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THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016

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KUWAIT TO SIGN \$1BN DEAL FOR MUTLAA PROJECT

DUBAI: Kuwait is expected to sign within two weeks a \$1 billion contract with Italy's Salini Impregilo and Turkey's Limak Construction for its planned South Mutlaa City project, an official said yesterday. It is the first phase of the planned 100,000 sq km urban development, which is situated in central Kuwait and is expected to house around 400,000 residents when completed.

The project is part of a larger effort by the government to implement billions in megaprojects under its five-year development plan, despite a projected state budget deficit of around KD 22 billion for the next three years as a result of lower oil prices. The government has called for 'cost-cutting' programs including unsuccessfully reducing salaries and benefits of the country's oil sector workers.

Kuwait suffers a significant shortage of government-funded housing which particularly impacts young people, who often wait for years for a family home.

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KUWAIT: MPs are seen during a session of the National Assembly yesterday. --- KUNA

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The National Assembly yesterday passed major amendments to municipality law in the first reading amid a strong onslaught by MPs on what they described as rife corruption in the municipality. State Minister for Municipality Essa Al-Kandari said the government has reservations over a number of articles in the draft law and will submit amendments to them before the second and final vote after two weeks.

MP Youssef Al-Zalzalah criticized corruption in the municipality, saying that for every violation and every license, there is a price at Kuwait Municipality. He called for holding corrupt people accountable. MP Mohammad Tana and others spoke about flagrant violations in constructions because of corruption. Tana asked why authorities can't hold accountable foreign contractors and engineering offices. Tana also threatened to grill the commerce and industry minister if he does not remove the scrapyard from Jahra.

MP Jamal Al-Omar said it is almost impossible to pass any transaction through the municipality without paying a bribe. MP Ahmad Lari said the new law will allow residents of 28 new areas to take part in the elections for the municipal council, while MP Hamdan Al-Azemi called for making the number of voters equal in each constituency, adding that the number of voters is over 100,000 in some districts, while it is around 16,000 in others.

Continued on Page 13



YEMEN TALKS 'CLOSER' TO AGREEMENT UN CHIEF WANTS TO RAMP UP PEACE EFFORT

KUWAIT: The UN envoy said yesterday the peace talks which began on April 21 that Yemen's warring parties were closer but have been clouded by repeated walk-

KIEV: Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko presents the Hero of Ukraine award to Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko yesterday. — AFP

UKRAINIAN PILOT RETURNS HOME TO HERO'S WELCOME

KIEV: Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko returned home to a hero's welcome yesterday after nearly two years in a Russian jail following a prisoner swap with Moscow that drew a line under a major diplomatic spat. The 35-year-old army helicopter pilot flew home as part of a carefully choreographed exchange with Moscow, with two alleged Russian soldiers leaving Ukraine earlier in the day. "I'm ready to once again give my life for Ukraine on the battlefield," a defiant Savchenko declared after she touched down on home soil, barefoot and wearing a white T-shirt bearing the Ukrainian trident, a national symbol.

Soon after the presidential plane brought the crop-haired Savchenko home, a presidential motorcade whisked her from Kiev's main Boryspil airport to Poroshenko's office where he awarded her the Hero of Ukraine order, the country's highest honor. In Ukraine, she has become a symbol of resistance against what Kiev sees as Moscow's aggression in the east and has even been elected to parliament in absentia.

The president vowed that Ukraine would take back Crimea, which was annexed by Russia in 2014, and the rebelheld territory in the east of the ex-Soviet country. "Just as we brought back Nadiya, we will bring back Donbass and Crimea under Ukraine's control," Poroshenko said, adding that she had spent 709 days as a "Russian hostage". Speaking at the presidential administration building, Savchenko - who was officially pardoned by Russian President Vladimir Putin - urged Russians to fight injustice at home. "You have to rise up from your knees," she said. "Ukraine has every right to exist despite

someone's rotten soul and sick mind," she added in an apparent reference to Putin.

While in prison, the pilot launched several hunger strikes to protest her detention, refusing both food and water during her high-profile trial in southern Russia. She constantly defied the Russian authorities and even raised her middle finger at the court in March. Kiev and its Western allies view Savchenko as a pawn in Moscow's broader aggression against Ukraine that has seen Russia seize the Crimean peninsula and fuel the separatist uprising in 2014.

The French presidency said Savchenko's release was agreed by the leaders of France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine during phone talks earlier this week. Savchenko's return will be seen in Ukraine as a rare political victory for Poroshenko, who has been struggling with mounting economic troubles, squabbles among his allies and festering violence in the east of the ex-Soviet country. Savchenko, an Iraq war veteran, was convicted in March over the killing of two Russian journalists in eastern Ukraine and sentenced to 22 years behind bars. She had been held in captivity in Russia since June 2014.

She denies any involvement in the deaths of the two state television journalists. Savchenko -who was fighting in a pro-Kiev militia group against rebels in east Ukraine - insists she was kidnapped by separatist fighters before the journalists were killed in June 2014 and then illegally smuggled to Russia. "It's been a long and complicated road," lawyer Nikolai Polozov said on Twitter.

Continued on Page 13

INDIA COUNTING COST OF REDUCED GULF TRANSFERS

NEW DELHI: Having quit his low-paid job with a contractor in Qatar, electrician Kurian Joseph scrabbles for work each day in his hometown in Kerala, a southwestern state that has one of India's highest unemployment rates. He's a casualty of the global oil price collapse. Stories like Joseph's explain why remittances from Indians working abroad slumped 27 percent in the fiscal year through March to \$48 billion the lowest since the 2008 global financial crisis.

Making \$250 a month, and faced with a pay cut as construction jobs in Qatar became scarcer, Joseph realized he could no longer afford monthly installments on his house and son's education. In January, after 15 years in the Gulf, he decided to go home. "Working conditions became bad after the oil crisis hit construction. Our company could not sustain its large work force," Joseph, 56, told Reuters from Changanassery, a ramshackle town strung along Kerala's main north-south road. "I am told the company is planning to retrench workers. Many of my friends are planning to return."

Most of India's remittances come from the oil-rich Gulf, where some seven million Indians have been working, but more and more are being forced to come home. Earlier this year, 1,000 Indian professionals were laid off by Qatar Petroleum. The prospect of further falls in remittances is a hindrance for the Reserve Bank of India, as it seeks to "bulletproof" the economy against sudden capital outflows.

Whereas India's external balances are in a far better shape than three years ago, when a sudden burst **Continued on Page 13** to agreement at peace talks in Kuwait as he prepared to brief the Security Council on progress in negotiations. "We are moving towards a general understanding that encompasses the expectations and visions of the parties," Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed said in a statement. "The discussions have become more sensitive and delicate bringing us closer to a comprehensive agreement," he said.

Ould Cheikh Ahmed was to brief the UN Security Council in a closed session later yesterday on the progress made in

outs by the government delegation. He clarified on Twitter that he will make the briefing by video conference from Kuwait. Face-to-face meetings resumed on Monday for the first time in nearly a week after the latest government boycott.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is proposing a plan to beef up the UN mediation in Yemen to overcome deep differences in peace talks, according to a letter obtained by AFP yesterday.

Continued on Page 13



SANAA: A Yemeni woman and a girl walk past cars as they beg for money in a street in the Yemeni capital on Tuesday. The United Nations says more than 80 percent of the population in Yemen is in dire need of food, medicine and other basic necessities. — AFP

AFGHAN TALEBAN APPOINT NEW LEADER



Haibatullah Akhundzada

KABUL: The Afghan Taleban yesterday announced Haibatullah Akhundzada as their new leader, elevating a low-profile religious figure in a swift power transition after officially confirming the death of Mullah Mansour in a US drone strike. The surprise announcement coincided with a Taleban suicide bombing that targeted court employees near Kabul, killing 11 people in an assault that illustrated the potency of the insurgency despite the change of leadership.

Akhundzada, formerly one of Mansour's deputies, faces the enormous challenge of unifying an increasingly fragmented militant movement while it remains unclear whether he will emulate Mansour in shunning peace talks with the Afghan government. "Haibatullah Akhundzada has been appointed as the new leader of the Islamic Emirate (Taleban) after a unanimous agreement in the Shura (supreme council), and all the members of Shura pledged allegiance to him," the insurgents said in a statement.

It added that Sirajuddin Haggani, an implacable foe of US forces, and Mullah Yakoub, the son of Taleban founder Mullah Omar, were appointed his deputies. Analysts had previously seen them as the most likely candidates for the leadership. "The leader of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and commander of faithful, Mullah Akhtar Mansour, was martyred in a US drone strike in... Pakistan's Balochistan province," the statement said, in the insurgents' first confirmation of his death. Before his killing, Mansour had written a will handpicking Akhundzada to be his successor, Taleban sources told AFP, in an apparent bid to lend legitimacy to his appointment.

US President Barack Obama, who authorised the drone strikes, had confirmed the death Monday. He said Mansour had rejected efforts "to seriously engage in peace talks", asserting that direct negotiations with the Afghan government were the only way to end the attritional conflict.

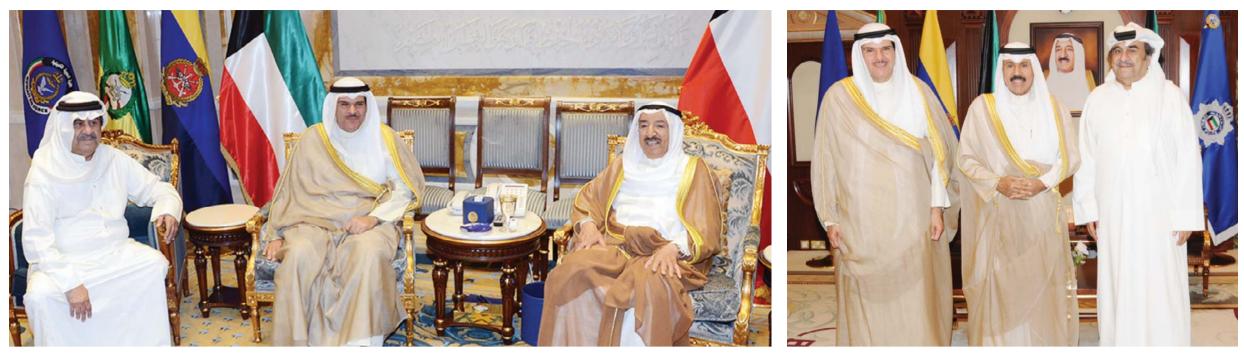
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<u> Kuwait 🗠 Times</u>



THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah separately received Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Kuwaiti actor Abdulhussein Abdulridha at Bayan Palace yesterday. Sheikh Salman and Abdulridha expressed gratitude during the meetings for naming a theater, affiliate to the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, after the actor's name. — KUNA



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah leaves for Moscow yesterday. —KUNA

FM HEADS TO MOSCOW FOR **GCC-RUSSIA MEETING**

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah has left for Moscow to lead Kuwait's delegation to the fourth meeting of GCC-Russian strategic dialogue due today.

The Kuwaiti delegation comprises Assistant Foreign Minister for the First **Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister's** Office Affairs Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser AlMohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for GCC Affairs Nasser Al-Mezain, Kuwaiti Ambassador in Russia Abdulaziz Al-Adwani, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister Dr Rashed Al-Adwani and several other senior officials of the Foreign Ministry.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled was seen off at the airport by Assistant Foreign Minister for Protocols Dhari Al-Ajran and several other ministry officials. —KUNA

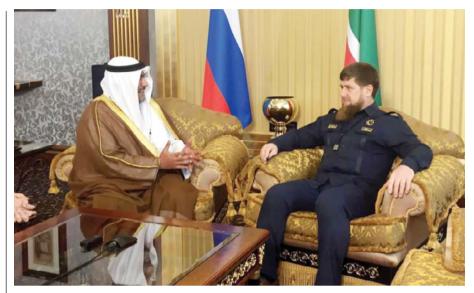
KUWAIT CALLS FOR **RAISING AWARENESS** AGAINST EXTREMISM

VIENNA: Kuwait stressed on the importance of raising awareness against terrorism and radical thinking by educating the public and intensifying campaigns that call for tolerance and acceptance of others, a Ministry of Justice official said yesterday.

This remark was made by Assistant Undersecretary for Legal Affairs at Ministry of Justice Zakariya Al-Ansari at the 25th session for the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in Vienna. Ansari said that Kuwait strongly condemns terrorism of all its forms which violates all principles of human rights and values. He added that Kuwait is taking sincere measures against countering this phenomenon by strengthening regional and international cooperation.

Locally, Kuwait has adopted some protective measures such as: setting up a national committee to counter money laundry and terrorism funding, establishing a monetary investigation unit to protect public funding and creating a peace rehabilitation center to correct deviant ways of thinking within religious and psychological methods.

He said that the CCPCJ exerted efforts to promote religious moderation, stating that Kuwait has also set up a full scale strategic plan to promote religion moderation through the involvement of private sector, civil communities and governmental specialized bodies. The plan focuses on teaching religious values, encouraging social responsibility, developing emedia means to promote moderation, and tightening security methods. — KUNA



MOSCOW: Chief of Kuwait's National Security Apparatus Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah meets with Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov yesterday. — KUNA

NATIONAL SECURITY CHIEF **MEETS CHECHEN PRESIDENT**

MOSCOW: Chief of Kuwait's National Security Apparatus Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah met with Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov in Grozny, Chechnya yesterday. Sheikh Thamer conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahamd Al-

Jaber Al-Sabah to the Chechen President and people.

He also conducted negotiations with Secretary of the Russian Security Council Nikolai Patrushev, tackling the latest developments and issues of common interest. Sheikh Thamer is representing Kuwait in a meeting of senior officials in charge of security. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with US Assistant Secretary for Arms Control, Verification and Compliance Frank Rose. --- KUNA

DEFENSE MINISTER MEETS US OFFICIAL

and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah discussed Secretary for Arms Control, Verification and Compliance Frank

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister ticularly, military ones. Sheikh General Mohammad Al-Khoder, Khaled Al-Jarrah underscored that ties between Kuwait and the US are yesterday with US Assistant robust, with both sides eager to further enhance those ties, a statement from the Ministry of Defense noted. Rose, issues of mutual concern, par- Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant

Deputy Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Abdullah Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah, US Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas Silliman and a number of military officials attended the meeting. — KUNA

GOODWILL VISIT OF PAKISTAN NAVAL SHIP 'ZULFIQUAR'

KUWAIT: Pakistani Naval Ship 'ZULFI-QUAR' will be visiting Kuwait on a good-will visit from May 29 to June 2, 2016. Pakistan Naval Ships periodically undertake goodwill visits to the State of Kuwait which provide excellent opportunity to Pakistan Navy officials to interact with their counterparts at brotherly country Kuwait. It also helps in further improving the strong relations between the two countries. Pakistani Naval Ship 'ZULFI-QUAR' is the pioneer ship of the SWORD Class, F-22P Frigate project. The Ship was inducted in Pakistan Navy Fleet on 19 September 2009. Development of F-22P Frigate Project is a landmark achievement of PN towards self-reliance and indigeniza-

tion. The mission of the Ship is to maintain the standards of professionalism and excellence which are a hallmark of Pakistan Navy. The Ship will also avail this opportunity to hold Joint/Passage exercises with Kuwait Navy at the end of visit.

The Commanding Officer of the Ship, Captain Faisal Javeed Sheikh joined Pakistan Navy in 1989 and is a Navigation Specialist. During the stay in Kuwait, he will pay courtesy calls on the dignitaries of Kuwait Navy. A reception will also be held onboard which would be attended by the high civil/military officials of the State of Kuwait, Diplomats, notables and representatives of the Pakistani communitv.



Captain Faisal Javeed Sheikh, Captain of the ship.

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Pakistani Naval Ship 'ZULFIQUAR'



<u> Kuwait – Times</u>



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti bariatric (weight loss) surgeon Dr Mohammad Al-Jarallah during a surgery. — KUNA

KUWAIT DOCTOR PERFORMS WEIGHT LOSS OPERATION ON GERMAN PATIENT

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti bariatric (weight loss) surgeon Dr Mohammad Al-Jarallah conducted on Wednesday a surgery, the first of its kind, on a German national who arrived in the country specially for the operation due to his obesity and other health problems.

Dr Jarallah said that the patient, Jorg Fischer, 45, weighed more than 150 kilogram, and also suffered from lack of movement, tiredness, and sleep disorder. The doctor said that this type of operation was conducted on patients who do

not suffer from throwing up or diabetes, adding that the operation was successful and is considered the first of its kind to be conducted in Kuwait on a foreign patient.

The process was based on a previously signed MoU between Dr Jarallah and a German hospital. Dr Jarallah noted that the patient is completely satisfied with the surgery, which would pave the way for conducting similar operations to European patients in the future in

Kuwait. Dr Jarallah noted that last year he conducted a similar surgery, which was broadcasted live from Kuwait to an international conference on obesity, participated by a number of worldwide experts on the specialty.

Fischer said that he was pleased with the operation and thanked Dr Jarallah for it. Among other contributions, Dr Jarallah published more than 40 scientific research papers, and was a former minister of health. — KUNA



LONDON: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with the UK Government Special Envoy to Yemen, Sir Alan Duncan. — KUNA

News

In Brief

Egyptian flight searched for disparity of boarding cards

KUWAIT: Authorities at the Kuwait International Airport on Tuesday searched a flight bound to Egypt as a "precautionary measure" prompted by a disparity in the number of boarding passes issued, the Interior Ministry said. As a result of the difference between the actual boarding cards and the number recorded by the airliner, the authorities asked the passengers to leave the NileAir plane which was subjected to a full inspection, in line with the relevant security requirements, the ministry's Security Media Department said in a statement yesterday. It added that the airport's security bodies took the "precautionary measures" for inspecting the flight, which later took off to its destination. The Department called for verifying information from the authorized sources, saying they are always ready to offer reply to inquiries. — KUNA

Tax treaties

FORMER MP INDICTED OF **OFFENDING JUDICIARY**

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The criminal court yesterday indicted former MP Khaled Al-Sultan of offending a judge, but abstained from punishing him. Although the plaintiff the judge hearing the Abdaly cell case dropped the charges, informed sources said this ruling highlights that questioning the judiciary is an offense. The sources added that if it were not for dropping the charges, the ruling might have been tougher. Notably, on his Twitter account, Sultan had inquired about the reason behind holding the Abdaly case's hearings behind closed doors, which he deemed as discrediting and assuming that the case would be manipulated in the suspects' favor.

Rent allowance

The constitutional court yesterday rejected a case against the housing welfare law that demanded receiving rent allowances from both the body an employee works for and the Public Authority for Housing Welfare. The court also rejected six other cases including one filed by MP Abdulhameed Dashti in which he questioned the constitutionality of article 4 of law number 31 of 1970 pertaining with amending penal law number 16/1960.

total of 120 years imprisonment in a number of cases. Security sources said that the suspect showed a great deal of resistance, adding that detectives had lately arrested a number of suspects wanted for prison sentences totaling almost 1,000 years.

'Fake' drinks confiscated

The commercial inspection department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry held sudden inspections at several supermarkets and department stores in Shuwaikh yesterday, which resulted in confiscating 1,440 bottles of a popular beverage that is widely consumed during Ramadan. Rasheedi said the bottles were fake and did not have expiry dates. He added that the fake beverage was confiscated and the owners were referred to commercial prosecution. The campaigns were held under the supervision of the ministry's assistant undersecretary for supervision Eid Al-Rasheedi, and as part of its plans to control prices and foodstuff quality before Ramadan.

Sand 'theft'

Ahmadi municipality director Ahmed Al-Shetaili said that his emergency team inspected Kuwait's southern areas, and the campaign resulted in detecting a number of trucks and diggers stealing sand. Shetaili added that the team impounded nine trucks and a bulldozer at the site and that they were all referred to Mina Abdullah police station.

Fugitive caught

Jahra detectives arrested a bedoon (stateless) in Sulaibiya who had been wanted for a

6,000 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE: MINISTER

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Minister of Education Dr Bader Al-Essa announced 6,000 scholarships are available in the academic year 2016-2017 and that the number of scholarships to study medicine has been increased. Commenting on the ongoing final high school exams, Essa denied intentions

ing the exams. He explained that the ministry had considered using them, but scrapped the idea when the Ministry of Health (MoH) advised that these devices may harm students.

Ambulances at campus

In other news, the safety and security manager at Kuwait University (KU) Khaled Al-Yaqout announced providing Khaldiya campus with an ambulance that would be



Dr Bader Al-Essa

available 24/7. Yaqout added that the new service was made in collaboration with MoH and that ambulances would also be provided at Kaifan and Shuwaikh campuses later with the aim of providing safety, prevention, medical and first aid services during possible contingencies, especially since Minister of Education the total number of students has exceeded 30,000.

Students robbed Meanwhile, around 10 KU students' vehicles were broken into and their contents stolen yesterday in Kaifan. Security sources said detectives found that all thefts happened at the same time, using the same method of breaking the side windows. The sources added that robbers stole a number of mobile phones and wallets. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.



to use jamming devices dur-

KUWAITI, UK OFFICIALS **DISCUSS YEMEN TALKS**

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah met yesterday with the UK Government Special Envoy to Yemen, Sir Alan Duncan. The two officials discussed the pace of progress in the Yemen peace negotiations, currently on-going in Kuwait, as well as the status of bilateral relations between Kuwait and the UK. Attending the meeting was Kuwait's ambassador to the UK Khaled Al-Duwaisan and a number of Kuwaiti officials from the embassy of Kuwait and the office of Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah.

Meanwhile, Jarallah met later with members of the Kuwaiti task groups from government bodies who took part in the eighth meeting of the joint Kuwaiti-UK Steering Group. The meeting between Kuwaiti and UK officials of the Steering Group started earlier yesterday and covered much ground in the relationship between both countries.

Jarallah touted the two-day meeting which he noted would boost bilateral ties in a wide array of interests. Aimed at broadening and deepening a close and historic relationship which dates back decades, the Joint Steering Group was set up during the state visit to the UK of the Kuwaiti Amir, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in December 2012.

Chairing the meeting from the Kuwaiti side was Jarallah and from the UK side Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa Tobias Ellwood. The biannual meeting of the Group brings together a large number of government officials from both countries who seek deepening bilateral relations in numerous fields of interest. — KUNA

RIYADH: The GCC committee on financial and economic cooperation convened an extraordinary meeting on the ministerial level on Tuesday, with Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance Khalifa Hamadah leading his country's delegation. The meeting, chaired by Saudi Minister of Finance Dr Ibrahim Al-Assaf, reviewed a range of recommendations on activation of economic cooperation and integration among the GCC member states. These recommendations were developed by the joint meeting of the committee of finance undersecretaries and the GCC customs union, and the council of heads of tax departments. They include two draft treaties on a single value-added tax system and the selective tax system for the GCC countries. — KUNA

Environment protection

KUWAIT: Kuwait is taking serious measures to protect the environment and natural resources, said Minister of Public Works and Minister of National Assembly Affairs Ali Al-Omair. "Implementing the articles of the environment protection law and setting a number of restrictions is vital to protect our resources," said Omair at a ceremony held by Kuwait Environment Protection Society to celebrate the "International Day for Biological Diversity" late Tuesday. The minister, meanwhile, stressed on the role of environment law in achieving sustainable development and protecting different life forms in Kuwait. — KUNA

Food agreements

KUWAIT: The Public Authority of Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) have signed agreements with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to execute several key projects in Kuwait. The agreement involves projects to develop fish stock, establishing a training center run by FAO and a fodder evaluation program, deputy director general at PAAAFR Faisal Al-Sideeqi said in a press statement yesterday. He added that the two bodies also agreed on setting gardens containing plants of all environments for the purpose of educating people and protecting endangered species, while promoting tourism and investment. ---- KUNA

Bottles containing homebrewed liquor found in Hawally yesterday.

MAN WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASE COMMITTED VICE ACTIVITIES

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Residency detectives arrested an Egyptian man infected with an infectious disease who engaged in vice activities in exchange of money. The suspect, identified as Mohammad Al-Dabe Mahmoud, entered Kuwait on a visit visa issued by a company, according to information received by detectives.

Liquor raid

Hawally detectives raided a place where local liquor was being brewed, finding 309 bottles and equipment. Police arrested a number of people who operated the place. The suspects were taken to the authorities for further action.

Fire

Farwaniya fire department put out a fire in a car that started while its fuel tank was being repaired in Khaitan. No injuries were reported in the incident.



A damaged vehicle pictured following a fire in Khaitan.

INFLATION IN KUWAIT UP 2.8% IN APRIL

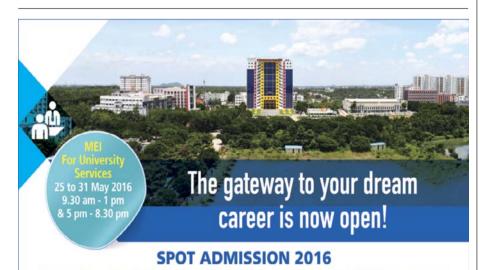
KUWAIT: The Consumer Prices Index (CPI), or inflation rate, recorded an increase estimated at 2.85 percent in April 2016, compared to April 2015, showed an official economic report yesterday. The index figure during the month of April 2016 recorded a fall of 140.6 by 0.07 percent as a result of the fall in prices of some major groups with influential figures in the movement and rise in prices of some groups, said the monthly report of the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB).

The report gives indications of the rates of changes in prices for the commodity groups influencing the families' expenditure and the ability of consumer spending. This index uses the year 2007 as the base year. The index figure for the main group of food and beverages rose by 2.62 percent in April, compared to April 2015, but it fell by 0.46 percent on an annual basis.

The prices of subgroups of the first main group dipped on a monthly basis, while those of three groups were high. The second main group (tobacco and narcotics) stood in April on a monthly basis, but hiked 0.99 percent on an annual basis, it said.

The index figure of the third group (clothing and footwear) went up 0.39 percent on an annual basis, while it dropped 0.08 percent on a monthly basis. Inflation in the fourth group (housing services) shot up by 6.25 percent on an annual basis, as that of the fifth group (furnishing equipment and household maintenance) surged by 2.95 percent on an annual basis, the report added. The sixth group (health) saw a 1.25 percent rise in the inflation rate in April on an annual basis, and a 0.08 percent dip on an annual basis, while the seventh group (transport) went down 1.44 percent on a yearly basis, it indicated.

The eighth group (communication) edged up 0.59 percent on a yearly basis, as the ninth group (recreation and culture) plummeted 0.39 percent on a yearly basis. The tenth group (education) hiked by 3.48 percent in April on an annual basis. The 11th group (restaurants and hotels) went up by 2.36 percent on a yearly basis, while the last group (miscellaneous goods and services) saw an annual rise of 0.84 percent, the report concluded. — KUNA



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<u> Kuwait – Times</u>



BANKS SHOULDER RESPONSIBILITY Through training programs: KIBS

KUWAIT: Director-General of Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies (KIBS) Dr Ya'qoub Al-Refa'ei said yesterday the banking sector's program for training and employing the new graduates is a national pilot project that reflects the banks' commitment to their social corporate responsibility. The program came in response to an initiative by the Central Bank of Kuwait and is backed by the KIBS stakeholders with a view to building the capacity of new employees in the banking sector, he said. Refa'ei made the comments at a ceremony held by KIBS to mark the graduation of 28 participants in the fourth batch of the training program. He noted that the Institute made numerous achievements in terms of professional education, e-learning services, and capacity building, citing KIBS winning of the academic accreditation for its certificate from the British IFS University College. He added that the 28 graduates were selected from 143 candidates for the two-month training program. — KUNA



KUWAIT: A group picture of students who graduated from a training program organized by the Kuwait Institute of Banking Studies.



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with Arab women journalists' union members. — KUNA

MINISTER HIGHLIGHTS ARAB WOMEN JOURNALISTS' ROLE

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah lauded the role played by the Arab women journalists' union in highlighting women's issues in the Arab World. This remark was made by the minister during his recent meeting with the union's President - Kuwait branch -Raba'a Hussein Muki Juma'a.

Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah stressed his support to Kuwaiti women in all fields of

media by providing proper training and vocational rehabilitation. He wished success to all members of the union in their endeavors, pointing out that this newly established body will be a fundamental addition to women journalists in Kuwait.

The Arab women journalists' union is sponsored by the Arab League and its inception was announced officially in December 2015, in Cairo. The union aims at supporting women who work in print and broadcast journalism. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Some of the manuscripts on display. — KUNA

RARE MANUSCRIPTS ON DISPLAY AT KUWAIT'S NATIONAL LIBRARY

KUWAIT: The Kuwait National Library, in collaboration with the Georgian National Centre of Manuscripts, opened Tuesday evening the first exhibition for the Arab and Georgian manuscripts. The event, sponsored by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), is part of the celebrations of Kuwait Capital of Islamic Culture 2016, and is organized in cooperation



with the Georgian embassy.

The exhibition highlights "bright and exciting" pages in the history of the Arabs and Muslims, reflecting major features of the Islamic civilization, Director General of the Kuwait National Library Kamel Abdul-Jalil said on the sidelines of the opening ceremony. It features rare items from the Georgian National Centre of Manuscripts, located in the capital Tbilisi, including a multitude of works by Arab and Muslims scientists, as well as by pioneer Georgian calligraphers.

Abdul-Jalil stressed the library's eagerness to enhance Kuwait's status as a "Capital of Islamic Culture 2016" and reveal its openness to the world countries, in particular ones that own Islamic manuscripts. This "cultural openness is part of Kuwait's identity and heritage," he said.

Georgian ambassador to Kuwait, Roland Beridze said the event will contribute to efforts to bolster bilateral ties, since cultural activities constitute a major channel for convergence among nations.— KUNA

KUWAIT YOUTH INSPIRED BY JAPANESE MANUFACTURING

OSAKA: Young manufacturing professionals from Kuwait led by Dr Souhaila Al-Muttawa, faculty member of the Mechanical Engineering Department at Kuwait University, visited a comprehensive support hub for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) manufacturers in western Japan to learn about Japanese expertise.

The 11-member delegation, the first-ever Kuwait's group to visit Monodzukuri (Innovative Manufacturing) Business Information-center Osaka (MOBIO) located in Higashiosaka City, was impressed by the latest technologies and products on display in its permanent exhibit.

"I am pleased to see so many innovative ideas being shared in this manufacturing cluster," Tariq Al-Khonaini, a Kuwaiti manufacturing entrepreneur, said after the visit. "This hands-on visit to Japan is a great learning experience for all involved, much more can be gained from this visit than any other type of training program or lectures," said Meshari Al-Baqer, an engineer in Aqual Cool Water Company. Osaka Prefecture hosts more than 41,000 factories, the largest number in Japan. Established by the Osaka prefectural government in 2009. MOBIO is an integrated support facility to promote innovation and industry partnerships among SMEs' manufacturers.

According to Dr Muttawa, after initial recommendation by the Japanese Embassy in Kuwait, the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) has arranged the visit to MOBIO through their offices in Dubai and Osaka. The JETRO has recently launched an Industrial Tourism program to promote visits to manufacturing hubs, factory tours, and industrial museums in Japan. While in Osaka, the youth also visited the Entrepreneurial Museum of Challenge and Innovation to trace the growth of Japanese entrepreneurs from villages to the world stage. Many large corporations today started as small enterprises, such as Osaka-origin Panasonic and trading firm Itochu.

Their itinerary included a tour of the Disaster Prevention Museum, where they experienced an earthquake simulator, fire-escape training and other facilities. At the site, Refrigeration Industries Co. (Coolex) Safety Manager Khaled Yousry underlined the importance of applying new ideas gained in Japan in Kuwait's local factories and manufacturing sector. "Most of the time, simple solutions lead to the greatest impact,"Yousry added. — KUNA

How we see it

English Department*



<u>Kuwait Mimes</u>

FROM THE ARABIC PRESS

Al-Anbaa

الانياء Al-Anbaa **ARABS' IDOLS**

By Salah Al-Sayer

Al-Jarida

ccording to researcher George Kadar, the author of 'Pre-Islamic Arabian Gods', there were 360 idols around the Kaaba before Islam, with Hobal the greatest of them all. He also said that the Quraysh tribe manufactured, traded and exported idols to India. It was also said that Muawiya Ibn Abi Sufian was an idol merchant and that idols were brought to Makkah for people to purchase and take home. There was hardly a man from Quraysh who did not have an idol in his house to touch for blessings whenever he went in or out of the house.

The book also notes that Amr Ibn Ohaii Al-Khozaei was known as the 'father of idols' in Arabia and that he was the first to bring one from the Levant and place it in Makkah, ordering people to worship and respect it. The book also mentions that Hobal was the greatest of Quraysh idols and explains that all Arabian gods' names originated from three names - the moon, sun and Venus, considering this heavenly trinity as the nuclei of divinity for Semites, from whom monotheism originated.

Kadar explained that Arabian religious life in pre-Islamic periods was characterized by endless diversity of acts of worship and thought that celestial phenomena were acts that were no less worthy of worship than worldly and earthly phenomena. In ancient Yemen, the name Tho Samaei (Owner of the Sky) was very common.

Kadar's readers can notice that some names used to describe some ancient idols have become part of Allah's good and beautiful names after Islam, due to the divine meanings they have. These names include Al-Jabbar (the Compeller) Al-Hakeem (the Wise), Al-Aleem (the Knowing), Al-Hayy (the Alive), Al-Dayyan (the Judge), Al-Rahman (the Compassionate), Al-Sattar (the Protector), Al-Raheem (the Merciful), Al-Hadi (the Guider) and Allah. — Translated by Kuwait Times

INTERIOR MINISTRY READY TO APPLY CHILD PROTECTION LAW



tor that comply with law 6/2010 concerning KUWAIT: Interior Ministry work in the private sector. Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahd asked ministry secdecision before its release, which will be in a tors to prepare to implement the few days, adding that all labor departments child protection law when it becomes have collected the names of companies to be effective. Security sources said the included on the VIP list, which will be the first public security department has companies to benefit from the advantages and facilities begun cooperation with the family the decision provides. They said that there are certain rules disputes affairs department to discuss in the decision based on which the companies will be chochild abuse cases, as well as coordisen for the list, including complete compliance with the nating with the investigation departlaw and its rules, being of good repute, providing suitable ment which works with the technical

office on the categorization of cases

Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahd

to be recorded as misdemeanors or felonies, and deal with them confidentially. There is also coordination with investigators about the mechanism necessary to categorize a case and send it to the courts.

Meanwhile, the health ministry asked doctors in all hospitals to inform the child protection team at the hospital immediately when they suspect any violence, physical or emotional mistreatment, sexual abuse or negligence against children, so that the necessary procedures can be taken towards every case.

Health Ministry Undersecretary Dr Khalid Al-Sahlawi issued a circular to health zone directors, saying that the child protection team will inform the juvenile protection unit at the criminal detectives department to take the necessary action and receive information about maltreatment or negligence referred from the primary healthcare center. — Al-Rai and Al-Jarida

الانباء **NATIONS**

By Nermin Al-Houti

orals are among the attributes many poets of the Islamic and Arab civilization wrote about, and among those poems that we remember instantly when we mention morals are the words of the prince of poets Ahmad Shawqi: "Nations are strong with their morals - if these morals are gone, they are gone."

HAVE GONE

Today we do not have words about morals other than saying "nations are gone" - yes this is the situation of our societies and people, who now lack much of the meanings of morals. In our societies, the young do not respect their elders, and the elders do not show compassion towards the young. Credibility, honoring kinship and respecting relatives, helping the needy and other good manners our grandfathers called for and our fathers instilled have regressed, and regretfully, winds came by to uproot the seeds from their land and replace them with the seeds of grudges, envy and jealousy in our environment.

A reader sent me a complaint to give her advice. She is not married and does not have children, and she used to consider the children of her siblings as her own. The woman said in her letter: "Following the death of my parents, everybody used to call me during the early days, but after months went by, calls became scarce, then became nonexistent." This was not limited to her brothers and sisters, but also their children, who do not call her and do not ask about her. Her uncles and their children no longer call and only remember her during Eids, when she goes to visit them.

The strange thing in the woman's letter is that her entire family used an excuse for not asking about her, which is that when they see her, they ask: "Are you not out of town?" This is the excuse her family imposed on her to have a reason for not communicating with her, and considered her always "traveling," as if she "had left life," waiting for her actual death so she would leave their lives for real. The irony of those individuals is that when this woman is sick or undergoes surgery, and when they learn about it, their response is: "Why didn't you tell us?"

I wonder about you, as you are many in our society does the person who gets sick have to put an announcement about his illness? Why do not you call and ask? Our case today is not something new to society that is awash with materialism and interests and lacks mercy. We end with what we started, that "nations have gone."

— Translated by Kuwait Times

NBK SPONSORS ACK

year including educational initiatives, internships, activities, lectures for industryrelated seminars, as well as sponsorship related to certain ACK student activities





SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR

LAW-ABIDING COMPANIES

Development plan

Minister Hind Al-Subaih

have been resolved in the company's favor and all its workers should be working for it and not for others. About the facilities the selected companies will enjoy, the sources said the companies will be treated ????similar to categories

excluded from issuing work permits and small and medium size projects??????, like bringing workers from abroad according to area (one worker per five meters). They said the companies will be given greater facilities in processing transactions and expanding the use of the online portal, and process most transactions electronically without the need to go to the

المرشوان

contracts with the workers. They added that

they should be committed to transferring

employees' salaries monthly, and should not

have a file at the "disputes" department. If

they do have such a file, the complaint must

jobs for workers on their files and compliance with their specialized department. — Al-Jarida

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) sponsors Australian College of Kuwait (ACK). The sponsorship comes in line with NBK's vital role it plays in supporting all students, youths and educational initiatives. This sponsorship goes with NBK's support to ACK's activities and events for a whole

KUWAIT: High-ranking sources said the

Manpower Public Authority (MPA) board, head-

ed by Social Affairs and Labor Minister and

State Minister for Planning and Development

Hind Al-Subaih, is about to issue a ministerial

decision on 'VIP' companies in the private sec-

Sources said the MPA board is finalizing the

and events. Breif

Co-ops reject 5% profit share for governorates

News

KUWAIT: Chairmen of co-operative societies rejected a proposal to allocate five percent of profits for governorates. They said following a recent meeting that co-ops are owned by shareholders, arguing that the government has no right to allocate some of the profits to governors "who enjoy a specific budget allocated by the cabinet." — Al-Anbaa

Classes canceled

KUWAIT: A total of 3,000 students have withdrawn their registration for summer courses at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), General Director Dr Ahmad Al-Athari said. Meanwhile, 12,000 out of 17,000 students registered for summer courses have canceled registration in some classes they had originally registered for. As a result, some classes had to be closed because they could not meet the minimum number of students after many of them canceled their registration. This situation creates problems for many students who wish to sign up for certain courses but are forced to wait for the following semester after the classes are closed. — Al-Rai

No leaves

KUWAIT: State departments can hire bedoons (stateless) under an article under which the employees are unentitled to any leaves aside from annual and sick leaves, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) decided. This article pertains with seeking the services of non-Kuwaiti expertise for hire. The CSC had recently made this clarification to the Ministry of Education, indicating that an employee hired under this article is entitled to an annual leave equal to one day for every ten working days since his last leave, as well as a maximum 15 days a year of sick leaves. — Al-Rai

"NBK's sponsorship and support to ACK comes in line with the bank's customary and ongoing spirit of corporate citizenship as well as the vital role it plays in supporting educational initiatives," said NBK Public Relations Manager, Abdul Mohsen Al-Rushaid. "NBK always strives to empower youth to realize their potentials, providing different supportive opportunities."

Rushaid added "NBK has always considered supporting youth an essential part of its social and philanthropic outreach which comes in line with the bank's commitment to encourage a merit-based educational system that promotes the best and the brightest the country has to offer and rewards students for their hard work and excellence." From ACK's end, Dr Gad Elbeheri, ACK's Dean, went on to

add: "I am very excited about teaming up with such a reputable and well established bank like NBK. I believe that affording our students the chance to experience real life work through our internship program with NBK will not only enrich their exposure to the job market in Kuwait but will also enable them the chance to apply the practical skills they

have learnt with us at ACK and empower them to serve the community in which they live in."

NBK annually promotes a range of educational initiatives as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility. In addition to sponsoring student's clubs and universities, NBK offers many training programs including NBK Academy, Shabab program and the Summer Internship Program. The Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) has become one of the leading educational institutions in Kuwait, strongly contributing to the employment sector and continuing to produce knowledgeable, skilled and professional candidates for Kuwait's growing economy through its Bachelor's Degree and Diploma programs.



KUWAIT: Stephen M R Covey speaks during the seminar.



Stephen Covey with KIPCO Group executives.

Crime

Report

Teacher arrested for child abuse

KUWAIT: A video clip showing a teacher molesting a girl inside a house led to his arrest. The suspect, a 65-year-old Pakistani, gave private lessons in his house, where some girls were abused. A security source said a video clip of an elderly teacher harassing a girl who was in his house for private tuitions led vice detectives to investigate the case. The investigations led them to identify a suspect who works for a private school. The man has been living in Kuwait for 35 years. Detectives waited for him outside his house and arrested him. He confessed to abusing some girls. Detectives are investigating.

Thief overpowered

A citizen foiled the attempt of a thief who tried to mug him near a mall in Salmiya. The suspect begged him for forgiveness, but the citizen did not oblige and called police, who detained him at the police station. The suspect had attacked the citizen near his car and demanded his money, but the man overpowered him. — Al-Rai

KUWAIT: Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO) hosted Stephen M R Covey on his first trip to Kuwait. Covey is a renowned keynote speaker and advisor on trust and leadership and the author of New York Times Bestseller 'The Speed of Trust'. In collaboration with Franklin Covey Middle East, Covey held two sessions on the importance of trust; the first for KIPCO Group CEOs and their Deputies, and the second for leaders and high potentials at KIPCO and KAMCO Investment Company.

In his welcoming remarks, Samer Khanachet, KIPCO's Group Chief Operating Officer said: "At KIPCO, we invest in our current and future executives. We are delighted to welcome Covey, who is in Kuwait for the first time, to talk about ways in which we can each extend trust to others and support the development of our group leadership." Meanwhile, Covey, Co-Founder and CEO of Covey Link Worldwide said: "I believe that trust is 'the one thing that changes everything', and this is why it has

become an important competency in leadership today. In a fast-changing business environment, people need to continuously find ways to collaborate and partner, and this can only be made possible with trust. I



KIPCO HOSTS 'SPEED OF TRUST' SEMINAR BY STEPHEN COVEY

Stephen Covey with KIPCO-KAMCO group.

am delighted to be here at KIPCO to speak about this highly learnable skill."

