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IT'S A COUP: ROUSSEFF

BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT BOWS OUT DEFIANTLY

BRASILIA: Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff bowed out defiantly yesterday, suspended from office after the Senate voted to put her on trial for breaking budget laws in a historic decision brought on by a deep recession and a corruption scandal. Rousseff, in office since 2011, will be replaced by Vice President Michel Temer, for the duration of a Senate trial that could take up to six months.

Rousseff, speaking shortly before she left Brasilia's Planalto presidential palace, said she was notified of her suspension yesterday morning. "I may have made mistakes but I did not com-

people out of poverty before seeing many of its leaders tainted by corruption investigations. Rousseff, an economist and former member of a Marxist guerrilla group who was the country's first woman president, is unlikely to be acquitted in her trial.

The size of the vote to try her showed the opposition already has the support it will need to reach a two-thirds majority required to convict Rousseff and remove her definitively from office. "It is a bitter though necessary medicine," opposition Senator Jose Serra, tipped to become foreign minister under Temer, said during the marathon debate. "Having the Rousseff government continue would be a bigger tragedy." With Brazil's economy mired in its deepest recession in decades, the incoming Temer administration sought to show it would act rapidly.

Temer aides said the incoming government would announce a series of austerity measures to help reduce a massive budget deficit. An immediate effort would seek to reform Brazil's costly pension system, possibly setting a minimum age for retirement, said one advisor. Temer also plans to appoint Henrique Merelles, a former central bank president and banking executive who is popular with foreign investors, as finance minister, another aide said. As suspended head of state, Rousseff can continue to live in her official residence, have a staff and use an Air Force plane. She has denied any wrongdoing and repeatedly called the impeachment process a coup, and yesterday vowed to keep fighting.

Rousseff dismissed her cabinet, including the sports minister, who is in final preparations for the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro in August, Brazil's Official Gazette showed. The central bank governor, who has ministerial rank, was not included in the decree. Fireworks rang out in cities across Brazil after the vote that followed a 20-hour session in the Senate. Police briefly clashed with pro-Rousseff demonstrators in Brasilia during the vote, but the country was calm early yesterday, with scattered celebrants in Sao Paulo and other cities draping themselves in Brazil's green, yellow and blue flag.

Economic challenges

Temer, 75, a constitutional scholar who spent decades in Brazil's Congress, now faces the challenge of restoring economic growth and calm at a time when Brazilians, increasingly polarized, are questioning whether their institutions can deliver on his promise of stability. In addition to the gaping deficit, equal to more than 10 percent of its annual economic output, Brazil is suffering from rising unemployment,

plummeting investment and a projected economic contraction of more than 3 percent this year. "Only major reforms can keep Brazil from moving from crisis to crisis," says Eduardo Giannetti da Fonseca, an economist and author in Sao Paulo who has written extensively about the country's socioeconomic problems. But those changes, including an overhaul of pension, tax and labor laws and a political reform to

streamline fragmented parties in a mercenary Congress, could remain elusive at a time of turmoil. In a statement yesterday, Moody's Investors Service said continued political tension was likely to make reforms difficult. "Brazil still faces significant credit challenges including the need to reverse the ongoing economic contraction and to achieve meaningful fiscal consolidation," the ratings agency said. — Reuters



BRASILIA: Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff speaks after leaving Planalto presidential palace in Brasilia yesterday. — AP

mit any crime," Rousseff said in an angry address, calling the impeachment "fraudulent" and "a coup." The leftist leader, 68, was flanked by dozens of ministers who were leaving with her administration. "I never imagined that it would be necessary to fight once again against a coup in this country," Rousseff said, in a reference to her youth fighting Brazil's military dictatorship.

Her suspension came hours after the Senate voted 55-22 to put her on trial, a decision that ended more than 13 years of rule by the left-wing Workers Party. The party rose from Brazil's labor movement and helped pull millions of

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Photo of the day



A minaret rises from a mosque in Kuwait. The minaret is an architectural structure typically attached to or near a mosque that is used by the muezzin to call the faithful to prayer. It is generally a tall spire with a conical shaped top and a balcony or staircase leading to a small platform. Photo by Ali Alroomi/KUNA

Local Spotlight

A SHOW OF TOLERANCE



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Sadiq Khan - this name is known to London's populace, but today it has become a milestone and a symbol of tolerance and acceptance of diversity in the British society. It's worth talking about his achievement, as we do not know a lot about tolerance here in the Arab world, which is torn apart by sectarian violence between its peoples, where many die every day because of ignorance and intolerance.

Sadiq Aman Khan is a British politician who was recently elected as the new mayor of London. He was an MP for Tooting from 2005 to 2016. Khan's election was an event that occupied headlines internationally. Khan was elected as mayor during a difficult time for Muslim communities living in the West, with the spread of the manifestations of extremism and terrorist attacks. Khan's vision for London is crystal clear. He said and I quote: "I want all Londoners to have the same opportunities that our city gave me: A home they can afford, a high-skilled job with decent pay, an affordable and modern transport system and a safe, clean and healthy environment."

Khan won as a Labour candidate after defeating his Conservative rival, millionaire Zac Goldsmith, to become the first Muslim in Europe to assume this position. Opponents of Khan waged an intimidation campaign against him and used his Pakistani origins and his Muslim religion to turn voters away. But a few years back, Khan was criticized by the Conservatives after verbally announcing his support for gay marriage, and voting in favor of gay marriage in 2013.

Khan is bold and sincere in the expression of his positions compared to a lot of politicians today. The Conservative party fueled Islamophobia to prevent Khan from winning. Obviously, it did not work. London has a quality of pluralism and coexistence with a lot of origins, beliefs and roots, from Anglo-Saxon to many others, especially Indian and Pakistani. Electing Khan is a strong message in the face of European extremism, which worked to scare people and intimidate them from all Muslims.

Ironically, while London chose Sadiq Khan as mayor, Washington is facing the prospect of Donald Trump winning the US presidential election after a few months. The first conclusion is that London is more open and tolerant than Washington, and if the United States elects Trump as president, it will lose the last bit of trust and respect in front of the Arab world.

It is true that Khan's victory will not eliminate Islamophobia in the British political scene completely, like the victory of US President Barack Obama did not lessen racism in the US, but it gives a moment of hope that proves to Muslims in Britain that they can succeed against all odds. London as a city is confronting several urgent problems, as the population rose by nearly 900,000 people in eight years to reach 8.6 million, with high housing prices, an overcrowded transport system and pollution.

Regardless of the race and religion, Khan won the mayoral election by a landslide. He has the qualifications and the opportunity to talk to everyone with understanding and openness.

In my view

STOP THE SILENCE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

By Jeri Al-Jeri

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In our modern age, violence is loud, all around us proudly appearing in the forms of road rage, political injustices, or more clearly as terrorism. And at times its much closer to home, in the form of domestic violence.

There are different reasons offered up for its causes: Biologists claim the possibility of viruses effecting the nervous system, psychologists believe it's caused by a desire to assert dominance, physiologists may consider it the polar ups and downs of steroidal hormones.

Firstly, what is violence? Dictionaries contains various definitions for this behavioral phenomenon. All are capsulated in the meaning of ill treatment, whether verbally or physically. Moreover, it has almost endless forms, such as political violence or even academic violence. Violence on the helpless maids jailed in the houses of strangers, or on the clueless animals and pets caged by humanity. Our belief system prohibited violence even on plants, so why is violence against humans widespread among us?

Violence is injected into the psyche from cartoons, action movies, horror scenes, twisted crimes, video games that rewards, with high scores, the player who committed the larger number of kills to his opponents. The modern age philosopher, Salman Al-Odah wrote his best seller (Questions on Violence), as an Islamic sheikh most of troubled spouses and children seek his advice on how to morally

handle their tribulations with their unjust family members. For fifteen years he has accumulated all these troubles from our environment, an environment that did not embrace psychotherapy over Islamic methods of relief.

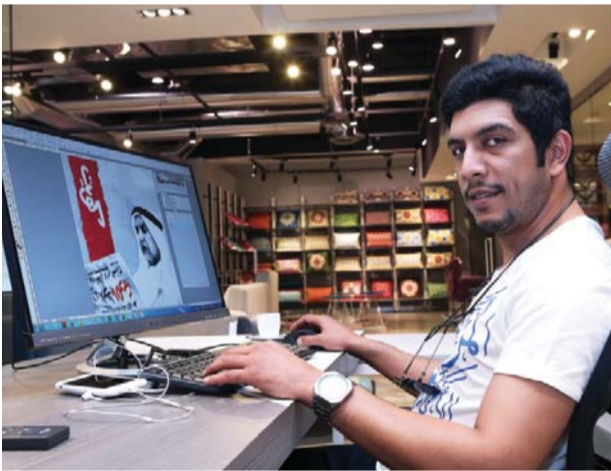
The sheikh poured all these deep problems in his book. He found that the most wide spread kind of violence is not terrorism, and it's the kind that lays not on battlefields but rather under one's own roofs. It's also the most taboo kind, it's our Pandora's box. Who are the victims? Will they themselves be the aggressors in the future? Is it endless? As a victim, how to fight the vicious cycle itself? Why the silence on domestic violence?

Awareness is the only path. People do not want to expose their weakness, they fear gossip and how it swells uncontrollably, also it is believed to be as a private personal matter that ought to be hidden as much as possible from the merciless eyes and ears of the rest of society. The victims are mostly wives or children. Talking about it openly is feared as it might stain a family's reputation, sisters of the wife may not get married. Bringing abuse to light could also ignite court cases to forever archive clashes between branches of a family tree or cause other social complications and difficulties. Victims are getting further away from treatment in this time of need for treatment. This is a wound. It's time to treat it.

Calligraphy + engineering = beautiful design

By Ben Garcia

Taste and imagination combined can create wonderful works of art. This holds true in the case of Faisal Al-Ali, founder of the eponymous company Faisal Al-Ali Furniture. Ali's shop is the epitome of creativity, innovation and hard work. Ali's background is in mechanical and petroleum engineering, but looking around his shop, one wouldn't be mistaken to assume Ali has always been an artist. "This mall is new - I started to display my items here only in December 2015," Ali told Kuwait Times one afternoon at his shop at Creative Design Mall in Shuwaikh.



Faisal Al-Ali

"I am not an artist, but in a way, I was born an artist because everything related to art is something I treasure and love to see and adore," he said. "I started dabbling in art since I was eight. My father would help me make a toy car from a plastic bottle, and recycle old toys and make them better and more appealing. I got this attitude from my father," he said. Ali's father was a science teacher, and would always come to Faisal's rescue when he got in trouble. He taught him how to survive, and still shares many ideas with him. "He never stopped and never got tired of sharing wonderful ideas with me, something that I will treasure for the rest of my life," he said.



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"I love calligraphy and playing with Arabic words through art, so I started drawing words from Arabic letters when I was 14," Ali said. "I practiced calligraphy a lot, and a professor at art school helped me improve my skills. Nawaf Al-Otaibi is a mentor for a budding artist like me. He will challenge you to go that extra mile and gives loads of good ideas and lessons - it improved my calligraphy skills a lot," he told Kuwait Times.



Take up your pen

To be a calligrapher in Kuwait was a very challenging task, since there isn't much interest in the society about it. "I will never forget the day in 1992 when he told me to get up and learn my first lesson in calligraphy. He said, 'Get up, take the pen, imitate the work of others and train your hands. Your hand is a gift from God, but admit you are not perfect'," Ali said, quoting Otaibi.

Two years later, he began working at a stationery shop in Kuwait City, perfecting his calligraphy skills. "I was offered a job at a stationery shop. I accepted it to make some money. I was only 16. Then I got busy again with my studies. My father told me that I could continue with calligraphy while studying, but I felt very exhausted because I was at the university and my major was quite tough, so I stopped. Later at the university, I volunteered to teach calligraphy, so while studying mechanical and petroleum engineering, I was also busy conducting training courses in calligraphy. The university paid me for this," he recalled.





Why interior design?

When he completed his university degree, he was immediately hired by an oil company. He then got married, so there was a hiatus again, but in 2005, he moved to a new house. "I pictured my new house to be very beautiful and attractive, so I designed the interiors. I have lots of ideas in interior design because I believe my mind is really into designing. Engineering is somewhat related to design - it's all about taste and imagination; you can do many things," Ali said.



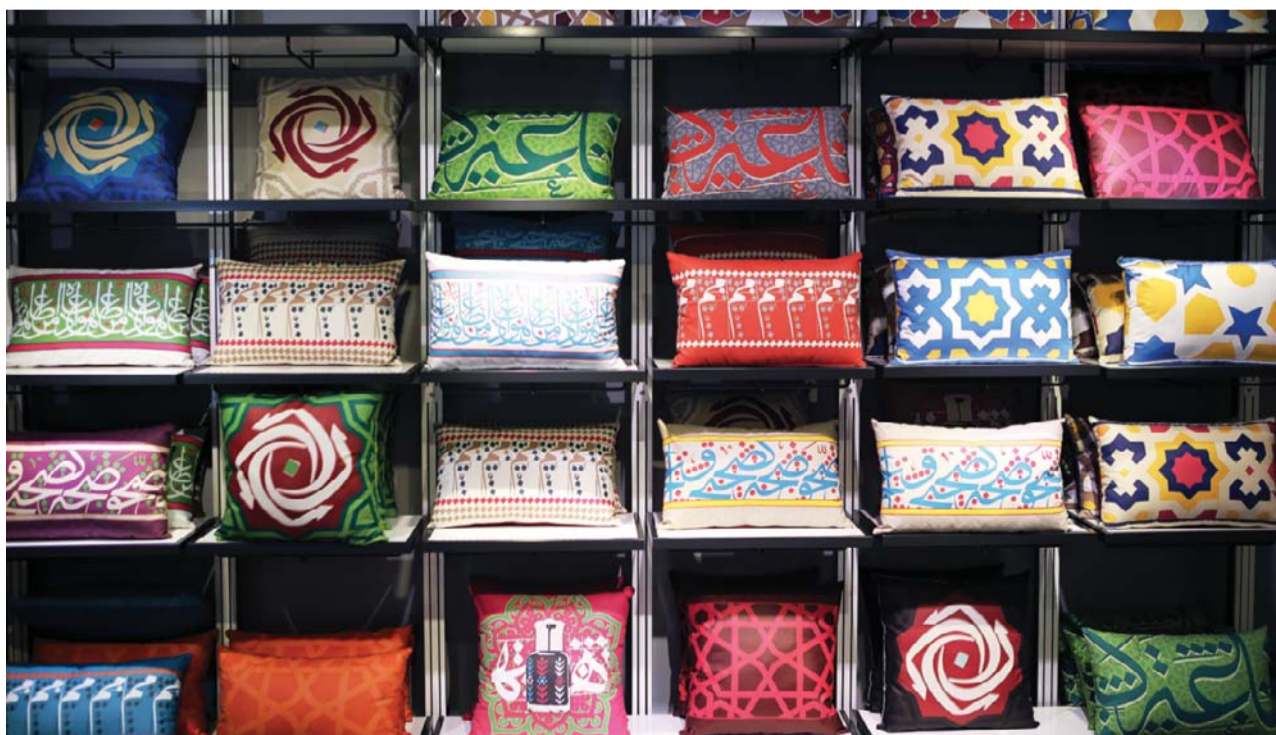
When relatives visited his home, they saw works of art and not any ordinary interior design. "They liked it to the extent that I had to redecorate their places too. I told them I didn't have much experience, but they said you have the eyes and taste that no one else has. They even suggested

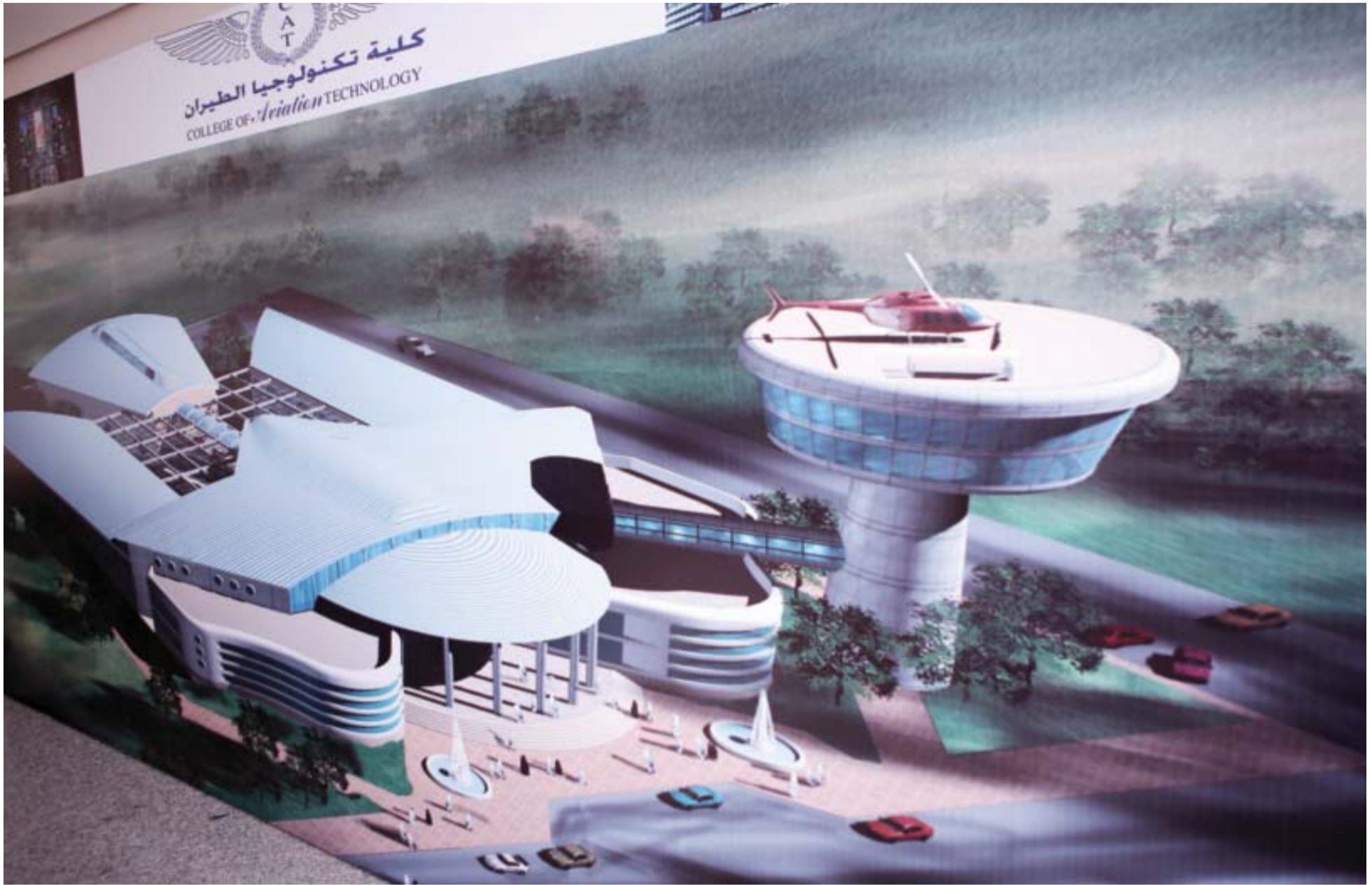
making use of my interior design craft and earning money, but I told them if I did so, I would have to do much documentation, contracts and lots of paperwork, which I hate," Faisal said.

But he couldn't say no to relatives, and found himself designing his uncle's home. "I got grade A feedback again, and people would call me and ask to design their houses. I was finally encouraged to go out and start designing jobs outside the circle of my family and relatives. I didn't need to advertise, since people were talking about my work," he revealed.

Faisal was making money, but he was forced to stop his part-time job because he moved to another job with greater responsibilities. "I got a much bigger offer but with more responsibilities as well, so from 2008 to 2010, I concentrated on the new job. But at the end of 2010, I went back to the ministry again," he said, and planned to advance his interior design business and create his own brand. "In 2010, I thought of concentrating on furniture design. I found Kuwait had no company dedicated to furniture design, so I explored and went to several countries in the GCC. In 2011, I established my own brand of furniture called 'Faisal Al-Ali', using my name. This is my first store which I opened in December," he said.

Faisal's shop at CDM is spacious, and the sofas, tables and chairs bear his own brand's signature. The calligraphy and colorful images are noticeable in all the products displayed. "The furniture business is really booming - Kuwaitis and expats are now aware of my brand. All the furniture I am selling here is my own work. I have got many orders and I plan to go global," he concluded.





GROWING INTERESTS IN AVIATION CAREERS AMONG KUWAIT YOUTH

By Nawara Fattahova

With a new fleet of Kuwait Airways planes on the way and the growing power of the aviation industry in the region as a whole, there has arisen a growing demand, especially among young nationals, to study aviation. At the same time, however, there are few aviation schools in the Gulf. But a new specialized college in Kuwait hopes to fill that void.

The College of Aviation Technology (CAT) was partially launched last year and welcomed its first students. "Although the aviation industry at the moment is on a low note in Kuwait, we expect it to improve in 2018, as we know that Kuwait Airways has placed a large order for Airbus and Boeing aircraft, and these will start coming in by 2018/2019. The airline will be looking for licensed staff and we are preparing them for this," Marzouk Al-Shraifi, Member of the Board of Trustees and Deputy Dean, told Kuwait Times.



Marzouk Al-Shraifi

CAT only has approval for ground training and not training of pilots, which still happens abroad. "The demand for pilot training is increasing, but for that we need to fly, have a lot of aircraft, an airfield and instructors. When we start the program for pilots, we will do it in a different way, as we will teach the academic part here, and for the practical part, they will get training either in Britain, Jordan or the UAE," stated Shraifi.

Male and female students welcome

"Currently, 42 students are studying at the college, the majority of whom are from the ministry of education on internal scholarships. Both genders, from all nationalities are welcome to join the college. Their grades should be at least 65 percent or more for students from public schools. We currently have five female students, and last semester, the best student with the highest scores was female," he added.

"The students will study four years at the college, two years theoretical and two practical, and they will get a higher national diploma in avia-



"Today to work as an engineer we need facilities and equipment. We don't need muscles, we need brains. We don't differentiate between men and women. They both do the same assignments and the same practical training."

tion technology, which is supervised by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). They will also receive an International Aviation Safety Agency (IACA) certificate. If they want to continue, they can study one more year to get a bachelor's degree, which is also available in the United Arab Emirates," said Nael Noaman, Academic and Training Affairs Manager. "There is a difference between students who graduate from public schools and those who graduate from private schools, who are definitely more disciplined. Also, the English language skills of the second group are much better than those of the former," added Noaman.

CAT is affiliated with Air Service Training (AST). "This is considered the best school in Europe, and was founded in 1931. AST has worked with Kuwait Airways before. Its main base is in Perth in Scotland, with an academy and airfield where we work on airplanes. It's easier for local students to study in their country than to go study in Scotland, although many are studying there. AST has partnerships with academies overseas including two in Indonesia, one in Jordan, one in Iceland and hopefully soon in Kuwait," noted Ian Jones, Compliance Monitoring Manager, Air Service Training Limited.

"Some students with diminutive body structures believe they can't do this job and ask me, 'can I be an engineer?' And I say yes, as today to work as an engineer we need facilities and equipment. We don't need muscles, but we need brains. So we don't differentiate between boys and girls. They both do the same assignments and the same practical training," Jones added.

"When students first come here, we place them in an English course, where the language is more general than technical, and we teach them subjects such as mathematics, physics, theories of flying and others to change the Arabic terminology into English, as the entire education is in English. In the second semester, they take more technical English as preparation for the diploma, to be ready to understand this terminology. Those with excellent English skills can join the second semester directly. We separate the students according to their level," explained Noaman.



News

in brief

Auto mechanics competition offers an awareness message

KUWAIT: The Auto Mechanics and Traffic Systems Competition is an awareness message that urges motorists to take care of their vehicles, said Interior Assistant Undersecretary of Traffic Affairs Maj Gen Abdullah Yousseif Al-Mahana. Al-Mahana made the statement during his address to the concluding ceremony of the 24th Auto Mechanics and Traffic Systems Competition organized by the Kuwait Science Club, in cooperation with the Ministries of the Interior and Education and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS). The competition has made success and has to continue, encouraging innovative ideas to serve the traffic issue in Kuwait, Al-Mahana said. The event has focused on seeking untraditional solutions for traffic problems, as well as bolstering social responsibility regarding road safety, he said. This is the oldest competition in the history of the Kuwait Science Club, Deputy Chairman Talal Al-Kharafi told the ceremony. Launched in 1987, it has come to be among the oldest competitions in Kuwait, Al-Kharafi added.

CAIT working hard to promote IT security

KUWAIT: The Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT) is working hard to promote IT strategies and disseminate the culture of using modern technologies, CAIT Acting Director General Qusai Al-Shatti has said. Al-Shatti made the statement at the opening of the 8th Kuwait Info Security Conference and Exhibition on Wednesday. The event is sponsored by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, with the participation of leading IT firms. It is a good chance to listen to participant experts and benefit from their views and also to exchange expertise, the CAIT chief said. Held for the eighth year in a row, the conference attracts relevant security bodies in the region, including cellular mobile sector, he said. Participants will address the latest topics on e-security and means to provide integrated solutions to protect networks and technological infrastructure, in addition to the digital database, Al-Shatti said.

KUNA Editor wins Arab Economic Press Award

DUBAI: An editor of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) has been declared winner of the Arab press award - the economic press category, at the closing ceremony of the Arab Media Forum (AMF) on Wednesday. Usama Jalal won the award for his report titled "liberalization of energy prices between the hammer of budget deficit and the anvil of opposition views, the secretariat of the award announced. Jalal dedicated "the invaluable prize" to his colleagues at the wire service, particularly KUNA's director general, the deputy director-general and editor-in-chief, and the deputy director-general for financial and administrative affair, "who created the appropriate conditions for creativity." He said, in statements to KUNA, that it took him a lot of time and effort to prepare the winning report which included facts and figures on the global energy market and the losses sustained by various countries as a result of subsidies for energy and fluctuations of prices.

OIC WARNS OF CONSEQUENT SURGE OF 'ISLAMOPHOBIA'

WASHINGTON: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) reiterated importance of combating extremism and warned of the "consequent surge of Islamophobia." This came in a speech Wednesday, delivered by the Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the UN Ambassador Mansour Al-Otaibi on behalf of the OIC in a UN Security Council open debate entitled "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts: Countering the narratives and ideologies of terrorism."

"Extremism flourishes when human rights are violated, it's thus crucial that collateral damage and human catastrophe in counterterrorism operations is avoided, as otherwise they fuel extremism and radicalization," Al-Otaibi said. He reiterated OIC's grave concern at the "mounting trend of intolerance and discriminations against Muslims, and the consequent surge of Islamophobia, which is an affront to the human rights and dignity of Muslims."

Al-Otaibi also underscored the importance to hastily combat violent extremism ability to reach out to the masses through media, which makes it "imperative to effectively counter their narrative and ideologies of terrorist, "as they remain the "most serious threats to every society, international peace and security as a whole." Al-Otaibi reiterated OIC's believe that the first step to combat violent extremism and terrorism "should be to deprive terrorist groups of legitimacy in the eyes of their primary support base by repudiating the very arguments they use to justify their criminal acts."

He noted the misnomer of the use "religiously inspired terrorist group," as reflected in numerous Security Council and UN's General Assembly resolutions, arguing "no religion either condones or inspires terrorism. Yet, there are terrorist groups that exploit religions."

Another effort the OIC is conducting to counter extremism is by "elevating credible and authentic religious voices that support tolerance and non-violence," he added. Al-Otaibi also expressed OIC's extreme disturbance by the fact that terrorist groups, including so-called Islamic State (IS), are increasingly exploiting cyber platforms to spread their hate messages and to dis-



Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Al Otaibi.

seminate their distorted interpretations of the Holy Quran, messages that exploit "socioeconomic and political frustrations of Muslims.

"It is therefore of utmost importance that States, within the framework of international law and while respecting freedom of expression, identify and shut down such media platforms, whilst also engaging with communities to counter

the narratives of terrorists and their propaganda," he said. He then reaffirmed OIC's support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Security Council resolutions to combat terrorist groups like IS, especially resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014) in order to prevent this terrorist group from recruiting foreign terrorist fighters. — KUNA

WALLET, KD 620 MISSING

KUWAIT: A citizen in his 40s complained to Abu Halaifa police that someone broke into his car and stole KD 620 he left in the car compartment. He said he only left his car for a short period of time, and when he returned, his wallet with his IDs and the money was missing. Detectives are investigating.

attempt. Her sponsor's wife found her unconsciousness and rushed her to Farwaniya hospital.

Bloody fight

A diwaniya gathering in Mubarak Al-Kabeer turned bloody after a fight broke out. One citizen sustained a serious wound in the head. The two had met at the diwaniya, along with others, and had a heated exchange which later turned into a fight. One of them hit the other with an ash tray and then escaped. The victim was rushed to hospital where he was treated. — Al Rai

Indian attempts suicide

An Indian woman attempted suicide in her sponsor's house in Rehab area. The women ingested some medications in an apparent suicide

SECURITY CRACKDOWN

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Acting on the instruction of the Acting Assistant Undersecretary for General Security Affairs Maj Gen Ibrahim Al-Tarrah, and under the supervision of the Acting Director General of Capital (Asima) Security Colonel Nasser Al-Adwani, several surprise security campaigns were launched last week. 241 'wanted persons' and law violators were arrest and referred to concerned authorities.

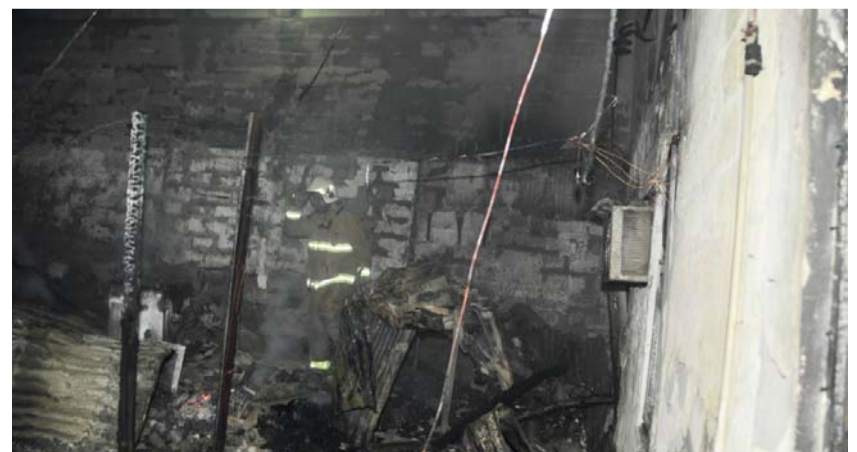
International gang busted

Residency detectives busted an international gang that came to Kuwait to carry out vice crimes. The department received information about the prostitute network and a team was formed to investigate the suspicious network that uses social media and international lines to

make deals. Investigations revealed that some members of the network arrived in Kuwait from Czech Republic. Receipts of money transfers (worth thousands of dinars) and other illicit materials were found in their possession. The suspects have been referred to the concerned authorities while those who invited them were summoned for legal actions.

Part of Jahra road closed

The Traffic Department and Public Works Ministry have ordered the closure of Jahra Expressway Road from the Second Ring Road - heading from the round-about between Jahra and airport roads for six hours daily (from dawn of Friday 13/5/2016) for 21 days. The closure is because of the ongoing construction work in that area.



Fire in Sharq building

An Arab-style house in Sharq area was engulfed in fire. Regional fire centers rushed to the scene and battled the

blaze. The fire started from the ground floor. One resident suffered minor burns in the face and hand.

KUWAIT REMEMBERS FATHER AMIR

KUWAIT: Kuwait (today) marks the eighth anniversary of the passing away of the Father Amir Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, who left a legacy in the hearts of his people. The great man was the 14th Amir of Kuwait and the fourth Amir of the country after its independence in 1961. He was crown prince during the reign of the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (1978-2006).

He served as deputy director of the police department between 1954 and 1959 before being nominated as the first minister of interior on January 17, 1962 in the first cabinet following the adoption of the Constitution. He was named as defense minister in 1964 while retaining his post as minister of interior. He served as prime minister between February 16, 1978 and July 13, 2003, leading 10 consecutive governments. Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah contributed to the making of key legislations

and laws relating to housing welfare, promotion of the national workforce, the economic and urban development, and the social, cultural and scientific affairs. He adopted honorable stances that affirmed the country's independence and won him great popularity since 1961 when the then Iraqi leader Abdulkarim Qassim issued threats for Kuwait. As head of the executive authority at that time, he lobbied public support for the late Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem in the face of the Iraqi threats. When late Amir Jaber Al-Ahmad took office on February 8, 1978, Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah was named as prime minister ten days before being named as crown prince.

