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Regular crackdowns
disrupt irregular
trade in Kuwait



For Syrians in
Lebanon, no
resting place



Sevilla steamroller
highlights Spain's
weight in Europe



KUWAITI AMONG PASSENGERS IN EGYPTAIR PLANE CRASH

See Page 10



PARIS: An EgyptAir flight from Paris to Cairo with 66 passengers and crew on board crashed in the Mediterranean Sea yesterday morning off the Greek island of Crete, Egyptian and Greek officials said. (Inset left) Family members of passengers are transported by bus to a gathering point at Cairo airport. (Inset right) Photo shows Kuwaiti Abdelmohsen Mohammad Jaber Al-Mutairi.



Photo of the day



People celebrate a traditional Kuwaiti sea song and dance. — Photo by Jaber Abdulkhaliq/KUNA

Local Spotlight

EXPAT FEES



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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It's clear to all that Kuwait is facing an imbalance in the population structure and severe pressure on health and other services. But the solution should not be at the expense of expatriates by increasing all fees. This issue has gone very far now and seems as an act of revenge and not a regulatory decision by the government.

Last year, some members of the National Assembly called for a new fee policy to regulate foreign remittances and protect the national currency, as MP Kamel Al-Awadhi proposed a law imposing a 5 percent fee on the value of transfers, which will likely pour more than KD 200 million into the state coffers annually.

The justification for this request was that this fee on transfers of funds abroad is in return for what the state offers to expatriates with regards to health and education services and other facilities, as well as other services provided by the state, such as petrol, gas and electricity. Some studies have shown that expatriates' remittances are almost equal to the budget of some state facilities. Currently, the parliament seems to be in the process of approving a package of such decisions as the right of the state.

A new decision was also made to increase the fees for issuance, transfer and renewal of work permits, which will start from June. Based on this decision, work permit fees for the first time will be KD 50 instead of KD 2, transfer fees will KD 50 instead of KD 10, while renewal of the work permit will cost KD 10 instead of KD 2 in the past.

All Gulf states take fees from expats, whether on remittances abroad or residence or even regular visits, and fees are sometimes paid at the airport. The problem here in Kuwait is that throughout the years, we have put in the minds of expats that we are a goldmine from which they can take uncontrollably, until they lost their sense of rights and duties, the same thought which we allowed to citizens as well. It was we who allowed the misconceptions about the fact that the country is open for taking and not giving, and possibly escaping from legal punishment sometimes.

I understand and sympathize with the angry response of expats against fee increases. We citizens created an illusion for them and for ourselves and that is why Kuwaitis don't approve of the idea of giving as much as taking and the idea of state rights. We must remember that we are the citizens who allowed this demographic imbalance by bringing in a large number of marginal laborers or unskilled and useless people because of courtesies or laziness. We also authorized the deployment of nepotism and corruption. We ignored these kinds of negative practices against our country and after many years, the government comes up with the fee decision - something no one ever did.

Property owners who want to increase rents significantly are not bothered by the anger of the expat, who came to the country believing that he will make a fortune, but found that he can only meet his daily needs. Wealth is not known to many except from the news.

The main problem here is not in the decision to increase fees, but in the ways of addressing the demographic imbalance that must set specific percentages for each category of expatriates, employment and even domestic workers, and should not be passed because of nepotism or pleasantries. As long as this issue is impossible to solve, expats will remain under the radar.

In my opinion

THE SAD AFFECTS OF EXCESSIVE LITTERING IN KUWAIT

By Nora Salem Al-Aati

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According to Litter: It Costs You, "about 75 percent of people admitted that they have littered in the past five years". People all around the world need to stop littering because of its hazardous effects on our health, safety, welfare and food cycle. Living in a country where people litter on a daily basis, I cannot express the feeling of frustration. I see garbage piled up in streets and people throwing trash from their cars. Don't people know the consequences of littering? Does something bad have to happen for them to realize that littering is a bad thing? Kuwaitis, such as myself, should feel outraged about the amount of littering that is happens here! I think laws should be enforced to stop littering in Kuwait.

The large population of feral cats in Kuwait are greatly affected by the excessive littering. These cats run through our streets and forage through our garbage bins looking for food. Because of littering, some cats can suffocate and die due to the cans, containers, plastic bags and plastic bottles on the streets, not to mention all the toxins we carelessly throw out of our homes. Their dead bodies lay around in the streets and neighborhoods, and lead to a drastic increase of bugs, rats, mice, and life-threatening diseases.

According to the Washington State Department of Health in the United States: "As dead animals decompose, bacteria that may normally be contained within the animal's body can be released, exposing people to potential disease-causing pathogens" (Animal Transmitted Diseases). Diseases such as arbovirus, cryptosporidiosis, Escherichia coli (also known as E. coli), and tularemia occur because of the dead animals and vermin.

Has anyone heard of bubonic plague? The plague, also known as The Black Death, occurred because of the increase of vermin due to the killing of cats and an increased food supply for vermin thanks to an increase in corpses left to rot.

Another effect of littering in our country is that it dis-

courages tourism and the growth of diversity. Tourism provides economic benefits to a country, and when a country is disgustingly filled with garbage, no one will want to visit it. People want to go on vacation and travel the world, but if a country can't even keep itself clean, that means something is wrong. In addition, tourism promotes diversity and economic opportunities in a country, allowing for successful projects and organizations to emerge.

Lastly, and most importantly because this affects the region and not just us, is that littering destroys the health within our region and causes safety concerns. How many of you have visited Al Kout on a nice sunny day? How many of you had to then leave because the gas emissions from the factories was just too much to handle? Most of those particles in these emissions consist of chemicals that have been proven to cause serious diseases that threaten human life, such as asthma and cancer.

Let's face it - countries with littering have the highest rates of disease. Countries with littering have a disregard for their country and its beauty. Countries with littering tend to have problems with their governments and a lack of unity among their people. Countries with littering need to do something about this universal problem, and enforce laws against it. There is absolutely no reason for us to litter.

People litter because they don't feel responsible for public areas, but they are responsible! If you are living in this country, you must respect this country. If you are living in this country, you are responsible for your ugly habits. Moreover, you can't just ruin a country's beauty and environment because you are too lazy to do the right thing! People litter outside to make the trash someone else's problem, and this is unacceptable. Indeed, we must enforce laws to keep our country, Kuwait, free of filth and make it beautiful once again.

RELAX MOM, I'LL BE FINE (I THINK)

By Sreelekshmi Prithviraj

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I have lived in Kuwait for almost 17 years and was raised here, so I've sort of adapted to the Kuwaiti way, I suppose. Growing up, I was dependent on my parents for almost every single thing including being dropped off or picked up from somewhere or for money and even laundry. I didn't realize that one day I would have to do everything by myself.

When I left for school to Bangalore, I learned the hard way.

This was a new city for me. I didn't at the time know anyone there. I was just this random girl with big hopes and dreams like the rest of my generation. It was there, living in this new city, that I came to realize all the responsibilities that would fall to me.

So here's a list of a few things that I learned when I moved out of my parents' home and magically became an adult.

1. Like most people who join university, I could have stayed at the university dorm. But I chose not to because I thought my freedom was at stake. Bangalore, for us Indians, is a pretty exciting place, especially for teenagers. So, I went on a house-hunting trip with my cousin to find a place that would guarantee my safety and meet my requirements. Surprisingly, this went quite well because I found a place I liked quickly and managed to move in with a friend.

2. Money was something I got whenever I asked for. If I went out or wanted to buy a dress, my parents paid. Never did I actually realize how much I spent in a month, let alone a week. Once I joined college, this changed. My parents gave me a monthly allowance and I had to survive on this. If I asked for more, there would be questions. I hated answering these questions because I had to look back into what I spent my allowance on, and it sounded pretty silly.

So I had to learn how to manage my money. I had to maintain a weekly budget and keep some aside for leisure, which was where I spent most my money in the first place. It took time adjusting to the whole account system I created in my head. I had rent and bills to pay, manage my weekly groceries, etc. I realized this only after moving out, mainly because all these things were taken care of by my parents.

3. Food was the biggest problem I faced. I love to eat - I'm sure many people do, but when you are a person who loves eating but has no idea how to cook, it can be tough. Many students have the option of the college canteen, but since I stayed off campus, I had to manage on my own. I asked for a tiffin service, which I got sick of eventually. So my friends and I just ended up ordering takeout meals almost everyday. That's how we spent our money - on food, which seemed right at the time, but it's not easy living like this because you end up eating unhealthy and you get sick because you don't know what you're eating.

That's when I started buying groceries and tried learning how to cook. Cooking seemed fun the first few days but it's a hard job. It involved standing over the stove hoping your food isn't burnt or hasn't been stolen by a roommate, because a lot of people shared the basic utilities. You eventually get sick of cooking, but that's the only way you're going to learn and survive.

I had to learn from scratch and on my own. I could have learned with my mom, but I had procrastinated. It's only when you're stuck in a certain situation that you regret a few things. It is after all the survival of the fittest. Cooking is easy but cooking healthy was pretty hard and it took me at least a year to figure it out. I didn't even know there were so many types of pulses until I went into a grocery store to look for a specific kind.

4. Like I mentioned earlier, I lived with my parents for 17 years. So now, I had this sudden freedom and I didn't know how to handle it. There were so many new people around me of various backgrounds, and getting into a crowd and finding people I could relate to was hard. A few even influence you, sometimes for good and sometimes for the worst. It took some time realizing who was good for me.

5. When you join university and start living away from people you knew your whole life, it makes you sad. Yes, there is an excitement to leave, but you soon realize you aren't protected like you used to be. You start missing the old things and you start having memories and some even make you cry yourself to sleep because it's not the same anymore. Things are changing and you're not used to this change.

It was like this with me. I felt lazy and sad almost every day and

also got sick a couple of times. But I moved past it with time. I missed having my parents around to protect and take care of me. I missed my brother and the thought of missing to see him grow up into a teenager made me sad. Although I hadn't left for good, it made me feel like my entire world was tumbling down.

You keep counting the days so that you can run back home and finally be happy. But don't depend on that. Try to be happy wherever you are. Because sometimes only

when you move away can you actually start living and finally be the person you always dreamed of being. Sometimes you even lose friends in the process, but then you make new ones. These experiences make you a stronger and better person.

Prithviraj is a first year Communications Studies student at Mount Carmel College in Bangalore. She is currently interning with the Kuwait Times.

THE 1st ANNUAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM EXPO IN KUWAIT

Traveling this summer? Stick with the Marina Mall!

Come join the 1st annual travel and tourism expo in Kuwait at the Marina Mall. Browse through countless destinations, products and services, giving you a one stop shop for all your travel needs.

Where: The Marina Mall
When: May 18th - 21st 2016
Timings: 10 AM to 10 PM daily

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A collector displaying various old Kuwaiti toys.

Local collectors strive to preserve Kuwait's heritage

Rare, unusual or historical objects
Showing at expos and local events

By Nawara Fattahova

The "Expo965 Team" was founded a couple of months ago, consisting of 70 volunteer collectors and craftsmen who participate in various events. The collectors in the team collect rare items, old currencies (both coins and banknotes), stamps, old newspapers and magazines, beads, precious stones, old documents, old toys and games from the pre-oil era, parts of old Kuwaiti houses, old pearl diving tools and marine heritage, media and cinema documents and much more. The craftsmen in the team include an artist who makes accessories from electric wires, a copper sculptor, painters, calligraphers, bead makers and others.

Team goals

The Expo965 Team has many goals. "We aim to preserve Kuwaiti heritage by collecting items related to Kuwaiti history and show it to the public, so they gain knowledge about a segment of the country's history. We also aim to bring together young talents under our umbrella. Moreover, we aim to improve the skills of the youth through their participation. All our activities are for free as we are volunteers," Salem Al-Shimmeri, PR Director of Expo965, told Kuwait Times.

Since March this year, when the team was formed, it has participated in nine events at fairs, schools, universities and other locations. "The most significant events were the Arab Media Forum, the 1,000 projects exhibition

and the first exhibition held at the parliament. These institutions invited us to participate with our collections, and we focused on items that are related to Kuwait's history and heritage, especially at school events," Shimmeri said.

Some of the collectors also display parts of their collections for sale. "The founder and general coordinator of the team Mohammed Kamal believed many collectors have hidden treasures that people should see and benefit from and gain information, so he came up with the idea of founding Expo965," added Shimmeri. "We aim to get a headquarters for our team, so we have a place to meet and

"We aim to preserve Kuwaiti heritage by collecting items related to Kuwaiti history"



A collector posing with his collection of old kitchen tools.



Another collector displaying old newspaper and magazine issues containing important events of the Kuwait history. — Photos courtesy Expo965 Team.

make our official correspondence from. We are also looking to participate abroad and are waiting for invitations, preferably from Kuwaiti embassies abroad, especially during the national celebrations to present Kuwait's history to the public," he explained.

Most Important Items

"Our member collectors have many rare and interesting items. For instance, one of them has the passport of the late popular Egyptian singer Um Kalthoum, which was issued when Egypt was a kingdom. Also, another collector has a document of the late Sheikh Mubarak Al-Kabeer from the 19th century," Shimmeri told Kuwait Times. Shimmeri collects documents related to old Kuwaiti cinema and theatre.

"I have old cinema and theatre tickets. I also have brochures related to cinema and theatre, in addition to some old magazines and newspapers that are related to important historical events including sports, politics, death of rulers, national occasions and so on," he stated.

He called on the government to support the team, mainly by providing a building to house their collections. "We have the objects and items, but we need a place to display them. Now is the best season to participate in exhibitions, especially at schools, as summer is a dead period," concluded Shimmeri.

New collectors are welcome to join the team and can contact it on 60414441 or 99999898, or find it on Instagram and Snapchat @Expo965.



Members of the Expo965 Team posing with the old Kuwaiti flag at one of their events.



Collector displays antique mortar along with other wooden antiques.



One of the collectors displaying his antiques including an old money bank that was popular in Kuwait called 'Balaa' Albeiza' (small coin swallower).



Hmoud Adel Al-Amri

A master of all trades

Story and images by Athoob Al-Shuaibi

When a human being is like a solid oak tree, he can easily get uprooted or felled by a storm. But when he's like a palm tree, he sways with the wind. Hmoud Adel Al-Amri is a multitasking media figure who doesn't break easily. He has learned how to adapt to the ups and downs in his career. He can be found almost everywhere - Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, radio and television, but despite this, there's little to read about him on the Internet. So it's not surprising that when you meet him, he comes across as a shy person.

"I remember my conversation with a friend about my insistence to search for a job that required the utmost courage. We were at Marina Mall when I looked at the radio cabin of Marina FM, watching the presenter doing her job. I told him: 'Someday, I will sit next to her to present my own radio program'. He of course didn't take me seriously, but I took a two-week holiday only to go daily and stand at the door of the station to apply for a job. This was back in April 2005 when Marina FM was launched. My persistence paid off and I was approved in November to host my first program," Hmoud told Kuwait Times.

The 33-year-old radio presenter emerged 10 years later from Marina FM after deep thought to forge ahead in the visual communication field. He's currently a production manager at OTB Creative Concept, the parent company of several other companies such as Planet Entertainment, Layalina magazine and Al-Waseet.

"Something happened to me that I will never forget during my job as a general supervisor of a morning show for a Kuwaiti TV channel and as a presenter of a small component of the show about tech and entertainment news. The channel decided to cancel my segment after accusations from the public, charging me of promoting a Hollywood celebrity's social

media account. Someone edited the first section and linked it to the last part of my words to make me sound like I was telling everybody to follow this account. Meanwhile, the truth is that I was voicing my wonder and surprise that why did she wait for two years to join. It was just a way to end the segment," Hmoud recalled.

From hosting a small segment, Hmoud moved on to become a key anchor of a major new TV show on Scope Channel. The tone of the show is serious as it hosts professionals to talk about local affairs and various issues in the Kuwaiti community. Hmoud said that he doesn't see himself here, but is excited to work in this new show. "It's a new adventure that will inevitably add to my experiences," he said. "This is not far from my own audio and video advertising company (Thinking Cap), founded by me and my cousin," he added.

There's no end to ambition

"Everywhere you go, you should add something positive - a new experience, a new challenge and unexpected opportunities. I didn't expect myself to get pulled off an oilfield to work at a call center, then ending up as a production manager and a TV anchor. Although I'm a shy person, I'm never afraid of change. Making a decision, however, is not easy," said Hmoud.

Leaping from one job to another can hurt your career. "But, when your job doesn't take you to a bigger place - bigger than your manager - then it's time to change," he stressed. "My passion is technology - I'm working on a program that presents innovative ideas and latest news and updates about gaming. The show will be on the Internet where young people spend most of their time watching videos. The future of TV is the Internet - people are no longer spending long hours in front of television screens," Hmoud told Kuwait Times.

Hmoud advises people not to fear to live the life they want and be what they want, proving to these varied talents that

they can win in every domain they are passionate about. "Jack of all trades and master of all. I have worked as a petroleum engineer, call center operator, broadcaster, scriptwriter, director, production manager...and guess what, I even wrote a theatrical play called "Moon Land". My biggest dream is to see it on stage someday," he concluded.

EVERYWHERE YOU GO, YOU SHOULD ADD SOMETHING POSITIVE - A NEW EXPERIENCE, A NEW CHALLENGE AND UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITIES



REGULAR CRACKDOWNS DISRUPT IRREGULAR TRADE

'STREETSIDE SELLERS FACE MYRIAD HARDSHIPS'

By Ben Garcia

Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh is home to many South Asians, and vendors hawking goods on the sidewalk is a common sight here. The vendors set up their displays on pieces of cloth or cardboard late in the evening when people start returning home (approximately 6 pm to 8 pm) from a long day at work. They sell almost everything, from fruits and vegetables to carpets and even garbage bins. One can also find them in Mirqab, Fahaheel and other areas heavily populated by South Asians.

The people involved in this underground business are mostly from the Indian subcontinent and bedoons (stateless Arabs), who have no other source of livelihood, since many of them are jobless. Police regularly crack down on these illegal markets, but more often than not, only a few vendors are caught because the moment authorities arrive, they disappear in the night without a trace. Their products will be confiscated, but the hawkers don't seem to care.

Sujatha, a street-smart Indian sidewalk vendor in Jleeb, works for a bedoon from Sulaibiya. She is paid KD 60 per month. She said she has been advised by her employer not to talk to strangers, because she is "paid to sell goods and is not in the business of entertaining strangers", but agreed to speak to Kuwait Times nevertheless. "My boss comes every now and then to check my sales. This is my second job. I also work in a baqala, with some cleaning and laundering jobs on the side," she said.

Sujatha is 55, and works hard to feed her grandchildren back in India. "I have been doing this job for many years now. I've made many friends in this place and I enjoy it every day," she asserted. She is not the only vendor in the area where she sells her products. There are dozens more, many of them women wearing abayas and niqabs.

Sujatha is unperturbed by the possibility of a police raid or even the fact that what she is doing is illegal. "The police don't come here, unlike other areas. We've been here for many years selling these items, and the police do not bother us. Sometimes they even buy stuff from us, so I don't really fear any threat from the police. I have an iqama so I am not bothered," she told Kuwait Times. "I don't know whether this work is illegal. What I know is that I am paid for selling these items. I don't complain - I need the money at the end of the month. For me, this is a reasonable job, and I don't see anything illegal in this," she added.

Rajul is another street vendor from Bangladesh who displays his merchandise of used



clothing in Mirqab near the central KPTC bus depot. He told Kuwait Times that many of the items he sells are carefully selected from the Friday Market. Every Thursday and Friday between 5 to 8 pm, Rajul and his friends set up shop to sell their items. They only sell for two or three hours, aware of the intermittent police raids. "If we see the police, we disappear immediately," he said, matter-of-fact.





KUWAIT: Some of the participants read Kuwait Times Newspaper in one of the booths.

MARINA MALL HOSTS FIRST EVER 'TRAVEL AND TOURISM EXPO'

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Marina Mall is hosting the first 'Travel and Tourism Expo' scheduled May 18 -21, 2016. Visitors will find the best travel deals, promotion and discounts on tickets, travel insurance and other services. This expo is organized by Outer Limit media solutions in partnership with Atlas Global. About 30 booths - representing 22 companies are displaying their products and services. The event which was launched on Wednesday will continue until Saturday (from 10:00am - 10:00pm). The booths were spread along the mall including the main dome and other spaces around the mall.

Exhibitors offer special deals for the period of the expo including air fares by Atlas Global. "During the four-day Expo, passengers can book a ticket to any of the Europe destinations that Atlas Global flies to for only KD 99. This offer is only valid during this event. We offer many special services onboard such as the flying chef, who can prepare any dish on board. We also offer 40kg baggage allowance, and our prices are competitive," Ahmad Al-Safadi, Deputy Regional Director, Atlas Global said. The sales representative of Booking Express

Michael, noted that this expo was a great opportunity to introduce their agency to the public. "We offer different promotions. We provide tickets, hotels booking, cruises, collective tours among others. We also provide paying with K-net and online booking system. We only add KD 1 to the ticket if the passenger bought his ticket at our office, while other offices charge between KD 5 to KD 10," he told the Kuwait Times.

Amani Saleh from Mix Media spoke about their Aero promotion. "Buying the special package for only KD 1, which is less than its value in the market, the customer will get a coupon to enter a raffle draw for two tickets to London with accommodation for five nights. There will be three lucky winners after a raffle draw that will be hold on Sunday - each will get two tickets," she pointed out.

Al-Muzaini Exchange sales representative Mohammed Mustafa spoke about the special services provided by the company. "With 70 branches around Kuwait, A-Muzaini offers many special services such as a special rate for money transfer to the Philippines. It also charges only KD 1.500 for money transfer to Egypt. We also offer special rates for money transfers to China, Canada, and Australia within minutes," he stated.



KUWAIT: Officials inaugurate the first 'Travel and Tourism Expo' at the Marina Mall. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

News

in brief

KD 100 per month to be paid as housing aid

KUWAIT: Applicants qualified for housing aid will be paid KD 100 per month of the next 18 months, Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yagoub Al-Sanea announced yesterday. He made this remark during a press conference held on the occasion of announcing the first money dispatch, as part of a funding housing plan. This financial aid will help Kuwaiti families of limited income, families who are unable to pay their rent and newlyweds who are financially exhausted to make their payments on time. The housing aid plan was established in accordance to decree 441/2015. 362 applications were received; only 117 one were qualified for approval. "The funds will be disbursed in the accounts retroactively to January of 2016," Al-Sanea said. He added that KD 275,000 was allocated to fund the project this year alone; approved applicants will be paid KD 100 per month for the next 18 months. He stressed that the Kuwaiti leadership is very much keen on providing a good life to all citizens by focusing on finding solution for the ongoing housing issue.



Officials take group photo during the concluding ceremony of a seminar.

PAY communicates with the youth to draw up strategy

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Youth (PAY) is keen on communicating with young people to get acquainted with their views to draw up PAY's strategy, Director General Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi said. Al-Mutairi made the statement at the concluding ceremony of a seminar with members of the Kuwait Boy Scouts Association (KBSA) and Kuwait Girl Guides Association (KGGGA). The event aims to get acquainted with the views and expectations of the scout movement on PAY's methods and executive plans, as part of the efforts to set the strategy, Al-Mutairi added. It is part of similar events with the youth in the different Kuwaiti governorates, he said. According to Al-Mutairi, PAY is set to sign a protocol with representatives of the Kuwaiti scout movement to enhance bilateral cooperation through joint activities and forums. He said that the Ministry of Education will be engaged in this cooperation.

Tons of Kuwaiti relief aid given to Syrian refugees

KUWAIT: The International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) announced yesterday it has sent 47 tons of relief aid aboard a Kuwaiti military aircraft to Syrian refugees in Jordan. The aid consists of such staples as rice, sugar, flour, pasta, and dates in addition to blankets and clothes, said IICO public relations director Salah Al-Jassem, in a press statement. He added that IICO has also arranged it with Kuwait Airways to send another shipment of relief aid to Syrian refugees in Jordan at a later date, possibly by the advent of the holy month of Ramadan, early in June. All aid is to be distributed in Jordan under the supervision of the Kuwait embassy there and the office of IICO, he said.



The 44th meeting of AUE Board of Directors

GCCIA JOINS ARAB ELECTRICITY UNION

AMMAN: Arab Union for Electricity (AUE) has accepted Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnection Authority (GCCIA) as an effective member to promote Arab joint cooperation in the field of electricity. The 44th meeting of AUE Board of Directors also approved a training program, which will be organized by Jordan's National Electric Power Company (NEPCO) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), AUE Secretary General Fawzi Kharbat said.

He added that the meeting agreed to update database of power plants in

the Arab world; in addition, it discussed AUE's general budget for 2015. Jordanian Energy Minister Ibrahim Saif stressed in his opening remarks at the meeting the importance of promoting Arab joint work in the electricity field to face any shortcomings. He added that Arab interconnection power project is essential to providing for better economic and social living in the Arab World.

On his part, AUE President and Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation chairman Essa Bin Hilal Al-Kuwari lauded all efforts made to

improve the performance of AUE and encouraged to bring new ideas to the table to achieve more development. Arab Union of Electricity was established in 1987 as a gesture of a group of Arab electrical companies with the purpose of strengthening ties between members to improve power manufacturing in the Arab World. AUE is situated in Amman, Jordan. It consists of 19 countries which are: Jordan, UAE, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Sultanate of Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and Yemen. —KUNA

KUWAIT URGES REGIONAL, GLOBAL COOPERATION AGAINST TERRORISM

NEW DELHI: Kuwait has urged further regional and global cooperation to counter terrorism, and its root causes. The call was made by Chairman of the Appeals Chamber in the Kuwaiti Justice Ministry Counselor Ali Musaed Al-Dhabibi in his address to the 55th annual meeting of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) held in New Delhi on



NEW DELHI: Chairman of the Appeals Chamber in the Kuwaiti Justice Ministry Counselor Ali Musaed Al-Dhabibi addressing the 55th annual meeting of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO).—KUNA

Wednesday. Terrorism has come to constitute a major phenomenon of grave consequences and has had wide impacts "proving it has no boundaries, regional or religious," he said. Al-Dhabibi arrived in New Delhi on Monday leading a Kuwaiti delegation to the event.

He reiterated Kuwait's support to Palestine, urging the AALCO leadership to carry on with backing the decade-long cause. Kuwait is certain that the just demands of the Palestinian people, self-determination, improving their livelihood and providing them with security and peace, are basics of human civilization, he said. Al-Dhabibi noted that the Palestinian issue has been on the top of AALCO's agenda ever since its 27th meeting held in Singapore in 1988. In addition, he stressed the fact that Kuwait has been a staunch supporter of the Palestinians' rights over long years.

Meanwhile, Al Dhabibi appreciated AALCO's efforts to achieve stronger relations and understanding among the member states, and to help them formulate "foolproof opinions and directions over issues of global concern." Following the historic Bandung Conference, Indonesia, April 1955, the Asian Legal Consultative Committee (ALCC) was formed, November 1956 with India, Iraq, Japan, Egypt, Syria, Indonesia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka as the founding members. It was renamed as the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC) in 1958.—KUNA

EX-MINISTER EXONERATED

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The Cassation Court has exonerated former Minister Mohammad Al-Sanousi and his son from embezzling public funds through the financial discrepancies in the Showbiz case. The court had earlier suspended the jail sentence of Shaker Al-Othman and Ziyad Al-Sanousi.

Kuwaiti found drowned

Rescue teams and the Coast Guard found a Kuwaiti youth who drowned near Bneid Al-Qar. The man (born in 1994) was found dead. Criminal detectives were called in to recover the body.

Drug suspects nabbed

Drugs Control Department arrested 14 persons including seven Egyptians, a Syrian and six Asians for trading on drugs. A security source said 500g heroin, 850 Tramadol tablets, 130g shabu and 20g hashish were confiscated. He added that eight persons are being deported for helping the drug dealers. In another development, Farwaniya police have arrested a Kuwaiti youth who was found in an abnormal condition. Police found drugs in his possession. The suspect was also posing as a policeman and had a car with a stolen license plate.

Crime

Report

'CROSS-DRESSER' ARRESTED

KUWAIT: Police have arrested a 'cross-dresser' in Salmiya. The police patrol spotted a suspicious vehicle and asked the driver to stop. They checked the car with tinted glass and found 'cross-dresser' inside women belongings.

Under drug influence

A man who was under the influence of drugs was arrested with 72 illicit tablets. Jahra security operatives noticed a man in a miserable condition so they stopped him for questioning. The suspect happened to be an ex-convict on drugs cases. He was sent to Drugs Control General Department.

Officer injured

An officer in Ahmadi was hurt when a 4WD vehicle driver attempted to escape from patrol officers following a string of reckless driving. Police responded to a call about the reckless driver, so he was chased. His vehicle hit a patrol car carrying a 1st Lieutenant after one of his tires exploded. When the officer came out of his car to arrest the driver, he hit him and injured him slightly.

Woman accuses husband

A woman accused her husband of stealing KD 1700 from her closet, according to a complaint she filed at Fintas police station. The husband denied the accusation, but she said she is sure he is the culprit. The woman claimed the husband is the only one who knows where the money was kept. Police are investigating.

MOCK EXERCISE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Civil Defense Department conducted a mock exercise at Crowne Plaza hotel with the participation of the explosives department at the special services directorate, fire department and medical emergencies of the Health Ministry. The exercise was about a fire in the hotel kitchen resulting to injuries. The hotel was evacuated and the injured were taken by ambulance to the hospital.



Egyptian arrested

Drugs Control General Department officials have arrested an Egyptian in Farwaniya area after he sold 1000 Tramadol tablets for KD 1500 to an undercover agent. 26,000 tablets were found in his house. He has been sent to concerned authorities.

International

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2016

**Turkey names
new PM as
Erdogan
tightens grip**



**House chairman
complains about
Pentagon response
on Benghazi**



**Venezuela
opposition
pressures Maduro
after protests**



CAIRO: Families of passengers who were flying in an EgyptAir plane that vanished from radar en route from Paris to Cairo react as they wait outside a services hall at Cairo airport yesterday. — AFP

KUWAITI, 65 OTHERS PERISH AS EGYPTAIR CRASHES

EGYPTIAN PLANE CRASHES; TERRORISM SUSPECTED

KUWAIT: One Kuwaiti citizen was among 66 people who are thought to have perished yesterday morning when an EgyptAir flight crashed into the Mediterranean sea. "Authorities in France and Egypt have confirmed that Kuwaiti Abdelmohsen Mohammad Jaber Al-Mutairi was on board," Sami Al-Hamad, Kuwait Foreign Ministry Assistant for Consular Affairs said yesterday. He added that the ministry is working closely with the concerned authorities for more information.

The Paris to Cairo EgyptAir flight MS804 disappeared from radar about 10-15 miles into Egyptian airspace. Possible wreckage from the plane has been spotted off the coast of a Greek island. Terrorism has not been ruled out as a possible cause for the crash. Egypt's aviation minister said that while it was too soon to say why the Airbus A320 had vanished, "a terrorist" attack would be a more likely scenario than a technical failure, he claimed.

