1
Industrials			14,829,042	2,340,462	402	1004.54	▲ 6.16

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOLK	38.0	36.1	22,095.02	121,014	69	37.5	▼ -1.0
KRE	56	54	5,854,032	322,698	72	56	▲ 1.0
URC	90	90	20,000	1,800	1	90	▲ 1.0
NRE	93	90	1248,626	111,643	47	92	▲ 1.0
SRE	360	360	500	480	1	360	▲ 10.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	590	▲ 1.0
AREC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	▲ 1.0
MSSALEH	41.0	41.1	34,400	1,410	1	41.0	▼ 1.5
ARABREC	34.0	32.1	1816,686	60,206	31	33.0	▼ 0.5
ERESCO	60	56	15,629	906	7	60	▲ 1.0
MUBANEH	840	820	444,846	368,621	21	830	▼ -10.0
IMAZZAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	77	▲ 1.0
INVESTORS	22.5	22.1	3,377,528	74,306	36	22.0	▼ 0.6
IRC	31.5	30.1	3,201,139	99,509	59	30.5	▲ 1.5
ALTUARIA	77	76	337,538	25,990	10	77	▲ 1.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	35.5	▲ 1.0
AYANRE	69	67	323,438	21,944	11	69	▲ 1.0
AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	▲ 1.0
ALAGARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	22.0	▲ 1.0
MZAYA	120	118	492,000	58,856	11	120	▲ 1.0
ADNC	13.5	12.1	6,778,234	87,721	79	13.5	▲ 1.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 1.0
TIARA	22.5	22.0	0	0	0	36.5	▲ 1.0
TAMMER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	22.5	▼ -1.0
ARKAN	90	90	500	45	1	90	▼ 1.0
ARGAN	166	162	11,273	1,391	3	162	▲ 1.0
ABYAR	25.5	25.1	2,634,501	65,953	23	25.5	▲ 1.5
MUNSHAAT	60	57	3,400,150	196,506	123	57	▼ 2.0
FRSTDUBAI	57	54	925,523	51,597	48	57	▲ 6.0
KBT	44.0	42.1	5,888,832	252,496	108	43.5	▲ 1.0
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	146	▲ 1.0
MENA	21.5	20.1	20,500	2,440	4	21.5	▲ 1.5
JAMUDOH	32.0	31.1	404,800	10,966	18	31.5	▲ 1.0
MURAKEZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	27.0	▲ 1.0
REMAL	34.5	34.1	104,410	3,622	10	34.5	▲ 1.0
MASHAER	78	77	1,900	148	2	78	▼ 2.0
Real Estate			4,943,760	1,957,585	789	865.48	▼ -1.48

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
KIVV	87	87	10,000	870	1	87	▲ 1.0
FACIL	186	186	11,590	2,156	3	186	▲ 1.0
IFA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	30.5	▲ 1.0
NNV	118	112	14,10,985	165,153	54	118	▲ 1.0
KPRDJ	530	530	50,000	31,800	2	530	▲ 1.0
COAST	46.5	43.1	7,828,452	358,543	174	46.5	▲ 1.5
SECH	45.0	43.1	6,008,820	264,959	92	44.5	▲ 1.0
SGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	▲ 1.0
ARZAN	33.0	32.1	1,169,945	37,952	39	32.5	▲ 1.5
MURKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	88	▲ 1.0
KPEFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	26.0	▲ 1.0
ALAMAN	51	49.1	1,256,350	62,738	28	50	▼ 1.0
ALOLA	51	51	154,125	7,860	4	51	▲ 1.0
AIMAL	30.5	29.1	2,967,885	80,143	83	30.5	▲ 1.0
GM	29.0	28.1	3,158,493	81,873	83	28.5	▲ 1.0
AYAN	36.0	37.1	4,227,650	156,075	56	37.0	▼ 0.5
BIYANINV	35.5	34.1	964,757	23,319	23	35.0	▲ 1.0
OSUL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	42.0	▲ 1.0
KPIC	39.5	39.1	223,500</				

IN RACE TO CATCH UP, RWANDA RISKS PROPERTY BUBBLES

KIGALI: When property consultant Simon Ehangatta set up in Rwanda's capital in 2011, the view from his office was of tin shacks overlooked by modest suburban homes on the wooded hillsides.

Now, some of the slums have made way for mirror-glass office blocks while smart houses spring up beyond in Kigali districts which were once littered with corpses during the 1994 genocide.

"It's changing so fast," said Ehangatta, a Kenyan. "These guys are so ambitious." To the government, this is proof of Rwanda's dramatic recovery in the two decades since 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were butchered by Hutu extremists.

But the pace of change - part of a 'Vision 2020' plan to turn one of world's poorest states into a middle-income country by the end of the decade - is starting to reveal the risks of going too far, too fast. As imports are sucked into a nation dependent on farming, foreign aid and modest mineral exports, the Rwandan currency has fallen, some banks are turning cautious on property lending and economic growth - while still strong - has slipped. All this is threatening to take the shine off President Paul Kagame, a former rebel who masterminded the revival but has drawn criticism from Rwanda's tiny domestic opposition as well as foreign governments for changing the constitution. This could allow Kagame, who has already effectively run the country for more than 20 years, to stay in power until 2034.

"If people start to question whether he can deliver, there will be trouble," said one Kigali-based diplomat. The authorities dismiss such worries and point to the record of change. In the last decade, the economy grew at an average rate of 8 percent a year, one of the fastest in Africa. This week, hundreds of foreign visitors are attending the World Economic Forum on Africa in Kigali, where four international hotels - two Hiltons, a Marriott and a Radisson - will open in the next three months.

Hundreds of new homes are coming on the market worth \$500,000 each - a huge sum for a country where most of the 11 million population are subsistence farmers and the per capita income is just \$730, far short of the \$1,045 that the World Bank defines as middle income. The appetite for cars, household appliances and smart phones from an emerging middle-class is adding to the import bill, just as mineral exports have been hit by a downturn in global commodity prices, shrinking dollar income. Rwanda's franc weakened 11 percent against the dollar in 2015 and the central bank expects a further 8 percent drop this year. Foreign currency reserves are under pressure, with one diplomat saying they were worryingly low and sufficient to pay for just 3.2 months of imports. The central bank does not publish timely reserve figures. "Rebuilding reserve buffers will be critical to enhance the country's resilience to future shocks," the International Monetary Fund wrote in

January. In a report in April, it said growth remained robust at 6.9 percent in 2015 but cited a "significant loss" of commodity export revenues among challenges facing the land-locked country. Rapid growth in commercial credit, much of it to fund housing and construction, has also raised fears of a bubble. Central Bank Governor John Rwangombwa told Reuters he was watching lending levels for signs of overheating. "For now we don't see any big challenge because the performance of these loans is still fair," he said, adding that non-performing loans - where borrowers are significantly behind with repayments - stood at 6.2 percent of total lending in December, a slight decrease from 2013.

TIGHT CONTROL

But if a bubble were to burst, this could shake the social compact of rising living standards that has maintained Kagame's grip on power since his rebel army marched into Kigali in 1994. Diplomats said a referendum vote last year that approved the constitutional change was pushed through with limited debate and the government offers too little room for opposition. "It's a very tightly controlled regime. Anybody steps out of line, it's prison - or worse," another Western diplomat said. "The Kagame lustre has definitely worn thin." Two former senior military officers have been sentenced to up to 21 years in jail on charges of inciting the public to cause an insur-

rection and links with exiled critics of the president. Rwanda has denied any involvement in attacks on exiles, including a former spy chief who was killed in 2014 in South Africa, but have called them traitors who should expect no forgiveness or pity.

Kagame himself points out that the constitutional change won 98 percent backing in the referendum. "If some people seek to stay in power when their people don't want them - and it has happened, I've seen it in Africa - that will always end in a disaster," he said earlier this year. "Is it the same case with Rwanda? I'm telling you no." While the nation still depends on aid for about 40 percent of its annual budget, officials say the economy remains on track. Credit handed out by Rwandan banks, led by Bank of Kigali, the largest domestic lender, rose 26 percent year-on-year in December, much of it in the form of mortgages.

Some people are less sanguine than Rwangombwa about the rise in mortgages, which estate agents say typically charge a hefty 17 percent annual interest and usually account for 70 percent of a property's value. The Independent, a weekly business magazine, reported that 100 small hotels closed last year after failing to repay bank loans. Some bankers have grown wary of bricks and mortar. "We are being very careful about lending to the construction sector," one senior executive at a foreign-owned bank said, asking not to be named for fear of offending the government. — Reuters



LONDON: A handout picture released by the Colombian Presidency shows Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos (left) meeting US Secretary of State John Kerry in London yesterday. — AFP

TAX REFORM MUST AND WILL PASS THIS YEAR: SANTOS

LONDON: Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said a tax reform bill, considered vital to help the country cope with plunging oil revenues, will be approved by Colombia's congress before the end of 2016 and would not be delayed by the country's peace process.

Speaking to investors in London, Santos said he hoped the government would soon conclude lengthy talks with leftist FARC rebels to end Latin America's longest war but said this would not detract from fiscal reform. "This will be approved, this has to be approved before the end of the year for the reform to start producing its effects next year," Santos said referring to the tax reforms. "There will be no problem." Investors are keen for signs of progress on the reform without which the country could see a downgrade to its credit ratings. Standard & Poor's said in February it could cut Colombia's rating if there is no progress on the plan this year.

Santos said he had support for the tax overhaul plan from parties accounting for about 80 percent of Congress and he denied he was prioritizing the peace process, which the government had hoped to conclude in March. "So some people are saying the president is playing politics, he wants the peace and he will sacrifice the fiscal reform. Nonsense, I'm not going to sacrifice the fiscal reform. We need it and we will have it approved."

PEACE IN "VERY NEAR FUTURE"

Santos said he hoped the negotiations to end the war with FARC, the Revolutionary

Armed Forces of Colombia, which has killed about 220,000 people since 1964, would be concluded "in the very near future" but gave no specific timetable. "As soon as possible," he said when asked for a date. "We're very close to ending the war."

US Secretary of State John Kerry, who met Santos shortly after the meeting with investors in London, said Washington hoped to see a deal imminently. "Mr President, we really encourage these next days ... that hopefully can see this important agreement reached," he told Santos in front of reporters.

Asked whether the tax reform bill would include changes to value-added tax, Santos said he would not announce details of the changes before presenting them to the country's congress. Santos also said he would stick to the country's fiscal rules, which set limits for the budget deficit, and they would not be derailed by the costs of reintegrating combatants from the country's civil war into society and compensating victims.

"No matter what happens we will respect this fiscal rule," he said. Andres Escobar, deputy Colombian finance minister, said the tax reforms aimed to increase tax revenues by 1.5 percentage points as a share of total economic output.

Juan Pablo Cordoba, head of the Colombian Securities Exchange, said the reform needed to ease the burden on the country's big businesses as 3,000 firms, of a total of around 1 million, currently pay 70 percent of all Colombian income tax. — Reuters

MALAYSIA'S CB CONFIDENT GOVT WILL HONOR DEBT OBLIGATIONS

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's new central bank governor said he was confident the government would honour all its debt obligations, as a deadline loomed yesterday for troubled state fund 1MDB to make a coupon payment on a \$1.75 billion bond. Muhammad Ibrahim, formerly a deputy governor at Bank Negara, took over the stewardship of the central bank at the start of this month following the retirement of his respected predecessor, Zeti Akhtar Aziz.



KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's newly-appointed Central Bank Governor Muhammad Ibrahim delivers his keynote address at the Global Islamic Finance Forum in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — AFP

His appointment comes at a difficult time for Prime Minister Najib Razak, with a political controversy raging over 1Malaysia Development Bhd, which is the focus of a multi-billion dollar money-laundering investigation in at least six countries.

"I'm quite confident the government will honour all of its debt obligations," Muhammad Ibrahim told reporters in response to a question about 1MDB at the

sidelines of an event in Kuala Lumpur. Earlier this month, Malaysia's finance ministry said it was taking over 1MDB's remaining assets, but it was unclear how much of the fund's debt, which was shouldered by the government. Ratings firm S&P said the government has explicitly guaranteed, or extended a letter of support, to cover debt totalling 17.6 billion ringgit (\$4.4 billion). Muhammad said resolution of 1MDB's problems would improve market sentiment toward Malaysia. 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) has to make a payment on a \$1.75 billion bond yesterday, but there was no indication yet on whether it would be paid.

1MDB's bond fell ahead of the coupon deadline due to mounting uncertainty over whether the payment would be made on time. The 5.75 percent \$1.75 billion 2022 1MDB bond was 1.5 cents lower yesterday at 101/102 cents on the dollar. It has fallen 16 cents since the start of the year. Last month, 1MDB did not pay a \$50.3 million coupon on another \$1.75 billion bond, following a stand-off with Abu Dhabi sovereign fund IPIC, triggering cross-defaults on some of its other bonds.

1MDB's advisory board was chaired by Najib until its dissolution earlier this month. Critics say Najib was a beneficiary of 1MDB's funds, after about \$681 million was deposited in his bank account before a 2013 election. Najib has dismissed these claims, and the attorney-general said the money was a gift from Saudi Arabia's royal family and most of the funds were returned. Najib has resisted calls to step down as prime minister and has consolidated his position by sacking dissenters within his party, but his most fierce critic is his former mentor, Mahathir Mohamad, who led the country for 22 years. — Reuters

GERMANY'S TRAVEL GIANT TUI BUYS TRANSAT UNIT

GROUP UNVEILS PLANS TO BECOME MARKET LEADER IN FRANCE

FRANKFURT: German tourism and travel giant TUI unveiled yesterday plans to become market leader in France by acquiring the French unit of Transat, while it would also sell off a portfolio of specialist tourist brands.

"TUI has agreed to acquire Transat tourism group's French tour operating business ... in order to strengthen its market position," the German group said in a statement.

"Due to the acquisition, TUI France is not only expected to achieve sound profitability but also to become the market leader in France," ahead of Karavel-Promovacances, it said.

TUI said it would pay 54 million euros (\$62 million) for Transat France, which owns the Look Voyages and Vacances Transat brands, employs a workforce of 560 and had 375,000 customers last year travelling to key destinations of Spain, Greece, Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

Pending regulatory approval, the deal was expected to be completed by the autumn. "The French market is traditionally not an easy one, but it's an important one," said TUI chief executive Fritz Jousen. "We're confident that the French activities will develop positively and that's why we're investing there," he said.

Difficult environment

Since merging with British arm TUI Travel at the end of 2014, TUI has been reorganizing all of its key markets, hotels and cruise holidays activities under the same roof to create an integrated tourism group. Pointing to a number of recent attacks at holiday destinations, Jousen admitted that "there is no doubt that the market environment has been difficult" in recent months.

As holidaymakers stay away from destinations such as Tunisia, Egypt and more recently Turkey, TUI has quickly switched its focus to other destinations such as Spain or the Caribbean. TUI has also recently sold its Hotelbeds unit, which describes itself as the number one bed-



HANOVER: Shareholders arriving to attend the annual general meeting of the world's biggest tourism group TUI in Hanover, central Germany. TUI said yesterday it had bought French company Transat France (Look Voyages). — AFP

bank worldwide, to two investment funds for 1.2 billion euros. And the group also announced Wednesday the sale of The Specialist Group, which covers specialist travel brands, such as SunSail or Flexisk. "The Specialist Group is a great collection of more than 50 brands and successful companies. However, there is little vertical integration with the core tourism businesses," CEO Jousen said.

"We believe that a disposal of Specialist Group in one transaction is the best way to maximise value from these businesses for TUI's shareholders," TUI, which operates its business

year from October to September, also published its results for the first six months. Sales grew by 2.7 percent to 6.8 billion euros. The group booked a bottom-line loss of 449 million euros in the six-month period, wider than 201.5 million euros a year earlier. This was largely due to write-downs on its stake in Hapag-Lloyd.

At an underlying level, the operating loss narrowed slightly to 470.6 million euros from 474.2 million euros. TUI usually makes a loss in the winter months and it said that the summer holiday bookings were "in line with expectations." — AFP

CAN NEW SHELL COMPANY RULE STOP CROOKS, TERRORISTS, TAX INVADERS?

NEW YORK: The US Treasury Department wants to go after money launderers, tax evaders and terrorists by cracking open the shell companies they use to hide cash flows, but critics say a new agency effort to identify them could be easily evaded. Treasury last week issued a new rule, effective in 2018, requiring financial institutions to obtain the identities of "beneficial owners" of their client companies and at least one senior manager. Financial firms will have to verify their identities through documents such as passports - but will not have to confirm their ownership stakes in the companies.

That could allow criminals to provide false information with little risk of getting caught, critics say. "If a company has criminal intent, they are probably not going to file that their beneficial owner is ISIS," said Anders Rodenberg, who oversees relationships with financial firms in North America at Bureau van Dijk, a beneficial-ownership data provider. The Treasury Department says its rule - along with separate but related legislation it proposed to Congress - strikes the right balance between rooting out corruption and avoiding burdensome requirements on financial firms and legitimate clients.

But what if a customer lies?

"Then they are committing fraud," said Steve Hudak, spokesman for Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. Treasury and law enforcement officials can contact the person a company names as a senior manager if they want to investigate further, Hudak said. The regulation - called the Customer Due Diligence rule - has been in the works since 2012. It comes at a time when President Obama and other world leaders are under pressure to respond to a string of recent reports known as the Panama Papers.

Distributed by a group of investigative journalists, the reports disclosed how rich and powerful people, including heads of state and convicted financial criminals, use shell companies to avoid paying taxes. Treasury's rule will apply to banks, brokers, mutual funds and other financial firms. It will require them not only to collect data on owners and managers, but to update records with changes they discover during routine checks.

Legislation proposed by the agency, which requires congressional approval, would create a federal database and require companies to register

either when they incorporate or transfer ownership to the US from overseas. Critics contend that the plan does not go far enough to unmask shell companies' true owners.

They argue a criminal enterprise can, for instance, keep individual ownership stakes below 25 percent and list anyone as a point person, even if he or she has no real management responsibilities. "You can only keep the honest people honest," said Steve Goldstein, chief executive of Alacra, which provides services to banks seeking to comply with current "know-your-customer" regulations. "I don't think it will be that hard for a bad-actor beneficial owner to avoid detection."

Industry groups ranging from the American Bankers Association to the American Bar Association have offered different criticism, arguing compliance with the rules will be too costly and time-consuming. James Richards, Wells Fargo & Co's global director of financial crimes risk management, said it will be hard to meet new requirements because the information clients provide

ranges widely in quality. "We have to trust without being able to verify that the information they are giving us is accurate," he said.

"The innocent will give us good information or sloppy, bad information by mistake. The guilty will give us bad information, and we won't be able to tell the difference."

WHO OWNS WHAT?

Having access to a central database maintained by the government could make a difference, Richards said. But as it stands, corporations are formed across 50 states, whose governments have resisted collecting beneficial-ownership data. In April alone, more than 12 million ownership changes - 400,000 a day - took place at corporations worldwide, according to Orbis, a database of incorporation records owned by Bureau van Dijk. A few corporations may change ownership to hide from international sanctions, but most times it happens as a result of ordinary business practices like opening a foreign subsidiary. — Reuters



PARIS: An activist of international movement attack holds a picture of Societe Generale chief executive Frederic Oudea during a demonstration outside the French Senate in Paris yesterday as Frederic Oudea testifies for the second time in front of the Finance Committee about the bank's involvement in the creation of offshore companies for clients in Panama. — AFP

KIPCO AWARDED 'BEST CORPORATE GOVERNANCE KUWAIT'

CAPITAL FINANCE INTERNATIONAL AWARD REINFORCES THE GROUP'S REPUTATION



KIPCO Vice Chairman Faisal Al-Ayyar

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Projects Company has been named the winner of the 'Best Corporate Governance Kuwait 2016 Award' by the UK-based business and finance publication, Capital Finance International (CFI.co).

The judging panel's selection of KIPCO reflects the holding company's achievement of strict adherence to prudent and sensible investment strategies; the transparency and sound corporate governance that are at the very core of all KIPCO Group operations and processes; and the Group's signature annual Shafafiyah (transparency) Investors Forum, which allows management an opportunity to review its past performance and offer guidance on coming year prospects.

The CFI.co judging panel hailed KIPCO for its forward looking and pioneering approach to corporate governance. The judges agreed that a company's reputation is its most valuable asset.

Commenting on this occasion, Faisal Al-Ayyar, KIPCO's Vice Chairman (Executive) said:



"We are pleased to have received this important recognition. Out of our strong belief in the utmost importance of transparency for the growth of any organization, we took the decision 13 years ago to hold annual investor



forums across all of our core companies. In these meetings, we not only give our shareholders and potential investors the previous year's figures, but also discuss the activities that took place and what our expectations are for

the next year. This award reinforces our reputation of having sound corporate governance practices across the Group."

Each year, CFI.co seeks out organizations that contribute significantly to the convergence of economies and truly add value for all stakeholders. Reporting from frontlines of economies on the move, CFI.co's Awards Program identifies and rewards excellence around the world, and the program aims to inspire other organizations to further improve their own performance.

The KIPCO Group is one of the biggest holding companies in the Middle East and North Africa, with consolidated assets of \$33 billion as at 31 March 2016. The Group has significant ownership interests in over 60 companies operating across 24 countries. The group's main business sectors are financial services, media, real estate and manufacturing. Through its core companies, subsidiaries and affiliates, KIPCO also has interests in the education and medical sectors.

FORD INVESTS IN PIVOTAL TO ACCELERATE CLOUD-BASED SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

NEW LABS DRIVE FORD SMART MOBILITY INNOVATION

DUBAI: Ford announced an investment in Pivotal, a cloud-based software platform company headquartered in San Francisco, to further enhance its software development capabilities and deliver innovations to customers more quickly.

The \$182.2 million investment in Pivotal aims to help drive Ford's transition to an auto and a mobility company. Ford is continuing to focus on and invest in its core business - designing, manufacturing, marketing, financing and servicing cars, SUVs, trucks and electrified vehicles. At the same time, the company is aggressively pursuing emerging opportunities through Ford Smart Mobility - its plan to be a leader in connectivity, mobility, autonomous vehicles, the customer experience, and data and analytics.

"Expanding our business to be both an

auto and mobility company requires leading-edge software expertise to deliver outstanding customer experiences," said Mark Fields, Ford president and CEO. "Our investment in Pivotal will help strengthen our ability to deliver these customer experiences at the speed of Silicon Valley, including continually expanding FordPass - our digital, physical and personal mobility experience platform."

Expanding a relationship

Ford recently teamed up with Pivotal to deliver FordPass, an innovative consumer experience platform that launched last month. FordPass will offer new customer services, like remote access to vehicles through a smartphone app, and mobility solutions, such as parking and car sharing. Innovating and iterating quickly, Pivotal and

Ford IT engineers are working side-by-side to create new consumer experiences for FordPass members.