In his sessions, Covey described trust as being 'the one thing that changes everything'. He emphasized three main ideas: Trust is an economic driver, not merely a social value; trust is the number one competency of leadership needed today, and is the currency of collaboration and partnering; and that trust is a learnable skill.





Netanyahu joins forces with Lieberman to expand govt Page 8

Congolese teacher brutally murdered in New Delhi

IS UNDER PRESSURE WITH TWIN ASSAULTS

BEIRUT: US-backed Syrian fighters and Iraqi forces pressed twin assaults against the Islamic State group yesterday, in two of the most important ground offensives yet against the jihadists. The operations to the north of IS' de facto Syrian capital Raqqa and near the jihadist-held Iraqi city of Fallujah are adding to pressure on the extremist group, which has seen territory under its control steadily shrinking in recent months.

The US-led coalition that launched air strikes against IS in Syria and Iraq in mid-2014 is providing air support on both fronts, as efforts intensify to dismantle the group's self-styled Islamic "caliphate" straddling the Syrian-Iraqi border. But there is deep concern for thousands of families in both cities, with fears civilians will be caught in the crossfire or used as human shields by the jihadists.

After the start of the Fallujah offensive was announced on Monday, Iraqi troops backed by pro-government militias have been advancing toward the city from surrounding areas. Vesterday, forces from Iraq's 8th Division bolstered by tribal fighters pushed forward from areas to its south, said Staff Major General Ismail Al-Mahalawi, the head of the Operations Command for Iraq's Anbar province. US-led coalition warplanes and Iraqi aircraft were providing support, Mahalawi said. In northern Syria, a Kurdish-Arab alliance also backed by coalition strikes was meanwhile pressing the jihadist group in its bastion province of Raqqa.

'Constant Air Strikes'

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), formed in Oct 2015, announced on Tuesday its push for IS territory north of Raqqa city, which is some 90 km south of the Syrian-Turkish border and home to an estimated 300,000 people. The SDF is dominated by the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) - largely considered the most effective independent anti-IS force on the ground in Syria - but it also includes Arab Muslim and Christian fighters. The SDF already has two footholds north of the city: the

The SDF already has two footholds north of the city: the border town of Tal Abyad and the smaller town of Ain Issa between Tal Abyad and Raqa city. Yesterday, SDF fighters cleared two fields that lie southeast of Ain Issa, according to a statement distributed to journalists. SDF spokesman Talal Sello told reporters the fighting was taking place in "rural areas. There is no street fighting". "There are no plans yet to liberate Raqqa city, except in a future campaign after this one, depending on the circumstances," he said. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said 10,000 to 15,000 SDF fighters were estimated to be taking part in the offensive. "There were constant air strikes on Raqqa by the coalition overnight," Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman said. Baghdad-based US military spokesman Colonel Steve Warren said Tuesday the US military would conduct air strikes to support thousands of SDF fighters, some of whom have been trained and equipped by US forces. If Raqqa falls, "it's the beginning of the end of their caliphate," Warren said.

The anti-IS coalition has set its sights on Raqa in Syria, as well as Fallujah and eventually IS's main Iraqi bastion of Mosul. Tens of thousands of civilians remain in all three

CLINTON EMAIL SERVER BROKE US GOVT RULES

NEW YORK: Hillary Clinton broke government rules by using a private email server without approval while U.S. secretary of state, an internal government watchdog said yesterday. The long-awaited report by the State Department inspector general was the first official audit of the controversial arrangement to be made public so far, and was also critical of department record-keeping practices before Clinton's tenure. It concluded that Clinton, now the frontrunner in the race to become the Democratic presidential nominee, would not have been allowed to use the server in her home had she asked the department officials in charge of information security.

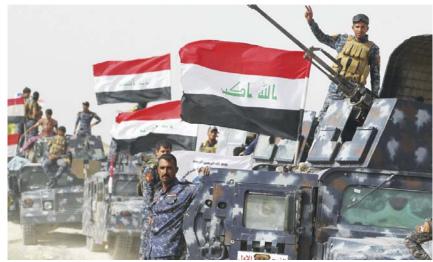
The report undermined Clinton's defense of herry: The report undermined Clinton's defense of herry: er. She said it was allowed and that no permission was needed, although she has since apologized for the arrangement. The report's highly critical findings included an account of State Department technology staff trying to internally raise concerns about the arrangement in 2010 only to be told to keep quiet by an official in Clinton's office. It immediately fueled Republican criticism of Clinton in an already acrimonious race. The report will also add to Democratic anxieties about voter perceptions of Clinton as untrustworthy and secretive.

Several other inquiries are continuing, including a US Justice Department investigation into whether the arrange-ment broke laws. The inspector general's report cited "longstanding, systemic weaknesses" with State Department records email record-keeping of some of her predecessors that failed to comply with the Federal Records Act. But it singled out Clinton for her decision to use a private server in her home in Chappaqua, New York, for government business, apparently without seeking authorization. "OIG found no evidence that the Secretary requested or obtained guidance or approval to conduct official business via a personal email account on her private server," the report said, using an abbreviation for the office of inspector general. The report said she should have discussed the arrangement with the department's security and technology officials. Officials told the inspector general's office that they "did not - and approve her exclusive reliance on a personal email would not account to conduct Department business." The reason those officials said is because it breached department rules and presented "security risks." When two low-er-level information technology officials tried to raise concerns about Clinton's email arrangement in late 2010, their supervisor in Clinton's office instructed them "never to speak of the Secretary's personal email system again," the report said. Their supervisor told them that department lawyers had approved of the system, but the inspector general's office said it found no evidence this was true. Brian Fallon, a Clinton spokesman, said the report rebutted criticisms of Clinton made by her political opponents. "Contrary to the false theories advanced for some time now, the report notes that her use of personal email was known to officials within the Department during her tenure, and that there is no evidence of any successful breach of the Secretary's server," he said in a statement. - Reuters

cities. Coalition planes dropped flyers over Raqa earlier this month urging residents to flee but IS has prevented residents from leaving. SDF spokesman Sello said IS' "use of civilians as human shields" was slowing the drive for rural territory and villages north of Raqqa city. Abdel Aziz Al-Hamza, a co-founder of the prominent Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently activist group, said IS was taking cover among civilians in Raqa city too.

Hamza, a co-founder of the prominent Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently activist group, said IS was taking cover among civilians in Raqa city too. "In a civilian building, you'll find two or three apartments for ISIS fighters," Hamza said in an interview with AFP, using another acronym for IS. "The civilians are besieged, they can't leave their city," said Hamza, who fled Raqqa in January 2014 and has been living in Germany. Rights groups have also appealed for safe exit for the estimated 50,000 civilians still inside Fallujah, which was seized by anti-government fighters in early 2014 and later became an IS bastion. With IS also facing increasing pressure in Syria from regime offensives backed by Russian air strikes, analysts say the group will struggle to hold on to the swathes of territory it seized in Iraq and Syria two years ago. The territory "is in the long run too big for (IS) to possibly hold," analyst Romain Caillet said. But the group, which has claimed a wave of deadly

But how analyst kornan canner sain. But the group, which has claimed a wave of deadly bombings and attacks in the West and across the Middle East, has shown it can continue to operate to horrific effect. On Monday, a spate of IS-claimed bombings in two regime-held cities in coastal Syria left 184 people dead, in what the Britain-based Observatory said were the deadliest bomb attacks in Syria's five-year civil war. — AFP



Page 11

Iraqi pro-government forces gather in Al-Shahabi village, east of the city of Fallujah, on Tuesday, as part of a major assault to retake the city from Islamic State (IS) group. — AFP



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EGYPT DEPORTS FRENCH JOURNALIST AMID CRACKDOWN

nalist without explanation yesterday, the reporter and his newspaper said, the latest move in an ongoing crackdown by President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi's government on freedom of expression and the media. The reporter, Remy Pigaglio, who worked for several publications including Catholic daily La Croix since 2014, was returning from vacation in France and prevented from entering Egypt on Tuesday. Pigaglio said he has a residency work permit and a press card, and was detained for 30 hours at the Cairo International Airport before being sent back to Paris.

<u> Kuwait & Times</u>

Authorities twice inspected photos on Pigaglio's mobile phone, confiscated his passport, and barred him from speaking with embassy officials and family until Tuesday evening, his newspaper said. He was held overnight in a cell at the airport. The French ambassador to Cairo tried to intervene on his behalf but did not manage to prevent

CAIRO: Egypt deported a French jour- the deportation, and is urging Egyptian led the 2013 military overthrow of the authorities to reconsider their decision, France's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. In Paris, Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault told reporters after a Cabinet meeting that he protested the move, calling his Egyptian counterpart and telling him he "couldn't remain indifferent to a situation that infringes the freedom of the press". Pigaglio told his newspaper just before departing on a plane that nothing was confiscated from him and that he wasn't treated badly. "I was not interrogated, and I never knew, and still do not know, why this decision was made to ban me from entering the territory," he said.

French journalists in Egypt demanded an explanation, saying in a note that the deportation was a sign of "authorities' growing repression of Egyptian and foreign media: surveillance, arrest, expulsion and detention". Journalists have been regularly detained, jailed, and prosecuted under the rule of Sisi, who Islamist Mohamed Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected president.

Foreigners working in a variety of fields have been denied entry to Egypt without explanation. Egypt was ranked 158 out of 180 countries in the 2015 Press Freedom Index, according to Reporters Without Borders, a freedom of expression advocacy group. In December, the Committee to Protect Journalists said Egypt was second only to China as the world's worst jailer of journalists in 2015.

Jail Terms Quashed

In an unrelated development, defense lawyers said a Cairo appeals court quashed five-year prison terms handed down on May 14 against 47 antigovernment protesters convicted of breaking a law that effectively bans street demonstrations. However, they said the court upheld the lower tribunal's decision to slap a fine of 100,000

pounds (about \$10,000) on each of the 47 protesters. The appeals court verdict was passed late Tuesday.

The 47 were among a total of 152 protesters convicted on May 14 of breaking the demonstrations law during protests on April 25 against the government's decision to hand over control of two Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia. The 152 were sentenced to prison terms ranging from two to five years; many were tried in absentia. Earlier this month, a new draft bill was submitted to Egypt's parliament on regulating the media.

Journalists say it would likely bring the demise of dozens of low-budget, online media outlets serving as refuge for young writers and liberal activists escaping government restrictions on freedom of expression. Awaiting approval by a parliament dominated by el-Sissi loyalists, lawmakers are also set to approve clauses that would ban all live video transmissions without permits. Insiders expect such permits will be

denied to non-state media.

European Union member states broadly back Sisi and continue to sell Egypt sophisticated weaponry under the rationale that the country needs the firepower to fight a growing insurgency by Islamic militants in the Sinai Peninsula. Egypt, they argue, remains a bulwark of stability in a volatile Middle East. But Sisi's harsh crackdown on critics has left thousands jailed and fanned doubts over his leadership, with many nations voicing concerns.

Close partner Italy has been particularly critical after an Italian doctoral student was found tortured to death after disappearing on Jan 25, a day that saw a massive police presence in Cairo, prompting accusations that Egypt's security services were involved. Italy has withdrawn its ambassador to Cairo over the case of Giulio Regeni and said Egypt was not being sufficiently cooperative in the investigation. Egypt denies its security services were involved in Regeni's killing. —AP

NETANYAHU JOINS FORCES WITH LIEBERMAN TO EXPAND GOVT

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu joined forces yesterday with a hardline nationalist who is set to become defence minister, forming a government considered the most right-wing in the nation's history. Avigdor Lieberman and his Yisrael Beitenu party will add five lawmakers to Netanyahu's previously waferthin majority if the coalition deal is given parliamentary approval as expected. Lieberman, who has spoken of harsh measures against Palestinian "terrorists", will take over the key role of defense minister after being sworn in.

The two men, who have in the past been bitter rivals, announced the deal at a ceremony at parliament, with Lieberman pledging to be "balanced" and saying he was committed to "responsible, reasonable policy". Netanyahu said that "we are joining hands now to march Israel forward." The move to hand the defense ministry to the 57-year-old hardliner has sparked deep concern among Israeli centrist and leftwing politicians, as well as among some of Netanyahu's Likud party colleagues.

Religious nationalists from the Jewish Home party already hold key cabinet positions in Netanyahu's government. Moshe Yaalon, a Likud member who resigned as defense minister on Friday and who has also served as armed forces chief, warned of a rising tide of extremism in the party and the country as a whole. Former Labour prime minister and defense minister Ehud Barak went further, saying Israel's government "has been infected by the shoots of fascism".

'Or You're Dead'

ism". Others say that Lieberman is above all a pragmatic politician who aspires to be prime minister one day, noting that he will face opposition from the security establishment if he seeks to carry out some of his most controversial ideas.

An example of his provocative style was recently on display in comments directed at Ismail Haniya, Islamist movement Hamas's leader in the Gaza Strip. Lieberman said he would give Haniya 48 hours to hand over two detained Israeli civilians and the bodies of soldiers killed in a 2014 war "or you're dead".

In 2001, the former nightclub bouncer advocated bombing the Aswan Dam in Egypt, accusing Israel's Arab neighbor of supporting a Palestinian uprising. The deal brings to a stunning conclusion weeks of speculation over Netanyahu's efforts to expand his government, which has held only 61 of the 120 seats in parliament since elections in March 2015. Netanyahu had earlier engaged in negotiations with Labour party leader Isaac Herzog to join the government before turning to Lieberman instead.

Death Penalty, Pensions

Besides Lieberman becoming defense minister and another member of his party becoming immigrant absorption minister, the government agreed to allocate approximately 1.4 billion shekels (\$363 million) to pensions of elderly Israelis. Lieberman, born in the ex-Soviet republic of Moldova, sought the arrangement to benefit immigrants from the former Soviet Union, his main electoral support base. He had also pushed for the government to institute the



ANKARA: President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan (center) chairs the meeting of 65th cabinet of Turkey at Presidential Complex yesterday. — AFP

ERDOGAN CHAIRS SYMBOLIC FIRST MEETING OF CABINET

President seeks to consolidate his powers

ANKARA: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yes- and bolster the presidency. Erdogan chaired sev- Turkey but it is not the only choice," he said at

terday personally chaired the first meeting of the eral cabinet meetings during Davutoglu's pre- the EU ministry. miership. But Turkish media reported that they will now be held at the presidential palace at least once a month.

The Palestinian leadership condemned Lieberman's move into the government. "The existence of this government brings a real threat of instability and extremism in the region," Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat told AFP, adding that the appointment would "result in apartheid, racism and religious and political extrem-

death penalty for Palestinian "terrorists," but Lieberman backed away from the demand in the talks.

A watered-down version is thought to have been agreed upon that analysts say is unlikely to significantly change current policy. There have been no executions in Israel since 1962.— AFP



JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (right) and Avigdor Lieberman, the head of hardline nationalist party Yisrael Beitenu, are seen during a ceremony in which they signed a coalition agreement yesterday at the Knesset, the Israeli parliament. — AFP

new Turkish cabinet, in a symbolic move showing his desire to exercise full control over the government and consolidate his own powers. The meeting at the president's huge palace in Ankara came a day after incoming Prime Minister Binali Yildirim, an Erdogan loyalist, disclosed his new cabinet line-up with most key ministers keeping their jobs. The Turkish constitution allows heads of state to chair the cabinet but this right was exercised extremely rarely by Erdogan's predecessors before he was elected president in Aug 2014.

A presidential statement announced the start of the first meeting of Turkey's 65th government, with images showing the ministers sitting at a vast table chaired by Erdogan and overlooked by a portrait of the modern Republic's founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. A technocrat and former transport minister, Yildirim is seen as a more pliant figure for Erdogan compared to outgoing premier Ahmet Davutoglu who stepped down after power struggle with the president.

Erdogan wants one of the priorities of the government to be implementing constitutional changes to create a presidential system that would enshrine his status as the Turkish number one. Yildirim, 60, has also made no secret of his enthusiasm for a system change in Turkey that would restrict the powers of the prime minister

'EU Not Only Choice'

Opposition parties have vehemently criticised Erdogan's aspirations for greater powers, with the secular Republican People's Party (CHP) leader repeatedly warning that the move risked bloodshed. "(Erdogan) says he will do everything. I said if you want to create such a system, you cannot do it without bloodshed," CHP leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu told the private NTV television. Explaining his comment he said: "We will take to streets (in protest) and you will try to kill us with your TOMA (water cannon trucks). What business do I have in politics if I cannot leave a better Turkey for children?"

One of the key changes in the new cabinet was diplomat-turned politician Volkan Bozkir's replacement by ruling party spokesman Omer Celik, an Erdogan loyalist, as EU affairs minister. Bozkir was a broker with Davutoglu of a controversial migrant deal with the European Union aimed at curbing the flow of refugees to Europe, an accord said to have sidelined Erdogan. In his first remarks after taking over the job from Bozkir, Celik called for an equal relationship with Brussels. "An EU perspective is important for

MHP Goes to Congress

The migrant deal comes in return for a series of incentives for Ankara, including visa-free travel for Turkish citizens to the passport-free Schengen area. But Turks are unlikely to enjoy visa exemption by the target date of the end of June because Turkey is obliged to comply with 72 criteria, including changes to its counter-terror laws. Ankara refuses to make any such changes while its army is in the throes of battling Kurdish militants in the southeast.

Erdogan had startled observers on Tuesday by saying the Turkish parliament would throw out legislation on the migrant deal if Turks do not receive the visa-free travel. Celik said Turkey would not accept any "double standards" in the fight against terrorism. One factor of uncertainty for Erdogan is the situation in the opposition Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), which also opposes the presidential system but whose leader Devlet Bahceli is facing a revolt by party dissidents. Bahceli said yesterday that the party would hold an extraordinary congress on July 10 where his leadership - which dates back to 1997 - could be challenged. A change of leadership in the party headed by the 68-year-old Bahceli could attract more votes and undermine Erdogan's plans for greater powers. — AFP

ISRAELI ARMY PROBES OF SOLDIERS A FIG LEAF

JERUSALEM: A leading Israeli rights group said yesterday it will stop seeking investigations of Israeli soldiers suspected of abusing Palestinians, arguing that internal military probes have failed to deliver justice and effectively help whitewash half a century of occupation. In a rebuke to the military justice system, the Israeli group B'Tselem said military investigations are deeply flawed and create a "mere semblance of justice".

Hagai El-Ad, the group's executive director, said B'Tselem would stop cooperating with a system it cannot trust. "The system's real function is cover-ups," he said. He said once the group reached that "painful conclusion ... we found it morally unacceptable for us to continue working in the same way." The Israeli military said B'Tselem's stance was biased and did not reflect reality. In a statement yesterday, it insisted the military was "committed to the rule of the law and its legal system acts with utmost professionalism and thoroughness".

The military said all its law enforcement decisions are subject to external review, including that of the attorney general and the Supreme Court. It said it would continue to investigate "any and all claims of misconduct, including those from B'Tselem". B'Tselem said that since the late 1980s, it has demanded investigations in hundreds of cases, including of Israeli soldiers suspected of killing, injuring, beating or using Palestinians as human shields or damaging their property.

Since the outbreak of the second Palestinian uprising in 2000, B'Tselem has called for investigations in 739 cases, the group said. In a quarter of the cases, no investigation was launched and in nearly half, the investigation was closed without further action, the group said. Charges were brought in only 25 cases, and 13 were referred for military action. In addition, 132 cases are still being processed, and investigators could not locate 44 complaints, the group said.

B'Tselem said investigations have been slow and perfunctory and that soldiers' accounts are routinely accepted at face value, without supporting evidence. The group was vague about what alternatives Palestinians now have, although El-Ad said it would still help Palestinians seek justice through other means. "We will continue to investigate cases, interview witnesses, trying to collect data to the best of our professional ability and to publish that information to the public," he said. "Whether that is going to be successful or not, time will tell," he added. — AP

TIGHT SECURITY FOR JEWISH PILGRIMAGE IN TUNISIA

DJERBA, Tunisia: An annual Jewish pilgrimage to Africa's oldest synagogue got underway yesterday in Tunisia where security forces were deployed heavily to ward off potential jihadist attacks. Small groups of pilgrims including families with children began arriving in the searing heat at the Ghriba synagogue on the island of Djerba in southern Tunisia for the Lag BaOmer festival. Organizers expect up to 2,000 people to visit over two days, despite heightened worries about security following a string of jihadist attacks in the North African country.

Police and soldiers were out in force while a helicopter flew overhead. The island's Jewish district Hara Kbira was cordoned off and visitors were required to undergo searches. The number of pilgrims visiting the synagogue has fallen sharply since a suicide bombing claimed by Al-Qaeda struck Ghriba just before the 2002 pilgrimage, killing 21 people. Before then the event attracted as many as 8,000 people. Believed to have been founded in 586 BC by Jews fleeing the destruction of the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem, the Ghriba synagogue has long been a destination for pilgrims, especially for Jews of Tunisian descent.

Around 1,500 Jews live in Tunisia, down sharply from an estimated 100,000 before the country won independence from France in 1956. Pilgrims visit the tombs of famous rabbis, pray, light candles and write wishes on eggs. As usual, many pilgrims prayed for the health or careers of their relatives. "My wife was seriously ill and, with the grace of God, the year after visiting Ghriba there was a great improvement," said French pilgrim David Slama. "Since then we have come to offer thanks." Traditionally participants have come from Europe, the United States and Israel, but the number of foreigners attending has diminished considerably since the 2002 bombing. Tunisia's tourism industry is also reeling from attacks last year claimed by the Islamic State group on the National Bardo

Museum in Tunis and a beach resort that killed a total of 60 people, all but one of them foreigners. Israel this month advised its citizens to avoid visiting the country because of a "high threat level against Jewish targets". Last year's Lag BaOmer passed without incident, despite a similar warning from Israel. —AFP



DJERBA, Tunisia: Chief executive of Liberal Judaism in the United Kingdon Rabbi Danny Rich prays at the Ghriba synagogue on this Tunisian resort island of Djerba during the annual Jewish pilgrimage yesterday. — AFP

<u> Kuwait 🗠 Times</u>



BEDFORD HILLS, New York: In this April 12, 2016 photo, Jennifer Dumas watches her daughter, Codylynn, play in her crib inside her room at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. — AP

SHOULD MOMS DO TIME WITH THEIR NEWBORNS?

BEDFORD HILLS, New York: Jennifer Dumas sits on a sofa, her smiling 6-month-old girl on her lap. The room is full of bright toys and children's books. A rainbow-colored activity mat is on the floor, and Winnie the Pooh is painted on the walls. It looks like any other nursery, except that there are bars on the windows and barbed-wire fences outside the austere brick building. New York's maximum-security Bedford Hills Correctional Facility is one of the very few prisons in the US that allow inmates and their babies to live together, a century-old approach that not all corrections experts agree is the best way to deal with women locked up while pregnant.

Mothers who get such a chance say it's better than the alternative: In most prisons, babies born behind bars must be given up within a day to a relative or foster care. "Before I came here, I thought it was a terrible idea. A baby in prison? No, thank you," the 24-year-old Dumas said as her daughter, Codylynn, gleefully rocked in a bouncy seat. "But it's actually wonderful to be able to spend this much time with my little girl. ... I'm blessed to be able to go through this."

Nobody thinks raising babies behind bars is ideal, and some worry that the children could be scarred by the experience. But some advocates say that the practice allows mother and child to develop a vital psychological attachment, and that the parenting classes and other practical instruction help the moms stay out of trouble when they get out. About 112,000 women are in state and federal prisons, mostly for drug or property crimes. And an estimated 1 in 25 are pregnant when they enter, according to the nonprofit Sentencing Project. But there are no national statistics on the number of babies born to inmates.

Of the more than 100 women's prisons in the US, there are eight nurseries. While nearly 100 countries, including South Sudan and France, have national laws that allow for incarcerated mothers to stay with their babies, the US is not among them. Dumas was three weeks pregnant when she was arrested last year, along with her boyfriend, on charges they tried to steal a safe packed with \$32,000 in cash and jewelry. Her baby was born just days after she took a plea bargain on attempted burglary charges that sent her to Bedford Hills, about an hour north of New York City, for up to two years. She is now among 15 carefully screened new mothers allowed to serve up to 18 months of their sentences in a nursery unit that includes a communal playroom stocked with toys and mother-and-child rooms equipped with a single bed and a crib. The walls are painted with rainbows, fluffy clouds and jungle and barnyard scenes. The nursery currently has 16 babies, including a set of twins. During workday hours, the babies are taken across the street to a daycare center, where they are watched by staff and other inmates while the moms go to school or vocational programs.

Prison

But there are constant reminders it is a prison. Armed officers patrol the unit. And the moms know their babies can be taken away for such infractions as fighting or even leaving a toy in a crib while the baby sleeps. "It's still scary," Dumas said. "At any given point if you do what you're not supposed to your baby could get sent home." Some women have been dropped from the program from time to time for breaking the rules, but corrections officials and advocates said they could not recall any instances in recent years in which a baby was harmed. Still, some argue that prison should be reserved for punishment and that women should instead consider putting their children up for adoption. "The focus should be on what's best for the baby," said James Dwyer, a law professor at the College of William & Mary who has written a paper on the topic. "There is skepticism about these women being adequate parents."—AP

CLINTON SLAMS TRUMP FOR CHEERING HOUSING CRASH

Anti-Trump protests turn violent

WASHINGTON: Democrat Hillary Clinton, seeking to dampen Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's growing appeal with working-class voters, on Tuesday accused him of having cheered on the 2008 housing market crash. Clinton's campaign released an ad with audio that the presumptive Republican nominee recorded in 2006 for his now-defunct Trump University venture. Trump, a billionaire real estate developer, in remarks on a "bubble burst," said: "I sort of hope that happens because then people like me would go in and buy" property and "make a lot of money."

INTERNATIONAL

Clinton's campaign and her surrogates used the recording to argue that she would take better care of the US economy. Clinton is seeking to blunt the inroads that Trump has been making with voters in crucial states such as Florida and Ohio. Trump defended his comments on Tuesday evening at a rally in Albuquerque, New Mexico, saying buying when the housing market was down showed smart dealmaking skills that he would bring to the White House. "I'm a businessman, that's what I'm supposed to do," Trump said. "I feel badly for everybody. What am I going to do? I'm in business." The New Yorker also impersonated Clinton on the campaign trail, who he said "screams", and said other big names in business did similar deals as he did before the housing crisis. Trump has never held elected office and often touts his history as a businessman in response to accusations that he is unprepared to assume the presidency.

Clashes

Anti-Trump protestors and police clashed outside the Albuquerque convention center on Tuesday when protestors tried to storm the center, calling for an end to the Trump rally. The crowd threw burning T-shirts, bottles and rocks at police, while police on horseback and officers wielding clubs used pepper spray and smoke grenades to try to disperse the crowd.

Albuquerque police said on Twitter that protestors threw rocks and bottles and a door to the facility appeared to have been hit with something. Police said the only arrests so far had been inside the rally, where Trump was interrupted multiple times by protestors. "Several #APB officers are being treated for injuries as a result of being hit by rocks. At least one subject arrested from the riot," Albuquerque police said via Twitter early yesterday. The protesters, several of whom waved Mexican flags, chanted expletives about Trump. Some also waved signs with expletive-laden anti-Trump slogans in Spanish. Most of the protesters left before midnight, police said.

Opinion polls in key states show Clinton, the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination, and Trump in a tight race ahead of the Nov 8 US presidential election. Nationally, Trump has been rising in polls to pull roughly even with Clinton. US Senator Elizabeth Warren, a Democrat who is a favorite of financial reformers, bashed Trump in prepared remarks released ahead of a speech in Washington on Tuesday. Trump's 2006 comments, she said, amounted to rooting for "people to get thrown out on the street."

"The rest of us were horrified by the 2008 financial crisis," Warren said in the comments. "But Donald Trump was drooling over the idea of a housing meltdown - because it meant he could buy up a bunch more property on the cheap." Warren also criticized Trump for saying in a Reuters interview last week that the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial oversight law, enacted in response to the crisis, made it hard for bankers to operate. "Let me find the world's smallest violin to play a sad, sad song," Warren said. "Can Donald Trump even name three things that Dodd-Frank does? Seriously, someone ask him." Trump did not directly respond to Warren's comments on Tuesday, but he called her a "total failure" as a US senator during the rally.



ALBUQUERQUE: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump yells at a protester during a rally at the Albuquerque Convention Center on Tuesday. During the rally, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee was interrupted repeatedly by protesters, who shouted, held up banners and resisted removal by security officers. — AP

MEXICO FAMILIES WAIT FOR NEWS AS GRAVE EXHUMED

TETELCINGO, Mexico: Anguished relatives are standing by as experts dig up a mass grave with more than 100 bodies buried by authorities in Mexico, where morgues are full due to surging violence. Relatives with missing loved ones have gathered since Monday in the central town of Tetelcingo, waiting behind a security cordon for the operation to empty the two pits, 10 m deep. Guillermina Sotelo, whose son has been missing for nearly four years, is one of those hoping for closure from the week-long operation. "It's an injustice. They should not have been thrown (into a pit) as if they were animals," she said.

The pit dug by authorities in Tetelcingo, a town in Morelos state about 100 km south of Mexico City, was discovered in March 2014. It reflects the government's struggle to deal with the explosion of violence and the number of murder victims, which climbs by the day. Morelos has been one of the Mexican states hardest hit by drug violence plaguing the country, including kidnappings and murders. As many as 28,000 people are thought to have gone missing in Mexico in the past decade, according to estimates by rights groups and the United Nations. The families of missing victims were outraged to learn about the mass grave. They demanded an inquiry that led to the exhumation. The work has been slow to start. Relatives objected to the use of an excavator, arguing that it could damage corpses and prevent the bodies from being identified. Morelos state prosecutor Javier Perez said the bodies were buried in a mass grave for "public health reasons."

In November, he had warned that public morgues were running short of space. Mexican authorities are permitted to use mass graves, but they must meet legal requirements including forensic analysis. The investigation into the burial pit in Tetelcingo will determine whether authorities followed protocol in this case.

Faked Signatures

Maria Concepcion Hernandez, whose son Oliver Wenceslao Navarrete was kidnapped and murdered in May 2013, has slammed authorities' handling of the grave. She brought the existence of the mass grave to public attention after an official told her that her son was buried there after procedural irregularities involving "falsified" signatures in the paperwork. Her son's body was exhumed in Dec 2014. Video shot by the family showed that the young man's corpse was buried under dozens of other bodies. That violated international protocol, said Roberto Villaneuva, one of the experts taking part in the exhumation. According to the protocol, "in mass graves bodies must be separated from each other to allow them to be claimed" by relatives, said Villaneuva, director of a program for victims at the Morelos State Autonomous University. Hernandez said there were 150 corpses in the grave wrapped in plastic, but state officials say there are only 116. They have DNA records for 88 bodies, but 28 others remain unidentified. Criminal gangs "can make people disappear in one state and abandon their bodies or bury them in graves in other states," said Javier Sicilia, father of a young man who was murdered in Morelos. "So naturally the families believe that their relative could buried anywhere."—AFP

Job Opportunity

Battlegrounds

Clinton surrogates from Ohio and Florida held a conference call with reporters about Trump's housing statements. Her campaign hosted related events in Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Iowa, Colorado and Nevada, which will all be battlegrounds in November's general election. "How could Trump possibly champion the collapse of the housing market and our economy?" US Representative Tim Ryan of Ohio said on the call. Clinton is still fighting on two fronts as she seeks to wrap up her primary battle with Democratic rival Bernie Sanders, a US senator from Vermont.— Agencies

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US SHOOTER FACES DEATH

WASHINGTON: The man accused of gunning down nine African American churchgoers in South Carolina last year will face two death penalty trials, after federal prosecutors announced Tuesday they would seek capital punishment. Dylann Roof, 22, allegedly joined an evening Bible study class at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, then shot participants with a .45-caliber Glock handgun. Three people survived the shooting. He has been indicted for the killings in both state and federal court. It is not yet clear when the federal trial will begin.

"Following the department's rigorous review process to thoroughly consider all relevant factual and legal issues, have determined that the Justice Department will seek the death penalty," US Attorney General Lynch said in a statement. "The nature of the alleged crime and the resulting harm compelled this decision." In a separate filing in US District Court in Charleston, federal prosecutors listed several aggravating factors they said justified execution.

Roof "has expressed hatred and contempt toward African Americans, as well as other groups, and his animosity towards African Americans played a role in the murders," read the seven-page filing entered by Assistant US Attorneys Julius Richardson and Nathan Williams. The document also noted Roof "demonstrated a lack of remorse" and "targeted men and women participating in a Bible study group at the Emanuel AME Church in order to magnify the societal impact."—AFP

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<u> Kuwait Times</u>

INTERNATIONAL

ABOARD THE MS AQUARIUS: The sun somewhere," says Christian Bahlke, the misbeats down on a flat sea as a gentle breeze blows up from the Libyan coast but the Mediterranean idyll is soon to be shattered for the crew of migrant rescue ship the MS Aquarius. Just after dawn the first call sounds around the bridge: An overcrowded dinghy is in difficulty 90 minutes away and the one-time German coastguard patrol boat is being sent to its aid.

"We are going to take on a full load today," predicts Alexander Moroz, the Belarusian captain of the vessel chartered by the charities SOS Mediterranee and Doctors Without Borders (MSF) to help the international search and rescue operation in the waters between Italy and Libya. The skipper's instinct proved right: Tuesday was a busy day. The Aquarius was one of 23 vessels deployed to help stricken migrant boats and by nightfall the Italian coastguard had counted 3,000 people rescued, bringing the total to 5,600 over the course of 48 hours. On the bridge, SOS Mediterranee's rescue team get ready for action. Deployed since the end of February, the ship has already saved more than 1,000 lives but the crews rotate for missions of three to six weeks and many of those on board are here for the first time. "You can never have enough experience to be ready for everything, and everyone has to start sion chief. An experienced 59-year-old seaman, Bahlke has found a way of combining that experience with his desire to do something in response to the migrant drama. Just after 10:00am the crew gets a first glimpse of the boat they have been sent to help, a tiny sliver of white on a horizon of a vast expanse of blue.

'Here there is life'

Another boat has already distributed life jackets and provided first aid to a seriously sick infant, a two-year-old boy from Cameroon who has had no adequate nutrition for three weeks and is suffering from dehydration and a lung infection that is causing the MSF doctors concern. Soon the Aquarius's lifeboat returns from its first sortie with 15 other children, some of them very young. They are taken to a room reserved for minors where staff attempt to comfort and calm them as they wait for their mothers, who will be the priority for the lifeboat's next shuttle. The barefoot women arrive looking exhausted, a little dazed as they are taken onboard. One greets everyone with a relaxed, happy air, another cries in silence.

The men are the last to be brought to safety, some of them very weak. They have to be found places on the bridge. Franck



AT SEA: Migrants watch the sea from the rescue ship 'Aquarius' yesterday after a rescue operation of migrants and refugees off the Libyan coast. — AFP

Kameni, a 29-year-old from Cameroon, cuddles his 11-month-old son Josue. In a few words he recounts the ordeal they have endured-being forced from place to place at the hands of people traffickers over the course of several months in Libya. "Here there is life. Finally we are men again," he says before being interrupted by the roar of an Italian navy helicopter sent to evacuate the sickest boy. His condition

is now critical. Strapped to a stretcher and hooked up to a portable drip, the child is bound for the medical unit on board the Italian aircraft carrier Cavour.

Crushed by exhaustion

A little later the helicopter returns to pick up the infant's mother and a weary calm descends on the Aquarius. Crushed by exhaustion, the migrants crash out wherever they can find a space. Italian midwife Angelina Perri checks on the children. Mary Jo Frawley, a Californian nurse, dishes out tablets for sea sickness. Like many of the MSF team, both women have already spent time in crisis zones from Sudan to Nepal via the Ebola clinics of West Africa. On the bridge, the captain is firing up the engine. The Aquarius has got new instructions from the coastguard control centre in Rome: pick up migrants saved in the morning by a tug boat from an offshore oil rig. As the day has progressed, the sea has picked up and now the little tug is being buffeted around and getting the lifeboat near it is a complex job, fraught with danger. The transfer will take hours.

Once again there are many women and children among the rescued. All of them from West Africa or the Horn of Africa. All of them physically and mentally close to collapse. The Aquarius crew are sweating like never before: by 7:30 pm there are 385 passengers on board, the biggest human cargo the boat has ever collected. "We're full up," the captain tells the Coastguard and soon a new map is up on one of his screens showing the route to the Sardinian port of Cagliari. The destination allocated from Rome is two days away: for the men, women and children on board, two days to a new life. — AFP

BRITAIN AND EU IN FACTS AND FIGURES

LONDON: Money is at the heart of many a battle and the referendum on whether Britain should stay in the European Union or quit is no exception. Voters are being hit with a blizzard of statistics from the "Remain" and "Leave" camps, often produced selectively to boost their side of the argument. Here are some of the facts and figures being disputed in the run-up to the June 23 vote:

Contribution to EU budget

"Leave" campaigners claim it is £350 million (\$510 million, 455 million euros) a week. But that is a gross figure that does not include the rebate famously won by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in 1984. With the rebate stripped out, the figure is £280 million a week based on 2014 data, according to lain Begg, a research professor at the London School of Economics university's European Institute, in a study entitled "So how much does Britain pay the EU?" In 2015, Britain contributed an estimated £17.8 billion to the EU budget, or £12.9 billion after the rebate, according to a parliamentary briefing paper.

the Migration Observatory of Oxford University. The rise is due to the EU taking in eight Central and Eastern European states in 2004, including Poland, but in the more recent financial crisis, immigrants from euro-zone countries like Spain and Italy also headed to Britain.

2015 to three million people, according to

The pro-Brexit Justice Secretary Michael Gove claims that if Britain stays in the EU, more than five million immigrants may arrive over the next 15 years, putting "unsustainable" pressure on the health and education systems. The projection assumes Turkey, Albania, Serbia and Montenegro join the EU by 2020.

Prime Minister David Cameron, who supports Turkish accession, said Sunday it would be decades before there was the prospect of this happening. Meanwhile Britons are also on the move and settled around Europe. According to United Nations figures, 1.3 million Britons lived in the rest of the EU in 2013, of which 300,000 live in Spain, 250,000 in Ireland and 200,000 in France.

Trade

The EU as a whole is by far Britain's biggest trading partner. In 2015, 44 percent of Britain's exports went to other EU states, from which it imported 53 percent of its goods, according to government figures



MONROVIA: Lucy Bradlord from Bridge Internationals (center) chats with pupils in Monrovia. — AFP

'GIVE US A YEAR': HIGH STAKES IN LIBERIA EDUCATION REFORM

pulled out, while "Leave" campaigners say British money would be better spent directly by the government. Britain is the 10th biggest net contributor proportional to the size of its economy of the 28 members, according to 2014 figures from the European Commission.

Brussels subsidies

subsidies, notably to the agriculture and sci-

entific research industries. "Remain" cam-

paigners say this support would go if Britain

In return, Britain receives some £6 billion of

EU immigration

Immigration from the EU is proving to be one of the key battlegrounds of the campaign. The total number of EU migrants living in Britain doubled between 2004 and

Jobs

The British government says three million jobs are directly or indirectly linked to trade with other EU countries. The government says the figure is based on the assumption that "the share of UK employment linked to trade with the EU is equal to the share of total UK value added (GDP) generated in the production of goods and services exported to the EU". — AFP



LUTON: Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron delivers a speech to EasyJet employees at the aviation company's Luton Airport hangar in Luton, England. David Cameron is campaigning to remain in the European Union ahead of the referendum on June 23. — AP

VIOLENCE HITS FOOD PRICES AND PRODUCTION IN NIGERIA

only recently returned to his farm in central Nigeria, nearly three months after attacks by Fulani herdsmen killed seven villagers, destroyed 250 homes and forced survivors to flee. "Nothing is left for us either on our farm or in our village after the attack," he said in Adagbo, a stone's throw from the Benue river that forms the border between Benue and Nasarawa states. "The attackers destroyed all our farms and the yields. We have nothing to sell or eat now."

More than 20 villages populated by mainly Christian Agatu farmers were attacked by the marauding cattlemen, according to community leaders. Unconfirmed reports say up to 500 people were killed. Homes, churches, mosques, grain stores and land were ran-

OBAGAJI, Nigeria: Anyebe Peter has sacked or destroyed. But beyond the cost to lives and property, the violence along the river and in other central states has exacerbated rising food prices that are increasingly having an impact across the country.

> "After harvesting we normally take our rice to processing mills in Abakaliki (southeast) and Kaduna (north) before we sell in Lagos and southern states," said one youth leader in Adagbo. "But we have nothing to eat now let alone to sell. We're famished and don't have any money. Our only source of income has been hampered by the killings." Fears of fresh attacks have forced many Agatu farmers to stay away and with no one to plant crops, the fields will go fallow. With less produce to sell, already high prices are climbing further. — AFP

MONROVIA: An expensive privatization project aimed at shaking up Liberia's creaking education system has sparked fury in a nation ravaged by civil war and the Ebola outbreak, but others say it could help turn around failing schools. For the new school year, the Liberian government plans to roll out a public-private partnership involving 120 primary schools, costing an initial \$65 million-the equivalent of more than three quarters of the entire education budget. In 2013, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf branded Liberia's education system "a mess" requiring a complete overhaul, after all 25,000 high school students sitting state university entrance exams failed. At the other end of the school age range, more than two thirds of children do not attend primary school, according to the UN.

In addition, a 2013 school census report counted only 15,000 primary school teachers for an estimated 675,000 enrolled students aged 6-11. The pilot scheme, involving around a dozen education providers, notably the Bridge International Academies chain popular in Kenya and Uganda, will be extended to the entire primary sector if successful. The Bridge International method involves a teacher reading lessons from a tablet to classes of 50 or 60 with a heavy emphasis on rote learning. The same tablet is used to track class attendance and pupil performance-hard to manage in a country where few have access to electricity, say critics.

But Shannon May, the company's American co-founder, has seen its model catch on in many poor communities, beginning in Kenya and quickly spreading to Uganda and Nigeria. "Give us one year. Not many people will take on that challenge. But we believe in Liberia. We're willing to be brave," May told AFP in a recent interview. She said Bridge International, backed by the likes of Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and Microsoft's Bill Gates, was ready to tackle the challenge."We're willing to take the risk and say 'we are going to make your teachers great'," Shannon said.