Greek Defense Minister Panos Kammenos said the plane had fallen 22,000 feet and swerved sharply twice in Egyptian airspace before it disappeared from radar screens. The incident raised fears of a repeat of the bomb-

ing of a Russian passenger plane by the Islamic State jihadist group over Egypt last October that killed all 224 people on board. A Greek military spokesman said an Egypt C-130 plane had spotted floating objects that could be debris from the crash, and ships were en route to investigate. The jet had been flying from Paris to Cairo overnight when it disappeared off radar screens, without sending a distress signal.

French President Francois Hollande confirmed that the plane had "crashed" and Paris said its accident department had opened an investigation. Cairo's state prosecutor also ordered a probe into the incident, a statement said, signaling suspicion that foul play could have caused the crash. Egypt's Aviation Minister Sherif Fathy said he could not rule out either terrorism or a technical problem. "I don't deny the hypothesis of a terrorist attack or something technical. It is too early," he told a news conference, adding that no wreckage had been found. "The possibility of having a different action onboard, of having a terror attack, it is higher than the possibility of having a technical" failure, he added.

Egypt and Greece both said they had dispatched aircraft and naval vessels on a search mission and they were expected to be joined by French teams. Fifteen French citizens were among the 26 foreign passengers on the EgyptAir flight, who also included a Briton and a Canadian. Both France and Egypt have come under attack by jihadists of the Islamic State group in the past year and Hollande promised a comprehensive investigation into the cause of the crash as suspicions swiftly focused on a bomb. "Whether it was an accident or another hypothesis that everyone has on their mind—a terrorist hypothesis... at this stage we must focus on our solidarity with the families and the search for the causes of the catastrophe," he said in a televised address.

No distress call

IS has been waging a deadly insurgency against Egyptian security forces and last October claimed the bombing of the Russian airliner flying home holidaymakers from the Egyptian resort of Sharm El-Sheikh. France earlier called a crisis meeting of top ministers as Prime Minister Manuel Valls said "no theo-

ry can be ruled out" to explain the plane's disappearance. EgyptAir said contact was lost with the flight about 280 kilometers north of the Egyptian coast. A Greek aviation source said the flight had disappeared from Greek radar at around 0029 GMT. "It crashed around 130 nautical miles off the island of Karpathos," the source said, referring to an island northeast of Crete.

Greek civil aviation chief Constantinos Litzerakos said the pilot had mentioned no problem in the last communication before the plane disappeared, and it had not deviated from its course. "The flight controllers contacted the pilot (with the plane) at a height of 37,000 feet (near Athens)... he did not mention a problem," Litzerakos told Greece's Antenna TV. Neither the Greek coastguard nor the navy could confirm reports that a passing ship had seen "a ball of fire in the sky". The civil aviation chief said if there had been an explosion, any debris would have scattered across a wide distance. EgyptAir Holding Company vice president Ahmed Adel also said there had been "no distress call" before the plane vanished. — Agencies

UN VOWS TO AIRDROP SYRIA AID IF NEEDED, EYES RENEWED PEACE TALKS

GENEVA: United Nations Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura vowed yesterday to take the "last resort" option of air drops of humanitarian aid if land access to besieged areas in Syria is not improved by June 1.

Without improved aid access and some restoration of Syria's tattered cessation of hostilities, the credibility of the next round of peace talks would be in question, he said. The damage to the peace talks prompted the United States and Russia to convene the International Syria Support Group of major and regional powers on Tuesday, which toughened the truce terms and endorsed a stronger push for humanitarian aid.

"We want to bring aid to everyone. If the food cannot be brought by convoys, the alternative is air drops," de Mistura told journalists in Geneva. Air drops were "the most expensive, the most complicated, the most dangerous option", he added. "So the air drops are the last resort, but we are getting close to it." The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) has made more than 30 air drops of food and other supplies to the eastern town of Deir al-Zor, besieged by Islamic State, due to a total lack of access, but that is the only location so far.

De Mistura said he would not abandon the peace talks, but was waiting for the right

date. "Obviously we are in a clear hurry to start reintroducing the next round of the intra-Syrian talks," he said. But if humanitarian access to besieged areas did not improve, "then the credibility of the next round of talks would be in question".

He said he would not rule out overriding any Syrian government objections to air drops. Observance of Syria's cessation of hostilities arrangement had gone down "from 80-85 (percent) to 50 (percent)," he said. De Mistura's humanitarian advisor Jan Egeland said a clear intention to organize air drops for Syria's remaining besieged areas would help convince President Bashar al-

Assad to allow humanitarian convoys to go in by road. "We do believe that the option of air drops will actually make it possible for us to go by land in the next weeks," he said.

Egeland said aid had reached 13 of 18 besieged areas after a convoy got into the Harasta suburb of Damascus on Wednesday. But another convoy was turned back from Daraya town last week because what he called "well-fed" soldiers barred it from delivering baby milk powder. Humanitarian supplies this month have not reached half the 900,000 people the UN wanted to supply in besieged and hard-to-reach areas, he said. The target for June is 1.1 million.—Reuters

FOR SYRIANS IN LEBANON, NO RESTING PLACE IN LIFE OR DEATH

BAR ELIAS, LEBANON: As if losing three infants in exile in Lebanon were not heartbreaking enough, Syrian refugee Ahmad al-Mustafa then had to relive the ordeal as he pleaded to find them a grave.

"I had three babies over three years. Each time, they died," the 29-year-old construction worker from Aleppo city says, standing outside his makeshift home in Lebanon's Bekaa region. "The problem was where to bury them," he adds, his tone matter-of-fact, as if numbed to the suffering.

Five years into the Syria conflict, Lebanon hosts more than one million refugees from the war-torn country, according to the United Nations. More than a third live in the Bekaa valley near the Syrian border.

As towns there strive to accommodate tens of thousands of Syrian arrivals, some local councils are struggling to provide them with burial services because town cemeteries are almost full. After fleeing Syria five years ago, Mustafa and his wife lost three babies aged three months, five days and just two hours old. When their first infant died, he approached someone he knew in a nearby town, who he says was kind and gave him a tiny corner of their family's burial plot.

When their second baby died, "we were forced to open up the old grave and we buried them together," Mustafa says. With the help of a religious leader, he buried his third child in yet another district. "We just ask the state and religious authorities to find us a plot of land not suitable for farming, so that if someone dies we can bury them," Mustafa pleads.

'Town can't take it'

Mustafa, his wife and two surviving children live in a refugee settlement outside the town of Bar Elias, whose population has doubled with refugee arrivals since 2011, officials say. Even before the war broke out in Syria—killing more than 270,000 people and displacing millions—the town's old cemetery was full, they say. "There's no more space in the old graveyard-for Syrians or Lebanese", says Saad Mayta, the town's outgoing mayor.

The graveyard stands on a small hill in town, its tombs packed so tight that visitors among its tall poppies and wild grass struggle to avoid stepping on a grave. A few burial chambers teeter dangerously off its highest point, where the hill drops suddenly from erosion. Mayta says around 70,000 Syrian arrivals have severely strained the town's waste, sewage, water, and electricity networks—as well as its burial services. Death rates among Syrian refugees are much higher than among the local population, authorities and international organisations say, because they are more vulnerable.

At least two thirds of Lebanon's Syrian refugees live in extreme poverty, according to the United Nations.

There are no official statistics, but Mayta says someone in the town's Syrian community dies every one or two weeks. "The solution is that Syrians go home to their country," says the soft-spoken official. "The town can't take it. We can hardly handle all the Lebanese."—AFP



SIRTE, LIBYA: A general view of buildings ravaged by fighting.—AP

ISLAMIC STATE SUICIDE BOMBINGS KILL 32 LIBYAN MILITIAMEN

BENGAZI, LIBYA: A spokesman of a Libyan militia says two suicide bombings by the Islamic State group have killed 32 of the militia's fighters.

Mohammed Shamia of the Misrata militia, which is loyal to Libya's new UN-brokered unity government, told The Associated Press that the attack happened on Wednesday night. He says two suicide bombers rammed their large vehicles packed with explosives into militia positions in the al-Washka and Bourayat al-Hassoun areas west of the coastal city of Sirte, an IS stronghold. Fifty militiamen were wounded in the attacks.

The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the bombings in a statement posted by its supporters on Twitter. The international community and Western powers have pledged to support Libya's UN-backed government and arm in order to fight the Islamic State group.—AP

US WIDENS SANCTIONS ON ISLAMIC STATE, AL-QAEDA BRANCHES

WASHINGTON: The US is expanding sanctions against groups and individuals associated with al-Qaeda and Islamic State group affiliates in the Middle East. The State Department is designating branches of the Islamic State in Libya, Yemen and Saudi Arabia as global terrorists. The State Department says they became branches in 2014 when the Islamic State group's leader accepted their oath of allegiance. The Treasury Department is also imposing sanctions on six individuals for supporting or fundraising for IS or al-Qaeda, including al-Qaeda's branch operating in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Those sanctions also target the Nusra Front, the al-Qaeda group in Syria fighting in close quarters with US-backed opposition forces.

The actions freeze any property the individuals or groups have within US jurisdiction and ban Americans from doing business with them.—AP

ISRAEL FREES PALESTINIAN WHO ENDED HUNGER STRIKE IN FEBRUARY

RAMALLAH: The Israeli military says a Palestinian prisoner who ended a 94-day hunger strike in February has been released to his home in the West Bank.

It says Mohammed Al-Qeq was freed yesterday. Al-Qeq went on hunger strike in November to win release from administrative detention, a practice that can keep some prisoners in custody without charges for an indefinite time. Israel says it is an important security tool to deter militant attacks.

Palestinian prisoners have used hunger strikes before to draw attention to their detention. Fearing a fasting detainee's death could spark more violence, Israel has at times acceded to their demands.

Israel has said that al-Qeq, who has worked as a journalist for a Saudi media outlet, was involved in activities linked to the militant group Hamas.—AP

TUNISIA'S ENNAHDA TO SEPARATE POLITICS FROM ISLAMIC ACTIVITY

TUNIS: Tunisia's Islamist Ennahda party will separate its religious activities from political ones, its chief said in statements published yesterday ahead of a weekend congress to formalize the change.

Rached Ghannouchi, an intellectual who once advocated a strict application of Islamic sharia law, told French daily Le Monde there was no room left in post-Arab Spring Tunisia for "political Islam". "Tunisia is now a democracy. The 2014 constitution has imposed limits on extreme secularism and extreme religion," he was quoted as saying. "We want religious activity to be completely independent from political activity."

"This is good for politicians because they would no longer be accused of manipulating religion for political means and good for religion because it would not be held hostage to politics," said Ghannouchi. His comments come on the eve of a three-day congress for Ennahda, which is part of a coalition government. Leaders say the congress will take the formal step of making the separation between political and Islamic activities. Ghannouchi, who is expected to be re-elected as party head barring any last-minute surprise, said: "We are going towards a party which specialises in political activities. We are leaving political Islam and entering democratic Islam. We are Muslim democrats who are no longer claim to represent political Islam," he added.

He described Ennahda as a "political, democratic and civil party" but said its point of reference remain rooted in the values of ancient and modern Islam. Ghannouchi and other intellectuals inspired by Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood in 1981

founded the Islamic Tendency Movement, which became Ennahda in 1989.

The party was persecuted under the regime of strongman Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and his predecessor Habib Bourguiba. Ghannouchi was sentenced to jail under Bourguiba and lived in exile for 20 years, returning home after the 2011 Arab Spring uprising ousted Ben Ali.

He received a triumphant welcome from supporters and won the post-revolution election in October 2011, but two years later Ghannouchi had to step aside amid a deep political crisis. In 2014, the secularist Nidaa

Tounes party of President Beji Caid Essebsi won parliamentary elections, beating Ennahda which came second. But in January Ennahda became the single biggest party when some lawmakers quit Nidaa Tounes to form a new bloc in parliament.—AFP



TUNIS: Ennahdha Islamist party leader Rached Ghannouchi during a ceremony marking the 59th anniversary of independence.—AFP



ANKARA: Binali Yildirim, Turkey's current Transportation Minister and founding member of the AKP, Turkey's governing party, speaks during a meeting.—AP

TURKEY NAMES NEW PM AS ERDOGAN TIGHTENS GRIP

TRANSPORT MINISTER BINALI YILDIRIM BECOMES PM

ISTANBUL: Turkey's ruling party named a loyal ally of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as the new prime minister yesterday, with the incoming premier immediately vowing to "work in total harmony" with the strongman leader. The ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) will officially appoint Transport Minister Binali Yildirim as its chairman Sunday, meaning he will automatically become prime minister.

Yildirim will replace Ahmet Davutoglu, who stepped down after a struggle with Erdogan, as the president seeks to concentrate more power in the presidential office. "We will work in total harmony with all our party comrades at all levels, beginning with our founding president and leader," said Yildirim after being named party head, referring to Erdogan. The 60-year-old Yildirim is seen as one of Erdogan's closest long-time confidants and has served an almost unbroken stint from 2002 to 2013 as transport minister and then again from 2015. They are both strongly opposed to resuming talks with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), the Kurdish militant group that has claimed responsibility for several attacks across Turkey since a two-year-long ceasefire collapsed in 2015.

The new prime minister's main task, observers say, will be to pilot a change in the constitution to transform Turkey from a parliamentary to a presidential system, placing more power in Erdogan's hands. "And now it's time for the presidential system,"

Yildirim said earlier in May just after Davutoglu's resignation.

Another critical task facing the new prime minister will be to negotiate with the European Union on a crunch visa deal, a key plank of an accord aimed at easing the EU's migrant crisis. The visa deal has been in jeopardy over Ankara's reluctance to alter its counter-terror laws, a key requirement of the agreement, prompting Erdogan to make a series of critical statements about the EU in recent weeks.

Yildirim vowed Thursday to "rid Turkey of the calamity of terrorism". His first high profile outing as prime minister is expected to be the opening of the first World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul Monday which will be attended by German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Analysts expect that Yildirim—who has never stepped out of line with the president on a policy issue—will prove a far more pliable figure for the president than Davutoglu.

After the official appointment expected on Sunday, "the post of prime minister will have changed its meaning," said Fuat Keyman, head of the Istanbul Policy Center think-tank. "The president will become the head of the executive. The prime minister will become a functional cog," Keyman told AFP.

'Crazy' projects

After the announcement of a single candidate, Yildirim will likely be approved as new AKP leader by an extraordinary congress of the party on

Sunday.

According to AKP convention, the posts of party chief and head of government automatically go to the same figure. Erdogan will then give the new AKP leader the mandate to serve as prime minister early next week, after which a new cabinet will be announced.

As a ferry company chief and then as transport minister, Yildirim has for the last two decades worked in the transport sector, an absolutely key area in Turkey which is trying to catch up its lag in infrastructure with vast new projects.

As such, he has been a key lieutenant of Erdogan in implementing what the president likes to call his "crazy" projects to create a "New Turkey", almost always pictured in the press wearing a hard hat and fluorescent jacket.

According to the columnist for the Hurriyet daily Abdulkadir Selvi, the only serious difference between the two men is that Erdogan supports the Fenerbahce football side and Yildirim their arch Istanbul rivals Galatasaray.

The two have been close allies since Erdogan was elected mayor of Istanbul in 1994. Despite Davutoglu's shock announcement earlier this month that he was stepping down, the AKP has been keen to promote an image of unity in public.

However financial markets have not appreciated the political uncertainty, with the Turkish lira losing five percent in value against the US dollar over the last month.—AFP

POPE FRANCIS TO RECEIVE TOP SUNNI IMAM AT VATICAN

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis will meet the spiritual leader of the world's Sunni Muslims in an unprecedented encounter at the Vatican on Monday, the pontiff's spokesman said yesterday. Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb, the grand imam of Cairo's Al-Azhar, the most prestigious institution in Sunni Islam, will have an audience with the leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics at St Peter's, Father Federico Lombardi told AFP. "This audience is being prepared and has been scheduled for Monday," he said. "It will be a first." The visit marks the restoration of cordial relations between the two faiths. Ties were soured under Pope Benedict XVI after Francis's now-retired predecessor made a September 2006 speech in which he was perceived to have described Islam as a violent religion.

Dialogue resumed in 2009 but was suspended again by Al-Azhar in 2011 when Benedict called for the protection of Christian minorities after a bomb attack on a church in Alexandria, an intervention that was perceived as meddling in Egypt's internal affairs. Relations have steadily improved since Francis became pope in 2013 with inter-faith dialogue near the top of his agenda, something he underlined with a personal message to the Muslim world to mark the end of the first month of Ramadan of his pontificate.—AFP



VATICAN CITY: This combination of file pictures shows Pope Francis and Grand Imam of al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed Al-Tayeb.—AFP

SIX RUSSIAN SERVICEMEN DIE IN ACCIDENT IN BREAKAWAY SOUTH OSSETIA

MOSCOW: Six Russian military servicemen died and 16 were injured when a bus carrying them veered off a mountain road in the breakaway South Ossetia region of ex-Soviet Georgia yesterday, the local emergencies minister told Reuters.

"Most probably, the equipment was out of order. The bus plunged from a height of some forty meters," Sergei Sanakoyev said by telephone. He said four servicemen were in grave condition and would be taken to Moscow by plane. A failure of the brakes could have caused the accident, Russian news agencies cited Russia's defense ministry as saying. Russia sided with separatist rebels when it fought a five-day war against Georgia over South Ossetia in August 2008. After that conflict, Moscow beefed up its military presence in the breakaway region.—Reuters

FRENCH PARLIAMENT EXTENDS "STATE OF EMERGENCY"

PARIS: The French National Assembly, or lower house of parliament, yesterday voted to extend for another two months the State of Emergency in place since the November terrorist attacks, giving police, the intelligence services and the judiciary special arrest, detention and search powers. The National Assembly press office confirmed that the extension of the emergency powers was backed by a strong majority, with 46 of 68 deputies present for the

vote supporting the move. Twenty voted against the motion and two abstained.

The motion already got Senate approval here on May 10 and will come into force until the end of July and the completion of the Euro '16 soccer internationals. France has been on highest alert since so-called Islamic State terrorists and their accomplices carried out a spate of attacks in and around Paris on November 13 last, killing 130 people and

wounding hundreds in shootings and bombings. The State of Emergency special powers allow police and magistrates to carry out searches without warrants, to arrest and place suspects under house arrest without charges and ban others from travelling within or outside of France. The authorities are also allowed to spy on and close down Internet sites found to be supporting terrorism or recruiting terrorist fighters.—KUNA



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HOUSE CHAIRMAN COMPLAINS ABOUT PENTAGON RESPONSE ON BENGHAZI

WASHINGTON: The chairman of the House Benghazi committee yesterday complained that the Pentagon has failed to provide the names of all the pilots who sent drones over Libya the night of the deadly 2012 attacks, slowing the more than two-year-old investigation.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., said in a statement that the Defense Department ignored a request for nearly five weeks for the pilots who sent drones over Benghazi and Tripoli, and that the Pentagon, at the end of April, then provided an incomplete list.

"The committee needs all of the names so the relevant witnesses can be interviewed and the investigation completed," Gowdy said. "Surely (the Defense Department) can complete the simple task of finding the people within the chain of command in less than three months."

The Pentagon had no immediate response to the criticism.

The statement came as fresh questions have been raised about the validity of the House inquiry and Gowdy's own concession this week that the military could not have gotten forces to Libya in time to save the lives of four Americans, including US Ambassador Chris Stevens. "Whether or not they could have gotten there in time, I don't think there is any issue with respect to that. They couldn't," Gowdy told Fox News this week.

The GOP's former top counsel also



WASHINGTON: House Benghazi Committee Chairman Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C. speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill. — AP

said in closed-door testimony released this week that the military did what it could. Senior military officials have said limited intelligence about what was transpiring the night of the attacks and the absence of forces in close proximity to Libya hampered the response.

Democrats have called for panel to disband and say it is a thinly veiled excuse for Republicans to undermine Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton, who was secretary of

state at the time of the attacks.

Republicans say the Obama administration has dragged its feet, failing to produce needed documents or interview subjects, and delaying a final report in the twin assaults.

A senior Pentagon official has expressed frustration with the Benghazi panel, citing a "crescendo" of costly, duplicative and unnecessary requests, including a few based on claims made on Facebook or talk radio. — AP

COP DESTROYED WOMAN'S PHONE, LIED ABOUT ASSAULT

READING: A Pennsylvania district attorney says a police officer lied about being assaulted after breaking the cell phone of a woman driving in a car he pulled over without sufficient cause.

Berks County District Attorney John Adams announced the charges, including official oppression and evidence tampering, against 27-year-old Reading Officer Jesus Santiago-DeJesus. The officer is expected to surrender Thursday and doesn't have an attorney listed in court records. Adams says the officer claimed in a report that the woman didn't use a turn signal before the stop, although surveillance video from nearby homes and businesses shows she did.

Adams says the officer knocked the phone out of the woman's hand to destroy the video she was recording and wrongly charged her and a passenger. The officer is on paid leave. — AP

ITALY'S PANNELLA, CHAMPION OF ABORTION, DIVORCE REFORMS, DIES AT 86

ROME: Marco Pannella, the former leader of Italy's Radical Party and a key player in the country's adoption of social reforms including the right to abortion and divorce, died yesterday, his party said. Pannella, whose real first name was Giacinto, was 86 and had been suffering from lung and liver cancer. He was involved in campaigns on virtually every social issue of the post-war period, the most significant being the battles for divorce, which was legalized in 1970, and abortion, legalized in 1978.

The struggles pitted Pannella and like-minded people against the might of the Catholic church. Pannella also campaigned against hunting and nuclear power, and for gay rights and the decriminalization of soft drugs.

"A great Italian leader has left us," Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said. "I want to pay tribute on behalf of my government and my party to the life lived by a fighter for freedom who was a lion of a man." — AFP



ROME: Italian Radical Party Marco Pannella smokes a cigar during a press conference at his party headquarters. — AFP

DEATH OF UTAH RAIL WORKER MAY BE TIED TO KIDNAPPING

AMERICAN FORK, UTAH: Daylight was fading over the wide-open Wyoming countryside as two officers took a last look for a missing Utah rail worker. That's when they spotted a pair of boots.

Then they saw the jeans on Kay Porter Ricks' body. The 63-year-old Mormon grandfather was found dead along a dirt road Tuesday, five days after he vanished during his shift in downtown Salt Lake City.

Now, the FBI and investigators in two states are trying to determine whether a father and son on the run from police in a bizarre Utah kidnapping case had anything to do with his death. "There will be no stone unturned in this investigation," said Fred Ross, police chief of the Utah Transit Authority, Ricks' employer. "We will stay with this as long as it takes."

Police have not definitively linked Flint Wayne Harrison, 51, and his son Dereck James "DJ" Harrison, 22, to Ricks' death, which has been ruled a homicide. But investigators believe the two men were lying low with a friend close to where Ricks was working on the day he disappeared.

His body was found along the route the Harrisons likely took to their hideout in the Wyoming wilderness. Ricks' missing truck could explain how they traveled nearly 250 miles from Utah, authorities said. "There are some coinci-



AMERICAN FORK, UTAH: Kay Porter Ricks a Utah train maintenance worker who disappeared amid a manhunt for a father and son accused of a bizarre kidnapping, was found dead along a route that the suspects likely took authorities said Wednesday. — AP

dences there that would be impossible to ignore as we continue to investigate," Lincoln County Sheriff Shane Johnson told the Deseret News.

The Harrisons were arrested Saturday after a five-day search. The father surrendered and led police to the suspects' remote campsite near Pinedale, Wyoming. The two are accused of heavily using drugs and tying up a woman and her four teenage daughters in a basement on May 10 because they wrongly believed the mother had reported them to authorities. The family managed to break free and escape.

The Harrisons are set to be extradited to Utah to face 16 charges each, including kidnapping and drug possession. Authorities say they are not talking to police. The Ricks family was mourning their loss rather than speculating on what happened, family spokesman Richard Massey said. Ricks had three grown sons and six grandchildren. "As you can well imagine, it's difficult explaining to them what has happened to their grandfather," Massey said.

Ricks was a handyman who spent his free time helping neighbors fix their electric lights and ceiling fans. He lived by a regimented daily routine and would never have left work or gone to Wyoming on his own, Massey said. Authorities still have not found Ricks' truck but vowed to keep searching. It was last spotted on surveillance cameras in Wyoming, near where his body was found. — AP

SMALL PACKAGE FOUND ON POLISH BUS EXPLODES, 1 PERSON HURT

WARSAW: Officials say one person was hurt when a package found on a city bus in the Polish city of Wroclaw exploded. Firefighter Krzysztof Gielsa said on TVN24 yesterday that the package exploded on the sidewalk, where it was taken by the bus driver who had spotted it unattended on his bus. Gielsa said explosives experts were called in to check the substance inside the container. Agnieszka Korzeniowska, spokeswoman for the Wroclaw bus services, said one person was hit by a piece of the container. — AP

9 DEATHS, NO CHARGES RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT OVERSIGHT AGENCY

MINEOLA, NEW YORK: Little more than names and incident numbers appear on a Long Island medical examiner's list of nine developmentally disabled people who died in state care since 2013, but this much is known for sure: All the deaths came under a cloud of abuse or neglect allegations, and none resulted in criminal charges.

The one-page list titled "Abuse and Neglect with Death Involved" surfaced as part of a Freedom of Information request by an advocate who called it only the latest example of how New York's oversight agency for the disabled in state care, the Justice Center, is not doing enough to pursue suspicious cases.

Questioned by The Associated Press about the handling of the deaths, all in Long Island's Suffolk County, state and local officials responded with conflicting accounts. The Justice Center says it told county prosecutors about the cases, in accordance with state law, but prosecutors say that's not true. The medical examiner's office says it referred two cases to police for further investigation. After police denied for days that they got them, they acknowledged this week that they did.

"It screams for a federal civil rights and criminal investigation," said Michael Carey, who became an advocate for the disabled after his son was suffocated in 2007 by a state group home worker who was later convicted of manslaughter.

Carey has become a frequent critic of the Justice Center, established in 2013 to protect the 1 million disabled, addicted and mentally ill in state care. Its mandate is to probe all allegations of wrongdoing by caretakers, with the power to refer cases to local prosecutors or bring criminal charges itself.

But an AP analysis last year found it rarely uses that power, with just 2.5 percent of the more than 7,000 substantiated cases of abuse or neglect resulting in criminal charges. Records released earlier this year showed the Justice Center declined to investigate most of the nearly 1,400 deaths of developmentally disabled people in state care in the past two years, leaving the majority of the investigations to the caretaker facilities themselves.

Seeking to find out exactly how often the Justice Center refers deaths in state care to local officials for criminal investigation, Carey filed a sweeping public records request of every county prosecutor and medical examiner in New York.

Suffolk County was the only one of 62 counties to offer up-by-name - the suspicious deaths it received from the Justice Center over the past three years. Three other counties gave just numbers, a total of 15 such deaths. The list from Suffolk's medical examiner's office contained no details, and the Justice Center refused to elaborate about individual cases, citing privacy laws that entitle only relatives to health records and abuse reports.

One of those families, located by the AP, plans to use those documents to sue the group home where a developmentally disabled woman lived before dying last year.

Carolyn Jirak, 62, spent nearly her entire life in state-funded care, classified as nonverbal with the intellectual capacity of a young child.

Her sister Catherine Jirak Monetti contends Jirak's death followed weeks of mistreatment, including an unexplained broken kneecap that was untreated for days, an ankle wound that became severely infected with cellulitis, and prescribed antibiotics that weren't given for three days. Jirak was eventually taken to a hospital with pneumonia and fever, and died 10 days later of respiratory failure. — AP



MINEOLA, NEW YORK: Sisters Patricia Ann Jirak, left, and Catherine Jirak Monetti, pose holding a photograph of their sister, Carolyn. — AP



CARACAS: A man is arrested during a protest against new emergency powers decreed this week by President Nicolas Maduro on Wednesday. — AFP

VENEZUELA OPPOSITION PRESSURES MADURO AFTER PROTESTS DEMANDING HIS OUSTER

CARACAS: Venezuela's opposition yesterday kept pressure on beleaguered President Nicolas Maduro after protests demanding his ouster amid a mounting political and economic crisis.

The opposition-controlled congress held a session to lambaste the leftwing leader, who has introduced a state of emergency he warned could be bolstered further if "violent" acts against his government occurred.

The opposition has rejected the decree and called on the army to swap sides to be "with the constitution." Its leader, Henrique Capriles, tweeted that Maduro "is considered void and nobody should respect him."

On Wednesday, around 1,000 protesters tried to march in Caracas to demand electoral authorities respect a petition calling for a recall referendum against Maduro, one of two dozen opposition rallies across the country. But they were blocked by hundreds of riot police firing tear gas. Some demonstrators threw rocks and bottles.

Maduro's United Socialist Party said seven police officers were hurt in the capital. Thirty people were arrested in the various protests across the country, according to the opposition and rights groups.

The confrontations exacerbated international concern over oil-dependent Venezuela, whose economy is being torn apart by a brutal recession, hyperinflation and food and electric power shortages.

US 'deeply troubled'

Former Spanish prime minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero was in Caracas trying to mediate some sort of detente

between Maduro and the opposition.

On Wednesday, the head of the Organization of American States, Luis Almagro, said Maduro was a "traitor" to his people and would be considered yet another "petty dictator" if he continued to reject the referendum.

The US State Department said it was "deeply troubled" by the situation in Venezuela. A spokesman said: "Reports of excessive use of force and violence against protesters obviously is troubling to us and of deep concern."

Senior US intelligence officials have already said they believe the South American nation is in "meltdown" and at risk from public revolt. A senior Vatican official, Paul Richard Gallagher, the Vatican's secretary for relations with states, scuttled plans to visit Venezuela next week amid the escalating unrest. Maduro has heaped blame for the tide of adversity on the "imperialist" United States, which he accuses of conspiring with Venezuela's "fascist" right to overthrow him.

To counter foreign "armed intervention" Maduro has ordered military exercises for Saturday. The accusation is the same Maduro's late predecessor, Hugo Chavez, often raised. But it appears Maduro has not convinced Venezuela's population, 70 percent of which wants to see a new government, according to recent polls. "The people no longer want revolution," said Migdalia Lopez, 51, lining up for bread in the town of Guarenas, east of the capital. "What they want is food."

Disputed petition

The president has vowed that the opposition referendum will never take

place. On Wednesday, he said that, if necessary, "I will not hesitate" to ratchet up the state of emergency "to fight for the peace and security of this country."

The extraordinary measures he has ordered came into effect this week for a period of 60 days. But they can be renewed and Maduro has said they probably will be, through next year. His order gives sweeping powers to the security forces to impose public order, and to help distribute food.

Even though the congress has rejected the decree, the Supreme Court, which is stacked with Maduro loyalists, is likely to confirm it. In that case, the opposition has called for the public to defy the state of emergency.