Building on this existing relationship, Ford plans to accelerate the incorporation of Pivotal's advanced software development methodologies and technology across the IT, product development, and research and advanced engineering teams. Ford will put Pivotal's next-generation cloud platform and analytics capabilities to use on the company's new mobility projects - such as its on-demand Dynamic Shuttle pilot program.

"Today we are at a major inflection point in global business, and Pivotal is at the fulcrum of that change," said Rob Mee, Pivotal CEO. "We are collaborating with iconic companies like Ford to help transform their businesses with our unique software development methodology and modern cloud platform and analytics tools. We are thrilled to create a deeper partnership with Ford through this investment as we drive its evolution to becoming both an auto and mobility company - reinventing yet again how the world moves."

Building more software expertise

Pivotal's advanced software development methodologies and cloud platform complement Ford's already strong embedded software capability that supports EcoBoost engines, the SYNC 3 connectivity system, driver-assist technologies like active park assist and more.

Software plays a growing role in new vehicles as demonstrated by the all-new F-150 that features more than 150 million lines of code, whereas a typical smartphone operating system has approximately 12 million lines. Engineers are capitalizing on software to deliver precise control over aspects of vehicle performance such as engine and

transmission calibration to improve fuel economy and for the connectivity experience by giving customers hands-free access to their smartphones through SYNC 3.

In fact, the very success of EcoBoost engine technology can be attributed to software. Software is the secret sauce to the fuel efficiency EcoBoost delivers because it allows engineers to maximize the use of each drop of fuel at a molecular level. Ford has 275 patents on EcoBoost technology and another 200 pending, with a large majority covering aspects of software controls and calibration.



"Investing in Pivotal builds on our current strengths in software development," said Marcy Klevorn, Ford vice president and CIO, who will join the board of directors at Pivotal. "We plan to quickly add new state-of-the-art software engineering capabilities across the Ford enterprise."

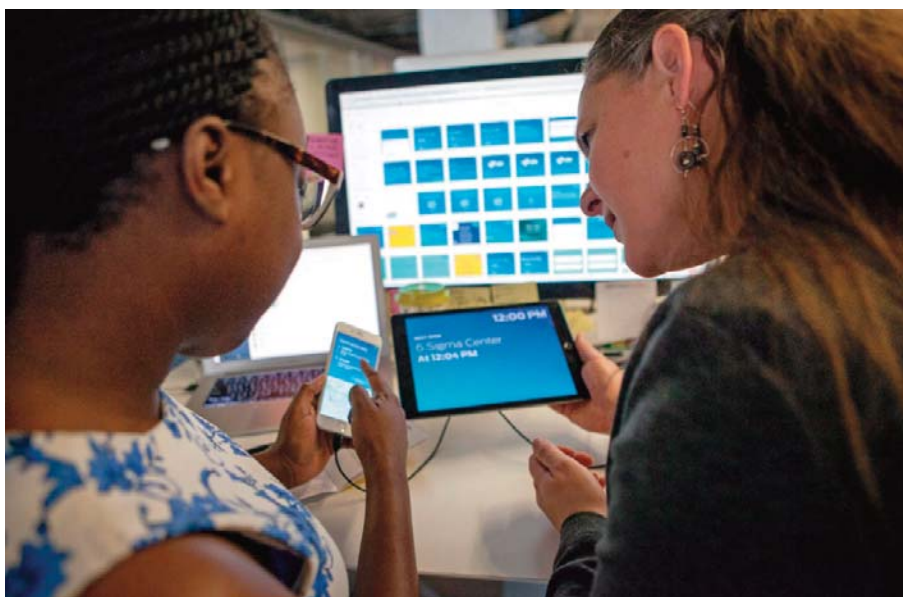
In addition, Ford and Pivotal plan to open new software labs in strategic locations in both the United States and Europe. The labs will be staffed with software architects, engineers and user experience experts - all using Pivotal's advanced software development methodology. Ford's investment in Pivotal is subject to customary regulatory approval.



KFH WINS 'BEST TRAINING PLAN AWARD' FROM MGRP

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) wins the "Distinguished Training Award" presented by Manpower Government Restructuring Program for the best training plan executed in cooperation with MGRP for the year 2015 - 2016. MGRP has also given its individual best performance award in the field of training programs coordination to a KFH employee Mahmoud Yousuf. KFH has won during the past two consecutive years the best entity award for recruitment and training of Kuwaitis at the private sector level. These awards come in appreciation of KFH policy and efforts in training and developing human resources and KFH keenness to attract new Kuwaiti graduates and subjecting them to an extensive training program as per the highest worldwide recognized levels in the field of manpower growth and development.

Rashed Al-Essa - Recruitment Manager received KFH award in the ceremony held for honoring banks and companies participating in the training of private sector employees, held by MGRP. The ceremony was attended by the Executive Manager - Education and Development Emad Mirza and many other representatives of companies and banks and officials and managers of MGRP which has organized this annual ceremony to honor banks, companies and private entities for their participation and active role in supporting the restructuring and orientation process of youth to develop national economy. Awards were granted to the most distinguished and cooperative bodies in the field of training and recruitment.



SIERRA LEONE SOLAR AIMS TO BRING ELECTRICITY TO ALL BY 2025

LONDON: Sierra Leone aims to provide electricity to all of its 6 million citizens by 2025 in a push to boost the economy, expand crucial services such as healthcare, and reduce dependency on aid, officials said yesterday. Less than 12 percent of people in Sierra Leone's cities have access to electricity, while in rural areas, where most people live, the figure is less than 1 percent.

Under an initiative launched this week, Sierra Leone plans to bring solar power to all of the West African country's 149 chiefdoms within the next 18 months and deliver power to 1 million people by 2020. The initiative with Britain's development aid ministry (DFID) is part of the UK Energy Africa campaign, which aims to help African countries reach a global development goal agreed by UN member states to ensure access to energy for all by 2030. "I am very proud to sign the first ever compact agreement on this campaign with the government of Sierra Leone to ignite the solar energy market - helping to power business, hospitals and homes, making sure the poorest people no matter where they live can access clean, reliable and affordable energy," Nick Hurd, DFID minister, said in a statement.

Lack of access to electricity is holding back economic development in many African countries. Only about a third of the population have access to electricity in Sub-Saharan Africa, and in some countries, like Zambia, only 5 percent of rural and 26 percent of the urban population have electricity.

"People end up spending a lot more money on electricity access just by using haphazard means (such as) kerosene lamps, firewood, candles, generators," said Aminata Dumbuya, Sierra Leone campaign director at the Power for All campaign. "We are hoping that this new announcement ... will now accelerate the private sector to come in with quality, solar products," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone from Sierra Leone.

The Sierra Leonean government also plans to eliminate import duties and Value Added Tax (VAT) on internationally certified renewable energy products.

The International Monetary Fund said in March that Sierra Leone's economy, battered by the world's worst recorded Ebola epidemic, was expected to grow by 4.3 percent this year after contracting by 21 percent last year. Ebola has killed some 11,300 people in the West African country and its neighbours Guinea and Liberia since late 2013.

The outbreak raised fears that after more than a decade of peace and economic growth in Sierra Leone and Liberia, which brought hopes that the nations could finally reduce their dependency on aid, Ebola was undermining those achievements. — Reuters

ZAIN LAUNCHES 'COLOCATION DATA CENTER'



Zain Colocation Data Center

The ideal place to host and store enterprise data



KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the launch of its "Colocation Data Center" (CDC), offering corporate customers an ideal platform with reliable support and advanced solutions to store and host their digital assets on its network.

The launch of Zain's Colocation Data Center comes under the company's vision to enrich the bundle of solutions and services it offers to corporate and enterprise customers, and reflects Zain's strategic aspirations of delivering on a compelling digital lifestyle to its customers, both consumer and corporate.

Zain's CDC enables corporate customers, whether enterprises, SMEs, or governmental organizations, to connect directly with their strategic partners and end users with Zain's dynamic ecosystems. The CDC helps customers optimize the performance of their content and applications as well as protect their vital digital access.

The Colocation Data Center provides a wide array of innovative digital solutions, including high capacity Internet and data services, multi-tenant block-based platforms, and intelligent rack power distribution units. The center also features industry-specific power solutions, cooling and humidity controls, and 24/7 access. Furthermore, Zain ensures the safety of

customers' data through a secure infrastructure, completely with physical manpower and biometric systems.

The Center also offers a comprehensive cable management infrastructure for Zain's customers, allowing them to connect via fiber conduits to link with the company's carriers and Internet services. The CDC's dark fiber connectivity cabling infrastructure minimizes interference issues and allows customers to directly connect to any other customer within the center. These connections are established quickly and easily with initial physical installation and cabling of hardware by Zain's technicians, with the company acting as a single point of contact to resolve service issues.

Zain's strategy of being a sustainable digital communications company has long focused on the customer experience and using technology to create more value for the customer. The launch of Zain's Colocation Data Center is one of the major steps in the company's strategic plan to introduce more distinctive digital services dedicated to corporate and enterprise customers.

Zain believes that corporations are unique by nature and require unique services that recognize and satisfy their needs promptly and efficiently, and today's announcement is a testament of that belief.

GOLD MOVES OFF 2-WEEK LOW AS DOLLAR SLIPS

LONDON: Gold rebounded from two-week lows yesterday as the dollar's rally paused and European shares fell, rekindling investors' appetites for the precious metal. Spot gold rose 1 percent to \$1,277.56 an ounce by 1200 GMT, while US gold for June delivery gained 1.2 percent to \$1,279.90 an ounce. The metal touched a low of \$1,257.25 on Tuesday, its weakest since April 28.

The dollar slipped 0.3 percent against a basket of major currencies, making dollar-priced assets such as gold cheaper for holders of other currencies. Gold reached a 15-month high of \$1,303.60 last week, before surrendering to the general strength of the dollar.

Analysts see the \$1,300 level as a tough barrier in the short term, as the metal has already enjoyed a 20 percent

increase since the start of the year, bolstered by strong physical inflows and receding prospects in the near-term of an increase in US interest rates. "We do have a number of drivers that should give fundamental support for gold and are definitely capping the downside but gold has come along quite a bit this year so I can't see it breaching the \$1,300 level more permanently when the dollar has increased so much," Danske Bank senior analyst Jens Pedersen said.

Gold is supported largely by expectations that the next US interest rate increase will only happen later in the year as Fed policymakers take note of challenging global economic conditions, Mark To, head of research at Fung Fung Financial Group said. "The current situation is favourable to

gold but it is not overwhelmingly favourable," he said, adding that the US economy appeared to be in good shape overall. "That's why people take some profits along the way," Goldman Sachs also sees "limited upside for gold pricing given the limited room for the Fed to surprise to the downside, limited room for the dollar to depreciate, and limited room for China to drive (emerging markets) currency strength to contribute to dollar weakness."

Goldman however increased its gold price forecasts for coming months, citing stronger net speculative positioning. Other precious metals also advanced, with spot silver gaining 2.5 percent to \$17.54 an ounce, platinum up 2.1 percent to \$1,065.99 and palladium rising 2.6 percent to \$604.20. — Reuters

NETWORK SECURITY - IT'S EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS!

By Maan Al-Shakarchi, Head of Networking, Europe, Middle East, Africa and APAC, Avaya

As the week kicks off, we are greeted with yet another network security breach making headline news. The story comes from Bangladesh's Central Bank, where hackers failed in their "e-heist" to transfer \$951 million of funds, yet still managed to make off with a cool \$81 million, which they moved to the Philippines and then funneled towards casinos there. A security investigation blamed the breach on lack of basic security infrastructure - no firewalls, and outdated secondhand switches. That problem there seems pretty obvious, but is there more than meets the eye?

Security is always a combination of three pillars - technology, people, and process. In this case, technol-

ogy was blamed as the primary culprit, and rightfully so. Large organizations have IT security teams responsible for "hardening" the overall infrastructure. They build high walls (firewalls) and set traps (intrusion detection) around the city to protect the perimeter. The problem is that more and more frequently, attacks are coming from the inside.

The SWIFT room in Bangladesh Bank is located on the 8th floor of their building in Dhaka. It is 12 x 8 feet large, containing four servers, four monitors, and a printer. It has no windows, and would appear quite physically secure. However, the rules of traditional IP networking meant that the room is exposed to the wider network, spanning across to other remote locations. The culprit in this case was not the secondhand \$10 switch which an engineer decided to deploy to connect the stations and the printer. The real culprit was relying on legacy network technology which does not offer genuine segmentation. To draw an analogy, think of traffic on a traditional computer net-

work like sending a letter through the standard post office system. Your envelope stops at each location, mixing with other envelopes as it is routed across the system. Now think of a courier model, where your envelope is put into a special package, hidden from the outside world, and flies directly to the destination without being exposed to any stops. Modern network technologies, called fabrics, allow you to encapsulate traffic streams from different systems. This segregates you network into secure isolated zones, each completely separate and hidden from the rest. Fabrics also have the additional benefit of automating the response to possible breaches, dynamically moving attackers to quarantine zones, and immediately alerting network administrators.

Some might think this is a third world problem, and more developed countries have moved on. The truth is, this is a global problem. In the US, one of the largest department stores recently faced a similar breach when hackers were able to access its network using an HVAC

contractor. To use our analogy, the envelopes that contain the contractor's traffic were being mixed with the customer payment envelopes on the same postal system (network). Why was the contractor access not cordoned off? Exactly the same answer - we continue to rely on the same insecure legacy network technologies. The vast majority of enterprise networks globally have yet to move on.

While some network manufacturers continue to promote complex legacy systems, the impact on their customers is huge. Every time a CIO or network manager decides to invest in traditional network technologies, they are exposing their business and inviting hackers in. The headline news is a constant reminder for us to embrace the next generation of network technologies, and secure our businesses from both external and internal threats.

NOTE: Maan Al-Shakarchi is the Head of Networking, Europe, Middle East, Africa and APAC, Avaya



FRENCH TEENAGER COMMITS SUICIDE LIVE ON PERISCOPE

PARIS: French prosecutors launched an investigation yesterday after a 19-year-old woman committed suicide by throwing herself in front of a suburban train in Paris and streamed the act live on Periscope. The unnamed French woman "sent a text to one of her friends several minutes before her death to make them aware of her intentions," said prosecutor Eric Lallement. "She also made statements to Internet users via the Periscope application to explain her act." The victim also "spoke of a rape and named the aggressor" during the filming, a judicial source said, adding that the claims were being treated with caution at this stage.

Footage of the woman's actual death, which took place on Tuesday at a station in Egly to the south of Paris, was removed by Periscope but some of the video leading up to the suicide was still available on YouTube. The victim is seen on a couch, smoking a cigarette, saying the video is "not designed to create a buzz... but to make people react, to open their minds, and nothing else". The video then cuts to a black screen, and what appear to be the voices of emergency personnel can be faintly heard. Messages of concern from Periscope users are seen flashing up on the screen.

Periscope is a smartphone application that allows users to stream live video via their Twitter account. The video usually remains accessible for 24 hours. Police said they were informed by someone watching the stream. "We were alerted around 4:30 pm by a Periscope user who was connected with the victim and told us that she was not well," a police source said.

Twitter, which bought Periscope in 2015, said it did not comment on individual accounts. An investigation has been opened into the circumstances of the suicide. "Once the first results of the analysis of the victim's mobile telephone and the images diffused by Periscope are known, the investigators will attempt to specify the motivations for her act, and if necessary, to enlarge the investigation," Lallement said in a statement.

Disturbing incidents have become increasingly common on live-streaming services. An 18-year-old woman appeared in court in the US state of Ohio last month accused of filming the rape of her 17-year-old friend by a 29-year-old man and live-streaming it on Periscope. Marina Lonina "got caught up in the likes" that Periscope users gave the video, her lawyer told the court. — AFP



LAS VEGAS: Hyperloop One Sherwin Pishavar, co-founder and Executive Chairman at Hyperloop One, talks about the future of transportation on Tuesday during a press conference. —AFP

FRENCH NATIONAL RAIL BACKS FUTURISTIC HYPERLOOP ONE

LAS VEGAS: Hyperloop One startup, intent on zipping people along at near-supersonic speeds in pressurized tubes, announced yesterday that the French national rail company had joined its growing list of backers. Hyperloop One said that it raised \$80 million in fresh funding from an array of investors, including GE Ventures and France's SNCF. "The overwhelming response we've had already confirms what we've always known, that Hyperloop One is at the forefront of a movement to solve one of the planet's most pressing problems," Hyperloop One co-founder Sherwin Pishavar said.

"The brightest minds are coming together at the right time to eliminate the distances and borders that separate economies and cultures," Pishavar and Brogan BamBrogan founded Hyperloop One, originally named Hyperloop Technologies, in 2013 to make real Elon Musk's well-researched vision of a lightning-fast transport system with the potential to transform how people live. Musk outlined his futuristic idea in a paper released in 2013, challenging innovators to bring the dream to life.

Hyperloop One, one of the startups that picked up the gauntlet Musk threw down, planned a demonstration yesterday in the desert outside Las Vegas to show what it has accomplished so far. BamBrogan also promised a "full-scaled, full-speed" demo by the end of the year. "It's not just a faster train; it is an absolute on-demand experience," he said during a presentation here late Tuesday. "It leaves when you get there and goes directly to your destination."

He went on to playfully describe Hyperloop as having such a controlled environment that it would be "elevator smooth" as well as "pet friendly, kid friendly, grandma friendly". Hyperloop One is so confident in the speed at which the project is moving that it announced a global challenge in which businesses, governments, citizens, academics and others can submit proposals for where the systems should be built. "Just like an Olympics bidding process, we want to understand the great ideas in the world and then extract the best one," Hyperloop One chief executive Rob Lloyd said. "So after we had our Kitty Hawk moment, we can start to transform the world."

Kitty Hawk Moment

Late last year, Lloyd said in an online post that the team was working toward a "Kitty Hawk" moment in 2016. The Wright brothers made history with the first successful powered airplane flight just outside the North Carolina town of Kitty Hawk in 1903. The post came with word of an agreement to use an industrial park in the city of North Las Vegas to conduct a Propulsion Open Air Test of the blazingly fast rail system. Lloyd described it at the time as a very important step on the way to realizing Hyperloop One's full potential.

"Our 'Kitty Hawk' moment refers to our first full system, full scale, full speed test," he said. "This will be over two miles of tube with a controlled environment and inside that tube we will levitate a pod and accelerate it to over 700 miles (1,125 km) per hour."

Hyperloop One boasted of a growing network of collaborators interested in seeing the technology succeed and using it to revolutionize the way

people and cargo get around. Lloyd envisioned a day when factories could crank out goods on demand to have them quickly transported to far-off locations, then perhaps even delivered in autonomous vehicles. He was also looking forward to a time when painfully congested commuter traffic would be little more than a story from a time gone by.

"I think this is going to change human behav-

ior," AECOM multi-national engineering firm new ventures vice president Andrew Liu said while taking part in an onstage exchange between some of those lending expertise to Hyperloop One. "I believe it will do to the physical world what the Internet did to the digital world... My son may never know what a long-distance relationship is because 300 or 400 miles will be a 20 minute commute." — AFP



SYDNEY: Lead archeologist professor Sue O'Connor and PhD student Tim Maloney inspect a sample of the world's oldest known axe, of which a fragment has been unearthed in Australia. — AFP

AXE FRAGMENT FOUND IN AUSTRALIA IS 'OLDEST'

SYDNEY: A rock flake found in Australia is believed to be from the world's oldest known axe and likely dates from just after humans arrived in the country around 50,000 years ago, scientists said yesterday. The fragment, about the size of a thumbnail, was found in Western Australia's sparsely populated Kimberley region and its age indicates that early indigenous technology was novel and inventive. "This is without doubt the oldest axe in the world," Peter Hiscock, the University of Sydney academic who analysed the fragment, told AFP.

The piece was excavated in the 1990s, but it was not until recently that its significance was recognised and confirmed by new technology. "It's a relatively small fragment, it's not much more than a centimetre long," said Hiscock, who used a digital microscope to analyze the piece and determine it was man-made. "It's one flake off the edge of a polished axe or a ground-edge axe."

The fragment has been dated at between 46,000 and 49,000 years old. Humans are thought to have arrived in Australia around 50,000 years ago. "It's probably not the oldest axe ever made, it would be remarkable if we found the fragment off the first axe. I don't think my luck's that good," Hiscock joked. "But it's probably indicating that this is at, or just after, the arrival of humans (in Australia)." The findings appear in Australian Archaeology.

Hiscock said it was interesting that the earliest appearance of axes in Australia

appeared to coincide with the arrival of humans in the landscape. "The coincidence of the timing of the arrival of humans and the appearance of axes shows an inventiveness," he said. "Axes were not made in Africa, they were not made in the Middle East. So people moving out of Africa didn't have axes. They arrive in Australia and they invent this technology. It shows that there was novelty, the capacity to innovate."

He added that the axe fragment was not the first of its type found in Australia and showed that the nation's indigenous peoples' ancestors were good at creating the tools they needed. "I think that this tells us that axes were invented by the early settlers, the ancestors of Australian Aboriginals," he said. Australian National University professor Sue O'Connor, who found the piece in the 1990s, agreed that it was the earliest evidence of a hafted axe - one with a handle attached - in the world.

"Nowhere else in the world do you get axes at this date," she said in a statement, adding that while such axes had appeared about 35,000 years ago in Japan, in most countries they arrived with agriculture within the last 10,000 years. "Australian stone artefacts have often been characterized as being simple," she said. "But clearly that's not the case when you have these hafted axes earlier in Australia than anywhere else in the world." The piece comes from an axe that had been shaped and polished by grinding it against a softer rock such as sandstone, the ANU said. — AFP

CANON OPENS FIRST DEDICATED PHOTO SHOWROOM IN MOROCCO

DUBAI: Canon Central and North Africa (CCNA), a division of Canon Middle East, announced the opening of its first dedicated photo showroom in Morocco, in partnership with its local partner, Diffazur, bringing one of the first modern facilities of its kind to the country. Underlining its commitment to serving photo enthusiasts in the North African nation, the new facility will display its entire range of camera products to provide amateur and professional photographers access to top quality photography equipment.

Canon, a global leader in photo imaging, will provide hands-on learning in the new showroom's experience zone where visitors can learn more about the Canon innovations. Professional photographers will have a dedicated place to buy and service top-of-the-line DSLR cameras and lenses in addition to access to free demonstrations.

The inauguration of the showroom was attended by Roman Troedhandl, Managing Director, CCNA; Somesh Adukia, Sales Director, CCNA; and Fouad El Jamali, Managing Director, Diffazur. "The opening of the dedicated showroom, closely following the formation of Canon Central and North Africa, underlines our commitment to be closer to our customers and to offer value-added offerings that highlight the cutting edge products that we bring," said Roman Troedhandl.

"Morocco is one of our key markets in the region and we have designed the showroom thoughtfully to offer our customers deep

insights into the capabilities of our photo products. Together with our partner Diffazur, we are confident that our new showroom will be the must-visit destination in the country for all photography enthusiasts" he added.

Through the new showroom, Canon aims to leverage the fast-growing tech sector of Morocco, where demand for advanced photo products is increasing. It will strengthen CCNA's presence in the region and will give Moroccan customers the opportunity to receive direct advice on products and services from Canon professionals.