'Hero of liberation'

Sheikh Saad was deservedly called 'hero of liberation' due to his prominent role in the Kuwait liberation war against the Iraqi invasion in 1991. Besides lobbying for the

liberation of the country on the regional and international levels, he took charge of coordinating the public resistance against the invaders through daily contacts with the field leaders and ensuring the logistic, material and moral support to them. Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah was the first advocate for the popular congress held under his chairmanship in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on October 13-15, 1990, to coordinate the resistance against the invasion.

The congress, themed 'liberation - our slogan, means and end,' gathered 1,200 public figures and a number of foreign friends of Kuwait. The late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad and Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah addressed the gathering. Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah was named as acting ruler during the martial rule declared in the country during the liberation war until the autumn of 1991. He continued his efforts to prepare the ground for the return of the

displaced Kuwaitis to their homes after the large-scale post-war mine-erasing operation. He personally supervised the efforts to resume the public utilities, the food rations, the reconstruction and the rehabilitation processes, as well as the seven-month battle against the fires at 732 oil wells which were set ablaze by the Iraqi troops before pulling out from Kuwait.

His government in the post-war era focused also on restoration of the parliamentary life through setting the stage for legislative elections. Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah spared no effort to secure the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners of war and missing in action and scaled lobbying for regional and international pressures on the Iraqi regime to solve this humanitarian issue. On this day the sons of Kuwait remember this great leader who dedicated his life for serving the homeland and left countless heroic actions. — KUNA

KUWAIT ENVOY ATTENDS FORUM TO PROTECT MINORITIES

TOKYO: Kuwait's Amiri Diwan Advisor and UN Secretary General's Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs Dr Abdullah Al-Matouq yesterday attended a High-Level International Consultation addressing religious minorities, especially in the Middle East. Organized by United Nations Alliance of Civilization and Religions for Peace, some religious leaders including 10 Muslim leaders discussed the ways to protect minorities in Muslim majority countries during the two-day meeting.

Participants exchanged views on how to discern current challenges relating to the protection of minorities and to commit to take concrete actions to promote the notion of citizenship and counter Islamophobia, the organizers said.

In a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Dr Al-Matouq said that "the world is filled wars; hence, conferences that call for peace are much needed." The Tokyo Consultation is also expected to complement the Marrakesh Declaration issued in January by 250 eminent Islamic leaders and Islamic Ministers of Religious Affairs, the organizers said.

The Marrakesh Declaration urges representatives of the various religions, sects and denominations to confront all forms of religious bigotry, vilification and denigration of what people hold sacred, as well as all words that promote hatred and racism. Hadeel Al-Sabti, Advisor to Dr Al-Matouq, also attended the meeting, which took place ahead of the Group of Seven (G-7) Summit meeting due May 26-27. The organizers said Japan provides the participating religious leaders with a warm, safe and welcoming environment for genuine and creative dialogue resulting in concrete recommendations and actions. — KUNA



Kuwaiti and Japanese officials discuss investment opportunities. — KUNA

KUWAIT AND JAPAN DISCUSS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

KUWAIT - A PROMISING REGIONAL CENTER FOR JAPANESE COMPANIES

TOKYO: In the presence of Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Acting Oil Minister Anas Al-Saleh, visiting Kuwaiti and Japanese businessmen yesterday discussed ways of expanding economic relations and investment opportunities. The one-day meeting in Tokyo, headed by Deputy President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Abdulwahab Al-Wazzan, was hosted by the Japanese Cooperation Center for the Middle East (JCCME) as part of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's visit to Japan.

In his opening remarks, Director General for Trade Policy of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Koichi Akaishi, said Japan-Kuwait ties have deepened beyond oil cooperation, such as Japanese firms' participation in infrastructure projects in Kuwait. "We also appreciate Kuwait for taking an appropriate response to the abolishment of the Offset Program last August, which had been long acting as an obstacle to Japanese companies," said Akaishi.

"I hope, in such as electricity, water, railway, refinery and other projects, bilateral business relationship will further through enhanced investment in the fields where Japanese companies' technology and expertise can be utilized," the official said,

expressing Japan's keenness on contributing to Kuwait's development.

For his part, Al-Wazzan said due to the current decrease in oil prices, the Kuwaiti government is seriously planning to diversify its revenues through getting the private sector more involved in the main economic activities, by executing an ambitious development plan targeting major projects in various sectors, including oil industry, power, health, education, water and waste water management, solid waste management, transportation and real estate developments.

"The private sector is primed to play a lead role in implementing Kuwait's ambitious development plan involving mega projects mostly through Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) and Public Private Partnership (PPP)," said Al-Wazzan. "Such mega projects need strategic foreign partners with advanced technology and technical know-how. We believe that Japan partners can participate effectively in implementing these projects."

He also stressed that the Kuwaiti private sector could be a competent partner to Japanese firms in joint-ventures in both countries, saying, "Kuwait is a promising regional center for the Japanese companies and products." He also spoke highly of tremendous efforts and achievements of the Kuwaiti-

Japanese Businessmen Committee, which lead to distinguished results, such as preparing the Environmental Master Plan in 2004 and Kid's ISO 14000 Environmental Plan, and the contribution of the abolishment of "offset" program.

The economic meeting highlighted the importance of investing in Kuwait, with Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Director General Sheikh Dr Meshaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah briefing participants on the country's investment status and the role of the authority in boosting foreign and local investment in Kuwait. According to Sheikh Dr Meshaal, Kuwait's five-year development plan (2015-2020) includes 30 strategic and mega projects covering such areas as oil and gas, electricity and water, education, transport and communication, urban development and housing, tourism, media, health and environment.

Meanwhile, the Japanese side briefed the Kuwaiti participants on the financial and banking development in Japan. Established in 1973 under the sponsorship of the Japanese government, the JCCME has long played a bridging role between Japan and the countries in the Middle East and the North Africa region on the private-sector level by providing cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, economy and technology. — KUNA

Friday Times

International

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016

Cameron's anti-corruption summit faces uphill struggle



Rocky Mountain states prepare for return of grizzly hunts



Pakistan protests Bangladesh's execution of Islamist leader



NEW YORK: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump gestures as he speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in his office at Trump Tower on Tuesday. — AP

WHAT'S IN TRUMP'S RETURNS?

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump told The Associated Press this week "there's nothing to learn" from all those income tax returns he won't release until an ongoing audit wraps up.

Really?

Tax experts say the feet-high stack of returns that he's posed with for photos could provide significant insights about the presumptive GOP nominee - new details on his income and wealth, how much he gives to charity, the health of his businesses and, overall, how Trump plays the tax game. Some information that may be embedded in Trump's tax returns:

How rich?

Trump's tax returns wouldn't give a full picture of his wealth, since people don't have to report assets. But they would provide fresh clues about the financial life of the richest-ever presidential candidate, who's admitted he's prone to "truthful hyperbole." Tax returns could help determine whether Trump has

been overstating - or understating - his income. On a press release with his financial disclosure form released last year, for example, Trump put his 2014 income at \$362 million, excluding certain items like interest and dividends. But that figure appeared to include revenue that wouldn't count as taxable income. For example, Trump's disclosure form included \$4.3 million in "golf-related revenue" over 18 months from his course in Scotland. But the course lost more than \$2 million in 2014 after its costs were taken into account. Depending on how it's reported, a significantly smaller income figure on Trump's Form 1040 than on his financial disclosure could be a fresh sign that his personal fortune, too, is less than the "more than \$10 billion by any stretch of the imagination" that he's claimed.

Low-tax, no-tax?

Trump, with trademark modesty, told the AP that "nobody knows more about taxes than I do - maybe in the history of the world." And he's been clear that he tries to pay "as little as possible." Tax experts say he

might even have owed no income taxes in one or more recent years by using real estate depreciation provisions and carrying forward business operating losses from previous years. Such losses can be carried forward up to 20 years on personal taxes. Author David Cay Johnston, in his book "Temples of Chance," found that Trump reported negative income early on in his business career. According to documents unearthed by Johnston, Trump in 1977 made \$118,530 and paid \$42,386 in taxes; in 1978 reported negative income of \$406,379 and paid nothing, and in 1979 reported negative income of \$3.4 million and again paid no taxes. In response to a question about whether Trump had paid no taxes in recent years and how long the negative tax liability of the late '70s continued, Trump campaign spokeswoman Hope Hicks emailed: "You must be kidding, that is more than 35 years ago when we had an entirely different tax system."

Playing the game

People can play it safe with their taxes or

take aggressive steps to limit their liability. Trump has said only a "really stupid person is paying a lot of taxes." His overall approach to his tax returns will show "how he plays the game with taxes," says Joseph Thorndike, director of the Tax History Project at the non-profit Tax Analysts. "It's a big piece of someone's financial life. It's completely opaque to us at this point."

Brand trump

A big chunk of Trump's personal wealth is tied up in the value of the Trump brand name, which he licenses far and wide. The billionaire estimated his personal brand and marketing deals at \$3.3 billion when he announced his candidacy last year, but Forbes magazine knocked that down to a much more modest estimate of \$125 million. Trump's tax returns could offer information about how much licensing income he receives, providing new clues about the true value of his brand, according to Thorndike. "It sheds light on the issue but it's not going to be a slam-dunk answer," he says. — AP

SYRIAN OPPOSITION LEADER WANTS 'ACTIONS NOT WORDS' FROM FOREIGN BACKERS

PARIS: Former Syrian prime minister turned key opposition leader Riad Hijab has told AFP in an interview the forces fighting the regime need "actions, not words" from countries that support them. He said the opposition urgently required surface-to-air missiles to counter the air strikes carried out by the regime and their Russian allies. And he called for tougher action against President Bashar al-Assad, who he claimed had effectively received a "green light" from Moscow and Washington to continue bombing civilian areas. "What we want are practical and effective measures on the ground. We don't need statements or pretty words in the media because that doesn't produce any results," Hijab told AFP.

Hijab, who was speaking in Paris on Wednesday after attending a meeting of Arab and European allies of the Syrian opposition as well as US Secretary of State John Kerry, said he was frustrated at the lack of tough action against the Damascus regime.

He accused the regime of responsibility for "more than 2,300 violations of the ceasefire" since it came into effect on February 27. Hijab accused the Syrian regime and their Russian allies of committing war crimes. "In April alone, there were 27 massacres, with

bombings of markets, schools and hospitals carried out by the regime. We saw what happened in Aleppo recently," he said. The ceasefire between regime forces and non-jihadist rebels in Syria, overseen by Moscow and Washington, was shattered at the end of April, most strikingly in Aleppo, the strategic city in northern Syria whose control is split between government and rebel forces. Around 300 people were killed in a surge in fighting in the city.



BERLIN: Riad Hijab, head of the Syrian High Negotiation Committee (HNC) on May 4, 2016. — AFP

find a political solution to a war that has lasted five years and cost the lives of 270,000 people. "It's completely insufficient," Hijab said. "The joint statement by the Russians and the Americans says they want to 'minimize' the bombing of civilians and civilian areas as much as possible. "That is like giving the regime a green light to continue its abuses and saying: 'You are killing 100 Syrians a day. Well today you mustn't kill more than 10.' The regime defends its air strikes by saying it is targeting "terrorist groups", meaning the Al-Nusra Front (the Syrian branch of Al-Qaeda) and the Islamic State group, neither of which are included in the ceasefire.

"The Syrian people have been dying for five years. We want actions, not words, from our friends," Hijab said. "We hope that the United States, the French, the British, the Germans and others are going to act on the ground," Hijab said.

The opposition forces' main plea, as it has been since the start of the war in 2011, is for weapons. "The United States has prevented us obtaining anti-aircraft weapons for five years. And until recently they were blocking us from getting anti-tank weapons," he said. "We are fighting on several fronts: against Daesh (the Arab acronym for Islamic State), there have been fierce battles in recent days around Aleppo, Homs and Damascus and in the south.

"We are fighting against regime forces, against the (Kurdish) PYD, against religious militia from Iraq and Lebanon, and against Afghan mercenaries and others... We need weapons that can make a difference on the ground."

Hijab also called for the 17-nation International Syria Support Group (ISSG), which is due to meet in Vienna next Tuesday, to take measures to force the regime to respect the international community's humanitarian demands. The ceasefire, he said, "is not an end in itself". "The solution for Syria is a genuine political transition," said the man who oversees the opposition's negotiations in Geneva. Three rounds of UN-backed peace talks since the start of the year have failed to make significant progress. The most recent round, in April, was suspended when fighting resumed in Aleppo. "We want to return to Geneva," Hijab said. "We're at an impasse at the moment because the regime does not want to talk about a (political) transition."

He stressed though that the opposition's approach remained unchanged—there can be no solution that includes Assad. "It is completely unrealistic to imagine that he can stay in power," said Hijab, who was serving as prime minister under Assad when he fled Syria with his family in August 2012 to join the opposition. —AFP



EGYPT: This undated handout combo image made of eight photos provided by the subjects, shows Egyptian activists posing for 'selfies' part of an online campaign demanding the release from detention of members of a satirical street group whose selfie-style video clips mocked the country's president. — AP

EGYPTIAN ACTIVISTS CAMPAIGN FOR RELEASE OF STREET PERFORMERS

CAIRO: Egyptian activists took to social media yesterday to demand the release of five detained members of a satirical street performance group whose selfie-style video clips mocked President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

The activists posted pictures on Facebook of themselves holding mobile phones in front of their faces with the caption: "Does a mobile phone camera rattle you?" Police on Monday arrested four members of the group Awlad Shawarea, or "Street Children." A fifth member was arrested over the weekend and remains in custody after a court ordered his release on Monday.

The performers face several charges, including inciting terror attacks and street protests, attempting to overthrow the government as well as insulting state institutions, according to their lawyer, Mahmoud Othman. Othman told The Associated Press yesterday that the five were being held at a police station in the Cairo suburb of Heliopolis. "I last saw them yesterday and they are in good condition," he said. "The prosecution, regrettably, does not see their clips as creative work protected by the constitution." The five are Ezzedein Khaled, Mohammed Adel, Mohammed Dessouki, Mohammed Yahya and Mohammed Gabr. Othman said their ages range between 19 and 25. A sixth member of the group, Mohammed Zein, has not been detained, he added.

Street Children is part of a new, street-based art, music and graffiti movement born out of Egypt's 2011 uprising and fueled by liberal youths opposed to the rule of either Islamists or the military. Authorities in recent months have sought to clamp down on the movement, closing a popular arts center in downtown Cairo and cancelling some street art festivals.

The move against Street Children underlined the government's diminishing tolerance for dissent and signaled that its next target could be social media networks, one of the last remaining platforms for young, pro-democracy activists and artists to air their views and work.

Recent clips by the group were entitled "El-Sissi, my president, made things worse," and "Leave" - a chant that was popular during the 2011 uprising that forced autocrat Hosni Mubarak to step down. Other clips mocked the president's habit of ending speeches with "Long live Egypt!" and his recent reference to advice by his late mother "never to covet what belongs to others."

The famous Egyptian satirist Bassem Youssef - often described as the Jon Stewart of Egypt - took part in the online campaign. Youssef's show was taken off the air a few months after then-military chief el-Sissi ousted Egypt's first freely elected leader, the Islamist Mohammed Morsi, in July 2013.

"If you truly are not scared of anyone, let them go free," Youssef said in a brief video, addressing el-Sissi and referring to the five performers and other political detainees. He was alluding to the president's recent assertions that no one scares him.

Egyptian actor Amr Waked, who played the rich Arab chieftain in the widely acclaimed 2012 movie "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen," also took part in the campaign, as well as Yousry Nasrallah, one of Egypt's most respected film directors, prominent human

rights advocate Ghada Shahbender and novelist and rights campaigner Ahdaf Soueif.

El-Sissi took office in June 2014, nearly a year after Morsi's ouster. He has since overseen the arrest of thousands of Morsi's supporters as well as scores of pro-democracy activists behind the 2011 uprising. The government has defended the crackdown and the erosion of freedoms since the 2011 uprising by saying it is trying to restore stability, revive the economy and defeat an increasingly powerful insurgency based in the Sinai Peninsula.

El-Sissi's announcement last month that his government intended to surrender control over two strategic Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia sparked a series of protests that were met with one of the biggest rounds of arrests in the last two years. — AP

SYRIA'S BESIEGED DARAYA TO GET FIRST AID SINCE 2012: RED CROSS

BEIRUT: Aid agencies were set to deliver relief supplies to the besieged Syrian rebel-held town of Daraya but it was refused entry. It would have been the first time since 2012. The Red Cross and the UN said. "This is the first ever humanitarian convoy to this town in the suburbs of Damascus since the beginning of the siege in November 2012," International Committee of the Red Cross spokesman Pawel Krzysiek said.

Five trucks organized by the ICRC, the United Nations and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent were to deliver baby milk and medical and school supplies. "Today's delivery to Daraya has been the result of the very lengthy and difficult negotiations to allow humanitarian aid into an area under one of the longest-lasting sieges in the Syrian conflict," the ICRC's Syria chief Marianne Gasser said. "It is a breakthrough but definitely not a success," she said. "We must see it as a confidence building opportunity. But at the same time... we urge all parties in control of situation on the ground to allow more desperately needed humanitarian aid to this town as soon as possible."

The delivery came 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.

'Disappointing'

Jan Egeland, who heads the UN-hosted international humanitarian task-force for Syria, hailed the mission to Daraya, which he said was especially aimed at assessing the needs in the town to pave the way for more extensive aid deliveries. "Daraya is probably the place in Syria today where the greatest unmet needs caused by siege exist," he told reporters in Geneva.

Daraya had a pre-war population of around 80,000 people but that has dropped by almost 90 percent, with remaining residents suffering from severe shortages and malnutrition. The United Nations says more than 400,000 people are living under siege in Syria, most of them in areas besieged by the regime.

In addition, more than four million people are living in so-called hard-to-reach areas, according to UN figures. The UN requested permission to bring aid to 905,000 people in besieged and hard-to-reach areas in May, but Egeland said yesterday that access had yet to be granted for more than half of them, describing the situation as "disappointing". —AFP

A FIFTH OF SYRIA'S PALESTINIANS HAVE FLED THE COUNTRY

DAMASCUS: More than 20 percent of Syria's Palestinian refugees have fled the country and its five-year war, the head of the UN Palestinian refugee agency said yesterday.

"Before the war, there were 560,000 Palestine refugees. We estimate that currently about 110,000 to 120,000 have left the country," UNRWA chief Pierre Krahenbuhl said on a visit to Damascus. "There are about 45,000 who went to Lebanon, 15,000 to Jordan," he said. "The others—therefore almost half of those who have left—have travelled, we presume, through Turkey and then to a variety of other countries.

"Some of them will be in Europe. We know of Palestine refugees who have reached parts of Asia. We know of some who have reached Latin America." Syria is home to 12 refugee camps, three of them unofficial, according to UNRWA. Before the war, some 160,000 mostly Palestinians and Syrians lived in the district of Yarmuk

in southern Damascus. But the once thriving suburb has been devastated by conflict since late 2012 and UNRWA cannot access the camp to distribute aid to some 6,000 remaining residents. "UNRWA will not give up its efforts to try to find ways to have this type of access in the future but in the meantime we are... concentrated on providing the assistance that we can in the neighbourhoods directly beside Yarmuk," Krahenbuhl said.

"The situation for Palestine refugees and civilians inside Yarmuk remains extremely desperate—very, very difficult."

Last month, the Islamic State group had almost evicted rival Al-Qaeda jihadists from Yarmuk, according to a Palestine Liberation Organization official. Syria has hosted hundreds of thousands of Palestinians since their ancestors fled their homes when the state of Israel was created in 1948, and in successive conflicts since. — AFP



RAFAH, PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES: Palestinians wait at the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, in the southern Gaza Strip, after it was opened for two days by Egyptian authorities yesterday. —AFP

HEZBOLLAH CONDEMNS US SANCTIONS ON BANKS DEALING WITH GROUP

BEIRUT: Hezbollah's parliamentary bloc says US sanctions on banks that do business with the militant group could threaten Lebanon's financial sector, hinting that supporters may withdraw their money from local banks.

Yesterday's statement said that by abiding by the US law, which came into effect last month, Lebanon's central bank and private banks would be participating in "a war of exclusion" against the group.

Lebanon's central bank governor has said it will abide by the restrictions in the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act, which was signed into law in December. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said last year that his group won't be affected because it doesn't deal with Lebanese or foreign banks. — AP

ERDOGAN SAYS TURKEY PREPARING TO CLEAR IS FROM SYRIAN SIDE OF BORDER

ANKARA: Turkey is preparing to "clean" the Syrian side of the border of Islamic State jihadists after a Turkish border town came under repeated deadly rocket attacks, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday.

"We are doing all the necessary preparations to clean the other side of the border because of the problems in Kilis," Erdogan said amid persistent speculation of a possible Turkish cross-border ground operation, without giving details on the preparations. Around two dozen people have been killed in the Turkish border town of Kilis by rocket fire from IS jihadists since January, prompting the army to respond with artillery fire. Turkey, a member of the US-led coalition battling IS, also allows US jets to use its air base in southern Turkey for air strikes on the extremists. But Erdogan complained that Turkey was not receiving the support it desired from its allies in the fight against IS and indicated Ankara was prepared to take unilateral action.

"While our citizens fall martyr every day in the streets of Kilis by rockets launched from the other side, what can we expect from our allies?" he said. "Let me say it here. We will not hesitate to take needed steps on our own if necessary," he said. Turkish media reports have indicated a 20-strong Turkish military team crossed into Syria over the weekend on a reconnaissance mission to seek out IS launchers to target in artillery strikes, but this has not been officially confirmed. — AFP

AL-QAEDA, HARDLINE REBELS SEIZE ALAWITE VILLAGE IN SYRIA

SPARKING FEARS OF SECTARIAN VIOLENCE

DAMASCUS: Al-Qaeda fighters and other ultraconservative Sunni insurgents seized a predominantly Alawite village in central Syria yesterday, sparking fears of sectarian violence as families from the village were reported missing by activists.

Syrian Prime Minister Wael al-Halqi said "terrorists" were killing townspeople, while Syrian state media said militants had looted and destroyed homes in the village of Zaara, which was previously controlled by the government.

Clashes between insurgents and pro-government forces continued into the afternoon as government or allied Russian aircraft pounded rebel positions, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said, adding that seven militants were killed. The Local Coordination Committees, an activist-run network, said the insurgents killed over 30 pro-government fighters in the clashes.

Ahrar al-Sham, an ultraconservative Sunni Islamic militant group, led the assault on Zaara, along with the Nusra Front, al-Qaeda's Syrian franchise, which often fights alongside opposition factions. The Observatory, which covers both sides of the conflict through a network of local activists, said families disappeared from Zaara after the militants took over. Syria's conflict began with peaceful protests against President Bashar Assad but escalated into a civil war after a brutal government crackdown and the rise of an armed insur-

gency. It became increasingly sectarian with the rise of Sunni insurgent groups and the arrival of Shiite militants from across the region to fight alongside Assad's government. Assad and his family are Alawites, an offshoot of Shiite Islam, while the majority of Syrians are Sunni Muslims.

Both the government and the opposition claim to represent the entire country with its various religious minorities, but armed groups on both sides have carried out sectarian attacks. The International Committee for the Red Cross had to cancel an aid convoy to the nearby town of al-Houla, citing security concerns. A spokesperson for the ICRC did not say whether it was related to the clashes in Zaara.

The 24-truck convoy with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent was to make the first aid delivery to the town since March, when aid reached 70,000 residents in the area for the first time since May 2015. Syrian government forces have restricted access to the area since May 2012, according to the monitoring group Siege Watch. The Observatory says the siege intensified into a near-total blockade last year.

The ICRC, in conjunction with the United Nations and the SARC, was also expected to dispatch an aid convoy to Daraya, a suburb of Damascus besieged by pro-government forces. It would be the first aid delivery to the area since November 2012. The U.N. estimates the suburb's current population is between 4,000 and 8,000

people, down from over 70,000 before the war.

In Geneva, the UN humanitarian aid coordinator for Syria expressed dismay about "disappointing" levels of access to besieged and hard-to-reach areas so far this month. Jan Egeland said his office hopes to get aid to about 905,000 people this month. "We have a convoy fully loaded, standing for days, as it did last week, with supplies we know that there is a desperate need for, and then you are in the end told, 'No, you have to unload,'" he said, referring to a convoy that was supposed to travel to the rebel-held al-Waer neighborhood in Homs last week.

In the country's north, rebels fought back a government offensive to take the Palestinian Handarat refugee camp north of Aleppo. A government advance there would threaten the only supply route to the rebel-held portion of Aleppo, Syria's largest city and former commercial capital.

An interim cease-fire over the divided city, which brought a few days of peace after two weeks of shelling and bombardment, expired Wednesday night. World powers plan to meet on Syria next week in Vienna, with another round of UN-led, indirect peace negotiations between Syria's government and the opposition expected to follow some days later. The Vienna talks aim to build on a US-Russia agreement announced this week to try to restore a nationwide cease-fire. — AP

HONOR AT LAST: FORMER SLAVES REBURIED CENTURIES LATER

ALBANY, NEW YORK: Their exhumed bones point to the hard lives of slaves: arthritic backs, missing teeth, muscular frames. In death, they were wrapped in shrouds, buried in pine boxes and - over centuries - forgotten.

Remains of the 14 presumed slaves will soon be reburied near the Hudson River, 11 years after construction workers uncovered the unmarked gravesite. This time, local volunteers are honoring the seven adults, five infants and two children in a way that would have been unthinkable when they died. They will be publicly memorialized and buried in personalized boxes beside prominent families in old Albany.

"It's something we agonize over because it's very rare that you have an opportunity to not just speak about the lives of the enslaved, but to actually do something to honor them," said Cordell Reaves, of the Schuyler Flatts Burial Ground Project. "We have an obligation to make sure that these people receive a level of dignity and respect that they never received in life."

St. Agnes Cemetery donated a prime plot high on a hillside. Kelly Grimaldi, historian for the Roman Catholic cemetery, said they chose granite over marble because it will last forever. The remains will be placed in handcrafted boxes, each decorated with the symbol for Sankofa, which Reaves translates from the language of Ghana as "return and fetch it."

Their headstone is already set. The etching, echoing the style of 18th-century graves, reads: "Here lies the remains of 14 souls known only to God. Enslaved in life, they are slaves no more." Archeologists found remains in 2005 after a backhoe operator uncovered a skull during sewer construction just north of Albany. Graves were in two rows, heads pointed west. No personal items were exhumed, though the graves still yielded clues about who they were. — AP

CAMERON'S ANTI-CORRUPTION SUMMIT FACES UPHILL STRUGGLE

POLITICIANS FROM AROUND THE WORLD ATTEND

LONDON: British Prime Minister David Cameron gathered world leaders in London yesterday to crack down on corruption - but critics say his mission has been undermined by Britain's tolerance for tax havens and his own indiscreet description of some attending nations as "fantastically corrupt."

The meeting has drawn a wide array of politicians from around the world, including US Secretary of State John Kerry and the presidents of Afghanistan, Nigeria and Colombia. Banks, civil-society organizations and the International Monetary Fund will also be present at the gathering, which aims to produce a global declaration against corruption and break what Cameron has called the "taboo about tackling this issue head-on."

Cameron's own financial credentials were tarnished by last month's revelation - in leaked papers from Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca - that he had a stake in an offshore firm established by his late father. Cameron sold his shares in 2010, before he became prime minister. And the British leader ruffled feathers before the summit when a television microphone caught him saying "leaders of some fantastically corrupt countries" were coming. Speaking at a Buckingham Palace reception with Queen Elizabeth II, he referred to Nigeria and Afghanistan as "possibly two of the most corrupt countries in the world."

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani - elected



LONDON: World Bank President Jim Yong Kim, from left, Sarah Chayes, US Secretary of State John Kerry, Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron and Nigeria President Muhammadu Buhari take part in a panel discussion at the Anti-Corruption Summit yesterday. — AP

in 2015 and 2014, respectively - have promised to curb corruption in their countries. Buhari said he wasn't seeking an apology from Cameron, but wanted something "tangible" - the return of plundered Nigerian assets held in British banks. "Corruption is a hydra-headed monster and a canker that undermines the fabric of all societies," Buhari said Wednesday at a pre-summit meeting. "It does not differentiate between

developed and developing countries." Cameron has said that battling bribery, money-laundering and other forms of financial wrongdoing is a priority for his government. But critics say London's financial district, the City, is awash with ill-gotten gains, and many of the world's leading tax havens are British dependencies or overseas territories, including Jersey and the British Virgin Islands. — AP

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EX-NY SENATE LEADER, SON FACE SENTENCING IN CORRUPTION CASE

NEW YORK: For the second time in less than two weeks, a once-powerful New York politician is facing sentencing in a spate of corruption cases that have roiled Albany.

Former Senate majority leader Dean Skelos, 68, and his son, Adam, 33, are scheduled to appear in federal court in Manhattan on Thursday morning following convictions last year for extortion, fraud and bribery. On May 3, another Manhattan federal judge sentenced former New York Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, a Democrat, to 12 years in prison in his bribery case.

At trial, the government had accused the elder Skelos, a Long Island Republican, of strong-arming three companies with a stake in state legislation - a major real estate developer, an environmental technology company and a medical malpractice insurer - into giving his son about \$300,000 through consulting work, a no-show job and a payment of \$20,000. The scheme unraveled when investigators began recording phone calls between the father and son.

On one tape, jurors heard Adam Skelos, snapping at a supervisor on the no-show job, "Guys like you aren't fit to shine my shoes." In another, the senator coached his son about the need for discretion amid the state capital's ongoing corruption scandal, saying, "Right now we're in dangerous times, Adam."

Trial arguments

Defense attorneys argued at trial that the tapes and other evidence showed only that Dean Skelos was a devoted father looking out for his son, and that overzealous prosecutors were overreaching. The defense has taken a similar position in court papers seeking probation instead of prison time for both defendants. Dean Skelos' conviction "represents a complete aberration in an otherwise extraordinary and honorable record of service," the papers say. "Tragically, the conduct which led to his conviction was fundamentally driven by Dean's love and concern for his only son ... a love that is the hallmark of his family life."

A government filing demands a stiff sentence near or within advisory guidelines of roughly 12 to 15 years for Dean Skelos and 10 to 12 years for Adam. The father and son "have fed the public's worst fears and suspicions about their government: that



NEW YORK: In this July 30, 2015 file photo, former New York state Senate majority leader Dean Skelos, right, and his son Adam, 33, left, leave Manhattan federal court after pleading not guilty to the latest charges against them in a corruption case. — AP

our elected officials are not looking out for the public good, but instead looking out only for ways to turn the immense power entrusted in them into personal profit," prosecutors wrote. "At a time when the public's trust in their government is at an all-time low, Dean and Adam Skelos, through their conduct and their words, have managed to lower the bar even fur-

ther." Skelos and Silver were among a group dubbed the "three men in a room" in Albany, a nod to the longstanding practice of legislative leaders and the governor negotiating key bills behind closed doors. They were the highest-ranking of the more than 30 lawmakers have left office facing criminal charges or allegations of ethical misconduct since 2000. — AP

ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATES PREPARE FOR RETURN OF GRIZZLY HUNTS



WYOMING: This Aug. 2, 2012 photo provided by Wolves of the Rockies shows a grizzly bear near the Lamar Valley in Yellowstone National Park. — AP

HELENA, MONTANA: Three states are getting ready for the possible return of grizzly bear hunting in the Rocky Mountains for the first time in decades. The Obama administration has proposed lifting protections for grizzlies around Yellowstone National Park. The bears have been considered a threatened species since 1975, but wildlife officials say their population has sufficiently recovered.

Before the US Fish and Wildlife Service makes a final decision by March 2017, it is requiring Wyoming, Montana and Idaho to outline what their grizzly bear hunting seasons would look like. The three states are coordinating their plans. Montana releases an outline for its hunting regulations on yesterday. Environmental groups say federal protections should remain until the state plans are thoroughly reviewed, and there should be a transitional period before hunting the iconic species is considered. — AP

ILLINOIS LAWSUIT AGAINST SENATE CANDIDATE DUCKWORTH IN COURT

ILLINOIS: The spotlight in a closely watched US Senate race will briefly shift to a small-town Illinois courtroom as government lawyers for Democratic US Rep. Tammy Duckworth seek to have a 7-year-old lawsuit accusing her of ethics violations while she led the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs dismissed.

A hearing in the civil complaint by two employees of a southern Illinois veterans' home alleging workplace retaliation by Duckworth was scheduled for yesterday morning.

Illinois Republicans have highlighted the case, seeking to thwart Duckworth's bid against Sen. Mark Kirk, a first-term moderate in a Democratic-leaning state. Kirk is considered one of the most vulnerable Republican senators. Duckworth's supporters call it a twice-dismissed nuisance suit resuscitated to embarrass her politically amid a campaign with national implications, as Democrats seek a net gain of at least four seats in 2016 to take back the Senate majority Republicans won in 2014.

The case was initially scheduled to go to trial in April and remained largely idle as Duckworth's accusers took more than three years to provide certain documents requested by the state. Duckworth, a former Black Hawk helicopter pilot who lost both of her legs and partial use of her right arm during the Iraq War, is being represented by the Illinois Attorney General's Office. Her co-defendant was the home's acting administrator in 2006 and 2007.