'iPad by candlelight'

However, Liberian teachers are close to mutiny, unwilling to be forced into the Bridge International mould. "It will create more harm to our already suffering kids and parents," said Mary Mulbah, acting president of the National Teachers' Association of Liberia (NTAL). "Only two percent of the population has access to electricity. How will you bring an iPad to these kids who only study on candlelight?" The United Nations' Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Kishore Singh, has branded the plan "completely unacceptable".

For teachers, the government's refusal to provide adequate funding for schools is to blame for the low level of education. NTAL secretary general Sam Johnson says the government has failed in terms of supervision and financial support. Most schools were inaccessible by road, and promised textbooks never arrived, according to Johnson. Teachers complain that even

now they are often left without pay for long periods, while earnings can be as low as \$200 a month. And Jonah Nyenpan of the United Civil Society for Educational Dialogue, a grouping of Liberian education NGOs, accused the government of passing the buck rather than dealing with the roots of the issue. "The problems here are lack of government willingness to adequately fund schools," he said.

'Cautiously optimistic'

Experts say that while poverty and government policy are both holding pupils back, the quality of teaching in Liberia also falls far short, making a private option that works-however limited-more attractive than a broken public system. Economist Justin Sandefur, of the Washington-based Center for Global Development, has studied the Bridge International model and others like it in several African nations. "I'm cautiously optimistic that they could make significant improvements within a year," he said, believing "the only way is up".

Sandefur believes the most striking difference of the pilot was the introduction of managerial oversight in a sector that until now has been unable to discipline failing schools, teachers or pupils. While the pilot project will not alter the current employment conditions of teachers or create private contracts, they can be reassigned if they are found to be underperforming. Sheldon Yett, the UNICEF representative for Liberia, said a lack of teacher training and high level of absenteeism were hampering quality education. "Children are not learning what they should be learning and not enough children who should be in school are in school," he said, adding that it was vital that the government should maintain a large stake in the process. — AFP

ERITREA LEADER AFWERKI **BLAMES FOREIGNERS** FOR REFUGEE EXODUS

NAIROBI: Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki has claimed the exodus of youth to Europe is a deliberate policy fomented by foreign powers to weaken the country, in a speech released yesterday. The hardline regime is accused of jailing thousands of political prisoners while refugees from the repressive Red Sea state have in recent years made up one of the largest contingents of people risking the dangerous journey to seek a new life in Europe.

But the 70-year-old ex-rebel Marxist leader said in a speech Tuesday to mark 25 years of independence that the 5,000 Eritreans who risk their lives to flee the country every month according to the UN were leaving because they were encouraged to do so. "The greatest historical threat to Eritrea's arch-enemies being the Eritrean people, 'human trafficking' was employed to disperse and weaken Eritrea's human capital," Isaias said, in the speech released by the Ministry of Information.

"This policy was given paramount priority under the rubric of 'granting asylum status' to Eritreans. The campaign was formalized with the official blessing of the US president." Eritrea split from Ethiopia in 1991 after a three-decade independence war, which saw Eritrean rebels battling far better-equipped Ethiopian troops which were backed first by Washington and then by the Soviet Union. Victory in May 1991 was followed by an independence referendum two years later.

'Economic sabotage'

He also blamed the woes of the isolated

Horn of Africa nation on deliberate policies to undermine its economy, and said the past quarter century had been "sadly a narrative of incisive hostility against the sovereignty and independence" of Eritrea. "Economic sabotage is further resorted to on a constant basis, with the aim of creating poverty and starvation to instigate crisis in the country," Isaias said, criticizing the nations that block Asmara's demands that its expatriates pay a two percent income tax via its embassies.

The expatriate taxes that are collected, along with gold, copper and zinc mines, are one of its few sources of foreign income. With an annual per capita gross national income of \$480, Eritrea is one of the world's poorest nations, according to the World Bank. "Various subterfuges are also conducted by Washington to paralyze and destroy the mining industry and discourage foreign investment and development assistance," he added.

Eritrea's media is ranked below North Korea as worst in the world for press freedom by Reporters Without Borders.

But Isaias said the problem Eritrea faced was the "psychological campaigns and media demonization" of the country, with "suffocating measures to prevent objective media portrayal of the reality in Eritrea". Isaias led the rebel army to victory and has remained in power without an election ever since. Speaking in front of a military parade in the national sports stadium, he made no mention of stepping down from power or of elections. He ended the speech by shouting "victory to the masses!" — AFP

<u> Kuwait – Times</u>

INTERNATIONAL

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016

IS 'FALSELY CLAIMING' **BANGLADESH ATTACKS**

DHAKA: Islamic State is trying to ride a wave of religious radicalization by falsely claiming a spate of killings in Bangladesh, a government minister said, adding there was enough evidence implicating domestic militant groups. Analysts say that as Islamic State loses territory in Iraq and Syria and its finances get drained, it may be trying to build affiliates in countries such as Libya, Egypt and Bangladesh for jihadists to launch attacks locally and cheaply.

But Shahriar Alam, Bangladesh's state minister for foreign affairs, told Reuters in an interview that no local or foreign agency had found any presence of Islamic State in the country. "Those claims (of killings) are definitely false," Alam said on Tuesday. "But what we've agreed with our partnering countries is that we'll not argue over it - that sends a wrong message." His comments came just days after a EU delegation said there was an unprecedented threat to human rights and freedom of expression in Bangladesh and urged Dhaka to tackle the challenge to protect its international reputation.

Since February last year, the Muslimmajority South Asian nation of 160 million has seen the killing of at least 26 people, including five secular bloggers, a publisher and two gay right campaigners. Al-Qaeda has claimed some of the attacks, while Islamic State has claimed 17 killings since first taking responsibility for murders in Bangladesh in September last year, according to US-based monitoring service SITE. Alam said it was an attempt to "ride the wave" without being involved at all. "We know from Syria that there is no such common ground for Islamic State and Al-Qaeda, they can't be on the same platform," he said. "But the funny thing is that in some instances both have claimed responsibility here."

The government has said that two groups, Ansarullah Bangla Team and Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, were behind the attacks as part of their campaign to establish a sharia-based Muslim state. "Islamist violent extremism has gained so much ground (around the world)," Alam said. "The question is whether Bangladesh is vulnerable. Bangladesh has always been vulnerable because of the low level of education, lack of employment. But till date, the global radical organizations, the terrorist groups, haven't been able to make any presence in Bangladesh, let alone make it their base." — Reuters



NEW DELHI: This file photograph shows India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (fourth right) as he stands with African Heads of State and Leaders during the India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi. African nationals in the Indian capital live in a "pervading climate of fear and insecurity", a group of African ambassadors has said, after the brutal murder of a Congolese teacher sparked allegations of racism. — AFP

INDIA TO MAKE PANIC BUTTONS 'A MUST' ON ALL PUBLIC BUSES

to be fitted on all India's public buses to curb sex attacks on women, the transport minister said yesterday, more than three years after the fatal gang-rape of a student on a bus in Delhi. The transport ministry said it would issue a formal order after June 2 making the emergency measures on public buses a must.

"To ensure the safety of women after the unfortunate incident, we have decided to make it mandatory for public transport buses to install emergency panic buttons, CCTV cameras and GPS-enabled vehicle tracking devices," Nitin Gadkari told reporters in New Delhi. He was referring to the brutal attack on a woman in December 2012 as she returned home from the cinema. The assault triggered outrage and mass protests across India, leading

NEW DELHI: Panic buttons will have to an overhaul of its rape laws but high numbers of assaults persist. Rajasthan is the first state in India to have such buses, with 20 vehicles fitted with the new safety measures.

Panic buttons are placed above the front doors which, once pressed, send an emergency message to a police control room that can then view live footage of the bus interior. Gadkari said all public buses would have to be modeled the same way, while manufacturers must ensure new buses come equipped with the facilities. The government's latest anti-sex attack move follows its announcement last month that all mobile phones sold in India would have to have a panic button from the start of 2017. The button would allow users to call emergency services by pressing a single key on their phone.— AFP

AFRICANS IN INDIA LIVING 'IN FEAR' AFTER KILLINGS: ENVOYS

CONGOLESE TEACHER BRUTALLY MURDERED IN NEW DELHI

NEW DELHI: African nationals in the Indian capital live in a "pervading climate of fear and insecurity", a group of African ambassadors has said, after the brutal murder of a Congolese teacher sparked allegations of racism. The Group of African Heads of Mission said they may recommend their governments not to send students to India until safety conditions improve, following a string of what they say are unpunished racial attacks. In the latest case, Masunda Kitada Oliver, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was allegedly bludgeoned to death in New Delhi on Friday night by three Indian men after an argument over an auto-rickshaw.

"Given the pervading climate of fear and insecurity in Delhi, the African Heads of Mission are left with little option than to consider recommending to their governments not to send new students to India, unless and until their safety can be guaranteed," Alem Tsehage Woldemariam, Eritrean ambassador and dean of the group said in a statement Tuesday. "Several attacks and harassment of Africans in India have gone unnoticed without diligent prosecution and conviction of perpetrators," he said. In an embarrassment for New Delhi, the envoys said they would not participate in Africa Day celebrations being organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations on Thursday.

They said the African community was in mourning over Oliver's death and asked for the event to be postponed. Oliver had completed his postgraduate study in India and was teaching at a private institute in the capital. Police have arrested two of the three men accused in the attack but deny the murder was racially motivated. India's foreign ministry condemned the killing but said not every attack on an African national should be regarded as racist. "Thousands of African students continue to pursue their education in India without any issues," a foreign ministry spokesman said in a statement.

Junior minister VK Singh will meet mission heads and students to assure them of their safety, the spokesman said, without specifying a date. In 2013, a Nigerian national was killed by a mob in western Goa state, with local politicians later comparing Africans to "cancer". Meanwhile in January, an Indian mob beat a Tanzanian woman and her male friends in Bangalore and set their car ablaze before dragging them off a bus, in an apparent revenge attack for an earlier road accident. Delhi's former law minister was also accused in 2014 of harassing African women after he led a vigilante mob through an area of the capital, accusing the women of being prostitutes.— AFP

ASUS recommends Windows.



HAIRATAN: Afghan border police personnel stand guard on the Afghan side of the Afghanistan-Uzbekistan bridge in Hairatan. — AFP

NO WORK, NO TRADE ON EMPTY SILK **ROAD IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN**

HAIRATAN: Some days there is no train at all crossing the bridge to Uzbekistan, yawns a customs officer in Hairatan, formerly a teeming Silk Road border town whose decline is a barometer of economic depression in Afghanistan's north. "The camel driver is at work; the caravan is being readied," proclaimed the mystic poet Rumi, born in Balkh province, where Hairatan is located and through which passes one of the routes of the ancient trade network. "He asks why we travelers are asleep."

Eight centuries later, sleep has won in Balkh, and Hairatan sees few travelers-a situation attributed by local entrepreneurs and politicians to insecurity and the departure of foreign troops. "Three years ago, you had to wait five or six days for a boat to become free and bring our goods across the river Amu Darya from Uzbekistan to Afghanistan. There was a real bottleneck," recalls importer Mohammed Afzal Joya. "Today there is no longer any boat," he laments in Mazar-i-Sharif, the largest city near Hairatan.

"If two freight trains cross the bridge in a day, this is Peru!" adds the chief of the Hairatan rail yard, who does not wish to give his name. Behind him, trucks marked with Cyrillic characters wait for a hypothetical load. Hairatan, the only crossing between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan, is an ominous bellwether of economic activity in northern Afghanistan. It is here, and at four other entry points on the borders with Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, that construction materials, flour and household products are exported from Central Asia to Afghanistan.

The Afghan economy is in bad shape, its labor market struggling to absorb a young and often unskilled workforce. According to the Labor Ministry, 22 percent of the workforce is unemployed, while 16 percent are in odd jobs. This is in part because, apart from saffron, some cotton and grapes, war-torn Afghanistan does not produce much else. And the little it does export is hit with "prohibitive taxes" levied by Central Asian countries, according to the vice president of

the Balkh Chamber of Commerce, Mir Abdul Wahab Delsouz. He accuses Afghanistan's neighbors of "keeping our goods in stations or ports" for fear of competition. In the end, the overall picture is alarming. "Trade between Central Asia and Afghanistan fell by 60 percent (in 2015) compared to 2010," says Delsouz.

The bleak economic prospects have driven thousands of Afghans to make the perilous journey to Europe. The depression is felt in a Mazar-i-Sharif market, where Hasibullah sells imported flour from Kazakhstan, via Uzbekistan and Hairatan. "Customers no longer come as they did three or four years ago. People are out of work. They used to buy 50 kilograms at once, now it's more like four," he complains.

Entrepreneurs and political leaders agree that the end of the NATO combat mission in Afghanistan in late 2014 sounded the death knell for the local economy, which had experienced a rebirth with the fall of the Taleban regime in 2001. According to Hajji Walid Akbarzada, a building materials importer, development aid has dried up with the departure of the military. "Before, foreigners had many assistance programs and were building their facilities. But they left and there are no more projects," says the entrepreneur, who brought iron bars and metal products from Uzbekistan.

Turnover fell 70 percent in the last three years and he had to lay off 20 of his 26 employees. "After 2014 and the NATO withdrawal, the economic situation of the Afghans went down, especially in Balkh," says Delsouz. "Their incomes went down by 50 percent. The situation is especially dire for students. The government cannot absorb all of those who enter the job market and offer them jobs." Added to this is insecurity. The 80 kilometer asphalt road leading from Hairatan to Mazar is safe, but the Taleban, who began their annual spring offensive last month, are clashing with Afghan forces throughout the country and especially in the east, where the Islamic State group is also trying to gain a foothold. —AFP

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INTERNATIONAL

BOMBER AND BOMBED: US, JAPAN BOUND BY ATOMIC LEGACY

TOKYO: Japan and the United States for "America as a whole". have forged one of the world's most enduring-some would say improbablerelationships in the seven decades since American atomic bombs laid waste to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing 200,000 people. The two nations fought four years of searing, brutal conflict across the Pacific during World War II, culminating in the catastrophic destruction of the two cities in August 1945. But despite the unprecedented carnage, the fiercest of enemies somehow became the best of friends. Barack Obama is set to become the first sitting US president to visit one of the bomb sites when he journeys on Friday with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Hiroshima, hallowed ground to Japanese but, for more than 70 years, a no-go zone for 11 of his Oval Office predecessors.

There will be no shortage of sensitivities, symbolism and emotion on display, including difficult and contentious questions that have long eluded precise answers: Were the bombings war crimes because they targeted civilians? Or did they save lives by bringing the conflict to a speedy conclusion? But Japanese rancor toward Americans will be hard to find. "I have no feeling of hate," said Hiroshima survivor Toshiki Fujimori, who blames then-president Harry Truman for ordering the use of the weapons and says he has no ill will

'Tolerant occupation'

The road to the current relationship started not just in the violent culmination of World War II-the "cruel bomb" described by Japanese Emperor Hirohito in his surrender speech-but in what came after. Seven years of occupation spearheaded by General Douglas MacArthur followed defeat, including the imposition of a US-penned constitution that famously stripped Japan of its right to wage war.

But it also ushered in monumental social changes, including the nascent empowerment and liberation of women through the granting of suffrage. "I think this occupation could be said to be both tolerant and peculiar," said Fumio Matsuo, a veteran journalist who survived an American air raid as a child. "It was a form of occupation which perhaps had no precedent or similar model in any other country in the world," added Matsuo, who in 2009 published the presciently titled book, "The Day President Obama Offers Flowers at Hiroshima". That all, of course, does not mean that the bombings have been forgotten or glossed over.

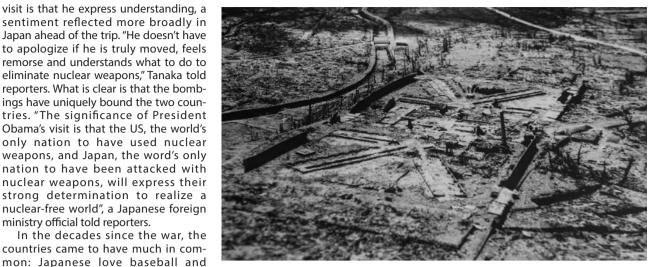
'Convergence of interests' Terumi Tanaka, a Nagasaki survivor, said what is most important in Obama's

to apologize if he is truly moved, feels remorse and understands what to do to eliminate nuclear weapons," Tanaka told reporters. What is clear is that the bombings have uniquely bound the two countries. "The significance of President Obama's visit is that the US, the world's only nation to have used nuclear weapons, and Japan, the word's only nation to have been attacked with nuclear weapons, will express their strong determination to realize a nuclear-free world", a Japanese foreign ministry official told reporters.

> In the decades since the war, the countries came to have much in common: Japanese love baseball and Hollywood while Americans have taken to sushi and anime. But on a higher plane there is "a convergence of interests, a convergence of values, two societies that for the most part acknowledge and see the world through similar lenses", said Brad Glosserman, an expert on Japan-US relations at think tank Pacific Forum CSIS in Honolulu.

Occasional tensions

Still, as in most relationships, there are occasional tensions. The biggest crisis came in 1960 with massive demonstrations against a revision to their mutual



NAGASAKI: Photo shows a detail of an aerial picture taken by the US military after the second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. — AFP

security treaty, scuttling a planned visit to Japan by then-president Dwight Eisenhower. Trade disputes in the 1970s and 1980s sparked ugly rhetoric and imagery in the US depicting a resurgent, unrepentant Japan winning by economic means what it failed to achieve in war.

The eve of Obama's visit is no exception. An American civilian working at a US military base was arrested last week over the death of a local woman in Okinawa, where many US bases are concentrated.

Abe, who is under pressure to press Obama on the issue on the sidelines of a Group of Seven summit just ahead of the Hiroshima visit, has said he feels "strong outrage" over the case. Glosserman stressed that the countries are blessed with "dedicated cadres" of politicians and bureaucrats who make things work, especially in times of just such trouble. "They know how to deal with crises and they have a stake in resolving these in positive ways," he said.— AFP

S KOREA COURT REJECTS SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

SEOUL: A lawsuit filed by a prominent gay film director and his partner seeking legal status for their same-sex marriage was rejected by a South Korean district court yesterday in the first case of its kind. Movie director Kim Jho Gwang-Soo and his longtime partner Kim Seung-Hwan, held a wedding ceremony in Seoul in September 2013 and submitted their marriage registration form to their local authority-only for it to be rejected. While homosexuality is not illegal in South Korea, same-sex marriage is not recognized and the country remains deeply conservative about matters of sexual identity. The couple challenged the decision with a lawsuit filed in July last year, but the ruling yesterday sided with the local authority.

"Circumstances have changed concerning marriage ... but unless there is separate legislation, a same sex union cannot be recognized as marriage under the existing legal system", the Seoul western district court said in a statement. "Related laws, including the constitution and civil law, are premised on the notion of a conjugal bond meaning a union involving different sexes,"

it said. The two Kims are the most high-profile gay couple in South Korea and the lawsuit they filed over their marriage licence was the first of its kind. "We regret the court decision ... but we did see it coming," Kim Seung-Hwan said, adding that the couple intended to appeal the ruling.

The couple's lawyer Ryu Min-Hee said the lawsuit had argued that civil law should be viewed through a "gender-neutral" prism that upheld equal rights provisions in the constitution. "When in doubt, all laws should be interpreted in a constitutional way," she said. "We're disappointed but we're not done yet," she added. Ryu's legal team had always acknowledged that the likelihood of a district court judge declaring same-sex marriage legal was extremely slim. Gay and transgender South Koreans live largely under the radar in a country where many still regard homosexuality as a foreign phenomenon. But gay rights campaigners were buoyed by the US Supreme Court ruling in June last year that made same-sex marriage legal throughout the United States.—AFP



WORLD LEADERS GATHER

IN JAPAN AHEAD OF G7

ISE-SHIMA: US President Barack Obama Abe. Abe was also due to meet Obama, whose arrived in Japan yesterday for a Group of Seven summit, kicking off a historic visit that will also take him to the atomic-bombed city of Hiroshima. Obama was joining other leaders from the club of rich democracies for a gathering set to be dominated by the lacklustre state of the global economy. Heads of state and government from Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and host Japan were also making their way to Ise Shima, a mountainous and sparsely populated area 300 kilometers southwest of Tokyo, whose mainly elderly residents rely chiefly on tourism and cultured pearls.

Security was tight across the region, with thousands of extra police drafted in to patrol train stations and ferry terminals, and to direct traffic on the usually quiet roads during the two-day meeting. Tokyo said it was taking no chances in the wake of terror attacks that struck Paris and Brussels in recent months. Dustbins have been removed or sealed and coin-operated lockers blocked at train and subway stations in the capital and areas around the venue site. Authorities said they will be keeping a close eye on so-called "soft targets" such as theatres and stadiums. However, unlike in many other rich democracies, protests were unlikely to cause much of a security headache.

One left-wing demonstration focused mostly on Japan's domestic politics attracted just a handful of largely elderly protesters. Britain's David Cameron, whose country's referendum next month on continued membership of the European Union was likely to figure prominently on the summit agenda, arrived late afternoon at the main international airport near Nagoya. Cameron was set for a one-on-one meeting later in the day with summit host, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo

visit to Hiroshima on Friday threatens to overshadow the summit itself.

Obama will become the first sitting US leader to travel to the city, the site of the world's first nuclear attack, on August 6, 1945. Obama has spent the last few days in Vietnam, where on Tuesday he urged the communist authorities to embrace human rights and abandon authoritarianism. France's Francois Hollande and Germany's Angela Merkel were expected to arrive on Thursday morning. The meeting will also be joined by Italy's Matteo Renzi and Canada's Justin Trudeau. A small crowd of well-wishers gathered within sight of the helicopter landing pad to which leaders were being ferried, hoping for a glimpse of one of the stars of the geopolitical stage.

Exquisite calligraphy

The leaders will spend Thursday morning at Ise Jingu, a huge shrine complex that sits at the spiritual heart of Japan's native Shintoism. In line with the animistic religion's traditions, the buildings are regularly replaced, but the shrine is believed to have occupied the same spot for more than 2,000 years. The sputtering global economy was expected to take centre stage in the formal talks which begin on Thursday afternoon, although divisions were likely to remain over whether the world should spend or save its way out of the current malaise. Although China, the world's second largest economy, will not be present, it looks set to loom large over discussions. Japan and the US are keen to corral support for a growing pushback against Beijing's territorial assertiveness in the South China Sea. The G7 will also discuss the spectre of Islamist terrorism, with France's Hollande keen to address the issue after a brutal year that saw France hit twice by jihadists.—AFP

HO CHI MINH: People line up the streets to catch a glimpse of US President Barack Obama on his way to the airport at the end of two-day visit to Ho Chi Minh City yesterday. —AFP

VIETNAM WON'T PURSUE MILITARY **BUILDUP IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA**

PM SAYS PRIORITY IS PEACE, NOT MILITARIZATION

HANOI: Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc said yesterday his country was not pursuing a military buildup over the South China Sea and would work with allies to seek peaceful solutions to disputes, with no use of force. Speaking in a rare interview with some foreign journalists after a visit by US President Barack Obama, Phuc said the South China Sea dynamic had grown in complexity and needed regional friends and strategic partners to ensure harmony and avoid any disruption to maritime trade.

His comments came two days after Obama removed a decades-old lethal arms embargo on Vietnam, allowing the communist country's military to engage closer with its US counterparts and procure American defense technology. "Vietnam does not pursue military buildup, but Vietnam pursues protecting our sovereignty, firstly with peaceful measures, diplomatic measures and even justice measures," Phuc said.

"Vietnam is a country that loves peace and Vietnam resolves international and regional issues based on international laws ... in the spirit of not using force and not using force to threaten each other." Phuc made no reference to China during the interview and it was unclear what he meant when he used the word "justice" as a means of preserving Vietnam's sovereignty claims. He took office last month and is a member of a leadership triumvirate that has the difficult task of maintaining the Communist Party's close ties with its Chinese counterpart, while under pressure from its people to stand up to Beijing's growing maritime assertiveness.

'No conflict'

The end of the US arms embargo, one of the last vestiges of the Vietnam War, could be a big boost to what experts say is Vietnam's pursuit of a deterrent by modernizing its forces to defend a long coastline and forge stronger security ties. But Phuc said the priority was bringing Southeast Asian states and partners like Japan, to agree to de-escalate tension peacefully and not by "using force to threaten". "I repeat this again - no conflict," he said.

"Vietnam does not have a militarization policy but we have necessary measures of working together with other countries ... to ensure peace, freedom of navigation, aviation and commerce." Phuc hailed as a success Obama's threeday visit, which ended yesterday. He said Vietnam's leaders and people had welcomed him with affection and friendship. "He himself said the welcome of Vietnamese people has touched his heart," he said. "(He was) very moved and very thankful." Asked about whether Vietnam's political system and conservative values were conducive to realizing its economic ambitions, Phuc said his country's pursuit of trade liberalization showed communism was not an obstacle. "Our country is a country led by the

Communist party, but our country is a country following a market economy," he said. "We can't say Vietnam is a conservative country. A market economy must be dynamic, it can't be conservative." He said a key priority for Vietnam was managing its spiraling public debt and keeping the ratio below 65 percent of gross domestic product while maintaining annual growth of 6.5-7 percent for the next five years.— Reuters

BEIJING LINES UP DIPLOMATIC BATTLE GROUPS OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

BEIJING: The disputed rocks and reefs of the South China Sea are more than an ocean away from the landlocked African nation of Niger. But that has not stopped the strife-ridden, largely desert country of 17 million people adding its voice to a growing diplomatic chorus that Beijing says supports its rejection of an international tribunal hearing on the waters. Others apparently singing from the same hymn sheet include Togo, Afghanistan and Burundi. They are among the latest foot soldiers in "a public relations war" by China aimed at questioning international maritime rules, said Ashley Townshend, a research fellow at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney. The tribunal case, brought to the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague by the Philippines, is highly technical and hinges on such issues as how international law defines "islands". Niger joined the ranks of "over 40 countries that have officially endorsed China's position" that the issues should be settled through direct negotiations, not international courts, said Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying.

That, she added, was just the start: "There will be more and more countries and organizations supporting China."

Similar announcements have become an almost daily ritual at China's foreign ministry media briefings, as it steels itself for what is widely expected to be an unfavorable ruling by the tribunal that could come within weeks. Beijing claims sovereignty over almost the whole of the South China Sea, on the basis of a segmented line that first appeared on Chinese maps in the

1940s, pitting it against several neighbors.

But it is also a party to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Manila accuses Beijing of flouting the convention and has called for the tribunal, set up in 1899, to rule on the row. Beijing insists that the court does not have jurisdiction, arguing that any claims to the contrary are politically motivated, and has boycotted the proceedings. "By cobbling together a group of nations that share its views, Beijing's aim is to show that there is a genuine debate over the legality of the Philippines' legal challenge," Townshend said. "It is trying to build a counter-narrative to push back against the mainstream international consensus on maritime law."

Not very successful

Despite requests by AFP the foreign ministry in Beijing did not provide a full list of China's backers on the issue. But other than its main diplomatic partner Russia, few heavy hitters have come out in support, with Beijing's neighbors-many of them unnerved by its increasingly assertive behavior-notably absent. Many of those disclosed so far are poor African countries, and Bonnie Glaser, a senior Asia advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, described the names as "mostly composed of smaller, inconsequential nations". In some cases the claimed support has been short-lived. The South Pacific island nation of Fiji and EU member Slovenia both quickly denied Chinese foreign ministry statements that they were backing Beijing, with Ljubljana saying: "We do not take sides on the issue."—AFP



SHIMA CITY: Anti-G7 summit protesters stage a demonstration march in Shima city, Mie prefecture yesterday. Japan is on high-alert ahead of a Group of Seven summit with thousands of police on the streets of Tokyo and fanning out across the country as authorities boost security to unprecedented levels.— AFP

<u> Kuwait – Times</u>



AFGHAN TALEBAN APPOINT NEW LEADER

Continued from Page 1

"The new leader's appointment is a good opportunity for the Taleban to return to peace talks and rebuild their country," Afghan presidential spokesman Dawa Khan Menapal told AFP."If they reject peace talks they will face the same fate as Mansour."

But "the status quo remains unchanged" after Akhundzada's appointment, Taleban expert Rahimullah Yousafzai told AFP. "I don't foresee any shift from Mansour's policies. He is unlikely to negotiate peace with the Afghan government." Other observers say Akhundzada, who is from Kandahar, is seen as more of a spiritual figurehead than a military commander. "Even if he favors peace talks, he is unlikely to proceed without consensus within the supreme council" where many vehemently oppose negotiations, said analyst Amir Rana. "Akhundzada enjoys some moral supremacy within Taleban ranks but he will be more of a symbolic leader than a functional leader," he added.

Rana stressed that his deputies will likely play a more active role, with Haqqani overseeing the military side and Yakoub the political side. The US killing of Mansour showed that Washington has at least for now abandoned hopes of reviving the direct peace talks between Kabul and the Taleban, which broke down last summer. It marked a significant shift for Washington, highlighting a new willingness to target the group's leaders in Pakistan and risk retaliatory attacks against struggling Afghan security forces.

Saturday's drone attack, the first known American assault on a top Afghan Taleban leader on Pakistani soil, sent shockwaves through the insurgent movement which had seen a resurgence under Mansour. He was killed just nine months after being formally appointed leader following a bitter power struggle upon confirmation of founder Mullah Omar's death.

Omar died in 2013, but his death was kept secret for two years, with Mansour issuing statements in his name - a revelation that helped fuel internal opposition and splintered the group into rival factions. Akhundzada faces a similar challenge in unifying Taleban ranks. A breakaway faction led by Mullah Rassoul rejected Akhundzada's appointment, saying he was selected inside Pakistan without any broad consultation with field commanders in Afghanistan.

The Taleban's supreme council held emergency meetings that began Sunday in southwest Pakistan to try to find a unifying figure for the leadership post. Taleban sources told AFP council members were lying low and constantly changing the venue of their meetings to avoid any fresh air strikes. The Taleban said yesterday's suicide attack in Paghman district near Kabul, which the UN condemned as "cowardly", was in revenge for the execution of six Taleban-linked inmates. The executions earlier this month were approved as part of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's new hardline policy against the insurgents after a brazen Taleban attack in April killed at least 64 people. - AFP

UKRAINIAN PILOT RETURNS HOME TO HERO'S...

Continued from Page 1

"But we have been able to prove that there are no insurmountable tasks and we've managed to free the hostage from the jaws of Mordor," he added, referring to a savage land in the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

Iryna Gerashchenko, a senior lawmaker in the Ukrainian parliament who flew to Russia to bring Savchenko home, said her return had been in the works for several weeks and that the presidency had not wanted to make any premature announcements. "There was a strong probability that the operation might fail," she said on Facebook.

Earlier yesterday, two alleged Russian soldiers, Aleksandr Aleksandrov and Yevgeny Yerofeyev, sentenced by Ukraine to 14 years in prison for fighting in the rebel-held east, arrived in Moscow. Ukraine said the men were in Russian military intelligence, but Moscow denied they were serving

army officers, insisting they had guit the military before heading to fight as volunteers. Poroshenko pardoned both the men. Putin meanwhile said the relatives of the killed Russian journalists had asked him to pardon Savchenko. Putin was shown on television meeting Yekaterina Kornelyuk and Marianna Voloshina, the widow and sister of the journalists and thanking them for their request.

Western officials greeted Savchenko's release. US Secretary of State John Kerry said the move was "an important part of fulfilling Russia's commitments" to a series of truce agreements in eastern Ukraine. "Finally!" Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaite said on Twitter. Glory to Ukraine," she said, invoking the battle cry of Ukrainian protesters who toppled a Kremlin-backed president in 2014. EU foreign affairs supremo Federica Mogherini hailed Savchenko's release as "long awaited good news," while German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said he was "happy and relieved". — AFP

INDIA COUNTING COST OF REDUCED GULF...

Continued from Page 1

of portfolio investment outflows put the rupee in a tailspin, there are still risks of external shocks. Chances of US interest rates going up, Britain voting to leave the European Union, and China's economy worsening all pose risks for emerging markets like India. Portfolio investment is typically the most volatile source of inflows, but last year's \$18 billion drop demonstrated how unreliable remittances can be. Taking note, an RBI panel warned last month that the likely impact on remittances should be factored into any monetary policy decisions.

Though oil prices have recovered more than 50 percent since late January, the rally could easily peter out before the labor market tightens in the Gulf once again. Marie Diron of Moody's Investors Service warned there could be worse to come for remittances. "We have highlighted the risks of a marked fall in remittances as the Gulf economies' long-term adjustment to lower oil prices has

Having covered 50 percent of India's trade deficit in the previous two years, remittances only covered 40 percent in 2015/16 even though the trade gap had shrunk significantly. "Essentially an improvement in the trade balance is being offset by worsening private transfers," said Pronab Sen, country director for the UK-based International Growth Centre's India program.

On balance, of course, India has benefited massively from cheap crude over the past two years. It halved the oil import bill, cooled inflation and improved public finances, all of which helped the RBI to cut interest rates. Economists expect a balance of payments surplus close to \$25-30 billion for 2015/16, as foreign direct investment inflows into the world's fastest growing major economy remain robust, and foreign exchange reserves stood at \$361 billion on May 13.

All of which makes lower remittances a far smaller headache for India than for its neighbors - Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Meantime, down in Kerala, Joseph has sold his house and cleared his debts. He plans to build a



shipwreck of an overcrowded boat of migrants off the Libyan coast. At least seven migrants have drowned after the heavily overcrowded boat they were sailing on overturned, the Italian navy said. The navy said 500 people had been pulled to safety and seven bodies recovered, but rescue operations were continuing and the death toll could rise. The navy's Bettica patrol boat spotted 'a boat in precarious conditions off the coast of Libya with numerous migrants aboard,' it said in a statement. — AFP

Yemen talks 'closer' to agreement

Continued from Page 1

Ban outlined his proposal in a letter to the Security Council just before Ould Cheikh Ahmed was to report to the council's 15 members.

"While both sides have committed to reaching agreements in Kuwait, there remain deep differences between the two sides which will need to be overcome in order to achieve a successful outcome," Ban wrote. Ban proposed expanding the staff of the UN peace mission to Yemen and moving it to Amman from New York to intensify the mediation. The bigger UN team would provide technical expertise to the Yemeni parties on a range of issues, in particular on ways to shore up a ceasefire in force since April 10 that has led to a decrease but not a halt in attacks.

"The nationwide cessation of hostilities remains extremely fragile, and requires urgent additional support from the United Nations," wrote Ban. An upsurge in violence could "undermine the Kuwait talks and derail the progress towards greater stability and security," he added. Council members were to decide on Ban's proposal by today.

Ould Cheikh Ahmed said discussions on Tuesday centered on "various military and security issues including withdrawals and troop movements". "We are now working on overcoming various obstacles and addressing specific details of an implementation mechanism," he said. The apparent progress comes after Foreign

the parties have to make hard choices and compromises," the diplomat told AFP, adding that he was "very optimistic" that a deal could be reached. "We have not seen this momentum towards peace in the past one and a half years... a roadmap plan has been laid down... and it has to work," he said.

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016

The main sticking point in the talks has been the form of government to oversee a transition. The Houthi rebels and their allies have demanded a unity government. The government delegation insists that the legitimacy of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi must be respected. The government has also demanded that rebels implement an April 2015 Security Council resolution demanding their withdrawal from the capital and other territory they have seized since 2014.

To overcome this problem, the UN envoy has proposed a "national salvation government", the Western diplomat said. The proposed government "would be formed on a consensual and inclusive basis and in accordance with the legal references, and would only replace the current government once Sanaa and key government institutions are not under the control of non-state actors," he said.

Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdulsalam warned that if no fair solution was reached, the rebels would form the government in Sanaa. "Yemenis are awaiting a fair solution and if it fails, anti-aggression national forces must fill the vacuum by forming a government to serve the people and confront challenges,' Abdulsalam said on Twitter. The rebel delegation met late Tuesday with the ambassadors to Yemen of the United States, Britain and the European Union and called for the formation of a "consensus executive authority" in Yemen.— Agencies

only just started," said Diron, a senior vice president in the smaller home and start a business with what money he's rating agency's Sovereign Risk Group.

got left. — Reuters

MUNICIPALITY BILL PASSED AS MPS SLAM...

Continued from Page 1

MP Saadoun Hammad said the draft law contains many loopholes as it penalizes citizens for construction violations and not engineering offices or contractors.

Meanwhile, the Assembly approved a letter from the head of the budgets committee calling to assign the Assembly public funds protection committee to probe suspected violations in the 2014/2015 budget of Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA). Commerce and Industry Minister Yousef Al-Ali said that the finance minister has already appointed a neutral committee to investigate the issue, but several MPs insisted that the committee is actually not neutral and was formed to cover up the violations instead of exposing them.

The Assembly also paid warm tributes to former veteran MP Hamad Al-Jouan, who died last week. Jouan was a member of parliament in 1985 and 1992. MPs praised him for being a strong fighter against corruption.

Also, Minister of Public Works Ali Al-Omair defended the awarding of the KD 1.32 billion airport expansion project to a Turkish-Kuwaiti alliance, saying that all legal and financial issues were taken into consideration. But he said the contract has not been signed yet. Omair said that the contract was evaluated rationally and in case of any shortcomings, the project will be taken away from the contractor.

Minister Abdulmalek Al-Mikhlafi said on Monday that the government stood ready to make concessions for the sake of peace.

A Western diplomat familiar with the talks said they had made important progress. "We are in a stage where

KUWAIT TO SIGN \$1BN DEAL FOR MUTLAA...

Continued from Page 1

The South Mutlaa City contract will cover construction of a road and other infrastructure and be funded by the Kuwaiti government from its own reserves, Naser Khraibut, director of planning at the country's Public Authority for Housing Welfare, told reporters on the sidelines of a conference in Dubai.

Costs for building infrastructure and public buildings in the city have been estimated at around \$20 billion. "Other packages we're now in the process of pregualification for contractors to tender," said Khraibut. The state will also sign a contract this month worth between \$80 million and \$90 million with Hill International to manage the building of the entire city, Khraibut said. Meanwhile, Kuwait is also designing and completing an economic study for the planned South Saad Abdullah City, which will cover 60 sq km. The \$10 billion to \$15 billion cost of the project will be financed through a special purpose vehicle jointly established by the Kuwaiti and South Korean governments, Khraibut said. — Agencies



<u> Kuwait Times</u>

ANALYSIS

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016



GERMANY, FRANCE HOLD BACK NATO, EU AMBITIONS IN LIBYA

By Robin Emmott

urope's bold intentions to support Libya's new UNbacked government are faltering as France and Germany resist a bigger role to rebuild the failed state, scarred by the West's 2011 air campaign to help topple dictator Muammar Gaddafi. The European Union and NATO have said they stand ready to help the unity government in Tripoli, if requested, to combat smugglers sending migrants into the Mediterranean towards Europe. Tripoli, for its part, faces a threat from Islamic State fighters who exploited past conflict between rival governments to extend their power.

In a letter, Libyan Prime Minister Fayez Seraj sent a broad request for security training, but now Germany and France want the United Nations to move first, something Russia is unlikely to support because it feels the West went too far in 2011. Germany has suggested that the NATO alliance may need an invitation from the European Union to help in Libya. "Europeans now have what they asked for, namely a unity government ruling from the capital," said Mattia Toaldo, a Libya expert at the European Council on Foreign Relations. "They should take care not to burden it with unrealistic demands, from ending the migrant crisis to defeating Islamic State."

Germany is wary of a long-term commitment, scaling back the language in a statement by European Union foreign ministers this week by insisting the bloc seeks UN Security Council approval to stop arms trafficking even on the high seas, diplomats said. France sent special forces and intelligence commandos to conduct covert operations against Islamic State in Libya, Le Monde reported in February. But French diplomats in Brussels are more cautious about a big NATO role, despite a warning last month from EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini that some 450,000 refugees in Libya could flee to Europe. Deployment of NATO combat troops appears out of the question. "We are looking at a support role, one that is low profile," said a senior French official involved in Libya policy. "The risks are very real and our resources modest." The remarks contrast with gathering momentum a month ago at EU and NATO headquarters in Brussels and a special dinner of EU foreign and defense ministers in Luxembourg in which Libyan maritime and security missions were on the table. "The situation is apparently not grave enough for us to act," said a senior NATO diplomat. "We need a real crisis." Just 480 km from Europe's coast, Libya's slide into anarchy over the past five years has made it an outpost for Islamic State militants and a staging post for sub-Saharan African migrants aided by traffickers. But the failure of the West's 2011 intervention still weighs on Western officials, even as the United States urges the Europeans to take a bigger role in securing its neighborhood. "Washington tells us Europe's southern border ends in the Sahara, not in the Mediterranean," said an EU defence official.



AID EXPERTS GIVE SUMMIT MIXED REPORT CARD

By Megan Rowling and Alex Whiting

The World Humanitarian Summit has reinforced the urgent need for people hit by conflict and disasters to receive better help, but the first meeting of its kind may not trigger the changes necessary to fix their plight, aid officials and experts say. Vital to any long-term success is a ramping up of efforts by world leaders to end the wars that are causing record numbers of people to be uprooted, they said. Yet the absence of many of the most powerful heads of governments, including the leaders of the UN Security Council's permanent members, disappointed aid officials at the summit in Istanbul this week.

As the two-day conference ended on Tuesday, outgoing UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who convened the summit, appealed to Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States to act. "The absence of these leaders from this meeting does not provide an excuse for inaction," Ban said. "They have a unique responsibility to pursue peace and stability, and to support the most vulnerable." The summit drew only 55 heads of state or government with German Chancellor Angela Merkel the only G7 leader present.

Pledges made at the summit include an education fund

But critics of the summit argued that its lack of a binding agreement made it toothless, while defenders of the gathering said that was never its purpose. And many participants struggled to keep up with the pace of simultaneous sessions after a theatrical opening that attempted to bring today's crises alive through music, video and the testimony of survivors, interspersed with celebrities urging action.

What Next?

Aid workers said the Istanbul summit had at least put the most pressing challenges on the global radar: Preventing conflict, reducing the risk of disasters, and paying more attention to local groups and communities on the ground. Man-made and natural disasters have left 130 million people in need of humanitarian aid, which totalled a record \$28 billion in 2015. Yet the gap between what aid agencies seek and what donors provide has grown, with funding needs rising more than 12-fold since 2000, Ban said.