In addition, the company hopes the facility will not only enhance its market share for cameras but rather increase the market size of photo products in the country by showcasing the latest offerings and providing free demonstrations to the end user. Jamali said: "Canon will provide a wide variety of products to support Moroccan photographers with the latest in technology. Our customer service, led by our team of well-trained professionals, enables us to offer expert advice on Canon products."

The formation of CCNA in 2015 was a strategic step by Canon to strengthen its business in the Africa region. CCNA also demonstrates Canon's global leadership in photo imaging and its commitment to operating closer to its customers and meeting their demands in the rapidly evolving African market. Canon's photo showroom is located in CanImage 183 bd Alsace Sea Sultan Casablanca.



SKEPTICS QUESTION STUDY SUGGESTING FOLATE LINK TO AUTISM

MIAMI: Skeptics were quick to urge caution yesterday about US research that suggested too much of an important B vitamin, folate, in pregnancy may raise the risk of autism. The findings were presented at a conference in Baltimore, Maryland, by researchers at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and have not yet been published or peer-reviewed. Some experts dismissed the claims as "irresponsible," unlikely to be replicated, and showing perhaps a correlation, but not a cause and effect.

"On the basis of their data, which has not been peer-reviewed, the authors are going way out on a limb," said Max Davie of Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, who was not involved in the study. Davie added that the researchers "are being quite irresponsible in undermining decades of public health work to increase the numbers of women taking folate before and during pregnancy, in order to prevent poten-

tially devastating neurological conditions." Folate is a B vitamin that is naturally present in fruits and vegetables. A synthetic version, folic acid, is commonly used to fortify cereals and breads, and is contained in vitamin supplements. When pregnant women do not get enough folate, their babies face a higher risk of brain and spinal cord defects.

Twice the risk

The study tracked 1,391 mothers and their children from the Boston Birth Cohort, a predominantly low-income minority population. The mothers' blood folate was checked once only, and that measurement was taken within the first one to three days of delivery. Mothers with very high folate right after giving birth faced twice the risk that the child would develop an autism spectrum disorder. Women with high vitamin B12 levels saw triple the risk of autism in their offspring. If both levels were extremely

high, the risk that a child would develop the disorder increased 17.6 times, according to the research presented at the 2016 International Meeting for Autism Research in Baltimore. "This could be the case of too much of a good thing," lead author Ramkripa Raghavan, a researcher at Johns Hopkins, said in a statement released ahead of the presentation. "We tell women to be sure to get folate early in pregnancy. What we need to figure out now is whether there should be additional recommendations about just what an optimal dose is throughout pregnancy."

Most of the mothers reported taking prenatal vitamin supplements. Very few — one in 10 — had what researchers consider an excessive amount of folate in their blood, or more than 59 nanomoles per liter. Six percent had an excess amount of vitamin B12 (more than 600 picomoles per liter). The World Health Organization says the adequate amount

of folate for a woman in her first trimester of pregnancy is between 13.5 and 45.3 nanomoles. Ideal vitamin B12 levels are not well established.

Calls for caution

Outside experts cautioned that the study measured folate at birth, while the crucial window for supplementation to prevent neural tube defects such as spina bifida is in the first weeks and months of pregnancy. "This research does not suggest any harmful effects of recommended folate supplements taken in early pregnancy which are beneficial," said Andrew Shennan, a professor of obstetrics at King's College London. "Women should continue to take these," added Shennan, who was not involved in the study.

James Cusack, research director at Autistica, agreed. "Although this finding is striking, it is vital to remember that this research is at a very early stage. In

fact, this information has simply come from a single poster at a conference," Cusack said. "It is far too early to say whether this finding is correct and so families should not be overly concerned." Craig Newschaffer, professor at the Drexel University School of Public Health, said the research calls for a better understanding of the role of folate throughout pregnancy.

"The role of folic acid supplementation in neurodevelopment may be quite complex," he said. About one in four women in the United States do not get enough folate in pregnancy, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Autism spectrum disorder is a neurodevelopmental condition that affects as many as one in 68 children in the United States. Its causes remain poorly understood, but researchers say it is likely a result of some combination of genetic and environmental factors. — AFP



FREETOWN: A young mother of twins wait for her children to receive vaccinations at the Princess Christian Maternity Hospital in Freetown. — AFP photos

ALONE AND AT RISK: SIERRA LEONE'S BABY-FACED MOTHERS

FREETOWN: Dizzy and sweating, 15-year-old Isatu Koroma sits with her eyes closed in the maternity ward in Sierra Leone where she has spent the last 10 days, as her tiny little daughter begins to cry. Koroma badly needs blood after a complicated delivery-relatives are expected to donate here but none has visited, also leaving the nurses to pay for her to eat. Health workers in the west African country are battling a teenage pregnancy epidemic that peaked when the Ebola crisis was at its height late in 2014, and they say it shows no sign of slowing.

Ward sister Josephine Samba describes the girl's pregnancy as "an accident", whispering that Koroma's own mother died two months after she was born as she cajoles her into breastfeeding the as yet unnamed baby. Schoolgirls are so regularly admitted to Princess Christian Maternity Hospital (PCMH) in Freetown that they attract little attention. Coyness about discussing sex in Sierra Leone veils the fact that during the chaos of the Ebola crisis many teenagers were raped or forced to have sex for money to contribute to household expenses, according to research by several children's charities and UN agencies.

"There were a lot more (teen pregnancies) during the Ebola outbreak. Most of them were at home. There was no school, so everything was just upside down," Samba says. After Sierra Leone announced its first Ebola cases in May 2014, schools were closed and movement severely restricted, leaving girls more vulnerable to abuse. Since then the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) has counted more than 18,000 teenage pregnancies, with the number of pregnant girls up by 65 percent in certain districts.

Unsafe abortion

Internationally recognized as the country with the world's highest maternal mortality rate, at 1,360 deaths per 100,000 live births, Sierra Leone could ill afford the blow to its health system that Ebola dealt, diverting resources and staff away from maternal health. The result is thousands of girls who will never live to become women, as UNFPA estimates that 40 percent of all maternal deaths occur among those under 18. A lack of birth control and conservative abortion laws mean that many girls, upon realizing they are pregnant and fearing they will be forced to drop out of school, attempt to abort with drugs or seek out backstreet providers who employ methods such as bicycle spokes to terminate pregnancies.

Louise Nordstrom, a Swedish midwife working on a UNFPA training program for birth attendants at the hospital, described a recent, typical case of a young student who arrived at PCMH with severe stomach pains. "You could see she was in agony. I asked her if she knew she was pregnant," Nordstrom said, keeping one eye on a screaming woman waiting to be taken to theatre for an emergency caesarian section.

"Soon after she went to pee in a bed pan and out came the dead foetus. It was very obvious she had been taking some drugs at home; she knew she was pregnant; she was afraid and didn't want to have the baby so she induced an abortion herself." Many girls wait until it's far too late before seeking hospital care, says Alimamy Philip Koroma (no relation to the teenage mother), one of Sierra Leone's pre-eminent obstetric and gynaecology specialists. "Some of them don't even come to the antenatal clinic, they stay at home because of fear of their (school) colleagues seeing them," he told AFP. "Sometimes their pelvis is not prepared enough to have a child," he said, also referring to haemorrhage and septicaemia as particular risks for girls arriving after attempting unsafe abortions.

School dropouts

In this difficult context, Mohammed El-Hassein, reproductive health specialist at UNFPA, said the three priorities were to improve progress in the uptake of family planning, bolster the image of midwives and ensure access to emergency obstetric care. But the problem is particularly entrenched among young people. "We are trying to train the (contraception) providers to be youth-friendly," he told AFP. And for those who survive childbirth, life choices are restricted.

The government has only recently allowed school-aged mothers to go back to class and many of those who do lack the support they need. "Before the reopening of school the child was very small and on breast milk. There was no one to take care of her except me," said Neima Foday, 19, speaking to AFP in the town of Kailahun with 13-month-old baby Ishmail on her knee. "I'm a bit worried because my friends are attending school and I'm not," she said, adding that without an education she knew money would always be a problem. Asked if Ishmail's father was contributing to his son's upkeep, Foday shook her head. "I haven't seen him since I told him I was pregnant," she said. — AFP



FREETOWN: Patients wait for their turn to be served at the pharmacy of the Princess Christian Maternity Hospital.

DOCTORS RAISE CONCERNS AFTER ELDERLY INDIAN WOMAN GIVES BIRTH

NEW DELHI: Doctors in India yesterday raised ethical and health concerns after a woman gave birth to her first child in her 70s, following two years of IVF treatment. Daljinder Kaur gave birth last month to a healthy boy after falling pregnant by her 79-year-old husband, following fertility treatment at a northern Indian clinic. Kaur said the couple, married for 46 years, were overjoyed at finally having their first child after enduring years of taunts in a country where infertility is sometimes seen as a curse from God. "I feel blessed to be able to hold my own baby. I had lost hope of becoming a mother ever," Kaur told AFP from her home in Amritsar city.

"I used to feel empty. There was so much loneliness," Kaur put her age at about 70 — a common scenario in India, where many people don't have birth certificates-while the clinic said in a statement that she was 72. But fertility expert Sunil Jindal raised questions about the future of a child born to elderly parents, as well as health issues for the mother. "There are ethical issues. In my opinion it is unfair to do such a procedure on a woman who is over 60," Jindal told AFP.

"The sheer fact that a woman in her 70s has to carry the weight of a child in her womb for nine months is stressful. "Then the question comes how are the parents going to look after the baby? That is also quite a task." The clinic, in the northern state of Haryana, told AFP the couple's baby was conceived using Kaur's egg and her husband's sperm after two previous unsuccessful attempts. But Britain's the Guardian newspaper yesterday quoted the clinic's doctor saying donor eggs were used.

The doctor declined to comment to AFP yesterday, saying it was not ethical of him to do so.



AMRITSAR, PUNJAB, India: Indian father Mohinder Singh Gill, 79, and his wife Daljinder Kaur, 70, pose for a photograph as they hold their newborn baby boy Arman at their home in Amritsar yesterday. — AFP

Gynaecologist Anshu Jindal, based in Meerut not far from the capital, said she tried to discourage women over the age of 60 from undergoing fertility treatment-for the sake of both mother and child. "According to me it is not an age to have a baby. It will take a toll," she told AFP. The

clinic's doctor told AFP on Tuesday that tests showed Kaur was medically fine to carry the baby through pregnancy. The case is not the first in India-a 72-year-old woman from Uttar Pradesh state reportedly gave birth to twins in 2008, also through IVF. — AFP

INDIA PROBES CLAIMS 'DANCING DOCTORS' SPURNED PATIENTS

MUMBAI: Indian officials are investigating a complaint that patients were turned away from a hospital in Mumbai because the doctors were too busy dancing to see them, according to reports yesterday. A video shot on a mobile phone and uploaded to YouTube shows around two dozen women dressed in saris happily dancing away to loud music in what appears to be an empty hospital waiting room. The women were doctors and nurses at the civic Diwaliben Mehta Hospital in the western Indian city of Mumbai and were cele-

brating a popular female festival called Haldi Kumkum, the Mumbai Mirror tabloid reported.

A complaint alleging that the partying doctors had failed to see a number of outpatients has been filed with the city authorities' health department, according to the Press Trust of India. "Following a complaint filed with us, we set up a committee to investigate the incident and the report would be submitted in a day or two," the agency quoted Dr Pradeep Jadhav, the hospital's supervisor, as saying. Jadhav added

that initial investigations had concluded that the doctors had not done anything wrong. A senior official at the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai's health department described the allegations as "baseless", the agency added.

"Not a single patient has come forward to substantiate the charges," the unnamed official told PTI. "All the patients were duly attended to as it was organized during post-duty hours. Moreover, it was a ceremony only for women, and all male staff including doctors were at work," he added. — AFP

THE HEALTHY BURGER THAT MAY MAKE EVEN CARNIVORES OPT FOR VEG

NEW YORK: May shepherds in the season of the backyard barbecue, and for us that means one thing: burgers. Let me back up and say that just about anything I make on the grill in warmer months, I also make regularly inside on the stovetop. And while I do love a flat-top-smushed burger with its crusty, dangly edges, the backyard barbecue burger remains in a league of its own. Our family's burger bonanzas are a little legendary in our social circle (OK, so maybe with just my kids, nieces and nephews). The herby-garlicky sauce I make, called "magic" sauce by those in the know, is particularly popular. So when three of my extended family members went vegetarian, my burger-grilling game suffered. I did what any well-intentioned-but-misguided carnivore would do: I bought some frozen veggie burgers from the grocery store and called it a day. Now, to be fair, some of those veggie burgers are downright tasty.

But, homemade-with-love-magic-sauce-worth? Not so much. So, I upped my veggie burger game. While I do love the black-bean, quinoa or legume-based versions I've created over the years, the simplest veggie burger of all remains a family favorite: the giant portobello mushroom cap. Bonus: This dish is low-calorie (leaving wiggle room for cheese, sauce and a bun), and it's nearly fool-proof - no falling apart and disappearing into the flames between the grill grates. I used cilantro in this version because it pairs nicely with the baked corn tortilla chips (just a few go a long way to add satisfying crunch), but feel free to experiment with other herbs, such as basil, or mint. Even carnivores might be converted.

Grilled portobello burgers with cilantro garlic sauce and tortilla Chips

Start to Finish: 25 minutes
Servings: 4
For the sauce
1/3 cup low-fat Greek yogurt
3 tablespoons low-fat mayonnaise
3 tablespoons roughly chopped fresh cilantro



CORONADO, California: This Sunday, May 8, 2016 photo shows a grilled portobello burger. — AP

1 scallion, roughly chopped
1 garlic clove, roughly chopped
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce (or soy sauce, if vegetarian)
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 tablespoon water, if needed
Black pepper
For the burger:
4 large portobello mushroom caps, cleaned and gills removed
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
olive oil in a mister
Salt and pepper
4 slices gouda cheese (or other favorite melting cheese)
4 large slices of tomato, or 8 small slices
1 cup peppery greens, such as arugula or other peppery green mix
12 baked tortilla chips
4 whole grain hamburger buns (not oversized)
To make the sauce, blend all the sauce ingredi-

ents in the blender until mixed, but with small flecks of green. Pour into a small bowl and chill, up to 3 days. Heat grill to medium high. Brush the mushroom caps with the balsamic vinegar, spray liberally with olive oil, and salt and pepper. Grill the mushroom caps for 3 minutes on the smooth side and then flip. Top with cheese and grill, covered, another 3 minutes, until mushroom is tender (but not floppy) and cheese is melted. Meanwhile, toast the buns for 1-2 minutes on the cut side, or until barely golden. Place peppery greens on bottom of bun and then tomato. Remove the mushroom caps from the grill and place directly on the tomato. Top the still-hot mushroom with a couple of tablespoons of the sauce. Top with 3 chips on each burger and then the bun. Nutrition information per serving: 357 calories; 175 calories from fat; 15 g fat (5 g saturated); 0 g trans fats; 23 mg cholesterol; 626 mg sodium; 45 g carbohydrate; 8 g fiber; 9 g sugar; 15 g protein. — AP



CAMPO MAIOR, Portugal: A factory worker controls the coffee grinding at Delta coffee factory in Campo Maior. — AFP photos



CAMPO MAIOR, Portugal: Delta's boss Rui Nabeiro smells grains of coffee at his coffee factory.



CAMPO MAIOR, Portugal: A factory worker controls the packaging line at Delta coffee factory.

A WINNING BLEND FOR PORTUGAL'S COFFEE KING

CAMPO MAIOR, Portugal: Rui Nabeiro not only rose from humble beginnings to become one of Portugal's richest men, he has managed to survive the economic crisis while keeping his coffee business under family control in the small town where he grew up despite overtures from multinationals. At 85, he remains at the helm of the Delta firm he founded in 1961 in Campo Maior, in the country's depressed east, as a small coffee-grinding business aimed at the Spanish market.

Nabeiro, who travels the world to find the best quality coffee beans, especially in former Portuguese colonies such as Brazil, Angola and East Timor, dramatically expanded the business in the mid-1970s. The company, which he runs with the help of his children and grandchildren, now produces Portugal's best-selling coffee,

with 31 percent of the market, and has revenues of 350 million euros (\$400 million), a quarter of which is from sales in about 40 countries. It also provides a living for one fifth of the population of his native Campo Maior.

The company is now coveted by food industry giants such as Nestle, Kraft or Pepsi, who have tried to buy Delta from the Nabeiro family. But the town patriarch has refused all offers. He says the business "belongs to all those who work there". "To create a job is to create wealth for someone, I have always sought to serve those who serve me. It's an attitude that has given me what I have today," he said. His fortune, estimated at 390 million euros, places him 12th on the list of the richest people in the country, according to the magazine Exame. But "to talk about millions is an offence in a coun-

try where there is still so much poverty," he said in a calm voice, seated in an office in his factory where coffee is roasted, ground and packed. The plant is the largest in the Iberian peninsula. In the streets of Campo Maior, a small town of around 8,500 people near the Spanish border, it is impossible to ignore the presence of Nabeiro—a statue of him dominates the main square and his name is everywhere, be it on the wall of a school or on the local sports hall.

The businessman, a socialist who has also been the mayor for about 10 years, also owns the only hotel in town, a chain of supermarkets, a medical clinic and even a car dealership. Residents of Campo Maior cannot hide their admiration for the town's native son. "He is a good person, who loves his town and who helps a lot of people by giving them work," said

Antonio Susana, 68, a former builder whose wife has been with Delta her whole working life and whose two children are also employed there. "He is a very affable and very simple man," said Joao Custodio, a local councillor in his 30s, who described the town as an "oasis" in a part of the country hard hit by unemployment and an ageing population.

Son of illiterate farmers

Campo Maior, where the birth rate is above the national average, is only one of 15 towns in the Alto Alentejo region to see its population increase, if only slightly, according to censuses carried out in 2001 and 2011. When Portugal was battered by the eurozone debt crisis five years ago, plunging the country into recession and sending the unemployment rate soaring to

record levels, Nabeiro confronted the problem with his usual optimism. "I told our partners that I don't even want to hear about a crisis. Our sales dipped, but we've already recovered," he said.

He refused to lay off one single employee from the business, which now has "10 to 15 percent more than necessary" out of a total of 3,300, of whom about half are based in Campo Maior. "The problems of my employees are mine, and vice versa," said Nabeiro, who was the son of illiterate farmers but who said he is "happy to have had the chance to at least go to primary school". To allow his staff to reconcile work and family, the company pays up to 80 percent of fees at an educational centre set up in 2007, where some 170 children are enrolled from a very young age to learn business skills inspired by Delta. — AFP

MICE EXPERIMENTS SHOW HOW ZIKA INVADES PLACENTA, FETUS

MIAMI: Experiments using lab mice show how the Zika virus travels through the bloodstream, multiplies in the placenta and invades the brain of the developing fetus, stunting growth or causing death, researchers said yesterday. The study, published in the journal Cell, could help scientists better understand the mosquito-borne infection and develop vaccines to prevent it. "This is the first demonstration in an animal model of in utero transmission of Zika virus, and it shows some of the same outcomes we've been seeing in women and infants," said co-senior author Michael Diamond, a professor of medicine, molecular microbiology and pathology and immunology at Washington University in St. Louis.

Mice were infected with a strain of Zika that was 97 percent similar to the kind circulating in Brazil, where thousands of babies are suspected of having been born with unusually small heads—a condition known as microcephaly—since last year. In one of the experiments, researchers used female pregnant mice that were genetically engineered to lack

the ability to fight off Zika. The virus killed most fetuses within a week, the study found. Offspring that survived had severely stunted growth. In another experiment using genetically normal mice, the fetuses did not die but showed impaired growth and neuron damage. The virus's genetic material persisted in fetal bodies and brains through day 16 of gestation, a critical period for brain development.

In neither experiment did the mice develop microcephaly, but researchers said this could come down to biological differences between people and mice. "Unlike in humans, a significant amount of neurodevelopment in mice actually occurs after birth, especially in the cerebral cortex, which is the part of the brain damaged in microcephaly," Diamond said. But researchers were particularly intrigued by the way Zika expanded inside the placenta, an organ that develops inside the uterus during pregnancy and nourishes the fetus. Levels of Zika virus in the mouse placentas were 1,000 times greater than in the blood of pregnant mice. —AFP

NEW YORK BARS CAN'T REFUSE ALCOHOL TO PREGNANT WOMEN

NEW YORK: Bars and restaurants in New York are not allowed to refuse alcohol to pregnant women since that would violate their basic rights, the mayor's office said. Pregnancy discrimination under New York City Human Rights Law "is discrimination based on gender," according to new guidelines released last week. Refusing to serve alcoholic beverages or raw fish, which can potentially harm a fetus, to pregnant women constitute rights violations, the guidelines said.

In 2003, a New York court found that child protection law does not apply to pregnant women whose actions could influence the health of a fetus. Meanwhile, across the United States, restaurants, bars and any establishments serving alcohol are required to post warnings about the dangers of drinking while pregnant. In 18 US states, taking substances known to be discouraged during pregnancy, such as alcohol, is legally equivalent to child abuse, according to investigative journalism site ProPublica. —AP

CHILLY IN THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY: TOGO FINDS MELTING FIX

LOME: Organic, fair trade chocolate has proved popular in recent years, especially with ethically minded Western consumers keen to give cocoa farmers around the world a better deal. In Togo a small cooperative has embraced the idea but also stumbled upon a unique selling point in a tropical country where access to refrigerators is limited-heat-resistant chocolate. "It doesn't melt up to 35 degrees (Celsius, 95 degrees Fahrenheit)," said Komi Agbokou, who promotes the "Choco Togo" brand made from locally grown cocoa beans.

With bars containing between 60 and 100 percent cocoa, the rough texture makes it perfect for households without fridges and market stallholders wanting to sell it, he added. Togo produces some 10,000 tons of cocoa beans every year, making it a relative lightweight compared with neighboring Ghana or Ivory Coast, which make up nearly 60 percent of world output. "As we can't compete with Ivory Coast and Ghana in terms of quantity, we can only bet on quality," smiled Kodjovi Mgbayom, from Togo's coffee and cocoa sector workers body.

Togolese cocoa has a "special aroma due to the soil and the fact that everything is done by hand. Drying is done in the sun. There aren't any machine fumes here", he added. There is nothing to single out Togo's cocoa from regional competitors or the more sought-after Latin American beans, Michel Barrel, from French cocoa consultancy KawaCao, told AFP. But Togo's cocoa farmers have looked to organic farming and to obtaining fair-trade labels to give added value to their product, he said.