After a federal judge dismissed the suit as a "garden variety workplace case," it was refiled in state court - and dismissed again before it was narrowed and brought back a third time. The state's motion for summary judgment argues that Duckworth's efforts to fire 22-year state employee Christine Butler from her administrative job was based solely on "insubordination." Duckworth reversed that decision after being told that she first had to follow written disciplinary procedures and instead issued a reprimand with a paid suspension against Butler.

Human resources secretary Denise Goins alleges that her complaints about her boss were ignored and led to an unfavorable performance review that prevented her from receiving a raise. Goins says Duckworth urged her to "do your job and keep your mouth shut."

Goins and Butler, who both continue to work at the veterans home, also say they were punished for speaking out after Patricia Simms, the acting administrator, allowed unauthorized people to care for a resident. The two state workers are seeking compensation of at least \$50,000, as well as other financial penalties. "It has absolutely nothing to do with a political fight," Butler said. "Our names are still being slung through the mud for speaking up."

Duckworth denies treating the employees unfairly, while Kirk's campaign and the National Republican Senatorial Committee portray the lawsuit as a whistleblower case. Duckworth previously disputed the allegations in defeating an incumbent Republican for a Chicago-area seat in Congress in 2012.

A new trial date has not been set, and it's not clear if the Union County judge presiding at the hearing Thursday in Jonesboro, Illinois, will immediately rule on the state's dismissal motion. Duckworth, who is scheduled to host a Washington fundraiser Thursday morning with Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid, is not expected to attend the hearing. — AP



SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS: US Rep. Tammy Duckworth, appears at a brunch in Springfield, Illinois. Duckworth, a Democratic candidate for US Senate, is trying to unseat US Sen. Mark Kirk, in the November 2016 general election. — AP

GUNS ARE BANNED, BUT ARE OKLAHOMA LAWMAKERS PACKING?

OKLAHOMA CITY: It's become a common scene at the Oklahoma Capitol: While construction workers, employees and visiting schoolchildren wait patiently to walk through the metal detectors guarding the entrances, a man with a briefcase arrives and breezes straight through the checkpoint without stopping, setting off the alarms. The security officers on duty flinch but look away.

Just a lawmaker in a hurry? That's all it is, some members say. But security officials are grumbling about a trend among some conservative legislators who are now declining to submit to the weapons screening that has been required at government buildings for years. And suspicions are growing about a likely reason: they're armed. "I won't name names, but I know for a fact that they do," said Rep. Sally Kern, a conservative Republican who says she doesn't necessarily disapprove of lawmakers who carry guns at the Capitol. She said several colleagues have admitted to being armed. "I take my colleagues at their word."

Oklahoma is one of 45 states that now allow some form of open carry of firearms, and pro-firearms lawmakers have been pushing to make guns allowable in most places, even college campuses and public arenas. A bill now pending in the Legislature would eliminate the need for licenses, training or background checks.

But most states have drawn the line at bringing guns into the Capitol. Firearms are permitted in the Texas, New Hampshire and Idaho statehouses, but other conservative states including Oklahoma have turned aside such proposals because of security concerns about government buildings as possible targets of violence. Attempting to bring a gun into the Capitol is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine.

Many lawmakers, including strong gun rights supporters, insist the Capitol should remain a gun-free zone. Republican Gov. Mary Fallin, reliably conservative on all issues, said she worries about having handguns in a place where emotions sometimes run high among advocates and politicians. "There's a reason why we have screening when people come into the Capitol, and we have restrictions on bringing guns into the Capitol," Fallin said. "It would trouble me if someone broke the policy, and the policy is that you can't as a legislator bring a firearm into the Capitol."

Nevertheless, officers at the security stations now regularly encounter lawmakers who decline to be screened. During a 30-minute period after a recent lunch break, an Associated Press reporter watched six GOP House members walk through the checkpoints with their briefcases and satchels and set off the alarms.

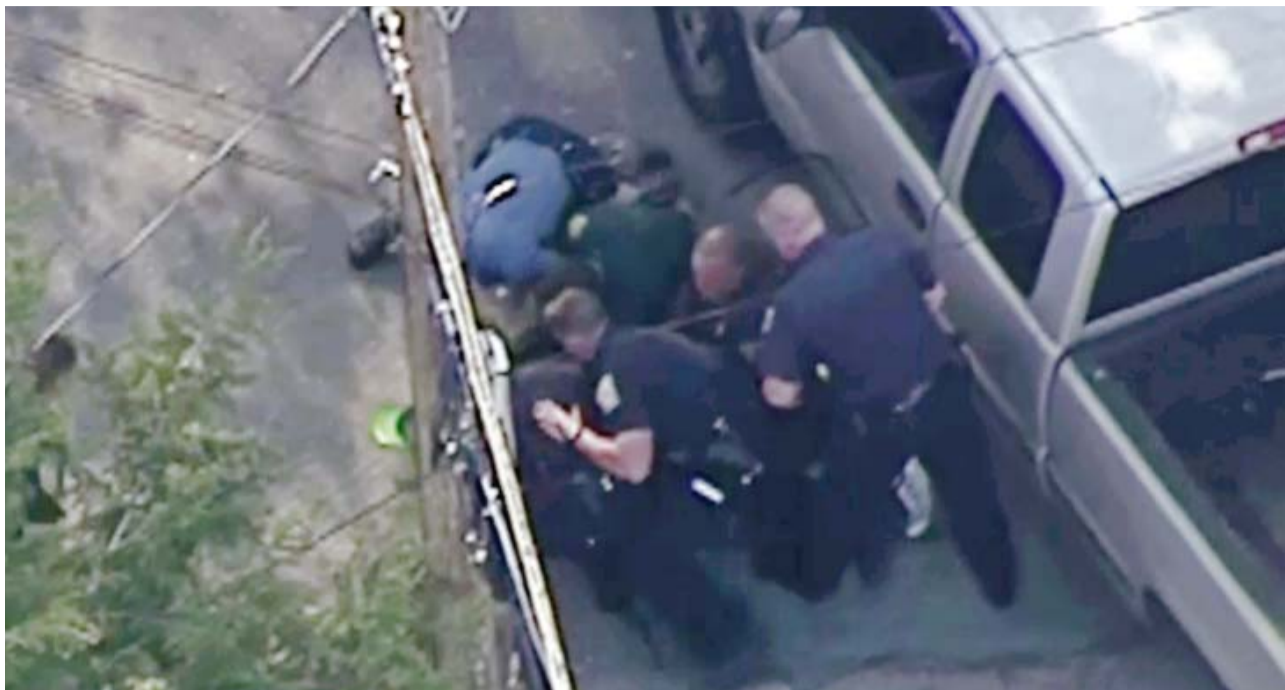
Members who were asked later wouldn't admit they were armed, but some were coy about why anyone should object if they were. "If a legislator wants to carry a firearm in the Capitol, I think they have a constitutional protection to do that," said Ralph Shortey, a Republican senator, who said weapons screening violates a constitutional prohibition against interfering with lawmakers during a legislative session. Republican Rep. Lewis Moore said legislators shouldn't be screened.

"They're supposed to know who the House members are," he said of the guards.

Security officials acknowledge they're reluctant to stop those breezing through if they appear to be lawmakers. "We do probably err on the side of giving them a little leeway when it comes to screening, but they can't legally carry," said Highway Patrol Capt. John Paul, who oversees the security at the Capitol. — AP



OKLAHOMA CITY: In this Tuesday, May 3, 2016 photo, Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper Phillip Ellyson, left, waits for Philip Ward of Okmulgee, Okla. to empty his pockets at a security checkpoint at the Oklahoma Capitol. — AP



NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE: This aerial image made from a helicopter video provided by WHDH shows several officers pummeling Richard Simone, who had exited his vehicle and knelt on the ground after a high-speed police pursuit on Wednesday. — AP

OFFICIALS DEMAND INVESTIGATION INTO POLICE PURSUIT ARREST

NASHUA: New Hampshire's governor is calling for a full investigation into the use of force by police after video surfaced of officers appearing to pummel a suspect who had led them on a high-speed chase from Massachusetts to New Hampshire.

News helicopter video of the police pursuit Wednesday showed Richard Simone, of Worcester, Massachusetts, stepping slowly out of his truck, kneeling and putting his hands on the ground before several officers rushed him. "The Governor is aware of the situation and we've reached out to the Departments of Safety and Justice," said Ricki Eshman, a spokeswoman for New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan. "All New Hampshire public safety officials are held to the highest standards, and the Governor expects this will be fully investigated," the statement said.

While the driver was taken into custody in New Hampshire, Massachusetts State Police were also involved in the pursuit and plan to review the apprehension of the suspect, "to determine whether the level of force deployed during the arrest was appropriate," said David Procopio, a state police spokesman.

The chase began when Simone, 50, refused to stop for local police in Holden, Massachusetts. He was wanted on multiple warrants for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, larceny and failure to stop for police, Procopio said in a statement.

Holden police chased him, and a Massachusetts State Police cruiser followed. "We saw about 15 out of state cops, state police and some from Holden, Mass., chasing a pickup," witness Monty Hays told WMUR-TV.

The chase went through several towns at speeds exceeding 100 mph, with the pickup truck "making abrupt lane changes as the (suspect) continued to try to evade capture" and crashing at least once, Procopio said.

But spike strips laid out by police eventually took their toll. In Nashua, where the chase ended in a residential neighborhood, witnesses said the truck was barely pushing the speed limit. "Its tires they just were exploded," Hays told the television station. "They were on rims. Rubber was flying every-

where." The pursuit lasted about an hour, ending about 50 miles northeast of where it began. Helicopter video showed the pickup truck stopped next to a utility pole on a dead-end street before police officers surrounded it with their weapons drawn. The driver stepped from the truck, got onto the ground and was on all fours and lowering himself when the officers set upon him, throwing punches.

Simone was taken into custody by

Nashua police, who haven't returned phone calls seeking comment on the chase and Simone's treatment.

Simone couldn't be reached for comment while in custody Wednesday night. A phone number listed for him has been disconnected. Massachusetts State Police said Simone will face new charges related to the chase. It's unclear where and when he'll be arraigned, but it will likely be in New Hampshire first. — AP

VIOLENCE CREATED THE GROWING POPULATION OF DISPLACED IN MEXICO

MEXICO CITY: Violence unleashed by organized crime has forced thousands of people in Mexico to abandon their homes, adding to the country's internally displaced population, the country's National Human Rights Commission said Wednesday.

The commission said it interviewed 1,784 people who reported being displaced. But it also said information from others, including local authorities and human rights organizations, pro-

duced a total of at least 35,433 people who have fled. Commission President Luis Raul Gonzalez said the report did not measure the phenomenon as much as make it more visible so authorities can address it with a new law for victims. "Forced internal displacement in Mexico is a problem whose magnitude and real reach still must be investigated and determined in an objective and integrated manner," Gonzalez said. — AP



CHILPANCINGO, GUERRERO STATE, MEXICO: In this July 30, 2015, file photo, people stand next to the body of police commander David Urquizo Molina after he was gunned down in the city. — AP



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

DONALD TRUMP WINS UNLIKELY FAN CLUB IN INDIA

NEW DELHI: Donald Trump may face a long, tough road to the White House, but some fans in India at least are pulling together to try and get him divine assistance. A far-right Hindu group held prayers this week in the Indian capital to support the presumptive Republican presidential nominee whom they hailed a fighter and a savior of humanity.

Vishnu Gupta said his fringe Hindu Sena outfit backed the US billionaire's suggestions to temporarily ban Muslims from travelling to America and to crack down on extremist

groups. "We are great fans of Trump. We really like his thoughts on various subjects," Gupta told AFP. "We totally support Trump's call to ban Muslims from entering the US. In fact Mr Modi should take a similar stand," he said, referring to Indian Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Trump made his comments during the Republican race underway in the United States to decide his party's candidate for the country's November presidential elections. The real estate tycoon has also during his campaign made fun of Indian call centre workers

and accused foreigners of stealing American jobs. But Gupta is undeterred, and this week held a prayer session on a blanket in a New Delhi protest park with a handful of devotees. Together they lit a ritual fire alongside pictures and posters of Trump sporting a red dot or Hindu bindi on his forehead, together with posters of Hanuman—the Hindu god of strength and courage. "America needs a firebrand leader like Trump. If Trump goes on to become president, he can help India fight Islamic terror," Gupta said. "Trump is the only one who can save humanity." — AFP

TURKEY RECALLS BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR AFTER ISLAMIST LEADER HANGED

ANKARA: Yesterday Turkey recalled its ambassador to Bangladesh for consultations after strongly protesting the execution in the country of a top Islamist leader, the state-run Anatolia news agency said.

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. Turkey's ambassador to Dhaka, Devrim Ozturk, is due to arrive back in Turkey yesterday, the news agency added.

The Turkish foreign ministry had

already strongly condemned the execution, saying it did not believe that "Nizami deserved such a punishment". It said that Turkey, which has abolished capital punishment, feared that the use of such methods risked creating "rancor and hatred between our Bangladeshi brothers".

Since coming to power in 2002, Turkey's ruling Islamic-rooted Justice and Development Party (AKP) has sought to boost the country's power in the Muslim world well outside its Ottoman sphere of influence. Nizami, a 73-year-old former government minister, was the fifth and the most senior opposition figure executed since the secular government in the overwhelmingly Muslim nation set up a controversial war crimes tribunal in 2010.

Turkey had last year also furiously slammed a death sentence handed to Egypt's deposed Islamist president Mohamed Morsi who was a close ally of Ankara until he was overthrown by the military in 2013. — AFP

SUICIDE ATTACK KILLS, WOUNDS 11 POLICEMEN IN E. AFGHANISTAN

ISLAMABAD: At least one policeman was killed and ten others wounded in a suicide attack in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province yesterday, said officials.

Nangarhar police spokesman, Lt. Col. Hazrat Hussain Mashrafiwal confirming the attack said that the incident took place near a clinic in Ghanikhel district of the province. The suicide bomber, who has been identified, detonated his vest near a

local police check post outside a clinic, he added. The provincial public health director, Dr. Najeebullah Kamawal also confirmed that a policeman was killed and ten others wounded in the attack. No group has so far claimed the responsibility of the attack but Taliban rebels have paced up their attacks across Afghanistan targeting security forces following the launch of their annual warm weather offensive. — KUNA

BANGLADESH ARRESTS 4 MEN, SAYS THEY PLANNED ACTS OF SABOTAGE

DHAKA: Security officials in Bangladesh's capital say they have arrested a leader and three members of a banned radical group who were planning to commit sabotage.

The Jumatul Mujahideen Bangladesh had waged a violent campaign demanding Shariah law and created a large support network before being banned in 2005. Mufti Mahmud Khan, a spokesman for the elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion, said Thursday that JMB members who are on bail or outside jail are trying to regroup.

Khan said the group's current leader, Abdul Baten, and an associate were arrested at a bus station and information from them led to a railway station where the other two were arrested. He said the four were planning to commit sabotage in parts of the country. Little other information was disclosed about them. — AP

NEPAL SAYS NEEDS MORE AID FOR QUAKE REBUILDING

KATHMANDU: Aid-dependent Nepal needs \$7.86 billion over five years, \$1.17 billion more than earlier estimates, to rebuild homes and infrastructure destroyed by the deadly earthquake in 2015, the government said yesterday.

In total, 9,000 people were killed across Nepal in the 7.8 magnitude quake, which the government said had affected 2.8 million of the Himalayan nation's 28 million population.

International donors, who pledged \$4.1 billion for reconstruction last year, have been left frustrated as little of that fund has been spent because of haggling between political parties, leading to a delay in helping millions of survivors. Authorities said the increase in the amount of aid required was due to a larger scale of destruction than initially projected.

The Red Cross says four million people are still living in poor-quality temporary shelters, posing a threat to their health. "The increased requirement of funds is due to a rise in the number of people affected," Prime Minister K.P. Oli told lawmakers in Kathmandu. "The government will construct community houses and move survivors who are living in the open to roofed shelters," Oli said.

Reconstruction of private homes will be completed in two years, he added, urging donors to provide additional support for rebuilding. — Reuters

COURT ORDERS INDIA'S SPICEJET TO COMPENSATE DISABLED FLYER

NEW DELHI: India's top court yesterday ordered budget airline SpiceJet to pay one million rupees (\$15,000) to an activist with cerebral palsy who was offloaded from one of its flights four years ago.

The Supreme Court said Jeeja Ghosh endured mental and physical suffering after she was deboarded from the flight on her way to the western state of Goa to attend a conference in February 2012. In a petition to the court, Ghosh, 46, said she was offloaded because the pilot felt she was not fit to fly on her own, despite her pleas that she had travelled without an escort in the past.

Although SpiceJet later apologized, Ghosh approached the court seeking compensation, accusing the airline of discrimination and saying her fundamental rights had been violated. In passing the judgment yesterday, the Supreme Court said Ghosh "feels haunted with that scene when she was pulled out of the plane, like a criminal. She continues to have nightmares".

Judge A.K. Sikri also quoted famous American disabled rights activist Helen Keller in a judgment that was scathing of airlines' treatment of disabled passengers in general. "A rare few see a closed door, try the knob, if it doesn't open and they find a key and if it doesn't fit, they make one! These rare persons we have to find," he said. Ghosh said she hoped the judgment would set a precedent and send a message to carriers. "Compensation amount is not important, setting an example is more important," she told the NDTV television network. "I'd just like to send out a message to everyone, just don't give up." SpiceJet was not immediately available for comment when contacted by AFP. — AFP

PAKISTAN COTTON INDUSTRY FACES \$4 BLN BILL

ERRATIC RAINFALL AND DROUGHT TO BLAME

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is spending \$4 billion a year on cotton imports to support its ailing textile industry, after erratic rainfall and drought in the country's cotton fields slammed growers and the country's economy, officials say.

Bad weather has hurt both the quality and quantity of cotton harvested, leaving the country's textile producers - who account for almost nine percent of GDP - struggling as they face lack of supply and higher prices for imports, they say. "We are importing cotton from India and some other countries to fulfill our demand and this has increased to 20 percent in just six months," said Mehmood Aslam, operations manager at Fazal Group, one of the oldest and largest textile groups in Pakistan, with operations in cotton ginning, yarn and fabric manufacturing. He said turning to imports had led to a rise of up to 30 percent in the cost of the company's raw materials and hit the company's profits. The quality of the Pakistani cotton still available also is declining as a result of the poor conditions, he said. "The local cotton contains a lot of trash and other contaminations due to the extreme weather conditions. Therefore its ginning yield has fallen and production costs have escalated," he said.

He said problems sourcing good quality cotton and ongoing energy shortages in Pakistan had reduced his company's exports of finished textiles from more than 100 shipping containers a month over much of the last two years to about 30 containers today. "We can't meet the deadline

of 30 days to deliver our orders and the majority of our clients have turned to India, Bangladesh and China to get their orders done in time," he said. He urged the government to offer reductions in sales tax to help the struggling industry.

'Major blow' to harvests

Pakistan's cotton production has fallen from a predicted 15.5 million bales this year to 10.9 million bales as a result of erratic rainfall, drought in some cotton-growing areas and poor seed quality, according to the Federal Committee Cotton on Agriculture (FCC), a department of the Ministry of Textile Industry. Pakistan's Punjab province produces around 85 percent of the country's cotton, with Sindh province growing much of the rest. Khalid Abdullah, the country's Cotton Commissioner and vice president of the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee, said the country will spend around \$4 billion on import of the cotton to meet its domestic demands this year.

Low prices for cotton last year helped drive down production, he said, and weather extremes related to climate change, as well as insect attacks, also hit harvests. "Climate change and extreme weather patterns are a major blow to the crop," he said.

Pakistan is the fourth largest producer of cotton in the world, behind China, India, and the United States, and has the third-largest spinning capacity in Asia after China and India. The cotton industry provides employment to some 40 percent of Pakistan's industrial workforce, according

to a report published by the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan. It says Pakistan also earns around \$12 billion annually from export of cotton and cotton products.

New seeds, less water

To deal with worsening drought and falling cotton harvests, Pakistani scientists at the Central Cotton Research Institute are developing 45 new drought-tolerant and heat-resistant cotton seed varieties with the help of private seed companies.

The aim is to not only keep up cotton production but to reduce the amount of irrigation water needed to grow cotton. Khalid Mahmood, director of the Cotton Research Institute Faisalabad, said the new seed varieties have been planted at 22 locations in Punjab and Sindh provinces on a trial basis.

Trials will continue another two years, he said, then the seeds are expected to come onto the market once they are approved by the Punjab Seed Corporation, a semi autonomous body of the Punjab government that will look at their quality and ability to resist extreme weather patterns, he said. He said the varieties in trials are producing 40 maund of cotton per acre - at least a third higher than normal cotton harvests - and cutting water use by 30 percent. "So far, we are satisfied with the outcome," he said. "We hope the new seed varieties will help increase the overall cotton production around 20 percent and save a lot of foreign exchange reserves being spent on import of cotton," he said. — Reuters



PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN: Supporters of Pakistani religious party Jamaat-e-Islami condemn the execution of Bangladesh's largest Islamist party's chief Motiur Motiur Rahman Nizami on Wednesday. — AP

PAKISTAN PROTESTS BANGLADESH'S EXECUTION OF ISLAMIST LEADER

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has summoned a senior Bangladeshi diplomat to protest the "unfortunate hanging" of the head of Bangladesh's largest Islamist party for his alleged role in genocide and war crimes during the independence war against Pakistan in 1971.

The Foreign Ministry yesterday said the leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, Motiur Rahman Nizami, was convicted and sentenced based on a flawed judicial process. Nizami, 73, was executed Wednesday.

Thousands of supporters of Nizami in Pakistan organized a special memorial service for him on Wednesday. Nizami is the fifth senior official from Bangladeshi opposition parties to be executed since 2013 for alleged war crimes during the 1971 conflict. — AP

PAKISTAN TO HANG THE 'TERRORISTS' BEHIND BUS ATTACK, ACTIVIST MURDER

ISLAMABAD: Yesterday Pakistan's military chief approved the execution of five "hardcore terrorists" that the army said were involved in the killing of a prominent rights activist and a deadly bus attack claimed by Islamic State.

An army statement said the five were charged in a military court and admitted their guilt, though it did not specify what they were charged with. Military chief General Raheel Sharif had confirmed the death sentences, it said. The five "perpetrated" the attack on a bus in Karachi last May, in which gunmen stormed the vehicle and killed 45 members of the minority Ismaili community, the statement said.

The Islamic State group claimed the attack, though the military statement yesterday described the five as "active" members of Al-Qaeda. No reason for the discrepancy was immediately given. The five were also "involved" in the killing of rights activist Sabeen Mehmood as well as several other attacks, the statement said, without offering more details. Mehmood was shot dead in the port city of Karachi in April last year minutes after hosting a seminar on abuses in restive Balochistan province. The killing sent shockwaves through the country's progressives, as those who speak out against alleged abuses by the state warned they were under increasing threat.

Months later, authorities revealed that the main suspect in the bus attack, Saad Aziz, had admitted to Mehmood's murder also. Aziz was among the five whose executions were confirmed yesterday. Pakistan reinstated the death penalty and established military courts as part of a crackdown after its deadliest ever extremist attack, when gunmen stormed a school in the northwest in 2014 leaving more than 150 people dead.

Rights activists have criticized a surge in hangings since the moratorium was lifted, with Pakistan becoming the world's third most prolific executioner in 2015, and complained the military trials are neither transparent nor fair. — AFP

SOUTH ASIAN NATIONS UNITE OVER ANTI-CHILD TRAFFICKING DRIVE, HELPLINE PLANNED

NEW DELHI: South Asian nations will set up a toll-free helpline and online platform to fight human trafficking, one of the region's biggest problems, and trace the thousands of children who go missing in the region annually, India's government said late on Wednesday.

Ministers from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Nepal came to the agreement after a conference on child protection held under the auspices of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). South Asia, with India at its centre, is the fastest-growing and second-largest region for human trafficking in the world, after East Asia, according to the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime.

India's women and child development ministry said delegates from the eight South Asian countries adopted a series of measures to boost cooperation to end child exploitation. "(These include) regional cross sharing and programming on ICT initiatives to trace missing children, working towards establishing a uniform toll free helpline, developing a regional strategy and common standards for addressing all forms of sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking," it said in a statement.

There are no accurate figures on the number of people being trafficked within South Asia, but activists say thousands of



NEW DELHI: A 16-year-old girl sits inside a protection home on the outskirts of the city on November 9, 2012. — AFP

mostly women and children are trafficked within India and as well as from its poorer neighbours Nepal and Bangladesh. Many are sold into forced marriage or bonded labour working in middle class homes as domestic servants, in small shops and hotels or confined to brothels where they are repeatedly raped.

Sex tourism, child pornography

Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh told delegates that curbing human trafficking was a major challenge for all nations, but that by sharing information

and best practices, it was possible to develop regional solutions. "With increasing access to information technology and changing nature of our globalised economy, new threats for children are emerging - sex tourism, child pornography, online threats to children among others," said Singh.

"To address these challenges comprehensively, within SAARC countries, we can all benefit from reinforcing regional cooperation and strengthening mechanisms for sharing of information, experience, expertise and good practices." — Reuters



SEOUL: Lee Hee-beom, newly-nominated president of the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympics Organizing Committee, speaks during a press conference after the committee's general assembly yesterday. — AFP

FORMER MINISTER ELECTED AS CHIEF OF PYEONGCHANG 2018

SEOUL: South Korean Olympic officials yesterday elected former government minister Lee Hee-beom as the new head of the organizing committee for the 2018 Winter Olympics following the abrupt resignation of the previous president.

Lee, 67, a former minister of industry and energy, was unanimously elected in a meeting of 103 officials, the organizing committee for the Pyeongchang Games said. Lee's election requires endorsement from South Korea's minister of culture, sports and tourism, which is considered a formality.

The committee last week nominated Lee to replace business tycoon Cho Yang-ho, who stepped down to deal with financial troubles at a major shipping company his family controls. "It is a personal honor to undertake such a nationally important task with the Olympics being just a year and nine months away, but I also feel heavy responsibility," Lee said in a statement after the committee meeting.

"If the 1988 Seoul Olympics were the event that introduced South Korea to the international stage, the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics will mark a historic turning point that allows the country to leap into the ranks of advanced nations."

The sudden resignation of Cho, whose family also controls Olympic sponsor Korean Air, marked the second change in less than two years at the helm of the Olympic organizing committee.

Pyeongchang organizers have faced a series of challenges in recent years, including construction delays, local conflicts over venues and slow pace of attracting domestic sponsorships, but preparations seemed to accelerate after the successful hosting of test events at Olympic venues earlier this year. — AP

JAPAN TRAVEL FIRM CANCELS 'SEXIST' IN-FLIGHT LECTURES BY BRAINY BEAUTIES

TOKYO: A Japanese travel agency has cancelled a service offering in-flight lectures from "beautiful" female university students after a barrage of online criticism accusing the firm of sexism. HIS travel firm dropped the in-flight package Wednesday, its intended launch day, with a message saying sorry after its website was overrun with a deluge of complaints from angry netizens. "The company offers a sincere apology that the campaign caused unpleasant feelings to many people," said a statement titled "Apology" on its website.

Japan is no stranger to allegations of sexism in the workplace. Efforts to boost female workforce participation have floundered, with a lack of childcare facilities, poor career support and deeply entrenched sexism blamed for keeping women at home. HIS' proposal to titillate-and educate-male clients is not the first time a Japanese company has offered up women for innocent company. Men can pay to snuggle with a beautiful woman at "cuddle cafes", shell out for an innocent walk in the park or spend an evening at "snack bars" where female companions are hired to chat, sing or light her date's cigarette. HIS' service offered travellers a chance to sit next to a "beautiful girl" from Tokyo University, Japan's equivalent of Harvard or Oxford, and receive a "fun lecture" about their area of study. According to the HIS website no premium had to be paid for the chance to sit next to a companion, instead the campaign appeared to be aimed at driving reservation traffic to the agency. —AFP

MALAYSIA: 2 MORE PIECES 'ALMOST CERTAINLY' FROM FLIGHT 370

FOUND IN SOUTH AFRICA AND RODRIGUES ISLAND

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's government said yesterday that two more pieces of debris, discovered in South Africa and Rodrigues Island off Mauritius, were "almost certainly" from Flight 370, bringing the total number of pieces believed to have come from the missing Malaysian jet to five. The aircraft mysteriously disappeared more than two years ago with 239 people on board, and so far an extensive underwater search of a vast area of the Indian Ocean off Australia's west coast has turned up empty.

The discovery

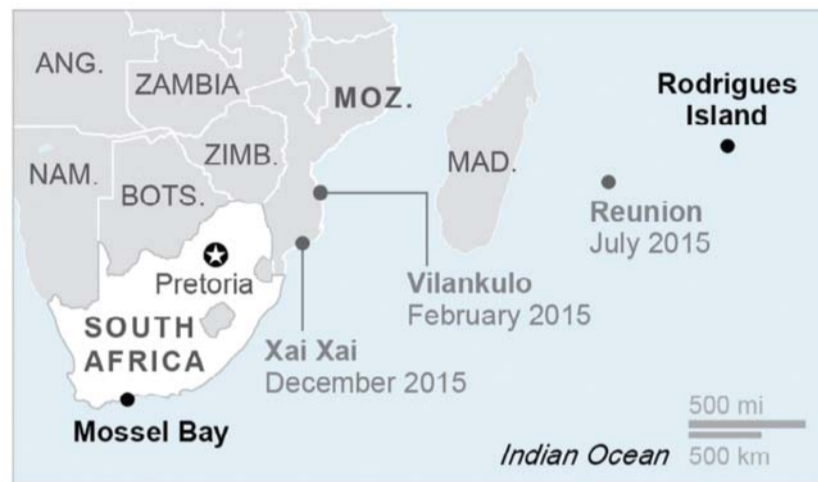
Though the discovery of the debris has bolstered authorities' assertion that the plane went down somewhere in the Indian Ocean, none of the parts have thus far yielded any clues into exactly where and why the aircraft crashed. Those elusive answers lie with the flight data recorders, or black boxes, which may never be found, said Geoff Dell, a specialist in accident investigation at Central Queensland University in Australia.

"It shows they're looking in the right ocean - that's about it," Dell said. Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai said the two new parts were an engine cowling piece with a partial Rolls-Royce logo and an interior panel piece from an aircraft cabin - the first interior part found from the missing plane.

An international team of experts in Australia who examined the debris concluded that both pieces were consistent with panels found on a Malaysia Airlines' Boeing 777 aircraft, Liow said. "As such, the team has confirmed that both pieces of debris from South Africa and Rodrigues Island are almost certainly from MH370," he said in a state-

Debris from Flight 370 found

Malaysia said two pieces of debris found in March in South Africa and Rodrigues Island are "almost certainly" from the missing Malaysia Airlines plane that disappeared in 2014, joining three other parts discovered last year.



SOURCE: Maps4News/HERE

AP

ment. All five pieces have been found in various spots around the Indian Ocean. Last year, a wing part from the plane washed ashore on France's Reunion Island. Then in March, investigators confirmed two pieces of debris found along Mozambique's coast were almost certainly from the aircraft.

The jet, which vanished on March 8, 2014, while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, is believed to have crashed somewhere in a remote stretch of the southern Indian Ocean about 1,800 kilometers (1,100 miles) off Australia's west coast. Authorities had predicted that any debris from the plane

that isn't on the ocean floor would eventually be carried by currents to the east coast of Africa. Investigators are examining marine life attached to the debris to see if it could somehow help them narrow down where it entered the ocean, but haven't discovered anything useful yet. The interior part, identified by its decorative laminate, is a panel from the main cabin and believed to be part of a door closet, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau said in a technical report. But even this interior piece is also unlikely to prove very helpful to investigators, said Dell, the accident investigation expert. —AP

TOURISTS JUMP FOR LIVES FROM BURNING AUSTRALIA BOAT

SYDNEY: More than 40 tourists, many of them elderly Chinese, were recovering yesterday after jumping into life rafts when the catamaran they were aboard caught fire in Australia.

The Spirit of 1770 got into trouble 10 nautical miles off the coastal town of 1770 following a day-trip to Lady Musgrave Island on the Great Barrier Reef, apparently when a fire started in the engine room. The local Gladstone Observer newspaper said the 42 passengers and four crew abandoned ship and jumped into the water before swimming to life rafts late Wednesday.

They drifted for several hours before three rescue boats arrived and ferried them ashore, where pictures showed them huddled under blankets as they were treated by paramedics. "Of the 46 people on board, 19 received treatment for non-life threatening injuries at hospitals in Bundaberg and Gladstone," Queensland police said in a statement.

"The vessel caught fire around 4pm (on Wednesday) and was subsequently abandoned around 4.30pm prompting a search and rescue operation.