A flagship humanitarian financing report put the annual shortfall for life-saving aid work at around \$15 billion. "We face huge issues, from the consequences of El Nino to the war in Syria and the refugee crisis, that we can only solve by working in better and smarter ways together," said Helle Thorning-Schmidt, CEO of Save the Children International. "This summit was a step down that road." But Sara Pantuliano, managing director at the London-based Overseas Development Institute, said commitments made at the summit had "fallen short in substance and ambition". "There is little clarity about how pledges that have been made will be taken forward and turned into reality," she added. Wolfgang

Jamann, secretary general of CARE International, said Ban's as yet unnamed successor, who will take office next year, would need to find a more effective way to push UN member states to tackle the political causes of the "huge need" confronting an over-stretched humanitarian system.

Survivors

Janani Vivekananda of peace-building group International Alert said the world needs to radically overhaul how it handles crises which are becoming more complex due to climate change. "We will only see ... real lives saved when the major institutions are ready to invest in prevention and peace-building to reduce humanitarian need, take risks to fund people facing crises in fragile states, and where necessary stepping aside to let others, who might be better placed, respond to crises," she said.

The Red Cross applauded the summit for giving increased recognition to the work of local aid groups and for emphasizing the need to put communities at the center of aid work - which it said should strengthen response. Marguerite Barankitse, a Burundian child rights activist who fled to Rwanda last year to escape political unrest at home, said the meeting had given her a chance to share her suffering. The winner of the \$1 million Aurora Prize for her work rescuing 30,000 orphaned children vowed to hold UN and other agencies to account for the promises they had made in Istanbul. "It is very good that people could gather for one message - to share humanity," Barankitse told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "They have given us a weapon to remind them of that."— Reuters

'Security Vacuum'

Britain and the United States want a much bigger role for both NATO and the European Union. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has urged NATO to link up with the EU's naval mission "Sophia" in the Mediterranean to tackle smugglers. Lawmakers in Britain say the EU's naval mission in the Mediterranean is too limited to have an impact on smugglers, as it is too far out to destroy boats, catch traffickers or head off migrants trying to reach Europe by sea from Libya. "A mission acting only on the high seas is not able to disrupt smuggling networks, which thrive on the political and security vacuum in Libya, and extend through Africa," a British parliamentary report said this month.

Alain Le Roy, the secretary general of the EU's foreign service, defended the Sophia mission, saying that more than 80 traffickers had been arrested and up to 200 boats destroyed. EU foreign ministers have approved training of Libya's navy and coast guard in international waters. Sophia's chief, Italian Rear Admiral Enrico Credendino, told La Repubblica yesterday the coastguard could be trained in 14 weeks.

On the ground, the United States and Italy, Libya's former colonial power, are leading calls for action and Rome is willing to send around 5,000 personnel to help the country. Washington is developing military options including deploying US special forces against Islamic State militants. Germany does not want its personnel on Libyan soil but is willing to revive an EU border guards program in Tunisia. — Reuters

All articles appearing on these pages are the personal opinion of the writers. Kuwait Times takes no responsibility for views expressed therein. Kuwait Times invites readers to voice their opinions. Please send submissions via email to: opinion@kuwaittimes.net or via snail mail to PO Box 1301 Safat, Kuwait. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission as necessary. aimed at raising \$3.8 billion for emergency schooling, and a "grand bargain" between major donors and agencies to administer aid more efficiently. The summit also launched an international partnership to help vulnerable countries prepare better for natural disasters. "These will kick-start transformative change from the top down and the ground up. We must now take it forward together," Ban said.

PHILIPPINE DEATH SQUADS VERY MUCH IN BUSINESS

By Andrew RC Marshall and Manuel Mogato

n May 14, five days after voters in the Philippines chose Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte as their next president, two masked gunmen cruised this southern city's suburbs on a motorbike, looking for their kill. Gil Gabrillo, 47, a drug user, was returning from a cockfight when the gunmen approached. One of them pumped four bullets into Gabrillo's head and body, killing the small-time trader of goods instantly. Then the motorbike roared off.

The murder made no headlines in Davao, where Duterte's loud approval for hundreds of execution-style killings of drug users and criminals over nearly two decades helped propel him to the highest office of a crime-weary land. Human rights groups have documented at least 1,400 killings in Davao that they allege had been carried out by death squads since 1998. Most of those murdered were drug users, petty criminals and street children.

In a 2009 report, Human Rights Watch identified a consistent failure by police to seriously investigate targeted killings. It said acting and retired police officers worked as "handlers" for death-squad gunmen, giving them names and photos of targets - an allegation denied by Davao police. But a four-year probe into such killings by the National Bureau of Investigation, the Philippines' equivalent of the FBI, hasn't led to a single prosecution, and one senior NBI agent told Reuters it will probably be shelved now that Duterte is set to become president. The nation's Justice Secretary last week told reporters the probe may not be able to proceed.

Such impunity, and Duterte's demands in recent weeks for more summary justice, could embolden death squads across the country, say human rights and church groups. Already there has been a spate of unsolved killings in nearby cities, with other mayors echoing Duterte's support for vigilante justice. "We've seen it happen in Davao and we've seen copycat practices," Chito Gascon, chairman of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), an independent Philippine watchdog, told Reuters. "Now can you imagine he is president and the national model for crime-fighting is Davao?"

Ask Clarita Alia, 62, who still lives in the Davao slum where her four sons were murdered, and she gives a mirthless chuckle. "Blood will flow like a river," she says.

Duterte, who has been Davao's mayor or



This photo taken on May 18, 2016 shows residents drinking coconut wine along an alley at an informal settler area in Davao City, in southern island of Mindanao. — AFP

vice-mayor for most of the past 30 years, has denied any involvement in the murders. "I never did that," he said on the campaign trail in April, responding to allegations he had directed the killings. An Office of the Ombudsman investigation also found there was no evidence connecting Duterte to the murders. He has, though, repeatedly condoned them.

For example, in comments to reporters in 2009, he warned: "If you are doing an illegal activity in my city, if you are a criminal or part of a syndicate that preys on the innocent people of the city, for as long as I am the mayor, you are a legitimate target of assassination." And more recently he has vowed to wipe out crime in six months across the country by killing criminals, drug pushers and "sons of bitches" after he takes office on June 30. "Do not destroy my country, because I will kill you," the 71-year-old former prosecutor told a news conference in Davao on May 15.

He has also promised to restore the death penalty in the Philippines, warning he will hang the most heinous criminals twice: once to kill them, then again to "completely sever the head from the body". People here remember pre-Duterte Davao as a lawless battleground for security forces and Communist rebels. The city's Agdao district was so violent it was nicknamed "Nicaragdao" after the then war-torn Central American nation. Today, thanks to Duterte's campaigns against drugs and crime, Davao today feels much safer, say the locals. But it still ranks first among 15 Philippine cities for murder and second for rape, according to national police.

On Watch for Assassins

Reuters interviews with the families of four Davao victims, one of whom was a 15-yearold, showed that murders continued even as Duterte campaigned for the presidency. All four killings occurred in the past nine months and bore the hallmarks of a loose-knit group that the locals call the Davao Death Squad. The victims were shot in daylight or at dusk, three of them on the same street in a riverside slum seething with people. The killers rode motorbikes with no license plates, their faces hidden by helmets and masks.

Reymar Tecson, 19, was executed last August while sleeping at the roadside. A week later, Romel Bantilan, 15, was shot dead while playing a computer game less than 30 paces away. Tecson's family said Reymar was a drug user, but Bantilan's family insisted that Romel was clean. Romel had a twin brother, and their father, Jun Bantilan, said he had heard "rumors" that the other boy would be next. Most days Jun sits at the end of the street, watching out for assassins.

Nearby, in her tumble-down shack, Norma Helardino still wondered why her husband Danilo, 53, was shot dead in January. He didn't use drugs, she said, although "maybe his friends did". The police filed a report but Helardino said she saw no sign of an investigation: "No witnesses came forward." When asked who her husband's killers were, she pointed to her tin roof and said: "Only God knows." The three dead males in the slum were "noted drug dealers," said Major Milgrace Driz, a Davao police spokeswoman. "It is their destiny to be killed because they choose to be criminals," she said. "The mayor has already said there is no place for criminals in the city." Driz described 15-year-old Bantilan as a "recidivist" with a "criminal attitude" who had been repeatedly warned to mend his ways. She said he had delivered drugs for a gang which had probably murdered him over a money dispute. Lack of witnesses meant the three murders remained unsolved despite diligent efforts to investigate, Driz added. Responding to the Human Rights Watch allegations that the police conspire with the death squads, Driz said the police get the names of local criminals through a public hotline but don't kill them.

Closed and Terminated

Human rights activists say official investigations of death-squad killings have been hampered by a lack of witnesses, bureaucratic apathy and political influence. The Human Rights Watch report called on the CHR to investigate whether Duterte and other officials had been involved or complicit in the deaths. A CHR report three years later confirmed the "systematic practice of extrajudicial killings" by the Davao Death Squad. It, in turn, was successful in getting the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate whether Duterte was criminally liable for inaction in the face of evidence of numerous killings.

But in a January 2016 letter seen by Reuters, the Ombudsman told the CHR its investigation was "closed and terminated" because it had found no evidence that Duterte or the police were involved in the killings. The letter also dismissed the death squad as a product of "rumors and other gossips". The CHR report also triggered a probe by the NBI. Four years later, it is still ongoing, an agency spokesman said.

However, Secretary of Justice Emmanuel Caparas, who oversees the NBI, told reporters on Friday that the status of the investigation was unclear because a key witness, a former gunman, had left protective custody. "It's really just a question now if the witness will surface," he said. And another NBI source, who requested anonymity because he wasn't allowed to talk to the media, said the probe was now likely to be halted. "Who will investigate the president?" he said. — Reuters

<u> Kuwait 🗠 Times</u>

ARSENAL CONFIRM SIGNING OF XHAKA

LONDON: Arsenal announced the signing of Switzerland midfielder Granit Xhaka from Borussia Moenchengladbach yesterday. The Premier League side said the deal has yet to be officially ratified, but terms have been agreed with the 23-year-old. "Arsenal have reached an agreement with Granit Xhaka to join the club on a long-term contract for an undisclosed fee," said a statement from

> the North Londoners. Xhaka, the son of Kosovo Albanian immigrants, has represented Switzerland 41 times and helped Gladbach to a fourth place finish this season, bringing with it Champions League football. Gladbach had said last week that they had received an offer for Xhaka, who then admitted he could see himself playing in an Arsenal shirt. "Granit Xhaka is an exciting young player, already with good Champions League and Bundesliga experience," said Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger of his first close season signing. "We have been watching him for a long time now and he is a player who will add quality to our squad. "We wish Granit a good Euro 2016 with Switzerland and look forward to welcoming him to Arsenal ahead of next season."

2021 SUPER BOWL WILL BE PLAYED AT NEW LA STADIUM

LOS ANGELES: The NFL will stage the 2021 Super Bowl in Los Angeles, raising its profile in the country's secondlargest media market after making a celebrated return to the city with the relocation of the Rams franchise to the West Coast starting next season. The National Football League also announced the 2019 and 2020 Super Bowls would be played in Atlanta and South Florida, respectively, returning to those areas for its championship game, one of the mostwatched television events of the year. Atlanta hosted the game in 1994 and 2000, while Miami has had it 10 times. The Super Bowl's move back to Los Angeles will also give the 'City of Angels' a welcome boost as it bids to host the 2024 Summer Olympics. "We are honored that the NFL is bringing the Super Bowl to Los Angeles in 2021," Casey Wasserman, who is chair of both the Los Angeles Super Bowl bid and LA24, said in a statement. "The league's selection of Los Angeles is a testament to its commitment to innovation and diversity, and I couldn't be prouder of our winning bid.

FRANCE BLOW AS VARANE **RULED OUT OF EURO 2016**

PARIS: France's Euro 2016 preparations took a knock on Tuesday with key defender Raphael Varane ruled out injured of next month's tournament on home soil with his place taken by Adil Rami. Coach Didier Deschamps had feared the worst after Real Madrid announced Sunday that the 23-year-old Varane, capped 29 time for France, had suffered a serious left thigh injury. And scans confirmed his fears and the diagnosis of Real Madrid team doctors that the player would be out of action for up to three weeks. "The clinical examination and MRI Tuesday morning at Rambouillet hospital confirmed the initial diagnosis of the medical staff of Real Madrid, namely a torn left biceps femoris grade 2," the French Football Federation (FFF) said in a statement. "Given the unavailability time considered too long against national team deadlines, Didier Deschamps decided not to retain Raphael Varane for Euro 2016," the FFF said. "As a result, the coach made the decision to integrate Adil Rami in the list of 23." The absence of 23-year-old Varane is a fresh blow for Deschamps who is already without a key defender as Liverpool's Mamadou Sakho was left out of his 23-man 🔊 squad due to a provisional doping ban, with Real Madrid strik-Emirates er Karim Benzema, not selected over his alleged involvement in a sex tape blackmail case.



NEW YORK: New York Yankees shortstop Didi Gregorius makes an off-balance throw to first for the out on Toronto Blue Jays' Kevin Pillar to end a baseball game. — AP

Yanks back at .500, beat Blue Jays 6-0

NEW YORK: For the first time since the second week of the season, the New York Yankees are back at .500. A resurgent Nathan Eovaldi combined with his bullpen on a two-hitter to win his fifth straight decision, and the Yankees beat the Toronto Blue Jays 6-0 Tuesday night to extend their winning streak to six games. Carlos Beltran homered off knuckleballer RA Dickey (2-6) and drove in New York's first two runs. The Yankees (22-22) won for the 13th time in 18 games and evened their record for the first time since they were 4-4 on the morning of April 15. Eovaldi (5-2) improved to 5-0 with a 2.92 FRA in his last six starts and has allowed one run and three hits over 12 innings in his last two outings. He gave up two hits over six-plus innings in this one. Dickey gave up four runs and five hits in 6 2/3 innings to drop to 1-6 in nine appearances since winning his opener at Tampa Bay.

ASTROS 3, ORIOLES 2

Carlos Correa's RBI single in the 13th inning lifted Houston past Baltimore. Rookie Tony Kemp hit his first career triple off Dylan Bundy (0-1) with no outs to start the 13th. The Orioles then intentionally walked George Springer and Jose Altuve to bring last year's rookie of the year Correa to the plate.

Correa snapped an 0-for-15 skid with a single into shallow center that scored Kemp and ended a four-game losing streak for the Astros. Michael Feliz (2-1) struck out the side in the 13th for the win. Pedro Alvarez and Manny Machado hit solo home runs for the Orioles. Luis Valbuena had a two-run homer for Houston in the fifth.

RAYS 4, MARLINS 3

Jake Odorizzi allowed two hits in five shutout innings, Hank Conger hit a two-run single and Tampa Bay held on to beat Miami. Odorizzi (2-2) struck out seven and walked three, plus delivered an RBI single for his first career hit. Logan Morrison had three hits and Brad Miller had two hits and two stolen bases for the Rays, who ended a three-game slide. Giancarlo Stanton hit his 12th home run for Miami, snapping a 6-for-57 drought. Marcell Ozuna doubled twice and reached for the 31st consecutive game, while Justin Bour and Derek Dietrich added two hits for Miami. Alex Colome got a twoinning save for the Rays, his 12th of the season. Marlins starter Tom Koehler (2-5) allowed six hits and three runs in five innings, striking out six but walking five.

INDIANS 6, WHITE SOX 2

Josh Tomlin beat Chris Sale in a one-sided matchup of unbeaten pitchers and Francisco Lindor had three hits to lead Cleveland. Tomlin pitched eight innings of two-run ball to become the first Indians starter to reach 7-0 since Dennis Martinez won his first nine decisions in 1995. Sale (9-1) was knocked out in the fourth, ending his bid to become the first pitcher to win his first 10 starts in a season since Andy Hawkins for San Diego in

1985. It was baseball's first matchup of 6-0 or better pitchers since 1988, and only the fourth time in major league history, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Chris Gimenez homered for Cleveland, which had lost three in a row before Monday's 5-1 victory at Chicago in the second game of a doubleheader. Jose Ramirez walked twice and scored twice, and Mike Napoli drove in two runs.

TIGERS 3, PHILLIES 1

Justin Verlander struck out 10 in eight scoreless innings, and Francisco Rodriguez held on for his 400th save as Detroit beat Philadelphia. Miguel Cabrera drove in two runs for Detroit. Since losing 11 of 12 earlier this month, the Tigers have now won eight of nine. Verlander (4-4) has allowed only four runs over his last four starts. He gave up three hits and two walks in a 108-pitch effort Tuesday. Cabrera hit an RBI double in the first and a run-scoring groundout in the sixth. Rodriguez allowed a run in the ninth but closed the game out for his 14th save in 15 chances this year. He is the sixth pitcher

with six strikeouts in six shutout innings. Mazara pulled his seventh homer into the upper deck in right field off Jhoulys Chacin (0-1) in the sixth inning. Mazara had three hits and reached base all four times. The 21-year-old's two-run shot put Texas ahead 3-0 after Perez escaped the top of the sixth by getting through the middle of the order after putting runners at first and third with no outs.

NATIONALS 7, METS 4

Steven Strasburg remained unbeaten with an 11-strikeout performance, and Washington hit three of their season-high five home runs off struggling New York Mets starter Matt Harvey. Strasburg (8-0) gave up two runs and four hits over 6 2/3 innings in defeating Harvey and the Mets for the second time in six days. Strasburg has five games this season with at least 10 strikeouts and 26 over his seven-year career. Harvey (3-7) stumbled through a third straight ineffective start, allowing five runs and eight hits over five rocky innings. The right-hander has yielded 16 earned runs and 31 hits

1.5

3

4.5

15

5

7

11.5

16

4.5

б

7.5

9.5

MLB Results/Standings

Tampa Bay 4, Miami 3; Pittsburgh 12, Arizona 1; Washington 7, NY Mets 4; NY Yankees 6, Toronto 0; Detroit 3, Philadelphia 1; Chicago Cubs 12, St. Louis 3; Boston 8, Colorado 3; Milwaukee 2, Atlanta 1; Texas 4, LA Angels 1; Houston 3, Baltimore 2 (13 innings); Cleveland 6, Chicago White Sox 2; Kansas City 7, Minnesota 4; LA Dodgers 8, Cincinnati 2; Seattle 6, Oakland 5; San Francisco 8, San Diego 2.

		an Leag n Divisi	-		National League Eastern Division					
	W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	28	18	.609		
Boston	28	17	.622	-	NY Mets	26	19	.578		
Baltimore	26	17	.605	1	Philadelphia	25	21	.543		
NY Yankees	22	22	.500	5.5	Miami	23	22	.511		
Tampa Bay	21	22	.488	6	Atlanta	12	32	.273		
Toronto	22	25		Centra	al Divisi	on				
	Centra	al Divisi	Chicago Cubs	30	14	.682				
Chicago White	Sox 27	20	.574	-	Pittsburgh	25	19	.568		
Cleveland	24	20	.545	1.5	St. Louis	24	22	.522		
Kansas City	24	21	.533	2	Milwaukee	19	26	.422		
Detroit	23	22	.511	3	Cincinnati	15	31	.326		
Minnesota	11	34	.244	15		Western Division				
	Wester	r <mark>n Divi</mark> s	ion		San Francisco	29	19	.604		
Seattle	27	18	.600	-	LA Dodgers	24	23	.511		
Texas	26	20	.565	1.5	Colorado	21	23	.477		
LA Angels	21	25	.457	6.5	Arizona	21	26	.447		
Oakland	20 27 .426 8		San Diego	19	28	.404				
Houston	18	28	.391	9.5						

to reach 400 career saves. Jeremy Hellickson (4-3) allowed three runs and seven hits in seven innings. He walked one and struck out seven.

RANGERS 4, ANGELS 1

Martin Perez finally got a win after another strong May start and rookie Nomar Mazara homered in his home park for the first time, leading Texas past Los Angeles. Perez (2-4) was winless for the month despite a 2.59 ERA in four starts coming in, and the left-hander dropped that number to 2.08

over his last three outings. Ryan Zimmerman and Anthony Rendon hit successive solo shots to put Washington ahead in the fourth inning, and Daniel Murphy added a two-run drive off his former teammate in the fifth for a 5-1 lead.

RED SOX 8, ROCKIES 3

David Price scattered five hits over seven innings and Jackie Bradley Jr. had two hits to extend his streak to 28 games in Boston's win over Colorado. David Ortiz had a two-run double and a two-run single, and Dustin Pedroia added three hits to help Boston win its third straight game. Price (7-1) allowed three runs, walking one and striking out six to earn his third consecutive win. Colorado lost for the fifth time in six games. Jorge De La Rosa (1-4) made his first start after spending almost a month on the disabled list with a left groin strain. He gave up two runs in the first, two more in the second and left with one out in the fourth with two on and one run already in.

BREWERS 2, BRAVES 1

Scooter Gennett's tiebreaking single in the eighth inning helped Milwaukee spoil Brian Snitker's home debut as Atlanta's interim manager. With two outs in the eighth, Bud Norris (1-6) walked Jonathan Villar, who stole second base. Gennett then lined a single to right field. Villar scored as Nick Markakis' throw to the plate from right field was up the third-base line. Ryan Braun's eighth homer gave the Brewers a 1-0 lead in the fourth. Atlanta's Julio Teheran set a personal high with 12 strikeouts while allowing one run in seven innings. Michael Blazek (2-1) pitched a scoreless seventh. Jeremy Jeffress recorded the final three outs to earn his 12th save.

ROYALS 7, TWINS 4

Salvador Perez hit a two-run homer, Lorenzo Cain had four hits and two RBIs, and Kansas City picked up where its bats left off the night before. Wade Davis worked a wobbly ninth inning for his 12th save in 13 attempts, preserving the seventh win for the Royals in their last nine contests. They raised their two-game total in Minnesota this week to 30 hits and improved to 5-0 against the Twins this season. After going 5 for 5 in the series opener, missing the cycle by a home run, Perez went deep just one day and a couple of innings too late. The three-time All-Star catcher followed a leadoff walk by Kendrys Morales in the second inning with a soaring drive off his 2013 teammate Ervin Santana. That was all Edinson Volquez (5-4) needed to pick up his fifth victory, matching the cumulative total for Twins starters this season. Santana (1-3) lasted only 3 2/3 innings, allowing nine hits, six runs and two walks.

MARINERS 6, ATHLETICS 5

Leonys Martin hit a game-winning, two-run homer in the ninth inning to rally Seattle past Oakland. The Mariners trailed 5-2 after seven innings but got a two-run homer from Robinson Cano in the eighth inning. Oakland closer Ryan Madson (2-1) came on in the ninth and got two quick outs before Norichika Aoki punched a double down the left-field line. Martin then drove a 1-2 pitch deep over the wall in right-center for his ninth home run. Oakland erased a 2-1 deficit in the sixth, jumping on the Mariners bullpen to complete a four-run rally capped by Coco Crisp's bases-loaded double. Mike Montgomery (2-0) threw 3 1/3 scoreless innings.

GIANTS 8, PADRES 2

Brandon Crawford drove in four runs and Jarrett Parker homered to lead Jeff Samardzija and streaking San Francisco past San Diego. Buster Posey and Denard Span each knocked in a run for the Giants, who have won four straight and 12 of 13. John Jay homered for the Padres, who lost their third in a row and fell to 0-8 against the Giants this season. Hector Sanchez also drove in a run. Samardzija (7-2) has won three consecutive decisions and six of seven after giving up a run and six hits over 6 2/3 innings. He struck out seven and walked three. Andrew Cashner (2-4) came off the disabled list and gave the Padres a six-inning start. He allowed three runs and four hits, walked four and struck out one.

DODGERS 8, REDS 2

Joc Pederson doubled in the tying run and then scored the go-ahead run on a throwing error in the fourth inning, helping Los Angeles hand Cincinnati its season-high ninth straight loss. The Dodgers' eight-game winning streak against the Reds is their longest active run against any opponent and their most since beating the Reds nine straight times in 2008-09. Mike Bolsinger (1-1) allowed two runs and three hits in 5 2/3 innings of a spot start, having been brought back from Triple-A Oklahoma City on Monday in place of injured Chin-hui Tsao, who went on the 15-day disabled list. Bolsinger struck out six and walked one. Daniel Wright (0-1) made his major league debut, giving up four runs and seven hits in 5 1/3 innings.

CUBS 12, CARDINALS 3

Jason Hammel pitched 7 1/3 stingy innings and had a two-run double in Chicago's six-run first as the Cubs went on to rout St Louis. Michael Wacha (2-5) gave up a career-worst eight runs in four innings and has lost five consecutive decisions for the first time. The 24-year-old right-hander was a 17-game winner last season and the NL championship series MVP as a rookie in 2013, but this season has a 5.04 ERA. Jorge Soler drew a bases-loaded walk in the first and hit a two-run home run in the fifth. The sixrun inning was a season-best for the NL Central leaders, who snapped their first three-game losing streak of the season. Hammel (6-1) bounced back from his first loss in his previous start.

PIRATES 12, DIAMONDBACKS 1

Gregory Polanco hit a three-run homer and drove in a career-best five runs as Pittsburgh rolled past Arizona. Polanco's shot to the concourse in right-center field off Shelby Miller (1-6) in the first inning gave Pittsburgh an early boost. Francisco Liriano (4-3) scattered two hits in 5 2/3 innings and added an RBI single as the Pirates improved to 6-2 during a 10-game homestand. After a short adjustment period, Polanco has thrived batting third in the lineup, hitting .317 (20 of 63) with three home runs and 13 RBIs in 15 games. The Pirates spread their 17 hits among 11 batters. — AP

<u>Kuwait & Times</u>



NFL DOCTOR SENDS A STRONG RESPONSE TO HOUSE REPORT

SEATTLE: The co-chairman of the NFL's head, neck and spine committee has sent a letter to Congress stressing that he was not contacted by a committee handling a report during a government study on the link between football and brain disease. That study concluded that NFL officials improperly sought to influence the process.

Dr Richard Ellenbogen wrote Tuesday to New Jersey Rep. Frank Pallone to note that claims he and others tried to influence a National Institutes of Health grant selection are inaccurate. Ellenbogen called not being interviewed a "basic lack of fairness" and a "maligning without so much as the courtesy of a direct question to me by your staff." Pallone said the league tried to strong-arm the NIH into taking the project away from a researcher who the NFL feared was biased.

According to the study, the NFL had agreed to donate \$30 million to the NIH to fund brain research, but backed out after the institutes went ahead with a \$16 million grant to prominent Boston University researcher Robert Stern. He's a leading expert on the link between football and brain diseases such as chronic traumatic encephalopathy. Taxpayers are instead bearing the cost. The NFL denied Pallone's findings. While defending himself, Ellenbogen, chairman of the University of Washington Department of Neurological Surgery, criticized the study as counterproductive in efforts to understand the longterm risks of traumatic brain injury.

"To be clear, I am not and never have been paid by the NFL nor have I ever received funding through the research grant dollars in question," he said. "I am a physician on the front lines of this issue, treating kids and counseling parents every day on understanding concussions and repetitive head injury. I feel passionately that there is urgent work ahead to fill the tremendous gap in funding and support on this issue."

One section of the congressional report dealt directly with Ellenbogen. "Dr Ellenbogen is a primary example of the conflicts of interest between his role as a researcher and his role as an NFL adviser," the study said. "He had been part of a group that applied for the \$16 million grant. After his group was not selected, Dr. Ellenbogen became one of the NFL's primary advocates in expressing concerns surrounding the process with the BU grant selection."

Some of the members of the NFL's Head, Neck and Spine Committee who opposed Stern had also sought the grant, the study said. The league acknowledged Monday it had raised concerns about the study and a potential conflict of interest involving Stern. But NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the NFL had communicated its concerns through appropriate channels. It noted that the league stands behind its \$30 million promise and that the government ultimately made the decision on funding the study in question. —AP



PARIS: Britain's Andy Murray, left, shakes hands with France's Mathias Bourgue after their second round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium. — AP

GAMERS STRIVE TO GO MAINSTREAM IN NEW TURNER-BACKED LEAGUE

ATLANTA: They stare at their computer screens, eyes transfixed on the bloody spectacle in front of them, trying to figure out if there's an enemy player just around the corner. They go by names such as FalleN, TACO and Spunj - stars of the online world, if not to those who prefer their sports be played on actual fields.

Yet when it's over, after the powerhouse Brazilian team known as Luminosity scores the final two points to survive an overtime thriller against the underdog outfit from Down Under that goes by Renegade, it sort of feels like LeBron just hit a game-winning shot at the buzzer.

For those who play video games, this is another attempt at going mainstream. The ELEAGUE kicked off Tuesday at a high-tech studio right next door to the set of "Inside the NBA," a joint venture between Turner Sports and IMG that features 24 teams from around the world, playing the war-like game Counter-Strike: Global Offensive for some \$1.4 million in prize money.

Highs stakes

The stakes are even higher for those who believe a bunch of headset-wearing guys sitting at computer consoles clicking a mouse the map," Barry said. "Therefore, you're in the mind, in the psyche of the players. So you can tell when he's going to come around the corner. You can go, 'Wait, if he comes around that corner, he's going to get blown away."

That description raises one of the potential stumbling blocks to ELEAGUE becoming a widely viewed hit. The game is quite violent, portraying players armed with a wide array of bombs and high-powered weaponry trying to kill each other off over and over again in a series of lightning-quick rounds, all while switching back and forth between terrorist and counter-terrorist roles. "There's a head shot!" the announcer screamed after an especially bloody kill, quickly providing the essential core of the game.

Misogynistic attitudes

Then there's a larger issue plaguing the gamer community, the misogynistic attitudes and downright nastiness expressed toward female players in the male-dominated world. Tellingly, there are no women on any of the teams. Christina Alejandre, vice president of eSports at Turner, hopes to change that.

"ESports is one of the only sports out there where it's a level playing field from the get-go for males and females." she said. "However,

MURRAY SURVIVES FRESH FIVE-SET PARIS BATTLE

PARIS: Second seed Andy Murray survived his second successive five-set French Open battle to reach the third round yesterday, avoiding what would have been his worst Grand Slam loss in eight years. Murray, three times a semi-finalist, wore down France's world number 164 Mathias Bourgue, who had never won a tour-level match before this week, 6-2, 2-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 and goes on to face 37-year-old Ivo Karlovic for a place in the last 16. After coming back from two sets to love down to beat Radek Stepanek, also 37, in the first round in a tie played over two days, the British star had looked down and out once again yesterday. After pocketing the third set, 22-yearold Bourgue, reduced to tears by the end, had break points for a 1-0 lead in the fourth. But once they were squandered, the Frenchman's challenge quickly wilted as the physically stronger Murray raced away with 12 of the last 15 games.

"He was excellent today. He dictated the points and made me run. He's going to have a fantastic future," said Murray after escaping what would have been his worst loss at the majors since a first round exit at the 2008 Australian Open. "At the end of the third set, I just thought 'what happened?'. I was 6-2, 2-0 ahead. He was then unbelievable and I found it hard just to win points. "But I have played these matches many times. I just tried to fight through." As an indication of his struggles, yesterday was the first time since the US Open in 2005 that Murray had played two successive five-set matches at the Slams. Karlovic, the 27th seed, defeated Australian wildcard Jordan Thompson 6-7 (2/7), 6-3, 7-6 (7/3), 6-7 (4/7), 12-10 in a four and a half hour marathon, unleashing 41 aces and 102 winners.

Karlovic is the oldest man in the French Open third round since 38-year-old Jimmy Connors in 1991. Defending champion and third seed Stan Wawrinka defeated New York-born Taro Daniel of Japan 7-6 (9/7), 6-3, 6-4 and goes on to face France's Jeremy Chardy. "When you play a French player in Paris, it is always a bit different because the French are at home," said Wawrinka of Chardy who he has beaten all four times they have met. Japan's fifth seed Kei Nishikori, a quarter-finalist in 2015, coasted into the last 32 with a 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 victory over Russia's Andrey Kuznetsov. Nishikori, the 2014 US Open runnerup, goes on to face former world number seven Fernando Verdasco of Spain. Australian 17th seed Nick Kyrgios needed just 70 minutes to beat Dutch lucky loser Igor Sijsling 6-3, 6-2, 6-1.

Kyrgios, Gasquet meet again

He will now meet French ninth seed Richard

Myrtille Georges 6-2, 6-0 and next tackles Belgium's Yanina Wickmayer. Sixth seed Simona Halep, the losing finalist to Maria Sharapova in 2014, came back from 4-1 down in the first set to beat Zarina Diyas of Kazakhstan 7-6 (7/5), 6-2.

Halep, 24, will next face Japan's Naomi Osaka, the world 101 who has reached the third round at a major for the second successive time having also enjoyed a run to the last 32 in Australia. Osaka, 18, knocked out 34-year-old Mirjana Lucic-Baroni 6-3, 6-3 which would have been a relief to Halep who lost to the world number 52 Croatian at the French Open last year and US Open in 2014.

Petra Kvitova, the 10th seed, saw off Taiwan's Su-Wei Hsieh 6-4, 6-1 in a much more comfortable outing than her opener against Danka Kovinic where she had been just two points away from defeat. Kvitova, a semi-finalist in 2012, next faces Shelby Rogers of the United States. Russian 13th seed Svetlana Kuznetsova, the 2009 champion, was too strong for Britain's Heather Watson winning 6-1, 6-3.

Kuznetsova will now face Fed Cup teammate

can carve out their place alongside those viewed as legitimate athletes. "I absolutely do enjoy watching Counter Strike from a competitive standpoint,:" said Craig Barry, the executive vice president of Turner Sports. "And I didn't even know about it eight months ago, nine months ago." In a broad sense, video games are the point in their development that extreme sports were some two decades ago, a hodgepodge of disciplines played in a largely underground world until they were brought together and legitimized for the general public by the X Games. Now some of those sports are part of the Olympic Games. Much like their extremesport counterparts, there are plenty of gamers who don't want to cave in to the lure of fame and fortune, who feel it will ruin the purity of what they have built. Richard Lewis, a former eSports journalist now working as a commentator on Turner's broadcasts, insists that those concerns have been addressed with the ELEAGUE.

"This is true to the sort of endemic culture you have within eSports," he said. "We're not going to sanitize it or change terminology or change games. We're not going to censor things out." Turner has clearly gone all in at its headquarters near downtown Atlanta. On a gleaming, futuristic stage, the opposing teams are stationed on opposite sides, unable to see each other or the large video screen that provides the announcers and the studio audience - along with those at home or online - with a view of the game that the players themselves don't have.

For Barry, it's similar to the pocket cam in poker. "The viewer can see where they are on

females haven't had a chance to really compete against the males. ... Then it becomes a vicious cycle." Nevertheless, momentum is building across the eSports landscape. Also Tuesday, the Pac-12 conference announced it will start holding video game competitions during the next school year. Turner is augmenting its coverage with profiles of the players. Chad Burchill, the brash leader of the Renegade team, is a 26-year-old from Perth, Australia who had been working alongside his father as a plumber until he decided to make video games a full-time career. He and his teammates essentially live out of their suitcases, traveling the world to compete in tournaments. "We're not just people who live in a basement and play computer games," he quipped. "We're genuine human beings."Turner has made a 10-week commitment to ELEAGUE, which will air Fridays on TBS at 10 pm EDT. The format sounds much like a traditional league: six four-team groups will compete in round-robin matches, with the group winner earning an automatic spot in the playoffs and the runner-ups getting a chance to qualify through a repechage.

While Turner has committed to a weekly broadcast and set up distribution rights in more than 80 countries, the bulk of the ELEAGUE action will be shown Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays through a platform that gamers can relate to - the streaming site Twitch, which focuses primarily on video games and tournaments. "It's so important that we do this right," Barry said. "We're just trying to be authentic and create a product that starts to push eSports up to the next level." — AP



ATLANTA: A screen, center, shows a video game competition between teams Luminosity, left, and Renegades, right, in the ELEAGUE arena at Turner Studios.— AP

Gasquet who defeated fellow former boys champion Bjorn Fratangelo of the United States 6-1, 7-6 (7/3), 6-3. Gasquet and Kyrgios have met at the last two Wimbledons with the Australian saving nine match points in 2014 before losing a controversial rematch last year when he was accused of 'tanking' a game.

In the women's event, Spanish fourth seed Garbine Muguruza defeated French wildcard Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova who saw off Cagla Buyukakcay, the first Turkish woman to win a match at a Grand Slam, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1. Canadian eighth seed Milos Raonic will take on France's Adrian Mannarino. Women's second seed Agnieszka Radwanska, a quarter-finalist in 2013, has a tricky assignment against Frenchwoman Caroline Garcia who won the Strasbourg title at the weekend. — AFP

SCANDAL-HIT TOKYO SEEKS LITTLE COMFORT FROM IOC

TOKYO: Beleaguered Tokyo 2020 Olympic organizers will be hoping for some warm words of comfort from the International Olympic Committee when senior officials arrive for talks over the next few days. Controversy has once again cast a shadow over Japan's preparations for the 2020 Games after French prosecutors launched an investigation into \$2 million in payments allegedly paid to help Tokyo secure the Olympics. John Coates, chairman of the IOC's Tokyo 2020 coordination commission, attempted to deflect attention away from potentially sticky issues on previous visits, such as last year's row over the cost of the main stadium. As scandal-hit Tokyo organizers sweat over the French probe into cash funneled into a Singapore bank account, said to have been paid to the son of disgraced former athletics chief Lamine Diack, Japanese officials will be more grateful than ever for the usual IOC platitudes.

However, Coates and his team are likely to face tough questions over the alleged bribery suspicions despite strong denials of any wrongdoing by Tokyo 2020 bid leaders, who acknowledge the money was paid but stress it was a legitimate consultancy fee. Allegations the payments were improper, first reported by Britain's Guardian newspaper two weeks ago, sent shockwaves through Japan.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe ordered full cooperation with French authorities after being grilled by opposition leaders in Japan's parliament. "For Japan, as a democratic country, the use of bribes and dirty money brings dishonour to the country," said Katsuya Okada, president of Japan's Democratic Party. "We need to clarify all the facts." The Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) — headed by Tsunekazu Takeda, the same man who fronted the Tokyo bid team-has ordered its own probe. JOC officials said yesterday its probe team, comprising two lawyers and a certified accountant, will hold its first meeting on Thursday on the sidelines of the IOC visit. Questioned by opposition lawmakers in parliament, JOC board member Eisuke Hiraoka said they have no intention of seeking the whereabouts of Singapore-based consultant Ian Tan Tong Han, allegedly the initial recipient of the payments.

Luxury items

"We don't think it's appropriate for us to contact the suspect under French and Singaporean investigations," Hiraoka said, provoking criticism from opposition lawmakers that the JOC probe may unearth few facts to prove Tokyo's bid activities were "clean." Takeda has refused to disclose details of the consultancy contract to lawmakers, citing a "confidentiality obligation".

He told lawmakers on Tuesday that the payments "were compensations for a consultancy contract, and we'd never thought that the money would be sent to Mr Diack". With the Rio Olympics less than three months away, regular coordination activities have been postponed to later in the year and replaced by an executive meeting, although Coates is expected to inspect the Tokyo 2020 sailing venue. Tokyo has been hit by a series of controversies since beating Istanbul and Madrid in September 2013 in the race to host the coveted Summer Games. Prime Minister Abe pulled the plug on the original plan for the new Olympic stadium last year amid public anger over its \$2 billion price tag.

Further embarrassment followed when Tokyo organizers ditched their 2020 Games logo after allegations of plagiarism and the threat of legal action from a Belgian designer who claimed it too closely resembled the emblem of a theatre in Liege, Belgium. However, those fiascos pale in comparison to accusations of murky payments made to Tan of Singapore firm Black Tidings, who said to be an associate of Diack's son Papa Massata Diack. The junior Diack received cash transfers from Asia in July 2013 and bought 130,000 Euros (\$145,000) worth of luxury items including watches, a source close to the French investigation has told AFP. — AFP



LAUSANNE: This file photo taken on December 10, 2013 shows Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) president Tsunekazu Takeda speaking to journalists after a meeting at International Olympic Committee (IOC) headquarters. — AFP



KNOX AIMING TO CROWN HIS RISE WITH RYDER CUP SPOT

WENTWORTH: Scotland's Russell Knox is aiming to crown his rise up golf's world rankings by cementing a place in Europe's Ryder Cup team at Hazeltine in September. The 30-year-old, who is based in the United States, won the WGC Champions tournament in China last November and has followed that up with a string of impressive finishes including second places at the Heritage and the recent Irish Open.

months ago but is now up to a career high of 23rd making him the secondhighest ranked player at the European PGA Championship which starts at Wentworth today. After winning his WGC Knox switched to the European Tour from the PGA Tour to try and force his way into the Darren Clarke's European team and insists his bid is on track. "It's a huge goal now. After I won in China, it was realistic

He was ranked 85th in the world six to make the team, but at the same time, there's still a lot to be done. "I've finished second three times since that. I played good enough to be right up there at The Players' Championship for 71 holes. "So really, I've had four really good tournaments since then, and to be honest, I expect to make the team now. If I keep playing the way I'm going, I think I can do it and I sure hope I do."

Knox was still a member of the PGA

Tour when he won the WGC so it does not count towards his Ryder Cup. He is currently 33rd on the European list and 17th on the World points list with a combination of the two used to pick nine of the team with Clarke selecting three wild cards. Knox needs more good results to force his way into an automatic spot but thinks his big WGC win could tilt Clarke to offering him a wild card even though it does officially add to his chances.

Knox was a one of a group of players who had dinner with Clarke at The Players' Championship to discuss the match against the United States. He added: "Arguably, I'm higher up because my win didn't count. But obviously Darren knows that. "But it didn't count points-wise, so hopefully I'll make enough points to qualify automatically. I won that tournament, and no one can take that away from me." — AFP

AUSTRALIA CLOSE TO GILLESPIE SWOOP

SYDNEY: Australia is close to poaching Jason Gillespie from English cricket to be the national team's new full-time fast bowling coach, a report said yesterday. Head coach Darren Lehmann has been on the look-out for a replacement since Craig McDermott stepped down at the end of the World Twenty20 in India this year. He said last month that the highly-regarded Gillespie, who has been head coach at Yorkshire for four years and was last year touted as a candidate for the England coaching job, was high on his list.