Italian course

"Togo has been growing cocoa for more than 120 years but we only export it. Cocoa farmers don't even know the taste of chocolate," said Agbokou. Anyone wanting to actually eat choco-



LOME: Women separating chocolate beans. — AFP

late had to go to a supermarket to buy an expensive, imported bar containing sometimes less than 30 percent cocoa, he added. But now beans grown by 1,500 small farmers in the Akebou region in Togo's southwest are being shelled by about 40 local women, and then transformed into chocolate bars in the capital, Lome. The 80-gram bars are sold for 1,000 CFA francs (\$1.70, 1.50 euros) in shops. Agbokou is a trained psychologist and fell into chocolate by chance.

His initial idea was to create opportunities in a labour market that was increasingly hard to access. Through his non-governmental organization, European Union funding and the backing of an Italian cooperative, six unemployed young people were chosen in 2013 to

go on a chocolate making course. On their return to Togo from Italy, they started producing 100 percent Togolese chocolate. Now a dozen employees are paid by the hour to transform cocoa into chocolate at the cooperative's premises in Lome, with a single, hand-cranked, locally made cocoa roaster.

One ton of chocolate was made in 2015 but production has accelerated since then, with more than two tons in the first quarter of 2016. "Choco Togo" gets its supplies of cocoa solely from Akebou, where the cocoa is organic and certified by Ecocert and the Rainforest Alliance. The international organizations ensure that production meets rigorous environmental and social standards. —AP

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AL-SAYER GROUP SUPPORTS UNEP INT'L CHILDREN'S PAINTING COMPETITION COMMITTED TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Al-Sayer Group has sponsored United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Award for the 24th international Children's Painting Competition. The three global winners of the competition were recently awarded during a ceremony which was organized in the presence of Ibrahim Thiaw UNEP Deputy Executive Director and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, Naysan Sahba, UNEP Director of Communications and Hamad Al-Sayer Managing Director of Al-Sayer Franchising Company at the Organization headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

The winning works of Gloria Yang from the United States, Salya Richita Susanto from Indonesia and Sataporn Thitprasert from Thailand were selected from among nearly 63,000 submissions from 66 countries around the world.

According to Mohamed Hamad Al-Sayer, Managing Director of Al-Sayer Franchising Company said "Everyone who participated is a winner, because you took a bold step to come forward and contribute to a most valuable and serious subject. We are glad to be part of this initiative along with UNEP and FGPE. Let's say together "We have the power to help the world switch to sustainable energy."

In support of the UN Decade of the Sustainable Energy for All, this year's competition theme was "We have the power!" that inspired thousands of young artists around the world to share their visions of how renewable energy can be harnessed for the wellbeing of people on the planet.

Al-Sayer Group has adopted sustainability gear as a model to measure CSR performance aiming to conduct ethical and environmentally friendly operations while investing in enhancing community prosperity. Through this approach the Group has strengthened its commitment towards sustainable practices, promoting environ-

mental awareness driven by innovative ideas such as:

- Steam-based washing technology as a test concept to reduce water usage when washing cars at the service station.
- A waste water recycle plant and oil water separators at service stations to avoid contaminating the environment.
- Encouraging greater adoption of hybrid vehicles in Kuwait.
- Recycling paper waste to make sure cutting down of trees and reduced CO2 emission.
- Participating in global environmental programs like Earth Hour, Beach cleaning.
- Approximately a total 4 mWp Solar Power be produced by Al-Sayer Group from various projects per day reflecting strong care towards environment.
- Participated in Middle East and North Africa Renewable Energy Conference in Kuwait to promote and practice the renewable energy products, projects from our group.

Energy is at the heart of most critical economic, environmental and development issues facing the world today. Clean, efficient, affordable and reliable energy services are indispensable for global prosperity and can also lead to a sustainable future for all with multiple co-benefits for development, human health, environment and climate change.

The International Children's Painting Competition is organized by UNEP, the Al-Sayer Group and the Foundation for Global Peace and Environment (FGPE). It has been held since 1991 and received more than 3 million entries from children in over 100 countries. The goal of the competition is to inspire people all over the world to see environmental issues through the eyes of children and increase environmental awareness and action among children.



A group photo of the winners and ambassadors.



Gloria receives her award.



Hamad Al-Sayer takes part in an art workshop.

OOREDOO PARTICIPATES IN JUDGING PANEL AT AUM



The judging panel.



Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, has recently participated in the 'Capstone Competition' judging panel for the American University of Middle East. The competition was organized by the College of Business Administration last week. It involved 10 teams composed of students from five business majors: Accounting, Finance, HRM, Marketing and Management Information Systems.

Ooredoo Kuwait was represented by Omar Al-Bassam, Senior Director of Human Resources. The judging panel also included representatives from Huawei and Citibank, in addition to other AUM Business faculty representatives. All teams went through a tight selection procedure in order to validate their ideas. Tangibles and models were shown to emphasize the different dimensions of the idea: originality, implementation plans and application

of core strategic management theories. From its side, Ooredoo Kuwait offered winning teams the chance to sign up for an internship relevant to their field of work at the company.

Commenting on the recognition, Bassam said: "Ooredoo has always been keen to take part of such events with the objective of supporting youth and helping them to reach their dreams and shape their career paths. Our social responsibility strategy is focused on supporting our youth, and we strongly believe in their role to creating a better future".

Ooredoo has always aimed at supporting ambitious youth by giving them new opportunities to start their professional path and open new horizons where they could apply their knowledge. This belief comes in line with the company's CSR strategy that focuses on youth.



Omar Al-Bassam, Senior Director of Human Resources

HILTON KUWAIT RESORT CELEBRATES MAIFEST 2016 FOR SECOND YEAR

Hilton Kuwait Resort recently welcomed the German community, Europeans and elite local community to celebrate the arrival of spring with its Maifest celebrations at the popular Teatro restaurant.

For the second year running, the hotel celebrated the traditional German festival by inviting such communities to join the hotel's General Manager, Ziad Tantawi, along with Florian Gruhl, Director of Operations to lovely dinner. The attendees enjoyed authentic German cuisine, alongside a BBQ buffet and thanked the hotel management and staff for the great evening.

Among the attendees were German Ambassador Eugen Wollfarth and his wife, who joined the specially invited members of the German and Europeans societies in Kuwait.

"We are proud to celebrate the authentic German Maifest and help to bring this culture to Kuwait. The evening was a memorable event for all our guests and we look forward to continuing celebrating this tradition every year," said Ziad Tantawi, General Manager - Hilton Kuwait Resort.

Maifest (or Mayfest in English) - the traditional German celebration of the arrival of spring - is still celebrated throughout Germany with the maibaum (may-pole) decorated to show off the history and crafts of the town. Similar to Oktoberfest, Maifest has now become a popular celebration throughout the world. The weekend-long Maifest celebrations highlight the towns' proud German heritage with historical demonstrations and displays.



DR MIRGHANI: AOU APPLIES ALL TOTAL QUALITY STANDARDS

Dr Mohamed Ali Mirghani, Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs at Arab Open University (AOU), stressed on the importance of AOU's enormous efforts in offering high-quality education meeting the ambitions of students, who seek to pursue their higher education, and preparing qualified graduates having qualification and a knowledge base serving the needs of Arab labor markets.

During a seminar entitled 'Quality Assurance and Improvement of Internal Auditing' held at the University, Mirghani said that AOU is keen on applying all total quality standards and requirements at all levels as the AOU senior management always makes sure of keeping abreast of developments, including Internal Auditing, which has become one of the vital control tools of governance of most enterprises in the world.

Mirghani pointed out that the profession of Internal Auditing has gained increased attention since the establishment of The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) in 1941 in the USA. Its mission is to provide standards and professional practice guidance in addition to code of ethics followed by all Internal Auditing staff, he added. Five years ago, AOU established an independent Internal Auditing Department at its headquarters.

"Internal Auditing is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organization's operations. It helps an organization accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined



approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of governance, risk management and control," Mirghani said.

He also addressed the principles of internal audit code of ethics that internal auditors are expected to apply and uphold. These principles are integrity, objectivity, confidentiality and competency. This seminar is one of a series of seminars and workshops organized by AOU as one part of its strategic plan in disseminating knowledge and serving community in the Arab world.



The cultural attaché at the US embassy, Nadia Ziad.



Film director Aaron Douglas Johnston (left) and screenwriter Tim Skousen.



Participant Aida Al-Zanki.

US EMBASSY HOSTS FILMMAKING WORKSHOP

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

The US Embassy in Kuwait, in cooperation with Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyya and the Ministry of Youth, launched an intensive American film workshop yesterday at Yarmouk Cultural Center. The cultural attaché at the US embassy Nadia Ziad said over a hundred people applied for the 20 seats offered. "It shows that there's enough interest for the future, and it will be something we want to do again. We are very excited to hold this workshop and bring these American experts to Kuwait to present a course about filmmaking. There's a lot of interest among Kuwaiti youth to develop their filmmaking skills and the film industry in Kuwait. We're pleased to work with our partners, Dar Al-Athar and the Ministry of Youth. There's a lot of talent here and we're happy that they're coming for this workshop," Ziad announced.

Director Aaron Douglas Johnston said: "We've been brought here to offer a filmmaking workshop for one week to Kuwait

film professionals." Screenwriter Tim Skousen added: "They will be shooting short films and narratives and we're going to give options and find how many people are interested in documentaries, because we have expertise in both areas. But primarily, we've been asked for narratives".

Aida Al-Zanki, a participant, said she registered for this workshop because there's a lot of interest in the film industry in Kuwait, but there aren't many places where you can learn. "I personally try to seize any opportunity, no matter how big or small, to learn about filmmaking," she said.

The workshop is part of the American film showcase person-to-person diplomacy which aims to connect American experts with foreign audiences. The participants are from different interests and backgrounds. Ziad hopes that by helping to build a film community in Kuwait, one day we would see a Kuwaiti walk down the red carpet of the Oscars. "That would be fantastic," she concluded.



PRESTIGIOUS SHERATON KUWAIT RESTAURANTS IN GRAND AVENUES

Excellent and diversified cuisines from Sheraton Kuwait Hotel to the Avenues Mall, one of the biggest and most prestigious shopping mall in the region, where the visitors can taste our best dishes from different cuisines in the world according to the high standards of hospitality and excellent quality services, which have been preserved by Sheraton Kuwait through a journey of fifty years of outstanding excellence.

Enjoy a unique shopping experience, near to the most luxurious brands, and indulge in the delicious breakfast menu and the delectable lunch and dinner buffets from all over the world at Al-Hamra restaurant at the Grand Avenue from 9:00 am until 11:30 pm.

Le Tarbouche Restaurant, where originality and traditional title, provides the spirit of Lebanese cuisine through the tastiest cold Mezza such as Fattouch, Tabbouleh, Grape Leaves, Hummus, Muhammara, and many others; Hot Mezza such as cheese flakes, fried kibbeh and delicious chicken liver; Moreover, Mix Grills and set menus like Jeita, Beit Eddine, and Baalbek, where Shish Tawook, kebab,

Hammour fish with the exquisite lemon and butter sauce, as well as grilled shrimps are served in a traditional Lebanese atmosphere, from 11:30 am to midnight. For the Indian food fans, enjoy Bukhara Restaurant, with its distinctive condiments, from 11:30 am till midnight.

Enjoy famous Iranian mix grills at the Shahrayar Restaurant providing you the utmost experience of traditional Iranian cuisine, from 11:30 am till midnight. For those seeking tranquility, inspire of shopping traffic, The English Tea Lounge provides finest quality of tea, coffees and authentic British scones in a quiet family atmosphere, from 10:00 am to 11:30 pm.

The Sheraton Kuwait and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait Hotels are introducing an extended facility by offering all in-house guests a discount voucher incorporating 15 percent coupon units to all in-house guests through an exclusive partnership with MH Alshaya retail outlets that are valid and redeemable at the Avenues Mall.



Al-Hamra



Le Tarbouche



Shahrayar



The English Tea Lounge

RISE CENTER AT AUK HOLDS 5G LECTURE

As part of its mission to establish connections with the industry, the Center for Research in Informatics, Sciences and Engineering (RISE) at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) organized a lecture entitled 'The Way to 5G: Live Demo by Zain' in April. The event incorporated a practical field test of the yet-to-be-released fifth generation of mobile network technology. The lecture was conducted by Zain's Operation Center Department Manager, Muhammad Al-Ruwayeh; and Access Planning Engineer, Khaled Al-Saleh. The demo featured free trial of the 5G technology on-campus to members of the AUK community and the public.

"This practical testing made it possible for members of the audience to dabble with the prospects of such breakthrough firsthand. To offer this experience, Zain has been working with us on the installations for the past 4 weeks. We really appreciate their time and efforts to bring this to life" RISE Director, Dr Amir Zeid, said of the event, "Having an established industry player give us a glimpse of where the technology is currently at is a rare opportunity we are pleased we could offer."

5G networks will offer a significant increase in speed than what was available in previous generations, according to Ruwayeh. "It's going to be exceedingly rapid than what is now available. The difference would be revolutionary," he noted.

In addition to raw speed, other main benefits will include low latency and high capacity. "Not only will download and upload speeds be staggeringly quicker, but the response times of initiating such data transfers will correspond to that snappy speed," Saleh said. "To rephrase that, you would experience a significantly less of a pause between hitting play on a heavy video content and that crisp load starting to actually stream on your device," he explained. The groundbreaking upgrade is also expected to put a spin on current mobile network inadequacies, namely the critical lack of bandwidth. The 3G and 4G networks currently operate on radio frequencies that are considered "overcrowded," an issue that is subject to significant development under the novel technology, Saleh added.



amc

- 04:20 The Aviator
- 05:55 If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium
- 07:35 Big Screen
- 07:50 The Garbage Pail Kids Movie
- 09:25 Puckoon
- 10:50 The Raven
- 12:15 Captain Jack
- 13:55 Impromptu
- 15:40 Geronimo: An American Legend
- 17:35 Race For The Yankee
- Zephyr
- 19:25 The Aviator
- 21:00 Breaking Bad
- 22:00 A Dangerous Woman
- 23:45 Requiem For A Dream
- 01:25 Hair

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 03:25 Africa's Trees Of Life
- 04:15 Gator Boys
- 05:02 Treeshouse Masters
- 05:49 Village Vets
- 06:13 Village Vets
- 06:36 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:00 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:25 Too Cute!
- 08:15 Village Vets
- 08:45 Village Vets
- 09:10 Treeshouse Masters
- 10:05 Tanked
- 11:00 Too Cute!
- 11:55 Bondi Vet
- 12:25 Bondi Vet
- 12:50 Village Vets
- 13:45 Gator Boys
- 14:40 Treeshouse Masters
- 15:35 Tanked
- 16:30 Africa's Trees Of Life
- 17:25 River Monsters
- 18:20 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 19:15 Tanked
- 20:10 Animal Cops South Africa
- 21:05 Treeshouse Masters
- 22:00 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 22:55 Gator Boys
- 23:50 River Monsters
- 00:45 I'm Alive
- 01:40 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 02:35 Tanked

BBC FIRST

- 03:40 Orphan Black
- 04:35 Eastenders
- 05:10 Doctor Who
- 06:00 Doctors
- 06:30 Doctors
- 07:00 Doctors
- 07:30 Eastenders
- 08:00 Death In Paradise
- 08:55 37 Days
- 09:50 Doctor Who
- 10:40 Doctors
- 11:10 Eastenders
- 11:40 Death In Paradise
- 12:35 37 Days
- 13:20 Doctor Who
- 14:20 Doctors
- 14:50 Eastenders
- 15:25 Death In Paradise
- 16:20 Dickensian
- 17:10 Doctor Who
- 18:00 Doctors
- 18:30 Eastenders
- 19:05 Death In Paradise
- 20:00 Holly City
- 21:00 Stella
- 21:55 Unforgotten
- 22:45 Orphan Black
- 23:35 Doctors
- 00:10 Eastenders
- 00:45 Holly City
- 01:40 Stella

COMEDY CENTRAL

- 03:00 South Park

- 22:30 South Park
- 23:00 South Park
- 00:00 Owen Benjamin: High Five
- 01:15 South Park
- 02:05 Owen Benjamin: High Five
- 03:00 South Park

crime & investigation network

- 03:00 The Haunting Of...
- 04:00 The Haunting Of...
- 05:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 06:00 The FBI Files
- 07:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 08:00 The FBI Files
- 09:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 10:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 11:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 12:30 Private Crimes
- 13:00 Homicide Hunter
- 14:00 The First 48
- 15:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 16:00 The FBI Files
- 17:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 18:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 19:00 Homicide Hunter
- 20:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 21:00 Ms. Homicide
- 22:00 Married, Single, Dead
- 23:00 The Jail: 60 Days In
- 00:00 Crime Stories
- 01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
- 02:00 Ms. Homicide

Discovery CHANNEL HD

- 03:15 Superhuman Science
- 03:40 Game Of Pawns
- 04:05 Storage Wars Canada
- 04:30 Storage Wars
- 05:00 How Do They Do It?
- 05:30 South Beach Classics
- 06:00 Yukon Men
- 06:50 Wheeler Dealers
- 07:40 Fast N' Loud
- 08:30 Game Of Pawns
- 08:55 Storage Wars Canada
- 09:20 Property Wars
- 09:45 How Do They Do It?
- 10:10 South Beach Classics
- 10:35 You Have Been Warned
- 11:25 The Pop Illusionist
- 12:15 Superhuman Science
- 12:40 Superhuman Science
- 13:05 Game Of Pawns
- 13:30 Storage Wars Canada
- 13:55 Property Wars
- 14:20 Yukon Men
- 15:10 Wheeler Dealers
- 16:00 Fast N' Loud
- 16:50 South Beach Classics
- 17:15 How Do They Do It?
- 17:40 Salvage Hunters
- 18:30 For The Love Of Cars
- 19:20 The Weapon Hunter
- 20:10 Storage Wars Canada
- 20:35 Property Wars
- 21:00 Free Ride
- 21:50 For The Love Of Cars
- 22:40 Engine Addict With Jimmy De Ville
- 23:30 Fast N' Loud
- 00:20 Wheeler Dealers
- 01:10 Free Ride
- 02:00 For The Love Of Cars
- 02:50 Engine Addict With Jimmy De Ville

Discovery Family

- 03:00 Destroyed In Seconds
- 03:25 Destroyed In Seconds
- 03:50 Ultimate Survival
- 04:40 How It's Made
- 05:05 How It's Made
- 05:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 06:20 Mythbusters
- 07:00 Kids vs Film

- 04:36 Blood Relatives
- 05:24 Nowhere To Hide
- 06:12 I Was Murdered
- 06:37 I Was Murdered
- 07:00 Blood Relatives
- 07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 08:40 Nowhere To Hide
- 09:30 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 10:20 I Was Murdered
- 10:45 I Was Murdered
- 11:10 California Investigator
- 11:35 California Investigator
- 12:00 Blood Relatives
- 12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 13:40 Nowhere To Hide
- 14:30 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 15:20 I Was Murdered
- 15:45 I Was Murdered
- 16:10 Southern Fried Homicide
- 17:00 Blood Relatives
- 17:50 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 18:40 Nowhere To Hide
- 19:30 I Almost Got Away With It
- 20:20 I Was Murdered
- 20:45 I Was Murdered
- 21:10 Murder Comes To Town
- 22:00 Web Of Lies
- 22:50 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen
- 23:40 Your Worst Nightmare
- 00:30 Evil Kin
- 01:20 Web Of Lies
- 02:10 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen

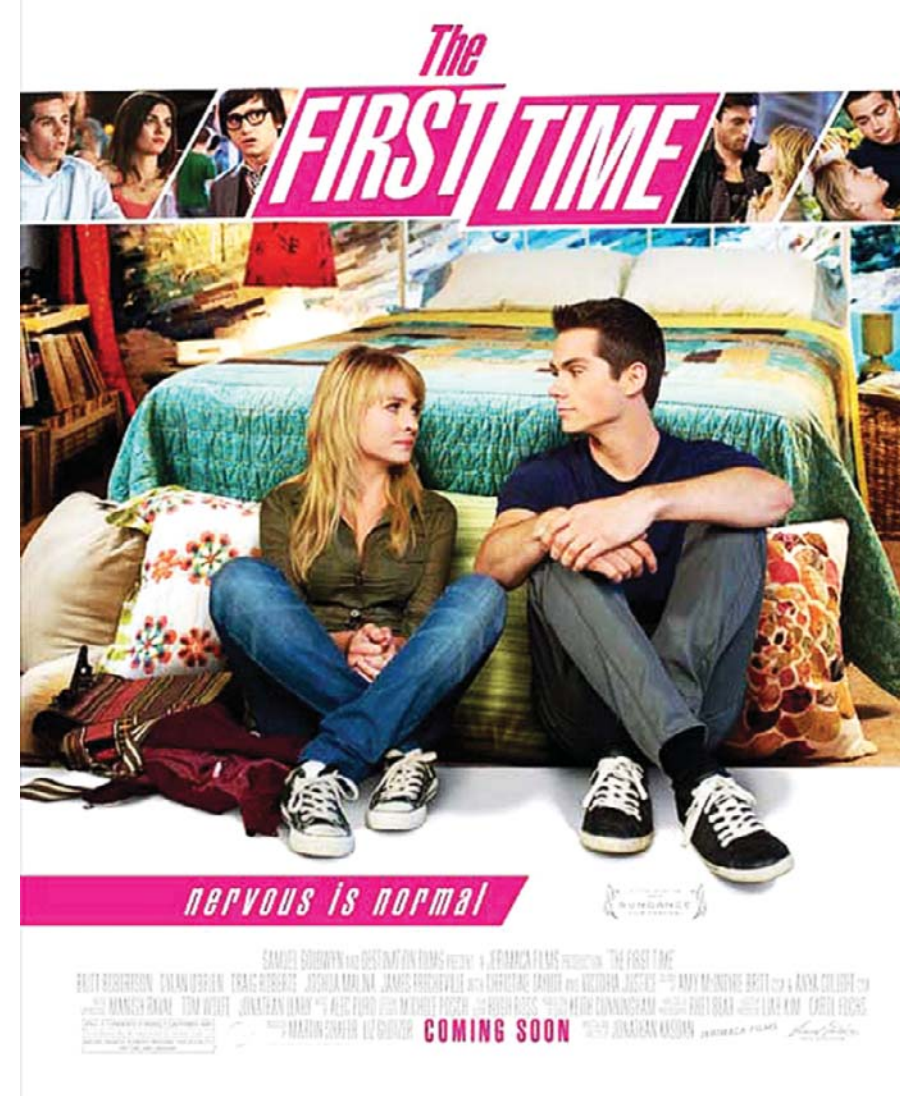
Discovery science

- 03:05 How It's Made
- 03:29 Mythbusters
- 04:16 Invent It Rich
- 05:03 How The Universe Works
- 05:50 Kings Of Construction
- 06:37 How Do They Do It?
- 07:00 How Do They Do It?
- 07:23 Mythbusters
- 08:08 How It's Made
- 08:30 How It's Made
- 08:55 Kings Of Construction
- 09:38 Through The Wormhole
- 10:23 Invent It Rich
- 11:08 How The Universe Works
- 11:53 Kings Of Construction
- 12:38 Mythbusters
- 13:23 Through The Wormhole
- 14:10 How It's Made
- 14:33 How It's Made
- 14:57 Food Factory USA
- 15:20 Food Factory USA
- 15:44 How The Universe Works
- 16:31 Kings Of Construction
- 17:18 How It's Made
- 17:41 How It's Made
- 18:05 Mythbusters
- 18:50 Secret Space Escapes
- 19:40 How The Universe Works
- 20:25 Through The Wormhole
- 21:15 How It's Made
- 21:37 How It's Made
- 22:00 Secret Space Escapes
- 22:45 How The Universe Works
- 23:35 Mythbusters
- 00:20 Through The Wormhole
- 01:08 Secret Space Escapes
- 01:55 How The Universe Works
- 02:42 How It's Made