"Investigations into the incident are continuing." The Observer said many of the tourists were elderly Chinese, with others from Canada, New Zealand and Britain. English traveller Gemma Sargent said she was woken by people shouting about the fire.

"All of a sudden the captain goes 'Get

off the boat!' and I'm looking at him thinking 'How?'," she told Seven News.

"Everyone literally got shoved off whether you could swim or not." Lady Musgrave Island, a coral cay, is a popular tourist destination some 500 kilometers north of Brisbane and is only reachable by boat. — AFP



AUSTRALIA: Ambulance staff tending to more than 40 tourists, many of them Chinese, who were recovering after jumping into life rafts when the catamaran they were on caught fire on Wednesday. — AFP

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016

Friday Times

Lifestyle

www.kuwaittimes.net

US actors George Clooney (left) and Julia Roberts pose yesterday during a photo-call for the film 'Money Monster' at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP

Jodie Foster says women directors seen as 'too risky'



US actress, director and producer Jodie Foster (left) listens to Variety New York bureau chief Ramin Setoodeh pose at the Majestic hotel yesterday in Cannes. — AP

Jodie Foster says women directors seen as 'too risky'

Jodie Foster, who is presenting her first mainstream film as a director in Cannes yesterday, said many studio bosses still mistrusted female directors as "too great a risk to take." The Oscar-winning actress, who began her career at the age of three and is one of a handful of females in Hollywood to carve out a successful directing career, highlighted the challenges women face in the industry at a conference on the sidelines of Cannes.

She noted "drastic changes" on film sets from her years as a child actor, when the only women on set were the person playing her mother or the make-up artist. But "the one arena where it hasn't really changed at all is directing for mainstream studio movies," she observed. In the United States, only nine percent of directors are women, according to a 2016 study from the San Diego university. Another study released this month by the European Women's Audiovisual Network found that only one film in five in Europe was made by a female director.

Foster said the turbulent economy and changing technologies had left studio bosses more risk-averse than ever. "I think studio executives are scared, period, (and) for some reason women are lumped into that category of 'too great a risk to take.'" However Foster, who won Oscars for her roles in "Silence of the Lambs" and "The Accused", admits that having grown up in the industry it was easier for her to become part of the boy's club than for other women struggling to make it.

Not 'some big plot'

The 53-year-old is the first of a series of Hollywood stars, including Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis, who will be talking at the "Women in Motion" conference during Cannes. Foster has directed several movies, as well as episodes of television series "Orange is the New Black" and "House of Cards". Her first mainstream genre film "Money Monster", starring George Clooney and Julia Roberts, premiered in Cannes yesterday.

She said she did not think there was "some big plot" by men trying to put women down in the film business, but it was more about being stuck in traditional models. She described the difficulty in placing trust in a first-time director, and placing the vision of a multi-million-dollar film in their hands. "Everyone, before they shake hands to bring a director on kind of quakes in their boots because they don't know what is in front of them," she said. "I was once in a movie where a director-who was a really smart guy-spent the entire movie in his bathroom calling his wife."

"You're looking for the best bet and it is hard to look at a face that is 100 percent different to yours and that you carry traditional perceptions about and you worry you are going to make a bad choice." She said there were many scripts out there written for diverse women, they were just not getting financed.

Half of the human race

Foster was asked about the perception that audiences don't want to see movies about women. "I don't know who those people are. I want to look at human lives. I don't know anyone who would be disinterested in half of the human race." Foster said that as a female director, she was able to see herself in all of her characters, even the men, something that was harder for male directors to do.

"One of my biggest pet peeves as an actor, whenever a male writer was searching for motivation for a women they would always just go to rape. It was ridiculous. "They were uninterested in any kind of complex merging with the female character." — AFP

When you break apart the essential elements of 'Money Monster,'

Jodie Foster's taut yet sporadically odd hostage drama, few of them seem to completely work. As an indictment of Wall Street chicanery, it's largely toothless; as a pure thriller, it only quickens the pulse once or twice; as a conspiracy saga, its central mystery falls flat. Yet somehow the film hangs together surprisingly well, thanks to on-point performances from George Clooney and Julia Roberts, a sprinkle of obtuse humor and Foster's streamlined direction, which takes style notes from the likes of "Dog Day Afternoon" and "Inside Man" in the service of a far more light-weight confection.

It may not linger long in the memory after credits roll, and what multiplex audiences make of the film is anyone's guess, but in a landscape short on no-frills grown-up entertainment, it's worth the modest time investment. The film stars Clooney as cable news host Lee Gates. A transparent stand-in for Jim Cramer of CNBC's "Mad Money," Lee is a shameless self-promoter who deals out stock tips with the help of hip-hop backup dancers, wild costumes and a morning zoo assortment of goofy sound effects. His long-suffering producer Patty Fenn (Roberts) is planning to take a job across town, and as the station staff gets ready for the day's live taping, Lee prepares for a particularly delicate tap-dancing routine. Ibis Clear Capital, a company whose stock Lee has been touting for months, somehow just lost \$800 million of capital through unclear circumstances, and the company's Irish corporate communications officer, Diane Lester (Caitriona Balfe) is standing by via satellite with talking points in hand. Any worries she might have of being grilled by Lee on camera are assuaged by Patty, who tells her, "We don't do 'gotcha' journalism here. Hell, we don't do journalism, period."

Satisfactory explanation

Foster and editor Matt Chesse deftly capture the controlled chaos of live TV in the early going, cutting between the broadcast and the control booth, with Patty feeding Lee lines into his earpiece. (The decision to stage the film in an approximation of real-time pays off handsomely.) One gets so caught up in the ins-and-outs of the production that the presence of a hooded delivery-man in the wings initially goes unnoticed, at least until he springs onto the set with a pistol in hand, taking the whole soundstage hostage. The interloper is Kyle Budwell (Jack O'Connell), a minimum wage-earning factotum from Queens, and with great haste he forces Lee into a bomb vest, clutching the dead-man's switch in his hand. Kyle lost his entire savings due to Lee's stock advice, and he threatens to scorch the whole studio unless Ibis gives him a satisfactory explanation of the "computer glitch" that sent its stock price tumbling. The film is at its best in these tense early scenes, as Kyle makes his case, Lee tries to use his mediagenic charm talk him down—generally making things much worse in the process—and Patty runs triage before her TV producer instincts kick in and she starts moving the cameras around for a better shot. The world watches the standoff on the small screen, an NYPD chief (Giancarlo Esposito) strategizes a SWAT raid, and Diane desperately tries to locate her boss, Ibis' jet-setting CEO (Dominic West).

As the standoff gets more and more involved, an increasing degree of preposterousness seeps into the proceedings, and Foster can't keep up the pace she sets at the start. The ultimate resolution is a bit of a bust, and the late-game introduction of new plot elements like stoned Icelandic computer hackers feels like something out of a low-budget '90s thriller. (Exactly how the subplot of a Lee underling test-driving a new erectile-dysfunction

drug made it past the final cut is a mystery.) Credited to three screenwriters, the plot hurtles forward efficiently, but the film's underlying metaphors are ultimately muddled, pulled in too many directions at once.



US director Jodie Foster (second left) poses yesterday with (from left) US actress Julia Roberts, US actor George Clooney and British actor Jack O'Connell during a photocall for the film 'Money Monster' at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP

Texting on the toilet

Unlike last year's "The Big Short," "Money Monster's" skewering of the financial industry is too superficial to draw any real blood, but it arrives at an unusually relevant historical juncture. With two very different populist voter uprisings lifting the presidential candidacies of Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump, one could see Lee as an appropriately fatuous proxy for the out-of-touch punditocracy that failed to predict them, too wrapped up in the inside-baseball shadow plays of finance and politics to realize how profoundly policies and market dips affect real people.

But Clooney's performance lifts the character above a mere straw man. Lee is obviously a clown, a thrice-divorced shuck-and-jive infotainer who seems as surprised as anyone to learn his advice was ever taken seriously. (He's introduced while texting on the toilet, and Foster gives a nod to his casual sexism when he guilelessly refers to a CCO as "the PR girl.") But in Clooney's hands, he's hardly a villain, and as broad as the performance gets, the actor smartly underplays its overall arc, as this master B.S. artist slowly realizes there are levels of doublespeak and skullduggery that even he can't abide. As the end-of-his-rope hijacker, O'Connell lays the blustery outer-borough shtick on a bit thick, while Roberts holds the screen well despite being confined to a control panel for most of the film. (Given how much of her dialogue is delivered via Lee's earpiece, hers is almost a voice-over role.) Yet the show is almost stolen entirely by Emily Meade as Kyle's pregnant girlfriend, brought in by police to attempt an intervention that takes a hilarious left turn. And perhaps that's appropriate: a well-played minor character walking away with a well-crafted, yet ultimately minor movie. — Reuters



US director Jodie Foster (fourth right) poses yesterday with (from left) US screenwriter Jamie Linden, US producer Daniel Dubiecki, British actor Jack O'Connell, British actor Dominic West, Irish actress Caitriona Balfe, US actor George Clooney, US actress Julia Roberts, US producer Lara Alameddine and US producer Grant Heslov during a photocall for the film 'Money Monster' at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.— AFP



Pakistani classical dancer Suhaee Abro performing at an event in Karachi. — AFP photos



Pakistani classical dancer Sheema Kirmani (right) instructs students in a studio at her home in Karachi.



Pakistani classical dancer Sheema Kirmani (center) instructs students in a studio at her home in Karachi.

Art not sex, Pakistan's dancers take a stand

With her arms stretched out and her hands elegantly curved, the young dancer stamps her feet with aplomb, defying prejudice. Her art is reviled by many in religiously conservative Pakistan, where it is often linked with prostitution. "We constantly have to explain to people that dance is an art form, it's not just about what happens in the red light areas, not just about entertaining men and sexuality," says Suhaee Abro. Graceful and poised in her richly coloured sari, she practices the odissi form of dance, in which movements of the face and hands are perfectly timed.

Dance is deeply embedded in Pakistani culture, in marriages, folk festivals and films—the complex choreography similar to that found in Bollywood. But it is also deeply frowned upon in the Muslim-majority country for women to be seen dancing outside of a family setting, and worse still to perform for money. "Unfortunately it is associated with the 'dancing girls of Lahore'," says Rahat Kazmi from the National Academy for Performing Arts—a reference to prostitutes swaying awkwardly in the red light district of Pakistan's cultural capital.

Threat of the Taliban mindset

Historically, classical dance in the subcontinent was the domain of tawaifs, courtesans of the Mughal Empire, which ruled India for hundreds of years until the advent of British rule in the 19th century. Like the geishas of Japan, they were known as connoisseurs of the fine arts before their status deteriorated, especially under British rule, to mere prostitutes. Today, prostitutes sometimes use dancing as a cover to carry out their illegal trade. It is therefore necessary "to create this bifurcation and say that no, this is art also", according to Kazmi.

"I am a practicing Muslim and a dancer, and I don't see why this should clash. My heart does not feel anything wrong," says anthropologist and professional dancer Feriyal Aslam, who practices Bharatanatyam, a form from southern India. "But my mum herself feels it is wrong, She thinks 'what will I say to God one day, that I did not tell my daughter to do the right thing'," explains the 40-year-old, who has also written a thesis on the subject. Dance was banned in 1981 as part of an Islamisation drive led by military ruler Zia-ul-Haq.

His directive specifically targeted dancers wearing ankle bells, an essential accessory of the main classical forms which the regime associated with obscenity and nudity. The directive exists to this day but its application has eased, though new threats have emerged. "Now the bureaucratic hassle is not so strong, but the Taliban mindset had gotten into the mind of the people," says dancer Sheema Kirmani. Anyone in the audience "who feels that he might get to heaven by killing you can just walk up to the stage and do so," she says.

'Dance is dance'

What's more, dance enjoys no institutional support, with dancers often forced by economy to work second jobs, and both the private and public sectors reluctant to be associated with the disreputable art. That reluctance is amplified by Pakistani classical dance's shared lineage with India. Pakistan has been desperate to distinguish itself from its neighbor and arch-rival since the partition of the subcontinent in 1947. But odissi and bharatanatyam are historically linked to Hinduism, and many Pakistani dancers complete their training in India due to the lack of facilities back home.

"(By) creating an identity which had nothing to do with our Indian past, we gave up on dance, music, theatre," says Kirmani, known as a "guru" in her own right. "But what identity can Pakistan create in just a few years, if it denigrates all common past?" she added. "There is no Hindu or Muslim dance, dance is dance," adds Suhaee Abro, a former student of Kirmani. One form that has gained a sort of official recognition is kathak, with its dazzling and noisy footwork akin to flamenco, and dancers whirling like dervishes.

This indulgence derives from the fact that it was practiced in the Muslim court of the Mughals. To rehabilitate dance's image, "people need to be exposed to good proper classical dance", says Adnan Jhangir, a rare example of a male kathak dancer, whose own parents took seven years to accept his passion and see him perform. "I do all I can to create an audience for dance-by offering something different from the vulgar movements they see on television," he says, lamenting the ubiquity of suggestive dance moves that have been popularised by Bollywood. Feriyal Aslam remains optimistic for the new generation, pointing out that these challenges are also an opportunity for innovation as dancers adapt traditional forms to the modern, local context. "It is unique and exciting as a dance scholar to see what Pakistani classical dancers are able to do," she says. — AFP



In this file photo Lena Dunham arrives at the 32nd Annual Paleyfest: 'Girls' held at The Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. — AP

Dunham mourns 'Girls' guest star's death

Lena Dunham is mourning the death of actor Nick Lashaway, who appeared in an episode of Dunham's, "Girls." The MetroWest Daily News in Massachusetts reports the 28-year-old Lashaway was killed in a car accident in Framingham on Sunday evening. In an Instagram post Wednesday that features a shot of Dunham and Lashaway from a season two episode of the HBO comedy, Dunham calls Lashaway "a talented, funny and kind person" and says

she'll remember "his playful smile" and "easy instincts." Aside from "Girls," Lashaway starred as a young Fox Mulder in a 1998 episode of "The X-Files." He also had small roles in films including Steve Carell's "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" and "The Last Song," which co-starred Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth. — AP



A street in Singapore's Chinatown is covered with a haze. — AP photos



Traditional Chinese calligraphy brushes are hung in a shop in Chinatown, a major tourist attraction in Singapore.

Singapore: Colonial heritage, cool modern architecture, food

At 51, Singapore is shrugging off all symptoms of a midlife crisis and embracing travelers with more and better things to see, taste and experience than ever before. The tiny city-state with a living standard the envy of many nations recently celebrated 50 years of independence since being thrown out of the Malaysian federation. Back then there was no telling what the future held; the nation's founder Lee Kuan Yew reportedly cried as he announced the split. But Singapore has emerged as one of Asia's most prosperous, multicultural and stable countries. It's also famously clean, with strict laws against littering.

Travelers have long used Singapore as a stopover en route to more exotic Asian destinations. But there's enough here for a longer stay. Attractions can be split into neat categories: colonial heritage, contemporary attractions, ethnic neighborhoods, food and shopping. Coupled with stunningly efficient transportation, it's easy to plan an itinerary lasting several days.

I started my visit with a walk exploring Singapore's British colonial past along the city's quays. Historic buildings here include the Gothic St Andrew's Cathedral, Victoria Theatre and the Empress Place Building, which houses the intriguing Asian Civilizations Museum. The famous Raffles Hotel is a colonial gem that has hosted the likes of Rudyard Kipling and Michael Jackson, while the Fullerton Hotel was the main post office until 1996. Off the Fullerton, I took time to admire the intricate Cavenagh and Anderson bridges, landing conveniently on Boat Quay, a buzzy waterfront of bars and restaurants. As I walked, I snacked on a mango wafer-ice cream sandwich, topping it off with a kopi, a traditional coffee drink made from beans roasted with butter and sugar, sometimes served with rich condensed milk.

Harbor and skyline

Finish off your heritage walk with some of Singapore's striking contemporary architecture: the Norman Foster-

designed Supreme Court, the Esplanade Theatres or the flower-shaped ArtScience Museum, reached via the quirky Helix Bridge, shaped like DNA's double-helix. The backdrop for all this is the Marina Bay Sands Hotel, one of the world's most photographed hotels. Designed to resemble three decks of cards, it's joined together at the 57th floor by a stunning SkyPark with the world's highest infinity pool, a lounge and bar. Anyone can visit the SkyPark Observation Deck for stunning 360-degree views of the harbor and skyline, but the pool is open only to hotel guests. Rooms are pricey - more than \$250 a night even in low season (summer-early fall).

Singapore is extremely clean. You're not allowed to bring gum into the country, and the US State Department's travel advisory warns about physical punishment for vandalism. (I unthinkingly popped a soda open on the subway, then quickly hid it in response to other passengers' disparaging stares.) But ethnic and traditional neighborhoods are a little less sterile and more colorful than downtown streets.

Chinatown is dotted with temples and buildings attesting to the rich heritage of Malay-born Chinese who immigrated here in the 19th century. You'll see fine art deco homes on streets like Ann Siang Road. At the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple, a tooth ostensibly belonging to the Buddha is encased in a 900-pound solid-gold stupa. Little India is a jolting feast for the senses: busy shops selling anything from cell-phones to spices, hole-in-the-wall restaurants with flavorful cuisine, mosques and colorful Hindu temples.



Raffles Hotel's iconic sikh doorman stands in front of the hotel in Singapore.



A man walks through the lobby of Raffles Hotel in Singapore.

Tomato sauce

Singapore's "hawker centers" are something of a foodie legend. You could spend days shuttling between the biggest ones, sampling from stalls of Singaporean, Indian, Chinese, Malay and Indonesian cuisine. Seating is usually outdoors on shared benches under a canopy. Walk up to a stall and look at the pictures. Then order, pay the cashier and wait for your food (sometimes it will be brought to your table). You can buy different plates from different vendors. Don't forget fresh juices (sugar cane is a must) and desserts (mango, please!). I ate satay every day. Also great: the ubiquitous, succulent stir-fried squid with onions, scallions and shallots in a spicy tomato sauce. Most dishes cost around US\$5. Food courts in malls charge a bit more for similar fare, but with air conditioning.

Speaking of malls, Orchard Boulevard is lined with luxury shopping centers, worth a visit for people-watching if not for browsing. Istana, the presidential palace, is at Orchard Road's southern end, while the Botanical Garden is at its northern tip. I skipped the Botanical Garden in favor of Singapore's hippest attraction, Gardens by the Bay. Adjacent to Marina Bay Sands, the park is dotted with "Supertrees" - structures as tall as 15-story buildings that function as vertical gardens, loaded with exotic plants. A spectacular sound and light show plays here twice every evening, creating a sci-fi forest.



Fireworks are released from the Buddha tooth Relic Temple & Museum in Singapore, on the eve of Vesak Day.

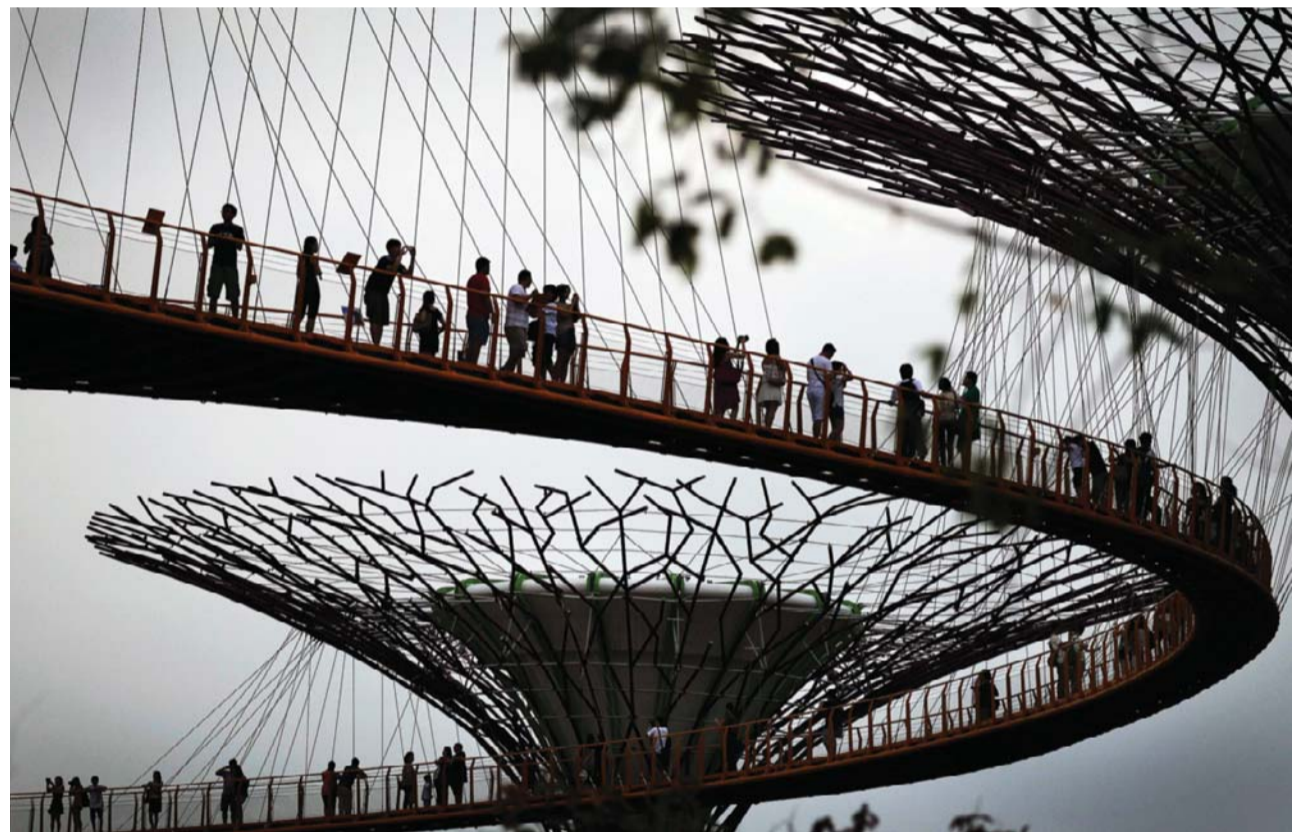


Supertrees light up the financial skyline from the newly open Gardens By The Bay during a light and sound show in Singapore.



Inuka, the first polar bear born in the tropics, swims in his new enclosure at the Singapore Zoo.

At the Singapore Zoo, most animals live outdoors, cage-free, from penguins and crocodiles to white tigers and polar bears. A combined ticket to the zoo and nearby night safari by tram will save you some cash. Safaris sell out, so book ahead. All in all, the mix of cultures, food, colonial heritage and modern - even futuristic - infrastructure and amenities makes the country an ideal destination. Just be sure to leave your bubblegum home. — AP



Silhouettes of people line the sky as they stand on a skyway suspension bridge through a Supertree grove at the Gardens by the Bay in Singapore.



A man is silhouetted as he walks along the Helix Bridge which links the financial district of Singapore to the Marina Bay Sands, a popular tourist spot with shopping malls, eateries, a hotel, and casinos in Singapore.



Visitors riding Segway electric vehicles tour the Marina Bay Sands waterfront in Singapore.



24

Friday Times

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016

Kids

Color me!



Machu Picchu

Machu Picchu or Machu Pikchu; mountain or prominence with a broad base which ends in sharp peaks,[1] "old peak", pronunciation is a 15th-century Inca site located 2,430 meters (7,970 ft) above sea level. It is located in the Cusco Region, Urubamba Province, Machupicchu District in Peru.

It is situated on a mountain ridge above the Sacred Valley which is 80 kilometers (50 mi) northwest of Cuzco and through which the Urubamba River flows. Most archaeologists believe that Machu Picchu was built as an estate for the Inca emperor Pachacuti (1438-1472). Often mistakenly referred to as the "Lost City of the Incas" (a title more accurately applied to Vilcabamba), it is the most familiar icon of Inca civilization.

The Incas built the estate around 1450, but abandoned it a century later at the time of the Spanish Conquest. It is possible that most of its inhabitants died from smallpox introduced by travelers before the Spanish conquistadors arrived in the area. The conquistadors had notes of a

place called Piccho, although there is no record of the Spanish having visited the remote city. The types of sacred rocks defaced by the conquistadors in other locations are untouched at Machu Picchu. Although known locally, it was not known to the Spanish during the colonial period and remained unknown to the outside world before being brought to international attention in 1911 by the American historian Hiram Bingham. Most of the outlying buildings have been reconstructed in order to give tourists a better idea of what the structures originally looked like. By 1976, 30% of Machu Picchu had been restored; restoration continues today.

Machu Picchu was declared a Peruvian Historical Sanctuary in 1981 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983. In 2007, Machu Picchu was voted one of the New Seven Wonders of the World in a worldwide Internet poll.

Machu Picchu was built in the classical Inca style, with polished dry-stone walls. Its three primary structures are the Inti Watana, the Temple of the Sun, and the Room of the Three Windows.



DID YOU KNOW..?

- The fastest bird is the peregrine falcon. It can fly at a speed of 168-217 miles per hour.
- Hans Langseth had the longest beard at a record length of 17 1/2 feet long! When he died, his beard was given to the Smithsonian Institute.
- The deadliest disease was the pneumonic form of the Black Death of 1347-1351. It had death rate of 100%.
- The largest egg laid by a living bird is that of the North African Ostrich. It is 6 to 8 inches in length and 4 to 6 inches in diameter. The smallest is that of the hummingbird. It is less than 0.39 inches in diameter.
- The hottest continent on earth is Africa, where a record high of 136.4 degrees F was once recorded.
- Antarctica is the coldest continent on earth, where a temperature of 126.9 degrees F below zero was once recorded. Chicago is home to three of the five tallest buildings in the world the Sears Tower, Standard Oil Building, and John Hancock Center.
- The hottest place on earth is in Dallol, Ethiopia, which is a sizzling 94 degrees in the shade on a typical day!
- Angel Falls in Venezuela is 20 times taller than Niagara Falls.
- The blue whale is the largest animal that ever lived (it could reach 100 feet long and weight up to 150 tons!)
- Wilt Chamberlain scored 100 points in a basketball game in 1962, when he played for the Philadelphia Warriors.

SUDOKU

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SOLUTION

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4	5	9	2	6	1	8	3	7

FUN WITH SCIENCE: RAW OR COOKED?

What You Need:

- One cooked egg
- One raw egg

Instructions:

1. Spin each egg in turn on a plate. The egg that continues to spin for a longer time is the cooked one.
2. Now spin the eggs again, then quickly stop both of them. Then let go of both eggs. You will see that the cooked egg stays still but the raw one starts spinning again.

Why?

The contents of the egg have more inertia when they are raw, because they are in the form of a liquid. This inertia slows down the raw egg and that is why it stopped spinning before the cooked egg. In step 2, the liquid in the raw egg was still moving when you stopped both eggs, so that movement made the raw egg begin to spin again.





KIDS RECIPES



What You Need:

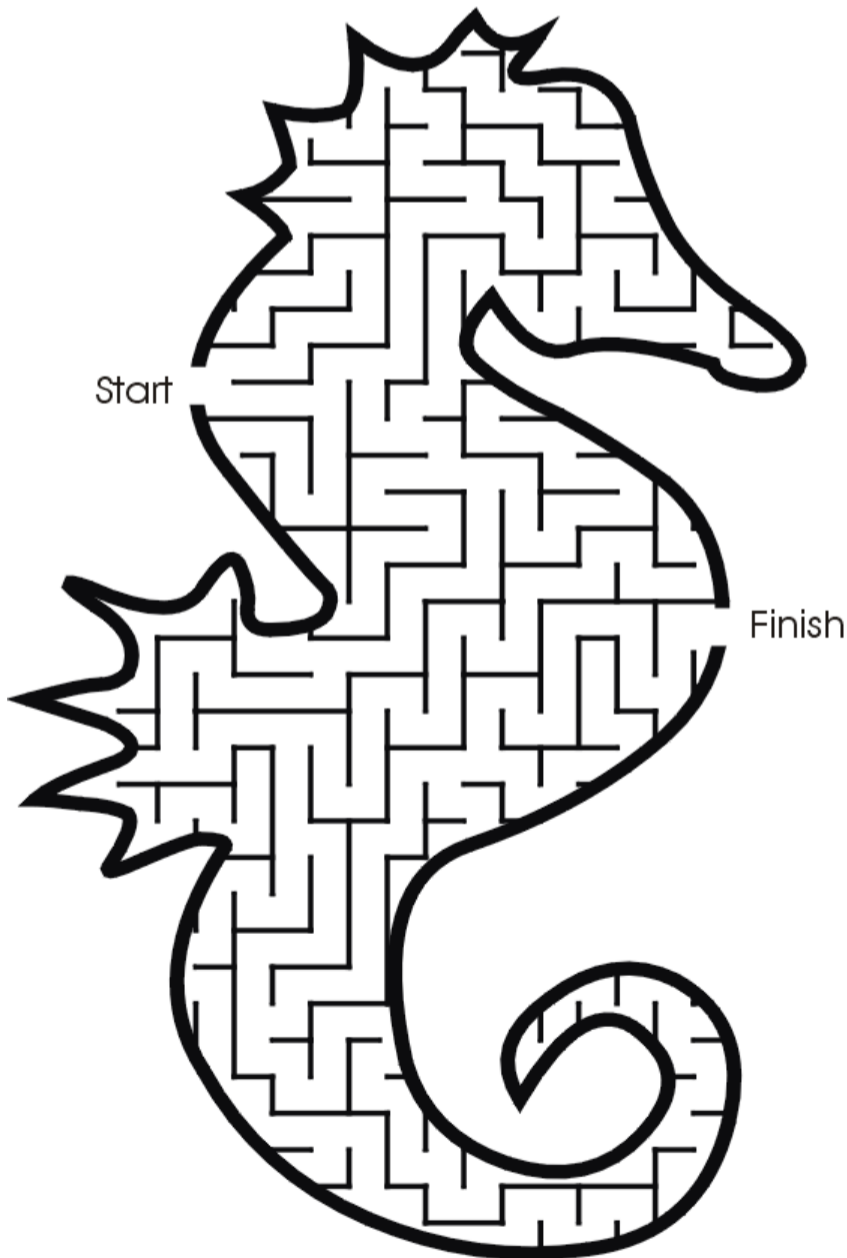
- Bananas
- Apples
- Grapes
- Any additional fruit you like
- BBQ skewers

Fruit Kebabs

Instructions:

1. Peel and chop your fruit into chunky bite size sections. Leave the grapes whole.
2. Skewer your fruit, alternating as you go along. For example, first use banana, grape in the middle, chunk of apple, another grape etc.
3. They are ready to serve when you are done, or you can place these in the freezer for an extra cool dessert!

Spot the differences



Pop Quiz!



- * From which country does pitta bread originate?
- * Which cheese is traditionally used for pizzas?
- * Which French town is known for its mustard?
- * What is the Hungarian word for pepper?
- * Which nut is used in a marzipan?
- * What is the name of the gas that helps the bread rise?
- * What is the chemical formula for table salt?