It has also accused the National Electoral Council (CNE) of stalling on validating the petition. Only 200,000 signatures were needed to bring in a referendum against Maduro, and the opposition says it garnered 1.8 million. But though the CNE received the petition more than two weeks ago, it has still not ruled on its validity.

Maduro and his vice president, Aristobulo Isturiz, claim the petition is riddled with fake signatures and there is no basis for a referendum. Instead, Isturiz has urged the opposition to sit back and contest the next presidential election due in December 2018. "If you win, Maduro will give up power. Easy. What's the problem?" he asked.

If the opposition manages to bring about a recall referendum, the vote must constitutionally be held before January 10, 2017 for it to trigger new elections. Any later than that, a successful recall vote would simply transfer power from Maduro to Isturiz. — AFP

BANGLADESH DEMANDS RETURN OF STOLEN BANK FUNDS FROM PHILIPPINES

MANILA: The Philippines must immediately return millions of dollars recovered from a high-profile hacking theft, Bangladesh's ambassador said yesterday in Manila, but Filipino officials warned resolving the embarrassing case could take months.

On February 5, unidentified hackers shifted \$81 million from the Bangladesh central bank's account with the US Federal Reserve to a nondescript bank in Manila, from where it was funnelled into local casinos. Filipino authorities now say they have tracked down all but \$21 million of the loot, but have only recovered a fraction of it.

Late March, Manila-based Chinese casino promoter Kim Wong, who is under criminal investigation after a portion of the stolen money was traced to his account, began handing over chunks of the stolen cash to Filipino authorities.

Bangladeshi ambassador to Manila, John Gomes, expressed outrage Thursday that the surrendered funds—now totaling \$15 million—had not been returned to Dhaka, nearly two months later. "It is Bangladesh's money, so it is our request that this should be followed through," a visibly upset Gomes said while testifying Thursday at a Senate public hearing on the case.

The brazen heist highlighted how the Philippines' banking loopholes and anti-money laundering laws have made the impoverished and corruption-weary Southeast Asian nation a dirty money destination.

Philippine law exempts casino transactions from scrutiny by the country's anti-money laundering council without a case filed in court. Wong, the casino junket operator, had earlier told the Senate that two high-rollers from Beijing and Macau shifted the \$81 million to dollar accounts at Manila's Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation.

Wong said he did not know that the money was stolen from Bangladesh and that he merely helped the two men—who are also his casino clients—open bank accounts. The Philippines' Anti-Money Laundering Council has filed a suit to gain control of the alleged stolen funds from Wong, the Manila bank and the casinos. But the council's executive director Julia Abad testified Thursday that the whole process could take at least three to five months for uncontested cases, and potentially years if the ownership were disputed.

"We are doing everything to provide the necessary assistance to the Bangladeshi government to recover the money... We cannot just take the law into our hands," Abad said. Ambassador Gomes said there were no other claimants apart from his government for the surrendered money, and he could not understand why the process was taking so long. He said the Filipino authorities had even invited him to witness the storage of the recovered funds at Manila's central bank vault. "We have bilateral relations, and this could happen in Bangladesh also with the Philippine ambassador. How would he be feeling about it?" the envoy said. "It would be like a slap on my face," Gomes added.—AFP

PAKISTAN IN RARE EXTRADITION OF DOUBLE MURDER SUSPECT TO UK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has extradited a man charged by British police with a double murder in a rare handover between the two countries, officials said yesterday.

Mohammed Zubair is due to appear in a court in Bradford Thursday over the 2011 killings of 27-year-old Imran Pakistani officials would not confirm Zubair's nationality to AFP, and it was not mentioned in the British police statement. There is no extradition treaty between Pakistan and Britain, but the two countries have enhanced cooperation in recent years to solve major crime cases.

A Pakistani Interior Ministry spokesman said the signing of such a treaty had been a longstanding issue, but that present minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan has said the lack of an accord "can't halt the exchange of criminals and Pakistan will extradite suspects based on mutual cooperation".—AFP



GAUHATI, INDIA: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Himanta Biswa Sharma, center in orange color shirt, celebrates with his supporters after winning in Assam state election yesterday.—AP

INDIA'S RULING PARTY EXTENDS POWER IN STATE POLLS

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling party won power in remote northeast Assam and made gains in other states yesterday, expanding its political influence beyond its traditional heartland two years after a landslide national election victory.

The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party seized control of restive Assam from the centre-left Congress party, which promised to "work harder" to win people's confidence after losing ground in several states. "These results show that the people are accepting, appreciating and supporting our pro-development ideology," Modi told supporters at his party's headquarters in New Delhi.

Assam is the first northeastern state to be controlled by the BJP, whose traditional power base is in Hindi-speaking north, central and west India. Political analyst Ashok Malik told AFP that Thursday's results showed the BJP was now India's only truly national party. "This expansion for the BJP comes at a time when the Congress is shrinking, even though they have different social constituencies," said Malik, a fellow with New Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation think-tank. "And now, the BJP is the only pan-India national party, which the Congress once used to be."

The BJP needs to win state elections to gain more seats in the nation's upper house of parliament, which has been blocking reforms seen as crucial to fuelling the economic growth it has promised voters. Most members of the

upper house, which has obstructed measures such as a planned standardized goods and services tax, are indirectly elected by state legislatures.

'Fed up'

The BJP mounted a fierce campaign in tea-growing Assam, promising to support indigenous rights and crack down on illegal immigration from neighbouring Bangladesh.

Migrants have long been accused of illegally entering the state from Bangladesh and grabbing land, causing tensions with local people and sporadic outbreaks of communal violence.

India's seven northeastern states, joined to the rest of the country by a narrow sliver of land, are culturally distinct from the rest of the country and have a long history of separatist insurgencies. "People were fed up and they wanted a change... that's why this time they've voted for BJP and its alliance partners," said Sarbananda Sonowal, BJP's Assam chief ministerial candidate. Partial results showed Congress had just 26 of the total 126 seats in Assam and the BJP-led alliance had 86. The party also made gains in Kerala in the south and in eastern West Bengal state, whose feisty chief minister Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool party had won a clear majority even before all the votes were counted, despite corruption allegations.

Modi's party swept to power in a general election two years ago promising business-friendly reforms to overhaul the economy, but lost out in two critical state polls in 2015.

Colorful scenes

With final results from the five states still to come in, regional parties looked set to win in Kerala and Tamil Nadu in the south. Jubilant supporters of Tamil Nadu's popular Chief Minister Jayalalitha Jayaram gathered outside her house to celebrate, many of them painted in the colours of the state flag.

The former movie star known as "Amma" (Mother) has long enjoyed a huge following in prosperous Tamil Nadu where she has won three terms as chief minister since 1991.

The 68-year-old has earned loyalty with a series of populist schemes including giving away gold, goats and kitchen appliances at election time, but has also drawn accusations of corruption and an autocratic governing style.

This year, her AIADMK (All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) party's election manifesto promises included free wi-fi at public places, laptops for students, free cell phones and minimum units of free electricity every month. Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi, who fronted the campaigning in several states, tweeted that his party would "work harder till we win the confidence & trust of people". Rahul's mother Sonia, who is the Congress president, said in a statement: "We will introspect into the reasons for our loss and rededicate ourselves to the service of the people with greater vigour." The party, in power nationally until 2014, was leading in only one state—the southern Indian seaside town of Puducherry, a former French colony with less than a million eligible voters.—AFP



TUNIS: Seifeddine Jameli "one of the most dangerous terrorist leaders" who was killed yesterday during a security operation.—AFP

TUNISIA SAYS ONE OF ITS 'MOST DANGEROUS' JIHADISTS KILLED

TUNIS: Tunisia's military has killed a jihadist described as "one of the most dangerous terrorist leaders" in the country during a security operation, the defense ministry said yesterday.

Seifeddine Jameli, as known as Abou al-Qaaqaa, belonged to the Tunisian branch of the Islamic State (IS) group, Jund al-Khilafa (the soldiers of the caliphate), the ministry said in a statement. He was killed overnight by special forces in the central region of Mount Mghilla, it said, adding that weapons were seized during the operation.

Since its 2011 revolution, Tunisia has been hit by an upsurge in jihadist violence in which dozens of police, soldiers and civilians have been killed. Two attacks last year claimed by IS on the National Bardo Museum in Tunis and on a hotel near the Mediterranean resort of Sousse killed a total of 60 people, all but one of them foreign tourists.

The beheading of a teenage shepherd by jihadists as his sheep grazed on Mount Mghilla last November also horrified the country.—AFP

US MILITARY BASE WORKER ON OKINAWA ARRESTED IN MURDER CASE

TOKYO: Japanese police have arrested an American working on a US military base in Okinawa on suspicion of abandoning the body of a woman who had been missing since last month.

The arrest yesterday sparked outrage on Okinawa, where anti-US military sentiment is already high because of the heavy American troop presence. The relocation of a US air station on the southern Japanese island was recently stalled because of large protests. Police said Kenneth Shinzato, 32, was arrested after he was questioned and investigators found the body at a location he provided.

Investigators determined that the body, found in a forest in central Okinawa, is that of a 20-year-old woman missing since April 28, when she messaged her boyfriend that she was going for a walk. Police said they suspect Shinzato was also responsible for the death of the woman. He has not been formally charged.

They said the suspect works at Kadena Air Base and is believed to be former US serviceman. Kyodo News service said Shinzato used to be a Marine. Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga said he was "outraged" and that the death of the woman broke his heart. "As I look back at all the developments to date, I'm simply speechless," he said.—AP

PAKISTAN TO ISSUE BIOMETRIC PASSPORTS TO CURB HUMAN TRAFFICKING

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan plans to issue biometric passports from next year to halt the thousands of people who are being trafficked overseas, largely to European and Gulf nations, officials said.

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan approved the move last week after a meeting with officials from the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on tackling human trafficking and migrant smuggling in the South Asian nation. "We will start issuing biometric passports from 2017," Sarfraz Hussain, the Interior Ministry spokesman, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation late on Wednesday.

Pakistan in 2004 adopted computerized passports that can be read by scanning machines, he said, but the passports do not contain a microchip, which contains the holder's biodata. This is useful as it will help authorities detect forged travel documents used by traffickers who lure poor people from rural areas with the promise of a good job overseas, Hussain added.

A combination of poverty, natural

disasters and insecurity caused by a long-running Islamist insurgency has forced thousands of Pakistanis to flee in search of a better life in Europe and the Middle East. There are no accurate figures on how many people are being trafficked or smuggled outside the country, but the United Nations says government data on deportations of Pakistanis due to illegal migration have risen in recent years.

There were 66,427 Pakistanis deported from countries such as Spain, Greece, Turkey, Oman and Iran in 2013, up from 46,032 in 2010, according to a 2014 report by the UN Office for Drugs and Crime. Many trafficking victims are detected at border posts in Iran and Turkey as they attempt to travel on to Europe, where they often have to risk their lives on board dangerously inadequate vessels run by people smugglers, said the report. Others are deported from Oman - often en route to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where they take up low-skilled employment as

maids, construction workers or drivers, and are often subjected to labor abuses.

A FIA official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said more than 1,000 trafficking networks were operating across the country, the majority in the central Punjab province.

These organized criminal gangs primarily use Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province, which shares a border with Iran, as a trafficking route to Europe and the Middle East. From Iran, the trafficking victims are either taken to Turkey where they continue on to Europe, or sent to Oman and then on to the UAE, he added.

More than a million migrants and refugees crossed into Europe in 2015, sparking a crisis as nations struggled to cope with the influx, and created division in the EU over how to resettle people. According to the UN Refugee Agency, about 3 percent of these migrants and refugees were Pakistani nationals.—Reuters

PAKISTAN CLAIMS KILLING OF EIGHT AL-QAEDA MILITANTS

LAHORE: Pakistani officials yesterday said they had killed eight Al-Qaeda militants during a raid in the central city of Multan after learning of their plans to attack a local university.

The operation, which officials said was carried out on Wednesday night after an intelligence tip-off, occurred on the city's outskirts, a spokesman for the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab, told AFP on the condition of anonymity. "On the basis of the information, a joint team of ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) and CTD Multan carried out a raid at the meeting point, near the village of Nawabpur on the bank of the river Chenab in Multan, resulting in intense fire from the militants," he said.

The CTD official said the militants fired rockets and hand grenades during the encounter, and several were able to escape. Two of the men who were killed were said to have murdered a senior military officer while another, "Hafiz Abdul Mateen" was accused of masterminding a 2009 attack on a mosque in Rawalpindi that killed around 40 people.

No security officials were said to have been killed or injured in the raids, and authorities are routinely accused by rights groups of staging such encounters to carry out extra-judicial killings of people who are already in custody.

Muhammad Amir Rana, a senior security analyst, said none of the names disclosed by authorities were familiar, raising further questions. "It's true that Al-Qaeda exists in this region and an operation is also underway in Punjab against all kind of militants, but the names disclosed after this recent raid are not familiar," he said.

In 2015, Pakistan stepped up a multi-pronged offensive against Islamist and other militants through military operations, raids, as well as a crackdown on

some hard line seminaries and money laundering as part of its "National Action Plan". It came in the wake of a Taliban

massacre at a Peshawar army school in December 2014 in which 134 children were killed.—FP

BANGLADESH TEACHERS PROTEST PENANCE FOR 'ISLAM INSULT'

DHAKA: Thousand of teachers took to the streets across Bangladesh yesterday to protest against a lawmaker's punishment of a headmaster falsely accused of insulting Islam, after the incident went viral on social media.

Teachers from universities, schools and seminaries held rallies in support of the headmaster after opposition MP Salim Osman ordered him to squat while holding his ears—a demeaning punishment in the Muslim-majority country.

Shyamol Kanti Bhakta was punished last week in Bandar town, outside Dhaka, in front of hundreds of people after he was falsely accused of making derogatory remarks against Islam. Criticism of Islam is often incendiary in Bangladesh, which is reeling from a wave of recent killings of secular and liberal activists and religious minorities.

The videoed incident was uploaded onto social media, sparking an outcry and demands for justice for the headmaster. The tag #SorrySir was trending on Twitter and many posted photos of themselves squatting in a show of support. "The MP has insulted the entire nation by humiliating its builder—the teacher," said Shahab

Enam Khan, a professor at Jahangirnagar University, during a rally in Dhaka. "It seems as if the MP has forgotten the difference between a lawmaker and a law enforcer," Khan told AFP.

Dhaka University pro-vice chancellor Nasreen Ahmed said thousands of teachers were taking part in the protests held in cities and towns "to demand justice for the deplorable incident". Bangladesh education minister Nurul Islam Nahid on Thursday reinstated the headmaster and sacked the school's governing board, which had suspended him over the incident.

"Injustice has been done to the teacher," the minister said, describing the incident as "shameful". However, the lawmaker, from the small opposition Jatiya Party, refused to apologise, saying many had supported his actions. "Why shall I apologise? Five thousand men gathered and chanted slogans against him (Bhakta). I actually helped him to escape the angry public," Osman told reporters.

Last month, two Hindu school teachers were jailed for allegedly making "abusive" remarks against Islam in the southwestern town of Chitalmari.—AFP

A-BOMB SURVIVORS WANT OBAMA TO MEET, APOLOGIZE IN HIROSHIMA

TOKYO: A group representing Japanese survivors of US atomic bombings urged President Barack Obama to hear their stories and apologize when he visits Hiroshima next week.

Two leaders of the Tokyo-based nationwide group told a news conference yesterday that many survivors still want an apology, though they have long avoided an outright demand for one out of fear that it would be counterproductive.

Toshiki Fujimori, a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bombing, said he found it awkward to hear local and central government officials say they are not asking for an apology. "I suspect there was a pressure (not to seek an apology) to create an atmosphere that would make it easier for Obama to visit Hiroshima," Fujimori said, declining to identify where the pressure was coming from. "But many of the survivors don't think they can do without an apology at all."

He said the survivors want Obama to know that their suffering is not limited to immediate damage and visible, physical scars. They also suffered discrimination at work, in marriage and in other areas of their lives, from their own people in Japan, said Fujimori, who nearly died in the blast at age 1.

The US atomic bombing of Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, killed 140,000 people and nearly destroyed the city. A second atomic attack three days later on Nagasaki in southern Japan killed 73,000 more people.

About 180,000 people recognized by the government as survivors are still alive. Many have remained unmarried and without children because of concerns about birth defects, or have suffered from cancer and other radiation-induced illnesses.

Obama is to visit Hiroshima on May 27 after the Group of Seven summit in central Japan, becoming the first serving American president to do so. In announcing Obama's visit, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he will escort him and suggested that no apology is necessary.

A Cabinet-approved statement signed by Abe last August states that the US atomic bombings "caused an extremely regrettable humanitarian situation because of its widespread damage," but does not call them war crimes. It says it is more important to make an effort toward achieving a nuclear-free world "rather than seeking an apology and remorse from the United States at this point, 70 years after the war."

Washington said Obama won't apologize and a meeting with survivors is unlikely. Japan's government has also told US officials that it is not expecting an apology, according to Japanese and American officials.

That apparently prompted the survivors to try to let Obama know their feelings and hope that he will be committed to a nuclear-free world, which they say can be achieved only by learning and coming to terms with the past.



TOKYO: Terumi Tanaka, a survivor of the Nagasaki atomic bombing who serves secretary-general of Japan Confederation of A and H Bomb Sufferers Organizations, speaks during a press conference yesterday. — AP

Terumi Tanaka, a survivor of the Nagasaki atomic bombing who serves as secretary-general of the Japan Confederation of A and H Bomb Sufferers Organizations, said he wishes that Obama will apologize at least to the survivors. — AP



CHILGOK, SOUTH KOREA: Firefighters extinguish a fire at Camp Carroll yesterday. — AP

OXYGEN TANKS EXPLODE AT US MILITARY BASE IN SOUTH KOREA

SEOUL: More than 20 oxygen tanks exploded at a US military base in South Korea on Thursday, triggering a fire, but there were no reports of casualties, South Korean officials said.

The US military said it was investigating the cause of the incident at Camp Carroll, 280 kilometers (175 miles) south-east of Seoul. It said one building at the US base was damaged, but no other structures on or off the base were harmed. South Korean media photos showed a nearly burned-out building that had housed the tanks.

South Korean fire officials, however,

said shrapnel scattered by the blasts fell on a nearby farming village and triggered separate fires there. Those fires were quickly contained and there were no reports of injuries, they said.

About 20 medical oxygen tanks, each weighing 50 kilograms, exploded, said officials at South Korea's Ministry of Public Safety and Security who requested anonymity, citing department rules. They said an unknown number of a smaller oxygen tanks also blew up.

The US military statement said there was "an oxygen tank explosion," without specifying how many tanks were

involved. The South Korean safety officials said they obtained their information from local fire officials who helped extinguish the blaze triggered by the blasts.

Fire officials said they sent 18 firetrucks to the scene and extinguished the fire in less than an hour. A South Korean resident told the YTN television network that the windows of his house, about 200-300 meters (660-980 feet) from the US base, were shaken by a series of loud explosions. The United States stations about 28,500 troops in South Korea as deterrence against potential aggression by North Korea. — AP

TAIWAN'S LEADER FACES THORNIER TIES WITH CHINA, GROWTH WOES

BEIJING: When Taiwan inaugurates Tsai Ing-wen as the self-ruled island's first female president today, she'll confront major challenges including navigating increasingly fractious relations with Beijing and rejuvenating the flagging economy.

Beijing has responded to the January election of Tsai and her pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party by intensifying pressure on Taiwan with military exercises, diplomatic moves and cross-border deportations and prosecutions. At home, Tsai faces an economy that has fallen into a recession as exports have dropped due to sluggish demand from China and elsewhere.

"The challenges are enormous and I think that she does not underestimate them," said Bonnie Glaser, senior adviser for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. With declining economic growth and exports, "it is a difficult time, and China is not making it any easier, of course," Glaser said.

Tsai's election served as a resounding rejection by voters of the China-friendly party that has led Taiwan for eight years. The polls, which also gave the DPP its first parliamentary majority, were also seen as an expression of concern that the island's economy is under threat from the Chinese mainland's economic juggernaut.

Beijing has warned that delicate relations between the sides would be destabilized unless Tsai explicitly endorses Beijing's stance that the island and the mainland are part of a single Chinese nation, which it calls the "92 Consensus." Tsai has avoided doing so, but has promised not to pursue changes to the current status of de facto independence.

Tsai's inauguration speech will be closely watched for remarks on relations with the mainland. Analysts say she's unlikely to deliver any surprises, neither deliberately antagonizing Beijing nor wholly satisfying its demands.

"China's got a wide range of retaliatory measures waiting for Taiwan," said Alexander Huang, a strategic studies expert at Tamkang University in Taiwan. "I believe Dr. Tsai understands that and she will not step on the tripwire and cause trouble." — AP

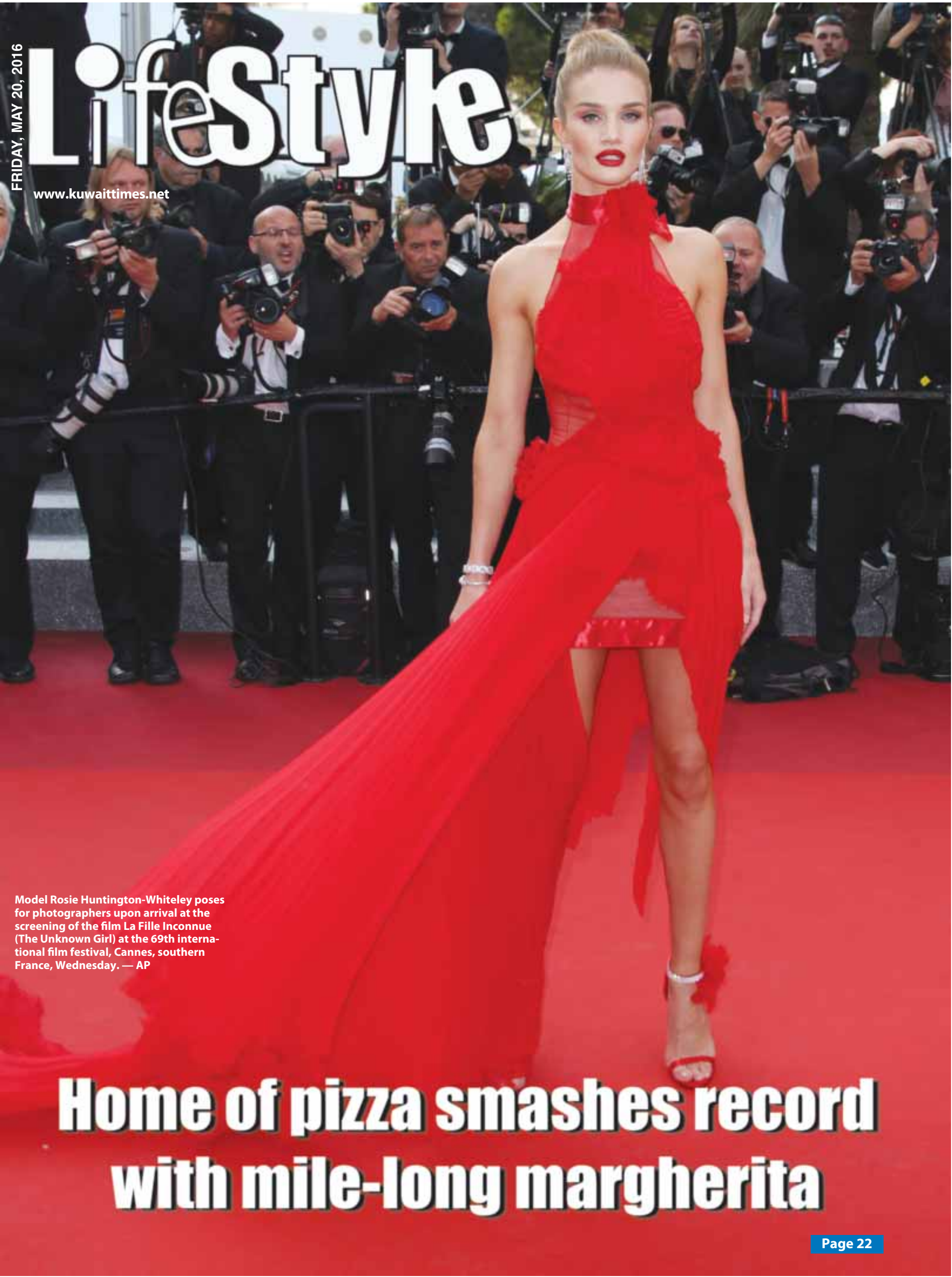


TAIPEI, TAIWAN: Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party, DPP, presidential candidate Tsai Ing-wen. — AP

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2016

Lifestyle

www.kuwaittimes.net



Model Rosie Huntington-Whiteley poses for photographers upon arrival at the screening of the film *La Fille Inconnue* (The Unknown Girl) at the 69th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Wednesday. — AP

Home of pizza smashes record with mile-long margherita



This file photo shows recording artist Celine Dion performing at the 'Sinatra 100 An All-Star Grammy Concert' in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP

Celine Dion ready with first new song since husband's death

Canadian pop superstar Celine Dion on Wednesday announced her first new song since the death of her husband and manager Rene Angelil as she mourns him through music. The French-language song, "Encore Un Soir," which means "One More Night," will come out in several days as the first track of her next album, Dion said on her website.

The song is an homage to her late husband, the French celebrity site Tele Star said. It is set to come out on May 24 as Dion opens nine concerts in Paris, the magazine Paris Match reported. The bilingual star—one of the most successful artists of all time with more than 220 million albums sold—is also due to perform Sunday at the Billboard Music Awards in her adopted home of Las Vegas.

Angelik died in January at age 73 following a long struggle with throat cancer. The music producer had been so struck hearing Dion's voice when she was 12 that he took her under his wing and married her in 1994 when she was 26. Dion returned to her concert residency in Las Vegas six weeks after his death in keeping with his wishes.

In an interview broadcast Wednesday with ABC television's "Good Morning America," Dion said that she thought of her late husband when singing "The Show Must Go On." She said that in their last conversation, she told him not to be concerned about her or their three children together. "I started to talk to him and I said, you know what, I want you to just go in peace," she said. "I want you to not worry."

Dion's brother Daniel died of the same type of cancer two days later. "I said to myself, 'For his birthday, my husband came and got my brother because my brother was too weak to fly on his own,'" she said. — AFP

More potential Prince heirs come forward

Two more people came forward Wednesday as heirs to Prince as the administrator of the pop legend's estate laid out plans for genetic testing. The two new potential heirs both said they were descended from Prince's older half-brother Duane Nelson, who headed security for the singer before becoming estranged. He died in 2011. Brianna Nelson said in a sworn statement to the court in Carver County, Minnesota that she was Duane Nelson's daughter and his only living child after her brother Duane Nelson Jr. died.

Another woman, Jeannine Halloran, said that she had an 11-year-old daughter with the late Duane Nelson Jr. The existence of the minor heir, known in court documents as VN, first emerged last week as a lawyer said he had tried and failed to contact the mother. Prince died suddenly on April 21 and had no recognized children or will even though his estate may be worth hundreds of millions of dollars and includes vast vaults of unreleased recordings.

In addition to members of Prince's extended family, a 39-year-old inmate in prison for gun possession in a stolen car is

seeking recognition as Prince's son. The mother of Carlin Williams said she had sex with Prince in a Kansas City hotel in 1976. Williams is also a little-known rapper who has written songs with scenarios in which he kills the "Purple Rain" star.

A special administrator handling Prince's estate said in a submission to the court that it would review all documents from people who say they are heirs. The administrator said it may ask claimants to undergo blood or other genetic tests at their own expense to prove their relationships to Prince when necessary. The court set a June 27 date to hear any objections to the proposal. The outside administrator had been requested by Prince's sister, Tyka Nelson, to keep order in his estate after his sudden death. One of the most influential and prolific artists of his era, Prince lived quietly in the suburbs of his hometown Minneapolis, where he kept his Paisley Park estate. — AFP



This file photo shows Prince performs at the Billboard Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, in Las Vegas. — AP

Alanis Morissette says manager swindled millions

Rocker Alanis Morissette has sued her former business manager for allegedly stealing \$4.7 million from her savings. The Canadian-born, Los Angeles-based singer, a giant in the alternative rock boom of the 1990s, said her former manager cost her \$15 million overall both through theft and other malfeasance. Morissette said that Jonathan Schwartz made at least 116 cash transfers worth a total of \$4,767,900 without her knowledge from 2010 to 2014. Schwartz convinced Morissette that her savings were in "fantastic" shape while in fact the transfers were "draining her assets and leading her on a road that could have led to financial ruin," she said in the lawsuit filed in Los Angeles on Tuesday.

Morissette said that she in fact wanted to live solely on her current income and interest and had instructed Schwartz not to touch her investments. The singer said she turned down a "lucrative" offer to perform five shows in Las Vegas after Schwartz convinced her that she did not need the money. Morissette said she fired Schwartz in March this year after growing suspicious when he could not provide timely information on her finances.

When a new manager discovered the alleged theft, the lawsuit said that Schwartz

came up with fictitious explanations including saying that the singer was investing in the marijuana business. Morissette also named in the suit GSO Business Management, where Schwartz was a partner, saying the prominent Los Angeles-area firm bore responsibility.

"It is inconceivable that a sophisticated certified public accounting and business management firm—which counts some of the world's wealthiest celebrities amongst its clientele—would permit a partner to with-

draw millions of dollars in cash from a client's account without a 'red light' going off somewhere," the lawsuit said. GSO Business Management filed a separate lawsuit against Schwartz, who could not be reached for comment.

The firm said it suspended Schwartz after the allegations came to light and was seeking an undetermined amount in damages as well as his formal dismissal. The company said its own investigation revealed that Schwartz sustained a "lavish lifestyle" that included a \$50,000 vacation to the Pacific island of Bora Bora, a \$75,000 debt from a casino in The Bahamas and "substantial" unpaid taxes.

Morissette was the voice behind a string of energetic rock anthems in the mid-1990s including "You Oughta Know," "Hand in My Pocket" and "You Learn." Her 1995 album "Jagged Little Pill" won the Grammy for Album of the Year, making the then 21-year-old Morissette the youngest winner of the prestigious award until Taylor Swift. Morissette's lawsuit comes a decade after a court found that a former manager had stolen some \$5 million from Leonard Cohen, another prominent Canadian artist who settled in Los Angeles. — AFP



Alanis Morissette



US director Jim Jarmusch (left) and US singer Iggy Pop pose yesterday during a photocall for the film 'Gimme Danger' at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP



French-Iranian actress Golshifteh Farahani (center) waves as she arrives with US actor Adam Driver (left) and US director Jim Jarmusch for the screening of the film 'Paterson' at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP

Jarmusch's 'love letter' to Iggy Pop and the Stooges at Cannes

With plenty of writhing, stage-diving and drug-taking, American director Jim Jarmusch's new documentary "Gimme Danger" on the iconic punk rockers Iggy Pop and the Stooges premiered in Cannes yesterday. As if to prove that rock was not dead, both Iggy Pop and Jarmusch gave photographers the middle finger at a photocall before the premiere. The 69-year-old Iggy Pop, real name James Osterberg, then struck a series of bizarre poses before grabbing one of the photographer's cameras and entering the snappers' melee.