Disney Channel

- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:35 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 Lolo Rock
- 06:25 Sofia The First
- 06:50 Gravity Falls
- 07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 07:40 Hank Zipzer
- 08:05 Shake It Up

Britt Robertson Dylan O'Brien James Frecheville and Victoria Justice



THE FIRST TIME ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

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

Christina Milian Turned Up

- 03:15 Christina Milian Turned Up
- 04:10 Christina Milian Turned Up
- 05:05 Christina Milian Turned Up
- 06:00 Fashion Bloggers
- 06:25 Kourtney And Kim Take Miami
- 07:20 Kourtney And Kim Take Miami
- 08:20 El News
- 09:15 Kourtney And Kim Take Miami
- 10:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 12:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 13:05 El News
- 14:05 Bolched
- 15:00 Fashion Bloggers
- 15:30 Bolched: Post Op
- 16:00 WAGS
- 17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 19:00 El News
- 20:00 Dash Dolls
- 21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 22:00 Bolched
- 23:00 El News
- 00:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 00:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 01:50 Bolched
- 02:20 El News

Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

- 03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 04:00 Man Fire Food
- 04:30 Man Fire Food
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Chopped
- 07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 07:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 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: Fresh
- 11:30 Anna Olson: Fresh
- 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: Fresh
- 18:30 Anna Olson: Fresh
- 19:00 Chopped
- 20:00 Iron Chef America
- 21:00 Private Chef
- 21:30 Private Chef
- 22:00 Valerie's Home Cooking
- 22:30 Valerie's Home Cooking
- 23:00 Iron Chef America

- 00:20 Pawn Stars
- 00:45 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 01:10 Down East Dickering
- 02:00 Ice Road Truckers
- 02:50 Ax Men

itv CHOICE

- 03:25 Midsomer Murders
- 05:15 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
- 06:10 Coach Trip
- 06:35 Catchphrase
- 07:05 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild
- 07:30 Midsomer Murders
- 09:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 10:10 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
- 11:05 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild
- 11:35 Catchphrase
- 12:30 Coach Trip
- 12:50 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
- 13:25 Emmerdale
- 13:50 Coach Trip
- 14:20 Coronation Street
- 14:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 15:35 When Ant & Dec Met The Prince
- 16:55 Royal Stories
- 17:25 Raised By Wolves
- 17:55 Raised By Wolves
- 18:20 Emmerdale
- 18:45 Coach Trip
- 19:10 Coronation Street
- 19:35 When Ant & Dec Met The Prince
- 20:55 Royal Stories
- 21:25 Raised By Wolves
- 21:55 Raised By Wolves
- 22:20 Coronation Street
- 22:50 Emmerdale
- 23:15 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
- 00:10 When Ant & Dec Met The Prince
- 01:30 Emmerdale
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 The Jonathan Ross Show

NAT GEO people HD

- 03:05 Glamour Puds
- 03:30 Glamour Puds
- 03:55 Cruise Ship Diaries
- 04:45 Maximum Foodie
- 05:10 Tripping Out With Ailie & Georgia
- 05:35 Rustic Adventures Italy
- 06:00 Rustic Adventures Italy
- 06:25 Carnival Eats
- 06:50 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 07:40 Billionaire's Paradise
- 08:30 Tom's Istanbul Delight
- 08:55 Glamour Puds
- 09:20 Glamour Puds
- 09:45 Cruise Ship Diaries
- 10:35 Maximum Foodie
- 11:00 Tripping Out With Ailie & Georgia
- 11:25 Rustic Adventures Italy
- 11:50 Rustic Adventures Italy
- 12:15 Carnival Eats
- 12:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 13:35 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 14:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 14:30 World's Biggest Festival: Kumbh Mela
- 15:25 Cruise Ship Diaries
- 16:20 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
- 16:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 17:15 Tripping Out With Ailie & Georgia
- 17:40 Rustic Adventures Italy
- 18:10 Rustic Adventures Italy
- 18:35 Carnival Eats
- 19:05 World's Biggest Festival: Kumbh Mela
- 20:00 Cruise Ship Diaries
- 20:50 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
- 21:15 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 21:40 Tripping Out With Ailie & Georgia
- 22:05 Rustic Adventures Italy
- 22:30 Rustic Adventures Italy
- 22:55 Carnival Eats
- 23:20 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
- 00:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 00:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
- 01:00 Cesar T The Rescue

OMN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 04:00 The X Files
- 06:00 47 Ronin
- 08:15 Wrath
- 10:00 Oblivion
- 12:15 Toxin
- 14:00 47 Ronin
- 16:15 Wrath
- 18:00 Crimson Tide
- 20:00 Non-Stop
- 22:00 Savages
- 00:15 One In The Chamber
- 02:00 Comedown

OMN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 04:15 Jingle All The Way 2
- 06:00 Bottle Rocket
- 08:00 My Father The Hero
- 10:00 Father Of The Bride
- 12:00 Raising Helen
- 14:15 Father Of The Bride Part II
- 16:15 My Father The Hero
- 18:00 Cas & Dylan
- 20:00 The First Time
- 22:00 Adult World
- 00:00 For A Good Time, Call Cas & Dylan

OMN MOVIES HD FAMILY

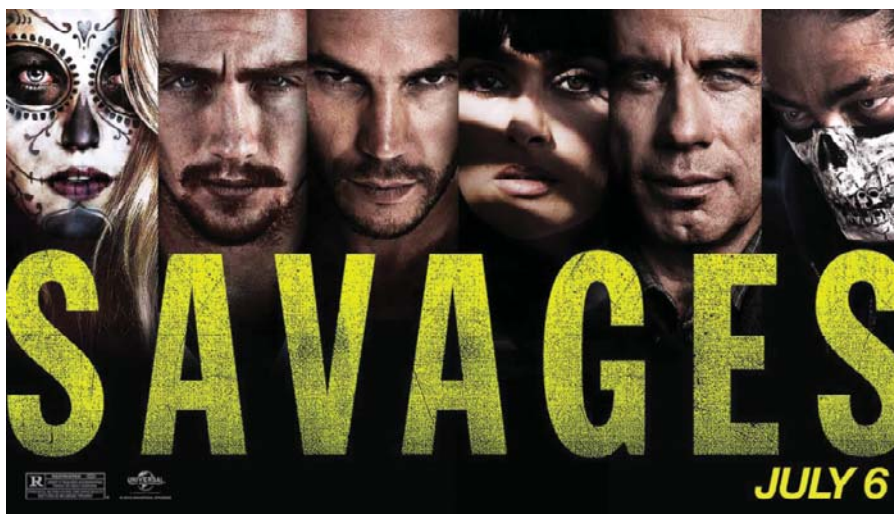
- 03:00 Mr. Magoo
- 05:00 Ratatouille
- 07:00 The Princess Diaries
- 09:00 The Shaggy Dog
- 11:00 Home
- 13:00 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement
- 15:00 Enchanted
- 17:00 Tangled
- 19:00 Blank Check
- 21:00 High School Musical 3: Senior Year
- 23:00 Enchanted
- 01:00 Blank Check

OMN MOVIES FESTIVAL

- 03:30 The Color Of Money
- 05:30 Reds
- 09:00 A Civil Action
- 11:00 Otaio O Dia Dos Namorados
- 12:45 A Passage To India
- 15:30 Beyond The Edge
- 17:00 A Civil Action
- 19:00 We Gotta Get Out Of This Place
- 21:00 Boyhood
- 23:45 Choke
- 01:30 A Civil Action

OMN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 03:00 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
- 04:30 Egon And Donci
- 06:00 The Heart Of The Oak
- 08:00 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 10:00 Pixies
- 11:30 Marco Macaco
- 13:00 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
- 14:30 Memory Loss
- 16:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
- 18:00 Pixies
- 20:00 Hook
- 22:30 Memory Loss
- 00:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
- 01:30 Mamma Moo And Crow

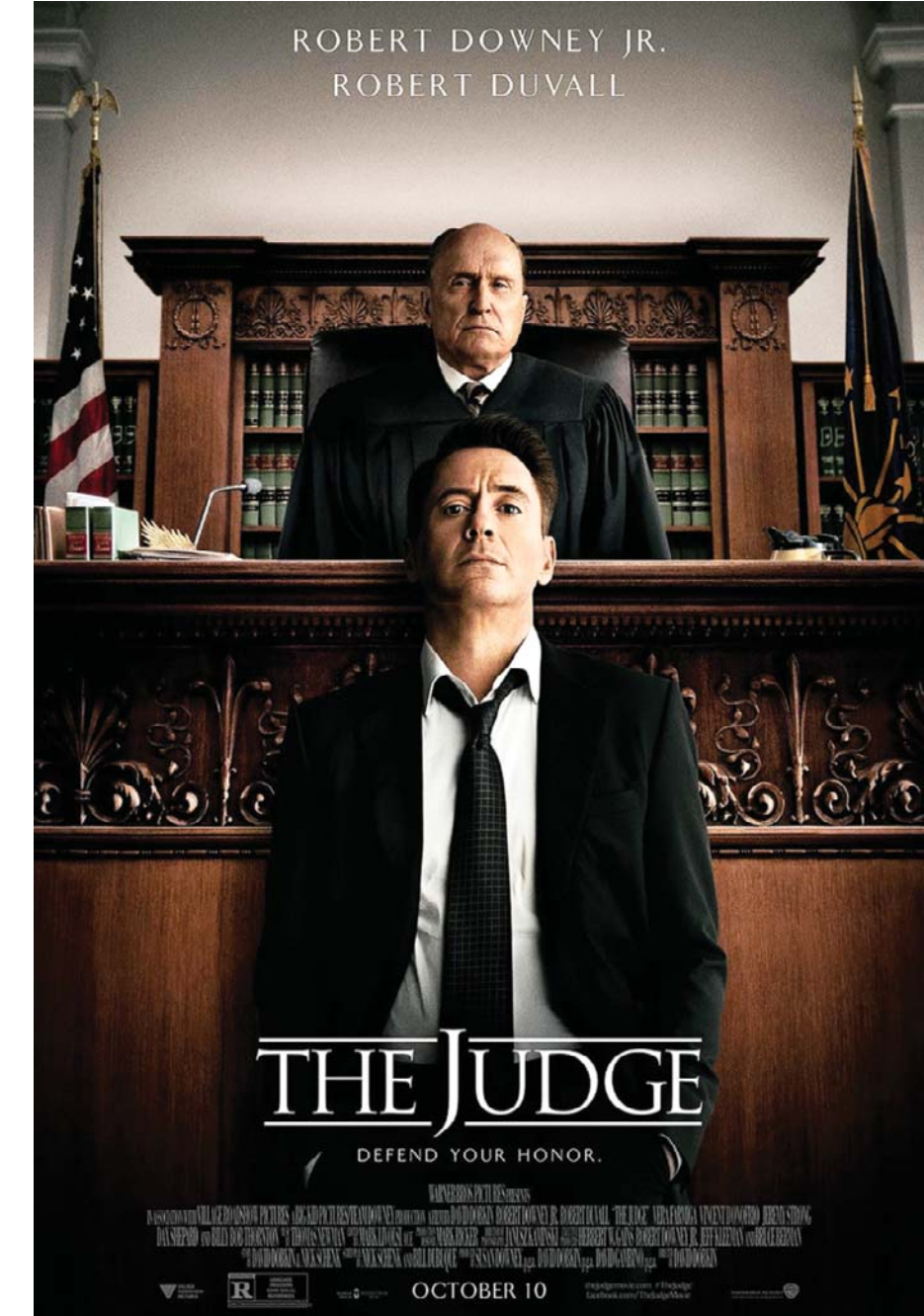


OBLIVION ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 03:25 Tattoo Disasters
- 03:50 Hungry Investors
- 04:40 Workaholics
- 05:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 05:55 Tosh.0
- 06:20 Tosh.0
- 06:50 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 07:40 Workaholics
- 08:05 Workaholics
- 08:30 Key And Peele
- 08:55 Key And Peele
- 09:20 Tosh.0
- 09:45 Tosh.0
- 10:10 Nathan For You
- 10:35 Nathan For You
- 11:00 Lip Sync Battle
- 11:25 Lip Sync Battle
- 11:50 Workaholics
- 12:15 Workaholics
- 12:40 Key And Peele
- 13:05 Key And Peele
- 13:30 Tosh.0
- 13:55 Tosh.0
- 14:20 Nathan For You
- 14:45 Nathan For You
- 15:10 Lip Sync Battle
- 15:35 Lip Sync Battle
- 16:00 Workaholics
- 16:30 Workaholics
- 16:55 Key And Peele
- 17:25 Key And Peele
- 17:50 Tosh.0
- 18:15 Tosh.0
- 18:40 Nathan For You
- 19:05 Nathan For You
- 19:30 Hungry Investors
- 20:15 Lip Sync Battle
- 20:38 Lip Sync Battle
- 21:30 Owen Benjamin: High Five
- 01:15 Til It Hurts
- 07:25 Doki
- 07:50 Bad Dog
- 08:40 You Have Been Warned
- 09:30 How It's Made
- 10:20 Mythbusters
- 11:10 Bondi Vet
- 12:00 Bad Dog
- 12:50 How It's Made
- 13:15 How It's Made
- 13:40 Ultimate Survival
- 14:30 Dirty Jobs
- 15:20 Mythbusters
- 16:10 Kids vs Film
- 16:35 Doki
- 17:00 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 17:50 Mission Asteroid
- 18:40 You Have Been Warned
- 19:30 Mythbusters
- 20:20 How It's Made
- 20:45 How It's Made
- 21:10 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 22:00 Mission Asteroid
- 22:50 Destroyed In Seconds
- 23:15 Destroyed In Seconds
- 23:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 00:30 Mythbusters
- 01:20 NASA's Greatest Missions
- 03:00 Discovery ID
- 03:00 Discovery ID
- 03:00 Discovery ID
- 03:00 Discovery ID
- 03:00 Discovery ID
- 03:00 Discovery ID Xtra
- 03:00 Murder Comes To Town
- 03:48 Evil Kin
- 08:30 Shake It Up
- 08:55 Hannah Montana
- 09:20 Hannah Montana
- 09:45 H2O: Just Add Water
- 10:10 H2O: Just Add Water
- 10:35 I Didn't Do It
- 11:00 I Didn't Do It
- 11:25 Jessie
- 12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 12:45 Hank Zipzer
- 13:10 Austin & Ally
- 13:35 Austin & Ally
- 14:00 Liv And Maddie
- 14:25 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 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 The Next Step
- 17:25 Alex And Co
- 17:50 Jessie
- 18:15 Best Friends Whenever
- 18:40 Girl Meets World
- 19:05 Evermoor Chronicles
- 19:30 Liv And Maddie
- 19:55 Liv And Maddie
- 20:20 The Next Step
- 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
- 21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 22:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:10 Hank Zipzer
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost

ID. INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

- 03:00 Discovery ID
- 03:00 Discovery ID
- 03:00 Discovery ID
- 03:00 Discovery ID
- 03:00 Discovery ID
- 03:00 Discovery ID Xtra
- 03:00 Murder Comes To Town
- 03:48 Evil Kin



THE JUDGE ON OSN MOVIES HD

CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times
Now you can browse
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e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (12/05/2016 TO 18/05/2016)

Time	Movie
12:45 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
3:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK
5:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK
7:30 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
9:45 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
12:05 AM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou

Time	Movie
12:00 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
3:00 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
6:00 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
9:00 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
12:05 AM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

Time	Movie
11:30 AM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
1:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
4:00 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
6:15 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
8:30 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
10:30 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
12:30 AM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4

Time	Movie
11:30 AM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
1:45 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
4:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK
6:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK
8:30 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
10:45 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
1:00 AM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou

Time	Movie
1:00 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
1:30 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
FRI	
3:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
5:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
8:00 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
10:15 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
12:15 AM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4

Time	Movie
11:45 AM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
2:45 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
5:45 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
8:45 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
11:45 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

Time	Movie
1:00 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
1:30 PM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ
FRI	
3:30 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
5:45 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
8:00 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou

Time	Movie
10:15 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
12:30 AM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou

Time	Movie
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	TERM LIFE
12:05 AM	TERM LIFE

Time	Movie
12:45 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
2:45 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
4:45 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
6:45 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
9:00 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
11:00 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
1:00 AM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4

Time	Movie
11:30 AM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
2:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D
4:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
7:00 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D
9:15 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
11:30 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

Time	Movie
12:15 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
3:15 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
6:15 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
9:15 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
12:15 AM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

Time	Movie
12:30 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
2:45 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
5:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK
7:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK
9:30 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
11:45 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou

Time	Movie
11:30 AM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
1:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
3:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
6:00 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
8:15 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
10:30 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
12:30 AM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4

Time	Movie
11:30 AM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
2:30 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
5:30 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
8:30 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

Time	Movie
11:30 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

Time	Movie
1:15 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
3:15 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
5:15 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
7:15 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
9:15 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
11:15 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
1:15 AM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
1:15 AM	NO THU+FRI
1:15 AM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
1:15 AM	THU+FRI

Time	Movie
12:00 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
2:15 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
4:30 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
6:45 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
9:00 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
11:15 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
1:30 AM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
1:30 AM	THU+FRI
1:30 AM	TERM LIFE

Time	Movie
12:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
2:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
5:00 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
7:15 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
9:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
11:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE

Time	Movie
1:00 PM	FAN- Hindi
4:00 PM	FAN- Hindi
7:00 PM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ
9:00 PM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ
11:00 PM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ
1:00 AM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4

Time	Movie
1:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D
4:00 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D
6:15 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D
8:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D
10:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D
1:15 AM	TERM LIFE
1:15 AM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR

Time	Movie
1:00 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
1:45 PM	TERM LIFE
4:00 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
7:00 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
10:00 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR
1:00 AM	TERM LIFE

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TUITION

Indian teacher required to provide tuition to two children in grades I and II in Rumaithiya. Tel: 97832060
11-5-2016

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Irene Elias Sequeira, holder of Indian Passport No. G3662883, Sai Kripa Chawl R 2 Tembi Pada Lokmanya Nagar Bhandup W Mumbai, converted to Islam and hereby change my name as Ayesha. (C 5170)
11-5-2016

I Mohammad Waleed Mujahid S/O Mujahid Ali resident of Kuwait appeared in SSC Annual/Supplementary Examination 2016 under Roll No. 948717 and Registration No. 1677121036 announced in daily newspaper that my actual Name is Mohammed Waleed Mujahid whereas on my SSC result certificate mistakenly written as Mohammed Waleed Muhajid, hence it is requested that the same may be corrected as Mohammad Waleed Mujahid. (C 5169)
10-5-2016



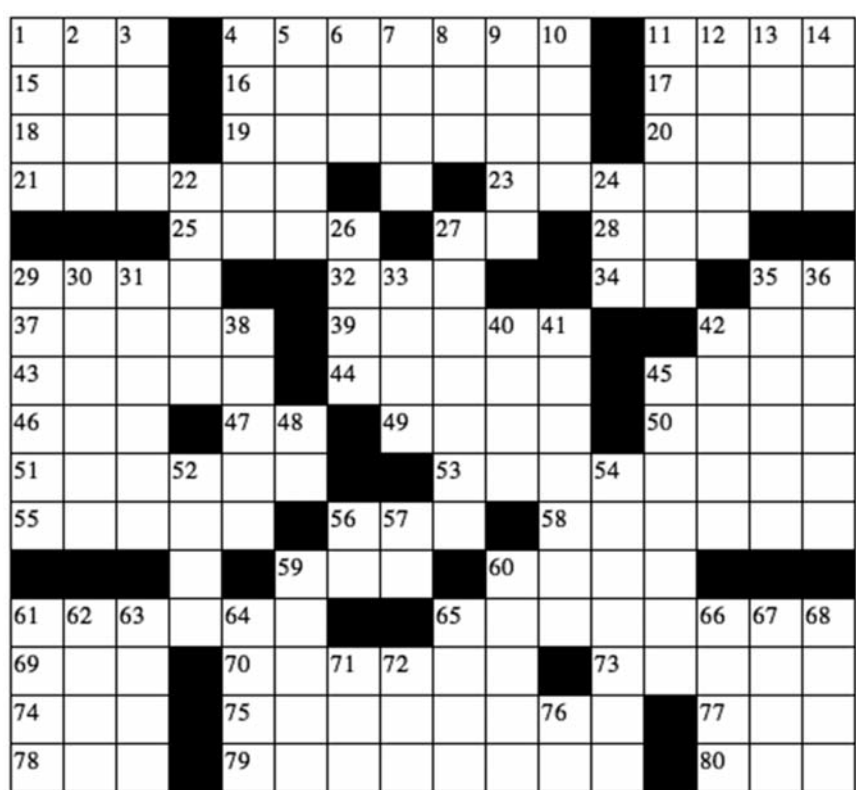
Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

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

Arrival Flights on Thursday 12/5/2016				Departure Flights on Thursday 12/5/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	500	Jeddah	14:25
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	KAC	742	Jeddah	14:30
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	KNE	529	Dammam	14:55
JZR	239	Amman	00:50	SYR	341	Jeddah	15:00
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	OMA	645	Damascus	15:05
KKK	6506	Istanbul	00:55	ETD	303	Muscat	15:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	ABY	127	Abu Dhabi	15:10
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	UAE	857	Sharjah	15:35
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	RJA	640	Dubai	15:45
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	FDB	051	Amman	16:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	QTR	1072	Doha	16:10
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	JZR	535	Cairo	16:15
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	KAC	118	New York	16:20
JZR	553	Alexandria	01:50	KNE	531	Jeddah	16:30
KAC	418	Manila	02:15	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:35
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	NIA	251	Alexandria	16:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	KAC	562	Amman	16:50
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	SVA	510	Riyadh	16:55
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	JZR	177	Dubai	17:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	FDB	8053	Dubai	17:45
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	KAC	678	Muscat/Abu Dhabi	17:50
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	QTR	1080	Doha	17:55
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35
KAC	412	Bangkok/Manila	06:30	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35
BAW	157	London	06:40	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35
QTR	8511	Doha	07:00	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55
IRA	673	Ahwaz	07:15	KAC	618	Doha	18:55
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	KAC	104	London	19:00
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:10
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:15
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	674	Dubai	19:35
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:45
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KNE	381	Taif	20:10
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	ABY	121	Sharjah	20:10
KAC	784	Jeddah	08:50	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KLM	417	Amsterdam	21:25
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	QTR	1082	Doha	21:35
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	GFA	219	Bahrain	21:55
NIA	151	Cairo	12:20	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:00
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:10
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	MSC	501	Alexandria	22:30
KAC	620	Doha	13:10	THY	764	Istanbul	22:55
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00	MSC	403	Asyut	23:10
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:10	JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20	PIA	205	Lahore	23:40
				JAD	301	Amman	23:45

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1251



ACROSS

- 1. A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.
4. The act of drawing or hauling something.
11. A bachelor's degree in library science.
15. United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.
16. (music) Brought to correct pitch.
17. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
18. A type of submachine gun that is designed and manufactured in Israel.
19. European annual grown for forage.
20. A very light brown.
21. Any of numerous ornamental shrubs grown for their showy flowers of various colors.
23. Of or relating to the philosophical study of ethics.
25. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
28. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
29. A bodily passage or tube conveying a secretion or other substance.
32. (computer science) The part of a computer (a microprocessor chip) that does most of the data processing.
34. Diabetes caused by a relative or absolute deficiency of insulin and characterized by polyuria.
37. A genus of Indriidae.
39. Notable English cricketer (1882-1963).
43. An artistic form of auditory communication incorporating instrumental or vocal tones in a structured and continuous manner.
44. A genus of delicate ferns belonging to the family Osmundaceae.
46. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
47. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
49. A large city of central Poland.
50. A particular geographical region of indefinite boundary (usually serving some special purpose or distinguished by its people or culture or geography).
51. A midnight meeting of witches to practice witchcraft and sorcery.
53. Lasting through a week.
55. A village of huts for native Africans in southern Africa.
58. A landlocked republic in central Africa.
61. A tributary of the Ohio River.
69. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
70. An artificial language used for trade between speakers of different languages.
73. A city in north central Nigeria.
74. A young woman making her debut into society.
75. Large arboreal boa of tropical South America.
77. To make a mistake or be incorrect.
78. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
79. A great raja.
80. The force of workers available.