At the time, the former Australian fast bowler said he was committed to the reigning English county champions. But the Sydney Morning Herald reported yesterday that discussions about bringing him home were now at an advanced level and his services could be secured next month.

"We're speaking with a number of candidates but by no means is anything confirmed," a Cricket Australia spokesperson said in response. The Herald said the pending appointment would propel Gillespie into the frame to eventually replace Lehmann, alongside frontrunner Justin Langer

Ex-Tasmania quick Adam Griffith is temporarily filling the bowling coaching role for Australia's upcoming one-day tri-series in the West Indies, which also includes South Africa. Former South African pace spearhead Allan Donald then takes over for their Test tour of Sri Lanka. Donald has said he is interested in the job full-time with reports also mentioning former Australian pacemen Ryan Harris and Andy Bichel, along with New Zealand's Shane Bond, as possible contenders. —AFP

MEN ONLY? NOT ANY MORE AS WOMEN FLOCK TO IPL

NEW DELHI: As women flock to the stands and take prominent positions in commentary boxes and boardrooms, cricket's richest Twenty20 league is no longer solely a man's world. The days of male-dominated crowds spending as much time ogling cheerleaders on the boundary as taking in action in the middle have been consigned to the past as the 2016 edition of the Indian Premier League reaches a climax with Sunday's final.

"This perception of women not being cricket-savvy is so passe," said Reena Verma as she took her seat for a recent match between the Delhi Daredevils and Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian capital. "I know where a gully or point is. I can also tell the difference between a leg-spinner and a chinaman," said the part-time teacher, illustrating her knowledge of cricket's idiosyncratic jargon to describe fielding positions and bowling styles respectively.

Verma is one of a growing number of female fans either buying tickets to India's glitzy Twenty20 tournament or watching on television where the voices of women

populating the executive boxes or team dugouts. They include Bollywood actress Preity Zinta, who co-owns the Kings XI Punjab, and Nita Ambani, the wife of the country's richest man Mukesh Ambani and who is the principal of the Mumbai Indians franchise.

Sponsors have been taking note, with the agricultural food producer Cargill Foods India tying up with the new Rising Pune Supergiants team to have the logo of its Gemini sunflower oil on players' helmets. "The last few years has seen a big increase in the number of viewers among housewives and now approximately 30 percent of women watch cricket," Cargill's chief marketing officer Neelima Burra told AFP.

"The presence of so many female owners attracts lot of eyeballs from our female target audiences. "And look at the number of women in the stands, look at the way women are involved in the game." Although it is nearly three decades since the Barbadian lawyer Donna Symmonds became the first female commentator to cover Test cricket, women often still have to contend with sexism from players or male colleagues. The West Indian Chris Gayle caused outrage at this year's Big Bash League T20 league in Australia when he tried to chat up a television reporter live on air.

in Game Six of the Eastern Conference Final during the 2016 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at Amalie Arena. — AFP

CROSBY HELPS PENGUINS BEAT LIGHTNING TO FORCE GAME 7

TAMPA: The Pittsburgh Penguins stayed alive in the NHL Eastern Conference finals with a 5-2 win at Tampa Bay on Tuesday, squaring the series 3-3 and forcing a decisive Game 7. Sidney Crosby had a goal and an assist, and Phil Kessel, Kris Letang, Bryan Rust and Nick Bonino also scored, sending the series to a decider in Pittsburgh on Sunday.

The Penguins are hoping to reach the Stanley Cup Final for the first time since 2009 and the Lightning looking to advance to the Cup Final

goal in the opening period and skated around Tampa Bay defenseman Anton Stralman into the clear before sending a wrist shot between goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy's legs for a 3-0 lead in the final minute of the second period.

Breathing room

"We know the circumstances. It makes you go out there with a mindset of playing desperate," Crosby said. "In a big game like this you, don't do anything special, just do your job. That's gotten mary assist, his first point since delivering gamewinners in Games 2 and 3, and Evgeni Malkin also had an assist to extend his point streak to four games after a slow start in the series.

The Lightning had an apparent goal by Jonathan Drouin ruled out five minutes into the game, when Penguins coach Mike Sullivan successfully challenged that the young Tampa Bay winger was offside. Pittsburgh switched back to rookie goaltender Matt Murray, after having used the more experienced Marc-Andre Fleury



commentators are increasingly being heard alongside their male counterparts. Former India women's captain Anjum Chopra, ex-England seamer Isa Guha and the Australians Lisa Sthalekar and Melanie Jones have been regulars in this year's IPL commentary booths, sidelining male veterans of cricket broadcasting such as Harsha Bhogle. The commentators are part of an IPL strategy to attract more women, with the aim of increasing ticket sales, domestic television viewing ratings home and overall revenues. "We want families to come, we want women and girls to come, it's not the usual cricket fan that we are trying to connect with," an IPL official told AFP on condition of anonymity. "The whole thing is targeted to draw equal number of female and male fans and that's the reason why some of the Sony (TV) presenters are female," he said.

Bollywood glamour

A glance round the IPL grounds suggests around a third of fans are female. "I would definitely say the number of women watching the game has increased in India," Colonel Menon from private company Skidata, which provides crowd data to the IPL, told AFP, although he was unable to provide exact figures on the ratio of female to male spectators.

While the cheerleaders who celebrate every four and six do still attract interest from male fans, many spectators' eyes are drawn instead to the women celebrities

Studio sexism

The Australian player Ellyse Perry was left squirming in 2013 when the former international Michael Slater quizzed her on TV about a swimwear shoot when she had been invited on air to talk about the women's Ashes series against England. Chopra, who played more than 150 times for her country, said old habits die hard in some quarters but viewers generally appeared to becoming more comfortable with the idea of women calling the game.

"I wouldn't say they (cricket broadcasters) are opening doors but I would look at it that there are more opportunities being created for women cricketers and that's a positive sign," Chopra told AFP. "We do get a mixed response, but from last year to this year, I have personally received much more positive feedback. "So I would probably think that it's a similar thing for the other women as well who are also commentating and presenting the sport."

Bhavna Rajput, a housewife taking in the match at Delhi's Feroz Shah Kotla stadium, said the IPL's high-octane action and Bollywood glamour as epitomised by Zinta beat anything on television. "Three hours of racy cricket is better than three hours of weepy dramas," she said. —AFP



RAIPUR: This photo taken on May 20, 2016 shows Indian commentator and former women cricket team captain Anjum Chopra walking on the pitch during the 2016 Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 cricket match at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium. — AFP

for the second straight year. "It's a great opportunity for us. These are the type of circumstances to where you have an opportunity to write your own story," Pittsburgh coach Mike Sullivan said. "They had a certain mindset going into this tonight: 'We're going to leave it all out there and do everything we can to bring this back to Pittsburgh," Sullivan added. "And, certainly that's what they did."

Crosby assisted on Kessel's 5-on-3 power-play

us this far." Brian Boyle scored twice in the third period for Tampa Bay, with one of the goals bouncing off

Kessel before getting past Murray, who finished with 28 saves. The second score drew the Lightning within one goal with 7:17 remaining.

Rust's breakaway goal gave Pittsburgh breathing room and Bonino added an emptynetter to finish it off. Kessel's goal was his teamleading ninth of the playoffs. Crosby had the priin Game 5 as he returned from a long absence due to concussion.

Tampa Bay will have to win on the road again to make the third Stanley Cup appearance in franchise history. "I know we can. I've got confidence in this group. We believe we can do that," Tampa Bay's Ryan Callahan said. "We've had success on the road in the playoffs. We've had success in their building already. It's going to be a good one."—AP

INDY 500 CHAMPIONS CHOOSE ANDRETTI AS BEST TO NEVER WIN

INDIANAPOLIS: The words were stunning as they flew out of announcer Paul Page's mouth in the waning laps of the 1992 Indianapolis 500. "Michael is slowing! Michael is slowing!" Page declared. "The rest of the field is coming past. Michael Andretti is slowing down." Andretti was within 20 miles of earning a coveted Indianapolis 500 victory. He'd dominated the race, led 160 laps, had the field covered. Then just like that, his car slowed to a crawl because of a broken fuel pump and his heartbreak was complete. "It was that close to being the greatest moment in my life and it turned out to be the worst moment," he later told Indianapolis Motor Speedway historians. "Me breaking down with 10 laps to go with a totally dominant car, it was a killer." In the lead-up to the 100th running of the "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing," The Associated Press interviewed the 27 living race winners on topics ranging from the greatest driver to most memorable moment. Their answers to the best driver to never win the Indianapolis 500 gave Andretti a distinction he'd rather go to anyone else.

Unfortunate honor

Andretti received 17 of the 27 votes, while Lloyd Ruby received four. Others mentioned were Tony Stewart, Jim Clark, Roberto Guerrero and Alex Zanardi. "Being the best driver to have not won Indy is an unfortunate honor," Andretti told the AP. "I think I'd much rather be one of the winners and not be honored in this category at all. But a lot of great drivers have raced here and never did win, so to be picked among those names is a real honor."

Andretti built one of the most impressive careers in American open-wheel racing history. He ranks fifth in starts (317), third in wins (42) and laps led (6,607). But his career is widely defined by his oh-so-close moments at Indy that added to the lore of the "Andretti curse." Michael's father, Mario, won the Indy 500 just once, in 1969. Since then, Mario, his sons Michael and Jeff, nephew John and grandson Marco have come up empty time and time again. "All this stuff about the Andretti curse is nonsense, I never, ever dwelled on the negative," Mario Andretti told AP. "You have to look at the positive. Michael controlled this race better than some of the four-time winners. In '92, he had a 11/2-lap lead and he could have pushed the car back to win the race. You look at things like that, and that's how some people judge you. "But the other thing you look at is this: Was he capable of winning it? You're darn right he was. So he can be proud of what he's done here. He did pretty damn well here."

Cruel fashion

Michael Andretti led 421 laps in 16 starts. His career-best finish was second to four-time winner Rick Mears in 1991, and victory was snatched from him in the cruelest fashion the next season. Another near miss came in 2006 when Andretti had come out of retirement for the chance to run the 500 against son Marco, a rookie that year. Using fuel strategy, Andretti found himself out front with three laps remaining but he had to back off the gas to make it to the finish.

That gave Marco the chance to slide past his father into the lead, and Sam Hornish Jr followed to put Andretti in third. Excited that his son might put an Andretti in victory lane, he was crushed when Hornish snatched the win away at the line. "He led laps. He was fast. He made mistakes at times and at times, the car let him down," said Hornish, who noted Andretti also could have won in 1991 until he "just got outdueled by one of the best guys to ever race there." "The heartbreak that Michael had for the Indianapolis 500, for how good he was, what he did outside out of that, I don't think you can dispute that he's the guy," Hornish said. "It was cruel to him in a lot of ways." There is an upside to Andretti's time at Indy. He's won three times as a car owner, most recently in 2014 with Ryan Hunter-Reay. He will try for a fourth victory on Sunday in the historic centennial race, and he'd love any of his drivers to get the win, including his son. Mario Andretti doesn't think never winning hangs over his son, but it certainly stings. "It hurts, but there are things you just cannot control - what do we have, what we drive," Mario Andretti said. "But he loves being an IndyCar owner and he's won three times as a car owner, so I think he feels he's been compensated for that. You know, I think sooner or later, the luck factor is going to give us a win." — AP



NEW YORK: Indy 500 race car drivers, from left, James Hinchcliffe, Marco Andretti, Ryan Hunter-Reay and Will Power pose during a promotional event with the Borg-Warner race trophy. — AP



Kuwait 🛥 Times

FRANCE TO DEPLOY 90,000 SECURITY FOR EURO 2016

PARIS: France said yesterday it will deploy more than 90,000 police and security guards for Euro 2016, vowing to do "everything possible to avoid a terrorist attack" during the football tournament that starts next month. The announcement followed chaos on Saturday at the Stade de France national stadium when smoke bombs were set off during the national cup final, sparking panic. Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve told the sports daily L'Equipe that the match between Paris Saint-Germain and Marseille should not be considered a test for Euro 2016. "They were not the same spectators, not the same organisers, nor the same security deployment," he said. "However, what happened will be taken into account" ahead of the month-long football tournament, which kicks off on June 10 with matches to be played at 10 venues around the country. Cazeneuve later wrote on Twitter that 77,000 police and paramilitary police would be deployed, along with 13,000 private security guards.

Some of the 10,000 soldiers deployed around France since last year's jihadist attacks in Paris will also be used to secure the matches, he said. "Our objective is for the Euro to be a big festive gathering, but we owe the French the truth. Zero percent precaution means 100 percent risk, but 100 percent precaution does not mean a zero percent risk," he said. "We are doing everything to avoid a terrorist attack, and we are preparing to respond."

The Stade de France, which will host the opening game and final, was targeted by suicide bombers during the attacks by the Islamic State group on the French capital in November. The assailants tried unsuccessfully to get inside the security perimeter.

No 'specific threat'

Cazeneuve said security inside the stadium is the responsibility of UEFA, while safety at the "fan zones"-which will accommodate seven million people-will be in the hands of private security agents. "Fan zones are secure spaces," he said. "I took the decision to impose security pat-downs at entrances, to use metal detectors and to ban bags inside. If there were no fan zones, fans would regroup in an ad hoc setting and the risk (of an attack) would be greater." Despite the beefed-up measures, the

interior minister said there was no particular threat against the football tournament. "At this time we do not have a specific threat to a specific team or a specific player, a specific match, or a specific fan zone," he said. He added that protests would not be banned but did not rule out possible disorder as the country is gripped by a major labor strike. "It remains an open possibility... that security cannot be guaranteed by law and order forces." —AFP



THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016

ROME: Antonio Conte (C), Italy's national football team head coach and former coach of Juventus, is seen in the stands before the Italian Tim Cup final football match AC Milan vs Juventus on May 21, 2016 at the Olympic Stadium. — AFP

GERMANY'S HUMMELS INJURED WHILE SCHWEINSTEIGER REMAINS ON TRACK

ASCONA: World Cup winners Germany were without stalwarts Mats Hummels and Bastian Schweinsteiger as they began preparing yesterday for Euro 2016 but coach Joachim Loew was confident both would be fit for the finals. Central defender Hummels picked up a calf muscle injury in Borussia Dortmund's German Cup final defeat by Bayern Munich on Saturday.

"He has a muscle fiber tear in his calf and will be out for a few days. At the moment the only thing possible is treatment," Loew told reporters after Germany's first training session in their camp in northern Italy. Loew, who trained with only 16 players yesterday morning, also sounded upbeat about captain Schweinsteiger's recovery with the Manchester United player out of action since March with a knee injury. "Physically he has done everything asked of him. Sometimes he trained as much as three times a day," Loew said. "He has a good basis now and I am optimistic for the coming weeks." Loew said the 31-year-old Schweinsteiger, who has 114 caps, could train fully in terms of running and sprinting but would need a few days before starting to work with a ball. Germany, drawn in Group C along with Ukraine, Poland and Northern Ireland, are looking for their first continental trophy in 20 years, with the last of three Euro titles back in 1996. "I am doing well at the moment and I am very optimistic," Schweinsteiger told reporters. "The good thing is that I can deal with these situations. I have had difficult times before."

Schweinsteiger, who had an injury-plagued first season at United and played just 18 league games, also had to race to get fit for the 2014 World Cup with Germany winning the trophy for the fourth time. "There is a plan for me and I follow it by the hour," he said. "It worked two years ago. Maybe I was even worse back then than today. Little by little I will move forward." — Reuters



DISRUPTIONS, DISTRACTIONS COULD UNDO CONTE'S ITALY

ROME: Italy coach Antonio Conte goes into the European Championship with questions hanging over his team after injuries disrupted his selection plans and a lack of punch was exposed up front. Adding to the frustrations of only occasional get-togethers with his players has been the distraction of his impending move back to club football with Chelsea.

However, the former Juventus coach was relieved to be cleared of any role in a 2011 match-fixing scandal while in charge of Serie B side Siena a month before the tournament's June 10 kickoff. The passionate Conte showed his frustration with managing a national team when he graphically described his displeasure with the long spells "in the garage" and far from the track.

That will not lessen his desire to bow out in glory in France and he has the tactical nous and motivational powers to succeed. "I'm very tired of spending so much time in the garage," he said before two March friendlies in which Italy drew 1-1 with European Championship holders Spain and were beaten 4-1 by World Cup winners Germany. "In the garage, I smelt the smell of the machine, or rubber and motor oil, not the grass of the pitch." Italy, who lost the Euro 2012 final to Spain in Kiev, were unbeaten in the qualifiers this time round thanks to a strong defense and a brilliant goalkeeper in captain Gianluigi Buffon. However, injuries have disrupted Conte's midfield plans with Paris Saint-Germain's Marco Verratti and Claudio Marchisio of Juventus both out of the tournament after injuries requiring surgery.

He is sure to turn to PSG's Thiago Motta, whose only appearances under Conte were in the two March friendlies, to fill the breach. Italy can field an impressive all-Juventus defense with Buffon in goal and Leonardo Bonucci, Giorgio Chiellini and even 2006 World Cup veteran Andrea Barzagli in the back line.

Up front, Conte will be looking to talented little Napoli winger Lorenzo Insigne and striker Stephan El Shaarawy, who has spent the season at AS Roma on loan from AC Milan, for flair and goals. Italy open their Group E campaign on June 13 in Lyon against second-ranked Belgium, who beat Conte's team in a friendly last year, and also face Ireland and Sweden.

tract with Juventus beyond his 40th birthday as he also seeks the equally elusive Champions League.

EURO2016

FRANCE

He has been a runner-up in both, finishing on the losing side in the Euro 2012 final against Spain in Kiev. The question is whether Antonio Conte's Italy will be good enough to go one better even with record holder Buffon, ripening with age like a vintage Chianti, between the posts. Buffon, Italy's most capped player with 156 appearances, set a Serie A record in March of 974 minutes without conceding a goal.

"I was born for this type of work and to be the exception," Buffon was recently quoted as saying in La Gazzetta dello Sport. "If it could happen that I'd be the first player to compete in six World Cups, it would certainly mean something because of its rarity," he added with the 2018 tournament in his sights. He has seen action at

BERLIN: Dortmund's defender Mats Hummels reacts during the German Cup (DFB Pokal) final football match Bayern Munich vs Borussia Dortmund at the Olympic stadium. —AFP

Legend Buffon still standing

There is no stopping master goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon in his ambition to add more major titles to his collection of the 2006 World Cup and seven Serie A championships. Buffon, who will lead Italy in France when they look to end a 48-year wait for their second European Championship crown, has extended his con-

SWEDES HOPE IBRAHIMOVIC

KEEPS ON SCORING IN FRANCE

the last four tournaments after being an unused reserve at France 1998.

Any goalkeeper keeping a string of clean sheets needs the help of a good defense and Buffon has that at Juventus with Italy team mates Leonardo Bonucci, Giorgio Chiellini and Andrea Barzagli, but he also has to be a rounded performer. Buffon is a remarkable shot stopper, commanding in the air, a fine reader of opposition attacks and organizer of the defense and a respected voice in the changing room. — Reuters

STRIKER KANE SEES ABLE PARTNERSHIP WITH VARDY

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur forward Harry Kane believes he and Leicester City marksman Jamie Vardy will provide England with one of the most formidable strike partnerships on display at next month's Euro 2016 tournament in France.

Kane edged out Vardy by a single goal in the race for the Premier League golden boot after netting 25 times to become the first Englishman to scoop up the award since Sunderland's Kevin Phillips 16 years ago. The pair both scored in England's 2-1 friendly win over Turkey in Manchester on Sunday as their burgeoning partnership continued to bear fruit on the international stage. "We should be considered among the best strikers in Europe. We're up there, we're confident, we're both scoring goals and long may it continue," Kane told British media.

Manchester United striker Wayne

Rooney faces stiff competition for a starting spot in the frontline and manager Roy Hodgson may have to push England's alltime leading goalscorer into midfield to accommodate his captain in the first team. Kane was certain Rooney could make the transition from a goal scorer to a creator and hoped to benefit from the England skipper's ability to pick a pass.

"Wayne Rooney has been doing great in that deeper position, but we've all got to fight for places," Kane said. "There are a lot of options... the manager will do what he wants to do. But whoever is playing, I'm sure the service will be great and I will be happy to get on the end of it." England, who play Australia in a warm-up game on Friday, face Russia, Slovakia and Wales in Group B of 24-team tournament that kicks off on June 10. —Reuters **STOCKHOLM:** Having secured their spot at Euro 2016 by beating Scandinavian rivals Denmark in a thrilling two-legged playoff, Swedish fans hope Zlatan Ibrahimovic and company will hit the ground running in France.

The Swedes crashed out at the opening stage of Euro 2012 and, with Italy and Belgium in their group this time round, a victory in their opening Group E game against Ireland on June 13 would go a long way towards helping them to make the knockout stages. "The team that wins that game has a good chance of advancing. A victory there might be enough to go through," Sweden coach Erik Hamren told Reuters.

The Swedes struggle against higher-ranked teams and managed just two points from a possible 12 in qualification against group winners Austria and runners-up Russia to finish in third spot. To make an impact at Euro 2016 they will need captain and record international goalscorer Ibrahimovic to continue to find the net on French soil.

Virtually unstoppable

Virtually unstoppable in four seasons in France's Ligue 1, the 34year-old Paris Saint Germain striker netted 11 of Sweden's 19 strikes in qualifying, including three of the four goals that downed Denmark 4-3 on aggregate. However, Ibrahimovic's heroics in front of goal have been frequently wiped out by a soft-centred defense that struggles against pace and counterattacks. Known for his loyalty, Hamren still includes ageing stalwarts such as Sebastian Larsson and Kim Kallstrom in his squad but he is gradually introducing new players.

These include six of the side who were victorious at last year's U21 European Championships in the Czech Republic, and a number of players with Champions League experience with Malmo FF.

Celta Vigo forward John Guidetti has won plenty of praise in Spain and Emir Kujovic topped the scoring charts in Sweden's Allsvenskan in 2015, netting 21 goals as his unfancied IFK Norrkiping side won the title. They also have plenty of cover on the wings and at full back but it is choosing the best pairings at the centre of defense and in central midfield that will give Hamren his biggest headaches. With the manager due to step down after the tournament and rumors that Ibra's international retirement is looming, the Swedes will want to mark what seems like the end of an era with qualification. — Reuters



STOCKHOLM: Sweden's national football team player forward and team captain Zlatan Ibrahimovic (C) attends a training session at Stockholm Stadium. — AFP



MANCHESTER: England's striker Harry Kane (L) celebrates scoring his team's first goal with England's striker Jamie Vardy during the friendly football match between England and Turkey at the Etihad Stadium. — AFP



SPAIN NEEDS A BETTER SPINE TO REIGN AGAIN

BARCELONA: For all Vicente del Bosque's confidence that he has the right balance of experience and youth to return Spain to their familiar place on the winner's rostrum, questions remain about his best starting line-up ahead of Euro 2016. On the surface, Spain's qualifying record of nine wins out of 10 going into the tournament looks impressive but they rarely delivered performances to suggest they could pick up a third successive title or banish the memories of their 2014 World Cup failure.

No-one will be keener to prove the doubters wrong than Del Bosque in what looks to be his last hurrah as Spain's coach. Once again he can call on trusted stalwarts Andres Iniesta, Sergio Busquets, Gerard Pique, Sergio Ramos and Cesc Fabregas, all regulars before or since the 2010 World Cup triumph, this time blending them with a new generation of young players such as Manchester United goalkeeper David de Gea, Atletico Madrid midfielder Koke and Juventus striker Alvaro Morata.

"I really believe in the veterans who have spent a long time with us and we trust the newcomers, who give the squad impulse and fresh blood," said Del Bosque. "Our objective is to think beyond the two European Championships we've won, because people are only going to value what we do in the next one."

Another triumph will require a settled spine to his team, yet there remains uncertainty over who will start as central striker and in goal, where the manager must decide whether to demote Iker Casillas in favor of De Gea, whose consistently outstanding performances in the last three seasons contrast with the long-standing captain's waning powers. Up front, the situation is equally fluid. After leaving out Diego Costa and Paco Alcacer-top scorer in qualifying-Del Bosque is likely to opt for Morata as first-choice striker, although he made just 16 league starts for Juventus.

Athletic Bilbao striker Aritz Aduriz is in the form of his life at the age of 35 and scored more goals than any other Spaniard in the campaign but there are doubts about whether his physical, direct style fits in with Spain's possession game. At the back there remains an alarming lack of depth to cover for Sergio Ramos, who appears to have hit form at the right time after an inconsistent season, and Gerard Pique, who arrives on the back of another brilliant campaign with Barcelona. Injury to either would be a major headache because the inclusion of Barcelona's Marc Bartra, who has played relatively little first-team football this season, suggests experienced cover is not at hand.

Iniesta aims for more glory

Andres Iniesta, the driving force behind Spanish triumphs at the last two Euros and scorer of the goal that delivered their only World Cup in between, will hope to provide further inspiration as his country target a record fourth European Championship triumph.

The virtuoso midfielder's extra-time strike against the Netherlands in Johannesburg in 2010 earned him universal devotion in Spain, with even Real Madrid supporters giving the Barcelona man a standing ovation on his most recent visits to the Bernabeu. With his trusted midfield companion Xavi Hernandez retired from international football, Iniesta is the last architect of the 'tiki-taka'style of fast-moving passing football which Spain mastered to dominate the world game between 2008 and 2012.



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Spanish midfielder Andres Iniesta holds his son Paolo next to his daughter Valeria as he speaks during celebrations at the Camp Nou stadium. —AFP

SIGURDSSON THE ENGINE IN ICELAND'S HOPE FOR SUCCESS

STOCKHOLM: Gylfi Sigurdsson's did in qualifying. Now 26, Sigurdsson arrived at the academy of English road to soccer success has been winding, with the latest twist taking the Swansea player to France where he will govern Iceland's midfield as they aim to make a mark at Euro 2016. Sigurdsson's six goals in qualifying proved instrumental in his side qualifying for a major tournament for the first time, but his impact is felt beyond the scoresheet. In coach Lars Lagerback's team the collective is always more important than the individual but without Sigurdsson it is hard to imagine Iceland beating teams such as lurkey, Czech Republic and Netherlands, as they He also poses a threat when shoot-

club Reading as a teenager in 2005 and played for Shrewsbury Town and Crewe Alexandra on loan before moving to 1899 Hoffenheim in Germany. From there he was loaned to Swansea where his performances caught the eye of Premier League rivals Tottenham Hotspur, whom he joined in July 2012 before returning to Swansea two years later.

A powerful runner with the ball, Sigurdsson is essential to Iceland's successful style of defensive containment and quick counter-attacking.

ing from distance, forcing backtracking defenses to decide whether to pressure him and thus leave others free, or allow him to shoot and hope for the best. It is a conundrum that few sides found a solution to in Iceland's qualifying group, in which they finished second. Sigurdsson posed particular problems for the Dutch, scoring all three of Iceland's goals against them in the home and away qualifying victories. With his strong engine, coolness from the penalty spot and power and accuracy from dead balls, Sigurdsson will be

AGEING BUT DANGEROUS, PORTUGAL STILL A THREAT

LISBON: They may be over dependent on Cristiano Ronaldo and struggling to replace old faithfuls, yet under the wily leadership of Fernando Santos, Portugal can still be a threat. Semi-finalists four years ago, Portugal suffered a miserable first-round exit at the World Cup in 2014 and followed that up by losing at home to Albania in their opening qualifier for Euro 2016.

Tempestuous coach Paulo Bento, who had steadfastly refused to replace Portugal's old guard, was sacked and replaced by Fernando Santos, who made an instant impact as Portugal reeled off seven successive wins in the Euro qualifiers, all by single-goal margins, to steer themselves safely to France. Santos has found the rebuilding process as difficult as his predecessor and has also relied heavily on more experienced players, even recalling veteran central defender Ricardo Carvalho, who will be 38 when the competition gets underway in France.

He has also evolved his game in recent years, dropping deeper and dictating the play rather than just fuelling the attack. His influence on games is more subtle now, yet it is no less important. "Iniesta has unique peripheral vision. He is a magical player," said Barca coach Luis Enrique earlier this year. He is likely to captain the team in their opening group game against Czech Republic if, as expected, Ike Casillas drops to the bench. As Spain try to rise again after their painful early exit from the World Cup two years ago, the elegant pass master is best placed to orchestrate another triumph and reassert their credentials among football's elite. — Reuters

HUNGARY HAVE A CHANCE TO UPDATE THEIR OWN HISTORY

BUDAPEST: History always hangs heavy on the Hungarian national team, whose decades of under-achievement are contrasted with the sepia glory of the 1950s when glittering talents such as Ferenc Puskas and Jeno Buzanszky reshaped football's landscape. Whatever else Bernd Storck's team achieve-and nobody expects very much-they at least have the opportunity to bring the story up to date when they rejoin football's elite in France.

"We want to play good football and to prove, that we are worthy members of the championship. Making the second round is not an expectation, rather a dream," said Storck in an assessment that few fans will disagree with.

Hungary have not appeared in a major tournament since the 1986 World Cup and their last European Championship appearance was in 1972. So just being there in 2016 ranks as a major achievement for a team who finished only third in their group, eventually qualifying via a 2-1 aggregate play-off win over Norway.

Troubled campaign

Their campaign was troubled, with one coach sacked and another leaving for club football in Germany before Storck delivered unexpected qualification on an unforgettable night in Budapest. The qualifiers had begun in the worst possible way with a 2-1 defeat to Northern Ireland, a result that led to Attila Pinter being replaced by Pal Dardai, who started the difficult job of rebuilding a team short on confidence and cohesion. Dardai soon departed for Hertha Berlin, leaving Storck, the former head coach of Kazakhstan, to introduce young blood and dare his team to come good with a more attacking style. Among some surprising calls was his decision to play Laszlo Kleinheisler in the first game against Norway despite the midfielder not having played for his club all season after refusing to sign a contract extension.

The 22-year-old rewarded Storck's faith with a man-of-thematch performance that was followed by a move to Werder Bremen. Kleinheisler is tipped to catch the eye in France, not least for his red hair which has led to the nickname Scholes. The midfielder also shares former Manchester United player Paul Scholes's eye for a goal. At the other end of the age range is former Crystal Palace keeper Gabor Kiraly, who turned 40 in April and is hoping to eclipse German Lothar Matthaeus as the oldest player to appear in the tournament finals. Where Hungary may struggle is up front after managing just 11 goals in 10 qualifiers but the group draw in France has been kind to them and, Portugal apart, they will look to games against Austria and tournament debutants Iceland as offering the chance to sneak a result. — Reuters

one of the first names on Lagerback's team sheet in France.— Reuters



KONYA, Turkey: This file photo taken on October 13, 2015 shows Iceland's team posing for photographers during the Euro 2016 Group A qualifying football match between Turkey and Iceland at the Konya Arena stadium. — AFP

VERSATILE ALABA MAKES HIS MARK ALL OVER THE PITCH

VIENNA: Nigeria's loss is Austria's gain as David Alaba has become one of Europe's most versatile and accomplished players. Alaba is still only 23 yet seems to have been around for ages, having made his debuts for both Bayern Munich and Austria as a 17-year-old. Born in Vienna to a Nigerian father, who is a disc-jockey, and a Filipino mother, the left-footed Alaba initially contemplated playing for the Super Eagles but says he was never approached by them. Austria were more than happy for him to play for them, however, and it is no coincidence that since Alaba has become a regular presence they have improved markedly.

An outstanding passer, good tackler and free-kick specialist, he is already the team captain, with 44 appearances and 11 goals under his belt. In terms of medals, he is one of Austria's most successful-ever players, having won four Bundesliga and one Champions League titles.

For Bayern, he played as a left back under Louis van Gaal and Jupp Heynckes, while Pep Guardiola has played him in several different roles, including advanced left back. He has even played as an improvised centre back. Austria prefer him on the left of the midfield, in front of the defense, where he can orchestrate the team with a style and authority which belie his youth.

Austria wants to prove itself

When UEFA decided to expand the European Championship finals from 16 to 24 teams, Austria were seen as one of the teams most likely to benefit. By no means among Europe's weakest teams, Austria were never quite good enough to make the final 16 and their only appearance in the finals came in 2008 when they cohosted the event. Such has been Austria's improvement that they would have qualified for France had it been a 16, or even eight-team, tournament. After drawing at home to Sweden in their opening game, Austria stormed through their qualifiers as they won all their remaining

games, beating Russia at home and away and thrashing Sweden 4-1 to clinch their place in style.

Coach Marcel Koller, given a lukewarm reception when he was appointed in 2011, has received most of the credit for lifting Austria from 70th in the world rankings to just outside the top 10. Koller has given the team a new tactical identity and has also proved a master at getting the most out of his players, including temperamental forward Marko Arnautovic.

He has also brought remarkable stability, fielding an unchanged starting line-up in the last six qualifiers. The turnaround had been in the making even before the low-profile Swiss, whose last club job ended with him being ignominiously sacked by German club VfL Bochum, took over. The Austrian federation had already implemented a new youth development program and, like neighboring Switzerland, begun to tap into the country's large pool of immigrant talent, something they had previously failed to do. —Reuters

At least there has been a willingness to give the new generation a chance. More than 50 players have been called up under Santos who has given 17 their full international debuts and fielded 33 players in the qualifiers. His boldness to experiment has paid off, unveiling highly promising players such as winger Bernardo Silva and midfielders William Carvalho and Joao Mario.

Possibly the most exciting of all is 18-year-old Renato Sanches, who has just signed for Bayern Munich from Benfica months after making his professional debut. Portugal's biggest failure is their inability to convert chances into goals with former Manchester United winger Nani, who remains a regular at international level, one of the main culprits. In the end, however, everything still revolves around Ronaldo, who is often criticized for failing to reproduce his best form for Portugal even though he is their all-time leading scorer.

Ronaldo remains Portugal's talisman

Cristiano Ronaldo owes most of his fame and fortune to his exploits with Real Madrid, yet he also remains a hugely influential figure when representing his country. Portugal's results have improved enormously since Ronaldo made his international debut against Kazakhstan as an 18-year-old in 2003. Their recent record at major tournaments is the envy of many bigger countries after they reached the Euro 2004 final, 2006 World Cup semi-finals and the Euro 2012 semi-finals, where they lost to eventual winners Spain in a shootout. Portugal have suffered when Ronaldo, who has captained them since he was 22, has been off-form such as at the last World Cup when he suffered a bout of tendinosis in his left knee in the run-up to the competition. The Madeira-born forward, who makes a point of breaking records, is Portugal's alltime leading scorer with 56 goals in 125 appearances and needs three more caps to beat Luis Figo's record.—Reuters



MADRID: Real Madrid's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo smiles as he addresses journalists during the club's Open Media Day at Real Madrid sport city.— AFP



OKLAHOMA CITY: Russell Westbrook #0 of the Oklahoma City Thunder drives against Stephen Curry #30 of the Golden State Warriors in the third quarter in game four of the Western Conference Finals during the 2016 NBA Playoffs at Chesapeake Energy Arena. (Inset) Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson (11) reacts in the final moments of the game. — AP

WARRIORS ON BRINK OF ELIMINATION

Record breaking Warriors teetering on the edge

OKLAHOMA CITY: Suddenly, the Golden State Warriors team that a short time ago was being favorably compared to the all-time great teams of NBA history is now on the brink of elimination from the Western Conference finals. Oklahoma City beat Golden State 118-94 on Tuesday to take a 3-1 lead in the series and move within one win of prematurely ending the Warriors' record-breaking season.

Russell Westbrook had 36 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists for his first triple-double of the playoffs after posting 18 in the regular season, and Kevin Durant added 26 points and 11 rebounds for Oklahoma City. Golden State, which won a league record 73 games in the regular season, lost consecutive games for the first time this season. The Warriors must win Game 5 on Thursday in Oakland to

keep their season alive. "We all have to bounce back," scored a career-high 17 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "The idea now is to go home and get one win. Do that, and we put some pressure on them and we'll see what happens." Klay Thompson led Golden State with 26 points. Two-time league MVP Stephen Curry was limited to 19 points on 6-for-20 shooting, but Kerr insisted he was not still being affected by the knee injury that troubled him in the late stages of the regular season.

"He's not injured," Kerr said. "He's coming back from the knee, but he's not injured. He just had a lousy night. It happens, even to the best players in the world." Oklahoma City got a boost from an unlikely source. Andre Roberson, a player the Warriors have ignored at times during the series,

'Every game is different'

Kevin Durant added 26 points and 11 rebounds and Serge Ibaka added 17 points and seven rebounds. Nine teams have rallied from 3-1 deficits in NBA playoff series to win 4-3. "We're in a good place, but like I said, this game is over," Westbrook said. "We've got to move on to the next game. Every game is different."

The Thunder led 30-26 at the end of the first quarter, then gained control in the second. In the most unlikely of connections, Adams threw a bullet pass to Roberson near the basket for a dunk that gave the Thunder a 56-43 lead with just over four minutes left in the first half.

Oklahoma City finished with a flurry and led 72-53 at halftime. The Thunder matched the most points they have scored in a first half in franchise playoff history, a mark they set the previous game against the Warriors. It also matched the most points Golden State has allowed in a half this season for the second straight game.

Westbrook had 21 points, nine assists and five rebounds in the first half, and Durant had 18 points and six boards. Thompson tried to keep the Warriors in it, scoring 19 points in just over seven minutes to start the third quarter. But the Thunder maintained their composure, led 94-82 at the end of the period and remained in control in the fourth. "This is a tough situation to be in, but the series isn't over," Curry said. — AP

MADRID STARS THRIVING UNDER COACH ZIDANE'S FREE REIGN

MADRID: Just five months into his first senior managerial role, Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane is already living up to the unenviable task of matching his credentials as one of the finest players of his generation.

Fourteen years on from the sumptuous volley that rippled a rain-soaked net at Hampden Park in Glasgow to hand Real their ninth European Cup over Bayer Leverkusen, he can become just the seventh man to win the Champions League as a player and a coach with victory over Atletico Madrid at Milan's San Siro on Saturday. A repeat of the outcome when Real met Atletico in the only other Champions League final between two clubs from the same city two years ago would see Real extend their dominance as the most successful club in the competition's history with an 11th win. Zidane was also a part of the 10th. Two years ago in Lisbon he cut an animated figure as assistant coach to Carlo Ancelotti as Sergio Ramos's stoppage time header rescued Real before Los Blancos cut loose in extra-time to win 4-1.

Real solutions

That was the Frenchman's final match as Ancelotti's aid as he delved into the third tier of Spanish football with Real's youth team Castilla to cut his teeth as a coach of his own merit. The leap when he was then promoted to the top job at the Santiago Bernabeu to replace the sacked Rafael Benitez after an ill-fated seven month spell in charge in January seemed steep.

A very Real Madrid solution to a very Real Madrid problem, many concluded. Zidane was one of club president Florentino Perez's first 'Galactico' star signings when he joined for a world record fee in 2001. After giving Benitez the shortest of leashes, Perez bet on stardust over stability once more.

However, this time it seems to have worked. Zidane has won 21 of his 26 games in charge, not only taking Real to just their second Champions League final in 14 years, but also pushing Barcelona all the way in a La Liga title race decided by just a point when Real trailed their eternal rivals by 12 in February. "I have a lot to learn, the desire I have to learn is tremendous and I am convinced I am going to improve," Zidane insisted on Tuesday.

Yet, his easy-going nature and reputation as a player have instantly produced respect and results from Madrid's often unmanageable, ego-driven dressing room. "With Zizou's arrival we have improved hugely," said three-time World Player of the Year Cristiano Ronaldo. "I think everybody feels the fun comes back a little bit when he arrived," added Toni Kroos.

Fortune has also favored Zidane. The embarrassment of being thrown out of the

Copa del Rey for fielding an ineligible player before his appointment has ensured Real have been fresher at the business end of the season than many of their rivals. Moreover, a run of Roma, Wolfsburg and an underwhelming Manchester City has been a far easier road to Milan than that faced by Atletico in seeing off Barcelona and Bayern Munich.

Replacing an unloved disciplinarian in Benitez has also been a contributory factor to Real's stars embracing him with open arms. Every compliment aimed his way seems like another dart meant to tarnish Benitez. "I think when you have been a player you have a way of focusing on things in football that is different to a coach who hasn't been," said Ramos. "Perhaps, that's why although he has only been in charge for a short time, it seems like he has for 30 years."

Zidane's slender frame and amiable attitude still give off the vibe of a player rather than a man weighed down by the pressure of leading the richest club in the world. "It is a game we'd all love to play... well I can't," he added on Tuesday with a smile that laid bare he would still feel more comfortable as a midfield maestro than sidelined observer. Yet, despite the change from player, to assistant and now coach, the constant drive to win the Champions League remains. — AFP



MADRID: Real Madrid's French coach Zinedine Zidane (4th left) looks at his players during a training session on the club's Open Media Day at Real Madrid sport city. — AFP



Shadow economy thrives in RussiaÅf garages; crisis bites

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Gulf rises on back of oil and global mood



Strike-hit France dips into its fuel reserves

SAUDI SHOULD KEEP OPTIONS OPEN ON CURRENCY PEG

Page 23



DUQM: Chinese investors listen to an explanation as they check the model of the dry dock which is to be built following an economic agreement in the Omani port city of Duqm. Chinese investors signed a deal with Oman's govern-

ment to establish an industrial city, including an oil refinery, in the port town of Duqm, both sides said in a joint statement. The agreement signed during the ceremony in Muscat would open way for investments worth \$10.7 billion by 2022 to finance industrial projects in Duqm, on the Arabian Sea, which the Omani government is developing in a bid to diversify revenues beyond oil. — AFP

IRAN-SAUDI ROW THREATENS ANY OPEC DEAL **OPEC'S THORNIEST DILEMMA - TENSIONS BETWEEN ARCH-RIVALS**

least from a purely oil standpoint - is about to disappear. Less than six months after the lifting of Western sanctions, Iran is close to regaining normal oil export volumes, adding extra barrels to the market in an unexpectedly smooth way and helped by supply disruptions from Canada to Nigeria. But the development will do little to repair dialogue, let alone help clinch a production deal, when OPEC meets next week amid rising political tensions between arch-rivals Iran and oil superpower Saudi Arabia, OPEC sources and delegates say.

Earlier this year, Tehran refused to join an initiative to boost prices by freezing output but signaled it would be part of a future effort once its production had recovered sufficiently. OPEC has no supply limit, having at its last meeting in December scrapped its production target. According to International Energy Agency (IEA) figures, Iran's output has reached levels seen before the imposition of sanctions over its nuclear program. Tehran says it is not yet there.