From the moment Iggy Pop decided to quit drums because he was "tired of looking at someone's butt" to his first stage dive and adoption of the dog collar as a fashion statement, "Gimme Danger" charts the numerous rises and falls of one of history's most influential bands.

"I have been calling it a love letter to the Stooges. Why the Stooges? To me they are basically the greatest rock band ever," Jarmusch said in Cannes. A series of interviews with the frontman

himself and the surviving members of the group is interspersed with archive footage of performances, animations, scenes from old films and historical clips played to accompany the dialogue.

In the film, Iggy Pop recalls his life growing up in a trailer park with his parents, whom he drove so mad with his incessant drumming that they gave him the master bedroom. He explains how he and his bandmates experimented with sounds, hitting oil drums with a mallet, using a blender or vacuum cleaner, while struggling to remain disciplined—largely a result of their drug use.

After an initial stint as "The Dirty Shames"—where he admits they spent more time telling people they were a band than actually playing music—the group settled on the Stooges. "Because we don't do anything wrong but everyone's picking on us."

He said the first time he adopted his unusual dance style, writhing and crawling around on stage, he was trying to imitate "chimps or baboons before a fight." "Gimme Danger" also looks at the group's implosion as a result of increased drug use, when Iggy

and his bandmates turn to heroin, which along with an avowed "lack of professionalism" saw them dropped by record companies twice. On one occasion his friend David Bowie encourages Iggy Pop to restart his career.

After finally calling it quits in 1974, the band's various members struck out on their own, finally reuniting 30 years later in 2003 and in 2010 the Stooges were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. While several members of the Stooges have since passed away, Iggy Pop is still going strong and while he performed his final stage dive in 2010, he is currently touring with his latest album "Post Pop Depression". "Tell them to shout—I am half deaf," the singer told the moderator at a press conference. — AFP

The 'crazy ride from obscurity to Cannes' starry red carpet

British actress Hayley Squires is reveling in rave reviews for her breakout role in a Ken Loach film at Cannes, where she has been swept into a whirlwind of camera flashes, designer dresses and celebrity hobnobbing. But the glamour is a far cry from her life growing up in social housing in south London, and both she and her mum Teresa Faulks—who she brought along for the ride of her life—are overcome with emotion at their unlikely journey to the world's top film festival.

"I met Juliette Binoche last night and I was so uncool," said Squires, 28, whose performance as a single mother fighting poverty in Loach's tearjerker "I, Daniel Blake" has been regarded as one of the best of the festival so far. She is one of many young, unknown actors making waves at the festival who have been thrust into a relentless spotlight far removed from their ordinary upbringing.

The film follows carpenter Daniel Blake and Squires' character Katie as they suffer repeated humiliation at the hands of Britain's welfare system, hard hit by austerity. Producer Rebecca Hall said the filmmakers had deliberately cast people who, "if their lives took a different turn" could have ended up in the same boat.

Squires told AFP she at one point managed to move into private rental accommodation but a "change in family circumstances" pushed them back into the system where they were only able to score housing through "a sheer stroke of luck"

because they had someone to write them a reference. "My mum would always make sure that regardless how shitty the area that we were living in, the inside was warm and safe and a proper home," said a teary Squires. "I couldn't bring anyone else (to Cannes). She is the one person I need to pay back."

'Gut-wrenching realization'

Squires said she was surrounded by single mothers all her life, and didn't need to look far for inspiration for her performance. In one of the most striking scenes in the film, her character Katie is visiting a food bank with her children, after losing her benefits for being late to the welfare center. Katie, weakened by hunger, cannot stop herself from ripping open a tin of baked beans and scooping it into her mouth by hand. The Guardian's critic Peter Bradshaw told AFP the scene was unforgettable.

"The expression on her face, the sheer horror, the gut-wrenching realization that it has come to this, that she has fallen this far. Really impressed by her," he said. On the night after the movie premiered, Hayley and her mum woke up early to walk down Cannes' famous beach strip La Croisette and hunt down magazines carrying pictures and stories about the event. For Teresa, who started working aged 14, the Cannes experience has been "mind-blowing". —AFP



(From left) British screenwriter Paul Laverty, British actor Dave Johns, British actress Hayley Squires, British director Ken Loach and British producer Rebecca O'Brien pose as they arrive for the screening of the film 'I, Daniel Blake' at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP

Family beach house fun: Casino nights, luaus, competitions

Renting a house for a week or so with extended family or friends is an economical way to vacation while offering quality time with loved ones. It's easy to fill your days with swimming, hikes, shopping and dining out, but there are also ways to have fun at home with themed game nights, dinners and parties. My husband's family rents a beach house every other year or so along the North Carolina coast, and we always have several nights where teams cook dinner and plan games for the rest of the group.

We've had competitions such as beach Olympics, "Iron Chef America," Wii bowling and a family friendly pirate "pub crawl," among many others. The prep can be as involved or as simple as you want. The goal is to pick a theme appealing to all ages. Last summer we had a group of 19 people, ages 8 to 77, sharing one house. After the beach house and dates are chosen, teams are formed, with team members sworn to secrecy until their night arrives.

For a casino night, my sister-in-law designed money printed with the faces of several family members and everything we needed to play bingo, blackjack and roulette. We also purchased decks of playing cards printed with a family vacation logo. A Vegas-style buffet of baked potatoes and burgers included options for those on gluten-free, vegetarian and lactose-intolerant diets. One team changed it up a bit with a Sunday brunch: "Easel Like Sunday Morning." It was a take on popular wine-and-canvas parties. We had stretched canvas panels, paint, felt berets and stick-on moustaches. Our challenge was to paint a beach scene, which also gave us a souvenir to take home.

Younger generation

Kristin Zerkle, 45, of Columbus, Ohio, said her



In this photo Nicole Nussbaum, Katie Pollack, Kristen Nussbaum and Robert Nussbaum paint vacation scenes as part of an 'Easel Like Sunday Morning' theme at a vacation home in North Topsail Beach, NC. — AP

family also tries to involve all ages. Her parents have been vacationing with their six children in Hilton Head, South Carolina, for about 35 years. The group now includes 25 extended family members sharing one house. Faced with dining out with a dozen or so small children, at-home theme nights became a more appealing alternative. Her family has had a luau, pirate night, Mexican fiesta and an Ohio State tailgate, where everyone would wear their Buckeye gear. "Time has gone on and the challenges of having all those people together on a vacation change," Zerkle said, adding that themes had to evolve to

appeal to kids as they grew up. The family's younger generation now ranges in age from 7 to 26, while her parents are in their 70s.

"As the kids have gotten older we have tried to make it a little more adult. We've really stepped up our game," she said. Her family last year marked her sister and brother-in-law's 25th anniversary with a wedding reception. They decorated with wedding bells and put inflatable swans and lanterns in the pool. Her brother put together a playlist for the "White Wedding" theme night that included songs played at the couple's wedding reception in 1990. Zerkle

brought a veil and T-shirts that looked like a wedding gown and tuxedo for the couple to wear. There was a toast and a first dance.

Dance party

An earlier neon-themed dance party included decorating T-shirts, glow necklaces and black lights. Zerkle said involving everyone possible in the prep, planning and execution makes the theme nights a success. "The kids want to know way ahead of time what the theme is going to be. It's turned into something we talk about months in advance and the kids love planning it," she said. Laura Crisp, 52, of Canal Winchester, Ohio, said her family began having a theme party as a way to celebrate her now 10-year-old nephew's birthday, which falls during their beach house vacations every other year in Holden Beach, North Carolina.

Their five families with 19 people share a house. Her nephew chooses the theme and they decorate the house to match. They've had pirates, superheroes and Hawaiian themes. "It's just a good opportunity to decorate a house for a week with papery, fun, silly things," she said. The adults plan games according to the theme and ages of the children, including scavenger hunts divided by age. The experience has helped them grow closer, she said. "I just don't think you would do that silly stuff in your own house. Somehow, when you are on vacation it gives you more permission to loosen up and have that kind of fun," she said. — AP



Neapolitan pizza makers attempt to make the longest pizza to break a Guinness World Record along the seafrofront of Naples. — AFP photos

Home of pizza smashes record with mile-long margherita

Naples has reclaimed the world record for the longest pizza after more than 200 chefs rolled out and cooked a mile-long margherita on the waterfront of the doughy delicacy's home city. The record-breaking snack measured up at exactly 1,853.88 meters (6,082 feet), smashing the previous record of 1,595.45 meters (5,234 feet) set at last year's World Expo in Milan, Italy's food and agriculture board Coldiretti said.

Hundreds of chefs from all over the world spent most of Wednesday assembling the pizza from raw ingredients of 2,000 kilograms (4,400 pounds) of flour, 1,600kg (3,527 pounds) of tomatoes, 2,000kg (4,400 pounds) of mozzarella cheese, 200 liters (53 gallons) of oil and 30kg (66 pounds) of basil. It was then baked in line with the city's best tradition by wood-fire in five custom-made motorized ovens. The record attempt had initially been scheduled for Sunday but had to be postponed because of bad weather in the southern Italian city.

It was organized to promote Italy's bid to have the art of Neapolitan pizza-making recognized by UNESCO as part of the world's heritage, distinguishing it from what purists consider to be inferior forms found elsewhere.—AFP



Neapolitan pizza makers attempt to make the longest pizza to break a Guinness World Record.



Models show creations for 'La Bourjoisie' luxury fashion house in Kuwait.

'La Bourjoisie'

celebrated the launch of the Spring /Summer 2016 collection

"La Bourjoisie" luxury fashion house with the Lebanese Gulf combination that carry visions of a youth group of designers, launches their Spring /Summer 2016 collection, in the Hilton Mangaf, in the presence of the owner of the house Iman Al-Hamad, General Manager Antoine Salameh, who welcomed the audience of journalists and media workers and dignitaries in the community and lovers of fashion.

Salameh pointed in his brief speech that the new selection that included many of the precious pieces that every lady and fashion lovers must have, which highlights the femininity of women and live with them for a long time it is already "night of one thousand and one nights" with pieces dazzling super beauty to view full elegance fit and the finest concert occasions.



(From left) Fashion designer Nadim Sodeiha, (third left) General Manager Antoine Salameh and (fourth left) designer Charbel Azar with guests.



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Friday Times

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2016

Kids



Color me!



The Eiffel Tower

The Eiffel Tower is a wrought iron lattice tower on the Champ de Mars in Paris, France. It is named after the engineer Gustave Eiffel, whose company designed and built the tower.

Constructed in 1889 as the entrance to the 1889 World's Fair, it was initially criticized by some of France's leading artists and intellectuals for its design, but it has become a global cultural icon of France and one of the most recognisable structures in the world. The Eiffel Tower is the most-visited paid monument in the world; 6.91 million people ascended it in 2015.

The tower is 324 meters (1,063 ft) tall, about the same height as an 81-storey building, and the tallest structure in Paris. Its base is square, measuring 125 meters (410 ft) on each side. During its construction, the Eiffel Tower surpassed the Washington Monument to become the tallest man-made structure in the world, a title it held for 41 years until the Chrysler Building in New York City was finished in 1930. Due to the addition of a broadcasting aerial at the top of the tower in 1957, it is now taller than the Chrysler Building by 5.2 meters (17 ft). Excluding transmitters, the Eiffel Tower is the second-tallest structure in France after the Millau Viaduct. The tower has three levels for visitors, with restaurants on the first and second levels. The top level's upper platform is 276 m (906 ft) above the ground - the highest observation deck accessible to the public in the European Union. Tickets can be purchased to ascend by stairs or lift (elevator) to the first and second levels. The climb from ground level to the first level is over 300 steps, as is the climb from the first level to the second. Although there is a staircase to the top level, it is usually only accessible by lift.

FACTS ABOUT THE EIFFEL TOWER

- The Eiffel Tower was built for the 1889 Paris Exposition and was not intended to be permanent.
- The Eiffel Tower was going to be

- demolished in 1909, but was saved because it was repurposed as a giant radio antenna.
- The Eiffel Tower is the most visited paid monument in the world: 6.98 million people in 2011.
- During WWII, when Hitler visited Paris, the French cut the lift cables on the Eiffel Tower so that Hitler would have to climb the steps if he wanted to reach the top.
- Con artist Victor Lusting "sold" the Eiffel Tower to a scrap metal dealer.
- Located on the Champ de Mars in Paris, France, the Eiffel Tower is one of the most well known structures in the world.
- The Eiffel Tower was originally built as the entrance arch for the World's Fair in 1889.
- It is named after Gustave Eiffel, whose company was in charge of the project.
- The Eiffel Tower is 320 metres (1050 feet) in height and was the tallest man made structure in the world for 41 years before being surpassed by the Chrysler Building in New York.
- The Eiffel Tower is made of iron and weighs around 10000 tonnes.
- Around 50 tonnes of paint are added to the Eiffel Tower every 7 years to protect it from rust.
- Despite its height, the Eiffel Tower was designed to be wind resistant, swaying only a few inches in the wind. It actually moves further when the iron on the sun facing side heats and expands, moving the top up to 7 inches (18 centimetres) away from the sun.
- Temperature also alters the height of the Eiffel Tower by up to 6 inches (15 centimetres).
- Millions of people climb the Eiffel Tower every year and it has had over 250 million visitors since its opening.
- Visitors can climb up stairs to the first two levels or take a lift which also has access to the third and highest level.

DID YOU KNOW..?

- Can you feel the pulse in your wrist? For humans the normal pulse is 70 heartbeats per minute. Elephants have a slower pulse of 27 and for a canary it is 1000!
- If all the blood vessels in your body were laid end to end, they would reach about 60,000 miles.
- Abraham Lincoln probably had a medical condition called Marfans syndrome. Some of its symptoms are extremely long bones, curved spine, an arm span that is longer than the persons height, eye problems, heart problems and very little fat. It is a rare, inherited condition.
- In one day your heart beats 100,000 times.
- Half your body's red blood cells are replaced every seven days.
- By the time you are 70 you will have easily drunk over 12,000 gallons of water.
- Coughing can cause air to move through your windpipe faster than the speed of sound - over a thousand feet per second!
- Germs only cause disease, right? But a common bacterium, E. Coli, found in the intestine helps us digest green vegetables and beans (also making gases - pew!). These same bacteria also make vitamin K, which causes blood to clot. If we didn't have these germs we would bleed to death whenever we got a small cut!
- It takes more muscles to frown than it does to smile.
- That dust on rugs and your furniture is not only dirt. It's mostly made of dead skin cells.

SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION

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





KIDS RECIPES



The Yummy Anytime Burrito

What You Need:

- 2 Eggs
- Shredded cheddar cheese
- Salsa
- Tortillas
- A pat of butter
- Bowl
- Frying pan

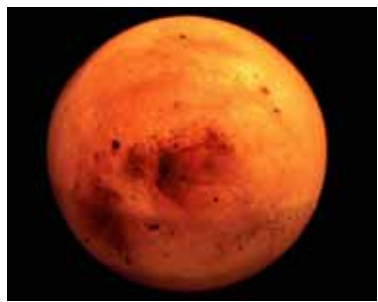
Instructions:

1. Crack the eggs into a bowl and beat until fluffy.
2. Melt the butter in the frying pan over medium heat.
3. Add the eggs to the pan and scramble them.
4. Once the eggs are done, place them on a tortilla and sprinkle cheese and salsa on top.
5. Roll it up and enjoy!

ABOUT MARS

Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun and the second-smallest planet in the Solar System, after Mercury. Named after the Roman god of war, it is often referred to as the "Red Planet" because the iron oxide prevalent on its surface gives it a reddish appearance. Mars is a terrestrial planet with a thin atmosphere, having surface features reminiscent both of the impact craters of the Moon and the valleys, deserts, and polar ice caps of Earth.

The rotational period and seasonal cycles of Mars are likewise similar to those of Earth, as is the tilt that produces the seasons. Mars is the site of Olympus Mons, the largest volcano and second-



highest known mountain in the Solar System, and of Valles Marineris, one of the largest canyons in the Solar System. The smooth Borealis basin in the northern hemisphere covers 40% of the planet and may be a giant impact feature. Mars has two moons, Phobos and Deimos, which are small and irregularly shaped. These may be captured asteroids, similar to 5261 Eureka, a Mars trojan.

Until the first successful Mars flyby in 1965 by Mariner 4, many speculated about the presence of liquid water on the planet's surface.

This was based on observed periodic variations in light and dark patches, particularly in the polar latitudes, which appeared to be seas and continents; long, dark striations were interpreted by some as irrigation channels for liquid water. These straight line features were

later explained as optical illusions, though geological evidence gathered by uncrewed missions suggests that Mars once had large-scale water coverage on its surface at some earlier stage of its existence.

In 2005, radar data revealed the presence of large quantities of water ice at the poles and at mid-latitudes. The Mars rover Spirit sampled chemical compounds containing water molecules in March 2007. The Phoenix lander directly sampled water ice in shallow Martian soil on July 31, 2008. On September 28, 2015, NASA announced the presence of briny flowing salt water on the Martian surface.

Mars is host to seven functioning spacecraft: five in orbit-2001 Mars Odyssey, Mars Express, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, MAVEN and Mars Orbiter Mission-and two on the surface-Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity and the Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity. Observations by the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter have revealed possible flowing water during the warmest months on Mars. In 2013, NASA's Curiosity rover discovered that Mars's soil contains between 1.5% and 3% water by mass (albeit attached to other compounds and thus not freely accessible).

There are ongoing investigations assessing the past habitability potential of Mars, as well as the possibility of extant life. In situ investigations have been performed by the Viking landers, Spirit and Opportunity rovers, Phoenix lander, and Curiosity rover. Future astrobiology missions are planned, including the Mars 2020 and ExoMars rovers.

Mars can easily be seen from Earth with the naked eye, as can its reddish coloring. Its apparent magnitude reaches ?2.91, which is surpassed only by Jupiter, Venus, the Moon, and the Sun. Optical ground-based telescopes are typically limited to resolving features about 300 kilometers (190 mi) across when Earth and Mars are closest because of Earth's atmosphere.

Spot the differences



Make a Fossil



What You Need:

- Aluminum foil
- Plaster of paris
- Seashell

Instructions:

1. Make a "bowl" out of a sheet of aluminum foil.
2. Fill the bowl with plaster of Paris.
3. Press the sea shell into the plaster of Paris.
4. Wait 20-30 minutes and then carefully remove the seashell and foil, and you have a fossil!

WORD SEARCH

Cat

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

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T T U W W H I S K E R S S
S O A T K K S Y E K T S E
C C T I H I H P L L W T I
R H I I L T T I E A Y E R
A X S T L P M T L E L T P
T S O A A U W C E C L E R
C P E B B R A O R N R S Y
H T H B R R R O E T S O A
S O Y A I E U E X M H H P
W H R L A C T E C N U O P
A A R A H E I T D O O F I
P E U H W M O A I O K Y S
R W F S A G I L E L K I P
  
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AGILE	KITTENS	PURR
CLAWS	LITTER BOX	SCRATCH
CROUCH	MEOW	SLEEP
FOOD	MILK	STEALTHY
FURRY	PAWS	TAIL
HAIRBALL	POUNCE	WHISKERS
HISS		





Using whole grains to gussy up that old three-bean salad

By Katie Workman

In certain parts of the country, a good three-bean salad is almost always the anchor to a potluck or picnic, the kinds of gatherings where sturdy, crowd-pleasing, portable - and frankly inexpensive - food is wanted.

There have been countless variations of three-bean salads made with nothing more complex than the beans and bottled vinaigrette. And they've most certainly been well received. But after a while those salads can start to feel heavy and monotonous. I was after something with a fresher feel.

In this version, the addition of spelt and canned hearts of palm adds tons of interest. A generous amount of fresh herbs provides brightness. Spelt is a whole grain that been around since ancient times, but now it is only commonly grown in Europe. It fell out of favor in the early 1900s, but now that whole grains are back in the spotlight, it's becoming popular again. It's quite chewy and nutty, with large, fat rice-shaped grains.

Some people who have wheat intolerances can enjoy spelt, but it is a mem-

ber of the wheat family, so it's not suitable for people who are celiac or have more serious wheat aversions. It usually is soaked for several hours before cooking, which reduces the cooking time.

When you are cooking the spelt for this recipe, consider making extra. It's nice to have later in the week for tossing into pilafs, soups and stews. Soak 1 cup of spelt grains in enough water to cover overnight. When ready to cook, drain the spelt. Bring 3 cups of water or broth to a simmer in a medium pot over medium-high heat, add the drained spelt and simmer for about 1 hour, or until the spelt is tender.

The dressing for this bean salad is quite thick - close to a pesto consistency - but it distributes itself perfectly over the ingredients. Change up the herbs as you like, and feel free to add some other fresh vegetables as well, such as diced zucchini, tomatoes or avocado. If so, add those shortly before serving. With that exception, you can make this salad up to three days ahead and store it, covered, in the refrigerator.



BRIGHT AND HERBY THREE-BEAN SALAD

Ingredients

Start to finish: 15 minutes

Servings: 8

14-ounce can hearts of palm, drained and rinsed, cut into 1/2-inch pieces

15 1/2-ounce can kidney beans, drained and rinsed

15 1/2-ounce can chickpeas, drained and rinsed

15 1/2-ounce can black beans, drained and rinsed

1 cup cooked, cooled spelt (see above or follow package directions)

1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley

2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil

2 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme

1/4 cup rice vinegar

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1/2 cup finely chopped red onion

Salt and ground black pepper

Preparation

In a large serving bowl, mix together the hearts of palm, kidney

beans, chickpeas, black beans and cooked spelt. In a small bowl, mix together the parsley, basil, thyme, vinegar, olive oil and onion. Season with salt and pepper. Pour the dressing over the bean salad and toss to coat evenly. Serve at room temperature or slightly chilled. Nutrition information per serving: 240 calories; 45 calories from fat (21 percent of total calories); 5 g fat (0.5 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 610 mg sodium; 38 g carbohydrate; 13 g fiber; 3 g sugar; 13 g protein.

You'll love refried edamame

By Sara Moulton

The first time I ate fresh soybeans was, naturally enough, at a Japanese restaurant. Known as edamame, the dish is a staple of Japanese restaurant menus.

They were served as an appetizer, in their pods, steamed and sprinkled with salt. It took a little work to suck the cooked fresh soybeans out of their pods, but who cared? I was out to dinner and in no rush. Besides they were delicious, meaty and flavorful. They reminded me of lima beans minus the funkiness.

And, big surprise, not only are they good, they're good for you. Of course, all legumes wear a nutritional halo, but the one radiating from soybeans is especially blinding. They boast more protein than any other legume, and they're a great source of folate, vitamin K, calcium, iron and fiber.

But the idea of putting edamame on a home cook's menu for a

weeknight meal? It never entered my mind. Then, several years after my restaurant revelation, I noticed a recipe in Gourmet magazine that featured frozen shelled edamame, the beans freed from their pods, combined with butter and buttermilk. Who knew you could buy them already shelled? Suddenly a new world opened up.

Following the Gourmet recipe, I began boiling, steaming or mashing shelled edamame according to my mood. Here, I've taken them in a yet another direction, reworking my recipe for a lighter version of Mexican-styled refried beans by replacing the pinto beans with edamame. The finished product is wonderfully creamy - smoother than the creamiest mashed potatoes - because the beans are pureed instead of mashed. It was a real hit with my family.

One caveat: You want to be sure to cook the fresh soybeans until they're soft. This advice runs counter to the directions on the

back of the package, which recommends boiling the beans for a mere 5 minutes. For this recipe, that short a cooking time would leave them too firm.

By the way, when I refer to fresh soybeans, I mean the frozen shelled guys. At least sometimes, of course, you'll be able to find them fresh in the pod at the farmers' market, and I'm sure they're delicious. But then you'd have to shell them once you brought them home, which is pretty tedious. The great thing about frozen vegetables is that not only are they a snap to prepare, but they also taste surprisingly fresh. That's because they're harvested at the peak of ripeness, then briefly blanched, then quickly frozen. It might seem counter-intuitive - if it's frozen, how can it be fresh? - but it turns out to be a great way to lock in their goodness.

MEXICAN-STYLE EDAMAME 'REFRIED BEANS'

Ingredients

Serve these as a dip for tortilla chips, spooned into soft or hard tacos, or layered between quesadillas.

Start to finish: 40 minutes (25 minutes active)

Servings: 6

16-ounce bag frozen shelled edamame

3/4 cup low-sodium chicken or vegetable broth or stock

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

1/2 cup finely chopped yellow onion

1 teaspoon minced garlic

1 teaspoon ground cumin

1/2 teaspoon chili powder, preferably chipotle

1 to 2 tablespoons lime juice

Salt and ground black pepper

1/4 cup sour cream

Pepitas (toasted pumpkin seeds) or toasted pine nuts, to garnish



Preparation

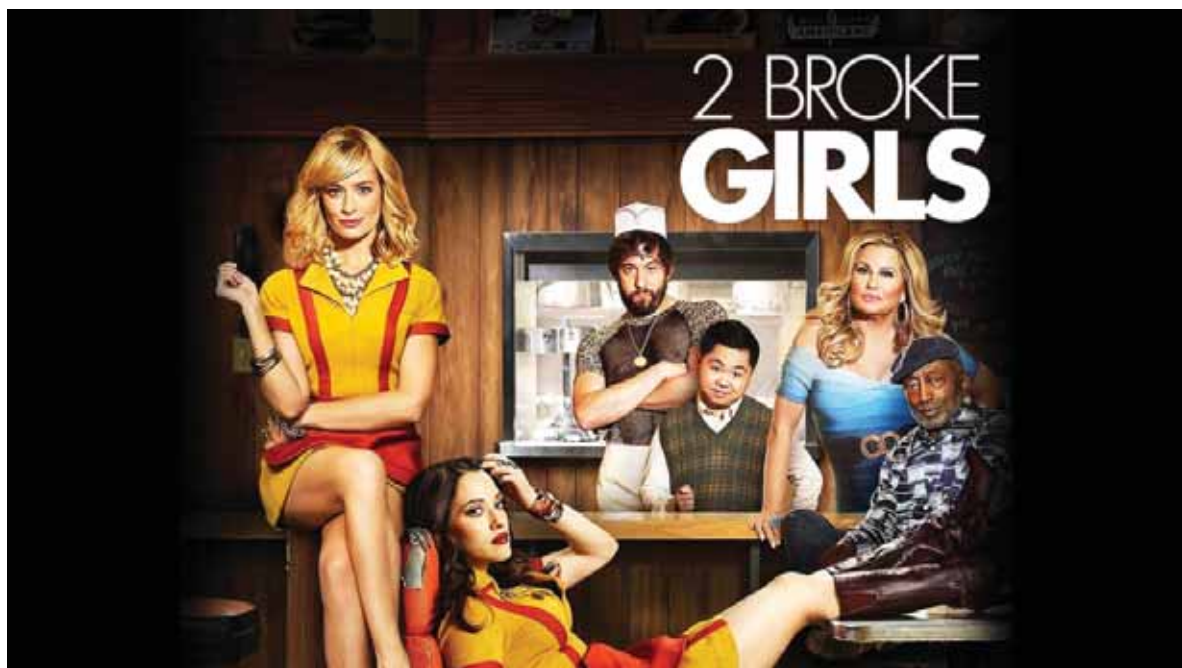
In a medium saucepan over medium-high, bring 2 quarts of well salted water to a simmer. Add the edamame, return to a simmer and cook until soft, about 20 minutes. Drain the edamame, reserving 1/2 cup of the cooking liquid, and transfer them along with the reserved liquid to a blender or food processor. Start to blend the edamame and when they are finely chopped add the chicken broth and continue blending, scraping down the sides as needed, until the beans are smooth.

While the edamame are cooking, in a large skillet over medium, heat the oil. Add the onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden brown. Add the garlic, cumin and chili powder and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Add the edamame puree and the lime juice. Season with salt and pepper, then cook, stirring, until the puree is hot. Remove from the heat and stir in the sour cream. Serve as desired, topped with pepitas.

Nutrition information per serving: 170 calories; 100 calories from fat (59 percent of total calories); 11 g fat (2 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 5 mg cholesterol; 180 mg sodium; 9 g carbohydrate; 4 g fiber; 3 g sugar; 9 g protein. — AP

Friday Times Entertainment

10 SITCOMS YOU SHOULD TOTALLY BINGE WATCH THIS SUMMER



2 BROKE GIRLS

Number of seasons: 5
IMBD Ratings: 6.8

The series chronicles the lives of two waitresses in their mid-twenties: Max Black (Kat Dennings), the child of a poor working-class mother and an unknown father, and Caroline Channing (Beth Behrs), who was born rich but is now disgraced and penniless because her father, Martin Channing, got caught operating a Bernard Madoff-esque Ponzi scheme. The two work together at a Brooklyn diner, soon becoming roommates and friends while building toward their dream of one day opening a cupcake shop. Among those working with them at the restaurant are their boss, Han Lee (Matthew Moy); Oleg (Jonathan Kite), an upbeat but perverted Ukrainian cook; and Earl (Garrett Morris), a 75-year-old cashier. Also featured starting late in the first season is their neighbor and part-time boss Sophie (Jennifer Coolidge), a Polish immigrant who runs the house-cleaning company Sophie's Choice. Each episode ends with a running tally of the money earned out of the \$250,000 the girls need to open a cupcake business, whether it increases or decreases. The show has a hilarious take on the broke life and struggles of the Williamsburg girl. Making the viewers want to watch more with every episode.

YOUNGER

Number of seasons: 2
IMBD Ratings: 7.7

Liza Miller (Sutton Foster) is 40 years old and a recently divorced mother. As her teenage daughter Caitlin (Tessa Albertson) studies abroad in India, Liza has to figure out a way to support herself and her daughter since her ex-husband David's (Paul Fitzgerald) gambling addiction has left them in a financial money pit, losing all their savings and the house they've lived in since Caitlin was little. Following her ambitions from college, Liza attempts to get a job in publishing but has to start at the bottom, which proves difficult for a woman of her age. During her hunt, she meets Josh (Nico Tortorella), a 26-year-old man who guesses he and Liza are about the same age. His compliment sparks an idea in Liza and her best friend Maggie (Debi Mazar): Maggie gives Liza a makeover in order to pass her off as 26 years old. Ultimately, she becomes an assistant to Diana Trout (Miriam Shor) at the publishing firm Empirical Press, where she befriends Kelsey Peters (Hilary Duff), her 20-something co-worker.

This show is pretty exciting because who wouldn't want to watch a forty year old fake her way being a twenty something year old woman. Her initial struggles includes technology and social media but it gets much worse as the season graduates.