DOWN

- 1. Largest known toad species.
2. Harass with persistent criticism or carping.
3. English essayist (1775-1834).
4. Australian shrubs and small trees with evergreen usually spiny leaves and dense clusters of showy flowers.
5. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.

- 6. A member of the Shoshonean people of Utah and Colorado and New Mexico.
7. Produced or growing in extreme abundance.
8. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
9. Small genus of hairy herbs with yellow flowers.
10. Make editorial changes (in a text).
11. Discrimination against middle-aged and elderly people.
12. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
13. The basic unit of money on Malta.
14. (Old Testament) The first king of the Israelites who defended Israel against many enemies (especially the Philistines).
22. Club consisting of a heavy stick (often bamboo) bound with iron.
24. The federal department that administers federal program dealing with better housing and urban renewal.
26. Not fake or counterfeit.
27. The act of rubbing down.
30. Of or relating to or associated with the vulva.
31. Melon having yellowish rind and whitish flesh.
33. An excavation that is (usually) filled with water.
35. A person you know well and regard with affection and trust.
36. A port city and resort in Andalusia in southern Spain on the Mediterranean.
38. Of or relating to a seizure or convulsion.
40. English monk and scholar (672-735).
41. Bourbon with bitters and Pernod and sugar served with lemon peel.
42. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
45. An infective disease caused by sporozoan parasites that are transmitted through the bite of an infected Anopheles mosquito.
48. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
52. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
54. A festive featuring African-American culture.
56. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
57. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
59. A communist nation that covers a vast territory in eastern Asia.
60. Hardened sugary exudation of various trees.
62. In bed.
63. A small cake leavened with yeast.
64. (trademark) A tinned luncheon meat made largely from pork.
65. French couturier whose first collection in 1947 created a style (tight bodice and narrow waist and flowing pleated skirt) that became known as the New Look (1905-1957).
66. A recurring sleep state during which rapid eye movements do not occur and dreaming does not occur.
67. A river in northern England that flows southeast through West Yorkshire.
68. Earn on some commercial or business transaction.
71. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
72. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
76. A person who announces and plays popular recorded music.

Yesterday's Solution

EMGDISMIS SARNO
AARINHERIT SEEP
THANEITALLY KAVA
SABA ANE OPTICAL
MBLOCTENT
DUSTBERATING MF
ATTALAEABCIP EI
MERRYFLAGASIDE
ARAUCAALASNA I L
GUIATCALABA CD
ESTHETEAGATHIS
ANASDINCA
CALPACDEFT HDTV
ALEPAMANITAE RA
BANEPEDICAB ANI
GRANANOMALANANN

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Paying your bills and collecting debts from those that owe you money is necessary and possible this day. Spend some time thinking about how to put little bits of money together that will bring you a nice sum quickly. Make it a point to take your breaks so that your nervous energies can be assuaged. Excessive emotional activity could cause you frustration-pace yourself. You are tuned into the thoughts and feelings of those in your family this evening. There is optimism and foresight and you may find conversations that pertain to the planning of a vacation or short trip. You could find yourself spending a great deal of time pouring over your homework or the homework of a young person this evening. There is time for relaxing later this evening.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

As far as work is concerned there are no idle moments. Your ability to solve problems leaves everyone with a clean bill of perfection this afternoon and you are feeling talented. Take your breaks and encourage others to do the same. You are clever in spades and many co-workers will pick up on this easily and want to use your mind for their own benefit. There are new possibilities ahead, but do not run freely into the fold... You are called on several times today to help others. There is an attitude of discipline working in your favor to complete what you set out to accomplish. Before you spend lots of money today, ask yourself if you really need this item and if you think you will be happy with it weeks from now.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Put your mind to work and take care of any details that you may have, for mental discipline should come easily. Naysayers may be bothersome but it is your job to quietly continue with those deep feelings that you can accomplish what you have set out to do-you have talent. Problems and obstacles that have previously been confounding should become smoothed. Gaining insight and sharing information takes on more emotional significance now. Being more involved with neighbors or siblings satisfies a deep emotional need. Communicating feelings becomes more important. At this time, you may actively be concerned about the welfare of others in your business or people who work under you. You are good at finding ways to help.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You move forward at your own pace and you may find yourself waiting for decisions to be made from another source. There may be a lot of interruptions today but you are able to keep a good focus on the work at hand. You make good job-related decisions and others follow your lead. You are apt to enjoy considerable success. Time and time again, you prove successful as you display your patience. You attach a great deal of importance to friendships and you may offer to help relieve a friend of some stress by babysitting or taking a meal to his or her house. You teach others respect and compassion through your own actions and find that when you stop to think about it, you have many friends and it is easy to share with each other.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may have an opportunity to spend quite a lot of time improving your financial standing through physical or manual activity this week. Perhaps you have found a part-time job that fits your schedule. The desire for material success and considerable monetary gain is great and you are quite resourceful. You have the right attitude and enthusiasm to amaze those in a position to grant a raise or promotion and one of these can be expected soon. You are in an upbeat mood this afternoon and may want to plan a little weekend travel soon. There is a high possibility that you will be planning outdoor barbecues with co-workers and friends as well. A sense of support and harmony makes this a happy time. This evening is a good time to go to a vegetable market.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You should enjoy great success in whatever you plan to do at this time. You carefully examine your work for any adjustments that might be needed. Work is commendable but your time with a volunteer group is grand. You may be interested in pro-life or pro-family issues and you have quite a following. Perhaps politics is in your future. There is a restlessness this afternoon that can best be calmed through activities with friends. Close personal ties to others are an important factor and you may decide to call or see the people you have not seen in a while. Relating to old friends and relatives bring about a sense of togetherness. Consider updating your address and birthday book-your friends do enjoy hearing from you. Perhaps update e-mail contacts as well.

WORD SEARCH

Old West 1

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 25 letters spell a George Eliot quotation.

Grid of letters for word search: L L I H T O O B E S R O H W O L P L A J U D G E K A N S E L T T A R H A S G O O D O P H T R T L E W C R I G H K O G O C P I E A A R N I A R T R O F R N S N I H I R R I H A O O T P T H U S S A S I R O R E O R C C I E E D M N E R T T R N A L M D E A N K L E I Y D D O O A R P N E L G G A N C E K K O E L A F U A E S A A I B U O A C R E B R I H O H T T T P U D A N T A A H W T A P C R E L S A L D L A A T M B T O A R A K A L E A L W S L S Y L P S Y C K T R D S H I O W A S H O R E F A L T E D G N O O L A S G W R E G D I D L G R N E B A N K E R M A M U R R D I R I A L I V E S T O C K N A F I E L B A F R E R E N I M D L O G G N V F E I Z L B T S H O P K E E P E R L E E F S E E

- BANKER BARKEEP BILLY THE KID BOOT HILL BRAND CAMPFIRE CATTLE DRIVE CHAPARRAL COAL CORRAL COWBOY DOC HOLIDAY FARRIER FORT FURS GOLD MINE GOLD PANNING GRAZE HIRED GUN HOGS HOMESTEAD HOTEL JUDGE COWBOY LARIAT LAWMAN LIVESTOCK MINER OUTLAW GANG PISTOL PLOW HORSE POSSE RAILROAD RANCH RATTLESNAKE RIFLE SADDLE SALOON SHERIFF SHOPKEEPER SITTING BULL STAGECOACH TELEGRAPH TRACKER TRAIL TRAIN UNDERTAKER WATER TANK WELL

Yesterday Solution

Nursing Home 1

Grid of letters for word search: W R E D E S U E B M S H L P Y R E W O H S A L L E N E S O U N U S I F A L L C S S G V T E R A K E A S A N S E N D S Z I M A G E L S D N W C E S A N S E N D S Z I M A G E L L L T N R I S B P M A C I A G A L M A M H L N E I M E M A C R I A R E S E S O G D A G O W M A Z V A L I E N I P R I S E S O F F R M H G I O I G A O I A V E I O R P S O E O E Z U G L C A D E F L B N I O T E H V E O R L I T L L S A L E S S E E C T S L A A E O G C H N S I C A P I E S I C I U E B U C A L A R I S D R N H I A S O I P R T H E R S I L A E B R I S E L T N I A S M D E R U I P A A S B O M A D N B O A I I R P E R U I E L C R A N L I B H T A U R C M D A E S M S S E R U N E D O A S B L I C T M A S I P A K E H I O T Y H D N A S I C T E L E G L U C O S E M E T E R M U S T O L S O C L L I P G N I P E A L L S S G N I T U S F A N S E M A G D R A O B F E I T H E R A P Y D R E S T E N D I S O H A L L W A Y S E D T A

- ACTIVITIES AIDES ASPIRIN BATHROOM BEDRAIL BEDS BOARD GAMES BULLETIN BOARD CANE CARE CASE MEETING CHARTS COMFORT DENTURES DINING ROOM DOCTOR DRUGS EXERCISE FALLS FLU SHOT FRAIL GLUCOSE METER HAIRDRESSER HALLWAYS HELP INCONTINENCE LAUNDRY LINENS MAGAZINES MEDICAL GLOVES MEMORY LOSS MOISTURIZER MUSIC NAIL CLIPPERS NEEDLE NURSES OUTINGS PET THERAPY PHYSIOTHERAPIST PUZZLES READING RESIDENTS ROUNDS SCRABBLE SENIORS SHAVE SING ALONG SLEEPING PILL STAFF MEETINGS SUPPER TABLES TELEVISION TRANSFER BELT URINAL VOLUNTEERS WANDERING WHEELCHAIR

The hidden message is: WE SHALL NEVER KNOW ALL THE GOOD THAT A SIMPLE SMILE CAN DO

Daily SuDoku

9x9 grid for Daily SuDoku with numbers: 2 6 8, 7 6 8, 7 3 1, 9 1 8, 4 3 4, 8 1 4, 4 9 5, 4 9 5, 4 2 5

Yesterday's Solution

9x9 grid for Yesterday's Solution with numbers: 9 6 5 3 8 7 4 2 1, 2 1 8 6 4 5 7 3 9, 3 7 4 2 9 1 6 5 8, 6 8 7 4 3 2 1 9 5, 1 5 3 8 7 9 2 6 4, 4 2 9 5 1 6 3 8 7, 8 3 1 9 6 4 5 7 2, 5 4 6 7 2 8 9 1 3, 7 9 2 1 5 3 8 4 6



KAS STUDENT FIELD TRIP

The students of Kuwait American School recently visited the Kuwait Times newspaper office. The students came to the publishing house along with their teacher, Mr Paul Worsley Brown on behalf of the KAS Creative Writing Elective class. The students were guided around the building with Mr Adnan Saad, Deputy General Manager and met with Managing Editor Jamie Etheridge. The below essays were written by the students, describing what they learned and experienced during this visit.



KAS students visiting the Kuwait Times office with their teacher, Mr Paul Worsley Brown, the students were guided by Mr Adnan Saad, Deputy General Manager of Kuwait Times.

Kuwait Times Field Trip

By Ahmad Al-Kandari

My first time visiting the Kuwait Times I was astonished by how people were communicating with one another as "a Team." At the beginning we were welcomed with the utter most respect and were treated as adults. Our tour guide taught us many aspects about the past, present, and future of the Kuwait Times company. He was so enthusiastic and well-mannered even though we were considered kids in his eyes we were treated as adults. As we started the tour we were taken into a guest room where they offered us some refreshments and sat down, here our tour guide explained to us that Kuwait Times is the first English newspaper in Kuwait and that they print the newspaper in other languages as well to keep the citizens of

Kuwait up to date. Later on as we continue the tour guide tells us the reason why newspaper companies do not increase the price of the newspapers. It's because of the money they make from putting ads in the newspaper helps keep the company in business thus making the reason of increasing the newspapers price unthinkable. We were also shown at the Kuwait Times how a newspaper is printed and that other companies also pay to use the printing device in which the Kuwait Times itself uses. As the tour came to an end I felt knowledgeable in the field of Journalism and enlightened with what I have learned today. I believe that I will visit the company in the near future and go on the same tour again!

A Day in the Life of the Kuwait Times

By Latifa Al-Baqshi

Explosions, natural disasters, and political injustices are some of the most prominent topics that are included in your daily newspaper. Newspapers provide their readers with constant updates about what is going on around them; however, I often ask myself: are newspapers relevant anymore? Well, I found my answer via a visit to the Kuwait Times. I learned a lot throughout the short trip, but there are two things that stood out to me: The way that Kuwait Times reaches out to everyone in the country, and how they make creating a paper seem effortless; even though I know it's not. The Kuwait Times published their first paper almost 55 years ago on September 24th, 1961. Not only was it the first

English newspaper in Kuwait, it was the first one to also sell the paper in French, Indian, and Tagalog to accommodate the expatriates of the time. Even though Tagalog and English are the only ones printed now, it still makes me happy that they wanted everyone to be able to read the news. This tidbit of information definitely caught my eye during the visit because it shows that there are people out there who take notice of all the different ethnicities in Kuwait, and make it a priority to include them. Another thing that caught my eye was how easy the staff at Kuwait Times make everything seem. As my class and I were taken on a tour, I realized that the whole process worked like a well-oiled machine.

Everybody did what they were supposed to on time and with great efficiency. Everything went together so seamlessly that it felt like walking on air. It was inspiring to see a company that thrives through hard work and determination, and I hope to one day be a part of something similar. In conclusion, my trip to the Kuwait Times was informative and pleasurable. I loved how inclusive the paper was and how smoothly it runs. Also, to answer my original question about the relevance of newspapers, I have learned that yes, they are still relevant and a lot of people would be lost without them. I will never take the importance of newspapers for granted anymore, and I will cherish the experience for the rest of my life.

Kuwait Times Visit

By Kawther Oudeh

On February 29th, our Creative Writing Elective class went on a field trip to Kuwait Times. It was an interesting and informative visit. We were told about the business and creative part, and shown the physical part of the newspaper. The first part of the tour we were informed about the work that has to be put in so the Kuwait Times can publish a newspaper every day. It costs a lot of money to publish a newspaper, so one ad on the front page costs around five thousand dollars. Therefore they would need to add several advertisements throughout the newspaper. Also the marketing

department must think of many different ways to appeal to different readers. They must be creative and original. This is a job that requires a lot of work but obviously, if done right, is worth the effort. Then we were shown how the physical process of making a newspaper is done. There are a lot of big machines and although they're mostly automatic, manpower is still needed. If this main machine is broken they will use the old machines that require more work. In conclusion, this was a good, educational trip.

KAS at the Kuwait Times

By Mohammed Tahsaler

At the end of February I had the chance to tour the Kuwait Times printing press. It was a really amazing field trip, I enjoyed it a lot. The first thing I saw was the logo and the established year. We went in to the reception and then to the dewaniya. Mr Adnan Saad, the executive director taught us about the history of the newspaper and how it became number one in Kuwait and the first english newspaper in the GCC.

On our tour, I saw an old black printer, which was thrilling and awesome. Then we went inside the actual printing facility where the printing actually happens. There were computers, printers, large rolls of paper, and powerful cutters. The printer was massive. A paper roll goes through eight printers and two towers before the final product comes out. The most interesting thing was the cutter. The cutter could easily cut a huge pile of about one thousand papers.

I would like to deeply thank the Kuwait Times, Mrs Jamie, and Mr Adnan for introducing us to the newspaper. We had a lot of fun and I can wait to revisit you. Again, thank you so much.

Where Things Happen

By Yousef Al-Tuwajri

When I visited the Kuwait Times the feeling of curiosity and interest filled my body with the urge of wanting to know more. As I entered the facility I thought that it would be filled with state of the art technology and people that were glued to screens trying to find what's happening around the world. It turned out to be quite the opposite.

Reporters were outside trying to find any stories they can get a hold of. They were out on the streets in the heart of the city in order to find something they can report to us. When the reporters are out there, in their mind they see themselves as challengers who are placed on stage with news in their hands and the readers are the judges. People don't realize that the news is a valuable asset. Without it people would be ignorant to what's happening around the world. That's why when I visited the Kuwait Times I saw it as an opportunity for me to expand and develop my knowledge of the real world.

Furthermore, when the gentleman was showing us around the facility I thought to myself what makes something special, it turns out to be the passion and drive that the people put into their work. The place itself was the dream of the founder Mr. Yousef Salah Alyan. As we can see that his dream has been fulfilled and achieved.

Yousef's Accomplishments

By Mohammed Al-Muhaiteeb

Our school recently took a field trip to the Kuwait times, the first English newspaper in the whole gulf region. As I was on the bus I thought to myself that this trip would simply be an interesting experience and I move on. But I had more than that; I gained so much information that I didn't know about. I thought this would just be a memory but it turned out to be an event that will surely settle in my mind for a long while.

There were many things interesting to me, but what really caught my attention was our guide. He was really wise and he explained a lot of things in specific details.

One of them was the term "news" witch came from the direction North, South, East, West. He also showed us old issues of the Kuwait times that were first

published. He showed us how much it costs for companies to advertise in the Kuwait Times.

Another thing that I found fascinating was their machinery; especially the cutter. It's blade was so sharp that it could decapitate a person. The other machine was the folder. It would react really fast and folds thousands of papers in hour. They sped it up and I wondered if it would explode at that time.

In conclusion, I would say that I had a great time, and a great memory. I would like to visit the Kuwait Times again sometime in the future, but till then I would like to thank Yousef Saleh, the pioneer who started the newspaper. He accomplished and provided for the people of Kuwait with Dailey news.

Educational Trip to the Kuwait Times

By Omar Al-Roubi

Our school's field trip to the Kuwait Times helped me gain much knowledge about how news is obtained and spread around the country. I learned that there are reporters who are spread all over Kuwait searching for a story to include in the daily newspaper. The reporters go out in the morning to begin the hunt for information. At around noon the reporters come back to deliver all the informa-

tion gathered and they start making a story about it. The actual printing of the newspapers takes about 2-3 hours. They use huge machines that print all the colors using only 4 main colors; cyan, magenta, yellow, and black. They also make magazines and books not only newspapers. I've seen the machine they use to trim and cut paper. It is incredibly sharp which

involves some danger for the person operating the machine. The most interesting thing that stood out to me was how expensive it is to put an ad in the newspaper. The price depends on the size of the ad you want to include in the newspaper. Half a page costs around 5-10 thousand KD. It was a very interesting trip and I enjoyed every part of it. It was an amazing trip.



Inmate says he's Prince's son and heir

A 39-year-old inmate has said that he is the son of pop icon Prince, seeking a DNA test that could make him heir to the late singer's storied estate. A lawyer for Carlin Q. Williams, who is from Kansas City, lodged an objection to a court filing by Prince's sister Tyka Nelson who said the singer had no children. Williams is serving a sentence for gun possession in a stolen car and is not due to leave the high-security federal prison in Florence, Colorado until late 2020. His mother, Marsha Henson, submitted a sworn statement saying that she met the singer-whose full name is Prince Rogers Nelson-at a Kansas City hotel in July 1976.

The two drank and then he took her to his room at the now defunct Midwest Hotel where they had unprotected sex, she said. The lawyer requested a DNA test to determine whether Prince was the father of Williams. The petition claims that Williams "believes he is or may be the sole surviving legal heir" of the music legend, who died suddenly at age 57 on April 21 without leaving any known will.

A 2014 court document on Williams' sentencing said that he had a troubled childhood and wrote: "His father had no presence at all in his life." The sentencing memorandum said that Williams had seven half-siblings and that he dropped out of school in 10th grade before being convicted on drug offenses. The extent of Prince's fortune remains unclear but it is likely to be considerable as the acclaimed artist had sold more than 100 million records. An heir would also have control over Prince's legendary vault at his Paisley Park estate near Minneapolis, which is said to hold massive amounts of unreleased material.

Prince's sister and five living half-siblings have been named as heirs and assigned a special administrator to handle his estate. Prince had a son in 1996 with his then wife, dancer Mayte Garcia, but the boy died a week later from a rare condition. Williams is not the only person who is seeking a slice of Prince's estate. A California man named Rodney Herachio Dixon has said that he should hold the rights to all of Prince's intellectual property plus \$1 billion-an amount that few believe the singer had. Dixon said he had reached a verbal and



This undated booking photo released by Missouri Department of Corrections shows Carlin Q. Williams.

implied agreement with Prince in 1994. In a filing unusual by legal standards, Dixon quoted an interview by Prince in which the singer said "I am music." "If Prince is music, and the music he had left when he died is a representation of himself, and that is all that is left upon his departure, then he made his will known on television," Dixon said.

Doctor prescribed Prince medication before death

Investigators in Minnesota have questioned a doctor who prescribed medication for Prince during the weeks before he died, a police search warrant shows. Michael Schulenberg, a local family practice doctor, had treated the musician twice, including the day before he died, and showed up at his Paisley



Prince's sister Tyka Nelson, center, leaves the Carver County Justice Center in Chaska with her husband Maurice Philips in Chaska, Minn. — AP

Park estate the morning of his death on April 21 with test results, the document obtained by the Los Angeles Times showed Tuesday.