But while Iran may be more willing now to talk, an increase in oil prices has reduced the urgency of propping

LONDON: OPEC's thorniest dilemma of the past year - at up the market, OPEC delegates say. Oil has risen towards a more producer-friendly \$50 from a 12-year low near \$27 in January. "I don't think OPEC will decide anything," a delegate from a major Middle East producer said. "The market is recovering because of supply disruptions and demand recovery." A senior OPEC delegate, asked whether the group would make any changes to output policy at its June 2 meeting, said: "Nothing. The freeze is finished."

Higher exports

Within OPEC, Iran has long pushed for measures to support oil prices. That position puts it at odds with Saudi Arabia, the driving force behind OPEC's landmark November 2014 refusal to cut supply in order to boost the market. Sources familiar with Iranian oil policy see no sign of any change of approach by Riyadh under new Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih - who is seen as a believer in reform and low oil prices. "It really depends on those countries within OPEC with a high level of production," one such source said. "It does not seem that Saudi Arabia will be ready to cooperate with other members."

Iran has managed to increase oil exports significantly in 2016 after the lifting of sanctions in January. It notched up output of 3.56 million barrels of oil per day in April, the IEA said, a level last reached in November 2011 before sanctions were tightened. Saudi Arabia produced a nearrecord-high 10.26 million barrels per day in April and has kept output relatively steady over the past year, its submissions to OPEC show.

Iran, according to delegates from other OPEC members, is unlikely to restrain supplies, given that it believes Saudi Arabia should cut back itself to make room for Iranian oil. "Iran won't support any freeze or cut," said a non-Iranian OPEC delegate. "But Iran may put pressure on Saudi Arabia that they hold the responsibility." Saudi thinking, however, has moved on from the days when Riyadh cut or increased output unilaterally. Talks in Doha on the proposed output freeze by OPEC and non-OPEC producers fell through after Saudi insisted that Iran participate.

Indeed, differences between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which helped found the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries 56 years ago, over OPEC policy have

made cooperation harder - to say nothing of more fundamental disagreements. For more than a decade after oil crashed to \$10 in 1997, the two set aside rivalries to manage the market and support prices, although they fell into opposing OPEC camps with Iran wanting high prices and Saudi more moderate. Now, the Sunni-Shia conflicts setting Saudi Arabia and Iran at each other's throats, particularly in Syria and Yemen, make the relationship between the two even more fraught.

The two disagree over OPEC's future direction. Earlier in May, OPEC failed to decide on a long-term strategy as Saudi Arabia objected to Iran's proposal that the exporter group aim for "effective production management". With that backdrop, ministers may be advised to keep expectations low, an OPEC watcher said. "The only aspiration OPEC should have for its 2 June meeting is simply not to repeat the chaos of the Doha process," said Paul Horsnell, analyst at Standard Chartered. "A straightforward meeting with no binding commitments and, most importantly, no overt arguments would be the best outcome for ministers."— Reuters

AFTER SIX YEARS AUSTERITY, GREEKS FEEL NO JOY FROM NEW DEBT DEAL

EURO MINISTERS APPROVE NEW AID TRANCHE FOR GREECE

ATHENS: While Greece's government trumpeted a debt relief deal with other euro zone countries yesterday as the beginning of the end of its bruising six-year financial crisis, many Greeks remained unconvinced. After years of austerity measures demanded by Greece's international creditors - the latest passed in parliament last Sunday - Greeks wonder whether the sacrifices they have made to stay in the euro were worth the pain. "We are done, we can't even leave our homes anymore to have a coffee," said Panagiotis Zabetakis, 50, a carpenter who, like one in every four Greeks, is unemployed. Playing with worry beads at a cheap cafe in an Athens suburb, Zabetakis paid 1 euro (\$1.10) for his morning coffee. That will rise on June 1 when the measures passed to secure yesterday's deal start coming into force.

By next year Greeks will pay an extra 20-30 cents for their coffee and the price of just about everything else will rise too as added tax will (VAT) goes up to 24 percent from 23 percent. Greeks' spending power, meanwhile, is in sharp decline. "We are running after the Europeans, hoping they throw us a bone which would suffice for a few months. I'm very disappointed," Zabetakis said, criticizing the deal which opens the way for debt relief from 2018, but does not include any firm promise

to reduce the payments Greece has to make. Greece have been hit with waves of pension cuts and tax increases since it was forced to seek its first bailout in 2010. Leaving the meeting in Brussels where he secured 10.3 billion euros (\$11.5 billion) in new funds from his euro-zone colleagues, Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos said he hoped the deal marked "the beginning of turning Greece's vicious circle of recession-measures-recession into one where investors have a clear runway to invest in Greece."

The deal won a provisional commitment from the IMF to return to the bailout process, but with Germany opposed to cutting the debt pile, euro zone ministers made any relief measures such as extending maturities on loans contingent on Athens respecting strict criteria, something Greeks fear means more austerity. "This cannot continue ... they (the Europeans) are telling us we will be in debt for 100 years. How can we be pleased?" asked pensioner Eleni Palaiologou, 85. Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, elected in early 2015 on a promise to end austerity only to row back and accept a new bailout to avoid being forced out of the euro, struggled to get his coalition to accept the latest reforms.

Scraping through with a narrow majority of



ATHENS: Greece's Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras addresses lawmakers during a parliamentary session in Athens. — AP

153 members in the 300 seat parliament, there is some stirring dissent. One of Tsipras' lawmakers quit after Sunday's vote. "We are adopting measures and policies which run counter to the core of our values and policies," the resigned member of parliament, Vassiliki Katrivanou, said on her Facebook page. "But I cannot think of any credible alternative." On the streets of Athens, a 33-year-old chartered accountant, who declined to give his name fearing repercussions at work, said he was tired of scraping by. "I feel we are just living in this vortex of austerity measures," he said. "It's a constant of just sacrifices." — Reuters

LONDON'S CITY FINANCE HUB BRACES FOR POSSIBLE BREXIT

Britain's vital in-out EU referendum, London's City finance district is busily planning ahead for a potential "Brexit". Big City firms, many of which are housed in skyscrapers that dominate the London skyline, are seeking to protect themselves from market volatility should Britons vote "Leave", experts say.

Major players like HSBC and Deutsche Bank have said they may need to shift activities abroad and the Bank of England is boosting liquidity in the weeks around the June 23 referendum to avoid a credit crunch. But big banks, insurance giants, trading exchanges and accounting firms are mostly keeping mum on the full "toolbox" of contingency measures. Anastasia Nesvetailova, economics professor at City University London, told AFP that big finance firms will be seeking haven assets, mulling extra liquidity to ward off a cash crunch-as well as eyeing potential re-location and job cuts.

"The main tool in such a box would be stocking up on reserves-cash, quality securities, collateral-whose value is immune to Brexit," Nesvetailova said. "In addition to boosting their buffers, financial institu-

LONDON: With one month to go before tions are communicating with regulators and are assessing the range of possible risks. "This involves scenario planning; stress-testing their funding positions, proofing their balance sheets against a massive and prolonged liquidity crisis (and) planning for staffing needs in the eventuality of relocating some of the activities away from London."

> Following an EU exit, London could shed 100,000 jobs, according to finance lobbyists TheCityUK. That is almost one in seven of the estimated 729,600 people employed by financial and related professional services in the traditional City district-and the newer Canary Wharf area that houses HSBC and Barclays. HSBC, Europe's biggest bank, has stated it could potentially shift 1,000 jobs to Paris, comprising about one fifth of its global banking and markets division.

The bank will also make sure it is "extremely liquid" over the June-July period, and will seek to determine the "shape" of its businesses in the two years following Brexit. Deutsche Bank, with some 9,000 staff in Britain, has established a working group to assess whether it would need to shift its activities. — AFP

<u>Kuwait Times</u>



ICELAND CENTRAL BANK: TIME IS RIPE TO LIFT CAPITAL CONTROLS ECONOMY IN GOOD SHAPE 8 YEARS AFTER CRISIS

REYKJAVIK: Conditions "have never been better" to end Iceland's capital controls, with the central bank shoring up its foreign reserves to boost confidence and in case it needs to intervene once they are lifted, the central bank governor said. The controls were adopted when Iceland went into financial meltdown in 2008 and undoing them is a delicate affair. With the economy expected to grow 4.5 percent this year, and with interest rates at 5.75 percent compared with zero or negative rates in the rest of Europe, the worry is a destabilizing rush of cash coming in.

But another, opposite concern is that there could be a disorderly exit of some 300 billion Icelandic crowns (\$2.4 billion) by foreign investors selling the crowndenominated bonds, nicknamed Glacier bonds, bought before the crisis and trapped in Iceland ever since. "The conditions for lifting the capital controls have probably never been better since the crisis," Mar Gudmundsson said in an interview at the central bank. "We have a current account surplus, we have a well balanced economy, we have strong growth, we have relatively high foreign exchange reserves."

Autumn lifting

Capital controls for Icelanders are now expected to begin to be lifted in the autumn, he said. Earlier, the timeline was for around the end of the year. But to prevent any headwinds - with the worst-case scenario being a currency collapse - the central bank is getting ready to intervene and is "buying and buying" foreign reserves.

"At the moment we are building reserves ... Going forward, in more normal conditions, we will be using foreign exchange intervention more occasionally, either to reduce excess volatility in the currency or even, in more exceptional cases, in order to mitigate misalignments of the currency." The bank was not targeting a specific currency exchange level, he said. Iceland must make some crucial changes before it goes ahead with the plans. One of them happened on Sunday, when parliament passed a bill allowing foreign investors to sell Icelandic crowns at a rate of 220 crowns for one euro - lower than the latest offshore exchange rate of 196 crowns.

Another is a currency auction, now scheduled for mid-June, when foreign investors can try to sell their Icelandic

crowns. "From now until Nov 1 anybody is free to leave at that rate (of 220 crowns to the euro)," Gudmundsson said. "They can also participate in the auction. They are likely to get a more unfavourable rate, but the higher the participation, the more the rate will be favorable." He repeated that the central bank was ready to use other tools to control incoming cash, such as a tax on bond buys. Regarding interest rates, the bank left its rate unchanged at 5.75 percent at its last policy meeting on May 11. Looking ahead,

Gudmundsson said, rates would probably need to rise. "We think it is more likely that we need to tighten somewhat further," he said. "But this is far from certain. It depends on what happens with inflation expectations, and these have been coming down a bit." Inflation has been below the central bank's target of 2.5 percent since 2014. Despite an overheating economy and wage growth of nearly 12 percent, low crude and commodity prices have dampened inflation. The next rate meeting is on June 1. "It is more likely that inflation will go up in the course of this year and will be above target next

year," he said. - Reuters



MASTERCARD UNVEILS FIRST COMMERCE APPLICATION FOR SOFTBANK ROBOTICS' HUMANOID ROBOT PEPPER

DUBAI: MasterCard yesterday unveiled serve machines and kiosks, by combining by providing personalized recommenda- Restaurants Asia. "Core to our digital SoftBank Robotics' humanoid robot Pepper. The application will be powered by MasterPass, the global digital payment service from MasterCard that connects consumers with merchants, enabling them to make fast, simple, and secure digital payments across channels and devices. Pizza Hut Restaurants Asia P/L will be the inaugural launch partner working together with MasterCard to create innovative customer engagement with Pepper. A major first step forward in bringing conversational commerce experiences to merchants and consumers, this new app extends the robot's ability to integrate customer service, access to information and sales into a seamless and consistent user experience. Pizza Hut Asia will be piloting Pepper for order-taking and personalized engagement to enhance customer service in-store by end of 2016. "Consumers have come to expect personalized service, customized offers and simple and seamless processes both instore and online," said Tobias Puehse, vice president, innovation management, Digital Payments &Labs at MasterCard. "The app's goal is to provide consumers with more memorable and personalized shopping experience beyond today's self-

payment experience via MasterPass.

the first commerce application for Pepper's intelligence with a secure digital tions and offers, additional information transformation journey is the ability to on products, and assistance in checking out and paying for items. Pepper will be able to initiate, approve and complete a transaction by connecting to MasterPass via a Wi-Fi connection and the entire transaction happens within the wallet. "We are excited to welcome Pepper to the Pizza Hut family," said VipulChawla, Managing Director of Pizza Hut

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Dene Jones	17,4	92.93	17,7	06.05	213,12		1.22	1.53		
MASDAQ	-	15.78		1.06	95.28	*	2.00	-2.92		
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DAX CAC 40		11.52		12.45	125.14 40.12		0.91	-5.22		
Switzs	_	5.24		0.10	34.86	-	0.43	-7.46		
Hikkel 225		98.76		57.35	256.59		1.57	-11.96		
Topia	1,33	14.50	1,34	12.88	16.38		1.23	-13.18		
Hong Seng	19,8	30.43	20,3	48.05	537.62		2.71	-7.06		
Straits Times	2,71	0.23	2,76	6.66	16.43		0.60	-4.03		
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Kamalt	1.10	2.62	3.34	8.25	45.63		0.56	-5.50		
Saudi Arabia		4.84		4.12	39.28		0.41	-6.32		
Dubei	-	17.60		0.77	61.17		1.68	3.07		
Abu Dhabi	4.22	12.14	4.21	15.61	66.45		1.57	-1.96		
Bahrain		0.65		19.63	-1.03	•	-0.09	-9.48		
Qatar	1 1111	4.85		15.74	40.29		0.43	-7.33		
Oman	-	17.42		0.51	-6.91	•	-0.12	9.83		
Lobarion		12.24		5.72	0.00		0.00	-1.18		
Jordan Cgypt		7.33		14.90 14.46	-7.23		-0.34	-1.13		
Nerscol		16.94		7.26	-59.68	1	-0.61	9.34		
Tuestala	-	19.03		13.07	4.04		0.09	9.66		
Global Currencies Exchange Rate										
0.000	Kowata	Blockson	1100120000	10120-000	Storting	Swiss	Japanese	Australian		
Currency	Distar	Small Rhyal	2000	Euro	Peard	Franc	Yen	Dollar		
Kawalt Dinar	0.00010	12.3007	3.2938	2.9557	2.2471	3.2642	362.94	4.5684		
Saudi Riyal US Dallar	0.00130	3,7345	0.2678	0.2403	0.1827	0.2654	29,51	0.3714		
to owner. Earn-	0.33833	4.1617	1,7144	0.0973	0.7604	1.1047	122.82	1.5467		
Starting Found	0.44502	3,4740	1.4658	1.3151	0.70974	1.4531	161.53	2.0137		
Switzs Franc	0.30636	3,7684	1.0091	0.9052	0.6882		111.20	1.3996		
Japanese Yen	0.00276	0.0339	0.0091	0.0001	0.0062	0.0090	frances.	0.0126		
Australian Dollar	0.21890	2.6926	0.7210	0.6465	0.4917	0.7145	79.45			
					hange	States.	10			
Currency	US Dollar	Record 10 Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Daterates	Qatari Riyal	Omarsi Riyal	Entiratas Dirham	Egyptian		
US Dellar		0.30360	3.7345	0.3740	3.6270	0.3832	3.6576	8.6800		
Kampiti Dinar	3.2938		12.3007	1,2320	11.9466	1.2620	12.0474	28.5903		
Seculi Riyol	0.2678	0.08130		0.1002	0.9712	0.1026	0.9794	2.3243		
Bahrairi Dinar	2.6735	0.81168	9.9842		9,6968	1,0244	9,7786	23.2061		
Qatari Riyel	0.2757	0.06371	1.0296	0.1031		0.1056	1.0054	2.3932		
Omarti Riyal Entrates Dirham	2.6099	0.79238	9,7468	0.9762	9,4663	0.1048	9.5461	22.4543		
Egyptian Pound	0.1152	0.03496	0.4302	0.0431	0.4179	0.0441	0.4214			
CV-MAN		10000000	bal Int	and the second	121000-0					
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Kanvalti Divar	0.00	1.19		.44		43	-	54		
US Duller	0.40	0.44		66		97		32		
Euro	-0.37	-0.35		27	-	.15	-	.03		
Sterting Found	0.48	0.51		58		73		.01		
Swiss Franc	-0.78	-0.76		.73		.64		.51		
Australian Dollar	1.84	1,91		79		75		49		
Canadian Dollar	0.00	0.90	and the second second	-	and an owned where the second		1			
			A DECEMBER OF STREET	ond Yi	Contraction of the second					
Courtery		lear .		føar.	-	Year		Year		
United States		93		41		86	2.65			
Europe United Kingdom		.52		36		45	0.88			
And the second second		-			-			.,		
		- 17	(C204)	noditi	1.00		Belly	Tearry		
Index.	1.000	un Cleur	1. Collins	Price	1000	-	Parturnance N.			
Marwalt Off		.07		.08	0.01		0.02	33.25		
	48	.63	45	0.35		0.72	22.70			
Breek	-	24	48.01		-0.05 *					
Brent West Teses	48	4.50		.01 0.66	-0.05	•	-0.10	22.74		

SINGAPORE BOURSE EYEING

SINGAPORE: The Singapore Exchange

(SGX) is in exclusive talks with the

London's Baltic Exchange about buy-

ing the centuries-old shipping indus-

try hub, sources said yesterday. The

advance talks do not mean a sale is

guaranteed, said the sources, who

declined to be identified as the news

is not public. The Baltic Exchange and

SGX declined to comment. In late

February, the Baltic Exchange con-

firmed it had received a number of

"exploratory approaches" after SGX

said it was seeking to buy the London

shipping exchange. The London Metal

Exchange, CME Group, ICE, state-run

conglomerate China Merchants Group

and Platts were among other poten-

might value Baltic at about \$100 mil-

lion. Many sectors of the shipping

industry, including dry bulk commodi-

ties, are struggling with the worst

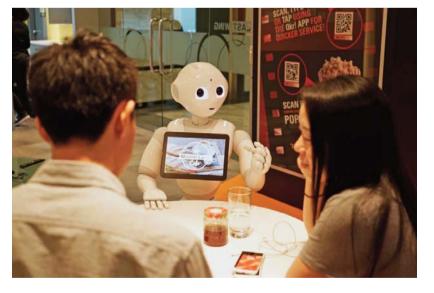
market conditions in decades. An

acquisition of the Baltic Exchange,

One source said the potential deal

tial bidders, the sources said.

A consumer will be able to initiate an engagement by simply greeting Pepper and pairing the consumer's MasterPass account by either tapping the Pepper icon within the wallet or by scanning a QR code on the tablet that the robot holds. After pairing with MasterPass, Pepper will be able to assist cardholders



make it easier for customers to engage connect and transact with Pizza Hut. With an order-and-payment-enabled Pepper, customers can now come to expect personalized ordering at our stores, reduce wait time for carryout, and have a fun, frictionless user experience."

The app was built by the MasterCard Labs team in Singapore, one of the company's eight research and development centers across the globe. The Pepper application adds to ongoing MasterCard programs that bring payments to any consumer gadget, accessory or wearable- from fitness bands to refrigerators and now robots. The integration with Pepper has the potential to open up opportunities in the world of retail such as personalized shopping and concierge services, in-aisle checkout and the ability to buy in store but get the goods delivered at home. The same capability would also be applicable to other consumer engagement locations such as hotels, banks, airports, and other customer service industries. The app is being showcased at the Pepper Partners Europeevent hosted by SoftBank Robotics Europe (a SoftBank Robotics Holdings group company) in Paris from May 24 - 26, 2016.

LONDON'S BALTIC EXCHANGE

which was founded in 1744, would give the winner ownership of the shipping industry's benchmark indices and greater access to the multi-billion dollar freight derivatives market. Earlier this month, the Baltic Exchange said any potential buyer of the business would have to provide assurances its central role in shipping would not be undermined.

A purchase by SGX would boost new Chief Executive Loh Boon Chye's plans to diversify its revenue streams at a time when it has been hit by sluggish equity listings and securities volumes. SGX sees huge long-term potential for freight derivatives and clearing and it has launched new products to increase the appeal of its Asian pricing benchmarks for commodities such as iron ore, liquefied natural gas and coking coal. A deal would also fit well with Singapore positioning the city-state as a leading hub for financial services, commodities trading and shipping. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI	I EXCHANGE CO.	Sterling Pound Canadian dollar Turkish lira	440.200 230.930 101.760	Nepalese Rupees Malaysian Ringgit	3.876 75.020		Hong Kong Dollar Indian Rupee	0.036885 0.004238	0.039635 0.004628
ASIAN	COUNTRIES	Swiss Franc	307.050	Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.610		Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	2.770	Australian Dollar	219.490	Thai Bhat	9.465		Japanese Yen Kenyan Shilling	0.002684 0.002991	0.00286
	4.473	US Dollar Buying	301.550	Turkish Lira	101.845		Korean Won	0.002991	0.00299
Pakistani Rupees	2.885						Malaysian Ringgit	0.070397	0.07639
	2.070		GOLD	BAHRAIN	EXCHANGE C	COMPANY	Nepalese Rupee	0.002885	0.00305
	2.802	20 Gram	251.660	Bundun	EXCILINGE		Pakistan Rupee	0.002685	0.00296
5 1 1 1 1 1 1	219.700	10 Gram	128.750	CURRENCY	BUY	SELL	Philippine Peso	0.006370	0.00665
	38.976	5 Gram	65.220	Europe			Sierra Leone	0.000074	0.00008
J	3.860 6.462	Doutene	A TYCHANGE CO. LTD	British Pound	0.431459	0.440459	Singapore Dollar	0.215449	0.2214
Philippine Peso Thai Baht	6.462 8.486	DOLLARC	O EXCHANGE CO. LTD	Czech Korune	0.004522	0.016522	South African Rand Sri Lankan Rupee	0.013145 0.001697	0.0216
	0.400			Danish Krone	0.041522	0.046522	Taiwan	0.009134	0.0022
GCC	COUNTRIES	Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate	Euro Norwegian Krone	0.0333598 0.032106	0.0341598 0.037306	Thai Baht	0.008156	0.0095
Saudi Riyal	80.776	US Dollar	303.000	Romanian Leu	0.075002	0.075002			
Qatari Riyal	83.207	Canadian Dollar	231.330	Slovakia	0.009023	0.019023		Arab	
ani Riyal	786.772	Sterling Pound	440.205	Swedish Krona	0.032163	0.037163	Bahraini Dinar	0.796481	0.8044
	804.440	Euro Swiss Frank	340.995 301.070	Swiss Franc	0.298732	0.308932	Egyptian Pound	0.029193	0.0343
UAE Dirham	82.471	Bahrain Dinar	801.595	Turkish Lira	0.096590	0.106890	Iranian Riyal Iragi Dinar	0.000084 0.000190	0.0000 0.0002
		UAE Dirhams	82.735				Jordanian Dinar	0.423005	0.0002
	COUNTRIES	Oatari Rivals	83.950	Australian Dollar	Australasia	0.220583	Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.0000
Egyptian Pound - Cash	32.950 34.484	Saudi Riyals	81.480	New Zealand Dollar	0.209083 0.196706	0.220583	Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.0002
Egyptian Pound - Transfer Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216	Jordanian Dinar	426.835		0.190700	0.200200	Moroccan Dirhams	0.020832	0.0448
Tunisian Dinar	146.750	Egyptian Pound	34.024		America		Nigerian Naira	0.001249	0.0018
	426.740	Sri Lankan Rupees	2.072	Canadian Dollar	0.224364	0.232864	Omani Riyal	0.779944	0.7856
	2.018	Indian Rupees	4.485	US Dollars	0.298650	0.303150	Qatar Riyal	0.082447	0.0836
	2.159	Pakistani Rupees	2.885	US Dollars Mint	0.299150	0.303150	Saudi Riyal	0.079847	0.0807
,	31.702	Bangladesh Taka Philippines Pesso	3.854 6.465				Syrian Pound Tunisian Dinar	0.001283 0.143136	0.0015 0.1511
		Cyprus pound	577.120	Papeladash Taka	Asia 0.003442	0.004016	Turkish Lira	0.096590	0.1068
	MERICAN COUNTRIES	Japanese Yen	3.745	Bangladesh Taka Chinese Yuan	0.003442 0.044827	0.004016 0.048327	UAE Dirhams	0.081446	0.0825
US Dollar Transfer	302.750	Svrian Pound	2.376	Crimese fudil	0.044027	0.040327	Yemeni Riyal	0.001368	0.0014
Euro	341.050	-,					·		

<u> Kuwait & Times</u>

DONGES: Photo shows the Total refinery of Donges, western France. France has been using strategic fuel reserves for two days in the face of widespread blockades of oil depots by union activists, the head of the oil industry federation said yesterday. - AFP

STRIKE-HIT FRANCE DIPS INTO ITS FUEL RESERVES

STEEL INDUSTRY CALLS ON G7

TO PROTECT IT FROM CHINA

PARIS: France said yesterday it has dipped into its strategic oil reserves due to blockades at refineries as power workers threatened to join gathering protests against a labor law reform. Police fired water cannon to disperse activists blocking an oil depot in the northeast, but six out of eight of France's refineries were still either at a standstill or had sharply reduced their output. The head of the oil industry federation (Ufip) said that with a fifth of petrol pumps running dry, it had begun using strategic reserves.

"For the past two days, since there have been operational problems at the refineries and blockades of depots, we have ... been using reserve supplies," Francis Duseux told French radio. France has nearly four months of fuel reserves, but the announcement that they are already being tapped heaps further pressure on President Francois Hollande's deeply unpopular Socialist government.

The CGT union, locked in an increasingly bitter struggle with the government, has threatened to extend its action to nuclear power stations on Thursday. It has urged "the biggest action possible" on a day when unions have called for a broad day of strikes and demonstrations across the country. One nuclear power plant in Nogent-sur-Seine, around 100 kilometers southeast of Paris, is already operating at reduced capacity. One of the two reactors has been out of operation since Tuesday "due to a technical problem" and "we will ensure that it is not re-started", said Arnaud Pacot, the local CGT representative.

Police smash barricades

Authorities stepped up their action to try to ensure the blockades of refineries and fuel depots do not paralyse France with just over two weeks to go before it hosts the Euro 2016 football championships. Riot police used force to break a blockade at an oil depot in Douchyles-Mines near the Belgian border that had been in place since Thursday. Watched by around 80 striking workers, firefighters extinguished burning tyres that were blocking roads, sending thick plumes of smoke billowing into the air. "They cleared away all our barricades. The depot was unblocked without confrontation," said Willy Dans, a spokesman for the local branch of the SUD union. "The police moved in guickly. They used water cannon. We got the feeling they were tense," Dans said. Most petrol stations in that area were empty, forcing motorists to hop over the border to Belgium to fill up, reported an AFP photographer on the ground.

Police also removed a blockade at a fuel depot in the western port of Brest. The blockades and strikes are part of a wave of social unrest that has seen hundreds of thousands take to the streets in often violent protests against labor reforms over the last three months. Transport was further hampered yesterday by a rolling train strike, causing disruption for commuters. Some companies said the fuel blockades were starting to hit their business. "It's beginning to get to a critical point," said Pascal Barre, who runs a logistics firm in Poincy, east of the capital. "We filled up at the end of last week and at the beginning of this week but our drivers need to fill up again and it's not possible."

He warned: "If we can't deliver to shops and supermarkets, it's going to put France on its knees." CGT leader Philippe Martinez has vowed to continue the action until the labour legislation is withdrawn. The blockades have sparked a dark warning from oil giant Total, which operates five of the refineries affected. "If our colleagues want to take an industrial asset hostage for a cause that is foreign to the company, you have to ask whether that is where we should invest," Total CEO Patrick Pouyanne said Tuesday. — AFP

INVESTORS BANK ON BOOKIES FOR BREXIT TRENDS AS POLLSTERS SOW CONFUSION

Polls give widely varying signals on referendum

LONDON: Investors seeking guidance on whether Britons will vote to leave the European Union are relying as much on bookmakers and punters as the established trackers of political trends, opinion pollsters. A month before the referendum, bookmakers' shops on British high streets and betting exchanges on the internet are offering something that the polling industry has failed to provide: a clear trend.

BUSINESS

Bookmakers are offering odds of 1/6 - indicating a more than 80 percent probability - that Britain will vote to remain in the EU on June 23. By contrast, opinion polls present a confusing picture of voters' intentions, with some saying the "remain" camp has a big lead while others have put the two sides neck-and-neck. "Betting is the market's attempt to summarize the polls and adjust for all of their fragilities," said Insight Investment currency fund manager Paul Lambert. He says he looks more at the odds than the polls when deciding how to trade currencies affected by the vote - particularly sterling, but also the euro.

With most economists agreeing that the British economy would take at least a short-term hit from a "Brexit", financial markets are sensitive to any signals on how the nation will vote, including opinion polls. Sterling strengthened sharply last week after an IPSOS-MORI poll showed 55 percent supported remaining in the EU, with only 37 percent backing Brexit. But the polls' fragilities were exposed in last year's parliamentary elections, when they failed to signal that Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservatives would win a majority. This is one reason why investors are turning to the likes of William Hill and Ladbrokes, betting-shop chains more commonly associated with horse racing and football than politics.

The bookmakers say they can set the odds to incorporate nuances that the polls cannot, such as psychological research suggesting that undecided voters tend to opt in the end for the status quo. In this case, that means voting to keep Britain in a bloc that it joined more than 40 years ago. Investors also like the fact that the "bookies" and online betting exchanges can adjust the odds in real time to reflect developments that could affect the vote, allowing them to make trading decisions faster.

The price people pay

When President Barack Obama warned last month that Britain would be at the "back of the queue" for a trade deal with the United States if it left the EU, the probability of Brexit on betting website Betfair immediately fell to 31 percent from 33 percent before he began speaking. "The price is the price that people are paying - it doesn't get any more live than that, whereas polls have lags," said Mizuho's head of hedge fund currency sales, Neil Jones. While sterling jumped immediately on Obama's remarks, investors had to wait several days for the first polls incorporating the voters' reaction to be published. In the end, they suggested Obama's intervention had little overall effect.

Bookmakers naturally aren't infallible. For instance, Matthew Shaddick, head of political odds at Ladbrokes, said his firm lost more than 1 million pounds (\$1.45 million) on the 2015 election mainly because the Conservatives won an outright majority - an event that few if any bookmakers, pollsters or pundits saw coming. However, Shaddick said the betting odds had clearly signaled that the Conservatives would be the largest party in parliament, whereas the polls implied a very close result. A Scottish referendum in 2014 marked a more comfortable victory for the bookies as the betting odds consistently implied that voters would reject independence by a wide margin. In the final run-up to the vote, one opinion poll put the independence camp ahead, prompting sharp moves on the financial markets, before the Scots voted "No" by 55 to 45 percent. In some cases, the odds are set by the punters themselves. Websites such as Betfair, owned by highstreet bookmaker Paddy Power, work as peer-topeer gambling exchanges so punters bet with each other. Such sites allow gamblers to get in and out of positions, much like stock or currency traders, so the odds react even faster to news than traditional bookies' odds. These are set by political betting specialists who consider a wide variety of factors ranging dum, London's City finance district is busily planning ahead for a potential 'Brexit'. — AFP ous business in recent years for Britain's 6.3-bil-

from where the money is going to their personal opinions, though they say they try to remain as unbiased as possible. They also watch which way influential customers are betting. "Some customers' bets shape the market more than others, for example political journalists' punts," said Paddy Power politics specialist Stephanie Anderson.

That said, Britain's top reporters also failed to predict the Conservative majority last year. With the referendum odds stacked in favour of a vote to stay in the EU, those wanting to "take a punt" with a small sum tend to choose the more potentially profitable option, however unlikely it s, bookies say. A 10-pound winning bet on 'remain" yields a return of less than 1.50 pounds after a month's wait at the current odds. The same sum staked on a Brexit would return 40 pounds at the current 4/1 odds.

Private briefings

Paddy Power says 60 percent of its individual bets have been on a Brexit, yet they make up only 14 percent of the total amount staked. While the average size of a "leave" bet has been 36 pounds, the average bet on a "remain" vote is almost 10 times that, at 333 pounds. Some people in the financial markets are also placing personal referendum bets, such as 69-year-old trader Simon Cawkwell. Nicknamed "Evel Knievel" after the late motorbike stunt rider for his audacious bets, Cawkwell is going against the trend that Brexit punts are more modest: he has staked a four-figure sum on a British departure from the EU. Political betting has become a seri-

> **GERMAN BUSINESS CONFIDENCE RISES** market research group, consumer morale is also strong, with its household confidence index set to rise to 9.8 points in June from 9.7 points in May and consumers' willingness to spend rising from already high levels. "Private consumption will remain an important pillar of the economy in the coming months," GfK wrote and said it was maintaining its forecast for private consumer spending to increase by around two percent in 2016, after 1.9 percent last year. Nevertheless, economists said the strong firstquarter growth look unlikely to be repeated in subsequent quarters this year. "After a strong first guarter, the German economy should slow down somewhat in the current quarter," said ING DiBa economist Carsten Brzeski. The sub-index measuring current business However, "today's Ifo index suggests that any technical slowdown could be very limited," said ING DiBa economist Carsten Brzeski. "All in all, (the data) provide more comfort for optimists," the expert said. But whether the improvement was the result of wishful thinking or fact-based optimism would remain to be seen, he added. "One thing is for sure: the lfo index confirms what earlier confidence indicators had suggested, that the worst nightmares of a global recession that spooked markets and economies in the first months of the year have clearly disappeared." — AFP

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016



LONDON: The skyline of buildings in The City of London is seen from Waterloo Bridge as pedestrians walk by in central London. With one month to go before Britain's vital in-out EU referen-

lion-pound gambling industry, with about 100 million pounds thought to have been staked on last year's general election. Bookies say the referendum could be Britain's biggest political betting event, though the amount taken will probably equate only to that staked on a single big football match. Those who set the odds are increasingly in demand for advice. Shaddick, who has a degree in political science and a masters in statistics, says he is frequently invited to give private briefings to investors. "Ten years ago, political betting was just a novelty, PR-led loss-leader for bookmakers," he said. "Now it's a serious part of our business." Outside the world of financial markets, views vary on the wisdom of betting on the referendum.

Alastair Meeks, a 48-year-old lawyer, is going with the flow; he plans to put several thousand pounds on Britain staying in the EU. "I got into gambling through politics, rather than into politics through gambling," he said. "I will increase my commitments as we get closer (to the vote)." But in southeast London, 67-year-old George Squires is unenthusiastic. He visits the William Hill branch on Deptford High Street four or five days a week to bet on horse racing. Although he will vote in the referendum - to leave, because he says "there are too many immigrants" - he will not bet on it. "I watch the races on the telly. I can't watch an EU on the telly," Squires said, adding that he wouldn't stay up to watch the results on referendum night. "There's no fun at all in it." — Reuters

BRUSSELS: Twelve global steel associations urged the Group of Seven advanced economies, which meet in Japan this week, to prevent cheap Chinese steel distorting world markets and inflicting further pain on producers. Steelmakers have been hit by a plunge in steel prices, which Europe and the United States have blamed on a surge in cheap exports from China that has exacerbated the impact of a collapse in demand following economic crisis.

Among the casualties are Tata Steel, which in March announced it was selling its British operations as it could no longer sustain deep losses, prompting a political scramble to save the thousands of jobs at stake.

The White House has already said discussion of actions to reduce global industrial overcapacity, with an emphasis on the steel glut, would be on the agenda for Japan talks starting today. Open letters made public on Wednesday to world leaders from 12 steel industry bodies and other manufacturers said that discussion must include action against countries that do not respect market economy conditions, especially China, and oversupply had to be tackled.

"If global overcapacity borne of state-supported enterprises' uneconomic operations

continues it will threaten the survival of efficient companies operating in environments with little or no government support," Axel Eggert, director general of the European steel body EUROFER, said in an emailed statement. Earlier this month, EU lawmakers overwhelmingly rejected any loosening of trade defenses against China, whose eligibility for market economy status is being debated by the European Union. Beijing says the status is its right, 15 years after it joined the World Trade Organization, and says it is blamed unfairly for a steel crisis by nations it accuses of protectionism.

Granting market economy status would make it hard for the EU to impose trade restrictions to protect its own industry. EUROFER says it is clear China is the root cause and that the nation had built up a 50 percent share of total global steel capacity by 2015, compared with 15 percent in 2000. In addition to the steel industry letter, AEGIS Europe, the alliance of manufacturing industries in Europe, wrote to the political leaders of Britain, France, Germany and Italy, as well as EU leaders Donald Tusk and Jean-Claude Juncker, urging them to resist "unjustified demands for treating China as a market economy". — Reuters

FRANKFURT: German businesses are feeling increasingly optimistic as the outlook brightens for Europe's biggest economy, a closely-watched barometer showed yesterday. The Ifo institute's business climate index rose by a full point to 107.7 points in May, comfortably outpacing analysts' expectations, Ifo said in a statement. "The German economy is growing at a robust pace," said Ifo president Clemens Fuest. "Companies are significantly more satisfied with their current business situation. In addition, they are noticeably more optimistic with regard to the coming months." Ifo calculates its headline index on the basis of companies' assessments of the current business environment and the outlook for the next six months.

increased by one point to 114.2 points and the outlook sub-index climbed by 1.1 point to 101.6 points, the institute said. The better-than-expected data reinforce the resilient picture of the German economy, which more than doubled its growth pace to 0.7 percent in the first three months, according to final data released earlier this week. The federal statistics office Destatis said that growth is being driven primarily by domestic demand, with record low employment, low inflation and rising wages boosting purchasing power and consumer spending. According to the GfK

NIGERIA FACING 'TOMATO ARMAGEDDON' OVER CROP INFESTATION

LAGOS: Rose Edet never thought buying tomatoes for her busy Lagos restaurant would be an issue. But the rising cost is causing her a headache and affecting her customers' favorite Nigerian dishes. "We are facing tomato Armageddon," she said in the Ikoyi district of the city. "I have never seen this situation before in my 36 years in existence." Tomato prices in Nigeria have been steadily climbing for months, caused by unrest in northern and central states where the crop is grown and this has affected farmers' ability to plant and harvest.

Fuel price increases and a fall in imports due to a foreign exchange shortage have contributed to the scarcity and now a major crop infestation has worsened the already bleak tomato outlook. The Tuta absoluta moth, dubbed "tomato Ebola" by local farmers, has destroyed more than 80 percent of tomato farms in the northern state of Kaduna, its agriculture commissioner Manzo Daniel said Tuesday.

More than 200 tomato farmers have incurred losses of more than one billion naira, with fears the moth could wreak havoc across the wider north. A wholesale basket containing hundreds of tomatoes now sells for 42,000 naira (\$212, 186 euros), up from 300 to 1,500 naira before the outbreak, he added. In neighboring Kano, a new tomato processing plant set up by Africa's richest man Aliko Dangote to reduce Nigeria's reliance on imports and boost domestic production has been forced to shut. The factory, which only opened in March, requires 1,200 tonnes of the fruit every day but is not getting enough, said managing director Abdulkareem Kaita.

Tomatoes are an essential ingredient for many Nigerian dishes, from fiery pepper soups and stews, and even to garnish suya, the popular spicy grilled meat sold at roadside stalls across Nigeria. The effect



KANO, Nigeria: A trader sorts baskets of tomatoes at the Yankaba vegetables market in northern Nigerian city of Kano. — AFP

of price rises and shortages are adding further hardship to Nigerians already struggling with a lack of fuel for cars and generators, power outages, and spiralling inflation. Edet and others say they have been forced to switch to imported tinned tomato paste but prices of puree have also shot up."A pack of tomato puree that sold at 40 naira has now risen to 55 naira," said

Kano housewife Zainab Abdullahi. Many Nigerians have taken to Twitter to complain, with some re-posting photographs of the Tomatina festival in Spain, which every year hosts what is dubbed the world's biggest food fight. One user wrote of the pictures of revellers hurling tomatoes at one another and splashing in the fruit's juice and pulp: "If only these guys

know the price of tomatoes in Nigeria today." Another commented that tomatoes were "like gold now in Nigeria" while a third said three tomatoes she bought for 200 naira were more than expensive than a litre of fuel at 145 naira. "Tomatoes is the new oil in Nigeria," wrote a fourth.

Jollof crisis

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari marks a year in office on Sunday, with focus on his record tackling Boko Haram's Islamist insurgency in the northeast, endemic corruption and the economy. Few would have predicted that the fall-out of a tomato crop infestation would be an issue as the anniversary approaches. Kaduna's government has sent a team to Kenya to find a remedy against the moth, which lays eggs on tomato plants and develops into a hungry caterpillar that feeds on leaves, stems and fruit. Meanwhile rumblings of discontent are getting louder, particularly over the effect on the beloved national dish, jollof rice.

Lagos trader Fatimo Olubunmi said it was her three children's favorite food but the tomato scarcity has forced her to switch to using tinned tomatoes and dry pepper. "This is not the original taste. My children don't feel happy with the current situation. Mo rogo (I'm in trouble)," she said in Yoruba.

At Kamson Catering Service in Lagos' Obalende district, customers have been complaining, said Faith, a cashier. "They don't feel good but we explain to them that tomatoes are the issue. They love jollof rice but because of tomatoes now, we are now increasing our prices," she said. "I can only hope that things will get better," added Edet. "Otherwise this scarcity will get to a crisis stage." — AFP

<u>Kuwait & Times</u>



LOBAL STOCK MARKETS EXTEND RAI

LONDON: European stocks jumped yesterday, mirroring gains in Asia, as investors welcomed Greece's debt relief deal, bright German and US economic data, easing Brexit concerns and firmer oil prices. The region's markets had also climbed the previous day as opinion polls suggested Britain would vote to remain in the European Union in a crucial referendum next month.

Sentiment was boosted further yesterday after euro-zone ministers clinched vital agreement with Greece to unlock more bailout cash and start tackling

the country's debt mountain. The deal releases 10.3 billion euros (\$12 billion) in bailout funds that Greece urgently needs to repay big loans to the European Central Bank (ECB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) in July, having already fallen behind in paying for everyday government duties and wages.

'With a much needed 10.3 billion euros in Greek bailout funds approved in the early hours of the morning, the European markets have gotten off to a perky start," said analyst Connor Campbell, at trading firm Spreadex. "The euro-zone finance ministers were at it all night... to hash out a deal that satisfies both those opposed to major debt relief-Germany-and those who are adamant that Greece cannot survive without it-the IMF." Around 1115 GMT, the London stock market was up 0.6 percent and Paris added 0.9 percent in value compared with Tuesday's close.