- ANSWERS**
- * NaCl
 - * Carbon dioxide
 - * Almonds
 - * Paprika
 - * Dijon
 - * Mozzarella
 - * Greece

WORD SEARCH

Bees

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The words may be hidden in any direction.

```

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

- | | | |
|----------|--------|---------|
| BEESWAX | HIVE | POLLEN |
| BUZZ | HONEY | QUEEN |
| COLONIES | INSECT | STING |
| FEMALES | MALES | SWARM |
| FLOWERS | NECTAR | WINGS |
| FLYING | NEST | WORKERS |





Whether or not you fast for *Ramadan*, this soup hits the spot



By Katie Workman

Truth: What I knew about Ramadan and the foods that are eaten to break the fast previously could have fit in a grain of millet. But it's never too late to learn, and nothing makes a culture more accessible than delving into its food.

One of the foods commonly eaten to break the fast is chorba, which means soup in Arabic. And like soups, chorbas can be made in infinite ways, though most often chorba is associated with a hearty Moroccan soup made from vegetables and chickpeas, usually with diced lamb and some sort of pasta or grain.

Chorba is made all over the Middle East, Europe, Northern Africa and other regions. The vegetables vary, the spices vary, the meat varies. It's one of those many dishes that has crossed many borders and morphed along with way.

I decided to use lamb, the classic meat for this soup/stew, and millet as the grain, which holds up nicely in soups and stews, retaining its texture and shape. Harissa is used in cooking and as a condiment by Moroccans, as well as other cultures, and it's a wonderfully spiced chili paste that adds heat and complexity to all kinds of dishes. So while I don't know a lot about Ramadan, I know more than I did a week ago. I also know that my family is not going to be sorry to see this soup appear on the table again, any time of year.

LAMB CHORBA

Ingredients

Start to finish: 45 minutes

Servings: 6

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 pound boneless lamb shoulder, trimmed and cut into 3/4-inch pieces

1 large yellow onion, chopped

2 stalks celery, chopped

2 medium carrots, chopped

1 teaspoon ground cumin

1 teaspoon ground coriander

28-ounce can crushed tomatoes, preferably fire-roasted

1 quart low-sodium chicken broth or stock

1 tablespoon harissa

1/2 teaspoon saffron threads

Two 15 1/2-ounce cans chickpeas, drained and rinsed

1/2 cup uncooked millet

2 tablespoons lemon juice

1/4 cup chopped parsley

Salt and ground black pepper

Preparation

In a large pot over medium-high, heat the oil. Add the lamb, onion, celery and carrots, then cook, stirring occasionally, until the lamb has lost most of its pinkness on the outside and the vegetables are starting to soften, about 10 minutes.

Add the cumin and coriander, then stir until you can smell the spices. Add the tomatoes, broth, harissa, saffron and chickpeas, then bring to a simmer.

Add the millet and return to a simmer. Simmer for 20 to 25 minutes, or until the meat and millet are cooked and tender. Stir in the lemon juice and parsley, then cook for another 2 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Also note that if you can't find harissa, substitute sun-dried tomato pesto with a splash of hot sauce to approximate it.

Nutrition information per serving: 500 calories; 210 calories from fat (42 percent of total calories); 24 g fat (8 g saturated; 1 g trans fats); 50 mg cholesterol; 950 mg sodium; 48 g carbohydrate; 12 g fiber; 9 g sugar; 26 g protein.



Doing the impossible: Make a **vegan Caesar** worth celebrating

By Melissa D'arabian

I've heard that many restaurant chefs despise making Caesar salads, but I don't understand why. Who wouldn't love making lemony-cheesy-black-pepper-salad dreams come true? So my resourceful little self has always had a solid Caesar salad game going at home. My original recipe was rooted in the classic for years: raw egg yolk, umami-laden anchovies, nutty Parmesan cheese, tart lemon juice. I then top that basic Caesar salad with almost any protein to turn it into a truly satisfying meal. Steak, shrimp or chicken work well, but so do turkey meatballs, roasted pork tenderloin and - my secret weapon - just about every kind of canned fish available.

Over time, I've adapted and adjusted my beloved Caesar salad recipe to account for changes in my family. When I was pregnant, I avoided raw eggs. My daughter's gluten intolerance kicked the sourdough croutons to the curb. And my vegetarian niece and nephew had me searching for a worthy umami substitute for anchovies. Recently, I faced my greatest challenge: a completely vegan Caesar salad for some dinner guests. No Parmesan cheese? I thought it would be impossible. But you guys, here is the impossible: a totally tasty vegan Caesar salad.

This salad gets its rich umami flavor from a cool combination of miso paste and nutritional yeast (not to be confused with brewer's yeast). The croutons are back in for this recipe, but I just leave them out for my gluten-free daughter. To turn this salad into a fully vegan meal, top with nuts, seeds, lentils, white beans or tofu. And a note to my carnivore friends: Don't let the word vegan scare you off this recipe. It's also great topped with a few ounces of meat.

VEGAN CAESAR SALAD

Ingredients

Start to finish: 20 minutes
 Servings: 6
 1/3 cup raw unsalted cashews
 Boiling water
 1/4 cup toasted walnuts
 1/4 cup nutritional yeast flakes
 1/4 teaspoon granulated garlic
 1/4 cup lemon juice
 2 to 4 cloves garlic, minced
 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
 1/4 cup olive oil
 2 tablespoons white miso paste
 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
 3 tablespoons cool water
 3 hearts romaine lettuce, roughly chopped
 2 cups bread cubes, brushed with olive oil and toasted

Preparation

In a small bowl, combine the cashews and enough boiling water to cover them. Let sit for several minutes. Meanwhile, in a blender, combine the walnuts, nutritional yeast and granulated garlic. Pulse until the mixture has the texture of sand. Pour into a small bowl and set aside.

Drain the cashews and transfer them to the blender. Add the lemon juice, fresh garlic, mustard, olive oil, miso, pepper and cool water. Blend until the mixture is mostly smooth. Taste and adjust seasonings. In a large bowl, toss the lettuce with the dressing, then top with the bread cubes and the ground walnut mixture. - AP

Nutrition information per serving: 220 calories; 140 calories from fat (64 percent of total calories); 16 g fat (2 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 330 mg sodium; 16 g carbohydrate; 4 g fiber; 3 g sugar; 7 g protein.



Friday Times Travel



As summer and winter get into full swing in their respective hemispheres, wise travellers seek to make the most of the weather in July. Take to the twinkling, snow-capped peaks of Queenstown with your skis; dip a toe in the cool, crystalline waters of Austria's lakes; or celebrate all things America on the golden coast of California with these tips from the travel experts.

Make a splash in Austria's lakes

It must be one of life's greatest pleasures - jumping into deliciously clear, cool water on a hot summer's day. Austria is one of the most scenic places in the world to do just that, with any number of its natural lakes perfect for a spot of outdoor swimming. In most cases, the waters have warmed up considerably by July, to the less-than-bracing mid-twenties °C.

Head to Carinthia's Millstätter See for open water swimming, divebombing from lakeside jetties or just a relaxed paddle. As it'll be high season, the public bathing foreshore is likely to be crowded with holidaymakers, but you can hire a boat to take you to the more peaceful opposite shore. The rest of the country is dotted with equally beautiful lakes to try out - consider Lake Wolfgang in Salzkammergut for a wide selection of watersports and Lake Mondsee in Upper Austria for a particularly sensational mountain scenery backdrop.



Embrace winter in **Queenstown, New Zealand**

Nestled by the inky blue waters of Lake Wakatipu under the snow-capped peaks of the Remarkables, New Zealand's Queenstown is spectacular every day of the year - but really lights up in winter. From late June to early July, Queenstown is abuzz with 45,000 people celebrating the ski season and the Queenstown Winter Festival (winterfestival.co.nz). This 10-day festival shows off the best of Queenstown's community with music, comedy and activities for families. At night, as well as the spectacular starry skies, there are fireworks and street parties.

The closest ski fields are a short drive or transit bus ride away in the Remarkables and Coronet Peak. If you're staying longer you can also head over to Cardrona Alpine Resort and Treble Cone near Wanaka for more terrain to carve up, unless that Winter Festival hangover keeps you in town enjoying the local culture instead.



Climb **Mongolia's highest peak**

Climbing Khuiten Peak may just be the most remote mountaineering experience in the world. Its peak sits on the trilateral border of Mongolia, Russia and China, three countries known for their inaccessible backwoods.

July offers warm, dry weather and is a great time to summit Khuiten. The ascent is not difficult by mountaineering standards and can be achieved by most hikers who have a reasonable level of fitness. The surrounding wilderness features glorious flowering fields and vast open tundra inhabited only by nomads - everything you would expect of the plains of Mongolia.

If you're looking for culture, opt instead for Naadam national festival on the eastern side of the country. From 11-13 July every year, locals gather to compete in archery, wrestling and horse riding events. Once a religious ceremony, Naadam now officially commemorates Mongolia's 1921 revolution, when it declared itself a free country.

Celebrate fourth of July by the **beach, California**

The entire USA celebrates America's independence on 4 July and if you want to join in the fun and get some beach action at the same time, there's nowhere better than California's coast. Every seaside town and city in the state offers great weather and some kind of festivity for the nation's birthday party, with most rounding off the day with fireworks.

San Diego has a spectacular pyrotechnic display in its bay that can be viewed from several vantage points in the city. Farther north, most of Los Angeles' famous beaches have their own fireworks, along with plenty of activities for kids during the day and bars to continue the celebrations into the night for the grown-ups. If you want to get away from the crowds completely, California has hundreds of quiet stretches of sand where you can enjoy a picnic, the setting sun providing the only firework you'll need.



Explore Japan's blossoming north, Hokkaido?



Though best known for its ski slopes, Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido comes to life under the July sun with festivals, flowers, and a chance to explore some of the country's most spectacular wilderness. Compact and friendly capital Sapporo makes a great base, as the Summer Festival (20 July to 17 August) transforms the city's central park into an enormous beer garden (until 15 August) for around 13,000 revelers.

Elsewhere, blossoming flowers speckle the Hokkaido countryside with color

- the bright fields of lavender and poppies in Furano are so admired that a special train station opens to accommodate the influx of visitors. Off the tourist trail, national parks that are inaccessible in the colder months, such as Shiretoko and Daisetsuzan, become prime hiking destinations as the snow melts. And getting to Hokkaido just got easier - the island is now connected to Tokyo via a new bullet train service that started operating in March.



Pack your wellies for Great Britain's summer festivals

The British summer brims with music festivals, and July is their fun-packed peak. Perthshire's T in the Park (8-10 July, tinthepark.com) is the UK's second-biggest (after Glastonbury), and features the Stone Roses and Calvin Harris. Suffolk's Latitude (14-17 July, latitudefestival.com) has New Order and the National, as well as comedy and theatre. Indeed, festivals don't just offer the opportunity to see pop's biggest names. Llangollen's International Musical Eisteddfod (5-10 July, international-eisteddfod.co.uk) celebrates the music and culture of Wales and

beyond, and Womad (28-31 July, womad.co.uk) features everything from Senegalese funk to Kurdish love songs.

If you fancy a wider trip, there are all manner of options: T in the Park sits at the edge of Scotland's glorious Highlands, Latitude is a short hop from the beaches of Suffolk, Llangollen is right by the headspinning Pontcysyllte aqueduct, and Womad sits in England's historic heart, with the Cotswolds to the north and Stonehenge to the south.

— www.lonelyplanets.com

WORD SEARCH

Pet Dog

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 26 letters spell a secret message.

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

- BARK
- BATH
- BONE
- BOWLS
- CANINE
- CHASE
- CHEW TOY
- COLLAR
- COMPANION
- FAITHFUL
- FEED
- FETCH
- FOOD
- FRIEND
- GROOM
- GROWL
- GUARD
- HAIR
- HARNESS
- HOUSE
- ID TAG
- JUMP
- KENNEL
- LEASH
- LICK
- LOYAL
- OWNER
- PANT
- PAWS
- PLAY
- PUPPY
- ROLL OVER
- SHAMPOO
- SLEEP
- TRAIN
- TREATS
- TRIM NAILS
- WAG TAIL
- WALK
- WATER

Yesterday's Solution

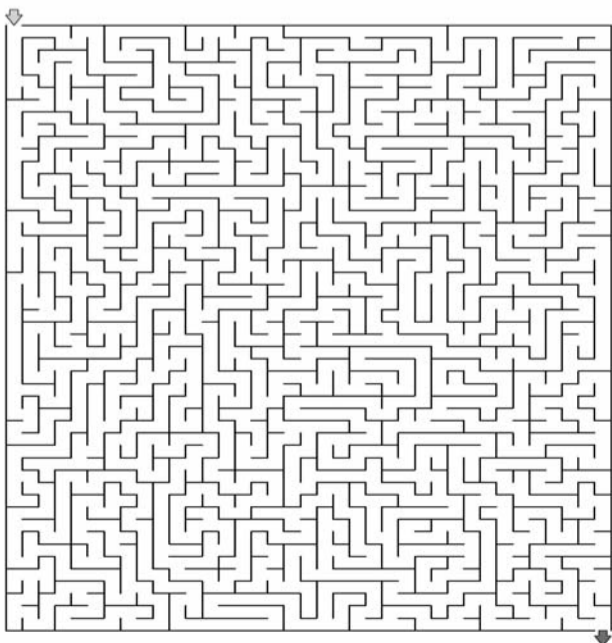
Old West 1

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

- BANKER
- BARKEEP
- BILLY THE KID
- BOOT HILL
- BRAND
- CAMPFIRE
- CATTLE DRIVE
- CHAPARRAL
- COAL
- CORRAL
- COWBOY
- DOC HOLLIDAY
- FARRIER
- FORT
- FURS
- GOLD MINE
- GOLD PANNING
- GRAZE
- HIREGUN
- HOGS
- HOMESTEAD
- HOTEL
- JUDGE
- LARIAT
- LAWMAN
- LIVESTOCK
- MINER
- OUTLAW GANG
- PISTOL
- PLOW HORSE
- POSSE
- RAILROAD
- RANCH
- RATTLESLAKE
- RIFLE
- SADDLE
- SALOON
- SHERIFF
- SHOPKEEPER
- SITTING BULL
- STAGECOACH
- TELEGRAPH
- TRACKER
- TRAIL
- TRAIN
- UNDERTAKER
- WATER TANK
- WELL

The hidden message is: A GOOD HORSE MAKES SHORT MILES

CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1252

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

ACROSS

1. Ratio of the adjacent side to the hypotenuse.
4. The art of making and decorating pottery.
12. A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.
15. Hormone secreted by the posterior pituitary gland (trade name Pitressin) and also by nerve endings in the hypothalamus.
16. Combined with or having undergone a chemical reaction with oxygen.
17. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
18. Make believe.
20. The twelfth month of the civil year.
22. Intentional deception resulting in injury to another person.
24. A deciduous tree of the family Ulmaceae that grows in the southeastern United States.
26. (of tempo) Slow adv.
27. The capital of Morocco.
28. Muslims collectively and their civilization.
31. A relative position or degree of value in a graded group.
33. Minute floating marine tunicate having a transparent body with an opening at each end.
36. Expandable metal or wooden wedge used by printers to lock up a form within a chase.
39. An extension at the end and at right angles to the main building.
42. A syndrome that occurs in many women from 2 to 14 days before the onset of menstruation.
43. South African term for 'boss'.
45. Used as a Hindi courtesy title.
48. Date used in reckoning dates before the supposed year Christ was born.
49. English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-1349).
51. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
53. Large elliptical brightly colored deep-sea fish of Atlantic and Pacific and Mediterranean.
55. A colorless odorless inert gaseous element occurring in the earth's atmosphere in trace amounts.
56. A depression in an otherwise level surface.
58. Elongate very slender water scorpions.
62. Being ten more than one hundred ninety.
63. A public promotion of some product or service.
64. An instance of driving away or warding off.
66. Providing enjoyment.
71. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
72. Type genus of the Desmodontidae.
75. A negative.
76. A brief (and hurriedly handwritten) note.
77. A drug (trade name Atabrine) used to treat certain worm infestations and once used to treat malaria.
78. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
79. Used of a single unit or thing.
80. A great raja.
81. The part of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls involuntary actions of the smooth muscles and heart and glands.

DOWN

1. (British slang) Cafe.
2. A European river.
3. One of the two main branches of orthodox Islam.
4. Express strong disapproval of.
5. (combining form) Former.
6. A state in New England.
7. African antelopes.
8. A unit of length equal to one thousandth of an inch.
9. Drug (trade name Isuprel) used to treat bronchial asthma and to stimulate the heart.
10. The lowermost portion of a structure partly or wholly below ground level.
11. A state in north central United States.
12. Trade name for a drug containing an antihistamine and a decongestant.
13. The sixth month of the civil year.
14. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
19. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
21. Squash bugs.
23. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
25. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
29. The comfort you feel when consoled in times of disappointment.
30. Of a pale purple color.
32. The part of the small intestine between the jejunum and the cecum.
34. Of or relating to or near the part of the back between the ribs and the hipbones.
35. An archaic name for Easter or Passover.
37. The cry made by sheep.
38. An informal term for a father.
40. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
41. Designer drug designed to have the effects of amphetamines (it floods the brain with serotonin) but to avoid the drug laws.
44. (Hinduism) An ascetic holy man.
46. Top part of an apron.
47. A large number or amount.
50. Dam to make a millpond to provide power for a water mill.
52. A department of Greece in the central Peloponnese.
54. A heavy precious metallic element.
57. The basic unit of money in Spain.
59. The state that precedes vomiting.
60. (often followed by `of) A large number or amount or extent.
61. (Judaism) A Jewish festival (traditionally 8 days) celebrating the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt.
65. Very dark black.
67. Tough Asiatic grass whose culms are used for ropes and baskets.
68. A ruler of the Inca Empire (or a member of his family).
69. Characteristic of false pride.
70. An unfledged or nestling hawk.
73. A master's degree in business.
74. Canadian hockey player (born 1948).

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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



03:25 Ghoulies II
04:55 The Magnificent Seven Ride!
06:35 Hoosiers
08:30 Geronimo: An American Legend
10:25 Captain Jack
12:05 Race For The Yankee Zephyr
13:55 Hoosiers
15:50 The Indian Fighter
17:20 The Kentuckian
19:05 Pieces Of Dreams
20:45 Big Screen
21:00 Desperately Seeking Susan
22:45 Dead Men Can't Dance
00:25 Intacto
02:15 Kuffs



03:25 Animal Cops South Africa
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
06:36 Call Of The Wildman
07:00 Call Of The Wildman
07:25 Too Cute!
08:15 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Too Cute!
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
13:45 Gator Boys
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Animal Cops South Africa
17:25 River Monsters
18:20 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Shamwari: A Wild Life
20:40 Shamwari: A Wild Life
21:05 Treehouse Masters
22:00 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 River Monsters
00:45 Killer Sharks: The Attacks Of Black...
01:40 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
02:35 Tanked



03:20 Orphan Black
04:10 Doctors
04:40 Eastenders
05:10 Doctor Who
06:00 Holby City
06:55 Doctors
07:25 Doctors
07:55 Eastenders
08:30 Dickensian
09:15 Death In Paradise
10:10 Stella
11:00 Stella
11:45 Stella
12:35 Casualty
13:30 Holby City
14:30 Doctors
15:00 Eastenders
15:30 New Tricks
16:25 New Tricks
17:20 New Tricks
18:15 Doctors
18:45 Doctors
19:20 Father Brown
20:05 Happy Valley
21:00 Sherlock: The Abominable Bride
22:30 Stella
23:20 Undercover
00:20 Doctors
00:50 Doctors
01:20 Father Brown
02:05 Sherlock: The Abominable Bride



03:00 South Park
03:25 Tattoo Disasters
03:50 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol

04:40 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
05:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
06:20 Key And Peele
06:50 Key And Peele
07:15 Key And Peele
07:40 Key And Peele
08:05 Key And Peele
08:30 Key And Peele
08:55 Key And Peele
09:20 Key And Peele
09:45 Key And Peele
10:10 Key And Peele
10:35 Workaholics
11:00 Workaholics
11:25 Workaholics
11:50 Workaholics
12:15 Workaholics
12:40 Workaholics
13:05 Workaholics
13:30 Workaholics
13:55 Workaholics
14:20 Workaholics
14:45 Tosh.0
15:10 Tosh.0
15:35 Tosh.0
16:00 Tosh.0
16:30 Tosh.0
16:55 Tosh.0
17:25 Tosh.0
18:15 Tosh.0
18:40 Tosh.0
20:15 Lip Sync Battle
20:37 Lip Sync Battle
21:30 Inside Amy Schumer
22:00 South Park
22:30 Tattoo Disasters
23:00 Tattoo Disasters
23:30 Tattoo Disasters
00:00 John Mulaney: New In Town
00:50 Inside Amy Schumer
01:15 South Park
02:05 Inside Amy Schumer
02:30 South Park



03:00 The Jail: 60 Days In
04:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
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
12:00 Private Crimes
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 The First 48
22:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
23:00 Hatton Garden Heist: One Last Job
00:00 The Haunting Of...
01:00 My Crazy Ex
02:00 The First 48
03:40 Game Of Pawns
04:05 Storage Wars Canada
04:30 Property Wars
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:30 South Beach Classics
06:00 You Have Been Warned
06:50 The Pop Illusionist
07:40 Superhuman Science
08:05 Superhuman Science
08:30 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
09:20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive

10:10 Dive Wars Australia
11:00 Free Ride
11:50 For The Love Of Cars
12:40 Engine Addict With Jimmy De Ville
13:30 Misfit Garage
14:20 Diesel Brothers
15:10 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
16:00 Edge Of Alaska
16:50 Edge Of Alaska
17:40 Edge Of Alaska
18:30 Edge Of Alaska
19:20 Edge Of Alaska
20:10 Edge Of Alaska
21:00 Misfit Garage
21:50 Diesel Brothers
22:40 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
23:30 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
00:20 Kidnap And Rescue
01:10 Misfit Garage
02:00 Diesel Brothers
02:50 Street Outlaws: New Orleans



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
07:25 Doki
07:50 Bad Dog
08:40 You Have Been Warned
09:30 How It's Made
09:55 How It's Made
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bondi Vet

12:00 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 Troy
17:50 Superhuman Showdown
18:40 You Have Been Warned
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 How It's Made
20:45 How It's Made
21:10 Troy
22:00 Superhuman Showdown
22:50 Destroyed In Seconds
23:15 Destroyed In Seconds
23:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
00:30 Mythbusters
01:20 Troy
02:10 Superhuman Showdown



03:00 Discovery ID
09:00 Discovery ID
15:00 Discovery ID
21:00 Discovery ID
Discovery ID Xtra
03:00 Your Worst Nightmare
03:48 Evil Kin
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 Southern Fried Homicide
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 Murder Comes To Town
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 Swamp Murders
22:00 Evil Lives Here
22:50 A Checklist For Murder
23:40 Evil Stepmothers
00:30 Evil Kin
01:20 Evil Lives Here
02:10 A Checklist For Murder



03:05 How It's Made
03:29 Mythbusters
04:16 Secret Space Escapes
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
08:53 Kings Of Construction
09:38 Through The Wormhole
10:23 Secret Space Escapes
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 Invent It Rich
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 How It's Made
19:15 How It's Made
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 How It's Made
22:22 How It's Made
22:45 How The Universe Works
23:35 Mythbusters
00:20 Through The Wormhole
01:08 How It's Made

01:31 How It's Made
01:55 How The Universe Works
02:42 How It's Made



03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Lolirock
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Gravity Falls
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:40 Hank Zipzer
08:05 Shake It Up
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
11:50 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 Starstruck
18:55 Descendants Wicked World
19:00 Descendants Wicked World
19:05 Evermoor Chronicles
19:30 Liv And Maddie
19:55 Liv And Maddie
20:20 The Next Step
20:45 How To Build A Better Boy
22:15 Mouk
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta



03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopdidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopdidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopdidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopdidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Goldie & Bear
08:45 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



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FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016

12:15 Jungle Junction
 12:30 Special Agent Osó
 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 Gummi Bears
 22:20 Lilo And Stitch
 22:50 Zou
 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
 23:20 Calimero
 23:35 Zou
 23:50 Loopdidoo
 00:05 Art Attack
 00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
 00:45 Calimero
 01:00 Zou
 01:15 Loopdidoo
 01:30 Art Attack
 01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
 02:05 Calimero
 02:20 Zou
 02:30 Loopdidoo
 02:45 Art Attack



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



03:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
 04:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
 05:05 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
 06:00 Fashion Bloggers
 06:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 07:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 08:20 E! News



INTO THE WOODS ON OSN MOVIES HD

09:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 10:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 12:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 13:05 E! News
 14:05 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
 15:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
 16:00 Christina Milian Turned Up
 17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
 19:00 E! News
 20:00 WAGs
 21:00 WAGs
 22:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
 23:00 E! News
 00:00 Botched
 00:55 Botched
 01:50 Botched: Post Op
 02:20 E! News

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 Chopped
 22:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
 23:00 Iron Chef America
 00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
 01:00 Chopped
 02:00 Cutthroat Kitchen



03:25 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
 04:20 Raised By Wolves
 04:50 Raised By Wolves
 05:15 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
 06:10 Coach Trip
 06:35 When Ant & Dec Met The Prince
 08:00 Royal Stories
 08:25 Raised By Wolves
 08:55 Raised By Wolves
 09:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
 10:10 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
 11:05 When Ant & Dec Met The Prince
 12:30 Royal Stories
 12:55 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild
 13:25 Emmerdale
 13:50 Emmerdale
 14:20 Coronation Street
 14:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
 15:35 Royal Stories
 16:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
 16:30 Love And Marriage: A 20th Century Romance
 17:25 Home Fires
 18:20 Emmerdale
 18:45 Emmerdale
 19:10 Coronation Street
 19:35 Royal Stories
 20:05 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
 20:30 Love And Marriage: A 20th Century Romance
 21:25 Home Fires
 22:20 Coronation Street
 22:50 Emmerdale
 23:15 Emmerdale
 23:40 When Ant & Dec Met The Prince
 01:05 Royal Stories
 01:30 Catchphrase
 02:00 Catchphrase
 02:30 Emmerdale
 02:55 Emmerdale



03:05 Lucky Chow
 03:30 Places We Go
 03:55 Street Food Around The World
 04:20 My Dubai
 04:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
 05:10 Tales From The Bush Larder
 05:35 Tales From The Bush Larder
 06:00 Bondi Rescue
 06:25 Bondi Rescue

06:50 Cesar To The Rescue
 07:40 Chefs Run Wild
 08:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
 08:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
 08:55 Lucky Chow
 09:20 Places We Go
 09:45 Street Food Around The World
 10:10 My Dubai
 10:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
 11:00 Tales From The Bush Larder
 11:25 Tales From The Bush Larder
 11:50 Bondi Rescue
 12:15 Bondi Rescue
 12:40 Cesar To The Rescue
 13:35 Chefs Run Wild
 14:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
 14:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
 14:55 Lucky Chow
 15:25 Places We Go
 15:50 The Food Files
 16:20 My Dubai
 16:45 My Dubai
 17:15 Tales From The Bush Larder
 17:40 Tales From The Bush Larder
 18:10 Bondi Rescue
 18:35 Bondi Rescue
 19:05 Lucky Chow
 19:30 Places We Go
 20:00 The Food Files
 20:25 My Dubai
 20:50 My Dubai
 21:15 Tales From The Bush Larder
 21:40 Tales From The Bush Larder
 22:05 Bondi Rescue
 22:30 Bondi Rescue
 22:55 Cesar To The Rescue
 23:45 Chefs Run Wild
 00:10 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
 00:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
 01:00 My Dubai
 01:25 Home Strange Home
 02:15 Rustic Adventures Italy
 02:40 Rustic Adventures Italy



03:45 Urban Jungle
 04:40 Man And The Wild
 05:35 Game Of Lions
 06:30 Animals Gone Wild
 07:25 Urban Jungle
 08:20 Man And The Wild
 09:15 Kingdom Of The Oceans
 10:10 Incredible Insects
 11:05 I, Predator
 12:00 Megafish
 12:55 Amazonia's Giant Jaws
 13:50 Animals Gone Wild
 14:45 Urban Jungle
 15:40 Man And The Wild
 16:35 Kingdom Of The Oceans
 17:30 Strangest Bird Alive
 18:25 Deadly Game
 19:20 Urban Jungle
 20:10 Man And The Wild
 21:00 Kingdom Of The Oceans

21:50 Strangest Bird Alive
 22:40 Deadly Game
 23:30 Megafish
 00:20 Amazonia's Giant Jaws
 01:10 Animals Gone Wild
 02:00 Nordic Wild
 02:50 Zambezi



03:50 Supercar Megabuild
 04:45 Brain Games S3 Compilations
 05:40 Science Of Stupid
 06:05 Science Of Stupid
 06:35 I Wouldn't Go In There
 07:30 Street Genius
 07:55 Street Genius
 08:25 Sea Strikers
 09:20 Brain Games S3 Compilations
 10:15 Locked Up Abroad
 11:10 Desperate Hours
 11:35 Desperate Hours
 12:05 Strippers: Cars For Cash
 13:00 Alaska Fish Wars: Season On The Edge
 14:00 Street Genius
 14:30 Street Genius
 15:00 Access 360 World Heritage
 16:00 Locked Up Abroad
 17:00 Desperate Hours
 17:30 Desperate Hours
 18:00 Underworld, Inc.
 19:00 Mine Kings
 20:00 Locked Up Abroad
 20:50 Desperate Hours
 21:15 Desperate Hours
 21:40 Underworld, Inc.
 22:30 Mine Kings
 23:20 Science Of Stupid
 23:45 Science Of Stupid
 00:10 Locked Up Abroad
 01:00 Desperate Hours
 01:30 Desperate Hours
 02:00 The Witch Doctor Will See You Now



03:00 Odyssey
 04:00 Good Morning America
 06:00 The Fosters
 07:00 24
 08:00 Prison Break
 09:00 Minority Report
 10:00 Supernatural
 11:00 24
 12:00 Prison Break
 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 14:00 Live Good Morning America
 16:00 Blindspot
 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 18:00 Prison Break

19:00 Minority Report
 20:00 Shark Tank
 21:00 Grey's Anatomy
 22:00 Survivor: Kaoh Rong
 23:00 Sleepy Hollow
 00:00 Defiance
 01:00 Grey's Anatomy
 02:00 Survivor: Kaoh Rong



ACTION

00:00 Turkey Shoot
 02:00 The Prince
 04:00 Northmen: A Viking Saga
 06:00 I, Robot
 08:00 Destruction: Las Vegas
 09:30 47 Ronin
 11:45 Stranded
 13:30 X-Men: Days Of Future Past
 15:45 I, Robot
 17:45 47 Ronin
 20:00 Non-Stop
 22:00 The Terminator



COMEDY

04:00 Father Of The Bride Part II
 06:00 My Father The Hero
 08:00 Mr. Destiny
 10:00 Father Of The Bride Part II
 12:00 Cas & Dylan
 14:00 Spy Hard
 16:00 Mr. Destiny
 18:00 The Bounty Hunter
 20:00 The World's End
 22:00 Superbad
 00:00 Revenge For Jolly!
 02:00 The Bounty Hunter



FAMILY

03:00 High School Musical 3: Senior Year
 05:00 Home
 07:00 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement
 09:00 Tangled
 11:00 Underdog
 13:00 Finding Nemo
 15:00 Alexander And The Terrible... Very Bad Day
 17:00 Paranorman
 19:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean: Curse Of The Black Pearl
 21:45 Pirates Of The Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest
 00:15 Paranorman
 02:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean: Curse Of The Black Pearl



03:00 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I
 05:15 Still Alice
 07:00 The Book Of Life
 09:00 The Judge
 11:30 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I
 13:30 Tomorrowland
 15:45 Interstellar
 18:45 Into The Woods
 21:00 Miss You Already
 23:00 Poltergeist
 00:45 Welcome To The Punch
 02:30 Into The Woods



KIDS

03:30 Hook
 06:00 Pixies
 07:45 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
 09:45 Evolution Man
 11:30 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
 12:45 Hook
 15:15 Hatching
 16:45 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
 18:00 Evolution Man
 20:00 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of The Lost Gold
 22:00 Hatching
 23:30 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
 01:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
 02:30 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of The Lost Gold