TV LAND

New Girl



NEW GIRL

Friday Times

20 FRIDAY
MAY 2016

Number of seasons: 5
IMBD Ratings: 7.8

Jessica "Jess" Christopher Day (Zooey Deschanel) is a bubbly young woman who teaches at a Los Angeles middle school. Jess comes home to find her boyfriend with another woman and leaves him immediately, and looks for somewhere else to live. She answers an ad for a new roommate on Craigslist, and moves in with three young men: Nick, Schmidt, and Coach. After the pilot episode, Winston, who had previously lived in

the apartment with Nick and Schmidt, replaces Coach. Cece, Jessica's childhood best friend and a successful fashion model, also appears in various episodes in the storyline. Coach returns to the loft who later returns to the show. The series basically takes off with showing the lives of these roommates.

The show is about a girl living with three guys. That's enough to get you hooked to this show.

AWKWARD

Number of seasons: 5
IMBD Ratings: 7.7

Social outcast Jenna Hamilton, after receiving a "carefrontation" letter, has an accident, looking like she tried to commit suicide. She begins a blog that helps her deal with different high school issues such as boy troubles, peer-pressure, and trying to fit

in. By making changes and embracing her misfortune, she becomes well-known to her peers. With every season she manages to land herself in some sort of trouble. It's a show full of comedy, fashion and some serious drama.

High school teenage drama is always quite exciting for the masses.



AMERICAN HORROR STORY

AMERICAN HORROR STORY

Number of seasons: 5
IMBD Ratings: 8.3

American Horror Story is an American anthology horror television series created and produced by Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk. Described as an anthology series, each season is conceived as a self-contained miniseries, following a disparate set of characters and settings, and a storyline with its own "beginning, middle, and end. Some plot elements are loosely inspired by true events.

The first season, retroactively subtitled Murder House, takes place in Los Angeles, California during the year 2011 and centers on a family that moves into a house haunted by its deceased former occupants. The second season, subtitled Asylum, takes place in Massachusetts during the year 1964 and fol-

lows the stories of the patients and staff of an institution for the criminally insane. The third season, subtitled Coven, takes place in New Orleans, Louisiana during the year 2013 and follows a coven of witches who face off against those who wish to destroy them. The fourth season, subtitled Freak Show, takes place in Jupiter, Florida during the year 1952 and centers around one of the few remaining American freak shows. The fifth season, subtitled Hotel, takes place in Los Angeles, California during the year 2015 and focuses on the staff and guests of a supernatural hotel.

This show never leaves it's audience bored. It leaves their hair standing and heart racing. Every season has a new story of horrors and it's simply exciting.

THE EXES

Number of seasons: 4
IMBD Ratings: 6.8

Divorce attorney Holly (Kristen Johnston) introduces her client, Stuart (David Alan Basche), to his new roommates: Two other divorced men who share an apartment in New York City that Holly owns. At first Phil (Donald Faison) and Haskell (Wayne Knight) have reservations about Stuart moving in, but Holly is

right across the hall to help when things start to go downhill. While not hanging out in the apartment, the gang are usually downstairs at the local bar, joined by Holly's assistant, Eden (Kelly Stables).

The show revolves around the life of these five people and the only common thing they share is Divorce.





ONCE UPON A TIME

Number of seasons: 5
IMBD Ratings: 8

The series takes place in the fictional seaside town of Storybrooke, Maine, in which the residents are actually characters from various fairy tales and other stories that were transported to the "real world" town and robbed of their original memories by the Evil Queen Regina (Lana Parrilla), using a powerful curse obtained from Rumplestiltskin (Robert Carlyle). The residents of Storybrooke, where Regina is mayor, have lived an unchanging existence for 28 years, unaware of their own lack of aging. The town's only hope lies with a bail-bonds person named Emma Swan (Jennifer Morrison), the daughter of Snow White (Ginnifer Goodwin) and Prince Charming (Josh Dallas), who was transported from the Enchanted Forest to our world via a magic wardrobe as an infant before she could be cursed. As such, she is the only person who can break the curse and restore the

characters' lost memories. She is aided by her son, Henry (Jared S. Gilmore), with whom she has recently reunited after giving him up for adoption upon his birth, and his Once Upon a Time book of fairy tales that holds the key to breaking the curse. Henry is also the adopted son of Regina, providing a source of both conflict and common interest between the two women.

Episodes usually have one segment that details the characters' past lives that, when serialized, adds a piece to the puzzle about the characters and their connection to the events that preceded the curse and its consequences. The other, set in the present day, follows a similar pattern with a different outcome but also offers similar insights.

Why wouldn't you not want to watch favorite characters live everyday normal lives?

UNBREAKABLE KIMMY SCHMIDT

Number of Seasons: 2
IMBD Ratings: 8

The series follows 29-year-old Kimmy Schmidt (Kemper) as she adjusts to life in New York City after her rescue from a doomsday cult in Indiana where she and three other women were held by Reverend Richard Wayne Gary Wayne (Jon Hamm) for 15 years. Determined to be seen as something other than a victim and armed only with a positive attitude, Kimmy decides to restart her life by moving to New York City, where she quickly befriends her street-wise landlady Lillian Kaushtupper (Carol Kane), finds a roommate in struggling actor Titus Andromedon (Tituss Burgess), and gains a job as a nanny for the melancholy and out-of-touch socialite Jacqueline Voorhees (Jane Krakowski). With their help, Kimmy struggles to adapt to an unfamiliar world and jump-start the adult life that had been taken away from her.



modern family



MODERN FAMILY

Number of season: 8
IMBD Ratings: 8.6

Just when you thought you had the craziest family out there.. Modern Family revolves around three different types of families (nuclear, step- and same-sex) living in the Los Angeles area who are interrelated through Jay Pritchett and his children, Claire Dunphy (nEe Pritchett) and Mitchell Pritchett. Patriarch Jay is remarried to a much younger woman, Gloria Delgado Pritchett (nEe Ramirez), a passionate Colombian with whom he has a baby son, Fulgencio (Joe) Pritchett; and a son from Gloria's previous marriage, Manny Delgado. Jay's daughter Claire is a homemaker married to Phil Dunphy, a real-estate agent and self-professed "cool Dad". They have three children- Haley Dunphy the stereotypical ditzy teenage girl; Alex Dunphy, a nerdy, smart middle child;[8] and Luke Dunphy, the off-beat only son. Jay's lawyer son Mitchell and his husband Cameron Tucker have an adopted Vietnamese daughter, Lily Tucker-Pritchett. As the name suggests, this family represents a modern-day family and episodes are comically based on situations which many families encounter in real life.

IZOMBIE

Number of seasons: 2
IMBD Ratings: 8.6

Everyone loves crime solving TV Shows but what if the crime was being solved by a zombie?

Seattle medical resident Olivia "Liv" Moore (Rose McIver) is turned into a zombie while attending a boat party. To cope with her new appetite for brains, Liv takes a job at the King County morgue and shares her secret with her boss, Dr. Ravi Chakrabarti (Rahul Kohli). In order for Liv to survive, Ravi encourages her to eat the brains of murder victims whose bodies are delivered to the morgue. Gradually, Ravi becomes Liv's friend and confidant, and as a scientist, he is intrigued with Liv's condition. Whenever she eats a victim's brain, Liv temporarily inherits some of their personality traits. She also experiences flashbacks which often give her clues about the murder. Those visions can be generally triggered by sights (events or objects) or sounds (repeated sentences). Liv uses this new ability to help the Seattle Police Department solve crimes, passing herself off as a psychic consultant, while Ravi works to develop a cure for Liv's affliction in hopes that one day she will resume her former life.





Aries (March 21-April 19)

A sudden loss in business could occur through no fault of your own-this is not a trend. You are very motivated to improve existing situations. Others may look to you for some guidance. This is a time for imagination and creativity when it comes to ideas and thinking. You can captivate any listener and can find a way to improve most any business situations quickly. You appreciate your particular situation and enjoy support from those around you. Take a hands-on approach to investments. It is a good idea to understand how your money works. Do not hesitate to ask whatever questions are necessary. Follow up on a new business idea this afternoon. This evening may be a good time for surrounding yourself with friends and for just having a good time.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are really connected somehow to other people's attitudes today. Perhaps you are taking a survey or you are just particularly sensitive at this time. Your negotiation skills are in top form; however, if you hesitate too long before taking action, you could run into snags. Think about your decisions and then stay focused. Do not let others sway you from your goals. There will be a great deal of conversation in the work arena today and your contribution can make a positive difference. This proves to be a busy day and outdoor exercise with your friends will be welcomed this afternoon. Enjoy these times with your friends as you tend to boost each other's confidence. Young people and family members join in the celebrations.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You could find yourself expressing your ideas deliberately today-with little waste of words. You have a natural sense of organization and you come across as disciplined and careful, perhaps a little too sober. An inner vision, coupled with the ability to see the big picture, may find you working as a mediator with others. You could even have a special gift for spanning the generation gap, bringing older and younger spirits together-a healer. A love of animals, children, older people and the needy is a life-long trait that is visible today. It is easy for you to work with groups and teams of people. You would make a good manager. There are opportunities to enjoy some outdoor activity with friends this afternoon. Laughter and fun are easy to find.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Opportunities may go against your own sense of security and responsibility. Career choices may require that you take a chance and neglect the home front now. This is a tough call and some compromise is perhaps the best way to a workable solution. Your career, practical vision and skills are of central importance to you. You feel a waste of time if there is no organization and your actions are deliberate in this area of your life. Your reputation and image are a source of concern and you do everything you can to make them solid now. You appear perhaps more charming and refined than usual at this time. Making a good impression and putting your best foot forward take on a greater importance as a new cycle gets underway in your life.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are brilliant when it comes to insights of the mind, psychology and motivation-the intensity is obvious. Your analytical powers are superb and you enjoy finding new avenues of inner growth. You have a great mental drive and lavish much gusto on mental pursuits of all kinds. Ideas, words, books, etc., can be pursued with great gusto. Since you are such a social animal, opportunities will be available to communicate in groups. Teamwork will advance successfully now. This is a lucky day for making plans or decisions and finding your way through just about any problem you may discover. You feel successful and you are able to contend with the difficulties you may find whether you are at work or in the home.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Self-sacrifice and an understanding attitude could have far-reaching effects on your life-path and career during this time. A little restraint just now could delay results. The planets are all favorable and it should be easy for you to push forward with any ongoing projects. Life may seem almost magical in the way things work out in your favor. Now is the time when personal insight into your most secret and psychological self may be possible. Breaking with what went before, you may find new ways to transform yourself. With a little change in subject this evening, your concentration may be on your favorite animal. You are either teaching an old dog new tricks or babysitting a family member's new pet this evening.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This could be one of your more stressful days but it could just as well be one of your most productive times. Ask questions, stop to think things through and weigh your options before jumping into something you could regret. If a situation does not feel right at this time, delay, compromise or ask opinions. Listen to advisers who have been accurate in the past. You might like to ignore responsibilities and do some socializing, but realities may demand that you tend to business. This evening would be a good time to take a little trip, or get outside. You may want to break that routine and try something new or different. It is highly likely that you will enjoy some time with a loved one this evening. Have fun being creative tonight.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is an active day with an exchange of ideas in the workplace. Creating money is easier than in the past, but spending it is also easier-think about your choices. The most important action now is to have an objective and a plan for your future investments and goals. Last, but not least, you must keep your attitude to succeed. You seem to be enjoying the way in which your life is taking shape. You may be encouraged to widen your scope of friends through some new organization you join or a new neighbor you get to know. It may be time to plan a party or get together with these new friends. You are more receptive in your love relationships now. You may realize that holding on to the past no longer suits your purpose.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You enjoy and value your own life situation today. An authority figure will value your input with regard to some group issues today. You may be surprised at the support you receive. A friend may want to get your feedback on very personal and emotional issues. You will be able to be understanding and handle this unpredictable material. You are able to cut through the red tape and help your friend to see the truth. As this week winds to a close, you may be putting some finishing touches on some vacation plans or a weekend trip. If you have kids, be sure to include them in the decision making. If anything is left unplanned, promise to complete your plans before leaving on the trip. Include in your gear some binoculars and a star map.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You can make practical decisions concerning group issues and others tend to lean toward your intelligent summations in how things should be run. You have a natural sense of what the public wants at this time and can be one of the best salespersons in your company. If you are not in sales, whatever profession you enjoy, your hard work will be recognized. You could come up with new solutions to difficulties that others would not even try to solve. You have an appreciation of life and you enjoy chatting with friends about each other's accomplishments. You make a good friend and it isn't long before you are the one doing the listening. This whole evening may be about friends. There is time to dine, dance and enjoy good conversation.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are enterprising and dependable and when problems happen in the workplace, higher-ups can depend on you to find an answer or to reveal a truth. Because of your insight, a higher-up is able to make clear decisions. You are valued for your ability to make practical decisions and you could find yourself representing co-workers in a particular issue today. You will find that by next week there will be opportunities, or at least an availability of ways in which you can invest your money. Ask questions-know the risks-take your chances-begin now to plan. This is a great time to reflect and understand where you are in the process of reaching your goals. Emotions of others, as well as your own, can be very clear now.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You will probably be extremely busy this day. There will be many times where you will have the opportunity to supply a solution to a particular problem. Be prepared to work hard! This is not a great time for contemplation. If you need to increase your energies, try walking up and down stairs or around the building or some other short exercise routine. You may find yourself feeling blocked and unable to express yourself, particularly in a group situation, unless you take a little time to stretch or do that little spurt of exercise. Take care to examine all aspects of your work or dealings today-it will be successful. These afternoon conversations with family will be more relaxed. A positive dialogue with an older person may take place. This evening is for reading.

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



03:10 Witchboard
04:45 The Indian Fighter
06:15 The Hills Run Red
07:45 Charge Of The Light Brigade
09:50 Funny Thing Happened...Forum
11:30 Manchu Eagle Murder Caper Mystery
12:55 The Night They Raided Minsky's
14:35 Duplex
16:05 The Garbage Pail Kids Movie
17:40 Inspector Clouseau
19:15 The Hills Run Red
20:45 Big Screen
21:00 Last Light
22:50 Thief
00:55 NED Kelly
02:40 Pumpkinhead II: Blood Wings



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 Sharnwari: A Wild Life
20:40 Sharnwari: 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 Serial Killer Tiger At Large
01:40 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
02:35 Tanked



03:10 Orphan Black
03:55 Doctors
04:30 Eastenders
05:00 Doctor Who
06:00 Holby City
06:55 Doctors
07:25 Doctors
07:55 Eastenders
08:25 Eastenders
08:55 Call The Midwife: Christmas Special 2015
09:40 Father Brown
10:30 Stella
11:15 Stella
12:05 Stella
12:55 Death In Paradise
13:50 Holby City
14:45 Doctors
15:15 Eastenders
15:50 Sinbad
16:35 Sinbad
17:25 Sinbad
18:15 Doctors
18:45 Doctors
19:20 Father Brown
20:05 Sherlock: The Abominable Bride
21:40 Luther
22:40 Stella
23:30 Undercover
00:30 Doctors
01:00 Doctors
01:35 Father Brown
02:25 Luther



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
17:50 Tosh.0
18:15 Tosh.0
18:40 Tosh.0
20:15 Lip Sync Battle
20:38 Lip Sync Battle
21:30 Inside Amy Schumer
22:00 South Park
22:30 Tattoo Disasters
23:00 Tattoo Disasters
00:00 DI Hughley: The Endangered List
00:50 Inside Amy Schumer
01:15 South Park
02:05 Inside Amy Schumer



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 Untamed & Uncut
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 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 Untamed & Uncut
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 Murder Among Friends
03:48 Evil Kin
04:36 Blood Relatives
05:24 The Perfect Murder
06:12 I Was Murdered
06:37 I Was Murdered
07:00 Blood Relatives
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
08:40 The Perfect Murder
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 The Perfect Murder
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 The Perfect Murder
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 Taste For Murder
23:40 Evil Stepmothers
00:30 Evil Kin
01:20 Evil Lives Here
02:10 A Taste For Murder



03:05 How It's Made
03:29 Mythbusters
04:16 Secret Space Escapes
05:03 Alien Mysteries
05:50 Prototype This
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 Prototype This
09:38 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
10:23 Secret Space Escapes
11:08 Alien Mysteries
11:53 Prototype This
12:38 Mythbusters
13:23 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
14:10 How It's Made
14:33 How It's Made
14:57 Invent It Rich
15:44 Alien Mysteries
16:31 Prototype This
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 Alien Mysteries
20:25 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
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 Alien Mysteries

23:35 Mythbusters
00:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman



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 Forever
09:20 Hannah Montana Forever
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 Backstage
17:25 Geek Charming
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 Backstage
20:45 Pixel Perfect
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 PJ Masks
09:35 Doc McStuffins
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Goldie & Bear
11:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:25 The Lion Guard
11:50 Handy Manny
12:15 Jungle Junction



MAKE YOUR MOVE ON OSN MOVIES HD

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2016

- 12:30 Special Agent Oso
- 12:45 The Hive
- 13:00 Sofia The First
- 13:25 Miles From Tomorrow
- 13:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 14:15 The Lion Guard
- 14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 15:10 Doc McStuffins
- 15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 16:00 Sofia The First
- 16:25 Jungle Cubs
- 16:50 Aladdin
- 17:15 The Lion Guard
- 17:40 Goldie & Bear
- 18:05 Miles From Tomorrow
- 18:30 Sofia The First
- 19:00 PJ Masks
- 19:30 The Lion Guard
- 20:00 Goldie & Bear
- 20:30 Sofia The First
- 21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 21:25 PJ Masks
- 21:50 Jungle Cubs
- 22:20 Aladdin
- 22:50 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



OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL ON OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY



- 06:00 Booster
- 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: Bionic Island
- 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: Bionic Island
- 13:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 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: Bionic Island
- 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: Bionic Island
- 22:10 Mighty Med
- 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

- 08:20 E! News
- 09:15 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
- 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 Guy's Big Bite
- 13:30 Guy's Big Bite
- 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 Queen's Horses 90th Birthday
- 05:15 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
- 06:35 Catchphrase
- 07:05 Catchphrase
- 07:30 Queen's Horses 90th Birthday
- 09:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 10:10 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
- 11:35 Catchphrase
- 12:05 Catchphrase
- 12:30 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
- 13:25 Emmerdale
- 13:50 Emmerdale
- 14:20 Coronation Street
- 14:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 15:35 Catchphrase
- 16:05 Catchphrase
- 16:30 Endeavour
- 18:20 Emmerdale
- 18:45 Emmerdale
- 19:10 Coronation Street
- 19:35 Catchphrase
- 20:05 Catchphrase
- 20:30 Endeavour
- 22:20 Coronation Street
- 22:50 Emmerdale
- 23:15 Emmerdale
- 23:40 Queen's Horses 90th Birthday
- 01:30 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild
- 02:00 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild
- 02:30 Emmerdale
- 02:55 Emmerdale



- 03:05 Lucky Chow
- 03:30 Places We Go
- 03:55 The Food Files
- 04:20 My Dubai
- 04:45 My Dubai
- 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 Chfs 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 The Food Files
- 10:10 My Dubai
- 10:35 My Dubai
- 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 Chfs Run Wild
- 14:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 14:30 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 14:55 Lucky Chow
- 15:25 Places We Go
- 15:50 Grandma's Boy
- 16:20 My Dubai
- 16:45 My Dubai
- 17:15 World's Biggest Festival: Kumbh Mela
- 18:10 Bondi Rescue
- 18:35 Bondi Rescue
- 19:05 Lucky Chow
- 19:30 Places We Go
- 20:00 Grandma's Boy
- 20:25 My Dubai
- 20:50 My Dubai
- 21:15 World's Biggest Festival: Kumbh Mela
- 22:05 Bondi Rescue
- 22:30 Bondi Rescue
- 22:55 Cesar To The Rescue
- 23:45 Chfs Run Wild
- 00:10 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 00:35 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 01:00 My Dubai
- 01:25 Home Strange Home
- 02:15 Grandma's Boy
- 02:40 Grandma's Boy



- 03:45 Urban Jungle
- 04:40 Man And The Wild
- 05:35 Amazonia's Giant Jaws
- 06:30 Animals Gone Wild
- 07:25 Urban Jungle
- 08:20 Man And The Wild
- 09:15 Kingdom Of The Oceans
- 10:10 Strangest Bird Alive
- 11:05 Deadly Game
- 12:00 Dinofish
- 12:55 Hyena Coast
- 13:50 Animals Gone Wild
- 14:45 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
- 15:40 1000 Days For The Planet
- 16:35 Kingdom Of The Oceans
- 17:30 Queen Of The Baboons
- 18:25 Deadly Game
- 19:20 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
- 20:10 1000 Days For The Planet
- 21:00 Kingdom Of The Oceans
- 21:50 Queen Of The Baboons
- 22:40 Deadly Game
- 23:30 Dinofish
- 00:20 Hyena Coast
- 01:10 Animals Gone Wild
- 02:00 Nordic Wild
- 02:50 Walking With The Great Apes



- 03:50 Nazi Megastructures
- 04:45 Brain Games S3 Compilations
- 05:40 Science Of Stupid
- 06:05 Science Of Stupid
- 06:35 Access 360 World Heritage
- 07:30 Street Genius
- 07:55 Street Genius
- 08:25 Alaska Fish Wars: Season On The Edge
- 09:20 Brain Games Compilation
- 10:15 Locked Up Abroad
- 11:10 Desperate Hours
- 11:35 Desperate Hours
- 12:05 Strippers: Cars For Cash
- 13:00 Wicked Tuna
- 14:00 Street Genius
- 14:30 Street Genius
- 15:00 1000 Days For The Planet
- 16:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 17:00 Desperate Hours
- 17:30 Desperate Hours
- 18:00 The Border Wars Compilation
- 19:00 1000 Days For The Planet
- 20:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 20:50 Desperate Hours
- 21:15 Desperate Hours
- 21:40 The Border Wars Compilation
- 22:30 1000 Days For The Planet
- 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 Border Wars Compilation
- 02:55 Nazi Megastructures



- 03:00 Odyssey
- 04:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 The Fosters
- 07:00 C.S.I.
- 08:00 Prison Break
- 09:00 Minority Report
- 10:00 Supernatural
- 11:00 C.S.I.
- 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
- 00:00 Sleepy Hollow
- 01:00 Grey's Anatomy
- 02:00 Survivor: Kaoh Rong
- OSN Movies Action HD
- 04:15 Big Ass Spider!
- 06:00 Need For Speed
- 08:15 Destruction: Las Vegas

- 09:45 Hercules
- 11:45 Justice League: Throne Of Atlantis
- 13:15 Breakdown
- 15:00 Need For Speed
- 17:15 Lucy
- 19:00 Transformers: Age Of Extinction



- 03:00 Two And A Half Men
- 03:30 Two And A Half Men
- 04:00 Living With Fran
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 05:30 Better With You
- 06:00 My Name Is Earl
- 06:30 Community
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:00 Living With Fran
- 08:30 Better With You
- 09:00 Two And A Half Men
- 09:30 Mad Love
- 10:00 Mad Love
- 10:30 Community
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:00 My Name Is Earl
- 12:30 Living With Fran
- 13:00 Better With You
- 13:30 Community
- 14:00 Two And A Half Men
- 14:30 Mad Love
- 15:00 Mad Love
- 15:30 Parks And Recreation



- 04:15 Down To Earth
- 06:15 Garfield's Fun Fest
- 08:00 Rush Hour 2
- 10:00 Down To Earth
- 12:00 Sweet Home Alabama
- 14:00 Blended
- 16:15 Rush Hour 2
- 18:00 Encino Man
- 20:00 What We Do In The Shadows
- 22:00 The Hooligan Factory
- 00:00 This Is 40
- 02:15 Encino Man



- 03:00 The Rookie
- 05:15 Brave
- 07:15 The Gabby Douglas Story
- 09:00 Cinderella
- 11:00 The Incredibles
- 13:00 Dinosaur Island
- 15:00 A Bug's Life
- 16:45 Oz The Great And Powerful
- 19:00 102 Dalmatians
- 21:00 The Pacifier
- 23:00 A Bug's Life
- 01:00 102 Dalmatians



- 03:00 Love, Rosie
- 05:00 Make Your Move
- 07:00 Parkland
- 09:00 Big Game
- 11:00 Ant-Man
- 13:00 Survivor
- 15:00 Tracers
- 17:00 Cuban Fury
- 19:00 Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
- 21:00 Infinitely Polar Bear
- 23:00 Kingsman: The Secret Service
- 01:15 Curve



- 04:15 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 06:00 Snow Queen
- 08:00 Bolts And Blip
- 10:00 Pororo: The Racing Adventure
- 11:30 Space Warriors
- 13:00 The Flintstones & WWE: Stone Age Smackdown
- 14:30 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 16:00 Kikoriki: Team Invincible
- 18:00 Pororo: The Racing Adventure
- 20:00 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend
- 22:00 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 23:30 Kikoriki: Team Invincible
- 01:15 Bolts And Blip
- 02:45 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend



- 03:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 04:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 05:05 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 06:00 Fashion Bloggers
- 06:25 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons
- 07:20 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons

Word Search Puzzles

Look Up!

Find and circle all of the items that you might see when you look upward. The remaining 24 letters spell an additional item you might see.

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

- AIRPLANE
- BIG DIPPER
- BIRDS
- BLIMP
- BLUE SKY
- CHIMNEY SMOKE
- CLOUDS
- COMET
- DRONE
- FIREWORKS
- GALAXY
- HAZE
- HELICOPTER
- HOT AIR BALLOON
- JET EXHAUST
- JUPITER
- KITE
- LIGHTNING
- MARS
- MERCURY
- METEOR SHOWER
- MOON
- PLANETS
- POWER LINES
- RAINBOW
- SATELLITE
- SATURN
- SKYDIVER
- SKYSCRAPER
- SKYWRITING
- SMOG
- SOLAR ECLIPSE
- STARS
- STREET LIGHT
- THE SUN
- TREETOP
- UNIVERSE
- VENUS

Yesterday's Solution

Songs From the Year 2003

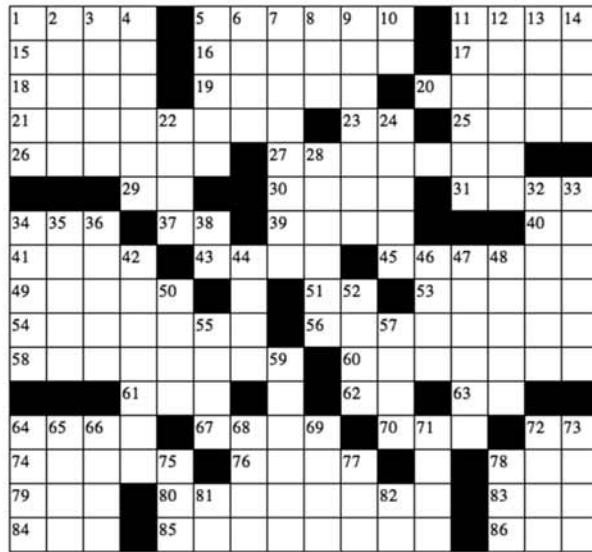
This is the solution to the puzzle located [here](#).

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

- ALL I HAVE
- ANGEL
- BABY BOY
- BEAUTIFUL
- CLOCKS
- COME OVER
- DRIFT AWAY
- FIGHTER
- FRONTIN'
- GET BUSY
- GET LOW
- GOSSIP FOLKS
- HEADSTRONG
- I CAN
- I WANT YOU
- I'M WITH YOU
- IGNITION
- IN DA CLUB
- INTO YOU
- INTUITION
- LANDSLIDE
- LIKE A STONE
- LIKE GLUE
- MESMERIZE
- MISS YOU
- PICTURE
- RAIN ON ME
- RIGHT THURR
- SAY YES
- SENRORITA
- SO GONE
- SOMEDAY
- STAND UP
- STUCK
- SUGA SUGA
- SUNRISE
- SUPERMAN
- TROUBLE
- UNWELL

The hidden song title is: HOW YOU GONNA ACT LIKE THAT

CROSSWORD 1259



ACROSS

1. An open jar of glass or porcelain used as an ornament or to hold flowers.
5. Forming or set at an angle.
11. In bed.
15. A bachelor's degree in library science.
16. Fig tree of India noted for great size and longevity.
17. Rock that in its molten form (as magma) issues from volcanos.
18. Concerning those not members of the clergy.
19. A pointed projection.
20. Duck of the northern hemisphere much valued for the fine soft down of the females.
21. Edible muscle of mollusks having fan-shaped shells.
23. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
25. A native or inhabitant of Denmark.
26. A native American tent.
27. A bag used for carrying money and small personal items or accessories (especially by women).
29. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
30. Type genus of the Amidae.
31. Any of a group of Indic languages spoken in Kashmir and eastern Afghanistan and northern Pakistan.
34. The seventh and last day of the week.
37. A unit of information equal to 1024 bytes.
39. Any of several large turkey-like game birds of the family Cracidae.
40. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
41. Having little physical or spiritual strength.
43. The time during which someone's life continues.
45. A covered passageway.
49. An appraisal of the state of affairs.
51. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
53. German iris having large white flowers with lavender-tinged falls and a fragrant rhizome.
54. Assign in incorrect name to.
56. Small family of usually tropical butterflies.
58. Instrumentalities (tools or implements) made of metal.
60. English geologist remembered as the first person to recognize that dinosaurs were reptiles (1790-1852).
61. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
62. A doctor's degree in optometry.
63. A state in midwestern United States.
64. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
67. The eleventh month of the Hindu calendar.
70. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
74. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
76. A toothed wheel that engages another toothed mechanism in order to change the speed or direction of transmitted motion.
79. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
80. A town in southeastern New Mexico on the Pecos River near the Mexican border.
83. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
84. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
85. Extinct order of jawless vertebrates.
86. A light touch or stroke.

- DOWN
1. A manservant who acts as a personal attendant to his employer.
 2. Lower in esteem.
 3. A share of something.
 4. The act of escaping physically.
 5. Fruit with red or yellow or green skin and sweet to tart crisp whitish flesh.
 6. Roman Emperor notorious for his monstrous vice and fantastic luxury (was said to have started a fire that destroyed much of Rome in 64) but the Empire remained prosperous during his rule (37-68).
 7. Eating earth or clay or chalk.
 8. A nurse who has enough training to be licensed by a state to provide routine care for the sick.
 9. Tropical trees and shrubs with aromatic leaves and often valuable hard wood.
 10. A metric unit of volume equal to one tenth of a liter.
 11. Surveying instrument consisting of the upper movable part of a theodolite including the telescope and its attachments.
 12. A member of an agricultural people of southern India.
 13. Divisible by two.
 14. A challenge to do something dangerous or foolhardy.
 22. Plant having a large slender white bulb and flat overlapping dark green leaves.
 24. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
 28. Pleasantly occupied.
 32. Relating to or near the radius.
 33. German engineer (born in France) who invented the diesel engine (1858-1913).
 35. (Norse mythology) The chief race of gods living at Asgard.
 36. Italian poet who wrote an epic poem about the capture of Jerusalem during the First Crusade (1544-1595).
 38. A bachelor's degree in religion.
 42. A Dravidian language spoken in southern India.
 44. Type genus of the Aceraceae.
 46. (used of especially horses) Having a brownish coat thickly sprinkled with white or gray.
 47. A person who is professionally engaged in the analysis and interpretation of works of art.
 48. Type genus of the Ardeidae.
 50. A ship's small boat (usually rowed by 4 or 6 oars).
 52. Fabric dyed with splotches of green and brown and black and tan.
 55. Injure or wound seriously and leave permanent disfiguration or mutilation.
 57. A quantity of no importance.
 59. Socialist who wrote The Communist Manifesto with Karl Marx in 1848 (1820-1895).
 65. Consisting of or involving two parts or components usually in pairs.
 66. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
 68. A city in northern India.
 69. A fastener for a door or lid.
 71. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
 72. A small cake leavened with yeast.
 73. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
 75. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
 77. A run that is the result of the batter's performance.
 78. An informal term for a father.
 81. An associate degree in nursing.
 82. A public promotion of some product or service.