Frankfurt rallied 1.3 percent after a key survey showed that German businesses are feeling increasingly positive over the economic outlook in the euro-zone powerhouse. The Ifo institute's business climate index rose by a full point to 107.7 points in May, comfortably outpacing analysts' expectations, Ifo said in a statement. The better-than-expected data reinforce the resilient picture of the German economy, which more than doubled its growth pace to 0.7 percent in the first three months. The Ifo confirms "the German economy is starting to benefit from an uptick in economy activity of some of their major trading partners like China and the United States", said analyst Markus Huber, at City of London Markets.

Energy focus

The energy sector forged higher on rising oil prices, which boost profits and revenues. London-listed Royal Dutch Shell was also lifted after it announced another 2,200 job cuts due to low oil prices and following its Total won 1.1 percent to 43.60 euros in Paris. Back in London, Marks & Spencer plunged 7.9 percent to 409.70 pence after the British retailer warned that a new turnaround plan would have a short-term hit on profits. M&S also revealed that net earnings slid 16 percent to £406.9 million (\$592 million, 529 million euros) in the group's financial year to April 2, hit partly by poor clothing sales.

Elsewhere, Asian equities gained ground yesterday, as investors also adjusted to the prospect of a US rate rise in the near future. New York stocks charged higher overnight, with technology and financial shares benefitting especially from greater confidence in the US economic outlook. The Fed has repeatedly stated its intention to continue raising interest rates this year after December's first hike in nine years. But until recently investors had discounted the possibility of an imminent increase, given the market panic at the beginning of 2016 on concerns of soft global growth. — AFP



ON FED RATE HIKE PROSPECTS Palladium, silver, platinum EDGE OFF MULTI-WEEK LOWS

LONDON: Gold fell to a seven-week low ves- as data suggested new US single-family terday after upbeat US home sales data in home sales have hit the highest in eight the previous session boosted expectations years. Holdings in the world's largest goldthat the Federal Reserves will press ahead backed exchange-traded fund, SPDR Gold with interest rate hikes in the near term. The Shares, fell 3.9 tons on Tuesday to 868.66 metal has fallen more than 4 percent since tons, its first decline in a month. Price-sensitive gold buyers in Asia were active Fed meeting minutes last Wednesday overnight, but were unable to consistently revived expectations for an imminent rate increase. Gold is sensitive to rising interest lift prices. "As expected Chinese investors in rates, which lift the opportunity cost of holdthe opening hour were eager buyers..., ing non-yielding assets. "It all does hinge on happily taking advantage of the lower the Fed's intentions for June," Mitsubishi anaprices," MKS said in a note. "The premium lyst Jonathan Butler said. on the exchange reflected this, ...trading "We had surprisingly hawkish minutes around \$2.00-3.00 over the loco London last week which put the June rate rise back gold price for onshore traders." on the cards. That certainly has made life Elsewhere data from the International Monetary Fund showed regular official sectough for gold, because the dollar's rallied, 2-year Treasury yields have rallied, even 10tor gold buyers China, Russia and year yields have rallied somewhat." Spot Kazakhstan raised their bullion reserves gold was down 0.5 percent at \$1,220.81 an again last month, while Venezuela sold off more of its holdings earlier this year. ounce at 0930 GMT, off an earlier low of Among other precious metals, silver was up \$1,220.24. US gold futures for June delivery were down \$7.90 at \$1,221.30. The dollar hit 0.1 percent at \$16.23 an ounce, after dipa two-month high against a basket of curping to a five-week low of \$16.14 earlier in rencies yesterday on expectations the Fed the session. Palladium was up 0.1 percent at \$532.30 an ounce, off a 12-week low of will raise rates in the near term, though it \$528.97 reached earlier in the day. gave up gains against the euro on relief that there was progress in Greek bailout talks. Platinum was at \$998.40 per ounce, up 0.2 Growing confidence in a pick-up in US percent, after touching a five-week trough economic growth had a boost on Tuesday of \$992. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Wednesday 25 May 2016

Index	C	Change Closing		Closing Last Closing		Low		
Price index		45.63	5.368.25	5,322.62	5,368.98	5,321.04	Volume	230,061,651
Weighted Index		2.19	358.27	356.08	358.27	356.01	Value (KWD)	13,701,759
KSX 15		6.36	836.19	829.83	836.19	828.01	Number of Trades	4,504

KSX 15		<u>▲</u> 6	1.36	836.19		829.83		1	36.19	828.01		Number of T	rades			4,504	
				Trades									Trades				
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	c	hange	Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Ch	ange
MARIN	100	94	19165	1,806	7	100	*	1.0	SOKOUK	37.0	36.0	7571080	277,989	137	36.5	-	0.0
KARUS PG	41.5 335	41.0 330	47,961	1,989	10	41.5 330	* *	-20.0	KRE URC	56 92	54 90	2,121,500	117,386	28	56 90	A A	1.0
IAPESCO INERGYH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	730	-	0.0	NRE	91	89	1,652	140	3	91	-	0.0
GPI	54 44.5	50 44.0	85.210 4,122,454	4,350 181,393	21	62 44.0	_	0.0	SRE TAM	360	360	500 0	180	0	360	-	0.0 0.0
NEAR Dil & Gas	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	98 783.64	Ŧ	0.0	AREEC MASSALEH	140	138	6,300	870 0	3 0	138 44.0	<u> </u>	2.0
	_	_	9,201,031	192,001	194	103.94		-0.79	ARABREC	32.0	30.5	740,560	23,245	40	32.0		1.5
RECUC	184 520	180	30.200 70.719	5,436	5	180	*	2.0	ERESCO	61	60	291,500	17,494	7	61	A.	1.0
BPCC ALKOUT	0.0	51C 0.0	0.719	36,171 0	14	610 650	-	0.0	INJAZZAT	780	760	800,016	615,961 1,218	26	780	A A	20.0
ALQURAIN Basic Materials	208	202	619,761 620,680	107,711 149,318	21	208	T	0.0	INVESTORS	22.0 33.0	21.5 29.5	1,922,622 8,722,056	41,897 213,379	29 159	21.5 33.0	W A	-0.5 2.6
	_	_	420,000	140,010	-12	555.52		-0.01	ALTIJARIA	77	76	986,000	75,786	5	77		1.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	370 280	-	0.0	SANAM	33.0 65	33.0 62	500 1,502,330	17 95,711	1 64	33.0 63	<u> </u>	1.0
CABLE	400	395	81,005	31,997	6	400	-	0.0	AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	-	0.0
SHIP PCEM	170	166	2.390	397	10	170	¥	-2.0	ALAGARIA MAZAYA	22.5 122	21.0	241,000 2,579,100	5.212 309.150	24 66	22.5	A A	4.0
PAPER	275	275	106	29	1	275	-	0.0	ADNC	15.0	14.0	11,452,496	158,374	144	14.5	Ā	0.5
MRC ACICO	0.0 300	0.0	30.000	0	0	69 300	- -	-10.0	THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90 36.5	-	0.0
GGMC	325	326	100	33	1	325	Ŧ	-25.0	TAAMEER	24.0	22.5	1,397,100	32,588	22	24.0	A	1.0
HCC (EMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	142 250	-	0.0	ARKAN	92	92 0.0	12.500	0	2	92 160	-	-2.0
NCBM	208	208	9.000	1,872	1	208	-	0.0	ABYAAR	25.0	24.0	1,293,543	31,700	27	25.0	À	0.5
QUIPMENT	66 0.0	62	5,500,129	360,345	124	65 12.5	-	4.0	FIRSTDUBAI	56 61	53 56	4,894,980	259,380 182,827	129	66 61	A A	3.0
YPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	-	0.0	KET	40.5	39.5	1,556,900	62,205	44	40.0	¥	-0.5
ALBOOKH GLTY	75 495	73 485	1,005,903	73,791 590,784	37 38	74 496	¥	-1.0	REAM MENA	23.5	0.0 22.5	0 307,550	0	0	146 23.5		-1.0
DU	190	190	10	2	1	190	Ŧ	-10.0	ALMUDON	30.5	30.5	345,370	10,534	7	30.5	-	0.0
CLEANING	39.5 0.0	39.5 0.0	135,623	5,357	6	39.5 530	- -	-0.5	MARAKEZ REMAL	22.5 34.0	21.0 33.5	36.500 343,773	784	7	22.5 34.0	-	0.5
GL CPC	48.0 0.0	47.0	152,634	7,241	14	47.5	٣	-0.5	MASHAER Real Estate	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	-	0.0
UMANSOFT	0.0	0.0	6.200	0 7,504	0	202 1,240		0.0 100.0	rear courte			50,296,001	2,575,435	1,067	851.06	À	12.33
AFAIS	164	164	10.000	1,640	2	164	T	-4.0	KINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	86	-	0.0
AFWAN IFC	305 35.0	305 33.0	305 20.250	93 669	1	305 35.0		15.0 2.0	FACIL IFA	186	18C 0.0	31	6	5 0	186 30.5	-	0.0 0.0
MAYADEEN CC	23.0 0.0	22.5	3,592,800	80,838 0	47	22.5 780	-	0.0	NINV KPRCJ	110 530	108 520	328,463 604,648	35,478 315.017	17 18	110 530	-	0.0 10.0
ALCC	0.0	0.0 74	0 300,033	22,737	0	780		0.0	COAST	530 41.5	52C 40.0	604,648 5,281,365	315,017 216,128	18 99	530 41.0	A A	10.0 0.5
IPAC LAFCO	700	690 200	16,779 359,230	11,578	3	700 206	*	10.0 4.0	SECH	42.0 83	40.0 83	7,877,747	314,455 830	105	40.5 83	*	0.5 0.0
IUBARRAD	65	63	2,322,439	149,048	59	63	_	0.0	ARZAN	33.5	31.0	2,276,068	74,237	43	33.0	À	1.0
CEM	79 0.0	78	603,675	47,596	17	79 80	-	0.0	MARKAZ KMEFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	88 25.0	-	0.0
ICEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	-	0.0	ALAMAN	52	61	407,827	20,815	14	62	A	2.0
CEM	72	71	10.540	758	3	72	* *	-1.0	ALOLA	51 29.0	51 28.5	20.000	1.020	1	51 28.5	-	0.0
RKWC	93	83	16,880	1,756	2	93	Ψ.	-1.0	GIH	28.5	27.5	694,941	19,423	12	28.5		1.0
REC	74	74	2.950	218 1,496,213	1 429	74		0.0	AAYAN BAYANINV	39.0 34.0	36.5 33.5	14,304,813 273,877	546.486 9.244	161	38.0 33.5	A V	-0.5
									CSOUL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	45.5	-	0.0
KSH NGH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150 64	-	0.0	KFIC KAMCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	35.5 80	-	0.0
APCO	106	58	2.950	292	6	106	-	0.0	NIH	56	49.5	140,600	7.263	35	61	Ŧ	-1.0
ATTL MANAH	0.0	0.0	0 5,408,251	0 706,426	0	158	-	0.0	MADAR	0.0	0.0	0 639,434	0 9.620	0	30.5		0.0
OULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	-	0.0	ALDEERA	40.0	37.5	1,171,627	45,810	42	39.5	*	2.0
OOD Consumer Goods	0.0	0.0	0 6,411,201	0 706,718	0	2,320	A .	0.0	ALSALAM	40.0	37.0 34.5	17,106,535 20,084,434	661,575 713,049	319 313	38.5		0.0
									ALMADINA	44.0	41.5	12,899,730	549,761	171	42.0	۸	0.5
MHC ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200 920	-	D	TAMINY	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	41.0	-	0.0
ACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208		D 12.60	EXCH TAJBA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,500	-	0.0 0.0
ioaren oare	_		•	v	~	555.56	^	12.04	KSHC	34.0	33.0	195,500	6.581	8	34.0	-	0.0
CIN CHOT	1,200	1.200	1.000	1,200	1	1,200 210	-	D	ASIYA GNAHC	0.0 36.0	0.0	0 736.021	0 25,143	0 26	39.0 35.5	-	0.0
SULTAN	59	59	65,500	3,865	6	59		1	AMWAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.5	-	0.0
CABLETV EVAS	25.5	25.0	16,000	404	2	25.0 385	A	2	MANAZEL	69 18.5	69 16.5	220,100 7,771,852	15,187	7	69 17.5	-	0.0
FAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	-	D	NIND	110	108	934,930	102.831	30	110	-	0.0
ULAFUEL IUNTAZAHAT	110 76	106 76	6.516 26.150	705	5	108 76	-	D	BIIHC	30.5 0.0	29.5 0.0	774,465	23,193 0	23	30.5 13.0	A	0.5 0.0
AZEERA	900	098	145,038	130,076	12	900		10	AGHC	60	57	112,528	8.751	6	58	Ψ	-3.0
OOR UTUREKID	108	106	13.367	1, 432 220	7	106 110	¥	-2 15	KPPC TAHSSILAT	49.0 53	48.D 51	694,220 5,500	33,594 282	26 6	48.5 63	A	0.5
ALRA	136	136	4,525	616	1	136	-	D	JEERANH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	72	-	0.0
JFIG	44.5	44.D 0.0	2,987,891	131,773	62 0	44.0 140		1 D	EKHOLDING GFH	128	128	5,000	640 72,229	1 20	128 68	<u> </u>	2.0
Mozzan	1.040	1,000	345,623	352,098	15	1,040	*	20	NOVEST	63	62	40.700	2.146	2	63	Ŧ	-1.0
Consumer Service	es.		3,613,609	624,376	118	931.69		14.66	Financial Servic	es		99,154,301	4,044,180	1,760	668.99	<u>A</u>	3.36
ZAIN	355	350	1,283,950	450,642	32	350	Ŧ	-6	Investment Instr	uments		0	0	0	1081.97	-	0.00
COREDCO HITSTELEC	1,100	1,100	37 41,936,712	41 1,629,293	1 520	1,100	¥	-20	ASC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	345	-	0.0
VIVA	940	\$30	243,621	228,820	64	940		10	CSOS	112	112	2,000	224	2	112	A	2.0
Telecommunicatio	uns		43,464,320	2,308,795	617	606.93		3.59	FUTURE HAYATCOMM	0.0 53	0.0	0 228,017	0 11,666	0	99 52	-	0.0 -1.0
NBK	640	630	1,085,051	685,412	25	640	*	10	Technology			230,017	11,890	23	990.27	<u>A</u>	5.06
3BK CBK	226 435	224 425	263,005	59,063 8,561	17	226 430		-6	BAREEQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	-	0.0
NBK .	335	330	7.000	2,320	2	336	-	D	AFAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	172	-	0.0
ALMUTAHED GB	420 200	415 198	544,014 638,640	228,463 127,285	20 19	420 200	_	5	ALSHAMEL EFFECT	0.0 40.5	0.0 40.0	0 83.600	0 3.345	0	460 40.5	-	0.0 0.0
BURG	335	330	4,887	1,619	5	335	-	D	AJWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	32.5	-	0.0
GFIN BOUEYAN	470	465 400	428,795 341,277	201,351 137,561	35 20	470 405	A	5	DALQAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71 350	-	0.0
AUB	182	182	64,175	11,680	3	182	-	D	ALE D	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	-	0.0
THMR NARBABANK	40.0 174	38.5 172	2,770,371 91.503	108,487 15,753	55 38	39.5 172	_	1 D	MIDAN FLEX	0.0 46.0	0.0 44.5	3,000	0 134	0	1,220 46.0		0.0 2.6
Banks			6,258,918	1,687,654	244	817.58		3.63	THURAYA KCLINIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	138	-	0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	-	D	AMAR	50	50	1,000	6 50	0	33.5 60	-	0.0 0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	670	-	0.0	Parallel Market			87,600	3,528	7	1259.92		2.64
AINS	0.0	0.0	0 306	0	2	465	-	0.0									
OWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	-	0.0									
1974	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	-	0.0									
	33.5	32.5	22,500	738	9	33.0		1.0									
FTI WETHAQ BRIKWT Insurance		32.5 0.0	22,500 0 22,806	738 0 769	9 0 11	33.0 355 1025.96	-	1.0 0.0 4.62									

OIL NUDGES **\$50 PER BARREL**

LONDON: Oil rose towards \$50 a barrel yesterday for the first time in seven months, driven by expectations that shrinking supply will help erode any overhang of unwanted crude, particularly after industry data showed a sharp fall in US inventories. A series of outages around the world, such as wildfires in Canada and a spate of violence in Nigeria's oil-producing region, has helped cut global oil supply by nearly 4 million barrels per day this month. Although these hitches are temporary, they have contributed to a drop in the supply glut that has plagued the market for nearly two years.

Brent crude futures were up 59 cents at \$49.20 a barrel by 1128 GMT, while US crude futures rose 52 cents to \$49.14 a barrel. "We are definitely moving out of this surplus situation that we've been living in since mid-2014. There will still be some time, maybe six months of surplus, but then we're basically into rebalancing," SEB head commodities strategist Bjarne Schieldrop said. "There have been losses in equities and especially emerging markets (this month) and still oil is up, so it's definitely about oil fundamentals, rather than tailwinds from equities and currencies," he said.

Strikes across France that crippled output from most of the country's eight refineries have had little impact so far on crude oil prices, but rather helped lift refining margins for diesel and gasoline.

Data on Tuesday showed US crude inventories fell by 5.1 million barrels to 536.8 million last week, double the expectations of analysts polled by Reuters. Some of the drawdown was caused by falling imports due to the fires in Canada, which cut production by about 1.5 million barrels per day, said Ben Le Brun, market analyst at Sydney online brokerage OptionsXpress. Some crude producers restarted operations on Tuesday in Canada's energy heartland.

"A strong US economy is (also) good for oil consumption and demand," Le Brun said. Investors are awaiting confirmation of the big drawdown when the **US Energy Information Administration** (EIA) issues official inventory figures yesterday. Masanobu Hamada, general manager of the crude oil trading department at JX Nippon Oil & Energy Corp, said the current price rise was due to supply disruptions. "Unless there is a halt in supply, the market lacks material (strength) to go higher because the inventory levels are high," Hamada said. — Reuters



SAUDI 'SHOULD KEEP OPTIONS OPEN' ON CURRENCY PEG

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia may need to change its curren- lished late last month on the same day that Deputy cy's peg to the US dollar if economic conditions shift, researchers at the Saudi central bank suggested in a paper that could shape debate among policymakers as the kingdom grapples with low oil prices. The riyal's peg at 3.75 to the dollar has been a cornerstone of Saudi policy since 1986. But the collapse of oil prices since 2014, which created a \$100 billion state budget deficit, has fuelled speculation in financial markets over whether it can be sustained for many more years. In the paper, Ryadh Alkhareif and John Qualls analyzed the advantages and disadvantages of 10 possible currency arrangements.

"What is sure is that in a changing environment, a forward looking monitoring framework will be essential for pursuing the appropriate exchange regime," they wrote. "The decision for one or the other exchange rate regime depends ultimately on the structure of the economy as well as the policy objectives." Arrangements studied in the paper, entitled "Saudi Arabia's Exchange Rate Policy: Its Impact on Historical Economic Performance", range from the use of US dollars in place of a local currency to a float which allowing the exchange rate to fluctuate freely.

The central bank said the paper, which it pub-

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced reforms to cut the country's reliance on oil, did not necessarily reflect its views. The authors stressed that for now, keeping the peg was probably the best course for Saudi Arabia. "Going forward, there are good arguments in favor of retaining the current fixed exchange rate regime especially in the near future...," they wrote. But the paper's examination of a range of options suggests that in the long term, Saudi authorities may not remain wedded to current policy, even though it has been orthodoxy for three decades.

Growth

Foreign bankers briefed by Saudi officials earlier this year said authorities had explored the idea of changing the peg in a broad review of economic policy. They concluded that a change would be counter-productive now but conceivable in the far future, the bankers said. After a surge of bets against the Saudi riyal early this year, the currency has rebounded in the forwards market, showing speculation about a change to the peg has decreased. But that is partly because the central bank warned banks not to conduct derivatives trades that would pressure the riyal. Saudi interest rate swaps, also used to hedge against the risk of devaluation, remain near this year's peaks.

The paper was published when Ahmed al-Kholifey was the central bank's deputy governor for research and international affairs. Since then, Kholifey has been appointed head of the central bank in a reshuffle of top policymakers. The study found the rival peg had helped to ensure healthy and stable economic growth with moderate inflation. It rejected the idea, often discussed by currency speculators, that a devaluation would ease pressure on state finances by inflating the riyal value of dollar-denominated oil revenues.

"Such a move would be far from painless, as it would raise import costs to both the general public and the government," the paper said, adding that it would be much better to handle the budget deficit with spending restraint and borrowing. "The bottom line is that the dollar peg has served Saudi Arabia well, and is likely to do so until Saudi Arabia becomes a meaningfully diversified economy, with exports denominated in a mix of currencies," the paper concluded. Nevertheless, it listed conditions under which the argument for keeping the peg would weaken: expected depreciation of the dollar, an unacceptably high US inflation rate, or a divergence of the US and Saudi economic cycles. They are already diverging to some extent; the Saudi economy is expected to slow sharply this year because of state spending cuts, according to the International Monetary Fund, while US interest rates have begun to rise in line with an economic recovery there.

The IMF has also shown signs of recognizing that the rival may need to fall at some point. After annual consultations with Riyadh last week, it said: "The exchange rate peg to the US dollar continues to serve Saudi Arabia well given the structure of the economy."But in a paper presented to a meeting of Arab finance ministers last month, the IMF said efforts by oil-exporting countries to diversify their economies could fail if their currencies became overvalued, hurting non-oil export industries. Such considerations may keep speculation about an eventual devaluation of the rival alive. "I just think unpegging the currency is a necessity for the reform plan to succeed. We actually plan to invest heavily in Saudi Arabia after the event occurs," said a New York-based hedge fund manager, declining to be named because of commercial sensitivities. — Reuters

News

in brief

Qatar sets guidance on US dollar bonds

LONDON: The State of Qatar has set guidance on its US dollar triple-tranche bond for which demand exceeds \$15bn, according to a lead. The Gulf sovereign is marketing a five-year tranche at 125bp area over Treasuries; a 10-year bond at plus 155bp area; and a 30-year note at plus 215bp area. This is the tight end of initial levels of plus 140bp area, plus 170bp area and plus 230bp area respectively. All three tranches will be of benchmark size. The deal is expected to price today. HSBC, JP Morgan, MUFG, QNB Capital are the global coordinators on the 144A/Reg S transaction. They are joined as lead managers by Al Khaliji, Barclays, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Deutsche Bank, Mizuho Securities and SMBC Nikko. Qatar is rated Aa2/AA/AA.

Egypt wheat buying tops 4 million tons

CAIRO: Egypt's agriculture ministry has bought 4.076 million tons of local wheat since the start of the season on April 15, it said yesterday. The world's largest wheat importer had said it planned to buy 4 million tons domestically in a local buying season which usually ends around July. The agriculture ministry said in a statement the government was committed to receiving all the wheat from farmers who wish to sell until the season ends. Supply Minister Khaled Hanafi later said the local wheat buying season would end mid-June this year. The agriculture ministry has said the pace of procurement has accelerated since a decision by the government to open additional storage space. Farmers are being paid a fixed price of 420 Egyptian pounds (\$47.30) per ardeb (150 kg) of wheat after Egypt abandoned plans to pay farmers rates for their crop this year.

BRAZIL'S ACTING PRESIDENT WINS DEFICIT PLAN VICTORY Belt-tightening aimed at fighting economic crisis

BRASILIA: Brazil's Congress authorized a major increase in the budget deficit yesterday, handing interim president Michel Temer a first victory in his bid to tackle the Latin American giant's sickly economy. However, the leaking of a secret recording in which a powerful ally of Temer, Senate President Renan Calheiros, is said to discuss a plan to weaken a huge anti-corruption probe posed fresh embarrassment for the new administration. The 2016 budget plan, given the green light after more than 16 hours of debate overnight in Congress, will allow the government to run up a primary deficit-the difference between public spending and revenue, before interest payments on debt-of 170.5 billion reais (\$48 billion).

The record sum will buy Temer's administration some time and flexibility to enact austerity measures and other marketoriented reforms that it says will pull Brazil out of deep recession. While pro-Temer lawmaker Dagoberto Nogueira praised the move authorizing a deficit increase, Communist Party lawmaker Jandira Feghali criticized "giving the government a blank check." Temer, who was vice president and took over from president Dilma Rousseff after her suspension for an impeachment trial on May 12, is racing against time to stamp his authority on the economy and Congress.

Not only is the country in economic disarray but his fledgling government is already suffering serious fallout from a corruption scandal sweeping through the country's elite. On Tuesday one of Temer's main allies, Romero Juca, was fired from his planning minister post after the leaking of a recording in which he apparently discusses using Rousseff's impeachment as a way to derail a huge probe into an embezzlement and bribery scheme at state oil company Petrobas. The probe, codenamed Operation Car Wash, has seen investigations and prosecutions opened against dozens of politicians and executives. Juca is one of those under scrutiny.

Economy rescue

Rousseff, who is being impeached on charges that her government broke budget accounting rules, called Juca's leaked comments proof of a coup plot against her. Yesterday, Folha newspaper published another leaked recording, this time involving the president of the Senate, who is from the acting president's center-right PMDB party and is a key figure in the coming impeachment trial of Rousseff. Comments in the recording allegedly show Calheiros discussing weakening the law on use of plea bargains, a technique that Car Wash prosecutors have used to devastating effect to turn corruption suspects into witnesses for the state. Calheiros is also being probed in the Petrobras embezzlement scheme. He



BRASILIA: Brazil's acting President Michel Temer (center) holds a meeting on economic measures with party leaders from the Lower House and Senate at Planalto presidential palace in Brasilia. - AP

told Folha that his comments were misinterpreted. The new budget deficit target marks a dramatic loosening

of purse strings for Temer. Rousseff's government had estimated that it would only need a target of 97 billion reais deficit. According to Temer's team, the higher figure reflects a more realistic portrait of the economy than that projected by Rousseff. In the impeachment charges against her she is accused of having taken unauthorized loans to keep the budget going and mask the depth of the financial holes. She denies this and says the accounting maneuvers were common practice with past governments and a temporary measure that did not constitute an impeachable crime. According to Rousseff, the impeachment is being pushed by Brazil's right to demolish her Workers' Party after 13 years in power.

a window to bring change. To try and balance the books, Temer has proposed austerity measures and bringing efficiency to the bloated government. Other Temer economic proposals include possibly cashing in a sovereign wealth fund and considering asking the state development bank BNDES to repay about \$28 billion in debt owed to the government. A centerpiece of his reforms-pegging public spending increases before debt servicing to the previous year's inflation rate-will require Congress to approve a constitutional amendment.

At a meeting with ministers and congressional allies in the capital, Brasilia, on Tuesday, Temer said that restoring economic growth will require strong medicine. "I want to emphasize that it won't be 12 days or two months that will pull Brazil out of crisis," Temer warned on Tuesday, as he pre sented his austerity measures to lawmakers. In addition to high inflation, the effect of low commodity prices and rising unemployment, investors are spooked by Brazil's political instability. Rousseff's trial could go on as long as six months and she has vowed to fight all the way, although analysts say she is not expected to win. — AFP

HP Enterprise plans \$8.5 billion spinoff, merger

SAN FRANCISCO: US technology group Hewlett Packard Enterprise said it plans to spin off and merge its corporate services business in a deal valued at \$8.5 billion (7.6 billion euros). The split-off unit is to be merged with Computer Sciences Corp to create a global corporate technology services giant with expected annual revenues of \$26 billion, Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) said in a statement Tuesday. HPE chief executive Meg Whitman described the deal as the "right next step." "Enterprise Services customers will benefit from a stronger, more versatile services business, better able to innovate and adapt," she said. The two companies aim to complete the deal by March 31 next year, HPE said, predicting eventual cost savings of \$1.5 billion a year. The transaction is worth \$8.5 billion to HPE shareholders, who would end up owning both HPE shares and about half of the new company, it said.

ATM heist in Japan prompts call for vigilance from SA

PRETORIA: The theft of \$13 million from ATMs in Japan using counterfeit cards from South African lender Standard Bank prompted a call for vigilance from South Africa's central bank yesterday. Thieves made 14,000 withdrawals in just three hours - 78 a minute - from bank machines at 7-Eleven convenience stores across Japan, according to a source familiar with the matter. Central bank deputy governor Kuben Naidoo told reporters that Standard Bank would shoulder the losses. "We are pleased that Standard Bank publicly said what had happened. We don't know all the details yet but we're looking into it and we will take all the steps necessary to protect our payment systems and banking systems from similar types of attacks," he said. "We are working with the banks to ensure that they are constantly upgrading their ability to detect and repel cyber attacks.

Royal Dutch Shell to cut another 2,200 jobs

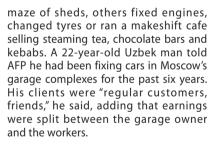
LONDON: Energy giant Royal Dutch Shell yesterday said it was cutting at least another 2,200 jobs owing to low oil prices and following its takeover of smaller rival BG Group. "Shell staff have today been informed about the progress being made on integrating BG into the company, and on further measures that are necessary to ensure Shell is competitive in a 'lower for longer' oil price environment," the Anglo-Dutch group said in a statement. Shell said the latest losses bring to at least 12,500 the number of staff and direct contractor roles being cut from the company between the start of last year and end of 2016. Jobs are being axed at its operations in the North Sea off the coast of Scotland, as well as in Ireland and elsewhere. "These are tough times for our industry and we have to take further difficult decisions to ensure Shell remains competitive through the current, prolonged downturn," said Paul Goodfellow, Shell's vice president for UK & Ireland.

However, there has been only muted popular support for Rousseff. She suffers from near single-digit approval ratings and frustration from a country fed up with economic drift, political paralysis and the never-ending corruption revelations. Temer is also highly unpopular but his economic team has backing from investors and his PMDB party appears able to get legislation moving again in Congress, meaning he has

SHADOW ECONOMY THRIVES IN RUSSIA GARAGES AS CRISIS BITES

MOSCOW: Russia's ubiquitous sheet metal sheds-where tyres are changed, furniture repaired and fish smoked-have become bustling hubs of a shadow economy essential to the livelihoods of the country's crisis-stricken population. Built in the 1960s and 1970s close to Soviet-era apartment blocks, the clusters of boxy garages today house much more than cars-everything from stables and saunas to pharmacies and the odd crayfish farm. The garage complexes are found all across the country and have taken on a new role as premises for small businesses. While this is technically illegal and they are prey to police crackdowns, they are tolerated in some areas as a source of stability and employment in a volatile times.

"We do everything we can here," said a young man unloading a truck at a sprawling Moscow complex nicknamed Shanghai with hundreds of these sheet metal or concrete blocks "shops". Like all those working at Shanghai, he refused to give his name when speaking to AFP since he has no official papers. In the



'A certain stability'

In Moscow, police often target garage complexes like Shanghai in raids against illegal migrants, mostly from ex-Soviet Central Asia. Municipal authorities-who have been driving a city-wide cleanuphave also vowed to tear down Shanghai. The complex is located on a prime site right next to the main building of Moscow State University. Parts of Shanghai have already been reduced to rubble. Yet in regions where living is more precarious, authorities turn a blind eye and black market garage businesses are allowed to thrive. "People work in



MOSCOW: A man walks at a garage cooperative nicknamed 'Shanghai', with the main building of the Moscow State University seen in the background, in Moscow. Russia's ubiguitous sheet metal sheds-where tyres are changed, furniture repaired and fish smoked-have become bustling hubs of economic activity essential to the livelihoods of the country's crisis-stricken population. — AFP

garages to reduce operating costs and to distance themselves from the authorities, the people with whom they want to have the least possible contact," said Sergei Seleyev of the Khamovniki Foundation for social research, which has published a report on the subject.

It found an eclectic range of businesses in garages including stables, cafes, pharmacies, stables, saunas and even a crayfish farm. In resort towns, some garages have been converted into basic accommodation for holidaymakers. Those located near cemeteries sell tombstones. Near large factories, subcontractors use them to produce spare parts. In some Russian cities, up 15 percent of the working population make their living in this garage shadow economy, some registered as private contractors, others illegal, and many earning more than the local average wage, Seleyev said.

And boomtime or bust, their numbers vary little. They provide people with a "certain stability, regardless of changes in the economy," said Seleyev. More Russians have slipped into poverty since Western sanctions, imposed after Moscow's intervention in Ukraine, and low oil prices battered the energy-dependent economy and significantly diminished their purchasing power. The country's poverty rate reached a nine-year high earlier this year, state statistics showed, with 19.2 million Russians-or 13.4 percent of the population-living below the poverty threshold.

'Economic survival'

"This is a part of the economy that is left out of statistics," sociologist Svetlana Barsukova of Moscow's Higher School of Economics said. "But it is an important part nonetheless." The garage complexes have long played a fundamental social role in the country, according to Barsukova. In the Soviet era, when stores were not well-stocked, their owners used them to also hold consumer goods or belongings that might come in handy later on. Men of all social ranks gathered there to clean and work on their cars. It was one of the few places they could mix freely at a time when most social activities were overseen by authorities. — AP



КFH: Up to 55% DISCOUNT FOR CREDIT, **PREPAID CARDHOLDERS**

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) is pleased to introduce a highly distinguished package of discounts to its KFH Credit, Prepaid Cardholders. Customers are entitled to avail up to 55% discounts at over 100 stores and international brands upon using KFH credit and prepaid cards at any of the marketing outlets on its website KFH.com and Instagram. This step comes in continuation of KFH policy to offer unique and distinguished privileges to its customers. The discount program encompasses a plethora of restaurants, hotels, hospitals, clothes shops, accessories shops and different other stores and international brands. KFH series of discounts continue to thrill KFH customers as it aims to place its customers at the top of its priorities and ensure that they will always have the priority and the distinguished rank over other customers at the market level. KFH is always keen to ensure that these special and unique advantages and services fulfill all various expectations, needs and requirements of all customers.

<u> Kuwait Times</u>

BUSINESS

PROPERTY LOANS, THE GLASS CHIN OF CHINA BANKS BIG CITY HOME PRICES RISING SHARPLY, RAISING FEARS OF BUBBLE

HONG KONG: China's top banks are lending more to homebuyers and developers than at any time since at least the global financial crisis, making them vulnerable to a property market downturn as prices overheat and real-estate firms struggle with a growing debt burden. China's top five banks had mortgages and loans to the sector of 12.4 trillion yuan (\$1.9 trillion) at end-2015, up 11 percent over the year, and representing 28 percent of total loans, a Reuters analysis of their balance sheets shows.

That is the biggest exposure on their books, more than to manufacturing or transportation, and it exceeds 40 percent, up from about 26 percent seven years ago, if all loans secured on property are included. And as banks including Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and Bank of China increase their exposure, property prices in China's big cities have soared, forming what some fear is a bubble waiting to burst.

"There are two concerns - the reliance on property collateral to secure loans has increased, and property prices have also increased to a level that some may argue is over-heated," said Jack Yuan, associate director for financial institutions at Fitch Ratings. "If there is a very sharp fall in prices, then the consequences could be quite serious," he said,

adding that the authorities do have tools to try and avoid such a tumble. Many developers are already saddled with debt from China's most recent realestate bubble - an eight-year frenzy that left many with unsold and uncompleted projects when prices turned lower in late 2013.

As China's economy stutters to its weakest growth in a quarter of a century, and the property market remains subdued outside the larger cities, the build-up in debt is continuing. Developer Yang Guang Co Ltd is among those taking on more. It said last week it would borrow an extra 300 million yuan on top of its existing 6.1 billion yuan liabilities, though its revenues halved in 2015. On current cashflow it would take 17 years to clear its debts. The company did not respond to a request for comment.

Standard and Poor's in March flagged the risks to Chinese developers' credit ratings, as many were ploughing more capital into land and construction, increasing leverage despite falling profitability. Those buying expensive land in tier-1 and tier-2 cities could be particularly at risk if prices dropped, it said. There are also growing risks to banks from homebuyers. A study by Natixis showed buyers took out 1 trillion yuan in new mortgages in the first guarter this year on home sales of 1.6 trillion yuan, implying a loan-to-value (LTV) ratio of 62 percent. That remains a comfortable cushion for lenders, but the direction of travel is remarkable, jumping from 28 percent the previous quarter.

Defaults

In April average home prices in tier-1 Chinese cities rose at their fastest in four years, fuelled by six interest rate cuts since 2014 and easier downpayments. Shenzhen and Shanghai were the hottest spots, with prices up 62.4 percent and 28 percent over the year, according to government data. "It's a parabolic surge before the burst. It doesn't reflect the real economy," said Roshan Padamadan, an equities fund manager with Singapore-based Luminance Global Fund.

"The property market may cause a serious destabilization of the Chinese banking sector," he said, adding his fund had recently build up some short positions in Chinese banks. The situation still appears much less threatening than it was in the United States leading up to the global financial crisis, when banks' real estate-related loans increased from 42.6 percent to 56.5 percent in the five years to March 2007.

But there are question marks over the quality of Chinese commercial banks' balance sheets. Defaults in the property sector were once unthinkable, but that changed when developer Zhejiang Xingrun failed to pay its bank loans in March 2014, and Kaisa Group defaulted on its dollar bonds 10 months later. Banks' non-performing loans are already at an 11-year-high, or nearly 2 percent of the total, according to China's banking regulator, and many analysts believe the situation is much worse, as some banks are slow to recognize problem loans or park them off balance sheet.

Brokerage CLSA thinks the real figure is between 15 percent and 19 percent, while RBS says 15 percent is its most optimistic estimate, and 35 percent its least. At ICBC, China's biggest lender by assets, new impairment losses on loans to real estate developers tripled in 2015 from a year earlier, its latest annual report showed. ICBC said in the report it had "strengthened risk management" of the sector and enhanced monitoring and analysis of outstanding property loans. The big five banks did not return requests for comment. China's central bank, which is responsible for financial stability, did not immediately respond to request for comment. — Reuters



MOHAMED NASER AL SAYER LAUNCHES 'CLICK AND GET A GIFT WITH COFRAN' CAMPAIGN

GULF RISES ON BACK OF OIL AND GLOBAL MOOD

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

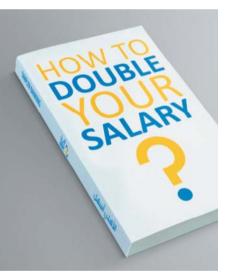
DUBAI: Gains for global equity and oil markets boosted Gulf bourses yesterday with Saudi petrochemical shares and Dubai real estate stocks leading the gains. Riyadh's index rose 0.6 percent in modest volume as Saudi Basic Industries, the largest petrochemical producer, climbed 1.2 percent. Saudi Cement added 2.0 percent after the company said it had sold its 40 percent stake in Kuwaiti cement company Group International Cement for \$6.59 million; the deal will be reflected in its books in the second quarter.

Dubai's stock index rose 1.9 percent in the heaviest trade for a month as Emaar Properties jumped 4.0 percent. Another real estate developer, Deyaar, gained 3.0 percent after saying it had formed a partnership with Turkey's Ascioglu to build a residential tower in Dubai. Real estate firms were also the most active in Abu Dhabi's bourse with Aldar Properties adding 3.5 percent. The Abu Dhabi index was up 1.6 percent.

Blue chips helped support Qatar's index, which was 0.4 percent higher. Oil drilling rig provider Gulf International Services rose 2.2 percent while telecommunications operator Ooredoo gained 1.3 percent. In Egypt, the stock index climbed 0.6 percent. Investment bank EFG Hermes climbed 0.8 percent to 10.95 Egyptian pounds, approaching techncial resistance on its March peak of 11.45 pounds. Dubai Group plans to sell its stake in EFG Hermes this year under the terms of the Dubai firm's debt restructuring, the chief executive of Dubai Group's parent Dubai Holding said on Tuesday. Dubai Group holds 11.8 percent of EFG Hermes, according to Thomson Reuters data. — Reuters

ABK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 'DOUBLE YOUR SALARY' DRAWS

KUWAIT: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its fourth 'Double Your Salary' weekly draw on 24 May, 2016 at the Bank's Head Office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners for this week. The new promotion includes weekly draws, with two winners per draw and will run from 1 May to 30 September, 2016. The winners this week were: Amani Hussain Ali Khan (Qurain Branch) and Abdullah Athbi Abdullah Ghareeb (SalmiyaBranch). New customers who transfer their salary to ABK will receive KD 100 and automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries. Existing customers who are already transferring their salary to ABK will be entered into a separate draw. The Bank's next draw will be held on 31May, 2016 where two new lucky winners will be announced subsequently. All winners will be contacted personally and a weekly announcement will be made through the media with the winners' names. For more



KUWAIT: Mohamed Naser Al Sayer one of the Al Sayer Group Holding Companies and the authorized dealer for Cofran Lubricants in Kuwait recently built excitement with Click and Get a Gift With Cofran campaign for visitors at Avenues Mall. The Cofran booth at Avenues Mall became top attraction for the visitors as they clicked photo of the booth and posted on their social media accounts to receive attractive gifts. Hundreds of visitors stepped forward to show their keen interest in the campaign. The design of the booth was inspired by rising flames and freezing water, representing extreme



hot and cold weather conditions withstood by Cofran.

Krishna Kumar, General Manager Tires Oil and Paint Division said "I thank all visitors who came forward

to participate in this campaign and to make it a big success. We were able to achieve excellent level of engagement driven by social media activity. Such result also is a testimony of the reputation Cofran has built over the past several years. With 80 years' experience Cofran is the specialist of lubricants and also one of the market leading brands in Kuwait."

Once Cofran, Always Cofran

Cofran Lubricants, made in France, always proves the ability to work in the toughest weather conditions to meet the different needs of

vehicle as much as possible and provides excellent protection against corrosion. Cofran is specialized in different oil products that give longer lifetime for machines and better performance. Engineers at Cofran, through constant research have tested the products under "real world" conditions and come out with a wide range of specialty greases and oils which can withstand high and low temperatures, shocks, fling off, extreme pressure, etc. Cofranproduct range includes specialty greases, engine oils, hydraulic oils, and other special products to meet today's growing demands.

information on Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit www.eahli.com or contact an ABK a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.

YBA KANOO AWARDS AVAYA TRANSFORMATION CONTRACT

MANAMA: Bahrain based Yusuf Bin Ahmed Kanoo (YBA Kanoo), one of the largest independent, familyowned businesses in the Gulf region, has announced awarding a flagship networking and wireless project contract to Avaya, a leader in business communications solutions. Under the contract, Avaya will deploy its networking and wireless technologies to connect the group's 60 branches across the GCC (Gulf Council Countries), providing the group with superior customer and team experiences while building operational efficiencies across the group's stores and offices in the GCC.