Prince, 57, had already been pronounced dead by the time the physician arrived after the musician was found collapsed in an elevator. The warrant does not say what Schulenberg prescribed, for what ailment or whether Prince took the drugs, from a prescription to be filled at a Walgreens pharmacy.

The police also conducted another search of the pop star's Minneapolis home and seized medical records from the hospital where Schulenberg worked, it shows. The cause of death is still unknown, and investigators are examining whether he died of an opioid overdose. Authorities found prescription

painkillers in Prince's possession after his death, officials said. A medical examiner has said full results of a post-mortem examination could take several weeks to obtain, although the Carver County Sheriff's office said there was no sign of trauma or evidence of suicide. Police were investigating the scene of Prince's death again early Wednesday morning. "Detectives are revisiting the scene at Paisley Park as a component of a complete investigation," the Carver County Sheriff's office tweeted, adding that no other information was available. — AFP



In this Wednesday, May 11, 2011 file photo, Moldovan band Zdob si Zdob performs the song 'So Lucky' during the rehearsal for the second semifinal of the Eurovision Song Contest in Duesseldorf, Germany. — AP photos



In this Wednesday, May 20, 2015 file photo, Sweden's Mans Zelmerlow performs the song 'Heroes' during a dress rehearsal for the second semifinal of the Eurovision Song Contest in Austria's capital Vienna.



In this Tuesday, May 12, 2009 file photo, Czech Republic's band Gipsy.cz performs during the Eurovision Song Contest's first semi-final at the Olympic Stadium in Moscow, Russia.



In this Wednesday, May 15, 2013 file photo, Cezar of Romania performs his song 'It's My Life' during a rehearsal for the second semifinal of the Eurovision Song Contest at the Malmo Arena in Malmo, Sweden.

Duel between Russia and Ukraine marks 60 years of Eurovision

Will it be a fierce musical duel between geopolitical foes Russia and Ukraine? Or is it at last France's turn to melt hearts-albeit singing in English-at the Eurovision Song Contest in Stockholm on Saturday? The familiar "Good evening Europe!" will once again bring former rivals and allies together in the annual celebration of weirdness, glamour and music, as Eurovision marks its 60th birthday.

After bearded Austrian drag queen Conchita Wurst won the 2014 edition, Swede Mans Zelmerlow brought the competition to Stockholm for the sixth time by winning last year, closing in on Ireland's record of seven wins. A cast of hopeful artists from 42 countries will be reduced to 26 by Thursday evening, after semifinals in which the only ones exempt are hosts Sweden and the contest's biggest sponsors Germany, Spain, France, Italy and the UK. Eurovision officially aims to be a song contest free of politics-but few believe that, and this year looks to be no exception.

Betting shops anticipate an arm-wrestling match between Russia and Ukraine, currently torn apart by the conflict that began with Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014. The duel could turn fierce as Ukraine's contestant Susana Jamaladinova is set to perform her contentious song "1944", which recounts Stalin's deportation of Crimean Tatars. The 32-year-old jazz singer-songwriter known as Jamalada was said to have been inspired by the memories of her great grandmother, who was deported from the peninsula with her five children in 1944 along with 240,000 other Tatars. "When

strangers are coming/They come to your house/They kill you all/And say/We're not guilty/Not guilty," the lyrics begin.

Russian officials and some politicians in Crimea have complained that the song was intended to denigrate Russia. But the Geneva-based organizers decided the song was not in breach of the competition's rules against political speech. "Musicians should express their feelings, their real feelings, not sing meaningless words like we hear all the time," said the artist, defending the song in Stockholm. But the Moscow-Kiev duel could yet have its spotlight stolen by another gamblers' favorite, French-Israeli Amir Haddad, who will represent France with upbeat tune "J'ai cherché". The handsome 31-year-old dental surgeon is trying to charm other nations with an unusual trick in a French performance-singing partly in English. Should he succeed, he would be the first French performer to win the contest in nearly 40 years.

Controversy with flags

Since its inception in Switzerland deep in the Cold War in 1956, Eurovision has tried to bring unity to quarrelling European nations. At the same time, it has always been a reflection of nationalistic rivalries. "Eurovision is the celebration of all (of) Europe", intoned Hanna Stjarne, the chief executive of Sweden's public broadcasting company SVT. "Europe is going through a bad moment, it is divided, but thanks to Eurovision people can come together with a sparkle in their eye," she told AFP.

For the first time in its history, the competition

will be transmitted live in the US by Logo, a channel aimed at the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Eurovision has for decades been a hugely popular event in gay circles, to the extent that the only flags authorized in the venue during the broadcast are those of the UN member states, the European Union and the rainbow flag. The flag rule became a source of controversy this year when Palestinians, Welsh, Basques and even the Nordic-Russian Sami realized their flags were on Eurovision's black list, together with the flag of the Islamic State.

Eventually the European Broadcasting Union relaxed its rule by allowing "national, regional and local flags of participants, for example the Welsh and Sami ones." Native people of the Nordic countries and Russia, the Sami will be represented at the contest by Norwegian Agnete who wants to bring her ethnicity's flag to the stage. Up until now the competition's winner has usually been clear long before the lengthy tally of points from different countries was over. This year, to save some of the spice till the end, organizers decided to change the tally so that results from the national juries will be announced first, and the less predictable television viewers' votes will be revealed last. — AFP



In this early Sunday, May 21, 2006 file photo, Finnish group Lordi celebrate after their victory in the Eurovision Song Contest at the Indoor Olympic stadium in Athens, Greece.



In this Friday, May 25, 2012 file photo, Russia's Buranovskiye Babushki perform during a rehearsal for the final of the 2012 Eurovision Song Contest at the Baku Crystal Hall in Baku, Azerbaijan.



Dancers perform the choreography "grey people" concerning the refugees crisis during the first Eurovision Song Contest semifinal in Stockholm, Sweden, Tuesday, May 10, 2016.

Osbourne confirms Ozzy split, looks to new chapter

Sharon Osbourne has confirmed her split with metal icon Ozzy Osbourne and said she planned a long think about her future. Sharon Osbourne, who was also manager to her husband and other rockers, returned Tuesday to her spot on the daytime show "The Talk" and was asked about reports she booted Ozzy from their Los Angeles-area mansion. "No, it's true," she said with an expressionless deadpan. She said that Ozzy had since returned to their former joint home, and that she in turn has left.

The Osbournes have been married for more than 33 years as one of the most enduring couples in the rock world. Sharon Osbourne, 63, initially met Ozzy when her father in their native England was managing Black Sabbath, one of the defining bands of heavy metal. Sharon

Osbourne said that she had turned off the television in recent days and was beginning to think about her future. "I honestly at this point today have no idea what I'm going to be doing with the rest of my life. I don't know where I'm going, who I'm going with," she said.

"Because this is, like, getting to the last chapter of this book and I really want to think about it very carefully, about where I want to go," she said. The reasons for the split were unclear but Ozzy, 67, has denied that he had any relapse to his well-publicized past alcohol and drug problems. But in a hint that the split was linked to an affair, she took the stage of "The Talk" conspicuously holding a glass of lemonade.

Beyonce last month released her latest album entitled "Lemonade" in which she hinted at infi-

delity by her husband, rap mogul Jay-Z. Sharon was instrumental in managing Ozzy's career, including recruiting songwriters and guitarists that kept him in the forefront of heavy metal as a solo artist. She went on to manage other artists and became a public figure in the early 2000s when her life with Ozzy and two of their three children was turned into an MTV reality television show, "The Osbournes." — AFP

In this file photo, Sharon Osbourne, left, and Ozzy Osbourne arrive at the LA Premiere of 'Amy' at The Theater at Arclight Cinemas Hollywood in Los Angeles. — AP



(From second left) Hungarian director and member of the Jury Laszlo Nemes, Italian actress /director and member of the Jury Valeria Golino, French director and member of the Jury Arnaud Desplechin, US actress and member of the Jury Kirsten Dunst, Australian director and President of the Jury George Miller, French actress / singer and member of the Jury Vanessa Paradis, Canadian actor and member of the Jury Donald Sutherland, Iranian producer and member of the Jury Katayoon Shahabi and Danish actor and member of the Jury Mads Mikkelsen take part yesterday in a press conference ahead of the opening of the 69th Cannes Film Festival, southern France. — AFP



(From left) US actor Corey Stoll, US actor Jesse Eisenberg, US actress Blake Lively, US director Woody Allen and US actress Kristen Stewart pose yesterday during a photocall for the film 'Cafe Society' ahead of the opening of the 69th Cannes Film Festival, southern France. — AFP



Models walk on the red carpet, during a photo call for the film 'Trolls' at the 69th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, yesterday. — AP

Bon Jovi opens hunger center near home

Rockers Jon Bon Jovi on Tuesday opened an anti-hunger center in his native New Jersey, hoping to tackle food insecurity rates that have remained stubbornly high since the Great Recession and Hurricane Sandy. The complex in Toms River, one of the hardest-hit towns in the 2012 mega-storm, includes a food bank, restaurant and culinary school and offers free guidance on tax returns, health care and public benefits.

The frontman and namesake of Bon Jovi, who has sold some 130 million albums, and his wife Dorothea put up funding to start the B.E.A.T. Center—standing for "Bringing Everyone All Together"—situated in a strip-mall. He told a ribbon-cutting ceremony that it would provide "not only a healthy meal, but in fact a place that creates community." Food banks have been distributing more than twice as much produce in Ocean County, whose seat is Toms River, since Hurricane Sandy, with families suddenly finding that they cannot always afford food staples.

"These are hard-working, blue-collar, middle-class people who go to work every day. But the need for people to make ends meet — (being) food insecure was already there. This just exacerbated it," Bon Jovi told reporters. Bon Jovi said that such volunteer efforts could help address

hunger, adding that the problem is not just in New Jersey. "When there are 15 percent of children going to bed hungry at night in a nation like the United States, these aren't issues that need a scientist to find a cure," he said.

The complex's restaurant, called the JBJ Soul Kitchen, is the second for Bon Jovi after one that opened in 2011 in Red Bank to the north. Patrons at the restaurant pay either by volunteering in the kitchen or donating at least \$10. US Representative Tom MacArthur, whose district includes the area, applauded the approach, saying he did not know who was in need when he dined at the Red Bank location, which is about to serve its 50,000th meal. "That's what we have to do. We have to meet the need, we have to do it effectively. But we have to make sure that people have dignity when they're getting help," MacArthur said. Goya Foods, a top producer aimed at US Hispanics and based in New Jersey, has agreed to donate 2,200 pounds (1,000 kilograms) of food each week, said Patricia Donaghy, head of the Peoples Pantry established after Sandy. She hailed the donation as an "absolute game-changer" in ensuring the pantry's future. — AFP

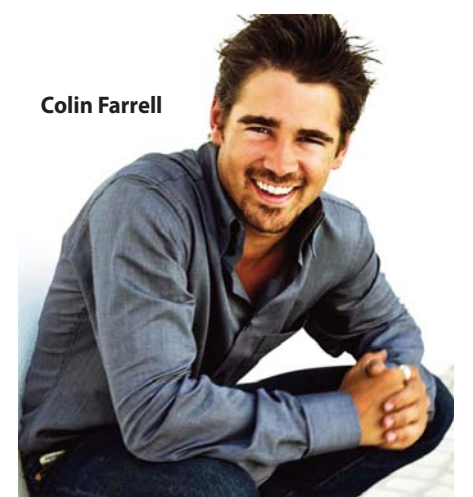
Farrell reunites with Lanthimos for 'The Killing of a Sacred Deer'

Colin Farrell is set to reunite with "The Lobster" director Yorgos Lanthimos in the Greek helmer's latest project "The Killing of a Sacred Deer." Project, which is expected to begin lensing in August, sees Lanthimos re-team with co-writer Efthymis Filippou and producers Element Pictures and Film4. Hanway Films is shopping the hot title to foreign buyers in Cannes. CAA is repping domestic rights.

It's a fitting announcement on the Croisette this year, given last year saw Lanthimos' click "The Lobster," which also starred Farrell, snap up the Cannes Jury Prize at the fest. Lanthimos co-writes and directs the project, inspired by a Euripides tragedy, which centers on Steven, a charismatic surgeon and a teenage boy who seeks to integrate him into his broken family. When the boy's actions become increasingly sinister, Steven's ideal life starts to fall apart and he is forced to make an unthinkable sacrifice.

Element's Ed Guiney and Andrew Lowe will produce the project, having previously produced "The Lobster." Film4 is also backing the project. "Sacred Deer" is one of a number of projects Lanthimos is developing with Element and Film4. Also in the works is "The Favourite" with shingle Scarlet Films. Olivia Colman, Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz are attached to star in the historical drama, which follows the political machinations behind the scenes during the reign of Queen Anne.

"The Lobster" went down a critical storm on the Croisette last year and firmly established the Greek helmer as one of the hottest European directors working at the moment. Pic was set in a dystopian future where single people are taken to a hotel and obliged to find a romantic partner in 45 days or they are transformed into an animal of their choosing and released into the woods. Lanthimos is repped by CAA, Sayle Screen and LBI Entertainment. Farrell is repped by CAA and LBI Entertainment. — Reuters



Older woman, younger man? A 'valid comic idea' to Woody Allen

Woody Allen, who famously married someone half his age, said yesterday he wouldn't rule out a movie on the love between an older woman and a young man if he "had a good story." After unveiling his latest film, "Cafe Society", in Cannes, featuring a love story between a young woman and powerful older man, Allen was asked if he would ever consider switching the roles—something still somewhat taboo on the big screen.

"I wouldn't hesitate to do that if I had a good idea for a story with a 50-year-old woman and a 30-year-old man. It's a perfectly valid comic idea," said the 80-year-old, drawing a few awkward laughs. "I just don't have any material on it, anything really to draw on. I wouldn't hesitate if I had a good story," added Allen. However despite claiming he had "no experience" in the matter, Allen, who is known proceeded to tell what some might

argue was a good story, based on his own experience. "When I was 30 years old I had a big crush on a 50-year-old who was great looking and beautiful, but she was married and wouldn't go near me with a 10-foot pole. These things happen all the time." Allen has had a turbulent personal life clouded by scandal after entering a relationship with Soon-Yi Previn, the adopted daughter of his former partner Mia Farrow, when Previn was only 21. Without overtly addressing his personal life, journalists harped on issues of love and age differences after a press preview of "Cafe Society" opened the world's top film festival.

'A romantic fool'
Allen managed to dodge a question asked by a reporter with heavily accented English on why he always returns to the storyline of a younger woman and older man, or affairs ruining a marriage. "What

did she say? You know I have hearing aids and I put the microphone over my hearing aids to give me a double shot and it's still not working," said Allen. Actor Jesse Eisenberg, who stars in "Cafe Society", repeated a watered-down version of the query: "How do you decide on your romantic motifs?" "I have always thought of myself as a romantic—this is not necessarily shared by the women in my life," said Allen.

He said they think of him less of a Clark Gable or Cary Grant type, and more of a "romantic fool." "They think I romanticize New York City, that I romanticize the past, that I romanticize love relationships: I probably do and it probably is foolish, but I was brought up on Hollywood movies and this is what I tend to do." — AFP

Five things you need to know about Cannes

The Cannes Film Festival opened yesterday in the French Riviera resort. Here are five essential—and often surprising—facts about the glitzy Mediterranean town.

Bad timing

Timing is everything in cinema, they say, but as Cannes was to prove that's not always the case. France's great reforming education minister Jean Zay first came up with the idea of a global international film festival in 1939 as a rival to the Venice festival, which was then the plaything of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and his film-loving German friend Adolf Hitler. Biarritz on France's Atlantic coast was first chosen as the host city but when it couldn't raise the money, Cannes nipped in. However, war soon broke out and Mussolini's troops marched into the town.

It wasn't until after the war in 1946 that the festival finally got

going, quickly becoming the most important in the world. By then Zay was dead, murdered because he was a Jew by France's collaborationist government. His ashes were moved to the Pantheon in Paris last year as one of the leading heroes of the French Resistance.

Lap of luxury

The myth of the French Riviera was created at the end of the 19th century by the crowned heads of Europe who wintered there. Their legacy—and often their palatial villas—has nowadays been taken up by Russian oligarchs and wealthy Gulf potentates. To serve their every whim, Cannes has more luxury goods shops than anywhere else in France outside Paris. Chanel, Chopard, Rolex, Prada, Louis Vuitton, Dior... no less than 70 top name brands have shops squeezed into the 800 meters of its seafloor Croisette.

Cat burglars

Like bears to honey, where there is great wealth, there are always criminals eager to redistribute a little of it their way. The Croisette has witnessed some of the biggest and most daring jewelry heists in history. A solitary robber, thought to be one of the infamous Pink Panthers, took gems worth 103 million euros (\$130 million) from the Carlton hotel in 2013 where they were being displayed at an "Extraordinary Diamonds" exhibition.

The surprisingly simple raid still holds the world record as the biggest heist of all time. That same year at the film festival a 1.6-million euro necklace was stolen and gems worth only slightly less also went missing. Having vowed that such crimes should never be allowed to happen again, the authorities were found wanting again last year when only a few days before the festival began 17.5 million euros of jewelry was taken from the Cartier shop on

the Croisette. If that all seems like something from the movies it's because it is. That connoisseur of crime films Alfred Hitchcock set part of his 1955 classic "To Catch a Thief" about a Riviera cat burglar in the Carlton hotel. It was during the film shoot that Hollywood star Grace Kelly met Prince Rainier, the ruler of nearby Monaco. Their fairytale marriage later sealed Tinseltown's links with the coast.

It's British actually

Cannes is a French town, but it was actually the British who made it what it is today. A Scottish aristocrat and lawyer, Henry Brougham, 1st Baron Brougham, is the man who turned the sleepy fishing village into a fashionable resort. An anti-slavery campaigner, he became Lord Chancellor, the head of the judiciary, and encouraged hundreds of wealthy British aristocrats and industrialists to come and build their winter homes nearby. Brougham was the inventor of a stately four-wheeled carriage which still bears his name. He also holds the record for speaking non-stop for six hours in the House of Commons.

'French Hollywood'

From the dawn of cinema, when the Lumiere brothers shot their first short reels by its glittering shore, the Cote d'Azur has always attracted filmmakers. After the Lumieres' stay in 1897, some of the greatest directors of the silent era descended on the coast to shoot exterior scenes, a trend that was to continue with the advent of the "talkies".

The Victorine Studios at nearby Nice were once called "French Hollywood", with Marcel Carne shooting part of "Les Enfants du Paradis"—often regarded as the greatest French film of all time—there in 1944. Nowadays, however, Cannes has morphed into one of Europe's conference capitals, hosting the MIPTV and MIPDoc, the world's biggest television and documentary markets, as well as the film festival every year. — AFP



President of the Jury George Miller, fourth right, poses for photographers with jury members from left, Arnaud Desplechin, Kirsten Dunst, Laszlo Nemes, Vanessa Paradis, Donald Sutherland, Katayoon Shahabi, Mads Mikkelsen and Valeria Golino during a photo call for the Jury at the 69th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, yesterday. — AFP



Actors Justin Timberlake, left, and Anna Kendrick pose for photographers during a photo call for the film 'Trolls' at the 69th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, yesterday. — AP

Homemade recipes for dry skin

I'm always looking for the next best body butter or body lotion, as I suffer from dry skin. It can get very annoying, especially that I travel a lot, which causes your skin to become even more dry, even when I'm tanning I don't get an even tan on some areas as they're drier than the rest of my body. All that aside, it's not cute to have dry cuticles, and dry skin. So, when I was going through the home-made shampoo and conditioner phase I also was reading a lot about how to make your own home-made body lotion and scrub. Nothing feels better than a good scrub to exfoliate and then using a heavy moisturizer to keep you nice and smooth.

Discoloration, acne, and redness

Over the years I've realized how important it really is to take care of our skin, I've been experimenting a lot and using many products or being in the sun and travelling sometimes took its toll on my skin. I started noticing discoloration, acne, and redness. Regardless of whether it was your skin on your face or your body, your skin is the biggest organ in your body, and it protects us in so many ways that we don't usually know of. As I mentioned, having dry skin and living in a region where the weather is extremely hot and dry isn't helpful either.



Reading online about such topics is really interesting, because you get to read many people's opinions about a certain issue, but you can easily be misled too. I say this a lot, but I don't think I can say it enough, that not everything that might work great for someone will work as well for you. Educate yourself to know what works best for your skin type, skin tone, whether you have allergies, dehydration, and so on. Homemade recipes are really great as you can make them in the comfort of your home, you might need to hit the supermarket but it generally needs zero effort. I tried a couple of body scrubs, which work amazing, and helps you get rid of all the dry skin, even if you're dry from tanning you can exfoliate to get a better than since summer has just arrived.

Homemade body scrubs

Always keep in mind 3 ingredients, and however you choose to use them will always be a safe way (unless you're allergic):

- **Salt:** it's known to relax your muscles, I prefer using sea salt, as it's not as processed as regular table salt.
- **Sugar:** is gentler on the skin than salt, you can add oil to it and use it as a scrub.
- **Ground Coffee:** one of my favorites, first of all it smells amazing, and is even good to apply as a face scrub too.

All three ingredients can be used with an oil or with just water which turns it to more of a paste, always be gentle when exfoliating as you only want to remove the top dry layer of the skin to have that smooth feel to it.

To keep it clean and organic I also tried out the following homemade body butter recipe (make sure you're not allergic to any of the ingredients before trying them):

whipped body butter: mix 1/2 cup of butter, 1/2 cup of cocoa butter, 1/2 coconut oil and 1/2 cup of olive oil in a glass bowl and stir to medium heat allowing the ingredients to melt and mix, then keep the mix in the fridge for about an hour till it hardens a little, then use a hand whip for about 10 minutes for it to become fluffy and there you go!

Try creating recipes that work best for you by experimenting with ingredients! Homemade recipes are always fun and most importantly not harmful for your skin. Let me know how it goes with you ladies, and maybe guests!



Artist Randy Barton stands in front of several murals he painted inside an Albuquerque, NM, hotel room, which he transformed into an installation work he titled 'All Direction Protection.'



In this photo Kalene Thompson, left, views an installation art piece by contemporary Native American artist Ishkoten Dougi through 3D glasses at the Navajo Lodge in Albuquerque, NM. — AP photos

Native painters transform hotel rooms with large-scale art

Dade Lahar stepped into the hotel room with splashes of electric blue and tips outlined in neon green before scanning a mural that offered a contemporary take on Native American reservation life. "Whoa," the 9-year-old said while donning a pair of 3-D glasses to see how the room's painted geometric designs and abstract landscapes could seemingly fill the space around him. "This is the absolute, most coolest room in the whole wide world."

It's also unique, and part of an ongoing project at Navajo Lodge, a boutique hotel in New Mexico's largest city, to transform guest rooms into spaces that owners say can be considered art pieces unto themselves. In cities from Tokyo to Marseille, France, the concept of commissioning artists to convert guest rooms into contemporary, large-scale installation works has taken hold at a handful of hotels. For New Mexico, where art connoisseurs and collectors may be more likely to hit places like Taos and Santa Fe, the collection of rooms at Navajo Lodge has created a new art stop along Interstate 25 amid a string of mostly chain hotels and businesses.