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

'NOW OR NEVER' TO SAVE BARRIER REEF: SCIENTISTS

CLIMATE CHANGE RAVAGES WORLD HERITAGE SITES

SYDNEY: Australia's Great Barrier Reef could be beyond saving in five years without "now or never" funding to improve water quality as climate change ravages the World Heritage-listed site, scientists warned yesterday.

The world's biggest coral reef ecosystem is under pressure from not only climate change, but farming run-off, development and the coral-eating crown-of-thorns starfish. The biodiverse side off the Queensland state coast is also suffering its worst bleaching in recorded history with 93 percent of corals affected due to warming sea temperatures.

"The current management regime for catchment pollutant run-off and climate change is clearly inadequate to prevent further decline," James Cook University researchers Jon Brodie and Richard Pearson wrote in a paper published in the *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science* journal.

They added in a statement yesterday that without government funding of Aus\$10 billion (US\$7.2 billion) over the next decade to improve water quality, "the Great Barrier Reef will be in a terminal condition within five years". "What's happening is we're seeing climate change ramp up much more quickly than most scientists... believed," Bodie told AFP.

"One thing we can do is fixing water quality for the reef. For water quality management, I think it is now or never because we have to do the management now to give us some resilience against cli-



In this undated handout picture taken received yesterday from James Cook University shows life on the Great Barrier Reef in Queensland. — AFP

mate change." Bodie said the poor water quality was due mainly to sediment from grazing lands, which causes water to be cloudy and affects the growth of coral and seagrass. Fertiliser run-off, particularly nitrogen, from the sugarcane industry was also causing crown of thorns outbreaks as the nutrients were fuelling the growth of the predatory coral-feeding starfish, he added.

The funding would go on programs such as planting trees along stream banks to stop erosion, the scientists said. A spokesman for Environment Minister Greg

Hunt said the government was doing "more than ever before" to protect the reef for future generations.

"Through our Aus\$210 million Reef Trust, we are investing in projects that directly improve water quality in the Great Barrier Reef. This is part of a broader Aus\$2 billion investment by Australian governments to protect the reef," he said. According to a 2013 Deloitte Access Economics study commissioned by the government, the reef contributes around Aus\$6.0 billion annually to the economy, mainly through tourism. — AFP

DEEP CHANGES URGED TO AVOID MASS DEATHS FROM SUPERBUGS

LONDON: Ten million people could die every year from 2050 onwards unless sweeping global changes are agreed to tackle increasing resistance to antibiotics, which can turn common ailments into killers, a report warned yesterday. Commissioned by the British government, the Review on Antimicrobial Resistance set out steps to fight the emergence of "superbugs" as infections become immune to existing drugs, allowing minor injuries and common infections to become deadly.

"It needs to be seen as the economic and security threat that it is, and be at the forefront of the minds of heads of state," wrote Jim O'Neill, the economist who led the review. The overuse of antibiotics should be reduced by cutting the vast quantities of medicines given to farm animals, improving diagnoses to stop unnecessary prescriptions, and a global public awareness campaign, the paper urged. At the same time, researchers should be encouraged to develop new antibiotics through a global fund for research and rewards for those who manage to develop new drugs.

The cost of the measures was estimated to be \$40 billion (35.6 billion euros) over ten years—far less than the cost if the growing problem is not addressed.

"There is no excuse for inaction given what we know about the impact of rising drug resistance," the paper said. Governments will face the cost "sooner or later", it added. "They can either do so proactively by taking action now and pay less for better outcomes, or remain unprepared and end up spending much more taxpayer money on far worse outcomes further down the line."

The paper argued that the response could be funded through countries' health budgets or through taxes on pharmaceutical companies that do not invest on antibiotic research. O'Neill, an economist known for coining the term "BRIC" to describe large emerging countries and who was asked by the British government to chair the review, noted that one million people had died of antimicrobial resistance since the review started in mid-2014. The World Health Organization (WHO) has already warned antimicrobial resistance may result in "a return to the pre-antibiotic era," when millions of people died in pandemics before drugs were discovered that could treat them. — AFP

CLINIC
PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LARGEST INDEPENDENT NEWS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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 (19/05/2016 TO 25/05/2016)

SHARQIA-1	
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	1:00 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou	1:45 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	4:00 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	7:00 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	10:00 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou	1:00 AM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	4:00 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	7:00 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	10:00 PM
WARCRAFT	10:00 PM
WED 25.05.2016	
WARCRAFT	12:30 AM
WED 25.05.2016	
SHARQIA-2	
X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:15 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	3:15 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	6:15 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	9:15 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:15 AM
SHARQIA-3	
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	11:30 AM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	1:30 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	3:45 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	6:00 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou	8:15 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	10:30 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	12:45 AM
MUHALAB-1	
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	11:30 AM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	1:45 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	1:45 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	4:45 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	7:00 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou	9:15 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	11:30 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	11:30 PM
WARCRAFT	11:30 PM
MUHALAB-2	
X-MEN: Apocalypse	1:00 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	1:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	4:00 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	4:00 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	7:00 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	10:00 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	10:00 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	1:00 AM
MUHALAB-3	
X-MEN: Apocalypse	11:45 AM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	2:45 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	5:45 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	8:45 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	11:45 PM
FANAR-1	
Ely Ekhtashou Matou	11:30 AM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	1:45 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou	4:45 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	7:00 PM
Ely Ekhtashou Matou	9:00 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	11:15 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	1:15 AM
WARCRAFT	11:15 PM
WED 25.05.2016	
FANAR-2	
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	11:45 AM
KILLING SALAZAR	2:00 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	4:00 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK	6:15 PM
KILLING SALAZAR	8:30 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	10:30 PM
KILLING SALAZAR	12:45 AM
FANAR-3	
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	12:45 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	1:45 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	3:45 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	6:45 PM
NO FRI+SAT+MON	
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	9:45 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	12:45 AM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	3:45 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	6:45 PM

BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	9:45 PM
FANAR-4	
X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse -3D	3:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	6:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse -3D	9:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:30 AM
FANAR-5	
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	11:45 AM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	2:00 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	4:15 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	6:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	8:45 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	11:45 PM
MARINA-1	
X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:15 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	3:15 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	6:15 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	9:15 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:15 AM
MARINA-2	
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	11:30 AM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	1:45 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	4:00 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	6:15 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	8:45 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	11:45 PM
WARCRAFT	8:45 PM
WARCRAFT	11:45 PM
WED 25.05.2016	
MARINA-3	
X-MEN: Apocalypse	11:30 AM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	2:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	5:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	8:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	11:30 PM
AVENUES-1	
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	12:00 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	2:15 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	1:30 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	4:30 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	6:45 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	9:00 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	11:15 PM
AVENUES-3	
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	1:00 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	4:00 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	7:00 PM
CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	10:00 PM
OUR KIND OF TRAITOR	1:00 AM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	4:00 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	7:00 PM
BRATMOT SAVAM (Telugu)	10:00 PM
360°- 1	
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	12:30 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D	2:45 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	5:00 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	7:15 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D	9:30 PM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	11:45 PM
WARCRAFT 3D	9:30 PM
WED 25.05.2016	
WARCRAFT	12:15 AM
WED 25.05.2016	
360°- 2	
KILLING SALAZAR	1:00 PM
KILLING SALAZAR	3:15 PM
THE JUNGLE BOOK	5:30 PM
KILLING SALAZAR	7:45 PM
KILLING SALAZAR	10:00 PM
KILLING SALAZAR	12:15 AM
360°- 3	
LES VISITEURS 3	12:00 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	2:15 PM
LES VISITEURS 3	4:15 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	6:30 PM
LES VISITEURS 3	8:30 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	10:45 PM
JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	12:45 AM



NOTICE April 11, 2016



Mr. Anil Kumar Meleabhagath Viswanathan son of Mr. Viswanathan Meleabhagath, resident of Melebhagath House, Vella Road, PO Mankara, Palakkad District, Kerala and Miss Supraba Prabhakaran daughter of Mr. Narayanan Prabhakaran, resident of Vadakke Vazhathara, Pullangadi P.O., Champakulam, Alappuzha, Kerala, 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.
Ph.00965-22533315

Prayer timings

Fajr:	03:23
Shorook	04:53
Duhr:	11:44
Asr:	15:20
Maghrib:	16:36
Isha:	20:04



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 20, 2016

M&S BOSS TO CHART ROCKY ROAD TO RECOVERY

PAGE 38



French PM urges unions
to call off violent protests

Page 39



SENDAI

G7 JAPAN 2016

Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting

SENDAI: International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde (right) and other finance ministers and central bankers from the G7 grouping gather for a photo session at the Sendai Castle site in Sendai yesterday. The G7 group will converge at a hot spring town north of Tokyo where two days of meetings kick off from today. — AFP (See Also Page 41)

IMF BACKS SAUDI'S SWEEPING ECONOMIC PLAN 'APPROPRIATELY BOLD' AND FAR-REACHING TRANSFORMATION'

DUBAI: The International Monetary Fund backed Saudi Arabia's sweeping economic reform plan yesterday and said the kingdom was cutting spending at the right speed to cope with a huge state budget deficit caused by low oil prices. Late last month, Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced steps to reduce the kingdom's dependence on oil exports over the next 15 years, including subsidy cuts, tax rises, sales of state assets, a government efficiency drive and efforts to spur private sector investment.

The IMF had for years been urging Saudi Arabia to adopt many of those measures, and in a statement yesterday it said the reform plan aimed for "an appropriately bold and far-reaching transformation of the Saudi Arabian economy".

"The supporting policies that will be announced in the coming months are expected to set out how these goals will be achieved," IMF official Tim Callen said after leading a team to Saudi Arabia this month for annual consultations with the Fund. "To



Saudi Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

ensure their success, the reforms will need to be properly prioritized and sequenced, and the appropriate pace of implementation carefully assessed."

Riyadh has been cutting spending and

trying to raise fresh revenues as it grapples with its budget deficit, which totalled \$98 billion in 2015. The IMF predicted the deficit would stay very large this year, at about 14 percent of gross domestic product compared to 16 percent last year. But it welcomed the government's spending controls and changes to domestic energy prices announced last December, saying: "Fiscal policy is appropriately adjusting to the drop in oil prices." The economy is expected to grow 1.2 percent this year, slowing from 3.5 percent in 2015, the Fund said.

DEFICIT FINANCING

The IMF also said it approved of the way in which the government was financing its deficit with a combination of drawing down its financial reserves and issuing debt at home and abroad. The Fund has been encouraging some North African states to make their foreign exchange rates more flexible to cope with big current account deficits. But it took the opposite tack towards the external deficit

which Saudi Arabia is running because of cheap oil, saying the riyal's peg to the US dollar was continuing to serve the economy well. Market interest rates in Saudi Arabia have been rising sharply as the government borrows from banks to finance its deficit, with the three-month Saudi interbank offered rate jumping 135 basis points since mid-2015 to a multi-year high of 2.13 percent.

But the IMF said the Saudi banking sector was strong and well-positioned to weather a slowing economy, and that tightening liquidity was not yet hurting credit growth.

Two cornerstones of the Saudi reform plan are the sale of a stake of up to 5 percent in national oil giant Saudi Aramco, which could fetch tens of billions of dollars, and a build-up of the government's Public Investment Fund into a global investment vehicle. The IMF urged Riyadh to make both institutions more transparent and to integrate them into a new fiscal policy apparatus which the government is creating to make spending decisions more efficient. — Reuters

NO PAIN, NO GAIN: M&S BOSS TO CHART ROCKY ROAD TO RECOVERY

NEW CEO STEVE ROWE TO GIVE STRATEGY UPDATE ON MAY 25

LONDON: The new boss of British retailer Marks & Spencer will deliver some uncomfortable truths to investors next week: turning around its clothing business will require yet more costly change and could squeeze short-term profits. Chief Executive Steve Rowe will set out his strategy to shareholders on May 25, almost two months after he replaced Marc Bolland at the top of the 132-year-old firm, a UK institution that has fallen out of fashion over the last decade.

For generations, M&S dressed British shoppers of all ages. But the advent of fast, cheap fashion at one end of the market and affordable luxury at the other - combined with fierce online competition - has left it struggling to return to its glory days. Company veteran Rowe, 48, must convince investors he can lure shoppers back to its clothes - part of its flagship general merchandise division - and make progress in matching the success enjoyed by its upmarket food business.

"The general merchandise business has struggled for years to gain any momentum so we'll be looking to see the extent to which Rowe can turn that around and how credible the strategy is," said Simon Gergel, chief investment officer for UK equities at Allianz Global Investors, one of M&S's top-40 shareholders.

"We've had lots of false dawns from this company." Rowe's plan is likely to involve more price cuts and improving the quality of clothes, according to analysts, while he could reduce the number of the retailer's fashion brands, which include Autograph, Limited, Per Una and Indigo.

With an increasing number of goods sold online, the CEO could also kick off a review of M&S's use of store space, including how much space should be devoted to food and to clothing, and its nearly 900 locations and office requirements.

M&S declined to comment for this story. Londoner Rowe has promised a straight-talking approach to arguably the most prestigious and high-profile job in UK retail. His message will be that he can fix general merchandise - clothing, shoes,



accessories and homeware - but it won't come cheap and investors will have to be patient, particularly as UK consumer confidence appears to be waning.

The division accounts for around two-thirds of group profit, so its success or failure will determine his own fortune as CEO of a company where he has worked for over half his life.

"This business needs to go through quite significant change and there will be some pain attached to that," a person with knowledge of the situation told Reuters on condition of anonymity. "Because of the type of pain we've got to put ourselves through there will be costs associated with that. That will affect profitability for a short term."

MORE SURGERY

Dutchman Bolland addressed decades of under-investment by spending billions of pounds on supply-chain logistics and a new website during his six years in charge. But while the food business outperformed the market, he failed to deliver a sustained rise in clothing sales to accompany the profit margin gains he did achieve. Shares in M&S have fallen by about a quarter over the past year.

Though his investment means M&S is

through the really big capital expenditure projects, more surgery is required and that would involve additional costs. If those are not offset by savings elsewhere, profit will be dented. A survey by analysts at RBC Capital Markets of 18 British mass-market clothing retailers found M&S' lowest - or entry - prices were around 20 percent above the average.

Rowe has already cut the prices of 315 spring clothing lines by 10-15 percent and seen sales volumes rise as a result, but he recognizes M&S has further to go. Continuing improvements to the way the firm sources products, which have helped to lift the gross margin, should soften the blow from any further price cuts. "There's a balance between gross margin, pricing, promotions and making sure we've got absolutely competitive values in the high street," Rowe told reporters last month.

While fourth-quarter clothing sales fell year-on-year, they showed an improvement from the previous quarter. Rowe also needs to push through more improvements to product availability, so M&S doesn't run out of popular ranges and sizes, while its customer service - once acclaimed - now lags that of rivals, analysts say. But all these changes come with a cost. — Reuters

OIL DROPS BELOW \$48 ON FED HIKE SPECULATION

LONDON: Oil fell below \$48 a barrel yesterday, pressured by a stronger dollar and as a surprise increase in US crude inventories served as a reminder that supply remains ample despite output problems. Supply losses in Canada and Nigeria have lent support, but cooler weather was expected to help firefighters battling Canadian wildfires. Traders said Exxon Mobil is boosting output at Nigeria's largest crude stream.

Brent crude was down \$1.04 at \$47.89 at 1137 GMT. It reached a 2016 high of \$49.85 on Wednesday, only to close lower. US crude was down 83 cents at \$47.36.

"The main factor weighing on prices is the much appreciated US dollar," said Carsten Fritsch, analyst at Commerzbank. "What is more, rain forecast in the Canadian oil province of Alberta is giving rise to hopes that the devastating wildfires there could be brought under control."

Oil and other commodities came under pressure from the dollar, which firmed as the minutes of the Federal Reserve's latest policy meeting rekindled expectations for an interest

rate increase. A stronger dollar makes commodities denominated in the US currency more expensive for holders of other currencies and tends to weigh on oil prices.

Brent's 2016 high hit on Wednesday was supported by the supply outages, but the rally ran out of steam after weekly data showed an unexpected 1.31-million-barrel rise in US crude inventories.

"We feel that markets have moved too high, too far, too soon," said BNP Paribas in a report. "We still face a large inventory overhang and for the most part, the outstanding supply outages - Canada and Nigeria - are reversible." Despite the outages and falling US output as the near-halving of oil prices since mid-2014 curbs investment by shale drillers, OPEC production is at its highest in years thanks in part to higher Iranian exports. OPEC and non-members including Russia failed at an April 17 meeting to agree on an initiative to freeze output. OPEC meets on June 2 to set output policy and is not expected to decide on any measures to limit supplies. — Reuters

News

in brief

IMF deal to extend Iraq \$5.4bn loan at 1.5%

AMMAN: Iraq has reached a \$5.4 billion standby agreement (SBA) with the International Monetary Fund that could unlock \$15 billion more in international assistance over the next three years, Finance Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said yesterday. The loan will have an annual interest rate of 1.5 percent, Iraq's central bank governor Ali al-Alak said at a press conference following a week of talks with the IMF in neighboring Jordan. He did not state the loan's tenure. The IMF deal will allow Iraq to secure additional financial aid of around \$15 billion over the next three years, including in the form of international bonds, according to Zebari.

Egypt imposes 900 Egyptian pound/ton sugar export tax

DUBAI: Egypt has imposed a 900 Egyptian pound (\$101.35) per ton tax on exported sugar effective until the end of the year. The decision was published in Egypt's legal journal and came into effect on Wednesday. Egypt cancelled a temporary tariff levied on sugar imports in February after completing an investigation into possible dumping of the commodity. It had imposed the 20 percent tariff in 2015 for 200 days following a filing to the World Trade Organization to safeguard domestic producers from a damaging surge in imports. Egypt consumes around 3.2 million tons of sugar annually but produces just over 2 million tons.

Saudi's PetroRabigh to restart some units

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's Rabigh Refining And Petrochemical Co (PetroRabigh) said yesterday it was working to gradually restart some of its units after a brief power and steam disruption. "At 9.24pm on Wednesday night ... a sudden disruption for the electric power and steam occurred, which has led to halting some of the installations at the company's compound without any damages," PetroRabigh said in a bourse statement. The financial impact of the disruption is being evaluated and will be announced later, the company said.

OPEC basket price stand at \$44.88 pb

VIENNA: The OPEC daily basket price stood at \$44.88 a barrel Wednesday, compared with \$44.82 the previous day, the OPEC said. The annual average of the OPEC basket price hit USD 49.64 pb, it 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). During their recent meeting in Vienna in late 2015, OPEC member countries had decided to maintain their production at 30 million barrels per day (bpd) despite a surplus in the market estimated at over a million barrels.

Mauritius 2015 jobless rate rises slightly

PORT LOUIS: Mauritius' unemployment rate rose slightly to 7.9 percent in 2015 from 7.8 percent the previous year after, official data showed yesterday. According to a statement from Statistics Mauritius (SM), the government's statistics office, the number of unemployed people in the Indian Ocean island nation increased to 46,300 last year, an extra 1,500 people from the 2014 level. SM did not give an explanation for the small rise in unemployment. The statement said joblessness among women increased from 11.4 percent to 11.6 percent while the male unemployment rate remained at the same level of 5.5 percent. Mauritius' economy is projected to expand by 3.9 percent this year after growing 3.1 percent in 2015, SM said in March, boosted by a recovery in the construction sector and higher growth from the tourism and manufacturing sectors.

PROSPECTS OF EARLY US RATE HIKE BOOST DOLLAR

LONDON: Revived prospects of an early US interest rate rise, possibly as soon as June, lifted the dollar to a near two-month high yesterday and left bonds, stocks, commodities and emerging markets all nursing losses. Minutes from the Federal Reserve's last meeting caught the market off-guard by revealing most policymakers thought a June rise would be "appropriate" if the US economy continues its recent improvement. That suggested the central bank is closer to lifting rates again than most investors had expected and saw a scramble from traders to readjust.

Wall Street was expected to open 0.5 percent lower.

European stocks were off 0.7 percent after the disappearance of a plane going from Paris to Cairo spooked travel stocks and as traders grappled with the prospect of higher global borrowing costs. With US Treasury yields sharply higher, the dollar stayed strong after scaling its highest level against other top currencies since late March. That in turn buffeted emerging and commodity markets that correlate closely with both. "A June hike is definitely back on the table," said UniCredit's Global Head of FX Strategy Vasileios Gkionakis. "The bottom line is that the market is going from an excessively complacent view (on the likelihood of Fed hikes) to a more realistic one."

Benchmark US Treasuries were starting to stabilise after one of their biggest sell-offs in almost three years. Germany's 10-year Bund yield hit a two-week high before pulling back slightly as traders digested what were resolutely dovish ECB meeting minutes, although tinged with optimism about the euro zone economy.

Analysts said concern about the EgyptAir plane that went missing could also be lending the safe-haven German market some support. CME Fed fund futures showed that the probability of a June US rate increase rose to 34 percent after the release of the FOMC minutes on Wednesday from 19 percent earlier in the day, 15 percent on Tuesday, and less than 1 percent a month ago. US Treasury yields have backed up considerably, with 10-year rates close to 1.90 percent and up almost 20 basis points since Monday. Two-year rates at 0.91 percent are at their highest since mid-March.

"With April activity indicators consistent with a healthy bounce-back in growth, we see risks of two rate hikes in 2016, with the first coming in the June/July time horizon," strategists at Barclays said.

BIG IN JAPAN

But many in the market are still sceptical the Fed would raise rates before Britain's June 23 referendum on whether to remain in the European Union, a risk noted by some Fed policymakers. July may be a stronger possibility. Retail sales data from Britain on Thursday showed the Brexit angst that has dented business confidence in recent months is having no impact on shoppers, helping push sterling to its highest since February.

Fed Vice Chairs William Dudley and Stanley Fischer are due to speak later in the day and the markets will be eager to get more details on the Fed's thinking as G7 finance ministers and central bankers prepare to meet in Japan today. Gold which tends to be inversely correlated to monetary policy easing, fell 0.1 percent to a three-week low of \$1,256 per ounce, while MSCI's main EM stocks index and China's yuan currency both hit 2-1/2 month lows. The greenback also weighed on commodities such as oil, with US crude futures losing 0.4 percent to \$48.00 a barrel. A stronger dollar tends to put non-US buyers of dollar-denominated commodities at a disadvantage. "We suspect the oil market has moved too high, too far, too soon," French bank BNP Paribas said, as a near 60 percent surge in Iranian output added to price pressure. —Reuters



SAINT-NAZAIRE: People gather yesterday in Saint-Nazaire, western France, to protest against the government's planned labor law reforms. France's Socialist government has bypassed parliament and rammed through a labor reform bill that has sparked two months of massive street protests. — AFP

FRENCH PM URGES UNIONS TO CALL OFF VIOLENT PROTESTS

TRUCKERS TOLD OIL, FOOD DEPOT BLOCKADES CANNOT GO ON

PARIS: France's prime minister urged union leaders yesterday to call off protests against reforms to labor laws, saying turnout was waning but violence mounting as "people who want to kill a cop" were hijacking legitimate protests to attack police. "Union leaders need to live up to their responsibilities," Manuel Valls said. "If rioters turn up at each and every protest it's time to ask whether some of these protests are worth it," he said in a radio interview on a new day of demonstrations.

The government says about 1,300 arrests have been made during weeks of protests which have been joined by a youth movement called Nuit Debout (Night Rising). More than 300 police have been hurt and protesters have complained of injuries sustained in seemingly isolated cases of police brutality. President Francois Hollande has said he will not withdraw plans to reform labor laws to make hiring and firing easier, which he says will encourage firms to recruit and combat an unem-

ployment rate above 10 percent.

Truck drivers continued to blockade strategic parts of the road network yesterday and train services were reduced by more than 50 percent by a second straight day of strikes. Asked whether some protests could be broken up by police, Valls said attempts to cut off oil refineries and food supply depots could not be tolerated for much longer.

Valls aimed his plea primarily at leaders of unions such as the hardline CGT, saying the number of legitimate protesters was waning after more than two months of demonstrations, some marred by violence. CGT chief Philippe Martinez said ahead of this week's protests it was time to "move up a gear" with rolling strikes and marches to force the government to climb down.

Police said about 68,000 people turned out nationwide for protests on Tuesday, slightly higher than a week earlier but down on peak levels of more than 300,000 in March. Police arrested 19 in the western

city of Rennes ahead of yesterday's marches, according to officials who said the swoop netted hooded individuals seeking to tamper with the subway train network, a target of previous protests.

Riot police, who have repeatedly clashed with masked youths hurling petrol bombs and paving stones, staged a protest of their own on Wednesday to highlight what they described as a surge of "anti-cop hatred". Police are already working overtime to ensure heightened security after Islamist attacks on Paris last November and face the task of keeping millions of soccer fans safe when the country hosts the Euro 2016 tournament next month.

Valls singled out an incident on Wednesday when two officers were forced to flee their patrol car when it was surrounded by a crowd and torched in central Paris. Police said their presence at yesterday's marches would be ramped up further because violence had reached new heights. — Reuters



WASHINGTON: Arne Sorenson, President and CEO Marriott International, speaks during the French-American Business Week at the French Embassy yesterday in Washington, DC. — AFP

EU TO COMPILE COMMON BLACKLIST OF TAX HAVENS

BRUSSELS: European Union finance ministers will agree next week to draw up a common list of tax havens and sanctions against them, according to a draft EU document, part of a crackdown on tax evasion by companies and wealthy individuals. The EU's 28 member states currently have their own blacklists of tax havens, or 'non-cooperative jurisdictions', but these differ and the countries are free to decide which restrictive measures to impose, if any.

The EU's move to coordinate and harmonize the lists follows the Panama Papers leaks in April, which revealed details of corporate and individual tax evasion involving tax havens.

At a meeting next Wednesday, EU ministers are expected to agree to start drafting a common "blacklist" of non-cooperative jurisdictions by September and to finalise it next year.

The draft plan envisages EU countries also imposing joint sanctions against the tax havens. "Defensive measures (sanctions) could be considered to be implemented in the tax as well as in the non-tax area," the draft conclusions for next week's meeting said, without elaborating. EU finance ministers had said in April they wanted to finalise a common blacklist in September. But the ministers cannot yet agree on how to define a tax haven and several EU countries currently do not have any jurisdictions on their national blacklists.

An EU "code of conduct group" will be charged with setting common criteria based on standards developed by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). But the OECD, a club of mostly rich nations to which 21 EU states belong, does not have any jurisdictions named on its own list of tax havens either. — Reuters

ECB: STIMULUS WORKING, GROUNDS FOR OPTIMISM ABOUT ECONOMY

FRANKFURT: European Central Bank officials saw "grounds for cautious optimism about the economy" at their last meeting as their stimulus measures take hold across the 19 countries that use the euro as their currency. A summary of the bank's April 21 meeting released yesterday indicates the central bank is now focused on implementing measures that have been decided but are still in the pipeline - rather than readying new ones.

The summary said "patience was needed" for stimulus to fully unfold as the bank prepares to start corporate bond purchases in June. Those would pump more newly printed money into the economy to raise inflation

from a dangerously low level of minus 0.2 percent annually and help sustain growth. The eurozone economy expanded by a relatively strong quarterly rate of 0.5 percent in the first three months of the year, but its outlook remains mixed. The ECB's focus on implementation rather than new measures comes as the US Federal Reserve is gradually withdrawing stimulus by raising interest rates. Minutes of the most recent Fed meeting in April indicate that officials widely see a rate increase as likely in June if news about the US economy continues to be good.

Stimulus measures have supported stock and bond prices and their withdrawal can make investors nervous. The ECB's bench-

mark rate is at a record low of zero and it is even levying a negative rate of 0.4 percent on deposits it takes from commercial banks to spur them to lend the money rather than hoard it. It is also buying government and some private-sector bonds, a step that in effect prints new money.

The summary of the meeting shows the board also decided to publicly remind German skeptics critical of its stimulus measures that the bank is politically independent. German economists and legislators have criticized the ECB's low interest rates as wiping out returns for savers and retirement programs. German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble at one point said the ECB had

contributed to the rise of the right-wing Alternative for Germany party, which wants to restrict immigration and hold a referendum on leaving the euro.

The ECB statement didn't name Germany but said that "in light of recent public criticism that had appeared to link the ECB's decisions to developments in the political sphere in a member state" it was time to reaffirm the bank's legal independence under the EU treaty. The treaty forbids it from taking orders from elected officials. ECB officials have publicly pushed back by saying that such attacks create uncertainty that only means the bank will have to keep its measures in effect even longer. — AP



MANILA: A Filipino worker checks his phone as he waits outside a construction site at a commercial area in suburban Pasay, south of Manila, Philippines, yesterday. The Philippine economy grew faster than expected at 6.9 percent in the first quarter from the same period a year ago, its highest quarterly growth in almost three years, officials said yesterday as the government prepares to hand over leadership to the incoming administration. — AP

PHILIPPINE ECONOMY GROWS FASTER THAN EXPECTED AT 6.9%

MANILA: The Philippine economy grew faster than expected at 6.9 percent in the first quarter from the same period a year ago, its highest quarterly growth in almost three years, officials said yesterday as the government prepares to hand over leadership to the incoming administration.

Economic Planning Secretary Emmanuel Esguerra said the robust performance shows the economy's continuing high-growth trajectory and increases the likelihood of achieving the official full-year gross domestic product growth target of 6.8 to 7.8 percent. "The next administration and indeed, the next generation, inherits a rapidly growing, vibrant Philippines cushioned by robust foundations built over six years," said Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima.

The economy grew an average of 6.2 percent over the last six years. The previous quarter growth was 6.5 percent. Brash-talking Davao city Mayor Rodrigo Duterte won the May 9 presidential race by a landslide based on an unofficial count. The new administration takes office on June 30.

Esguerra said it is important not to miss the current wave of foreign investments in the region, where the Philippines is now a destination of choice. Demonstrating the maturity of its democratic institutions, policy consistency and agreement on a long-term vision are important for sustained business confidence, he added.