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Make sure both your expectations and your abilities are realistic before diving into something you may not be able to get out of without a great deal of frustration. There is a collision of powerful energies spilling into your life now-in unpredictable ways. The decisions and actions of today will have long lasting effects. You may enjoy getting away from the stress of work by popping in a bookstore at the noon break. This is a good day to make changes that improve your feeling of well-being. If possible, be flexible in your routine this afternoon. Rest whenever possible. Friendships and involvement in group activities are in the forecast and will soon play a more important part in your life. Friends are among your true riches and bring deep satisfaction.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There is a chance to make a creative dream come true today. A new job or fresh cash flow is within your reach. A balance must be maintained between your need for self-expression and your duties to others. If you want to make changes, put your ideas in writing . . . You will be greatly pleased with the result. Let both your own feelings and the reaction of others guide you when seeking a balance. Responsibilities and outside commitments demand your attention this afternoon. Stay away from speculative ventures-you could be tempted to squander your resources. There is a little time after the workday is over to spend with friends and family-they want to share some special talents and good times with you.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You have a strong desire for beauty and harmony, stimulating your creativity and imagination, yet making you prone for deception. Caution should be exercised before entering into any type of transaction that could be taken on impulsively. The ability to interact with others and have a clear understanding is excellent today, whether you are in the workplace or on the home front. You may even consciously think that you wish you knew what you had done to feel this accomplished and be able to repeat the process. Obtaining and exchanging information takes on more emotional significance for you this afternoon. Neighbors or siblings come to your attention later. They convey trust in your point of view and may request your feedback.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may shine in your particular job or find that promotion or practical insights come with ease. You could represent or speak for your company or communicate about your skills. This is a great time to be with others and to work together. Others look to you for guidance. Your management and directional abilities are in high focus. This is not, however, a good time to make any concrete decisions about a change in a relationship or business deal. Others may find you especially witty and eccentric this afternoon. There are insights in regard to your living situation or life circumstances. Others value your unique qualities. Take some time this evening to relax and enjoy your loved ones in some fun activity. Someone has a new pet.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Lady luck may smile brightly on you at this time. There are opportunities for recognition today. You move quickly in order to secure a tidy sum while making or closing a deal. You will complete some important business before noon. Lunchtime may create some opportunities to do things differently; be prepared for a new menu. New schedules later today may need adjustment later but you are making a good start. If you are in charge of a new department or have new responsibilities, you don't have to prove a point overnight . . . Give yourself time to get to know your surroundings if you can. Doing just about anything with friends or relatives can bring a lot of fun this afternoon. You can take this opportunity to show others how much they mean to you.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may have some second thoughts about a goal you thought you wanted to achieve and this is a good time to do some rethinking. There is nothing wrong with changing some ideas or creating new goals. There are jewels of the universe to enjoy with only a little attention to detail. Think about where you might want to live or work and find ways to make those dreams real. Pick three things you can do this month to get things started in a positive direction toward that goal or goals and then next month you can pick three more things, etc. You have an increased positive influence with others and you can share in helping or working with your friends whenever help is needed. The planets and signs are working with you to overcome and succeed.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Some sort of temporary obstacle may appear today causing you to feel frustrated. The best reaction to this dilemma is non-action, for today. You have a way of turning most difficult situations into a positive one. The best way for this to happen now is with very little action on your part. Research takes a part in today's work and new studies open up new ideas and desires to become involved in an exchange of information. Being more involved with different individuals will give you a variety of new methods and ideas in which to keep your professional work running smoothly. It could be that you will lead, speak or organize a lecture or a meeting and help others. A young person gains important information from you today.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You are apt to spend a great deal of time communicating with people apart from work. Your financial affairs may have to be a bit secretive for now. Perhaps you know about a risk that has a firm base. There are favorable conditions for these financial activities. You are predisposed to cozy, instructive conversations with friends and loved ones. You will have a heightened desire to be out in nature, perhaps photographing those spring flowers. If you submit some of your pictures, you may be very pleased at the outcome. You can be particularly witty and make stimulating company this evening. You should be quite popular in social circles and melt even the coldest heart. This is an extremely creative time-enjoy.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You must wait before launching a particular plan of yours today-timing is everything. There is a keen interest in what makes things tick and who or what pulls the strings. Figuring out ways to make your nest egg grow can be a profitable preoccupation. Your horoscope forecast shows new beginnings this afternoon for making changes that are necessary to help create a better balance in your life. Perhaps a simple pie chart can help you see where your energies are out of balance. This will take time but, little by little, your psychological outlook and your physical health will benefit greatly. Drastic changes will not be acceptable to you now. Structure or routine is a good thing and you might volunteer to help others that want more organization.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You enjoy being creative and you may find an interest in the workplace that has you steadily concentrating at almost every moment. This could present itself in all sorts of ways. It could mean an interesting new project, a rush to beat the competition, a wonderful new technical tool, etc. Political, professional and personal power in the community may assert itself beginning today and through the end of this month. Many support you and your ideas. Be aware of the controlling urges and remember that the main idea is your personal expression. This could also be a very profitable time. An unexpected phone call brings delightful news your way. Walk with someone after the dinner hour for a friendly interaction and good digestion.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Everything conspires to value and to bring out your unique and unusual qualities. You may even feel more in control of your surroundings. This is an excellent time to weigh the possibilities of advancement or a change in careers. You may find that someone close to you understands and is supportive of your ideas. You could come up with new solutions to old problems. This may be a difficult time to relax, so take your breaks. Getting away from a tense situation for a while will help you to see the picture as a whole and create a new perspective. Getting outside for some physical exercise or, if possible, attending a gym will certainly aid in your physical and mental dexterity. Perhaps a movie with loved ones is in order this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may have an increase in finances due to speculation or a contest. Ideas and interaction with authority figures or older people may be in the forecast. You will find yourself working with-rather than against-the flow of energies today. There may be many energies as well as the drive to accomplish your goals and the timing is right for starting something new or just taking care of business. A friend may announce that he or she will be moving soon. Some form of physical activity can be enjoyed this afternoon. You may enjoy a bike ride with your friends. You can expect the next few weeks to be extra social. Later this evening, you may want to just relax with a good book or movie. Romance is possible tonight.

COUNTRY CODES

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

WORLD'S LARGE CITIES FACE RISING AIR POLLUTION: UN

POLLUTION CAUSES MORE THAN 3 MILLION PREMATURE DEATHS EACH YEAR

GENEVA: Almost all inhabitants of large cities in low- and middle-income countries face excessively high air pollution, a growing problem that is "wreaking havoc on human health" and causes more than 3 million premature deaths each year, the World Health Organization said yesterday.

The agency, hoping to raise awareness and highlight national efforts, said its database now shows more than four in five urban dwellers worldwide live in cities that don't meet WHO air quality guidelines - 98 percent in poorer countries and 56 percent even in high-income countries. The findings are part of WHO's third Global Urban Ambient Air Pollution Database, which examines outdoor air in 3,000 cities, towns and villages - but mostly cities - across 103 countries. It is based on country reports and other sources. An accompanying news release said global urban air pollution levels rose by 8 percent between 2008 and 2013 "despite improvements in some regions," and it noted that people face a higher risk of strokes, heart disease, lung cancer and respiratory diseases as air quality worsens.

"Urban air pollution continues to rise at an alarming rate, wreaking havoc on human health," said Dr. Maria Neira, a WHO director for environment and public health. "At the same time, awareness is rising and more cities are monitoring their air quality. When air quality improves, global respiratory and cardiovascular-related illnesses decrease." The database named Zabol, Iran, as the city with the highest annual mean concentration of



PARIS: The Eiffel Tower is photographed through the smog in Paris. The World Health Organization yesterday released new information from its Global Urban Ambient Air Pollution Database, that says 98 percent of residents in large cities of low- and middle-income countries are facing excessively high air pollution. — AP

particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter. The Indian capital of New Delhi, which had previously topped the list, dropped to No. 9 after the city managed to decrease its annual average concentration of particulate matter by about 20 percent from 2014 to 2015. The change coincides with a series of air-clearing measures including banning older cars and cargo trucks from city limits.

"New Delhi has succeeded in arresting the trend, which shows that if you take action, you will see results," said Anumita

Roychowdhury, executive director of research and advocacy at the Delhi-based Center for Science and Environment. New Delhi has continued its air-clearing campaign by introducing steep fines for construction pollution or the garbage burning, as well as shutting down an old coal-fired power plant. But India overall is still struggling, with the WHO data set showing four other Indian cities - Gwalior, Allahabad, Patna and Raipur - surpassing New Delhi to rank as the world's second, third, fourth and fifth most polluted. — AP

ABORTION RATES FALL TO HISTORIC LOW IN WEALTHY COUNTRIES

LONDON: Abortion rates have dropped dramatically in the past 25 years to historic lows in wealthy countries, but dipped only slightly in poorer developing nations, according to a global study published on Wednesday. The study - by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Guttmacher Institute - also found that imposing restrictive laws does little to lower abortion rates, but is more likely to force people into having unsafe terminations.

It estimated that on average 56 million abortions took place each year worldwide from 2010 to 2014. The overall findings highlight a lack in poorer countries of access to modern contraception methods - such as the pill, implants and coils - to reduce unwanted pregnancies, the researchers said.

"In developing countries ... family planning services do not seem to be keeping up with the increasing desire for smaller families," said Gilda Sedgh, who led the research at the Guttmacher Institute in the United States. More than 80 percent of unintended pregnancies are in women who are not getting the contraception they need, she said, "and many unwanted pregnancies end in abortion".

She said that by contrast the downward trend in abortion rates in richer countries is largely due to "increased use of modern contraception that has given women greater control over the timing and number of children they want."

Published in The Lancet medical journal, the study used abortion data from nationally representative surveys, official statistics and other published and unpublished studies, along with information on the level of unmet need for contraception and the prevalence of contraceptive use, by type of method. The researchers then used a statistical model to estimate levels and trends in abortion incidence for all major world regions and subregions from 1990 to 2014.

The researchers found that between 1990 and 2014, the developed world's annual abortion rate per 1,000 women of childbearing age (15-44 years) dropped from 46 to 27, mainly as a result of the rate in Eastern Europe more than halving as modern contraceptive methods became more widely available.

Yet in poorer countries, the abortion rate remained virtually unchanged, dropping from 39 to 37. The study also found that termination rates were similar in countries where abortion is legal and where it is prohibited. Where abortion is prohibited altogether, or allowed only to save a woman's life, the rate was 37 abortions per 1,000 women, compared with 34 per 1,000 where it is legal. — Reuters

CLINIC
PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LANCET (LONDON) • THE NEW YORK TIMES (NEW YORK)

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد علي المخيزيم
Consultant Pediatrician استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

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



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (12/05/2016 TO 18/05/2016)

Location	Programme	Time	Programme	Time
SHARQIA-1	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	12:45 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	9:15 PM
	THE JUNGLE BOOK	3:00 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	12:15 AM
	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	5:15 PM		
SHARQIA-2	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	7:30 PM	MARINA-1	
	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	9:45 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	12:30 PM
	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	12:05 AM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	2:45 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	12:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	5:00 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	3:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	7:15 PM
SHARQIA-3	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	6:00 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	9:30 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	9:00 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	11:45 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	12:05 AM		
	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	11:30 AM	MARINA-2	
	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	1:45 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	11:30 AM
MUHALAB-1	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	4:00 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	1:30 PM
	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	6:15 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	3:45 PM
	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	8:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	6:00 PM
	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	10:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	8:15 PM
	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	12:30 AM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	10:30 PM
MUHALAB-2	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	11:30 AM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	12:30 AM
	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	1:45 PM		
	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	4:00 PM	MARINA-3	
	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	6:15 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	11:30 AM
	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	8:30 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	2:30 PM
MUHALAB-3	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	10:45 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	5:30 PM
	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	1:00 AM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	8:30 PM
	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	1:00 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	11:30 PM
	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	3:30 PM		
	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	5:45 PM	AVENUES-1	
FANAR-1	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	8:00 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	1:15 PM
	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	10:15 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	3:15 PM
	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	12:15 AM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	5:15 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	11:45 AM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	7:15 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	2:45 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	9:15 PM
FANAR-2	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	5:45 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	11:15 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	8:45 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	1:15 AM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	11:45 PM	NO THU+FRI	
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	1:15 AM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		THU+FRI	
FANAR-3	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		AVENUES-3	
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		Ely Ekhtashou Matou	12:00 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		Ely Ekhtashou Matou	2:15 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		Ely Ekhtashou Matou	4:30 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		Ely Ekhtashou Matou	6:45 PM
FANAR-4	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		Ely Ekhtashou Matou	9:00 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		Ely Ekhtashou Matou	11:15 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	1:30 AM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		THU+FRI	
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		TERM LIFE	12:45 AM
FANAR-5	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		360°- 1	
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	12:30 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	2:45 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	5:00 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	7:15 PM
FANAR-1	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	9:30 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	11:45 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		360°- 2	
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		FAN- Hindi	1:00 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		FAN- Hindi	4:00 PM
FANAR-2	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		HASAN WA BOQLOZ	7:00 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		HASAN WA BOQLOZ	9:00 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		HASAN WA BOQLOZ	11:00 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	1:00 AM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		360°- 3	
FANAR-3	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D	1:45 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D	4:00 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D	6:15 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D	8:30 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D	10:45 PM
FANAR-4	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		TERM LIFE	1:15 AM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	1:15 AM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		AL-KOUT.1	
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	1:00 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		TERM LIFE	1:45 PM
FANAR-5	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	4:00 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	7:00 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	10:00 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		TERM LIFE	1:00 AM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		AL-KOUT.2	
FANAR-1	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		Ely Ekhtashou Matou	12:30 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		Ely Ekhtashou Matou	2:45 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		Ely Ekhtashou Matou	5:00 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		Ely Ekhtashou Matou	7:15 PM
	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR		Ely Ekhtashou Matou	9:30 PM



NOTICE May 10, 2016

Mr. Sivaiah Thumala son of Mr. Gangaiah Thumala, resident of D.No. 5-3, Kasimkuppam, Ramakrishnapuram, Puttur, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh and Miss Hymavathi Bikkireddy daughter of Mr. Bikkireddy Bhaskar Reddy, resident of H.No. 7-1/3, Srinagar Colony, M.R. Palli Avilala, Tirupathi, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

(Krishan Kumar Pahal) First Secretary
(Consular) and Marriage Officer
Embassy of India, Kuwait.

P.O. Box 1450-Safat-13015 Kuwait.
Ph.00965-22533315
E-mail: ssscons@indembkwt.org

TUITION

Indian teacher required to provide tuition to two children in grades I and II in Rumaitiya. 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 resi-

dent 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)

Prayer timings

Fajr:	03:28
Shorook	04:57
Duhr:	11:44
Asr:	15:20
Maghrib:	16:31
Isha:	19:58

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

Clinics

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

Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2016

OIL SUPPLY GLUT TO 'SHRINK DRAMATICALLY' IN 2016: IEA

PAGE 38



French gov't faces survival vote over farm reform

Page 39



YOKOHAMA: Nissan president and CEO Carlos Ghosn (front right) leads Mitsubishi Motors chairman and CEO Osamu Masuko (front left) while entering the room to start their joint press conference in Yokohama yesterday. — AFP

NISSAN TAKES 34% STAKE IN MITSUBISHI MOTORS GHOSN: 'A WIN-WIN' DEAL INTENDED TO REPEAT SUCCESS OF NISSAN-RENAULT ALLIANCE

TOKYO: Nissan Motor Co is investing 237 billion yen (\$2.2 billion) to take a 34 percent stake in Mitsubishi Motors Corp in what Nissan Chief Carlos Ghosn said is "a win-win" deal intended to repeat the success of his Nissan-Renault alliance.

Ghosn appeared with Mitsubishi Motors Chairman Osamu Masuko at a hastily called joint news conference yesterday in Yokohama, where Nissan is headquartered. Under the deal, Nissan becomes the top investor in Mitsubishi Motors. Mitsubishi group companies - Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, trading company Mitsubishi Corp and the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ - will continue to hold stakes in the automaker, but they have agreed to support the alliance with Nissan, both sides said.

Mitsubishi Motors has been rocked recently by a scandal over cheating to inflate mileage for minicar models. Reporters peppered Ghosn with questions about whether he was worried the scandal may grow. "This is a breakthrough transaction and a win-win for both Nissan and Mitsubishi Motors. It creates a dynamic new force in the automotive industry that will cooperate intensively and generate sizeable synergies," said Ghosn, the Brazilian-born Frenchman who engineered Nissan's alliance with Renault, which began in 1999.

Adding Mitsubishi will be a plus in sharing

platforms, purchasing and technology, and Nissan will benefit from its strengths in Southeast Asia, Ghosn said. The automakers will maintain separate identities, brands and dealerships, Ghosn and Masuko said.

Under the deal, Nissan will purchase 506.6 million newly issued Mitsubishi Motors shares for 468.52 yen a share. The deal is still subject to a formal signing of an agreement, regulators' and shareholders' approvals, but is expected to close by the end of the year. Nissan nominees will join the board at Mitsubishi Motors, including the chairman of the board.

Risky partnership?

When asked whether partnering with a company prone to fraud might be risky, Ghosn said he trusted Masuko. "Obviously the problem is very serious, we don't take it lightly. At the same time there are solutions, not only to respond to this problem but also to avoid these kinds of problems," Ghosn told The Associated Press after the news conference. "And we think Masuko-san from the beginning has been very transparent with us, looking very authentically into why this is happening, how it could happen, how can we limit this into the future," he said, using the Japanese honorific "san" to refer to Masuko.

Masuko apologized for the scandal and wel-

comed the alliance with Nissan. "This agreement will create long-term value needed for our two companies to progress toward the future," he said.

Tokyo-based Mitsubishi Motors, which makes the Outlander sport-utility vehicle and the i-MiEV electric car, acknowledged last month that it had systematically falsified mileage data for its eK wagon and eK Space light passenger cars, which were produced for Nissan as the Nissan Dayz and Dayz Roox.

It is common for a manufacturer to sell a product made by another company under its own brand. The scandal surfaced after Nissan did its own mileage tests and raised questions. Nissan does not have minicars in its lineup, and placing Mitsubishi under its group umbrella is one solution. But Nissan, which makes the March subcompact, Infiniti luxury models and Leaf electric car, will face a major challenge in repairing Mitsubishi's tarnished reputation and winning back consumer trust.

In the early 2000s, Mitsubishi disclosed a shocking scandal involving cover-ups of defects such as failing brakes, faulty clutches and fuel tanks prone to falling off, dating back to the 1970s. That resulted in more than a million vehicles being recalled retroactively. In the unfolding mileage scandal, Mitsubishi has said the rigging goes back 25 years, and may involve all its

models, including discontinued ones. Ghosn has saved Nissan from near-bankruptcy, imposing cost cuts that have been more efficient, if not brutal, than old-style Japanese management, which relies on cautious, harmonious decision-making by committee and vaguely defined responsibilities. The Renault-Nissan alliance has built new partnerships such as the one with Russian automaker AvtoVaz. Mitsubishi had an unsuccessful partnership involving foreign management, with DaimlerChrysler AG from 2000, that failed to reverse Mitsubishi's debts and lagging sales. The collaboration gradually unraveled, ending after about five years.

Also on Thursday, Nissan reported a 40 percent plunge in January-March profit to 71 billion yen (\$651 million), as sales dipped and currency perks faded. Quarterly sales edged down 1.2 percent to 3.25 trillion yen (\$29.8 billion). For the fiscal year, Nissan's profit rose 15 percent to 523.8 billion yen (\$4.8 billion), and Nissan forecast a 525 billion yen (\$4.8 billion) profit for the fiscal year through March 2017. A weak yen had worked as a plus for exporters like Nissan, but the currency has been strengthening in recent months. Nissan shares dropped 1.4 percent in Tokyo trading as Japanese media reported that a deal with Mitsubishi was imminent. Mitsubishi Motors, on the other hand, surged 16 percent. — AP



Shell Bonga offshore oil Floating Production Storage and Offloading vessel off the coast of the Niger Delta in Nigeria. Shell closed the terminal exporting Nigeria's benchmark Bonny Light crude oil on Wednesday and was evacuating workers from a threatened oil field as renewed militant attacks cut production in Africa's biggest petroleum producer, the company and a union leader said. — AP

OIL SUPPLY GLUT TO 'SHRINK DRAMATICALLY' IN 2016: IEA

INDIA STAR PERFORMER IN CONSUMPTION THIS YEAR

PARIS: A global oil glut that has sent prices tumbling is set to "shrink dramatically" later this year, as wildfires have disrupted Canada's output and demand in India soars, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said yesterday. Demand for oil worldwide is set to grow at a "solid" rate in 2016, with India the "star performer" after making up nearly 30 percent of the global increase in demand in the first quarter of the year, the IEA said.

"This provides further support for the argument that India is taking over from the China as the main growth market for oil," the 29-nation IEA said in its closely watched monthly report.

The oil market has for months been depressed by vast oversupply, badly hurting producers but meaning lower prices at the pump for consumers. Oil prices surged to six-month highs this week and are well over \$46 a barrel after plummeting below \$30 early in the year. They are nevertheless far below the \$100-a-barrel mark of mid-2014.

In Canada devastating wildfires near Fort McMurray forced a shutdown of 1.2 million barrels a day (mb/d) of production early this month. The IEA said the events in Canada, however, had not sent oil prices sharply higher, as would have been

expected some years ago, with crude having shown little reaction amid overall improved market sentiment.

Iran, the IEA said, had provided the other surprise. Its oil production and exports increased slightly faster than expected following Iran's return to the market after the lifting of sanctions in January under its nuclear deal.

'Dramatic increase'

Iranian oil production in April was nearly 3.6 mb/d, a level last achieved in November 2011 before Western sanctions against Tehran were tightened, the IEA noted. "Even more important for global markets, oil exports reached 2 mb/d, a dramatic increase from the 1.4 mb/d seen in March," it added.

The rise in Iran helped push production within OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) 330,000 b/d higher in April, the group's highest level in more than seven years. The flow out of Iran also offset concerns about falling production in Libya, Nigeria—which is facing pipeline sabotage and security issues—and Venezuela, grappling with power cuts and other shortages, the agency said.

All eyes will be on OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia, which has just replaced oil minister

Ali al-Naimi after two decades in the post, at the June 2 OPEC meeting for signs of major policy changes on its oil supply.

Riyadh held production steady, IEA said.

Heading towards 'balance'

Outside of OPEC, the IEA said it now forecasts a bigger fall in production, of 800,000 mb/d, from its initial estimate of 700,000. The agency said the latest figures confirmed "the direction of travel of the oil market towards balance".

Global oil stocks are now expected to increase by 1.3 mb/d in the first half of 2016 with a "dramatic reduction" in the second half, to 200,000 mb/d.

The Paris-based IEA said it was leaving unchanged its outlook for global oil demand growth in 2016, at 1.2 mb/d. Furthermore, on prices, the IEA said further rises were likely to be "limited" due to plentiful stocks. Stocks within the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries grew at the start of the year at the slowest pace since the fourth quarter of 2014, the IEA said. They declined in February for the first time in a year.

"This lends support to our view that the global supply surplus of oil will shrink dramatically later this year," it added. — AFP

TUNISIA'S PARLIAMENT OKAYS NEW BANKING LAW

TUNIS: The Tunisian parliament yesterday approved a new banking bill to modernize financial services, a second reform called for by the International Monetary Fund after a disputed central bank law passed last month. Tunisia is under pressure from international lenders to speed up economic reforms to create jobs and growth, especially after two deadly attacks last year on the tourism industry that accounts for 8 percent of its gross domestic product.

Parliament last month approved a law to strengthen central bank autonomy and shield it from political interference, but it passed by just two votes because of political divisions among the ruling coalition parties.

Slim Besets, a lawmaker with the Islamist party Ennahda, and a member of the finance committee in parliament, said ruling parties worked together this time and avoided the dispute that almost blocked the central bank law. Consequently, the banking law was approved by 115 lawmakers of 135 present in the 217-seat parliament. Opposition lawmakers boycotted the session.

The IMF has reached a preliminary deal to assist Tunisia with a four-year loan program worth about \$2.8 billion tied to progress on its economic reforms. That came after offers of aid from European partners. But IMF Tunisia mission chief Amine Mati urged the government to start work immediately.

The opposition, among them leftist parties, accused the government of violating national sovereignty and bowing to the terms of the IMF. But Finance Minister Slim Chaker said the government was protecting the rights of Tunisians who want to see economic growth. "This reform is a very important step in our economic reforms to have a solid banking sector in conformity with international standards and to protect the banks in crisis time," the minister said.

The banking law includes chapters to initiate a specific Islamic banking law for the first time. Three Islamic banks operate in Tunisia but no Islamic banking law exists. It also includes the establishment of a guarantee fund that provides the right for about 95 percent of customers to recover their money if a bank goes bankrupt.

The first draft of banking bill was criticized by some experts who said the Islamic finance portion favoured Islamic banks over conventional banks. But the law now says all banks will be able to offer Islamic finance services. — Reuters

OPEC BASKET PRICE UP \$1.20 TO \$41.40PB

VIENNA: The OPEC daily basket price gained \$ 1.20 on Wednesday, standing at USD 41.40 a barrel, compared to \$40.20 on Tuesday, OPEC announced yesterday.

The annual average of the OPEC basket price hit \$49.64 pb, OPEC said in a press release. The new OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Oriente (Ecuador), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Qatar Marine (Qatar), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Mery (Venezuela). — KUNA

US CRUDE HITS 6-MONTH HIGH AFTER IEA SEES TIGHTER SUPPLY

LONDON: US oil prices hit a six-month high yesterday, supported by data from the International Energy Agency (IEA) showing tightening supply, in addition to a surprise drop in US crude inventories. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) US crude futures were 61 cents higher at \$46.84 at 1147 GMT, having earlier peaked at \$46.92, their highest since Nov 4.

Brent crude futures were trading at \$48.02 per barrel, up 42 cents from their last settlement and near a six-month high of \$48.50 hit at the end of April. "We could see some additional momentum coming into the market if we take out the recent highs because that would automatically trigger buy signals around the world," said Ole Hansen, head of commodities research at Saxo Bank.

The IEA on Thursday raised its 2016 global oil

demand growth forecast to 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) from its April forecast of 1.16 million. It also noted that output from Nigeria, Libya and Venezuela is down 450,000 bpd from a year ago. Analysts said the IEA data was helping to support prices, although the gradual return of Canadian oil sands output and the expectation that prices are nearing levels that could trigger the return of some US production might cap gains.

"The only thing that could throw a spanner in the works to prevent oil from rallying further would be the (US) production," Saxo's Hansen said. Traders said an expected increase in Canadian oil sands output following disruptions to over 1 million barrels of daily production capacity due to a wildfire was weighing on markets.

The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) said

on Wednesday that US crude inventories fell by 3.4 million barrels to 540 million barrels last week, surprising analysts who had expected an increase of 714,000 barrels. "With (refinery) runs recovering and production dropping, US (crude) stocks should begin drawing steadily from now," consultancy Energy Aspects said yesterday. "We estimate that North American inventories can fall by as much as 12 million barrels across May and June," it said.

Kuwait's acting oil minister said that recent price rises were fundamentally justified. "Based on the decrease in production that has been shown in the last three weeks, I assume fundamentally the price represents the fall of production," Kuwait's Anas al-Saleh told Reuters yesterday. — Reuters

NIGERIA IN TALKS FOR FOREIGN LOANS TO FUND DEFICIT

ABUJA: Nigeria is still in talks to obtain foreign loans to help fund a record \$31 billion budget for this year, aimed at helping Africa's biggest economy cope with a slump in oil prices, its budget minister said yesterday. President Muhammadu Buhari signed the 6.06 trillion naira (\$30.6 billion) budget last week, but the government has not yet made clear how it plans to fund a deficit of 2.2 trillion naira.

"We hope to access loans on concessionary rates, we are working hard to secure external funding," Budget Minister Udoma Udo Udoma said in a speech, without elaborating.

He reiterated previous estimates for external and domestic borrowing needs totalling 1.8 trillion naira. Nigeria has applied for a \$1 billion loan from both the World Bank and African Development Bank while also considering selling Chinese Panda or Euro bonds, though no details have been made public.

Growth last year fell to its slowest rate since 1999 at 2.8 percent and inflation rose to a near four-year high of 12.8 percent in March while capital imports were down 74 percent year-on-year in the first quarter. Buhari hopes to diversify the economy to end reliance on oil and gas revenues, which make up 70 percent of national income. Late on Wednesday, with Buhari attending a conference in London, the government announced it was scrapping a costly fuel subsidy scheme and raising the price of gasoline, which many Nigerians rely on for electricity generation as well as transport, by 67 percent.

Despite the subsidy paid to fuel importers, which foreign donors say is subject to widespread corruption, Nigeria has been suffering acute fuel shortages for months.

UNION OPPOSITION

However, a bid by Buhari's predecessor Goodluck Jonathan to scrap the subsidy in 2012 was defeated by nationwide strikes, and the umbrella Labour Union Congress promised to resist the latest attempt. Vice President Yemi Osinbajo also urged the central bank on Wednesday to rethink its foreign currency policy to stimulate investment. "We believe there must be some substantial revaluation for the foreign exchange policy," he said.

The central bank has imposed capital controls on foreign currency and capped the official dollar rate just below 200 naira, resulting in shortages of currency and hitting investment as foreign firms expect Nigeria to devalue sooner or later - a move that Buhari has said he opposes. On Wednesday, the government eased the controls by saying fuel importers would now be allowed to buy dollars on the unofficial market to help them purchase fuel. — Reuters

OBAMA, AUSTRALIA'S TURNBULL DISCUSS GLOBAL STEEL GLUT

WASHINGTON/SYDNEY: US President Barack Obama and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull yesterday discussed by telephone the global glut in steel supply, which many blame on chronic overcapacity at Chinese producers of the construction material.

China's steel production hit a record high earlier this year as rising prices, and profits, encouraged mills that had been shut or suspended to resume output. "The two leaders ... discussed the need to work together to address the global glut in steel," the White House said in a statement, adding that the conversation covered a wide range of economic and defense issues.

China, the world's top steel producer and exporter, is also the fifth-largest importer of steel, buying an equivalent of 13.57 million tons of crude steel last year. Last month, China and other major steel producers failed to agree on measures to tackle the overcapacity crisis, prompting the United States, European Union and others to call for urgent action.

China plans to shed 100-150 million tons of domestic crude steel capacity in the next five years in a bid to help tackle huge capacity overhangs that have saddled domestic firms with losses and debts.