Affordable property

"We don't put any restrictions on the artists," said Maresa Thompson, the hotel's marketing director. "We say, 'What do you want to bring?' And their vision changes as they stay here and create their rooms." She started recruiting emerging artists to paint rooms at the hotel several

years ago with the idea of making contemporary Native American art more accessible to the general public outside of a gallery or museum setting, and at an affordable property, she said. Depending on the season, rooms at Navajo Lodge can cost about \$80 per night.

Guests who want to stay in an artist room can call in and request the room of their choice after viewing options online. So far, 12 artists - all from New Mexico - have transformed rooms at Navajo Lodge with large-scale paintings and murals. Scenes in the rooms convey Southwestern landscapes, figures from tribal stories and other Native American imagery. Themes range from the spiritual to the abstract.

In one room, Randy Barton, who started out as a street artist, painted a room last year with an abstract study on the 50 arrowheads of the Navajo Nation flag. From one end of the wall to the other where the room's television stands, Barton painted lines shooting in nearly every direction to create asymmetrical geometric shapes in hues of beige, orange and brown. "The room is called 'All Direction Protection,'" Barton said. "I made all the arrowheads just kind of shoot out everywhere and that's how I made this design here."

Toy tipis

Estella Loretto, a sculptor and painter from Jemez Pueblo, said she wanted to create a room that reflected on the sun and the "gift of a new day." Behind the room's

queen-size bed, a turquoise sun rises against a yellow backdrop in one of several murals in the room. Outside the room's window, the Sandia Mountains tower over the city. Last week, the hotel publicly unveiled its four newest artist rooms, which included Loretto's work and the fluorescent, ultra-contemporary space that wowed Dade, the 9-year-old, at an open house.

Ishkoten Dougi, a Navajo and Apache artist who says he is intent on presenting Native American imagery in a different light, painted the room with the mural he titled "Art Reservation" this spring. In place of standard queen-sized beds, the hotel placed a pair of miniature toy tipis in the middle with twin, kid-sized mattresses inside. Dougi was able to incorporate the 3-D element with his painting through his choice in color patterns, pulling off an effect that makes the room more interactive. "It's a room playing off a reservation theme so that's where the tipis become involved - as an archetype," Dougi said. "And then the landscape in here reflects the vast color of the reservation, mostly capturing the skyline. It's more what you would see on a journey." — AP



In this photo provided by Overstock.com, a pink flamingo struts across a preppy striped rug shown here from Overstock. — AP photos



In this photo provided by H&M, playful toucans peek out from behind bamboo branches on a whimsical, tropical print throw pillow from H & M Home.



In this photo provided by H&M, a vintage style palm leaf print graces a chic throw pillow from H&M Home.



In this photo provided by Dot & Bo, seagrass fibers are woven together to create a smart little ottoman as shown.



Photo shows a white ceramic pineapple lamp, a chic accessory that brings a touch of the tropics into a space.

Decor goes tropical this summer

If there's one decor trend that hits summer's sweet spot, it's tropical style. Furnishings and accessories made of tropical plant and tree fibers started to appear in the fall, in modern vintage and midcentury pieces. That trend has expanded for spring and summer to wall coverings, textiles and rugs printed with imagery drawn from the jungle, beach and rainforest. "I think it really took off when design bloggers collectively rediscovered the iconic banana-palm wallpaper in the Polo Lounge at the Beverly Hills Hotel," says Joss & Main's style director Donna Garlough.

"It's called Martinique, and it's this huge, oversize print that makes a gigantic statement and has a cool Old Hollywood vibe," she says. "It makes me think of a '40s starlet on vacation at glam resorts in Beverly Hills or Miami. When designers and shelter magazines started featuring it in midcentury-style rooms, often with white furnishings and brass accents, readers loved it."

One fun aspect of tropical décor is that you can interpret it many ways - glamorous is one style, but there's also island, preppy or boho. You may even have a little déjà vu moment, says Garlough. "There can be an element of late '70s/early '80s kitsch to it," she says. "I recently watched a rerun of 'Golden Girls' and laughed my head off over all the tropical elements on that set that have come back into vogue, from the rattan furniture to the macrame plant hangers. Blanche even had that famous palm wallpaper in her bedroom."

For her Nashville, Tennessee-based studio, Peacockette Designs, Sarah Walden has created a striking palm-leaf print. With the leaves printed on a teal blue background, the design has a historical vibe. On a coral/pink background, it looks more

midcentury modern. It's available on several different fabrics, or as wallpaper.

A palm-printed pillow can freshen a sofa or chair. You'll find a collection of throw pillows and shower curtains with big, bold palm-leaf prints at H&M Home.

Add a few inexpensive rattan pieces; the textures contrast nicely with contemporary furniture's trim lines, and bring homey charm to more bohemian spaces. Rattan also works as a foil for both bright and neutral hues. Pottery Barn's Beachcomber collection includes sea grass, rattan and abaca fibers woven into chunky baskets. A little rattan bar cart is part of Target's summer Threshold collection.

For color beyond foliage green, consider sultry hues like orchid, banana and passion fruit. Go beachy with a palette of tans, creams and grays. Overstock.com has



In this photo provided by Dot & Bo, a rattan side table is shown and brings a bit of retro tropical style to a room.



Photo shows bedding with a fun flamingo print, an easy way to introduce tropical decor.



In this photograph, diners sit in The Source, a trendy restaurant and food shop complex along Brighton Boulevard in Denver. — AP photos



A fisheye lens, a pair of children head for the entrance of The Source, a restaurant and food shop complex along Brighton Boulevard in Denver.



A sign for a new tenant along Brighton Boulevard 'the Plinth Gallery' is in front of a sign for a vehicle repair shop that now sits vacant along the street in Denver.



A massive storm cloud streaks the sky over the Butcher Block Cafe along Brighton Boulevard in Denver.



In this Jan 22, 2013 file photo, pro rodeo champion Jesse Wright competes in the Saddle Bronc Riding event during a rodeo at the National Western Stock Show, in Denver at the National Western Complex, which hosts rodeos, martial arts tournaments, alpaca exhibits, classic car auctions and concerts throughout the year.

Brighton Boulevard: A hipster Denver 'hood in the making

A busy street connecting downtown Denver to the interstate, roaring with trucks and running alongside railroad tracks, might not sound like a trendy neighborhood in the making. But now's the time to visit Brighton Boulevard before it begins to look too much like any hipster street in any other city. It offers a close connection to Denver's gritty roots, as well as a glimpse of what's coming, along with eateries, entertainment and more.

foundry at 33rd and Brighton, includes eateries like Comida, where winter squash pancakes, bacon jalapeno griddled tacos and a long list of cocktails are on the menu. Three blocks away, in an old produce depot that has been turned into an office complex called Industry, the Will Call tavern serves drinks, burgers and empanadas.

Cowboys and rodeos

A mural depicting farm animals and dancing cowboys just off Brighton Boulevard is easy for drivers to miss. Its delicate greens and oranges, on jewel-like tiles on a concrete wall, are almost invisible in the shadow of Interstate 70. Like the rest of the neighborhood, the installation is best appreciated by visitors on foot, so get out of your car - but watch out for traffic.

From the mural, it's a short walk to the National Western Complex, which hosts rodeos, martial arts tournaments, alpaca exhibits, classic car auctions and concerts throughout the year. For two weeks each January, the National Western Stock Show takes over the complex, a festival of cattle auctions, horse shows, Western art exhibits and more. The Coliseum next door also hosts events, including circuses. The Coliseum sits where a 19th century smelter processed gold and other ore from Colorado's mountains, drawing Welsh and Eastern European immigrant laborers. Jobs at smelters, slaughter houses and factories also meant opportunity for people like Joseph Fisher, a former slave who arrived with his family from the South by wagon train after the Civil War and is listed among early neighborhood homeowners as a smelter worker and "prize fighter."

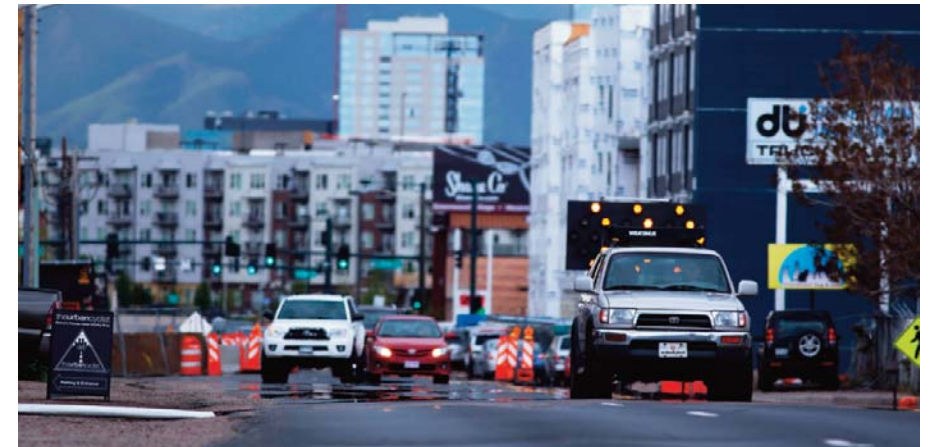
Museum of transportation

Back toward downtown from the National Western Complex is the Forney Museum of Transportation, a nostalgic stop for its classic inventory. Founder J.D. Forney was a cousin of 19th century steam locomotive designer Matthias Forney, so the museum is a train spotter's dream. The cavernous hall sitting along railroad tracks also displays a nail-polish red 1936 Morgan racer and other vintage cars, motorcycles, bicycles, planes and boats, including a Martin AirCar designed for land, sea and air travel. The collection ranges from toy-sized models to Big Boy, a steam locomotive that traveled more than a million miles before it was retired in 1962.

Food

If the sight of the Forney's 1927 Rio Grande diner car, stemware at the ready, makes you hungry, head down Brighton to the family-owned Butcher Block Cafe at 38th Street. Sit at the long counter on a red vinyl-topped stool and order coffee and a cinnamon roll big enough to share. The pastries, a Denver fixture for two decades, are tender and not too sweet, and friendly servers bring them topped with a dollop of melting butter.

Later, try one of Brighton Boulevard's fancier restaurants. The Source, a European-style food market in what was once a brick



Traffic moves along Brighton Boulevard in Denver.

Signs of gentrification

The trendy restaurants and Industry's tech and public relations tenants are just some of the signs of gentrification to hit this neighborhood dotted with small homes as well as machine shops, car parts warehouses and roofing and packaging manufacturers. Also new: entertainment that's not a rodeo. The Denver Center for the Performing Arts has ventured out of its downtown theater for an immersive, interactive performance project called "Sweet and Lucky," set in a massive warehouse on Brighton Boulevard, running May 17-June 25. The show is being done in collaboration with Third Rail Projects, based in (where else?) Brooklyn, New York, whose co-artistic director, Zack Morris, is a Colorado native. Another warehouse nearby houses Denver's Great Room Escape, an experience somewhere between theater and game in which participants pay to enter a room and use clues and riddles to get out.

Other indicators of change include recreational marijuana shops and artists moving into warehouses along Brighton. Galleries and ateliers for dressmakers and artisans working in wood and metal have also popped up. The neighborhood even has its own catchy appellation: RiNo, pronounced like the horned mammal, for "river north," because this corner of Denver is north of the Platte River. After all, what's a trendy neighborhood without a nickname?—AP

Work takes over family time in the region according to Centrepont study

Centrepont, the region's largest family fashion retailer, celebrates the upcoming World Family Day on May 15th by encouraging families of the region to spend quality time with loved ones. The brand that is hugely popular for its variety of fashion clothing, kids-wear, accessories, cosmetics and home décor, is encouraging its customers to celebrate the special moments with more than just gifts. A study conducted by the brand shows that over 48% of respondents claimed that they do not get sufficient time with their family and 87% of respondents said that spending time with family is what they looked forward to most on the weekends.

In today's modern world, work is increasingly taking over our lives and we spend longer and longer hours in pursuit of our career goals. With more than 44% of participants in the study spending over nine hours at work, time with family becomes shorter, with adverse effects on our wellbeing. "Children are often the most affected," says Lucy Bruce, founder of Home Grown Children's Eco Nursery who has worked closely with Centrepont to help raise awareness for the importance of family time. "As a mother of three, a business owner and founder of the Harmony House charity, it is fair to say that I've had times when I've felt like I have bitten off more than I can chew. Recognizing the importance of my role in my children's lives has made being present and spending quality time with my children my main priority. The positive impact it has had on my children and myself is immeasurable."

Studies have shown that close bonds to family and having a strong emotional support system have a significant positive impact on our health and wellbeing. Centrepont's CEO, Manu Jeswani, says, "When I was younger I often missed out on spending precious moments with family due to work commitments. I have learnt from that and today my family is my priority and I make sure to spend quality time with my wife and children on the weekends and on family holidays. Work is an important aspect of life, but family comes first." He further adds that, "Centrepont is a family fashion brand and we



care about our customers; a majority of which are married with children. We want to encourage them to cherish this phase of life and prioritize their time towards their families."

Centrepont has teamed up with regional lifestyle and parenting influencers Lucy Bruce, Kaya Scott and Deanna Khalil, to share tips and advice on spending quality time with family. This year, Centrepont stores will have special

cash desks dedicated to families shopping in store on World Family Day. Centrepont is also encouraging families to post selfies of themselves spending quality time together using #GiftYourTime in order to win gift cards from the brand.

Top tips from Lucy Bruce on spending quality time with children:

1. Keep devices out of reach

Put your phone away or on charge while you're spending time with your family. Make sure they have your full attention and you'll see that your children are less irritable and attention seeking.

2. Be prepared to make a mess and accept that this will happen

Don't rule out activities just because they may take more time or involve more cleaning later. Enjoy the moments you have with your family and think of fun and creative ways to keep your children engaged. The memories you make will be more that worth the time and effort spent.

3. Let your children take the lead and go with the flow

When children take the lead on activities, they gain and learn so much more. This will also help you connect better with them and get more insight on how they think and approach life.

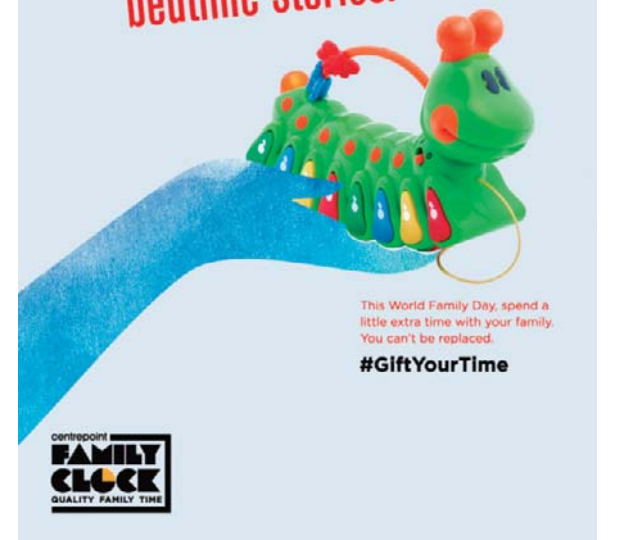
4. Talk more about today and less about tomorrow

Focus on learning in the moment and creating opportunities to gain from the current activity instead of focusing on what's coming up tomorrow and putting pressure on the future. Make sure to breathe and enjoy the moment you're in.

5. Make time for kindness and compassion

Don't be quick to judge and lead by example instead. Take the time to explain why your child's actions are

Contrary to popular belief, this play thing does not tell bedtime stories.



wrong and ask them to tell me you how they can make things right. Revisit the situation and talk about what they could have done differently and always let them know that you love them, even when they have acted up.



An art piece called 'Geometric Apple Core' by Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, is seen inside the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) in San Francisco, California on April 28, 2016. The newly redesigned museum integrates a 10-story expansion in a new building and will open to the public on May 14, 2016. — AFP

Mexico museum hangs shoes in hunt for missing

Boots, sneakers and sandals donated by families seeking missing loved ones in a region of Latin America stricken by drug violence are dangling in a new exhibit in Mexico. Each of the 86 pairs of shoes hanging from the ceiling was donated by a family member to symbolize how far they have walked in their desperate search. The artist behind the exhibit, Alfredo Lopez Casanova, said it raises awareness of the "tragedy" of disappearances in crime-plagued Mexico and neighboring countries. More than 28,000 people are reported to have gone missing in Mexico, where drug cartels and related violence have flourished over the past decade.

On Tuesday, mothers and other relatives of people who have disappeared marked Mother's Day in Mexico by marching in the streets to demand truth and justice. The exhibition that opened Monday at the "Museum of Untamed Memory" in Mexico City also

remembers victims from Argentina, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. Among the shoes, each with a message about the missing victim written on the green-painted soles, are those of a nine-year-old boy. His father was among 43 college students who went missing in southern Mexico in 2014 in a case that shocked the world.

Shoes show heading for US

Virginia Herrera, whose son was abducted by a drug gang six years ago, said the exhibition "helps make people aware" of the problem. In the northeastern state of Tamaulipas, where her son went missing, "nobody supported us," she said. Tamaulipas, which borders Texas, has the most disappearances in the country, with at least 5,750 people reported missing. Socorro Arias had her white sports shoes hung up to symbolize her search for her son, who

disappeared in 2012 while on holiday in the eastern state of Veracruz, another region plagued by cartel violence.

His body was found a few days afterward but she had to wait four years for it to be identified by genetic tests. "Instead of being handled with understanding, we families are treated like criminals," Arias said. She sees the shoes as a symbol of hope. "I continue the search, because I do not want that to happen to my other son," she said. The organizers of the exhibition want to tour it around the country and take it eventually to the town of Tijuana on the border with California and then on to the United States. "Because the policies of the United States are also responsible for this situation," said the artist Lopez, who expects to add more shoes to the exhibit. — AFP

Beware Everest graffiti artists, China is watching you

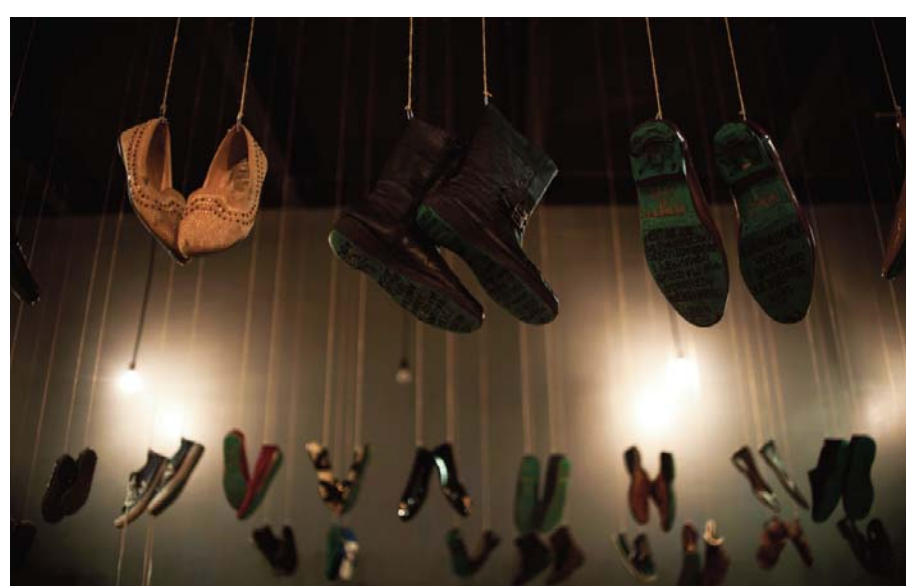
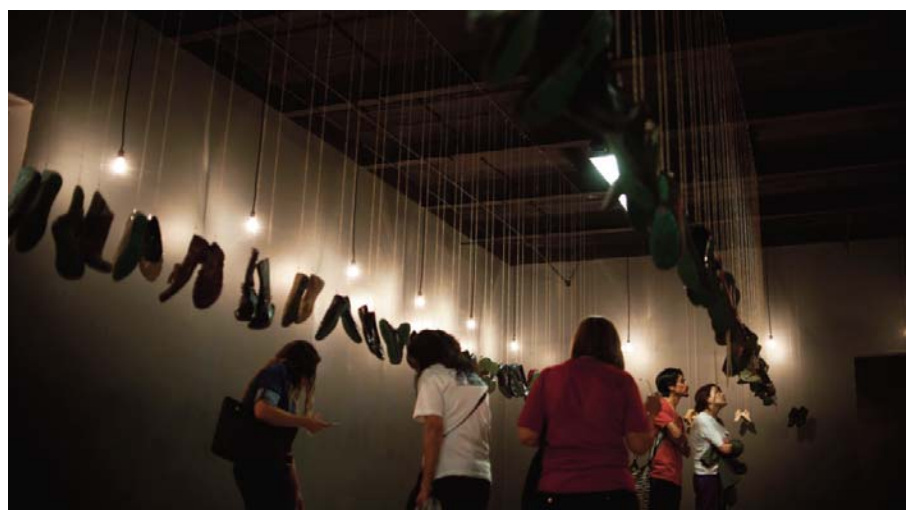


In this October 1996 file photo, Mount Everest is seen from peak Gokyo Ri in Nepal. — AP

Next time you leave silly messages on the world's highest mountain, beware: China is watching you. Mountaineering officials have scrubbed graffiti from two granite tablets on the Chinese side of Mount Everest's northern base camp and plan to name and shame future defilers. State-run mobile news site The Paper reported yesterday that workers removed the signatures, dates, doodles and messages left by scores of visitors. They include "let's wander together," "farewell to the mountain" and "here I come." The graffiti grew so thick it covered the information about the mountain carved into the tablets in Chinese, Tibetan and English.

The base camp at roughly 5,200 meters (17,060 feet) is a popular tourist site and has fallen prey to the sort of behavior the Chinese government says is uncivilized and vows to punish. Along with publicizing the names of those leaving behind graffiti, base camp management is considering setting aside separate wall space just for visitors to write their names and other messages, a local tourism official, Gu Chunlei, told The Paper. "It's a way of getting travelers to change their habits without even knowing it," Gu was quoted as saying. Similar graffiti walls have been set up at other scenic sites, including the Great Wall outside Beijing that has long been a target for those seeking to leave a mark of their visit.

As personal incomes have risen, Chinese have become avid travelers and bad behavior by some of them has become something of an embarrassment. Along with sharp criticism in the media and online forums, the government has set up an online national database naming those involved in particularly egregious behavior and giving airlines, hotels and other travel outlets the option of refusing them service. In 2013, a Chinese teenager scratched his name on an ancient Egyptian temple and was roundly condemned by his fellow Chinese. Everest itself has accumulated garbage, pollution and other ills brought by the vastly increased numbers of climbers and visitors to the peak that straddles China and Nepal. — AP



People look at footprints as shoes of missing people with messages printed on their soles hang from the roof of the 'Casa de la Memoria Indomita' museum during the opening of the 'Huellas de La Memoria' (Memory Tracks) exhibition in Mexico City. — AFP photos