First quarter growth was driven by the services sector, which grew 7.9 percent and industry, which recorded its highest growth in five consecutive quarters at 8.7 percent, officials said. Investments also surged, with fixed capital posting 25.5 percent growth. Agriculture contracted 4.4 percent, the fourth consecutive quarter of decline. The quarter's growth was faster than 11 selected Asian economies, followed by China at 6.7 percent, Vietnam at 5.5 percent, and Indonesia at 4.9 percent, Esguerra said. Purisima said it outpaces China's growth for the first time in 27 years. — AP

IMF DEMANDS DECISIVE ACTION FROM EUROPEAN PARTNERS

BRUSSELS: The eurozone and International Monetary are struggling with Greece's debt crisis - not with Athens this time, but with each other over when to give Greece a break on its future massive debt repayments. The eurozone has begun talks on debt relief for Greece but wants to postpone the final decision until 2018; the IMF insists Greek debt repayment is unsustainable and investors need clarity now.

Eurozone finance ministers are likely to forge a tentative plan when they meet next Tuesday - what in Brussels-speak is known as a political agreement. But their offer is unlikely to be anything but highly conditional, eurozone officials preparing the talks said. The gist is to find a way to lower Greece's debt-repayment burden without actually cutting the debt itself via a so-called haircut. Instead, Greece's debt would be "re-profiled" - less interest, longer maturities, limits based on growth etc. On May 9, the ministers asked their deputies to explore such specific measures which could be offered to Greece "if necessary" at the end of the bailout in 2018 if Greece implements all the agreed reforms. The caveat "if necessary" has appeared in all eurozone statements on Greek debt

relief since November 2012, mainly on the insistence of countries led by Germany, which do not believe it is needed at all.

The IMF has no such qualms. "To restore debt sustainability ... decisive action by our European partners to grant further official debt relief will be essential," it has said. The eurozone, however, has its competing members' views to deal with, which they will attempt to satisfy next week. Even with the "if necessary" phrase still in, officials say Greece and its euro zone lenders could both call it a victory. "Greece can go home and say that the Eurogroup has decided 'in principle' to grant debt relief after 2018," one official said, while Berlin's hardline finance minister Wolfgang Schaeuble can tell Germans that what will matter is the state of Athens' finances only in 2018 and beyond.

SPLIT

But the problem with the euro zone's "if necessary" caveat is the IMF. Berlin badly wants the Washington-based institution-widely seen as a paragon of fiscal rigor to take part in the Greek bailout to appease German hawks. But the Fund insists that debt relief is already necessary and has to be decided now, not in 2018. "The IMF is

unlikely to accept a vague promise of debt relief 'if necessary'," one official with insight into the IMF's views said. "The IMF's stance is that the mechanism and magnitude of debt relief needs to be agreed up front, before the IMF joins the program."

"The actual debt relief could be phased in over time. But by the end of any new (bailout) program, say in 2018, Greek debt would have to be judged sustainable, meaning that any relief granted thereafter would have to be locked in," the official said. "Debt relief in the outer years, beyond 2018, could depend on GDP growth, for example, but could not be conditioned on policy measures, since that implies another future program and that debt is not sustainable with just this program," he said.

But eurozone ministers, even though their own bailout fund said it had serious concerns about the long-term sustainability of Greek debt, do not want to lock in anything now, fearing that once they do, they will lose any leverage over Athens.

"Many European countries are reluctant to structure debt relief in such a way that the Greek government has no incentive to continue strict implementation of the program," another official said. — Reuters

BRITISH RETAIL SALES REBOUND

LONDON: British retail sales jumped by 1.3 percent in April from a month earlier, official figures showed yesterday, handing a boost to the economy following a string of weak data.

Sales by volume shot higher last month compared with a drop of 0.5 percent in March, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement. March's data was sharply revised higher after an initial estimate of minus 1.3 percent. "Retail sales were appreciably better than expected in April, thereby providing some welcome relief from a recent stream of largely disappointing news on the UK economy," said Howard Archer, chief UK economist at research group IHS Global Insight.

"While it still looks highly probable that the economy will suffer a further slowdown in growth in the second quarter as heightened uncertainty ahead of June's referendum on EU membership fuels business caution in particular, April's retail sales data lifts hopes that the consumer will provide some support to growth," he added. — AFP

FED MINUTES: DOOR STILL OPEN FOR A JUNE RATE HIKE

WASHINGTON: A surprisingly bullish view from the Federal Reserve on the possibility of raising interest rates next month sent the dollar higher and stocks tumbling on Wednesday.

The minutes to the Fed's late-April meeting showed central bank policymakers unexpectedly open to a rate hike in June, despite the first quarter economic slowdown and the looming British vote on exiting the European Union. Moreover, officials on the Federal Open Market Committee were worried that markets were not taking the June option seriously enough, according to the minutes.

Coming after two FOMC members said on Tuesday that they expected two to three increases this year, as early as the

June 15-16 meeting, the contents the minutes sharply raised expectations that that could happen. "With today's FOMC minutes, even the biggest skeptic won't be able to dismiss the chance for a June hike any longer out of hand," said economist Harm Bandholz at UniCredit. Market reaction to the release was sharp: share and oil prices sank while the dollar surged and Treasury bond yields jumped. The Dow Jones Industrial Average, up 0.5 percent before the minutes release, ended off 0.02 percent, and the dollar surged 0.8 percent to \$1.1221 against the euro.

Market expectations of a June rate increase, based on CME rate derivatives, jumped from less than 5% percent last week to about 34 percent, and with a majority expecting an increase by July.

Global economy worries ebb

The Fed has repeatedly stated its intention to continue raising rates this year after December's first hike in nine years. That prospect has already tightened money conditions for borrowers around the world and strengthened the dollar. But with the economy slumping during the late winter and with leading central banks in Europe and Asia cutting rates to prop up sagging growth, the FOMC has remained outwardly cautious. It opted at the end-April meeting to keep its benchmark federal funds rate unchanged at an ultra-low 0.25-0.5 percent.

Some officials were still concerned over possible turmoil in global markets from China's handling of its exchange rate and from the Brexit referendum in

Britain, which takes place a week after the June policy review. But the minutes showed the panel was more confident in the economy and the possibility of moving in June, if economic data continues to improve, than investors had understood from the policy statement.

And FOMC members were worried that the market was not getting that message.

"Some participants were concerned that market participants may not have properly assessed the likelihood of an increase in the target range at the June meeting," the minutes said. "They emphasized the importance of communicating clearly over the intermeeting period how the Committee intends to respond to economic and financial developments." — AFP

MOTHERCARE POSTS FULL-YEAR PROFIT ON TURNAROUND PLAN

LONDON: Baby goods retailer Mothercare Plc, which has been trying to revive its business in Britain, posted a full-year profit for the first time in five years as its turnaround plan made progress, sending its shares up as much as 10 percent. Mothercare's British business has suffered heavy losses as margins eroded over the past few years, partly hurt by cheaper competition from rivals such as AB Foods' unit Primark and online retailers including Amazon.

"It's been a story about the reinvention of Mothercare in the UK," Chief Executive Mark Newton-Jones told Reuters, adding that the company has now refurbished more than 40 percent of its estate and is investing heavily online.

Two years into its turnaround plan, Newton-Jones said, Mothercare's British business is attracting a broader base of customers and no longer trying to compete with supermarkets at the lowest-cost end of the market. He said it was instead increasing the quality of its offering and targeting an "aspirational" customer base.

Mothercare reported a profit before tax after exceptional items of 9.7 million pounds (\$14.15 million) for the 52-week period ended March 26, the first full-year profit since 2011, compared with a loss of 13.1 million pounds a year earlier. — Reuters

GOLD SLIDES TO 3-WEEK LOW ON FED RATE EXPECTATIONS

LONDON: Gold fell to a three-week low yesterday, extending the previous day's slide, after minutes from the Federal Reserve's April policy meeting signalled that it could raise US interest rates as soon as next month. The minutes indicated that the US central bank is likely to raise rates if economic data points to stronger second-quarter growth as well as firming inflation and employment.

Gold is highly sensitive to interest rate hikes, which increase the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion while boosting the dollar, in which it is priced. Spot gold was down 0.3 percent at \$1,253.71 an ounce at 1132 GMT, with US gold futures for June delivery falling by \$19.70 to \$1,254.70. Spot prices lost 1.7 percent on Wednesday. "The precious metal is under selling pressure as the odds for a June rate hike have surged," said Naeem Aslam, chief market analyst at Think Forex. "Gold bears could not stay reticent and they are taking advantage of this situation by pushing the price lower."

The dollar jumped in morning trade to its highest against a basket of currencies since late March. At 1147 GMT it was up 0.2 percent. Stock markets also fell while Germany's benchmark 10-year Bund yield reached a two-week high on the talk of a June rise in US interest rates. Gold had risen nearly 20 percent this year on speculation that the Fed will hold off from further increases on concerns over volatility in global markets.

Traders are now awaiting statements from Fed Vice Chairs William Dudley and Stanley Fischer, expected later yesterday, for more clues on Fed thinking. The world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, New York-listed SPDR Gold Shares, said its holdings were unchanged on Wednesday. The fund has had inflows of more than 50 tons so far this month. — Reuters

G7 MUST ADDRESS VARIOUS ECONOMIC CHALLENGES: ASO

DIVIDE OVER FISCAL POLICIES, CURRENCIES AT G7 IN JAPAN

SENDAI: Global economic uncertainties and measures to deal with tax evasion will be among the key topics that finance leaders of the G7 advanced economies will discuss at a weekend meeting, Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso said yesterday.

Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda also warned that there are "various challenges" that G7 economies need to address as the global economy suffers from subdued growth. "With uncertainty over the global economy on the rise, attention will be paid to macro-economic policy, structural reform and measures to deal with tax evasion ... and money laundering," Aso told reporters.

"As chair country, I'd like to steer frank discussions on these issues," he said after arriving in the northeastern city of Sendai for the two-day Group of Seven (G7) finance leaders' meeting kicking off today. The meeting will pave the ground for a G7 leaders' summit next week, where measures to boost global growth will be high on the agenda.

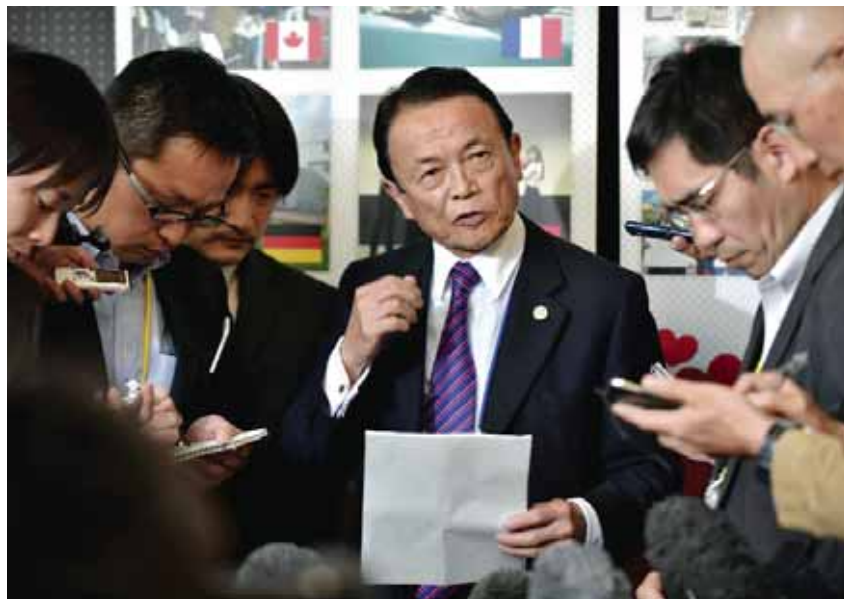
Aso and Kuroda may struggle to mask a rift emerging among the once close-knit group of G7 finance leaders on issues ranging from currencies to fiscal policies. Japan has lobbied for a G7 agreement to take coordinated fiscal action to spur growth, but has received a cool response from Germany, which insists on fiscal discipline.

Tokyo and Washington are also at logger-heads on whether recent yen gains are "excessive", with both sides reluctant to have their currencies rise too much and hurt their economies' fragile recovery.

But the G7 nations may share their concern on weak global growth, which may give Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe an excuse to delay an unpopular sales tax hike scheduled for next April. Aso sidestepped a question on whether Japan will delay the tax hike, repeating that there was no change to the government's plan to raise the tax unless a massive earthquake or a crisis of the scale of the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008 hit Japan.

Divide

The finance ministers and central bank governors of the Group of Seven industri-



SENDAI: Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso (C) speaks to reporters prior to a welcome reception hosted by the City of Sendai in Sendai yesterday. The group will converge at a hot spring town north of Tokyo where two days of meetings kick off from today. — AFP

al nations were engaging in a local tradition for kicking off festivities, but it was in keeping with what could be a fractious event. Aso said the talks that get underway in earnest today would focus on fiscal and monetary policy, the international financial system, sustainable development and issues such as money laundering and tax evasion.

The talks will culminate with a statement for G7 leaders, who are to meet in Ise, central Japan, next week. "We, the G7 countries, are presently faced with many challenges that need to be addressed on the global economic front," said Bank of Japan Gov. Haruhiko Kuroda.

Over the past three years, Kuroda has sought to revive Japan's own moribund growth by pumping tens of trillions of dollars into the economy through central bank asset purchases. More recently, the Bank of Japan implemented a negative interest rate policy, hoping to spur more bank lending and corporate investment to help support faster growth.

With monetary policies yielding only middling results, Japan increasingly has favored more pro-active fiscal stimulus, joining France, Italy and Canada, which are increasingly at odds with Germany's pro-austerity stance. As finance minister, Aso must answer for Japan's public debt, which is twice the size of its economy. On Thursday he downplayed speculation that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, facing a parliamentary election this summer, will put off a hike in the national sales tax.

Barring a major financial crisis or other calamity, such as the devastating tsunami that washed over Japan's northeastern coast in March 2011, including parts of Sendai, the tax hike will go ahead as planned, Aso said.

But Abe and others have also said they would reconsider if the increase to 10 percent from the current 8 percent risks crippling the recovery. A severe downturn brought on by such a tax increase potentially could do more harm to revenues than good, officials say. — Agencies

TIGERS MAUL MINNESOTA TWINS 6-3

DETROIT: Justin Verlander struck out 10 batters, including the 2,000th of his career, to help the Detroit Tigers beat the Minnesota Twins 6-3 on Wednesday. The Tigers have won four straight, equaling a season high, after losing 11 of 12 games. Verlander (3-4) allowed six hits and three runs over 7-1/3 innings while matching his season high in strikeouts. He joined Mickey Lolich as the two pitchers in franchise history with 2,000 career strikeouts. The Twins have lost 11 of 13, dropping to 10-29 for the worst record in the majors.

CUBS 2, BREWERS 1, 13 INNINGS

Pitcher Travis Wood drove in the go-ahead run when he walked with the bases loaded in the 13th inning to lead Chicago over Milwaukee. With the Cubs out of position players, manager Joe Maddon had Wood hit with two outs after the Brewers intentionally walked Miguel Montero to load the bases. Wood drew the walk when Carlos Torres (0-1) missed on a 3-1 cutter, forcing Ben Zobrist home with the go-ahead run.

NATIONALS 7, METS 1

Daniel Murphy drove in two runs against his former team to back Gio Gonzalez in his latest win at Citi Field as a patient Washington beat New York. Anthony Rendon snapped a fifth-inning tie with a two-run single for the Nationals, who held on to first place in the NL East. Gonzalez (3-1) carried a two-hitter into the seventh before three singles loaded the bases with one out. Felipe Rivero relieved and escaped the jam unscathed. Yoenis Cespedes hit his 13th home run for the Mets, who have lost five of six.

GIANTS 2, PADRES 1

Johnny Cueto threw a four-hitter and Hunter Pence hit a two-run homer to lead San Francisco to its seventh straight win with a victory over San Diego. Cueto (6-1) struck out eight and walked two while allowing one run in his second complete game of the season - both coming against the Padres. He improved to 4-1 in his career vs San Diego, including a shutout on April 26. Buster Posey led off the fourth with a walk from Drew Pomeranz (4-4) and Pence followed with a homer that just cleared the right field wall.

ROYALS 3, RED SOX 2, GAME 1; RED SOX 5, ROYALS 2, GAME 2

Jackie Bradley Jr and Mookie Betts homered to back a strong start by David Price as and Boston beat Kansas City to salvage a split of their day-night doubleheader. The Royals won the opener 3-2 behind a strong performance by Ian Kennedy and their bullpen. Kennedy allowed two runs on six hits and a walk over 5-2/3 innings, striking out nine, before Brian Flynn - who earned his first career win - and Luke Hochevar combined to strike out four consecutive batters. It was Price (6-1) who shined in the nightcap, allowing two runs over 7-1/3 innings. Craig Kimbrel handled a scoreless ninth for his 11th save.

CARDINALS 2, ROCKIES 0

Adam Wainwright had his best start of the season and Matt Holliday had a two-run double as St Louis ended the Colorado Rockies' five-game winning streak. Stephen Piscotty had three hits and scored a run for the Cardinals, while Chris Rusin (1-2) allowed two runs in six innings for the Rockies. Wainwright (4-3) worked a season-



CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles Dodgers' Trayce Thompson can't come up with the catch on this double by the Los Angeles Angels' Rafael Ortega in the fifth inning in a baseball game at Angel Stadium on Wednesday, May 18, 2016. — AP

high 6-2/3 innings, a third of an inning longer than his previous best, and lowered his ERA 88 points to a still-unsightly 5.92.

ANGELS 8, DODGERS 1

Mike Trout homered as the Angels broke the game open with five runs in the fifth inning to beat the Dodgers in the Freeway Series. CJ Cron's bases-loaded infield single put the Angels ahead 2-1 and opened the floodgates. Mike Bolsinger (0-1) began the inning by giving up a single to Yunel Escobar and issuing a one-out walk to Trout. Louis Coleman relieved and immediately loaded the bases by walking Albert Pujols. Cron scored on Howie Kendrick's error that made Johnny Giavotella safe at first. Rafael Ortega's double dropped in front of charging left fielder Trayce Thompson, leading to two more runs. Carlos Perez's sacrifice fly extended the lead to 6-1.

ASTROS 5, WHITE SOX 3

Jose Altuve had three hits and two runs batted in while Colby Rasmus and Jason Castro each had a solo home run and Houston beat Chicago despite the White Sox turning their second triple play of the season. Altuve went 3 for 4 with a walk and Castro went 2 for 3 with a walk. Jose Abreu went 2 for 4 with two RBIs for Chicago, which has dropped a season-high four straight and six of seven overall. Doug Fister (4-3) allowed three runs on nine hits in 6 1/3 innings to get the win. Luke Gregerson, who had blown three of his last four save chances, got the final three outs for his ninth save.

INDIANS 8, REDS 7, 12 INNINGS

Rajai Davis hit a tying, two-run homer in the ninth inning then Francisco Lindor led off the 12th with another homer to power Cleveland to victory. Lindor connected off Keyvius Sampson (0-1) while Cody Allen (1-

3) pitched two hitless innings. Dan Otero gave up a single and a walk in the 12th but retired Brandon Phillips on a routine fly to right, earning his first save since 2014. Jay Bruce hit two solo homers and Eugenio Suarez had a three-run shot that allowed the Reds to take a 7-5 lead into the ninth.

YANKEES 4, DIAMONDBACKS 2

Nathan Eovaldi retired the 18 batters he faced after allowing a freak leadoff base hit as New York salvaged the final game of a three-game series in Arizona. Jean Segura's ground ball to start the first inning bounced off the bag at second and dribbled into the outfield for a double. After that, only two balls even reached the outfield off the Yankees right-hander, who hit 100 mph on the Chase Field radar gun while improving to 4-0 in his last five starts. Brett Gardner hit a two-run homer and Jacoby Ellsbury went 3 for 3 with an RBI single for New York. Aroldis Chapman threw a perfect ninth for his fourth save since being reinstated on May 9.

BRAVES 3, PIRATES 1

Julio Teheran allowed five hits in 7 2/3 innings as Atlanta gave Brian Snitker his first victory as interim manager. Teheran (1-4) struck out three without a walk to end six weeks of frustration. Tyler Flowers hit a home run to the bushes in center field and finished with three hits for the Braves, who won for just the third time in their last 13 games. Aroldys Vizcaino gave up a ninth-inning home run to Jung Ho Kang but got the final four outs for his fourth save.

ORIOLES 5, MARINERS 2

Chris Tillman won his fifth straight start with another solid performance against his former team as Baltimore beat Seattle. Mark Trumbo and Matt Wieters hit back-to-back homers for the Orioles, whose 17-7 record at

Camden Yards is the best home mark in the major leagues. Tillman (6-1) allowed two runs on four hits with six strikeouts over 6 1/3 innings. Closer Zach Britton relieved Brach Brach and worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth. Britton got his 11th save by recording five outs.

RAYS 6, BLUE JAYS 3

Kevin Kiermaier hit a two-run homer while Logan Morrison and Desmond Jennings each had solo shots as Tampa Bay beat Toronto to complete a three-game sweep. Morrison had three hits and scored twice for the Rays, who outscored the Blue Jays 31-7 over the series. Edwin Encarnacion, Jimmy Paredes and Michael Saunders hit solo homers for Toronto. All three Tampa Bay homers came off R.A. Dickey (2-5), who allowed five runs and eight hits in six innings.

ATHLETICS 8, RANGERS 1

Khris Davis hit his fourth home run in two games and Danny Valencia drove in two as Oakland completed a three-game sweep of Texas. Rich Hill (6-3) won for the first time at home after giving up a run on three hits over his six innings. He walked one and struck out six. Davis hit a solo home run in the sixth, a day after hitting three homers, including a walk-off grand slam. He leads the majors with nine home runs and 20 RBIs in May.

PHILLIES 4, MARLINS 2

Tyler Goeddel hit his first career homer and Jeremy Hellickson pitched six sharp innings as Philadelphia beat Miami. Hellickson (4-2) allowed two runs and five hits, striking out four. He retired 11 in a row at one point and pitched well after a shaky start. Jeanmar Gomez tossed a perfect ninth for his 16th save in 17 tries. — AP

ARE MARTIAL ARTS CLUBS ADDING PUNCH TO THE JIHADIST CAUSE?

PARIS: Combat sports are booming around the world but in France increasingly draw the attention of intelligence services hunting potential jihadists. Long concentrated in poor suburbs and with no real organization watching over their activities, critics say the mixed martial arts, judo, kick boxing and other clubs are ideal for fomenting radicalization and jihadist training.

Ironically, many of the clubs get subsidies from French town halls. Mederic Chapitoux, who has written a book, "Sport, The Fault In State Security", about the phenomenon, believes France should not be alone in worrying. "We know this has a national dimension, European, worldwide," Chapitoux, a former gendarme and technical director for a contact sports federation said in an interview. Just before a group of suicide attackers killed 130 people across Paris on November 13 last year, a Central Territorial Intelligence Service (SCRT) note was leaked.

It warned of the radicalization in suburban, amateur sport-particularly the combat clubs. Sports Minister Patrick Kanner said later that France had completely "underestimated" the risks. His ministry launched a Citizens of Sport plan aiming to reinforce education for sports trainers to counter radicalization. Chapitoux said the "signals" of trouble were missed. Fighters increasingly covered their bodies, even for showers, prayer mats appeared before and after training, there was a growing rejection of mixing with women. "Trainers and social workers did not understand the growth of the phenomenon," said Chapitoux. "And if someone did try to impose rules, they were accused of racism."

After November 13, French authorities took action. Less than two weeks after the Paris attacks, Said Itaev, a Chechen-origin international wrestling champion, was ordered to be kept under house arrest, reporting to the local police three times a day. The restriction was only lifted one month later so Itaev could take part in the French championships with his club in eastern France where he was employed as a trainer. Chapitoux said he believes trainers are often recruiters for radical groups. He said that qualifications are non-existent or difficult to check, but "the danger is immense because the trainer in sport influences the mind and body."

'Not in the mainstream'

Combat sports, and martial arts in particular, are a particularly good way to prepare for Jihad. The pro-jihad website, Azzam.com, closed down after the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington, produced a manual copied by other sites, which told how to prepare for action. "It is vital to join a martial arts club as part of the training for jihad," it said, vaunting the need for "self-discipline". "In some countries, there are martial arts run by Muslim instructors, but one can join other clubs if there are no Muslim clubs in his area."

Chapitoux writes in his book that militants have taken over the slogan of pioneer French physical education instructor, Georges Hebert: "Be strong to be useful." Critics of the clubs point to the case of Yassine Salhi, who belonged to a combat sport club in the eastern French city of Besancon. In June, 2015, Salhi decapitated Herve Cornara, owner of a company where he had worked near Lyon. Chapitoux's book also cites Pierre Choulet, a French teenager converted to Islam after meeting Frederic-Jean Salvi on a physical education course. Choulet was killed driving a truck packed with explosives in a suicide attack in Iraq in February, 2015.

Salvi became a radical during a prison term. He now teaches combat sports in the British city of Leicester. The radical fringe worries French club leaders. "A lot of vulnerable young people find a second family in these clubs," said one mixed martial arts club owner in the Paris district. "I have seen people try to recruit youngsters with this profile in my gym," the owner said. "I have protected youths from this situation." French Judo Federation president Jean-Luc Rouge said the main problem is with fringe combat sports. "They are not in the mainstream and the instructors are mainly volunteers." — AFP



BANGKOK: Thai mixed martial artist Dejdamong Sor Amnuaysirichoke (center) demonstrating his groundwork skills at a ONE Championship promotion event in Bangkok. — AFP

MMA OFFERS GOLD, GLORY FOR THAILAND KICKBOXERS

BANGKOK: When he was just seven Dejdamong earned a paltry \$2 for his impoverished family every time he got into the ring as a child Muay Thai boxer. Thirty years on, he pulls in a six figure salary as a mixed martial arts champion and is preparing a title defense in Thailand, a country with a proud kickboxing heritage that is wary of modern cage fighting. Thailand's famous Muay Thai has long provided a route out of poverty for some of the country's poorest kids, who are drilled for the brutal contact sport from a young age. Most never make it big. But for those who do, fame and comparative fortune await, even if the physical costs are often high.

Now the growing international clout of MMA is offering an even greater lure to Muay Thai fighters-and that has ruffled the feathers of traditionalists in Thailand who fear the all-action sport may one day eclipse the kingdom's venerated boxing style. "I haven't fought in Thailand for years," Dejdamong, who is now based in Singapore and whose full name is Dejdamong Sor Amnuaysirichoke, told AFP during a recent visit to a Bangkok gym. "But I'm still a Muay Thai fighter at heart so I'm delighted to be doing it here." In recent decades MMA has gone from a niche sideshow to a multi-billion dollar industry and one of the world's fastest growing sports, with Asia no exception.

Many cage fighters are trained in Muay Thai, a technique that uses fists, elbows, knees and kicks and offers versatility to an MMA fighter's arsenal. But the international MMA fight circuit noticeably missed Thailand, primarily because the country's sports authorities and Muay Thai leagues had been loathe to allow a competitor in. Now that is set to change. On May 27, ONE Championship, by far Asia's largest MMA organizer, will put on a fight night at a 10,000-seat arena in Bangkok, the first

time a major promoter has been allowed to hold such an event in Thailand.

Bigger stage

For Dejdamong, a three-times Muay Thai champion who switched to MMA late in his career notching up six wins and no losses, it is a homecoming. At the fight, he will be defending his strawweight title against Japan's Yoshitaka Naito, a 32-year-old Shooto trained fighter who is also undefeated with 10 victories to his name. "It's an opportunity to show Thailand that mixed martial arts fighting is a sport. And it's also a way to show Muay Thai on a bigger international stage," he said. MMA, with its far larger global audience and sponsors, offers even greater riches. As a ONE insider put it: "The top guys like Dejdamong, they easily pull in six figures in US dollars" annually. By contrast, the average Muay Thai pugilist can expect little more than \$100 for a fight, with the headline bouts perhaps upwards of \$5,000.

Both sports offer rewards far in excess of the \$5 a day offered for menial jobs or farm work-the traditional route for many poor young men in Thailand making them an attractive alternative to the disenfranchised. Born into a poor family in southern Trang province, Dejdamong began training in secret because his mother was so opposed to him taking up Muay Thai. But he excelled and moved to Bangkok as a teenager, eventually competing in more than 300 fights. He recently visited his old master Prawit Teryou, who has trained generations of young fighters, usually from poor backgrounds, from his house in a non-descript residential suburb that boasts a boxing ring in the front garden.

"About 20 of us used to sleep here," Dejdamong said, pointing to a small room at the back of Prawit's compound. "It was a boxer's life, a big family's life." "Muay Thai is defi-

nitely still a way for them to help their family," explained Prawit, a wizened and mustachioed trainer with a Buddhist amulet hanging from his neck. But Dejdamong's sporting and financial success has piqued local interest in MMA. "There's certainly a lot of interest in mixed martial arts from kids in the gym now," he said, adding he doesn't understand traditionalist opposition. "In the end MMA is a sport, like Muay Thai is."

So cruel

The Sports Authority of Thailand wants cage fighting banned in the kingdom, saying it threatens Thai culture and is overly violent-something which has raised wry smiles among fight promoters who say Muay Thai is hardly for the faint-hearted. "To have such a sport event staged in the country should be declared illegal," Sakol Wannapong, SAT's governor, told local media recently. "It is not a sport. It is so cruel." But Thailand's sports and tourism ministry has allowed the fight night to go ahead. Kamol "Sukie" Sukosol Clapp, ONE Championship president Thailand, dismisses the concerns of traditionalists, saying MMA will boost Muay Thai's popularity.

A colourful scion of a wealthy Thai business dynasty, Sukie first made a name for himself in Thailand's pop music industry, where he said he faced similar opposition. "In Thailand we had Thai country music which is huge. We did pop. But we didn't ruin country music, it went parallel. I feel it will be the same thing with MMA and Muay Thai," he said. Prawit, meanwhile, says the average Muay Thai fan is not bogged down in the dispute. They just want to see Dejdamong win. He said: "It's a hugely important fight. He's defending his belt in his home country and Thai people will be behind him." — AFP

CONCUSSION LAWSUIT AGAINST NHL CAN PROCEED, JUDGE SAYS

MINNESOTA: A US District judge in Minnesota this week refused to dismiss a lawsuit filed by ex-players accusing the National Hockey League of failing to protect them from head injuries and withholding information about the long-term effect of concussions. The class-action lawsuit filed by six retired players presents similar claims as a legal action brought against the National Football League that has resulted in an estimated \$1 billion settlement with thousands of that league's ex-athletes. In the NHL case, US District Judge Susan Nelson, in a 47-page opinion made on Monday and unsealed on Wednesday, declined to dismiss the case against the league, setting the stage for it to proceed to a possible trial.

But she left the door open for the lawsuit to be dismissed at a later stage, depending on what evidence emerges. Nelson rejected arguments from attorneys for the NHL that protections against concussions should be dealt with in collective bargaining agreements, or CBAs, with the players union and not decided in court. "Even if some or all of plaintiffs were subject to a CBA at the time" they suffered their head injuries, the league "acknowledges that different versions of the CBAs contain different language," Nelson wrote.