Turnbull said that he had raised the issue with top Chinese officials and that while he welcomed their commitment, more than "strong intentions" were needed. "Now, the President and I have agreed that Australia and the US will intensify our collaboration to ensure that the overproduction of steel is addressed," Turnbull told reporters in Melbourne.

"We need to address this issue because it is important that the viability of steel makers in our country, and in the US and other nations, is preserved and not undermined by the exporting or the dumping of very cheap steel made in places where it is being produced at way below the real cost." — Reuters



PARIS: French President Francois Hollande is welcomed by Prodways CEO Raphael Gorge (right) prior to his visit at Prodways company headquarters in Les Mureaux, outside Paris, yesterday. — AP

FRENCH GOVT FACES SURVIVAL VOTE OVER LABOR REFORM

THOUSANDS MARCH THROUGH LEFT BANK STREETS

PARIS: One by one, countries across Europe have stripped away worker protections to confront today's borderless economy and the online age. France has been the main holdout - until now.

Socialist President Francois Hollande faces one of the biggest tests of his term yesterday for trying to change the way France views work. His government is trying to force a labor law through parliament including longer workdays, easier layoffs, weaker unions, but it must survive a no-confidence vote first.

It's the boldest reform any French government left or right has tried in years, and has unleashed daily, often-violent protests from wine country to the troubled suburbs. Those protests, and legislative gridlock, prompted the government to use a special measure to push the bill through without a vote at lower house of parliament.

The conservative opposition objected, prompting a no-confidence vote yesterday, set to take place just after thousands are expected to march through nearby Left Bank streets. The legislation is not technically adopted unless the government wins that vote. Prime Minister Manuel Valls and his government are likely to survive, but the labor standoff has torn apart the Socialists and further damaged their weak chances of keeping the presidency and legislative control in next year's elections.

The bill will then need to be debated at the Senate. Ironically, the French bill is relatively modest, especially after the government softened it to meet union demands.

It will not abolish the 35-hour workweek, but will allow companies to negotiate deals for up to 48 hours a week or 12-hour shifts. It will change rules for layoffs in companies, to create more flexibility during downturns - under conditions depending on the size of the businesses.

It even adds some new protections - a

"right to disconnect" from emails and smartphones negotiated with employers - and a new 461-euro (\$527) allowance for young job-seekers.

Germany rebuilt its labor system in the early 2000s; Spain and Italy re-hauled their labor markets recent debt crises. Yet in France, even small changes prompt outsized anger. "France is trying to do the bare minimum, and what other countries" have already done, said Charles Grant, director of the Center for European Reform. But "politically it seems almost impossible to do this without street protests."

Critics see the bill as a symbol of something much bigger, a surrender to a heartless, globalized world, and a fundamental betrayal of hard-fought worker protections and a way of life that France has long prided itself on.

Labor Minister Myriam El Khomri acknowledged that the government made "mistakes" in how it handled the reform and explained it to voters. But she

insisted in an interview published yesterday in Directmatin that it will help France better compete in "the world of today."

The government hopes lures companies to invest in France and hire - especially young people, bearing the brunt of chronic 10 percent unemployment. Yet among its fiercest critics are the young.

"They're incredibly conservative ... they don't understand the world has changed. If you want companies to hire, you need to make it easier to fire. That is a lesson that the Spanish and Italians learned, and the Germans learned," Grant said. Unions are not letting go, threatening widespread strikes if the bill is finalized.

The protests are "a reaction against an obscene system of abuse of power by the oligarchy," far left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon, a former presidential candidate who says the bill is a gift to CEOs and will worsen inequality, wrote on his blog. "This pillaging of the country by a caste that fattened itself on the back of workers has lasted long enough." — AP



PARIS: A protester sends projectile as others move a pulled down recycling garbage during a demo against the government's labor reform yesterday. — AFP

GERMAN CHEMICALS SECTOR FEELS SQUEEZE FROM FALLING PRICES

FRANKFURT: Germany's mighty chemicals and pharmaceuticals sector—which includes global giants such as BASF and Bayer—is feeling the squeeze from falling oil prices, prompting the industry's federation yesterday to cut its full-year growth forecast.

"It was mixed start of the year for the chemicals and pharmaceuticals industry," the VCI federation said in its quarterly report. "In comparison with the weak preceding quarter, output in Germany's third-biggest

industrial sector expanded strongly," the report said. "At the same time, producer prices fell sharply, not least as a result of weak oil prices. That meant that sales declined, even if industrial clients both at home and overseas increased their production and needed more chemicals," the federation explained. Companies also felt the pressure from imports, said VCI president, Marijn Dekkers, who is chief executive of Bayer. "This year will be difficult again for

the chemicals industry," Dekkers said. The economic recovery was only being partially felt by the companies. Exports to key markets such as the United States, China, Russia and Brazil were weaker than last year. "And prices are continuing to decline. All this suggests there won't be an upturn in the short term," VCI said. While output in the sector increased by 2.2 percent in the first three months of this year, sales revenues fell by 0.9 percent. Looking ahead to the full year, VCI

revised downwards its sales forecast, predicting that sector-wide sales would decline by one percent to 187 billion euros (\$213 billion), despite an anticipated one-percent increase in output volumes.

Following the automobile and machine tool sectors, the chemicals industry is the third-biggest industrial sector in Germany, comprising more than 1,650 companies and employing a combined workforce of around 446,000. — AFP

SINGTEL PROFITS UP ON INCREASED MOBILE INTERNET USE

SINGAPORE: Singapore Telecom (Singtel) yesterday reported a full-year net profit rise, driven by increased mobile data usage as more customers browse the Internet on handheld devices.

Investments in high-speed Internet networks and services are paying off as the easy mobile connections allow people to consume more data while on the go, said Singtel, Southeast Asia's biggest telecom firm by revenue. "Mobile data was the bright spot," said Singtel Group chief executive Chua Sock Koong. "Our regional markets are now making their respective transitions from mobile telephony to mobile Internet and harnessing the benefits of extensive investments in 3G and 4G networks and services," she said in a statement.

"We worked with our regional associates to navigate this shift from voice data." Singtel said cloud computing and cybersecurity services also helped drive growth as governments and businesses turn to the cloud and data analytics "to drive productivity and manage large amounts of complex data". Net profit for the year ending March 31 rose 2.4 percent to Sg\$3.87 billion (\$2.83 billion) on revenue of Sg\$16.96 billion, down 1.5 percent. For the fourth quarter ending March, net profit climbed 0.8 percent to Sg\$946 million. Revenue was at Sg\$4.09 billion, down 5.6 percent.

Pre-tax earnings contributions of regional mobile associate firms climbed 4.5 percent to Sg\$2.60 billion for the full year and 12.3 percent to Sg\$699 million for the quarter. Earnings however were eroded by a strong Singapore dollar as net profit is reported in the local currency and foreign associate companies account for a bulk of revenues, the result of Singtel's expansion beyond the small domestic market.

Outside of Singapore, Singtel has a wholly owned subsidiary in Australia called Optus. Singtel also owns substantial stakes in mobile telecom operators in India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. The Singapore dollar strengthened against the Australian dollar, Indonesian rupiah, Indian rupee, Philippine peso and the Thai baht during the financial year. — AFP



SINGAPORE: Singtel logo is seen on its headquarter building in Singapore yesterday. — AFP



SINGAPORE: A boat sails past Tanjung Pagar container port in Singapore yesterday. — AFP

PHILIPPINES TO OPEN UP TO FOREIGN INVESTORS: DUTERTE

COUNTRY SEEKS TO AMEND RESTRICTIVE FDI LAWS

DAVAO, Philippines: Philippine president-elect Rodrigo Duterte wants to change the constitution to lift restrictive foreign investment laws as part of his plan to boost the economy, a senior aide said yesterday. He also plans to spend more to address crumbling infrastructure and make it easier to do business overall, Carlos Dominguez, widely tipped to win a cabinet post, told reporters.

"We will ensure the attractiveness of the Philippines to foreign direct investment by addressing the restrictive economic provisions of the constitution," he added. Broad goals of Duterte's economic strategy was unveiled three days after the long-time mayor of the southern city of Davao won a landslide presidential election victory. He is due to be sworn into office on June 30.

Despite strong economic growth during President Benigno Aquino's six-year term, one of Asia's worst rich-poor divides did not improve and one in four Filipinos still live on \$1.30 a day or even less.

Critics say part of the problem was

inadequate investment and job creation, partly due to foreign investment restrictions in the Philippine constitution. Foreign entities cannot own more than 40 percent equity in certain businesses, including those requiring franchises granted by parliament, such as aviation and telecommunications.

Some economic sectors are outrightly off limits to foreign investment, including most retail activities, broadcasting, domestic shipping and pharmaceuticals. Foreigners also may not own land though they can enter into long-term leases. Dominguez said the proposed changes would be done by a constitutional convention to be called by Duterte. However he gave no timetable nor provide specifics. Dominguez, a wealthy businessman based in Davao, said infrastructure spending would rise to 5.0 percent of total economic output, compared with a 2.3 percent average in the past 30 years.

The pledge would address monstrous traffic jams, crumbling rail systems and

poor telephone and Internet services that, along with his hardline anti-crime position, drove the Duterte election campaign.

Global credit rating outfit Standard and Poor's warned last month that poor infrastructure could cloud the Philippines' efforts to raise to \$3,000 the average annual income for every Filipino next year.

Dominguez also said Duterte would make doing business in the country a simpler proposition like in Davao, where licenses "are given in the shortest possible time". He said the government will also revise the income tax rate to bring relief to employees earning half a million pesos (about \$10,700) a year or less.

These earning that amount or more are taxed 32 percent. A cash transfer program to the poor championed by Aquino would also be expanded, Dominguez said. About 4.3 million poor households now receive monthly cash grants of up to \$30 to encourage them to keep children in school and help pregnant women receive proper medical care. — AFP

BANK OF ENGLAND WARNS ABOUT RISKS OF 'BREXIT'

A VOTE TO LEAVE EU WILL STALL ECONOMY

LONDON: The Bank of England warned yesterday of big risks to Britain's economy should voters opt in a June referendum to leave the European Union - a stark assessment from an institution known for being independent of political campaigns. Members of the Monetary Policy Committee said in a statement after deciding to keep interest rates on hold that a vote to leave the EU could prompt households and firms to delay spending, lowering demand for labor and causing unemployment to rise.

"This combination of influences on demand, supply and the exchange rate could lead to a materially lower path for growth and a notably higher path for inflation," the report said. "In such circumstances, (policymakers) would face a trade-off between stabilizing inflation on the one hand and output and employment on the other."

The intervention is unusual as the bank has so far remained detached from the hurly-burly that has characterized the debate ahead of the so-called Brexit vote on June 23.

Amid signs the economy is beginning to falter and uncertainty over next month's vote, the nine policymakers unanimously agreed in their meeting to leave the key interest rate at 0.5 percent.

Governor Mark Carney will be questioned about the risks of leaving the EU at a news conference at which he will discuss also the latest growth forecasts for the country. The Bank of England

trimmed its prediction for UK economic growth this year to 2.0 percent from 2.2 percent in its last report in February. Recent reports have suggested that the Bank of England has warned banks to prepare for a rate reduction if the UK votes to leave the 28-nation bloc in the June 23 referendum.

But Carney has said in the past that the next move in rates will likely be up and the Bank of England reiterated that position yesterday. The bank joins economists at the International Monetary

Fund, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the UK Treasury in warning of the consequences of a British exit.

Treasury chief George Osborne quickly tweeted the results of the bank's report, suggesting it was a dangerous cocktail of trouble for the economy. "Big moment in EU debate: Bank of England warns vote to Leave would mean both materially lower growth and higher inflation," he wrote. "It's a lose-lose." — AP



LONDON: Governor of the Bank of England Mark Carney delivers his monthly inflation report at the Bank of England in the City of London yesterday. — AP

EUROZONE GROWTH FACES REVISION AS INDUSTRY FALLS

LONDON: Economic growth across the 19-country eurozone in the first quarter of the year risks being revised lower after official figures yesterday showed industrial production fell by a greater than anticipated 0.8 percent in March. Eurostat, the European Union's statistics agency, said the monthly fall was broad-based, with only energy production posting an increase. March's decline also follows a big 1.2 percent decline in February and means that much of the 2.4 percent surge in January has been erased.

The decline was more than the 0.2 percent fall predicted in markets and raises the possibility that the estimate for first-quarter economic growth will be trimmed in a revision due today. After all, one of the reasons why the first estimate came in at a strong quarterly rate of 0.6 percent was largely due to the strong industrial production increase in January.

Analysts said the poor showing over the past couple of months is further evidence that the eurozone is facing a softer economic outlook in light of a number of factors, including uncertainty over the state of the global economic recovery, emanating in particular from the slowdown in China.

"Today's data and the ongoing weakness of industrial surveys support our view that overall eurozone economic growth is set to slow from 1.5 percent last year to about 1.2 percent this year," said Stephen Brown, European economist at Capital Economics.

It's the latest indicator to suggest that the eurozone is losing some of the momentum that saw it grow way faster than the US in the first quarter of the year and that has helped get unemployment across the region down. The eurozone is not alone in facing headwinds, many of which are external to the region, such as the British vote on June 23 on whether to leave the EU and waning benefits from low oil prices.

Within the eurozone, economic confidence could be jolted by any renewed worries over Greece's future in the single currency bloc, though these appear to be easing, as well as the upcoming Spanish general election. — AP

TAIWAN PC MAKER ACER'S Q1 PROFIT PLUMMETS

TAIPEI: Taiwan's struggling personal computer maker Acer said yesterday its net profit fell 73 percent year-on-year in the first three months to March due to huge losses from foreign exchange.

The company, once the world's second largest PC maker, reported a net profit of Tw\$46 million (\$1.43 million) in the first three months, compared with Tw\$173 million in the same period last year, it said in a statement. Consolidated revenue came in at Tw\$56.32 billion, down from Tw\$67.95 billion in the 2015 first quarter, it added, saying the figures reflected around Tw\$900 million of losses in foreign exchange due to the appreciation of the Taiwan dollar. The company did not give further details for the decline in consolidated revenue.

Gross profit in the first quarter was Tw\$6.67 billion while operating income rose 54 percent on-year to Tw\$866 million, despite the decline in consolidated revenue, it said. "The results reflect Acer's effective product mix strategy according to regional market needs and inventory management," the company statement said. "Acer's gross profit and operating income are better-than-expected which show that it's doing fine with inventory control and product management," said Arther Liao, an analyst at Fubon Securities.

Acer has struggled as demand tapered off and competition increased from the likes of Apple. In March the company announced a corporate reshuffle that separated off its new businesses, including cloud services and smart devices. It formed a holding company to manage its new businesses which it said would help speed up the "overall company transformation". — AP



SINGAPORE: A member of the flight crew walks past the Singapore Airlines promotional booth at Changi International Airport in Singapore yesterday. — AFP

SINGAPORE AIRLINES FULL-YEAR NET PROFIT MORE THAN DOUBLES

SINGAPORE: Singapore Airlines said yesterday its full-year net profit more than doubled on higher income from investments and reduced losses from associate companies as fuel expenses fell due to lower oil prices. A refund for a fine paid by the carrier's cargo arm in the previous financial year also bolstered earnings, but the airline said the competitive environment remained "challenging" due to weak global economic growth and expanding capacity.

Group net profit for the year ending March 31 came in at Sg\$804.4 million (\$587 million), up 118.5 percent from the year before. Revenue eased 2.2 percent to Sg\$15.23 billion, SIA said in a filing with the Singapore Exchange.

Net profit for the fourth quarter soared more than five times to Sg\$224.7 million from Sg\$39.6 million.

The airline said dividends from long-term investments were higher by Sg\$102 million and its share of losses from associated firms fell by Sg\$118 million, while it also received a Sg\$117 million refund for a fine paid by SIA Cargo the year before. Group expenditure fell, largely due to a 19 percent decline in fuel costs as jet fuel prices tumbled, but the savings were partially offset by hedging losses. Fuel accounts for around one third of SIA's expenditures.

World oil prices are currently down 60 percent from peaks of more than \$100 per barrel in mid-2014.

The airline said it was "contending with a challenging operating environment in key markets, caused in part by weak economic activity and relatively rapid growth in capacity".

SIA is facing tough competition from Middle East carriers in the long-haul premium segment, while budget airlines have taken market share in the economy section for short-haul routes.

"Nevertheless, the group is well positioned to compete in this environment," SIA said, citing the entry into its fleet of the long-range, fuel-efficient Airbus A350-900 which it will use to open more routes. SIA also has taken full ownership of budget carrier Tiger Airways while operating a medium- and long-haul no-frills airline called Scoot, allowing it to operate across a range of market segments.

"For the April-June 2016 quarter, advance passenger bookings are tracking positively against seat capacity," it said. However, "outlook remains cautious for air cargo amid the economic slowdown in China and ongoing uncertainty surrounding the global economy," it said.

"Coupled with ample capacity in the industry, yield remains under pressure," it said. — AFP

NATIONALS MAUL DETROIT TIGERS

WASHINGTON: Max Scherzer struck out 20 batters, matching the major league record for a nine-inning game as he pitched the Washington Nationals past the Detroit Tigers 3-2 on Wednesday night. Scherzer (4-2) had a chance to break the mark when James McCann stepped to the plate with two outs in the ninth inning. McCann, who whiffed his previous three times up, grounded to third for the final out. The astounding performance came in Scherzer's first outing against the Tigers, his former team. He out-pitched pal Jordan Zimmermann (5-2), a former Nationals teammate who left as a free agent for a \$110 million, five-year deal with Detroit. Scherzer, who pitched two no-hitters last season and struck out 17 in the second one, joined Roger Clemens (twice), Kerry Wood and Randy Johnson as the only big league pitchers to compile 20 strikeouts in nine innings.

METS 4, DODGERS 3

Noah Syndergaard became the second pitcher in Mets history to hit two home runs in a game, driving in all of New York's runs in a victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers. Syndergaard (3-2) allowed two runs and six hits in eight innings, struck out six and walked one. He gave up five hits in the first four innings and then retired 11 in a row. Syndergaard hit a solo homer on the first pitch from Kenta Maeda (3-2) in the third inning, and slammed a three-run shot in the fifth. Walt Terrell was the first Mets pitcher to hit two homers in a game at Wrigley Field on Aug 6, 1983. The last major league pitcher to homer twice in a game was Arizona's Micah Owings, who accomplished the feat against Atlanta on Aug 18, 2007. Corey Seager and Yasmani Grandal homered for the Dodgers.

PADRES 7, CUBS 4, GAME 1; PADRES 1, CUBS 0, GAME 2

Drew Pomeranz tied a career high with 10 strikeouts in six scoreless innings and Christian Bethancourt hit a long solo home run to give San Diego a 1-0 victory over Chicago and a sweep of a day-night doubleheader. In the first game, Brett Wallace hit a three-run homer in San Diego's four-run seventh inning, and the Padres stopped the Cubs' eight-game win streak with a 7-4 victory. Pedro Strop (1-1) took the loss and Carlos Villanueva (1-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win. In the second game, Pomeranz (4-3) allowed just three hits and walked three. No Chicago runner advanced past second base while the left-hander was on the mound. Fernando Rodney got the final three outs for his 10th save in 10 chances. He also picked up the save in Game 1. The lack of offense wasted a strong start from John Lackey (4-2), who allowed just one run on three hits in eight innings.

RANGERS 6, WHITE SOX 5

Adrian Beltre had the tiebreaking RBI single soon after his long errorless streak ended and Texas earned its second win in less than 24 hours against the team with the American League's best record. Beltre had a throwing error in top of the sixth to end his streak of 44 games without one. White Sox third baseman Todd Frazier got his 10th RBI in the three-game series with his homer leading off the fourth. But he left the game in the bottom of that inning when he cut his lower lip and needed five stitches after falling hard face-first into the first row of seats while going after a foul popup. Tony Barnette (2-2) got the final out in the sixth after taking over for starter Cole Hamels and Sam Dyson got his first save. Dan Jennings (1-1) allowed one run in 1 2/3 innings for the White Sox (23-12).

ROYALS 7, YANKEES 3

Salvador Perez hit a three-run homer in yet another big first inning against Michael Pineda, and slumping Kansas City rebounded to beat New York. Down by four runs six batters in, New York clawed back to 4-3 against Yordano Ventura before Lorenzo Cain hit a two-run single in the sixth against reliever Nick Goody. Kendrys Morales added a solo homer in the seventh off Phil Coke as the Royals won for just the fourth time in their past 15 games. Ventura (3-2), coming off losses at Seattle and Cleveland, gave up three runs and six hits in six innings.

RED SOX 13, ATHLETICS 3

Jackie Bradley Jr had two home runs and six RBIs to extend his hitting streak to 17 games, and Boston completed a three-game sweep. Boston scored six runs in the first four innings and then had four more in the fifth to post its third straight game with at least 10 runs. Dustin Pedroia added a home run and the Red Sox finished with a season-high 17 hits. The Red Sox outscored the Athletics 40-15 in the series and Oakland has lost a season-high five straight. Rick Porcello (6-1) got the win, and has now pitched six or more innings in 15 straight starts - extending the longest active streak in the majors. Eric Surkamp (0-3) took the loss after giving up four runs in just 2 2/3 innings of work.



MIAMI: Miami Marlins third baseman Martin Prado (left) is unable to field a ground ball by Milwaukee Brewers' Jonathan Lucroy (20) as shortstop Adeiny Hechavarria (3) backs up Prado during the eighth inning of a baseball game on Wednesday, May 11, 2016. — AP

BRAVES 5, PHILLIES 1

Williams Perez allowed only two hits and one run in eight innings, Freddie Freeman homered and Atlanta finally claimed just its second home win. Perez (1-0), recalled from Triple-A Gwinnett before the game, did not walk a batter while matching his longest start in the majors. He allowed no baserunners through four innings before Ryan Howard led off the fifth with a homer. Perez faced only one batter over the minimum. The Braves ended their streaks of five straight losses overall and 11 straight at home. Freeman's shot to right-center knocked Jerad Eickhoff (1-5) out of the game after allowing four runs, three earned, on seven hits in 4 1/3 innings.

PIRATES 5, REDS 4

Jordy Mercer singled home the go-ahead run in the top of the ninth inning, rallying Pittsburgh to a victory over Cincinnati in an NL Central rivalry game full of plunkings and ejections. Andrew McCutchen, David Freese, Jung Ho Kang and Josh Harrison each hit solo homers. Tony Watson (1-0) retired the side in the eighth. Mark Melancon gave up a single and a walk in the ninth while getting his 10th save in 11 chances. Ross Ohlendorf (3-4) took the loss. Six batters were hit - four Pirates, two Reds - as the teams extended their history of plunkings. Over the last four seasons, the Reds have hit 43 Pirates batters (10 this season) and the Pirates have hit 41 Reds (five this season).

MARLINS 3, BREWERS 2

Wei-Yin Chen tied a career high with 12 strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings to help Miami beat Milwaukee. Justin Bour hit a two-run homer for the Marlins, who won with five hits to take the series and finish 6-3 on their homestand. The Brewers still haven't won a road series and went 3-4 on their trip. Chen (3-1) allowed two runs and lowered his ERA to 4.40. A.J. Ramos pitched a perfect ninth for his 10th save in as many chances. Chase Anderson (1-5) retired the first 10 batters, but lost his fifth start in a row. He allowed three runs in six innings.

GIANTS 5, BLUE JAYS 4, 13 INNINGS

Buster Posey walked with the bases loaded in the 13th inning and San Francisco salvaged one win in a three-game series with Toronto. Brandon Belt was hit by a pitch to open the inning and Denard Span's bunt attempt was mishandled at second. Following a wild pitch, Joe Panik was walked intentionally. Matt Duffy lined out to first base before Posey saw four straight balls from Ryan Tepera (0-1). Albert Suarez (1-0) pitched an inning for his first major-league victory.

ROCKIES 8, DIAMONDBACKS 7

Nolan Arenado hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning, and Colorado ended its seven-game home losing streak. Charlie

Blackmon homered among his three hits and drove in three runs for Colorado. The Rockies had tied the franchise record for consecutive defeats at Coors Field and were within two of the mark for home losses in Denver set in 1993 at Mile High Stadium. Arenado rescued Colorado after starter Chad Bettis and the bullpen blew a six-run lead. With two outs in the bottom of the eighth, Arenado hit Tyler Clippard's (2-1) 2-2 pitch just inside the foul pole in left field for his NL-leading 13th homer of the season. Gonzalez German (1-0) got the win and Jake McGee pitched the ninth for his ninth save.

ASTROS 5, INDIANS 3, 16 INNINGS

Marwin Gonzalez hit a two-run homer in the 16th inning for Houston. Carlos Correa reached on an infield single to start the inning, Houston's first hit since the seventh. One out later, Gonzalez sent one into the seats in right field off Cody Anderson (0-3) to hand Houston its third victory in five games. Michael Feliz (1-0) allowed one hit in three scoreless innings for the win. Anderson yielded two hits, two runs and struck out four over 3 1/3 innings in his first career relief appearance.

ORIOLES 9, TWINS 2

Mark Trumbo hit two home runs and the Baltimore Orioles hit back-to-back homers for the third straight game. Adam Jones had four hits, including a two-run homer in the ninth, and Chris Davis also went deep and drove in four runs for the first-place Orioles, who have won four straight. Tyler Wilson (2-1) gave up two runs and six hits in seven innings. Miguel Sano hit his fourth homer for the Twins (8-25), who have lost seven straight games. Phil Hughes (1-6) lasted just four innings in another terrible start for the worst team in the American League.

MARINERS 6, RAYS 5, 11 INNINGS

Chris Iannetta led off the bottom of the 11th inning with a homer to give Seattle a sweep of the three-game series against Tampa Bay. Iannetta jumped on a 3-2 pitch from Steve Geltz (0-1) for his third homer for Seattle. Steve Johnson (1-0) got the win. The Rays tied it 5-5 on Kiermaier's one-out solo homer in the ninth.

CARDINALS 5, ANGELS 2

Jaime Garcia allowed just four hits in seven innings to lead the St. Louis Cardinals past the Los Angeles Angels. Garcia (3-2) gave up two unearned runs and struck out eight to win his second straight start. He has yet to allow an earned run in 14 innings this month. Kevin Siegrist pitched a perfect eighth and Trevor Rosenthal retired the side in the ninth to complete the four-hitter. The Cardinals scored four times in the second inning against Matt Shoemaker (1-5). CJ Cron hit a two-run homer for the Angels, who have lost five straight and nine of 11. — AP

BLUES ROUT STARS TO ADVANCE

DALLAS: The captain and the kid are going to the Western Conference finals with the St Louis Blues. St Louis did more than survive Game 7 this time. The Blues routed the top-seeded Dallas Stars 6-1 on Wednesday night to advance to their first Western Conference finals since 2001. Robby Fabbri, their 20-year-old rookie center, became the youngest player in NHL history to score three points in a Game 7, with a goal and two assists, and captain David Backes added a goal and an assist. "The way we feel here, we know we've got a good team and we know every time we're challenged we've kind of risen up to it," Paul Stastny said.

Blues linemates Fabbri, Stastny and Troy Brouwer each had a goal and two assists. "Nice short plays, and we buried our opportunities," Brouwer said. "We talked before the game that we wanted to be the difference in this game tonight, and I feel like we made a good impact." The Blues, in the playoffs for the 40th time and still in search of their first Stanley Cup, will have home-ice advantage in the Western Conference finals against Nashville or San Jose - and for the Stanley Cup as well if they advance. The Predators and Sharks play their deciding Game 7 on Thursday night.

Patrik Berglund and Vladimir Tarasenko also had goals to help the Blues win for the third time on the road in the. Tarasenko's seventh goal of the playoffs was an empty-netter with 4:40 left. Patrick Eaves had the lone goal for Dallas, which matched its most lopsided playoff loss. The Stars also lost 6-1 in Game 3 of the series. "A huge disappointment. We had good energy, but it's a tough way to end. It's not our team," coach Lindy Ruff said. "Even when we started pushing, we missed too many good opportunities to get back in it. But it's not the ending you want, it's a big disappointment."

It was the fourth straight game in the series, and fifth overall, won by the visiting team, and a lopsided finish to a second-round series matching the Western Conference's top two teams in the regular season. Coach Ken Hitchcock's Blues were only two points behind Dallas in the regular-season standings for the top seed. St Louis also went seven games to win its first-round series this post-season, beating the defending Stanley Cup



DALLAS: Jamie Benn #14 of the Dallas Stars skates the puck against Alexander Steen #20 of the St Louis Blues during the 2016 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at American Airlines Center on May 11, 2016 in Dallas. — AFP

champion Chicago Blackhawks 3-2 on Brouwer's winning goal in the Game 7 clincher at home. In this Game 7, the Blues were in firm control after the first period, even after having a goal taken off the board because of a replay challenge by Dallas.

Brian Elliott was back in goal for the Blues and had 31 saves. He had been pulled late in the first period of Game 6 after giving up three goals in seven shots - and Dallas held on to win that 3-2 to set up their first Game 7 at home since 2000, and first in the American Airlines Center. "I know in this dressing room there was no question who we were going to turn to, and he's our guy," Brouwer said. "He was phenomenal for us, and we're going to have to ride a couple more times throughout the course of

these playoffs. But he's a guy that we could rely on." The Blues were ahead to stay when Fabbri scored on a power play 5:23 into the game with a backhand after Kari Lehtonen was unable to control a loose puck in front.

Tarasenko took a shot from in front of the left circle that somehow got behind Lehtonen into the net with about 2 minutes left in the first period that appeared to make it 2-0. But replay showed that Tarasenko was just offside before the puck got in the zone, and officials wiped off the goal. St Louis responded with two goals in the final 1:38 of the period. Stastny scored first and then Berglund on a shot from just inside the blue line with only 3.4 seconds left before the intermission. "The off-side call gave us some life and we had a few

opportunities to score," Stars left wing Patrick Sharp said. "The late one in the first was a tough one. It's all tough." Ruff has used two goalies all season, and Lehtonen was replaced after allowing three goals in eight shots. Antti Niemi took over in the second period, when Backes and Brouwer scored, but stopped the other eight shots he faced. ... St. Louis is 5-2 on the road this postseason. ... Hitchcock is 5-2 in Games 7s as a coach, and Ruff is 0-4.

Ruff's first three were with Buffalo, in 2001, 2006 and 2011. ... Hitchcock was the Stars' coach for their previous Game 7 at home, a win over Colorado at Reunion Arena in the Western Conference final to get to their second consecutive Stanley Cup finals. ... The Blues blocked 34 shots; the Stars blocked five. — AP

'GET USED TO PINK-BALL TESTS', SAYS KIWI BOSS

WELLINGTON: Players and traditionalists need to accept pink-ball Tests or the five-day format will not survive, New Zealand Cricket chief executive David White warned Thursday. Australia and New Zealand played the inaugural day-night Test in Adelaide last year, attracting huge crowds to rival those at limited-overs versions of the game. But players from both sides complained about the pink ball, intended to be more visible under floodlights, and some conservatives felt it undermined a Test tradition dating back to 1877.

White said there was strong enthusiasm for more day-night Tests at a meeting of the International Cricket Council board in Dubai last weekend. He said there was also a groundswell of support from fans and television broadcasters, expressing confidence that players would eventually come around. "I think the players will be very supportive going for-

ward, (day-night Test cricket) is essential for the survival of the format, to be honest," he told Radio Sport.

White said day-nighters would never dominate Test cricket but he could envisage a time when most series included a match played under lights. "It provides an opportunity for the game to be more accessible to the fans and we've got to listen to them, they drive the revenue, they drive the game," he said. "We've got to uphold the traditions of the game - I'm as traditional as anyone - but we've got to look to the future as well." Players raised concerns after the Adelaide Test about the pink ball's movement and durability, as well as the difficulty batsmen faced seeing it under lights. South Africa's players have also refused to commit to a day-night Test later this year in Adelaide, Cricket Australia chief executive James Sutherland said last week. — AFP

CRICKET: SRI LANKA'S PERERA EYES COMEBACK AFTER DOPING BLUNDER

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan wicketkeeper Kusal Perera targeted a swift return yesterday to international cricket after officials admitted the analysis of a doping test which triggered his suspension had been botched. An emotional Perera told reporters he had suffered "tremendous mental stress" after testing positive for a banned anabolic steroid in Qatar last year but insisted he always knew he would be eventually cleared. "I had not done anything wrong, but I went through tremendous mental stress," Perera said at a press conference staged by Sri Lanka's board. "I want to start practicing and get back to international cricket at the earliest."

The 25-year-old said he was hopeful of being fit and ready to play in the home series against Australia at the end of July, linking up with his team-mates who are currently on tour in England. "I thank

my fans and the board who stood by me during this trying period. I knew I would be cleared. I am relieved all this is over and I want to get back into form." While Perera was suspended during Sri Lanka's tour of New Zealand last December, his positive result came from out-of-competition testing at a laboratory in Qatar accredited by the world anti-doping authority (WADA).

But the International Cricket Council (ICC) lifted the suspension with immediate effect late Wednesday when it described the test as "an atypical finding" that could not be construed as evidence of doping. "We regret what Mr Perera has had to endure, and would like to commend him for the manner in which he has conducted himself throughout this period," ICC chief executive David Richardson said in a statement. "We wish to make it clear that there is no evi-

dence that Mr Perera has ever used performance-enhancing substances and we wish him well in his future cricketing endeavours."

Board seeks costs

Sri Lankan board president Thilanga Sumathipala said his organization had managed to get Perera's test results overturned after hiring a British law firm which advised them to commission independent scientific tests. The tests found no evidence that Perera had taken a banned substance. "He has been exonerated without a hearing, but based on the scientific evidence we provided," Sumathipala said adding that the board expected the ICC to reimburse the \$100,000 costs of the tests and legal advice. The ICC said it was seeking an urgent explanation from WADA and the Qatar laboratory that tested Perera's sample. — AFP

DEL BOSQUE SEEKS VINDICATION AFTER BRAZIL BUST

MADRID: As a pot-bellied, softly-spoken, 65-year-old, Spain coach Vicente del Bosque can rarely be described as a man on a mission. Yet he is determined to put right a disastrous World Cup two years ago when La Roja defend their European Championship title. "The origin of everything is Brazil and the disappointment of Brazil," Del Bosque told AFP explaining why the Spanish public, so accustomed to success over the past decade, has failed to become enthused by its national team in the two years since Spain crashed out after just two games at the World Cup.

Del Bosque could lay claim to being the most decorated active manager in

world football having won virtually every major honor at club and international level. Champions Leagues and La Liga titles with Real Madrid were followed by winning Spain's first World Cup in South Africa in 2010 and becoming the first side to retain the Euros four years ago. Yet that track record has not protected him from the stinging criticism that followed Spain's collapse in Brazil. Concerns he is too loyal to the old guard that won three back-to-back major tournaments between 2008 and 2012 have persisted since he resisted calls to resign after the World Cup.

"It was a difficult moment for all of us,

we had received a lot of criticism from people in Spain, in some cases disproportionate criticism considering this is sport," added Del Bosque. "More than refuting them, they should serve as an incentive for the next time. We never know what is going to happen, but we will try to ensure there isn't a repeat of what happened in Brazil." For a man so used to winning with humility, dealing with defeat and the questioning it continues to entail nearly two years on has been a new and difficult experience for a respected veteran like Del Bosque. Yet, his defiance to stay on for what he has long admitted is likely to be his last stand in a major tournament is

also rooted in not going out on the low of Brazil. "The federation are already working on it. There will be no gap, no problem, there are plenty of people prepared to be here," he added on his future. The sobering blow of Brazil at least ensures that complacency can't be blamed should Spain fail to live up to expectations once more. However, many of the problems remain unsolved by an uninspiring qualifying campaign despite a return of nine wins and just one defeat. Whether Del Bosque is brave enough to finally discard captain Iker Casillas in favor of the more in-form David de Gea in goal is the principal question. — AFP



CALIFORNIA: Stephen Curry #30 of the Golden State Warriors goes up for a shot against the Portland Trail Blazers during Game Five of the Western Conference Semifinals on May 11, 2016 at Oracle Arena in Oakland. — AFP

WARRIORS ELIMINATE BLAZERS IN GAME FIVE

CURRY SEND WARRIORS TO FINALS

SAN FRANCISCO: Stephen Curry was honored with his second-consecutive league MVP award before leading Golden State to a 125-121 victory over Portland as the Warriors advanced to back-to-back conference finals. The night started with Curry's award for the first unanimous MVP trophy and ended with the superstar capping his 29-point performance with four free throws in the final 18 seconds to give the Warriors a 4-1 series victory over the Trail Blazers.

Asked if he ever dreamed he would be the NBA's first unanimous MVP selection Curry said, "never in my wildest dreams. I grew up watching the game and a lot of legends." "I am proud to be part of that group and to have that honor is unbelievable," he added. The Warriors advanced to their first back-to-back NBA semi-finals since the 1974-75 and 1975-76 seasons by winning their eighth consecutive series clinching game at home. Golden State now awaits the winner of the Oklahoma City Thunder-San Antonio Spurs series. If Oklahoma City eliminate the Spurs in game six on Thursday, the best-of-seven Western Conference finals

would begin Monday in Oakland. "We knew it would be a dog fight every game," Curry said. "We had to grind it out." "Last year we came out for the ceremony and then lost on home floor," he added. "It wasn't easy, but we found a way to get it done." The fifth-seeded Trail Blazers made the Warriors work for their win on Wednesday. Portland led by as many as 11 early and got to 118-115 in the final minute of the contest.

Warriors Klay Thompson forced Portland star Damian Lillard to miss a shot from 17 feet. Curry then busted loose and nailed a 25-footer for the clutch basket that put Golden State up 121-116. Thompson led the Warriors with 33 points, hitting 13 of 17 from the field and six of nine three-point attempts. Curry's 29 points were a result of 10-for-20 shooting, including five-for-11 on three-pointers. In his first start since spraining a ligament in his right knee during the first-round series against the Houston Rockets, he went 36 minutes and tallied a game-high 11 assists. Curry admitted Wednesday he is feeling mentally and physically tired.

'Wild three days'

"It has been a wild three days," Curry said. "From the first game I came back when I gave everything I had that night. Then I came home and with the festivities yesterday. But in the playoffs there are no excuses." In the earlier game Wednesday, DeMar DeRozan tallied 34 points as the Toronto Raptors seized a 3-2 lead in their Eastern Conference series with a 99-91 win over the Miami Heat. Toronto guard Kyle Lowry scored 25 points, including five in the final minute as the Raptors fended off a late Miami surge.

The Raptors started quickly and led by as many as 16 points in the first quarter and were ahead by 20 in the second quarter before the Heat mounted their attack. The Raptors took a 13-point lead into the fourth quarter, but the Heat cut it to five with just under five minutes remaining at Toronto's Air Canada Centre arena. The margin was down to one after Dwyane Wade converted two free throws with just under two minutes to play. Wade finished with a team high 20 points for the Heat. — AFP

CHANGES IN RUSSIAN SYSTEM 'JUST FAKE' SO FAR, WHISTLEBLOWER SAYS

MONTREAL: In the opinion of a whistleblower who uncovered Russia's doping scourge, most of the changes in the country's track and anti-doping programs are "just fake," and not nearly extensive enough to allow the team into the Olympics this summer. Vitaly Stepanov, who along with his wife, Yulia, blew the lid off systemic doping in Russia, told The Associated Press that he estimated 80 percent of coaches in high-level Russian track had used doping to prepare athletes for the London Olympics. A decision on the track team's eligibility for the Rio de Janeiro Games is coming next month from the sport's international federation. But Stepanov told the AP he hasn't seen enough reform or penalties to make him believe the team could be clean by the time the Olympics start in August.

"Those 80 percent of coaches must be sanctioned," he said. "I've seen a few coaches facing lifetime bans, but others, they still prefer to hide everything. All the changes being shown are just fake ones." The World Anti-Doping Agency is meeting this week in Montreal, where Russia's issues will be discussed. On Wednesday, Stepanov spoke, via videoconference, to the agency's executive committee to share his experiences as an employee of Russia's anti-doping agency, then later, as a whistleblower.

An AP review of news reports and official documents announcing sanctions estimates fewer than a dozen high-level athletics coaches and other support personnel have been suspended since the German documentary about the scandal in Russia's track team aired in December 2014. Britain's Sky News television reported that the number of doping tests being conducted in Russia, which have been overseen by Britain's anti-doping agency since Russia's was suspended, has fallen dramatically. But Russian sport minister Vitaly Mutko told Sky News the Russians have been cooperating with testers and "there is no basis for our team to not be participating in the Olympic Games."

Stepanov disagrees. He also has long been flustered by WADA's slow pace. He spent four years sending dozens of emails to WADA that laid out precise details about schemes to load up athletes with illegal drugs, then make sure they wouldn't get caught. Stepanov said he commonly received nothing more than a simple, three-word response to those emails: "Confirmed. Message received." WADA officials say they did not have the authority to act until the anti-doping code was revised in 2015, and they didn't think turning the information over to Russian authorities would produce results.

There are passages in the old code, however, that can be interpreted differently, including one that says WADA's roles and responsibilities include cooperating with "relevant national and international organizations and agencies, including but not limited to, facilitating inquiries and investigations." "WADA continues to obfuscate the issue," U.S. Biathlon president Max Cobb said. "They keep saying, 'Show us the evidence.' But evidence is what you get when you investigate."

It wasn't until Stepanov went to the media with his information that WADA finally called for an investigation, leaving a four-year gap - new evidence shows that gap may also include the Sochi Olympics - during which the world's highest authority on anti-doping knew there was trouble throughout the Russian system but did little. "I was thinking, there's this huge structure that's been there since 2000 and they've dealt with this kind of case many times and they have investigators," said Stepanov, who lives in the United States in a location he does not reveal. — AP

OLYMPIC DREAM THE PINNACLE FOR WILLIAMS

PARIS: Sonny Bill Williams may have won a myriad of titles in rugby union and rugby league but the New Zealand superstar says becoming an Olympian would top everything. Williams will be part of the New Zealand squad at the Paris Sevens World Series event this weekend. Although widely considered one of the great polyvalent rugby stars of his generation, he still needs to earn his spot on the flight to Rio, but the 30-year-old claims that just taking part in the Games would be a dream come true.

"Coming from New Zealand, we're so fixated on rugby union-rugby union's our number one sport," he said. "Everyone's fixated on the All Blacks and I actually had to take a step away from that and think about what it means to be a sportsman and how big this opportunity was—and it blows it away. "It blew my mind away, the opportu-

nity to go and play at the Olympics, to be called an Olympian. It's not just about trying to win a medal but to be able to say you're an Olympian: that supercedes everything, I believe. "Time will tell if I can make that squad but I'm definitely doing all I can to try to fulfil that dream."

Williams has won the World Cup with the All Blacks twice, he's won both the Super Rugby title with Chiefs and The Rugby Championship with New Zealand. In Rugby League he won the NRL twice, with the Bulldogs in 2004 and Roosters in 2013, while Williams also triumphed in all seven of his professional heavyweight boxing bouts, even winning the New Zealand title in 2012. Yet he's not the only successful and talented athlete in his family. Sister Niall is part of the New Zealand women's sevens team and could also play at the Rio Games.

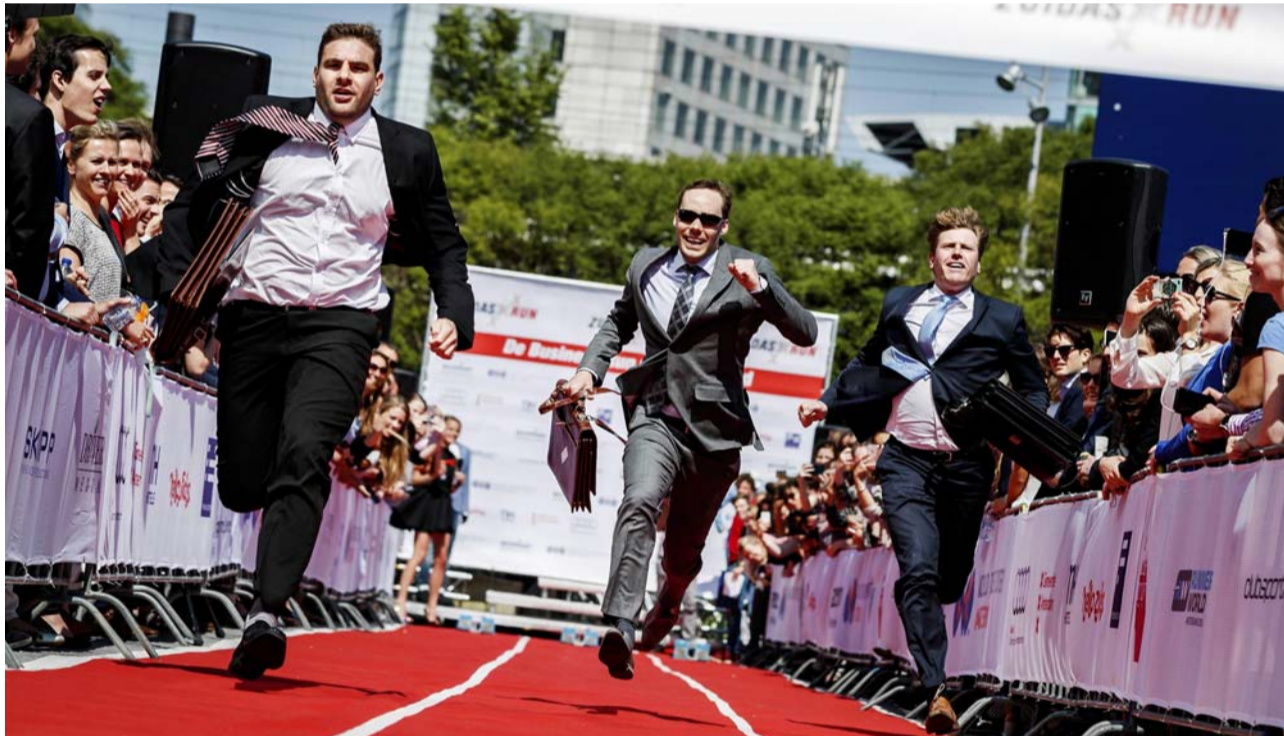
'Very proud'

"We've spoken about it, I know that if I didn't make and she didn't make it our family would still be proud of both of us for being able to play for New Zealand sevens. But it would be an amazing achievement for both the siblings to go to the Olympics together," said Williams. "We're very proud of her and I'm very proud of her to see that she's a mother of two and to come back and she's one of the fittest in the side.

"She's trained her butt off and she's played really, really well the last two tournaments, and hence the reason she got a lot of game time." Niall Williams used to captain the New Zealand women's touch team—a form of non-contact rugby—so like her older brother, is a code-swapping international star. "It's just opportunities, the opportunities have come up. She's

had the opportunity to have a crack at sevens and she's said 'why not', and I've done the same."

What excites Williams the most about the prospect of taking part in the Olympics, though, is the ability to follow in the footsteps of his, perhaps unexpected, sporting hero: 'The Louisville Lip' and self-styled 'The Greatest', Muhammad Ali. "When I think of Olympics I think of him; when I think of great sportsmen I definitely think of Ali," said Williams. "He was such a great sportsman, the way he came back after winning the gold medal and the way his career panned out after he wasn't allowed to box for five years. "Coming back and the odds were stacked against him to rise up and win against George Foreman was special. When I think who's my favorite sportsman, the greatest sportsman ever to live was definitely Ali." — AFP



AMSTERDAM: Contesters compete in the high-heels and suits run, a yearly event in Amsterdam, the Netherlands yesterday. The high-heels and suits run is a charity race with men wearing suits and women wearing heels of at least 9 cm. — AFP

RUGBY RESIDENCY RULES NEED TO CHANGE: PICHOT

DUBLIN: Agustin Pichot, the newly elected World Rugby vice-chairman, says rugby's residency rules are 'wrong' and must be changed. The former Argentine scrum-half insisted that the current situation, where players can play for a country they have no affiliation to after playing in the country for three consecutive years, had to end. He was speaking in Dublin on Wednesday at the official announcement of his new role, alongside new chairman Bill Beaumont.

"We need to change it, someone will kill me (for saying this), but we need to change it," said Pichot, who won 75 caps for Argentina. "This is my personal opinion. I think it's wrong. It should be for life - that you play (for your country) like soccer players do. "It's very important to keep the identity of the national team, as a cultural thing, as an inspiration to new kids. "There are people who have moved to countries and lived there since they were 10 or 12, that's ok, but taking them from an academy like they're doing now in Tonga, and putting them in an Ireland shirt, for example, I'm against it. "I would love that player to play for Tonga, make money there and live well."

Argentina were the only country that could claim all 31 members of their World Cup squad last year were born on home soil. All other nations had players that were born abroad, with heavyweights like France and Australia among those taking advantage of the residency rule. "Seeing people not singing their national anthem, it confuses me a little bit," Pichot added. "We don't do this

in Argentina. While I'm not the owner of Argentina rugby, things can change - maybe we'll have a Fijian playing in the Japan World Cup for Argentina, but I don't see it happening."

While Pichot was clearly frustrated by how the international game has changed in recent years, the World Rugby CEO, Brett Gosper, spoke from a different hymn sheet. He revealed that at the latest council meeting international unions were happy to stay with the existing 'three year' rule, and dismissed a suggested switch to five years. Gosper stressed there was no appetite to change the law, that unions 'feel it is operating in the right way currently' and claimed there is unlikely to be any pressure from above until fans start to see games as 'hoaxes'.

"I think the day that people don't believe they're watching a bonafide international, then you've got problems. We've got no sign of that," he said. "If we see elements of an image erosion around the integrity of the game, it's something that will have to be addressed. "The erosion we would judge by what the fans feel and you've just seen a World Cup that the fans are not thinking 'this is a hoax'. They're bonafide international games with international players. "It may be reviewed in the future, but right now it's staying where it is." Beaumont dealt with some of the other pressing issues in the international game and spoke of the importance of finding a resolution to the existing rugby calendar. — AFP

'BEAST' TAKEN OUT OF SHARK ATTACK

WELLINGTON: The Coastal Sharks have taken a gamble by sidelining the feared Tendai "Beast" Mtawarira as they look this weekend to topple Super rugby leaders Waikato Chiefs, who have an under-performing scrum. The Beast's absence from today's clash has been attributed to a planned workload for leading Springboks but the absence of the hulking prop and Sharks captain will be a relief to the hosts as they battle to remain competition leaders.

The Sharks are in buoyant mood as they look to back up from their narrow win against the defending champions Otago Highlanders. The Highlanders this week host the ACT Brumbies in a clash of two sides suffering a mid-season slump. The Melbourne Rebels, who have replaced the Brumbies as the number one Australian side, should cement their position when they play Auckland Blues who are at the bottom of the New Zealand group.

Of the leading South Africa sides, the Golden Lions are at home to a Wellington Hurricanes unit who blew a chance last week to topple the Chiefs, while Western Stormers play the NSW Waratahs. When the Chiefs and Sharks clashed last year, red cards flowed with three players sent off in a dramatic opening half hour when the Sharks came out on top 12-11. But Sharks coach Gary Gold wants no ill-tempered repeat this time. "The win against the Highlanders was a great confidence boost for the players," he said, adding that against the Chiefs "discipline is going to be key and we need to stay grounded".

The Chiefs retained their competition lead last week but the game ended with uncontested scrums when tighthead prop Siate Tokolahi was injured as they clung to a one-point lead and their scrum was under pressure. A New Zealand radio station has since posted a video on Facebook showing Tokolahi running freely from a scrum and a lineout with no contact from any other player before going down injured. The Chiefs have made five changes from that side with Tokolahi named on the bench and a start for Japan Test prop Hiroshi Yamashita. Mtawarira is one of six changes for the Sharks.

'Need a lift'

The Highlanders and Brumbies have both won five of eight games and while that leaves the Highlanders fourth in an intense New Zealand group, the Brumbies are second in Australia, one point behind the Rebels. The Brumbies "certainly need a lift," according to coach Stephen Larkham. But he will be without injured star Joe Tomane with a question mark over captain Stephen Moore who has a calf muscle injury.

The Hurricanes, despite having an impressive pack, have had plenty to work on ahead of playing the Lions in Johannesburg. Beauden Barrett has lost his kicking radar and they were plagued by handling errors against the Chiefs. The Lions head the Africa 2 conference and with a six-point buffer over the second-placed Sharks. The Stormers, the premier South African side and Africa 1 conference leaders, should be too strong for the NSW Waratahs although their form is difficult to gauge. Under a quirk of the conference system, the Stormers will not be required to play a New Zealand team before the play-offs while the Sharks will play all five. — AFP

AJAX COACH QUILTS



Khama Billiat

OPPORTUNIST KHAMA BILLIAT GIVES SUNDOWNS VICTORY

JOHANNESBURG: Mamelodi Sundowns confirmed Wednesday that they are the top South African Premiership football club, while the struggle to avoid relegation is going down to the wire. Champions Sundowns triumphed 1-0 at runners-up Wits in the penultimate round thanks to an opportunist first half goal from Zimbabwean Khama Billiat. Favored to be voted the outstanding footballer of the Premiership season, the slightly built midfielder spotted veteran goalkeeper Moeneeb Josephs off his line and beat him with a long range shot.

Expensively assembled Sundowns also defeated unfashionable Johannesburg outfit Wits at home and completing the double stretched the gap at the top of the table to 11 points. Should the Pretoria-based club, which is bankrolled by mining magnate Patrice Motsepe, win their last fixture on May 21 they will accumulate a record Premiership total of 71 points.

"Tonight we proved why we are champions," said Sundowns coach and former South Africa striker Pitso Mosimane. "We took six points off Wits, six off Orlando Pirates, four off Kaizer Chiefs. That is the form of champions." Wits coach Gavin Hunt conceded that Sundowns are worthy successors to Chiefs as champions after clinching the title last Wednesday. "They possess strength in depth that other clubs lack," said the coach who guided SuperSport United to three consecutive Premiership titles before joining Wits. "Look at Sundowns bench. Look at the players who did not even make the bench and were watching from the stand. They are a quality outfit."

Sundowns and Wits will represent South Africa in the 2017 CAF Champions League and three clubs are in the running for third place and a CAF Confederation Cup slot. Platinum Stars stayed third despite a surprise 3-2 home loss to Bloemfontein Celtic, one point above Chiefs and three ahead of Mpumalanga Black Aces. At the other end of the table, Maritzburg United moved off the bottom as a late Thamsanqa Mkhize goal off a free-kick brought a 1-0 home win against Ajax Cape Town. Pretoria University dropped one place to last after trailing and leading in a 2-2 draw at Polokwane City.

Thobani Mncwango salvaged a point for City 17 minutes from time with his 12th Premiership goal of the season after Vuyisile Ntombayithethi had nodded Pretoria in front. Jomo Cosmos, the other club in the relegation dogfight, are one point ahead of Maritzburg and three above Pretoria after losing 1-0 at Golden Arrows. But Cosmos, owned and coached by South African football legend Jomo Sono, will decide their destiny as they host Maritzburg in the final round. The bottom club are automatically relegated and the second-last team go into play-offs. — AFP

THE HAGUE: Ajax coach and former Dutch international Frank de Boer announced yesterday he was quitting the Amsterdam club after failing to win the Dutch title. "Frank de Boer is quitting as Ajax trainer. He told the club's board in a meeting," Ajax said in a statement issued in Amsterdam. De Boer's announcement comes after Ajax drew 1-1 against minnows De Graafschap on Sunday while defending champions PSV retained their hold on the trophy with a 3-1 victory against PEC Zwolle. Ajax needed a win to claim the 34th championship in the club's 116-year history.

PSV's victory saw wild parties in their southern home base Eindhoven, but in the Dutch capital many Ajax fans slinked off in despair at the end of the highly anticipated televised match. "After four national championships the 2014-15 season was a disappointment and we wanted to fix it this season," said De Boer, a former Ajax player, in the statement. "We've done everything. But alas, what we hoped for and were expecting didn't happen. "I'm realising more-and-more that it's time to do something else. It's better for me and it's better for Ajax," said De Boer, indicating that he may take a year off from any coaching duties.

"It's an option, but I'll wait and see what lies ahead on the road." De Boer's last official job will be taking the team on a season-ending tour to China, leaving from the Netherlands on Friday, Ajax said. His contract is due to run through until mid-2017 and Ajax said they still hope he'll change his mind, although a club statement said the search for a successor is underway. De Boer's resignation "was not a big surprise, as over the last few months we've been discussing his future at Ajax", club director and legendary former Dutch goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar said. "But as all contracts of signed players run through until 2017 and because.

Frank is enormously ambitious, I still hope he'd want to serve out the contract," Van der Sar added in the statement. He had high praise



DOETINCHEM: Coach of Ajax Amsterdam Frank de Boer reacts following a 1-1 draw against De Graafschap Doetinchem during the Dutch Eredivisie match in Doetinchem in this file photo. — AFP

for De Boer, saying he was an "excellent ambassador for the club who always made time for the fans, the media, the club's social upliftment projects and sponsors." Former Dutch defender De Boer, who took the field 112 times for the Oranje, made a name for himself as assistant coach of the national

squad thaty reached the 2010 World Cup final in South Africa, where they lost to Spain. De Boer took Ajax to four straight league titles from 2011 to 2014. Dutch and international media reported that De Boer's most likely successor could be Macabbi Tel Aviv trainer and fellow Dutchman Peter Bosz. — AFP

MUCH-CHANGED CELTIC SUFFER A RARE DEFEAT

GLASGOW: Newly-crowned Scottish champions Celtic suffered only their fourth league loss of the season as a much-changed Hoops side slipped to a 2-1 defeat to St Johnstone at McDiarmid Park on Wednesday. Celtic, who made seven changes from Sunday's win over Aberdeen that clinched their fifth Scottish Premiership title in a row, took a 53rd-minute lead as Leigh Griffiths bagged his 40th goal of the season. However, their lead was short-lived as Steven MacLean took advantage of a Stefan Johansen error to dink home a 56th-minute equalizer.

A misunderstanding between Celtic 'keeper Logan Bailly and defender Efe Ambrose then allowed Graham Cummins to restore St Johnstone's lead in the 77th minute which sealed their fourth straight victory and ended a 12-match unbeaten run for the Hoops. Celtic assistant manager John Collins was philosophical in defeat. "We were disappointed in the two goals that we lost but that's football," Collins said. "We made a lot of changes tonight. The league is won so it was important to give all the boys a game." Meanwhile, St Johnstone manager Tommy Wright was delighted to see his side seal fourth spot. "There wasn't a lot of chances in the game but

I thought we always looked a threat," Wright said. "We did well after the split last year and we've done even better this year. Four wins on the bounce is incredible."

Unrecognizable

Celtic were almost unrecognizable from the match against Aberdeen on Sunday as manager Ronny Deila rung the changes for the match in Perth. Ryan Christie was making a rare start and after a sluggish opening the winger created the first chance for the Glasgow giants. The former Inverness Caledonian Thistle player danced his way to the by-line and swung a cross to the back post where Griffiths powered in a header that was beaten away by Zander Clark. St Johnstone responded with a Liam Craig free-kick that reached Brian Easton at the back post but his shot was blocked by a team-mate.

Chris Kane then came close with an angled shot from the edge of the penalty error that fizzed narrowly wide of the post. Patrick Roberts, who grabbed a double in the win over Aberdeen, then saw his shot from 20 yards take a deflection off a defender's boot and loop narrowly wide. The Hoops took the lead shortly after the break as Griffiths became the first

player since Swedish striker Henrik Larsson to reach 40 goals in a season for Celtic. He gathered the ball on the left edge of the box following a quick breakaway and cut through three desperate challenges to coolly prod the ball past Clark with the outside of his boot. However, St Johnstone soon found themselves on level terms through MacLean. The striker robbed a dithering Johansen of possession in the box before dinking the ball over the head of the advancing Bailly.

Another defensive mistake from Celtic then allowed St Johnstone to take the lead. Joe Shaughnessy swung in a cross from the right and as Bailly grabbed the ball he collided with team-mate Ambrose, who headed the ball out his hands. The loose ball fell to substitute Cummins, who had the simple task of firing home from close range. The win confirmed that St Johnstone will finish fourth, with Motherwell fifth after Stephen Pearson scored twice in a 3-1 victory at Ross County. Elsewhere, Danny Devine got the only goal as Inverness triumphed 1-0 at Hamilton and Kilmarnock came from behind to draw 1-1 at Dundee. Relegated Dundee United drew 3-3 at home to Partick Thistle on Tuesday, while second-placed Aberdeen host Hearts on Thursday. — AFP

SUNDERLAND SURVIVE; NORWICH, NEWCASTLE RELEGATED



LONDON: Sunderland secured their Premier League survival on Wednesday with a 3-0 victory over Everton that condemned bitter local rivals Newcastle United and Norwich City to relegation and sparked wild scenes of celebration at the Stadium of Light. It was the fourth season in a row that Sunderland's fans had to endure a gruelling relegation battle before popping the champagne corks, and their victory was a crushing blow for Newcastle and Norwich, whose 4-2 win over Watford on Wednesday proved in vain.

Sunderland's win, which came courtesy of two goals from surprise hero Lamine Kone, moved them up to 38 points with one match remaining, four clear of Norwich and Newcastle. Sunderland manager Sam Allardyce, a master of steering teams clear of danger, led the Sunderland fans in celebration, pulling off his jacket and flexing his muscles to the crowd after the final whistle. "There were a long few months winter months," he said. "We became a team that was difficult to beat, who did not like losing and continued the run constantly for the last few months."

Sunderland came into the game knowing victory would secure their survival regardless of other results and they dominated a lacklustre Everton from the start. They took the lead six minutes before halftime when Patrick van Aanholt's free kick was completely misjudged by Everton keeper Joel Robles before nestling in the net. It was 2-0 three minutes later as Kone lashed home a lofted ball into the box before the Ivorian started the celebrations in earnest 10 minutes after the interval when he converted from a corner which Robles palmed straight to him.

It was a painful end for Norwich, who had lost their previous four league matches without scoring, but found goals easy to come by in a comfort-



SUNDERLAND: Sunderland's Jermain Defoe (left) and Everton's Leighton Baines battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match at the Stadium of Light on Wednesday May 11, 2016. — AP

able win over Watford that came too late. They fell behind to an early strike from Troy Deeney but goals from Nathan Redmond and Dieumerci Mbokani and a Craig Cathcart own goal put them in command. Odion Ighalo pulled one back for Watford before Mbokani dinked in Norwich's fourth. The win, however, counted for nothing and left boss Alex Neil cursing an end-of-season col-

lapse that condemned his team to the second tier. "It is severe disappointment," he said. "In recent matches we have known it was going to be a difficult match. We had it in our hands five matches ago but we came up short. "The story for us is that as a club, we have dropped short for a variety of reasons. We have made vital errors in games at crucial times and the recruitment has not been as

good to strengthen the squad." In a very different atmosphere to the intensity of the relegation battle, Liverpool's Christian Benteke headed a stoppage-time equalizer in a 1-1 draw against last season's champions Chelsea at Anfield. Belgian Eden Hazard had earlier lit up a mid-table clash between the division's eighth and ninth-placed sides with a superb individual goal. — Reuters

HAZARD HITS STUNNER, BUT LIVERPOOL SNATCH A POINT



LIVERPOOL: An injury-time Christian Benteke goal earned Liverpool a point against unlucky Chelsea in a hard-working 1-1 draw at Anfield on Wednesday. Eden Hazard's first-half opener was a thrilling finish worthy of winning any contest and it looked like it would be enough until Benteke nodded in Sheyi Ojo's cross late on as Liverpool's unbeaten record at home was extended to 13 matches. The result preserved the 10-point gap between the teams, with Europa League finalists Liverpool eighth and outgoing Premier League champions Chelsea ninth.

It has been a season of change at Anfield, with Jurgen Klopp replacing Brendan Rodgers as manager in October, and more transformations will take place during the close season. This match was the last time Anfield's Main Stand will be seen in its current guise as the famous ground is redesigned to increase the stadium's capacity. Chelsea will also undergo

significant change over the coming months, but mainly on the pitch. Long-time captain John Terry is set to leave the club, but he cannot enjoy a public farewell as his red card in Chelsea's last encounter against Sunderland meant he was suspended for the club's final two games.

It robs the Stamford Bridge faithful of the opportunity to show their thanks for Terry's commitment over the past decade and beyond, and protests in the away end here showed how much a large section of Chelsea's fans want the 35-year-old to be given a further one-year contract. As well as their club captain, Chelsea were also without Diego Costa at Anfield, while Liverpool were at virtual full strength as Klopp looked to test his preferred starting XI ahead of their Europa League final against Sevilla next Wednesday. This match in years gone by has been one of the most tense and tumultuous in the English game, but although the start was bright, it had little of the fire of old.

Liverpool have clicked in recent weeks and that was shown by their early attacking ambitions as Adam Lallana, Philippe Coutinho and Roberto Firmino all tested the Chelsea defense. The visitors, meanwhile, looked to hit Liverpool on the break and Bertrand Traore had a decent chance from close range that Simon Mignolet comfortably stopped. —AFP

NORWICH GO DOWN DESPITE A VICTORY



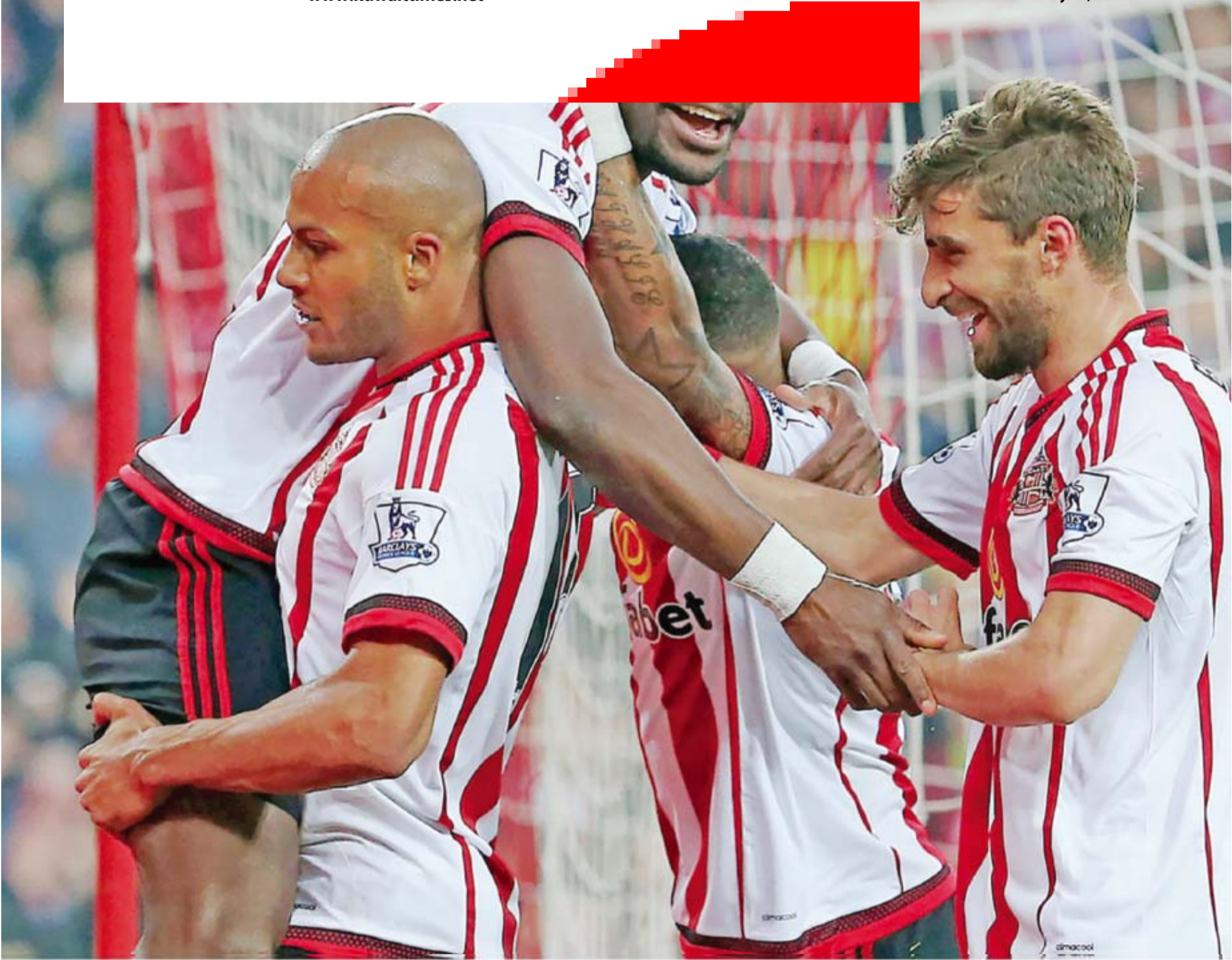
NORWICH: Norwich City manager Alex Neil declared that he felt humbled by the reception of the club's supporters after their relegation from the Premier League. The Canaries beat Watford 4-2 on Wednesday thanks to two goals from Dieumerci Mbokani, one from Nathan Redmond and an own goal by Hornets defender Craig Cathcart. But the result ended up counting for nothing as Sunderland beat Everton 3-0 to confirm that neither Norwich nor Newcastle United can now climb out of the bottom three on Sunday's final day. That Sunderland were winning comfortably was known long before the final whistle at Carrow Road on a night when Troy Deeney and Odion Ighalo scored for the visitors. But the home fans stayed to applaud the players as well as singing Neil's name.

Whether he will still be in charge at the

start of next season in the Championship remains to be seen, but the Scot was certainly moved by the acclaim he received. "That, for me, was really, really humbling," he said. "I feel as if I've let them down. I feel as if we've come up short as a group, as a club. For them to respond in that way, I didn't expect. I think it's really unusual. "I can only thank them for that. It makes it even more difficult for me to accept that we've come up short." Norwich are not a club known for hiring and firing managers. Neil, at 34, is one of the youngest in the profession and took them up from the second tier in his first season in charge.

But he offered no indication that he was expecting to stay. "I'm saying there's discussions to be had with the club," he said. "The club's got to decide what road they want to go down and how they're going to go about it for next season. "I want to sit down with the owners and have a good chat with them and see where they are. I've had nothing but support since I've been at this club. I've got absolutely no complaints. "They've given me their utmost support. I can't grumble about any of it." Remarkably, Watford manager Quique Sanchez Flores appears more likely to find himself in need of a new job. —AFP

SUNDERLAND: Sunderland's French-born Ivorian defender Lamine Kone (top) celebrates after scoring his team's third goal during the English Premier League football match between Sunderland and Everton at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland on May 11, 2016. — AFP



EPL - NEWCASTLE AND NORWICH RELEGATED; SUNDERLAND SURVIVE