"There are major fact questions that cannot be resolved until a fuller record is developed" as the case proceeds, she added. Nelson's ruling follows a similar decision last year, when she dismissed other arguments by the NHL's attorneys to throw the case out of court. "Based upon our review of Judge Nelson's opinion, with which we respectfully disagree, the opinion merely defers to another day a resolution of the preemption issues underlying our motion," NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said in a statement.

The retired players in their lawsuit accused the NHL of withholding information from them about science linking brain trauma to long-term neurological problems and of failing to adopt measures to better protect players. Instead, the league promoted a culture of extreme violence, where fighting is central to the game and players inflict crushing body-on-body hits against the sides of ice rinks, according to the ex-athletes' attorneys. Some of the ex-players originally sued in 2013 and their claims in 2014 were consolidated with lawsuits filed by others.— Reuters



TAMPA: Matt Murray #30 of the Pittsburgh Penguins tends goal during the first period against the Tampa Bay on May 18, 2016. — AFP

PENGUINS OVERCOME LIGHTNING

WASHINGTON: Phil Kessel and Carl Hagelin each scored one goal and set up another to spark the Pittsburgh Penguins in a 4-2 National Hockey League playoff victory Wednesday at Tampa Bay. The Penguins, seeking their first NHL crown since 2009, seized a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference final, which continues Friday in Florida. The Penguins-Lightning survivor will face the Western Conference winner, either the San Jose Sharks or St Louis Blues, in the Stanley Cup Final.

"We're doing the right things," said Penguins goaltender Matt Murray, who made 26 saves. "We're trying to play fast, use our speed and make them have to play in a rush." Since dropping the series opener on home ice, the Penguins have bounced back with a hustle the Lightning have been unable to match. "We just wanted to stick with it and raise our inten-

sity level a little bit," Murray said. "And that's what we've done." Left wing Hagelin scored on a rebound with 10 seconds remaining in the second period to give the Penguins a 1-0 lead. Playmaker Kessel forced a turnover and skated down the wing, then fired a shot off Tampa Bay goalkeeper Andrei Vasilevskiy.

The Russian made the save but Hagelin was in front of him for the rebound and the Swede swatted the puck into the net. Pittsburgh outshot the Lightning 21-6 in the second period, dominating play before breaking through in the dying seconds. Kessel doubled the Penguins' lead 5:16 into the third period, the US right winger finding the net for his seventh goal of the playoffs. "He has got an absolute missile (of a shot)," Murray said of Kessel. "You never know on which side it's going to go and it's coming quick." But only 14 seconds later, Tampa

Bay finally solved Murray as Lightning center Tyler Johnson pulled the hosts within 2-1 with 14:30 remaining.

Penguins captain Sidney Crosby answered on a power-play goal with 9:10 remaining, the Canadian center taking a pass from Evgeni Malkin and blasting a kneeling quick one-touch shot high into the net, the puck knocking Vasilevskiy's water bottle into the air as Pittsburgh seized a 3-1 edge. Braydon Coburn's penalty 57 seconds earlier for elbowing Pittsburgh's Hagelin had given the Lightning the one-man disadvantage. The Penguins weren't finished as left wing Chris Kunitz flipped in an assisted goal with 6:48 remaining. Tampa Bay, which won its only NHL title in 2004, trimmed the final margin with 1:44 remaining on a goal by Czech left wing Ondrej Palat. Vasilevskiy had 44 saves in a losing cause.— AFP

DJOKOVIC CONFRONTS GREATEST CHALLENGE AS CLOCK TICKS

PARIS: Twelve months after his latest bid to complete a career Grand Slam was thwarted, Novak Djokovic targets an elusive French Open title with time and history threatening to conspire against him. The world number one was left in tears in 2015 when Stan Wawrinka unleashed a battery of single-handed backhand winners to all corners of Court Philippe Chatrier on his way to a shock Paris title. Djokovic turns 29 on Sunday and will be playing Roland Garros for a 12th time where he remains the overwhelming favorite to secure a trophy which would also place him halfway to the first calendar Grand Slam since 1969.

But tennis is littered with great names whose Grand Slam pedigree endured shattering reality checks on Roland Garros's unforgiving crushed red brick surfaces. Pete Sampras won 14 majors but 13 times the great American tried to win the French Open and 13 times he failed. Stefan Edberg also made 13 fruitless visits while

Djokovic's coach Boris Becker tried nine times. John McEnroe also flopped, the four-time US Open and three-time Wimbledon winner having to console himself with a runners-up spot in Paris against Ivan Lendl in 1984.

Djokovic, with 11 majors under his belt, has come closer than all of them. He has been runner-up three times and a semi-finalist on four occasions. His record in 2016 reads 37 wins and just three defeats although two of those came on clay-against Jiri Vesely in a freak Monte Carlo opening-round exit and a loss to Andy Murray in last weekend's Rome final. "All in all, it was very good two weeks after dropping out in Monte Carlo early. I needed these kind of results, winning one tournament and playing finals is great," said a weary Djokovic who has won the last three majors.

"I got what I was looking for, a lot of matches, and confidence and I spent a lot of hours playing on the clay, which now, leading up to

Roland Garros is exactly what I need. Hopefully it's going to help me perform well in Paris." An extra motivation for the Serb is knowing that he is just a little over \$300,000 short of becoming the first player to earn \$100 million in prize money. World number two Murray is shaping up as Djokovic's greatest threat. He may be 8,000 points behind in the world rankings, but the former US Open and Wimbledon winner has developed a taste for clay relatively late in his career. His 6-3, 6-3 win over Djokovic at the Foro Italico came on his 29th birthday.

Murray threat

It was the first title in Rome by a British player since Patrick Hughes in 1931 and ended Djokovic's 17-match winning streak against top 10 opponents. Murray's three career titles on clay have all been in the last 12 months—Munich and Madrid in 2015 topped off by Rome. He has also steadily improved in Paris with three semi-

final runs in his last four appearances, losing a five-set epic to Djokovic in 2015. "I had always been told that clay should really be my best surface. I'm going to Roland Garros with a lot of confidence and really good preparation. I feel like I'm on the right track," said the Scot.

Nine-time champion Rafael Nadal could be the kingmaker in Paris where he will be seeded at five and a likely quarter-final opponent for either Djokovic or Murray. Written off after a 2015 campaign saw him endure his worst season in a decade, the 29-year-old Spaniard won in Monte Carlo for the ninth time and then clinched the Barcelona crown to equal Guillermo Vilas's record of 49 career clay-court titles. A semi-final run in Madrid and quarter-final spot in Rome—where it took Murray and Djokovic respectively to halt him—illustrated his enduring power. World number three Roger Federer, with his 35th birthday looming in August, has played only four tournaments in 2016.—AFP

CURRY SPARKLES AS WARRIORS SILENCE THUNDER

OAKLAND: Steph Curry scored 28 points as the Golden State Warriors roared back to life in their Western Conference finals series against the Oklahoma City Thunder with an emphatic 118-91 victory on Wednesday. Curry seized control of the contest with a spellbinding third-quarter points blitz as the Warriors squared the series at 1-1 heading into Sunday's game three in Oklahoma City.

The 27-point blowout victory preserved Golden State's remarkable season-long record of never having suffered back-to-back defeats. "Our ball movement was a lot better tonight. We got it going side to side and set screens and found easier shots and thankfully they went down," a relieved Curry said. "That's the way we've got to play going forward." Curry meanwhile played down what looked like a swelling on his right elbow which appeared after he tumbled into the stands. "We'll get freshened up and get ready for another dogfight on Sunday," Curry said. "That's what this series is going to be about—who wants to be more physical." Warriors coach Steve Kerr paid tribute to Curry's virtuoso display. "He's the MVP for a reason and he knows he didn't have his best night in Game One. He came out and played exceptionally well," Kerr said. "Business as usual. This is what he does." "They were playing well and they had some momentum; I just know we made some stops and Steph got loose," Kerr said. "That's what Steph does, when he can find some space and make a few threes in front of the home crowd it's a huge boost." Asked how he had felt watching Curry run riot, Kerr replied: "I feel great joy. It's true." Kerr meanwhile said he would have no difficulty motivating his team for the challenge of facing Oklahoma City on the road. "We knew we needed to win tonight badly and we responded well," Kerr said. "Now we've got to go there and play well and it's a tough place to play. I don't think we'll have any problem getting 'appropriate fear' from our guys."

'Must do better'

Thunder coach Billy Donovan agreed Curry's flurry changed the game. "I thought we were in good shape and then they hit us with that flurry," Donovan said. "Obviously we let Curry get loose a few times and we need to do a better job in that area. They played very well." Oklahoma City had stunned the reigning NBA champions and their fans at the Oracle Arena in game one on Monday, overturning a 60-47 halftime deficit to run out deserved winners.

A similarly nail-biting encounter looked likely in the early exchanges in game two, with the Thunder always managing to stay in touch despite an error-strewn first half characterized by several turnovers. Yet the Warriors took control in the third quarter with Curry's devastating scoring burst propelling them to a double-digit lead. A technical foul from Oklahoma City star Kevin Durant had provided the impetus, gifting Curry the chance to hit four free throws to put Golden State ahead 71-59. That was swiftly followed by two swaggering three-pointers and an outside jumper from Curry and suddenly Golden State were up 79-59.

Curry eventually was responsible for all 15 points of a 15-2 Golden State run in the third quarter and this time there was to be no fight-back from the Thunder. The Warriors had soon stretched their lead to 20 points, a margin they held as they headed into the fourth quarter, ahead 88-68. An Andre Iguodala three-pointer early in the fourth followed by an emphatic dunk put Golden State 25 points clear at 93-68, as the Thunder reeled in the face of relentless pressure. For Oklahoma City, Durant scored a game-high 29 points with one assist and six rebounds while the talismanic Russell Westbrook finished with 16 points and 12 points. Yet in contrast to Monday's all-around Thunder performance, Westbrook and Durant were the only two Oklahoma City players to score in double figures, highlighting the problems the visitors had penetrating a determined Warriors defensive display. — AFP



CALIFORNIA: Oklahoma City Thunder's Kevin Durant (right) battles for possession under the basket against Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green during the first half in Game 2 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals on Wednesday, May 18, 2016. — AP

GOLF

MUIRFIELD LOSES OPEN AFTER REJECTING WOMEN MEMBERS

LONDON: Scottish golf course Muirfield has lost its status as a British Open venue after voting against admitting female members, the sport's joint ruling body the R&A announced yesterday. A proposal to allow female members did not receive the required two-thirds majority needed, with 387 members-or 64 percent-voting in favor and 219 members-or 36 percent-voting against. The R&A-encompassing the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews-reacted immediately by announcing that Muirfield will no longer be selected as a venue for the Open, which is golf's oldest major.

"The Open is one of the world's great sport-

ing events and going forward we will not stage the Championship at a venue that does not admit women as members," said R&A CEO Martin Slummers in a statement. Scotland's political leader, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, branded Muirfield's decision "indefensible". In an open letter to members of the Honorable Company of Edinburgh Golfers (HCEG), the club, located to the east of Edinburgh, had recommended that they vote in favour of the resolution. But after the postal ballot of members failed to reach the required threshold, the R&A announced that it was dropping Muirfield from its 10-course Open venue roster.

"We have consistently said that it is a matter for the Honourable Company to conduct a review of its membership policy and that we would await their decision," Slummers said. "The R&A has considered today's decision with respect to The Open Championship. The Open is one of the world's great sporting events and going forward we will not stage the Championship at a venue that does not admit women as members. "Given the schedule for staging The Open, it would be some years before Muirfield would have been considered to host the Championship again. If the policy at the club should change, we would reconsider Muirfield as a venue for The Open in future."

Troon to vote

Announcing the result of the ballot, Muirfield captain Henry Fairweather said: "The Honourable Company is a members club, and, as such, the members decide the Rules of the Club, including its membership policy. "Women will continue to be welcome at Muirfield on the course and in the clubhouse as guests and visitors, as they have been for many years." Sturgeon wrote on Twitter: "Scotland has women leaders in every walk of life. It is 2016. This is simply indefensible." The records of the club show that women have played golf at Muirfield since 1904. Women's and men's single-sex golf clubs, although reducing in number, have been a feature of golf provision in Great Britain and Ireland and comply fully with equality legislation. Muirfield has staged the Open on 16 occasions since 1892 and most recently in 2013, when America's Phil Mickelson won. It was due to host the Open again in 2023. Royal Troon, the venue for this year's Open, is also an all-male club. It will vote later this year on whether to become a mixed club. — AFP

MCILROY HITS OUT AT 'NEGATIVE SPIN'

DUBLIN: Rory McIlroy's frustrating season boiled over on the eve of the Irish Open in criticizing what he describes as the "negative spin" that's been put on his recent performances. The four-time Major winner is hosting the event at the K Club and the first time the course, located just south of Dublin, has played host to a major tournament since staging the 2006 Ryder Cup. Back then McIlroy was just 18 years of age and he had taken a three-hour bus ride leaving Belfast at 5.30am to witness the final round on Sunday.

In contrast, he returns to the course with his photograph appearing everywhere from Dublin Airport and all along the route to the course while his photograph is also on the official program, draw sheets, entry tickets and car passes. However, it's now been more than six months since McIlroy last tasted success and that was in November's European Tour season-ending DP World Tour Championship. In that time, McIlroy has had six top-10 finishes

including the latest in sharing fourth place a fortnight ago in the defence of his Wells Fargo Championship. But after an indifferent Players Championship effort last week, that included see-saw rounds of 72, 64, 75 and 70, the current world number three is not too pleased what he's been reading. "I'm relaxed about it but it also frustrates me, I guess the negative spin that's put on my form," said McIlroy. "I know expectations for myself are higher than other players, but you look at my record this year with a third in Abu Dhabi, a fifth in Dubai, a third at Doral, fourth in the Match Play so my bad weeks are Top-10s, basically. "So it just frustrates me that the narrative is about there's something missing in Rory's game or what's wrong with Rory or where I don't feel like there's anything wrong. "It's very close and it's just that I'm waiting for something to happen. I might need to make something happen, but it's not as far away as I feel some people think it is. —AFP

GUARDIOLA HOPES GERMAN CUP IS PARTING GIFT

BERLIN: Bayern Munich coach Pep Guardiola will be hoping his players deliver on their promise of a parting gift when they take on Borussia Dortmund in the German Cup final tomorrow as he looks to leave Germany on a high note. The Spaniard, who takes over Manchester City next season, could win his second domestic double in three seasons after Bayern eased to a record fourth consecutive Bundesliga title last week.

However, a failure to win the Champions League, which had been his mandate from the very start, has certainly taken the sheen off Guardiola's three-year stint at Bayern despite an utter dominance over his home rivals during that spell. Atletico Madrid proved to strong for Bayern in the semi-finals

of this season's tournament, making it three years in a row that Guardiola's side had fallen to Spanish opposition at the same stage. Many Bayern fans never really warmed to the Spaniard as they had done to his predecessor Jupp Heynckes, who won the treble in 2013, or even Louis van Gaal in his first season in 2009-10. That frostiness was evident during title celebrations last week when Guardiola stood with the team on the town hall balcony but opted not to address the 15,000 fans gathered below at Munich's Marienplatz. However, bidding farewell to his players and the fans with a final at Berlin's Olympic stadium should help soothe the pain of yet another European disappointment. "It is clear that this is about a title but it

is also clear that it is our last game under him," defender David Alaba said. "We want to throw everything into the game one more time to give him a parting gift," the Austria international added.

Bayern switch

Dortmund, losing finalists in the last two editions, will have their own man in the spotlight, with Germany defender Mats Hummels playing his last game for the Ruhr valley club after eight-and-a-half years before continuing his career at Bayern. He is the third big-name Bayern signing from Dortmund since 2013 after Mario Goetze and Bundesliga top scorer Robert Lewandowski also completed the switch between the bitter rivals. "No doubt he

will step on the gas 100 percent for Dortmund," Lewandowski said of his past and future teammate. "He is a complete professional."

Hummels, who had failed to break into the Bayern team before joining Dortmund in 2008 and has now agreed to a five-year deal, had to endure some jeers and boos over the past few weeks. Dortmund CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke, however, sounded confident the 27-year-old World Cup winner could deal with the pressure. "This is his fifth final with Dortmund and on top of that there is the 2014 World Cup final," Watzke said. "If you can deal with the pressure of a Rio de Janeiro final against Argentina then you can deal with it in a Cup final. "Mats is not 22 anymore so I am not concerned at all," he added. — Reuters

CUP FINAL V JUVENTUS IS AC MILAN'S ROUTE TO EUROPE

ROME: For AC Milan, it's the only route to Europe. For Juventus, it's about crowning another title-laden season. When Serie A's two most storied clubs meet in the Italian Cup final tomorrow at Rome's Stadio Olimpico, it will be a matchup of teams heading in opposite directions. Juventus is fresh off its fifth consecutive Serie A title and is aiming to become the first club to win the league and Cup double in consecutive seasons. "We started the season by winning the Super Cup in Shanghai (2-0 against Lazio) and it would be great to finish it by winning the Italian Cup," said forward Paulo Dybala, who has scored 23 goals in all competitions during his first season with Juventus. "It would be the appropriate coronation for everything we accomplished this season."

Milan, meanwhile, is in danger of failing to qualify for Europe for a third consecutive season following a disappointing seventh-place finish in Serie A. A victory in the final, however, would give Milan direct entry to the Europa League and earn the Rossoneri their first trophy in nearly five years - since the 2011 Italian Super Cup. Moreover, a trophy could give Milan president Silvio Berlusconi a celebratory send-off as he negotiates the possible sale of the club to a group of Chinese investors. "Winning this trophy would give some sense to the season," Milan midfielder Giacomo Bonaventura said. Here are a few things to know about the final:

Brocchi and Balotelli

The final represents a last chance for Milan's interim coach Cristian Brocchi and on-loan Liverpool forward Mario Balotelli. Brocchi was promoted from youth manager to replace the fired Sinisa Mihajlovic last month but produced only two wins in six matches - concluding Serie A with a 3-1 loss at home to Roma last weekend. Milan has already stated Brocchi will return to the youth squad if he isn't kept with the first team. Balotelli's future, meanwhile, remains a mystery after a season in which he scored one goal in 20 league games. Milan has shown no interest in keeping him, while Liverpool doesn't want him back. Balotelli is expected to start the final on the bench, with Carlos Bacca lining up at center forward.

Neto for Buffon

Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri is likely to start reserve goalkeeper Neto in place of captain Gianluigi Buffon. Neto, a Brazilian, has played in all of the Cup matches this season. Otherwise, Allegri is planning on using his full-strength team, led by forwards Paulo Dybala and Mario Mandzukic. Juventus center back Leonardo Bonucci is suspended and midfielders Claudio Marchisio and Sami Khedira are out injured.

Europa League

While fourth-place Inter Milan is already guaranteed a spot in the Europa League's group phase, the final will determine the status of fifth-place Fiorentina, sixth-place Sassuolo and seventh-place Milan. If Juventus wins, Fiorentina will qualify directly for the Europa League group phase, Sassuolo will go into the playoffs and Milan will be out. If Milan wins it will qualify directly for the group phase, Fiorentina will go into the playoffs and Sassuolo will be out. — AP



BANGKOK: Crowds line the street to cheer on Leicester City players as they celebrate with the trophy after winning the English Premier League during an open top bus parade through the central business district of Bangkok yesterday. — AP

PALACE AND PARADE FOR LEICESTER ON THAI TOUR

LEICESTER SEEK ROYAL BLESSING

BANGKOK: Newly crowned English Premier League champions Leicester City received a royal seal of approval Thursday at Bangkok's Grand Palace, with the Thai-owned team presenting its trophy to a portrait of the king before a bus parade through the capital. The East Midlands team is currently visiting the football-mad Southeast Asian nation as part of a publicity blitz after its fairytale title triumph.

Day two of the tour focused on Thailand's top institution with a visit to the sprawling Bangkok palace complex of the revered but ailing 88-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who has been hospitalized for most of the last two years. Local television showed billionaire club-owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, alongside his son Aiyawatt and manager Claudio Ranieri, presenting the trophy to a portrait of the king as they and the team then took a deep bow. The team later went on an open-top bus parade through the capital's notoriously gridlocked streets that were briefly cleared of traffic thanks to a police escort.

In scorching conditions-with the mercury hovering around 37C (98F) - key players including captain Wes Morgan and goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel waved Thai flags and snapped pictures of each other on their phones as crowds cheered them on. Vichai's

King Power brand, a duty free monopoly that has made him a billionaire and is emblazoned on both Leicester's shirts and its stadium, ensured the start of the parade route was filled with employees-including a group of cheerleaders-decked out in team colours.

Thai traditions

But thousands of fans and curious bystanders also lined the route, which wound its way from a King Power-owned shopping and hotel complex through Bangkok's downtown commercial district. Most Thais knew little about the one-time minnows before Vichai bought the club in 2010. But many locals are readily changing-or at least doubling-up-their allegiances from perennial English favorites like Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea, clubs that are much more commonplace on advertising billboards across the kingdom. Ben, a 27-year-old worker in a 7/11 store along the parade route, was one of those who stopped to watch the bus pass by. "I am a fan of Liverpool but I am happy to see football stars from UK," he said. "It's not often we can see football stars in Bangkok." Photos from the palace visit showed the team kneeling in front of Bhumibol's portrait.

It has become common practice for sub-

jects to sit on the floor or kneel to avoid being higher than the king. Thai athletes often present their medals and trophies at the palace as a way to show respect. Vichai has brought some of the kingdom's traditions to Leicester City, with Buddhist monks regularly flown out to bless players and the stadium. During their title celebrations at the King Power stadium, a portrait of Bhumibol was held aloft as players like Riyad Mahrez, Jamie Vardy and Danny Drinkwater reveled in their remarkable league success. King Bhumibol, the world's longest serving monarch, is the object of an intense personality cult and his frail health is a subject of significant public concern.

He is also protected by one of the world's most draconian royal defamation laws, making debate about the royal family's role inside Thailand all but impossible. Under junta rule in the last two years, use of the lese majeste law has skyrocketed with some transgressors jailed for more than 20 years. Not all Bangkok's citizens, many of whom have to endure agonizingly long daily commutes, were happy with the rush hour road closures. "Do you have to do a parade, isn't winning enough?" wrote one user of Pantip, a popular Thai social media forum, before adding "God bless Man U". — AFP

SEVILLA STEAMROLLER HIGHLIGHTS SPAIN'S WEIGHT IN EUROPE

MADRID: Sevilla's rout of Liverpool in the Europa League final is a new sign of which country rules the continent's football and a powerful warning to Barcelona ahead of their kings of Spain clash. Coke's double in the 3-1 win in Basel highlighted the value of the Spanish system of turning home talent into title winners. And Sevilla's record five titles in the UEFA Cup and Europa League have shown them to be masters of the art. Real and Atletico Madrid will dispute the Champions League next week in a showdown that highlights how Spanish clubs can also buy world class talent successfully to dominate European football. The Europa League "belongs" to Sevilla, AS sports daily wrote Thursday after the stunning second half comeback spurred the triumph.

Losing 1-0 at half-time, Coke's double and a third from Kevin Gameiro saw Sevilla to a win that left Liverpool on their knees. "The Andalusian team steamrolled the English in an unforgettable second half," said Mundo Deportivo. The win again left English Premier League clubs wondering how to turn their wealth into European success. AS editor Alfredo Relano said that Sevilla have a "magnificent structure with a model sporting system and an extraordinary business plan, buying well and selling even better". Spanish clubs have bought and nurtured outstanding talent from Portugal, South America and other smaller football nations. But they have a core of players that have come through their own academies.

Sevilla bought their match-winner Coke for a reported 2.5 million euros from Rayo Vallecano in 2011. They developed Brazilian right back Dani Alves from the youth ranks and sold him to Barcelona for more than 28 million euros. Alves left in tears saying he would like to play with Sevilla again some day. Ivan Rakitic, Aleix Vidal and Seydou Keita have also been sold on by Sevilla to Barcelona at a big premium. With Barcelona and Real Madrid leading the Spanish pack on the international stage, clubs like Atletico, Sevilla and Villarreal have a huge incentive to up their game to survive.

Coaches also have a far wider variety of styles that goes far past the 'tiki-taka' short passing style that has brought Barcelona success. Diego Simeone's Atletico Madrid have a rock-solid defensive structure that has stifled Europe's best. Real Madrid, Sevilla and Villarreal are all deadly on the counter-attack. "Football in Spain is a very technical game. The best football is here," said Manchester City manager Manuel Pellegrini, whose side was dumped out of the Champions League semi-finals by Real Madrid. "Spanish teams work very well at the academy level," Spain coach Vicente del Bosque told AFP in a recent interview. "From there, with the improvement of coaching too, it has improved the standard at club and international level."

Now Sevilla are a Europa legend and their win means that Spain has secured the Europa League-Champions League double two years in a row. Atletico play Real in Milan on May 28 for the Champions League title—their second clash in the final in three years. Sevilla can add to their history if they overcome Barcelona in the Kings Cup final on Sunday. The Sport newspaper said yesterday that Sevilla's comeback from a "torrid" first half meant that "Barcelona have been warned." But win or lose, Spanish clubs have scored another key win over their English rivals. "Liverpool may be legendary, but Sevilla are eternal," declared Sport. — AFP



BASEL: Liverpool's English midfielder and Captain James Milner (left) falls next to Sevilla's Argentinean midfielder Ever Banega during the UEFA Europa League final football match between Liverpool FC and Sevilla FC on May 18, 2016. — AFP

MORE FINAL MISERY FOR KLOPP

FINAL DEFEAT CAN BE CATALYST FOR BRIGHT FUTURE

BASEL: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said he will give it "everything I have" to reach another final after collecting his fifth successive losers medal following a 3-1 defeat to Sevilla in the Europa League final on Wednesday.

Liverpool had been hoping to end their 15-year wait for Europa League glory having last won the competition, as the UEFA Cup, in a nine-goal thriller against Deportivo Alaves in 2001. But a second-half fightback on Wednesday saw Spanish midfielder Coke hit a brace in the space of six minutes to help Sevilla to their third consecutive and fifth trophy overall from Europe's second-tier competition.

It means five-time European champions Liverpool have not won a European trophy since their stunning comeback victory over AC Milan in the final of the Champions League in 2005. Klopp, meanwhile, now has a fifth successive losers medal from his past five finals. But the German took a decidedly positive approach to his poor record. "I'm not sure I have a good answer but I will try with all I have to reach the next final, and to win the next final," Klopp said. He added: "There are more important things in life than football. I have a lot of luck in my life. I'm sitting here as manager of Liverpool FC so I think I'm a lucky person."

The last of Klopp's silver medals came as recently as February when Liverpool lost the League Cup final on penalties to Manchester City. In Klopp's last match as manager of Borussia Dortmund, the Bundesliga side suffered a 3-1 defeat to Wolfsburg in the German Cup final—the second successive setback in the competition after an extra-time defeat to Bayern

Munich in the 2014 final. But the defeat that arguably hurt the Liverpool manager most came against Bayern in the all-German final of the Champions League in 2013 when Arjen Robben hit a late winner for the Bavarian giants. "I promise everybody we will use it (Wednesday's loss) and come back stronger. It was 50-60% of our usual quality and we have to accept that. We will come back," said Klopp after the game.

Catalyst for bright future

A spirit-crushing defeat in a major final can often signal the end for a manager, yet Liverpool boss believes their Europa League final heartache could prove to be a bright new beginning for his club. A self-confessed fan of "heavy metal football", Klopp would have loved nothing more than to get his hands on a weighty piece of silverware in Basel, but his hopes of glory were dashed by a 3-1 loss to the competition's masters Sevilla. As Sevilla captain Coke held aloft the trophy at St Jakob-Park, Liverpool's German coach had already disappeared down the tunnel, not waiting to applaud opponents who had dashed his hopes of ending his first season at Anfield with a trophy.

"We will use this experience—that is what we have to do," German Klopp told reporters. "The players are still young. Some day everyone will say Basel was a decisive moment for Liverpool FC." Klopp arrived at Anfield in October to take charge of a team low on confidence who had developed a reputation for lacking the steel to get over the line on big occasions. While the latter accusation could still be leveled at Klopp's squad, confidence abounds that the

German is steering the Liverpool ship to new horizons and a second cup final defeat in three months will not have swayed fans who have been captivated by the German.

After going three seasons under Klopp's predecessor Brendan Rodgers without making a major final, to reach two in such a short space of time is perhaps a glaring signal that Klopp means business. Liverpool also lost to Manchester City in this season's League Cup final. He has been far from a panacea to cure all Liverpool's ills, however, and their erratic league form attests to the fact that there is still so much work ahead for the Liverpool boss. Yet there is no mistaking a change in atmosphere at Anfield and a sense that people around the club has changed, in Klopp's words, from doubters to believers. It was perhaps a shame, therefore, that belief was the one thing Liverpool seemed to lack when Sevilla clawed their way back into the match on Wednesday.

Daniel Sturridge's opener was wiped out 17 seconds into the second half by Kevin Gameiro's close-range effort and Coke's two goals finished the job. "It was obviously the first (Sevilla) goal (that changed the game). In this moment we lost faith in our style of play," Klopp said. "We changed from passing simply and quick, to slow and complicated." While next season will not see Liverpool return to the European stage after their eighth-place Premier League finish, Klopp believes this could give his side an edge on the domestic front. "We will have no international tournament next year, we will have time to train. We will use it and come back stronger," he said. — Agencies

SUNDOWNS LOSE KEEPER, GAME AND CAF CUP TIE

JOHANNESBURG: New South African champions Mamelodi Sundowns had goalkeeper Denis Onyango sent off as they fell 2-0 to Medeama in Ghana Wednesday and were eliminated from the CAF Confederation Cup. The second leg result in a play-off left the clubs tied at 3-3 on aggregate and the home team advanced on away goals after trailing 3-1 from the first meeting in Pretoria 11 days ago. Ugandan Onyango was red carded midway through the second half in western city Sekondi for kicking Abbas Mohammed after Bernard Ofori had put the Ghanaians two goals ahead. Medeama took the lead during the first half when Thabo Nthethe conceded a penalty which Malik Akowuah converted.

Success for the West Africans came after a dramatic two-leg tie in the African equivalent of the UEFA Europa League. Medeama took a 38-second first-leg lead only to concede three goals in seven minutes during the closing stages. Swedish coach Tom Strand then secretly abandoned the Ghanaian club in Pretoria and returned to Europe before announcing he was quitting. Evans Adortey, coach of the Ghana women's national team, was hastily promoted to replace Strand for the return match against Sundowns. — AFP

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CALIFORNIA: Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (center) shoots against Golden State Warriors center Andrew Bogut (left) and forward Draymond Green during the second half of Game 2 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals in Oakland on Wednesday, May 18, 2016. — AP

WARRIORS SILENCE THUNDER