Scheduled for completion in June 2016, YBA Kanoo customers and employees will enjoy the secure, fast and seamless wireless roaming experience in all of the group's outlets and offices, while enabling the management of the group to quickly and easily roll out customer and employees specific applications that enhance productivity and the experience of the group's customers.

"At YBA Kanoo, staff mobility is a fundamental business requirement considering the diverse nature of our lines of businesses across many geographies. We firmly believe that wireless access will enhance the collaboration between our teams while increasing their efficiency and productivity. Having access to internal company resources wherever our sales and operations teams are would also

greatly improve the customer satisfaction through faster response time," commented Jameel Al-Sharaf, Head of Group IT at YBA Kanoo.

With the centralized wireless network management, network administrators at YBA Kanoo will be able to differentiate enterprise users from guests, with full network visibility and control all the way to individual user level. The



network is managed on a private cloud, and allows for centralized licensing management, which will help YBA Kanoo to cut OPEX by an estimated 30%. The group's head office in Bahrain will also be running on Avaya networking technology, running Avaya applications such as voice and video conferencing solutions. "Continuing the drive towards higher efficiency and improved staff productivity, integrated voice and videoconferencing solutions

will greatly reduce our operational costs while enhancing the collaboration experience between our staff across our offices," said Al Sharaf

"Our work with the Yusuf Bin Ahmed Kanoo Group demonstrates the digital maturity of business groups in the region, led by strong examples such as the Kanoo Group. In such engagements, flexibility is a key requirement, and our solutions and services targeted towards diverse business needs are available to consumers in a number of consumption models. We also look at this as testament to our strong support towards Bahrain, a market we see as a key growth area. Across regions, our wireless solutions deliver the simplicity, scalability and security that our customers now expect from Avaya, allowing them to meet changing business requirements and enable their employees to do more than ever before", said Mohammed Areff, VP MEA, Avava.

Established in Bahrain in 1890, YBA Kanoo has diversified its business interest from trading and shipping to other dynamic industries, including shipping, travel, machinery, chemicals, logistics, properties, energy, technology and other retail and commercial activities. The group also operates the largest travel and leisure company in the Middle East. The group is looking to further expand internationally and the Avava solution will help it achieve its ambitions.



<u>Kuwait Times</u>

COMING SOON TO TWITTER: MORE ROOM TO TWEET

changes, at least in the context of 140 characters or fewer. The social media service said that in coming months, photos, videos and other media won't count toward Twitter's 140-character limit. Now, for example, when a user posts a photo, it counts for about 24 characters. That means slightly more wordy tweets are on the way.

The change, announced Tuesday, is yet another attempt by the San Francisco company to make its messaging service easier to use, and to attract new users. Twitter did not, as many had speculated in recent months, abolish its character limit. Nor are weblinks exempt from the 140-character limit, which was also rumored.

But replies to another user, which start with the "@" symbol and the user's name, will not count against character limits. Names with the @ symbol in the middle of a tweet, however, will still count

NEW YORK: Twitter is making some big against the limit. And people will be able to retweet and quote their own tweets.

All followers

In another change, any new tweet beginning with an @name will be seen by all followers. Previously, a tweet that started with a person's handle did not become part of their feed. If a user wanted this to happen, they had to put a period before the @ symbol.

Confusing? Some users thought so. Twitter has tried to keep all users happy, those for and against relaxing character limits, by sticking to the current count while allowing more freedom to express thoughts, or rants, through images and other media.

Above all, Twitter Inc hopes that the changes will re-ignite user growth. The company, which recently celebrated its 10th birthday, is dwarfed by its rival, Facebook. Its current number of users, about 310 million, trails even the profes-



sional networking service LinkedIn. Facebook has 1.65 billion users. Even though many people are familiar with Twitter, at least that it exists, the company has been unable to convert them to

understand for many, with its own lingo

User friendly

of hashtags and symbols.

The changes announced Tuesday are active users. Twitter remains hard to the latest put in place with hopes of

spurring growth. "It is a very user friendly change and it is about time," said Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter. While he said the changes are not likely to bring back users who have abandoned the site, new users might be less alienated. Abandoning the 140 character limit altogether would be going too far, he added. "They want to be purists and stick to the original vision," he said "Baby steps. Let's start with that."

Late last year, as it continued to struggle, Twitter brought back co-founder Jack Dorsey. In addition to staff and cost cuts, it launched a channel called "Moments" that brings together hot topics in one place. Earlier this year, it tweaked its timeline to show users tweets that they may have missed while they were away. Yet company shares continue to hemorrhage, falling almost 40 percent this year. Twitter's stock hit an all-time low of \$13.73 on Tuesday before recovering some ground. It ended the day down 38 cents, or 2.6 percent, to \$14.03. — AP

EU TO PROBE DEEPER **RELATIONS BETWEEN WEB** PLATFORMS, BUSINESSES

BRUSSELS: The European Commission will examine the terms of use of web platforms such as Google, Amazon and Apple Inc's App Store for businesses to decide whether further regulation is needed to curb possible unfair practices.

The European Union executive yesterday presented the conclusions from a year-long inquiry into online platforms such as Facebook, Google and eBay, ruling out a single law for them but saying it would target specific problems in areas such as copyright and telecoms. The Commission also proposed a reform of the bloc's broadcasting rules which will include an obligation on providers of online video streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon to devote at least a fifth of their catalogue to European works.

EU member states will also have the option of requiring streaming services not based in that country but targeting their audience to contribute financially to the production of European works. "I want online platforms and the audiovisual and creative sectors to be power houses in the digital economy, not weigh them down with unnecessary rules," said Andrus Ansip, EU Commission Vice-President in charge of Brussels' strategy to create a single market in the digital world.

Yesterday, the Commission also unveiled proposals to make online shopping across borders easier. Online platforms - largely US tech companies - have come under increased scrutiny in the 28-nation bloc for their business practices as well as handling of swathes of data. The Commission said its inquiry had highlighted a number of problems in relations between businesses and platforms, including the imposition of unfair terms and conditions, refusal of access to markets and important business data and the promotion of the platform's own service to the disadvantage of competitors. The EU executive will probe further into the allegedly "unfair" practices and decide if further action is needed next year.

Separately, the Commission has charged Google with abusing its dominance to promote its shopping service over rival services. In an upcoming reform of EU telecoms rules the Commission said it will look at both deregulating telecoms companies where they face competition from similar services, such as Microsoft's Skype or Facebook's WhatsApp, and extending some telecoms data protection rules to platforms providing similar services.

Telecoms firms have long complained about the lack of a level playing-field with tech firms who can provide messaging or calling services without being subject to the same rules. A reform of the bloc's copyright rules expected after the summer will address concerns by the music industry that platforms such as YouTube do not pay artists enough when their content is uploaded. The new broadcasting rules will become law when approved by the European Parliament and national governments. — Reuters



REDMOND: This July 3, 2014, file photo, shows the Microsoft Corp logo outside the Microsoft Visitor Center in Redmond, Washington. — AP

MICROSOFT CUTS MORE JOBS IN TROUBLED MOBILE UNIT

NEW YORK: Microsoft will cut up to 1,850 jobs ed 26,000 jobs. Microsoft, under former CEO up to 1,350 positions - are at Microsoft Mobile Ov in

and book an approximately \$950 million write- Steve Ballmer, attempted to leverage its software Finland. There will also be up to 500 additional jobs down as it attempts to salvage its rocky entrance knowhow to take on increasingly powerful tech trimmed worldwide. Microsoft had 117,354

into the smartphone market. The company rivals, but the company has beat a quick retreat employees globally at the end of its last fiscal year.

DESPITE GROWTH: REPORT

ASIA HOTBED OF IT PIRACY

SINGAPORE: More than 60 percent of all computer software installed in the Asia-Pacific in 2015 was unlicensed, the worst of any region, despite growing economies and anti-piracy efforts, an industry watchdog said yesterday.

The Software Alliance-which includes giants like Microsoft, Apple, Intel, Oracle and Adobe-said in a report that the unlicensed software in Asia had a value of \$19.1 billion last year. Piracy rates were most rampant in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Indonesia at more than 80 percent. The global piracy average was 39 percent.

While the worldwide piracy rate decreased by four percentage points from 2013, Asia saw only a one percentage point decline to 61 percent over the two-year period, said the report, which did not cover mobile devices. The report resulted from a survey of 22,000 computer users and 2,000 information technology decision-makers and includes business, operating system, gaming and security software. The group's Asia-Pacific senior director Tarun Sawney called for more action to address the problem of unlicensed software, particularly for key sectors like banking. 'Whilst there's still been improvement from two years ago on the use of unlicensed software, the rate is still too high and certainly in emerging economies, a lot of which are in Asia-Pacific, the problem still persists," he told a press conference.

The report cited a "disconnect" between businesses' concern about cyber-security and their attitude to unlicensed software. It found that the worldwide rate for what it called "critical" sectors such as banking, insurance and securities industries was 25 percent. No figure was given for Asia in those sectors. — AFP

JAPAN ATM HEIST PROMPTS CALL FOR **VIGILANCE FROM SOUTH AFRICA BANK**

PRETORIA: The theft of \$13 million from ATMs in Japan using counterfeit cards from South African lender Standard Bank prompted a call for vigilance from South Africa's central bank yesterday. Thieves made 14,000 withdrawals in just three hours - 78 a minute - from bank machines at 7-Eleven convenience stores across Japan, according to a source familiar with the matter.

Central bank deputy governor Kuben Naidoo told reporters that Standard Bank would shoulder the losses. 'We are pleased that Standard Bank publicly said what had happened. We don't know all the details yet

but we're looking into it and we will take all the steps necessary to protect our payment systems and banking systems from similar types of attacks,' he said. 'We are working with the banks to ensure that they are constantly upgrading their ability to detect and repel cyber-attacks. But you will always be subjected to these attacks.'

Standard Bank said on Monday it had suffered the losses, not its customers, and that it had alerted the authorities. It estimated its total loss at 300 million rand (\$19 million). The bank has declined to comment further. —AFP

acquired Nokia's phone business in 2014 for \$7.3 billion, seeking to capitalize on and the fast-growing industry. But by last summer it had slashed the value of that business severely and it eliminatunder new CEO Satya Nadella, with the venture taking on water. Nadella has redirected Microsoft to better focus on software and Internet services. The bulk of the jobs cuts announced yesterday,

Microsoft Corp, based in Redmond, Washington, hopes to complete most of the "streamlining" by year's end. The company's stock rose slightly in premarket trading. — AP

SMART HOME GADGETS NEED TO LIVE TOGETHER

BURLINGAME: Smart home technology that has long been knocking at doors will settle into the mainstream after rival gadgets and services become hassle-free guests that get along with one another, industry insiders say.

While smart home offerings have been around for years, attention has been heightened by Google, Amazon and Apple maneuvering to be at the heart of managing devices capable of wirelessly taking commands or feeding information. "We need to look at problems in the home from a holistic perspective and realize it is the value of all these devices working together that will drive adoption of the smart home," EVRYTH-NG senior vice president of connected products Curt Schacker said.

He was speaking in Silicon Valley on Tuesday for the start of a 20th anniversary Connections conference devoted to smart homes and the fast-growing Internet of Things.

EVRYTHNG works with businesses to manage data gathered from just about any object given a "real-time digital identity" by using computer chips, sensors or even scannable codes. "We think every single thing in the world can benefit from a digital identity," Schacker said.

Asking for assistance

Last week, Google unveiled a virtual home assistant device that will challenge Amazon Echo as the Internet giant laid out a future rich with artificial intelligence. Google Home, about the size of a stout vase, will hit the market later this year, vice president of product management Mario Queiroz promised at the Internet giant's annual developers conference.

Home devices will incorporate new Google virtual assistant software introduced by chief executive Sundar Pichai. "Our ability to do conversational understanding is far ahead of what other virtual assistants can do," Pichai told a packed audience. "We are an order of magnitude ahead of everyone else."

Home devices combine machine learning, online search, voice recognition and more to allow people to get answers to questions, manage tasks or control devices by speaking naturally, demonstrations showed. When Home hits, it will challenge Amazon Echo voice-controlled assistants that have proven to be a hit since the Seattle-based online retail colossus unveiled them two years ago.

Echo models are infused with Alexa virtual assistant software that can be built into anything "from a lawn sprinkler to a ceiling fan," Amazon Echo chief evangelist David Isbitski said at Connections. "We started thinking about Echo and Alexa and it was hard for us to imagine in a couple of years any kind of interaction with technology will not be voice driven," Isbitski said. "It is easy to see that voice will be everywhere."

He envisioned an era of "ambient computing" in which, as depicted in science fiction, people speak commands and machines respond and obey with the help of artificial intelligence. "The Internet of Things enables these smart home scenarios we have been talking about for years," Isbitski said.

A section at Amazon's online retail website is devoted to smart devices that work with Alexa, an open network that invites developers to teach the software new skills. Amazon last year established a \$100 million Alexa Fund to provide venture capital for innovators working with the technology. "We are crawling; we are going to be walking pretty quick and we are all looking forward to running toward that smart home that we have always envisioned," Isbitski said.

Meanwhile, Apple has been wooing developers with a HomeKit framework for using the technology giant's devices and Siri virtual assistant to manage smart appliances, fixtures and more. Apple is believed to have HomeKit news planned at a press event taking place in San Francisco in June. Speakers at Connections were skeptical that one smart home device would rule them all, given the array of service providers and gadget makers along with the fact that the web of smart things is growing to include cars.

Mark Skarpness chairs loTivity, a project aimed at establishing standards that would let the gamut of smart devices work together. "I think the market will get much bigger if you are not spending all your time competing on connectivity and instead competing on what we can do for you," he said. — AFP

BLOW FOR APPLE AS INDIA STICKS TO RETAIL RULES

NEW DELHI: Apple faces a roadblock in its quest to open stores in India after the finance minister decided it must comply with tough local sourcing rules, a report said yesterday, days after a visit by chief executive Tim Cook.

India will not exempt Apple from regulations stating that foreign single-brand retailers must buy at least 30 percent of their parts locally if they want to open outlets, the Bloomberg report said. Apple has no stores in the world's secondmost populous nation, instead selling iPhones through third-party retailers such as Vodafone and Airtel. It makes most of its handsets in China.

The Silicon Valley giant had reportedly applied for an exemption that allows firms bringing cutting-edge technology that cannot be easily replicated by Indian manufacturers to sidestep the rules. "Minister Arun Jaitley decided to support the decision by India's Foreign Investment Promotion Board that Apple will have to procure 30 percent of components locally if it wants to sell through its own retail stores," Bloomberg reported, citing unnamed sources.

The potential blow to Apple comes only days after its boss Cook toured India in what was widely seen as an extended charm offensive. During the visit he was pictured in New Delhi using Prime Minister Narendra Modi's gold-cultured iPhone as he launched a new version of



the premier's eponymous app. Cook also announced an app design center in the southern technology hub of Bangalore and a maps center in Hyderabad, showering praise on India's talented software developers. India sets stringent rules for foreign retailers, seeking to encourage investment that brings in manufacturing jobs rather than simply allowing them to sell products to its potentially vast market.

India is a compelling proposition for the technology giant, with nearly a billion Indians-among a population of 1.2 billion-still not online, especially as sales of the iPhone slow in more saturated markets. Yet Apple products are too expensive for the vast majority of Indians, with taxes taking the cost of a basic iPhone to almost \$600. — AFP

HP ENTERPRISE PLANS \$8.5 BN SPINOFF, MERGER

SAN FRANCISCO: US technology group Hewlett Packard Enterprise said it plans to spin off and merge its corporate services business in a deal valued at \$8.5 billion (7.6 billion euros). The split-off unit is to be merged with Computer Sciences Corp. to create a global corporate technology services giant with expected annual revenues of \$26 billion, Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) said in a statement Tuesday. HPE chief executive Meg Whitman described the deal as the "right next step."

"Enterprise Services customers will benefit from a stronger, more versatile services business, better able to innovate and adapt," she said. The two companies aim to complete the deal by March 31 next year, HPE said, predicting eventual cost savings of \$1.5 billion a year. The transaction is worth \$8.5 billion to HPE shareholders, who would end up owning both HPE shares and about half of the new company, it said. News of the plan sent HPE shares surg-

ing nearly 10 percent and CSC stock soaring more than 23 percent in electronic trading after the close of the New York Stock Exchange. The core HPE business left over after the spin-off would bring in revenues of \$33 billion a year, the company predicted, focusing on its faster-growing business of technology infrastructure including servers, storage, networking, and cloud technology.

In a separate statement, CSC said the merger, which is subject to agreement by regulators and shareholders, would greate one of the world's largest IT services companies with more than 5,000 clients in 70 countries. CSC boss Mike Lawrie is to be chief executive of the new group. — AFP

HEALTH & SCIENCE

FDA DELAY RAISES SLIM HOPE FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY DRUG

WASHINGTON: Federal health regulators will take more time to review a highlycontested drug for muscular dystrophy that has become a flashpoint in the debate over patient access to experimental medicine. Drugmaker Sarepta Therapeutics Inc said the Food and Drug Administration will miss its goal of issuing a decision on the drug by Thursday. While the FDA does not comment on such delays, the extended timeline raises the possibility that regulators may ultimately approve the company's medication.

The Cambridge, Mass.-based company said FDA regulators said they will "strive to complete their work in as timely a manner as possible." Company shares rocketed more than 16 percent to \$21.56 in morning trading. Sarepta's drug eteplirsen has become rallying point for patients and families stricken by the deadly inherited disease, which causes muscle weakness and eventually the loss of all basic movement. The disease affects one of every 3,600 boys worldwide and usually causes death by age 25, according to the

drugs that treat the underlying disease, though steroid drugs can slow muscle degeneration.

Last month, dozens of parents, patients and physicians packed an FDA meeting to urge the agency to approve the injectable drug. The public push came despite an overwhelmingly negative review by FDA scientists which found virtually no evidence that eteplirsen was effective in treating the disease. Ultimately, a panel of FDA advisers voted

National Institutes of Health. There are no 7-3 against the drug's effectiveness, though three panelists abstained from casting a vote. The FDA is not required to follow such recommendations. Sarepta's drug is thought to produce a protein called dystrophin, which plays a key role in muscle fibers.

> However, the FDA found numerous problems with the company's research that made it difficult to determine how much dystrophin the drug actually produces, and what, if any, benefit that produces for patients. The company's pri

mary study included just 12 patients and appeared to show an increase in dystrophin of less than 1 percent. FDA staff emphasized that the agency "strongly encouraged" Sarepta to conduct a larger, more comprehensive study of its drug with a randomly selected control group of patients receiving a placebo, considered the gold-standard of study design. Sarepta pointed to the challenges of enrolling and tracking large numbers of children with a rare disease in such studies. — AP



BARCELONA, Catalonia: This file photo shows protesters holding a banner during a demonstration called by several organizations and people affected by the hepatitis C virus (HCV) demanding the need to ensure universal access to these treatments, in Barcelona. — AFP photos

REVOLUTIONARY HEPATITIS C DRUGS LEAVE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS REELING

'I was so depressed that I was contemplating suicide MADRID: They've brought hope to millions,

drugs so revolutionary that they can cure hepatitis C and so expensive that neither patients nor public health services can afford them-an issue to be raised at this week's G7. The pills made by US group Gilead Sciences are just one example of efficient yet costly treatments that have put the delicate question of how much a life is worth on the table of cash-strapped governments which hesitate to fund them. In Spain, after multiple protests that included the three-month occupation of a Madrid hospital, patients were handed a partial victory last year when the government decided to provide the drugs to those at advanced stages of the disease. So far, nearly 52,000 people have been treated out of 472,000 virus carriers.



medicine and was cured... but not quickly enough. "When they told me I didn't have the virus anymore, I got together with my family for celebrations. But these were bittersweet as I now have cancer," he says.

Country by country negotiations

Gilead acquired the Sofosbuvir molecule that makes up Sovaldi and Harvoni when it bought patent holder Pharmasset for \$11 billion in 2011. It had recouped its investment by 2014, leading

PARENTS WHO LOSE A BABY TO **SIDS WANT MORE INFORMATION**

NEW YORK: When parents have lost a baby to sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), doctors may fear that discussing the risk factors will distress them or cause them to blame themselves. But a new study suggests parents want more information. When the cause of an infant's death is unclear after a detailed investigation, it's classified as SIDS. Although the exact cause of SIDS isn't known, some factors, like putting the baby to sleep face down, or using soft bedding, do increase the risk.

Study leader Dr Joanna Garstang of the University of Warwick in Coventry, UK, wondered, Does it upset parents more to give them detailed information on the role of smoking, where the baby slept, distressing them with "what if" scenarios?

She told Reuters Health by phone that in her interviews with parents, "all of them asked the 'what if' questions anyway and having detailed answers didn't hurt. They really wanted to know in as much detail as possible, why did my baby die." She interviewed 21 sets of parents who had lost a baby and undergone a SIDS investigation between 2010 and 2013, asking them about their understanding of their infant's death and the risk factors found during the legally required investigation. Garstang visited the parents at home and interviewed them about a year after their child died, and once again after another year had passed.

Parents described the events leading up to the death, their understanding of why the baby died, and their health after the death. Seven babies had died from fully explained medical causes, like underlying congenital heart disease, and 14 remained unexplained and were categorized as SIDS. Afterwards, Garstang briefly interviewed 14 police officers, 10 pediatricians, two specialist nurses and two social workers who had taken part in the investigations.

For explained deaths and SIDS, parents expressed a need to understand why their baby died, and most waited at least four months for the postmortem investigation results. Some SIDS parents felt cheated by the lack of complete explanation for their child's death.

Several SIDS parents understood the modifiable risk factors for SIDS, like co-sleeping with an infant in bed or parental smoking, even when these risks had been involved in their own child's death. Some pediatricians told Garstang they feared that discussing risk factors with parents would result in parental self-blame, and some deliberately avoided the discussion. Yet more than half of parents did not mention blame or blamed no one, as reported in BMJ Open.

Three of the 21 mothers who lost a baby to SIDS expressed overwhelming self-blame and had clinically significant anxiety or depression. "SIDS is still a mystery," Garstang said, although it usually involves a vulnerable baby and an external stressor like exposure to parental smoking or soft bedding where they slept.

About 1,500 babies under age one died of SIDS in 2014 in the US, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. SIDS is incredibly rare but it can happen more than once in the same family, so discussing the risk factors with bereaved parents is even more important, Garstang said. "No parent in the study intended any harm to come to the child," Garstang said. "It's a difficult, sensitive discussion to have, but if you ignore it, often parents are scared to ask." — Reuters

WASHINGTON, CALIFORNIA SUE **OVER PELVIC MESH IMPLANTS**

SEATTLE: Washington state and California are suing Johnson & Johnson, saying for more than a decade the company misrepresented the risks of vaginal mesh implants it sold. Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson said Tuesday his office filed the consumer protection lawsuit in King County Superior Court. He said the company sold Harris also announced a lawsuit, saving her state helped lead an investigation by 46 states and the District of Columbia into the product. The devices are used to treat pelvic organ prolapse, a condition that involves organs such as the bladder, bowel and uterus shifting, often after childbirth, a hysterectomy or menopause. Early

'Shock for health spending'

But according to Spain's Finance Minister Cristobal Montoro, that last-minute cost was in part responsible for the country overshooting its public deficit target in 2015. It's a similar story in France, which paid out 1.5 billion euros (\$1.7 billion) between mid-2014 and June 2015 for innovative hepatitis C treatments for the worst affected, according to a report by its social security system. It has just announced it will now cover the drugs for every patient. Germany, meanwhile, disbursed 1.3 billion euros last year, and the debate over costly innovative treatments is such that the government is mulling a law on the issue. "It's a shock for health spending in many countries," says Valerie Paris, a health policy expert at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). And a wake-up call for the world's richest countries, says Yannis Natsis from the Brussels-based European Public Health Alliance of NGOs and non-profits. "Before we didn't have this debate, or just for Africa and AIDS," he says. Such is the problem that President Francois Hollande will raise the issue during the G7 gathering which kicks off Thursday in Japan, said a French diplomatic source who refused to be named.

Bittersweet cure

Hepatitis C, a blood-borne viral disease, affects 130 to 150 million people globally and can result in liver cirrhosis or cancer. According BARCELONA, Catalonia: A woman holding a placard during a demonstration called by several organizations and people affected by the hepatitis C virus (HCV).

to the World Health Organization, it is responsible for 500,000 deaths yearly. Gilead launched Sovaldi, the first version of its innovative drug that cures 90 percent of most hepatitis C sufferers, in 2013. It had to be taken alongside existing medicine, but it was nevertheless a breakthrough for patients who up until then had been forced to take more pills with severe side effects and lesser efficiency.

"I was so depressed that I was contemplating suicide," says Antonio Rodriguez, a 69-year-old patient who said the previous drugs made his skin so sensitive that he had to avoid the Spanish sun. But Gilead's medicine came at a price: \$84,000 for a 12-week treatment in the United States, 56,000 euros in France. According to Spain's Platform for Hepatitis C Sufferers, the treatment now costs 13,000 euros in the country as competitors enter the market. Then came Harvoni in 2014 — an improved one pill per day version. Rodriguez got treated with the new critics to say it could charge less.

Drug companies generally argue that the cost of such medicine is worth it, saying it saves lives and money for public health systems that would otherwise have to keep funding treatment. "Prices for Gilead HCV (hepatitis C virus) medicines are determined on a country by country basis based on the burden of disease, a country's economic means and the government's commitment to scaling up treatment," Gilead said in a statement.

But according to Sophie Thiebaut, an economics professor at Madrid's Carlos III University who studies the issue, "negotiations between states and drug firms are opaque and the cost/efficiency studies on which these are founded are sometimes disputed."

Cheaper in developing nations Gilead points out it has also made concessions in less wealthy countries. In Egypt for instance, which has a high prevalence of hepatitis C, it has agreed to sell Sovaldi for less than 1,000 euros. It also licensed 11 Indian generic manufacturers to develop and distribute its treatment in developing countries. Not enough, some argue.

The OECD's Paris says EU member states could group together to negotiate and buy drugs in a bid to bring prices down. NGO Doctors of the World, meanwhile, wants compulsory licensing to be introduced, whereby governments allow someone else to produce a product without the consent of the patent owner. But the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations argues that the patent system "is the backbone of the pharmaceutical industry." "Patent protection gives pharmaceutical innovators the certainty they need to invest the significant resources it takes over many years to demonstrate a new medicine is safe and effective." — AFP

nearly 12,000 of the devices in Washington, and thousands of women in the state have faced complications that include urinary dysfunction and constipation. California Attorney General Kamala

this year the US Food and Drug Administration re-labeled the mesh high risk instead of moderate. Johnson & Johnson did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment. — AP

E-CIGARETTE USE ROSE RAPIDLY IN UK, FRANCE

LONDON: The number of people in France and Britain who have tried an electronic or e-cigarette has risen sharply in just two years, according to a Europe-wide study published on Tuesday. The research, led by scientists at Britain's Imperial College London, looked at attitudes to and use of ecigarettes across Europe between 2012 and 2014. It found that France had the highest use of e-cigarettes, with the proportion of those who had tried one nearly tripling to 21.3 percent from 7.3 percent.

In the UK the figure rose from 8.9 percent in 2012 to 15.5 percent in 2014 - higher than the European average. Using data from more than 53,000 people across Europe - with at least 1,000 from each country - the study also found the proportion of people across Europe who consider e-cigarettes dangerous nearly doubled to 51 percent from 27 percent.

E-cigarettes are metal tubes that heat liquids typically laced with nicotine and deliver vapor when inhaled. The liquids come in thousands of flavors, from cotton candy to pizza. Use of the devices has grown quickly in the last decade, with US sales expected to reach \$4.1 billion in 2016, according to Wells Fargo Securities. Experts fiercely debate whether the devices can help people give up smoking and whether they are safe - with some studies raising concerns about the toxicity of some of the ingredients.

"This research shows e-cigarettes are becoming very popular across Europe with more than one in ten people in Europe now having tried one," said Filippos Filippidis, who led the European study and published it in the BMJ journal Tobacco Control. Noting that there are still questions about the long-term risks and benefits of ecigarettes, he added: "We urgently need more research into the devices so that we can answer these questions."

The average number of people across Europe who had tried an e-cigarette rose by 60 percent between 2012 and 2014, to 11.6 percent from 7.2 percent. Most people who reported trying e-cigarettes were former or current smokers, although the number who had never smoked tobacco but had tried them also rose. — Reuters

HILDREN RISK HEALTH FARMING TOBACCO IN INDONESIA

JAKARTA: Children are being put to work on tobacco plantations in Indonesia that supply some of the world's biggest cigarette companies, putting their health at serious risk, Human Rights Watch warned yesterday. Despite Indonesian law prohibiting child labor in hazardous industries, the rights group documented dozens of cases of minors-some as young as eight falling ill from handling raw tobacco and mixing pesticides with their bare hands. Much of the tobacco harvested from the roughly 500,000 plantations across Indonesia is for the domestic market, where smoking rates are among the world's highest.

But one guarter of all Indonesian tobacco is exported and sold overseas by multinational cigarette giants, Human Rights Watch child advocacy director Jo Becker told AFP. "A smoker who is lighting up a Dunhill or a Lucky Strike or some other cigarette in Europe or the United States could well be smoking a cigarette that was made by child labor in Indonesia," Becker said. Many young laborers described feeling dizzy, nauseous and vomiting after long days working

in the fields, symptoms associated with "green tobacco sickness", a type of nicotine poisoning, according to HRW's new report.

Nicotine contained in tobacco plants is readily absorbed through the skin when handled, and is particularly harmful for children, Becker said. "I vomited in the fields and my dad told me to go home and rest. I was sick for two days," a 12-yearold girl from East Java, on the main island of Java, told the rights watchdog, who withheld her identity.

Enforcement difficult

The government is being urged to prohibit children under 18 from working with tobacco. The standard minimum working age is 15, but Indonesia's Child Protection Commission concedes enforcing the law is difficult. "Unfortunately these rules are not properly implemented in the fields," Erlinda, a senior official at the commission, told AFP. Many Indonesians go by just one name. None of the major companies purchasing tobacco in Indonesia had policies "sufficient to ensure that children are protected", Human Rights Watch wrote in its report. Tobacco is purchased either directly from suppliers or via the open market, which is far more opaque and makes tracing origin difficult.

Philip Morris International-which owns Indonesian cigarette giant Sampoerna-has shifted towards sourcing the majority of its tobacco directly in recent years, allowing it to tackle child labour at the farm level but not rule it out entirely. "If we don't know exactly who is producing that tobacco, what are the conditions, then we cannot provide that assurance," the company's international sustainability officer Miguel Coleta told AFP.

British American Tobacco, which owns Indonesian subsidiary Bentoel as well as the Lucky Strike and Dunhill cigarette brands, said it did not employ children in any operations worldwide and warned its suppliers against doing so. Three of Indonesia's largest tobacco companies-Djarum, Gudang Garam and Wismilak-did not reply to repeated requests for comment. — AFP



JAKARTA: This picture released by Human Rights Watch shows a girl harvesting tobacco on a farm near Sampang, East Java. — AFP



MIAMI: Marlie Casseus, center, elicits a laugh from nurses Ginette and Gina Eugene, left, and her mother Maleyn Antoine as she visits Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami to say thanks and to celebrate National Nurses Week. — AP photos

HAITIAN WOMAN VISITS HOSPITAL WHERE DOCTORS REBUILT HER FACE

MIAMI: A Haitian woman who attracted widespread media attention 10 years ago for a 16-pound facial growth says she'd now like to work as a reporter, too. The Miami Herald reports that Marlie Casseus recently returned to Jackson Memorial Hospital with about 150 Haitian nurses to celebrate National Nurses Week. Casseus is now 23. Speaking through an interpreter, she said she wanted to join the reporters who chronicled her medical journey.

Casseus has a rare disorder that causes bone to swell and become jelly-like. Doctors rebuilt her face after removing the growth that nearly killed her. She's had roughly 10 surgeries since 2005. The hospital's International Kids Fund and a local charity have raised funds for her care here. Casseus' recovery in Haiti sometimes hit setbacks, including the 2010 earthquake that destroyed her special-needs school. — AP



MIAMI: Jackson Health System employee Nancy Spain hugs Marlie Casseus, a Haitian woman who had a 16-pound tumor removed from her face in 2005 at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami.

THAIS UPSET THAT 'FRESH' ORANGE JUICE IS NOT WHAT IT SEEMS

ducting surprise inspections of fresh sealed container without proper labeling.

BANGKOK: Thai health officials are con- are already liable for selling a product in a The crackdown has resulted in confisca-

AS ZIKA SPREADS, FLORIDA TOWN A STUDY IN BUG-BORNE ILLNESS

'We don't have an international airport here'

RIO, Florida: A summer flu seemed to be sweeping through Rachel Heid's riverfront neighborhood. Pale and shaky, she left work with a fever. Neighbors had the same symptoms, and a contractor at her home felt so sick he went to the hospital. Heid thought the neighborhood children were passing a bug around their circle. She never suspected a virus carried by bugs hovering around their birdbaths and tarp-covered boats - until health officials left pamphlets at their houses asking for blood samples if they recently suffered from fevers and joint or muscle pain.

The dengue fever outbreak infected 28 people in August and September 2013. It caught Florida's Atlantic coast by surprise. The mosquito-borne disease associated with crowded, thirdworld conditions had spread among the pink plastic flamingoes of Rio (pronounced RYE-oh) and Jensen Beach. The mosquitoes that spread dengue also carry the Zika virus, which has been linked to serious birth defects and has grown into an epidemic in Central and Latin America though officials expect only small outbreaks in the United States. The successful fight against dengue in these Florida suburbs may forecast what other US communities worried about Zika face as the summer mosquito season begins. Among the lessons local officials learned: the importance of home inspections by mosquito control technicians, media campaigns to "drain and cover" standing water, and changes residents made in their own yards.

Potential for dengue

Travelers occasionally come home with dengue, but Florida went 75 years without a local infection until a 2009 outbreak in Key West. The state now records a handful of cases annually, mostly in the densely populated Miami area. Health officials have alerted hospitals to the potential for dengue, but mosquito-borne diseases have rarely worried lifelong Florida residents like Heid. "We don't have an international airport here. We don't have a lot of tourism. We don't have a cruise, we don't have a port - nothing. So we don't have the international intake like you would in Miami or the Keys. But yet - we had dengue here," Heid said.

The 2013 outbreak in Martin County seemed like an anomaly - 100 miles north of Miami, in communities with fewer than 15,000 people but it had the Aedes aegypti mosquitoes that transmit dengue and a traveler who brought home the virus two years earlier. The last time Heid had thought of mosquitoes as more than pests was in 1990, during a statewide outbreak of mosquito-borne St Louis encephalitis. Her Martin County high school started playing afternoon football games to avoid bugs biting at dusk, and she remembers the smell of insecticides wafting over as mosquito control trucks passed by. "When I was a kid, when they would fog, it was heavy," she said. "It smelled like a can of Raid." She noticed there were fewer chemicals deployed in 2013. Fogging trucks rumbled down the streets of affected neighborhoods nearly every night for a month, but county employees spent more time - four or five hours daily - on sweeps targeting all small containers holding water where Aedes aegypti breed. The biggest offenders: buckets, kiddie pools, recycling bins, convenience-store soda cups, potato chip bags and boats. "Rio is this old seaside town, you know, a fishing town," said Stephen Noe, a county mosquito control inspector. "Boats were a huge problem."



RIO, Florida: This photo shows mosquito larvas breeding in a plastic pot with standing water, outside a home in Rio. — AP photos

lion dollars and only six employees, it was enough to handle the outbreak, said Don Donaldson, the county's engineering director.

Eight people needed hospitalization, but none suffered more severe forms of dengue. Things could have been worse, hospital officials said. Caught off-guard by the outbreak, blood banks suspended collections in two counties. Officials later determined that was overkill and could have jeopardized a third of Florida's blood supply if dengue had struck a larger county, said OneBlood's chief medical officer, Dr. Rita Reik. New protocols suspend donations only from the ZIP codes immediately affected by mosquitoborne viruses.

Today, all but a handful of hotspots in the outbreak areas remain mostly clear of the discarded containers that attract Aedes aegypti, Noe said. "You can't, you know, eradicate totally, but to go from a dozen houses to just two, even three years later, is great," he said. No one has contracted dengue in Martin County since 2013, even though a neighboring county has since documented local transmission of another virus carried by the same mosquito. Mosquito-borne disease outbreaks develop from a perfect storm of variables, and there's little evidence supporting the effectiveness of any particular effort to control Aedes aegypti or prevent it from spreading diseases, according to researchers. "You'll have to have an infected person arriving into the community, you'll have to have the vector species in some critical abundance, you'll need people active outdoors - and you can imagine these things happening every day in Florida. Why in particular did it take hold in that location and it doesn't take hold in other locations when you have the same exact circumstance?" said Nathan Burkett-Cadena, who studies how mosquitoes transmit viruses at the University of Florida's medical entomology laboratory.

Mosquito control efforts helped end the 2013 outbreak, but no one can say to what extent, or to what extent similar efforts would prevent or control Zika transmission elsewhere, Burkett-Cadena said. But people learned something from the dengue outbreak, said Heid, a 39-yearold office manager who now keeps insect repellent by her front door and in her car and adds a capful of bleach when filling a kiddie pool for her dog to cool off. A few summers ago, she'd be slapping away at mosquitoes while tending to her garden. "Now it's not as bad because people emptied their birdbaths," she said. "They don't leave standing water. Everyone's conscious that their garbage can lids are flipped. Even planters that have a catch pan for the water - people are emptying those." — AP



orange juice vendors around the country after photos posted on Facebook showed a backyard producer adulterating the juice in big plastic tubs. Thailand's Food and Drug Administration announced the crackdown yesterday in response to an uproar over the pictures, which showed a couple diluting orange juice with water streamed from a garden hose, and then adding sugar and orange food coloring.

Small plastic bottles, touted as freshly squeezed, are widely sold at street stalls and small shops for 20 baht (\$0.55) and up. Police arrested the couple in Saraburi province, north of Bangkok, on Monday. Depending on the ingredients found in their concoction, they could face up to two years in jail and a 50,000 baht (\$1,400) fine. They

tions from five vendors selling orange juice from carts in Bangkok's Chinatown. "They were selling their products without labels showing the ingredients, nutritional values and certification from the FDA," said the director of the agency's Bureau of Food, Tipyon Parinyasiri. "We took their identification cards to make sure they don't run off with their carts before the analysis of their products is complete." FDA Deputy Secretary General Paisarn Dunkhum advised the public against assuming the product is real just because there are oranges and peels nearby. Some vendors, including those who insist their product is 100 percent pure, said their business has dropped off because of the scandal. — AP

Larger county

Maintenance and office workers from the county engineering department joined Noe and five other mosquito control employees for the work. The response drew resources away from mosquito surveillance elsewhere in the county, but for an operation with a budget under \$1 mil-

RIO, Florida: Steve Noe, Martin County mosquito specialist, explains the use of the Mosquito Magnetic Pro, a machine used for luring and trapping mosquitoes, outside a home, in Rio.



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

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<u> Kuwait 🗠 Times</u>

WHAT'S ON

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016



LULU LAUNCHES 'GIFT VOUCHER DELIGHTS 2016'

uLu Hypermarket, the leading hypermarket chain in the region, launched their 'LuLu Gift Voucher Delights 2016' on 25th May. The promotion running from 25 May to 6 July is present in all LuLu Hypermarket outlets and offers customers the opportunity to get one raffle coupon for every purchase of KD 5.

The draw will be held at the four LuLu outlets, Al Rai, Qurain, Salmiya and Egaila where 204 lucky winners will get a chance to win KD 12,000 as gift vouchers, that is gift vouchers of KD 500 each for four winners and KD 50 each for 200 winners.

The 'Gift Voucher Delights 2016' is an

incredible venture by LuLu Hypermarket to draw in customers with a lively campaign, where they will get a chance to buy products at reasonable prices and win amazing prizes.

LuLu Hypermarket has consistently branded itself as the company that meets customers' expectations for quality products at competitive prices. The hypermarket presents a unique shopping experience through attractive customer oriented campaigns that help garner shoppers' interest and increase support for the brand.



ZAIN ANNOUNCES STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH KRCS

AIN telecommunications company has announced it is holding a strategic partnership with Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) through which it would enhance cooperation with KRCS in various charity and humanitarian campaigns starting with the 'Zain Al-Shohour' (The Best Month) due to start this Ramadan. Zain explained that it would

send a number of awareness flashes through SMS messages and social media networks about charity in addition to providing a special link on its official website for donations to KRCS and funding boxes of foodstuff to be distributed during Ramadan to needy families.



VIETNAM AMBASSADOR VISITS LULU HYPERMARKET BRANCH IN EGAILA

Ambassador of Vietnam to Kuwait recently visited the newly opened Lulu Hypermarket in Egaila. Ambassador Thao was welcomed by Mohammed Haris, Regional Director of Lulu Hypermarket. HE was taken on a tour of the outlet by the Lulu management team and also discussed ways and means to promote Vietnamese products in all Lulu outlets around Kuwait.

LuLu Hypermarket has consistently branded itself as the retail outlet that meets its customers 'expectations for quality products at competitive prices. The hypermarket presents a unique shopping experience through attractive customer oriented promotions and value added benefits to its clients.





48 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AT ESF



he English School Fahaheel's 48th Annual Graduation and Sixth Form Prize-giving was once again held with great fanfare at the Grand Hashemi Ballroom at the Radisson Blu Hotel. Graduates and hundreds of guests thoroughly enjoyed an evening that saw prizes handed out by Chief Guests His Excellency the Ambassador of Great Britain Mr Matthew Lodge and His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of India Mr Sueil Jain to years 12 & 13 respectively. They were accompanied by the owner and Chairman of ESF Mr Ibrahim Shuhiaber.

The evening was also attended by HE the German Ambassador, and the Ambassadors of Malta, Liberia and Armenia. Many dignitaries, special and parents were also attendance. The evening commenced with the entry of the class of 2016 to a huge round of applause from the parents and guests.

ESF Sixth Form Graduates Sara Shuhaiber (Head Girl) accompanied by Rahul Rajiv and Ruwan Bedier then performed a beautiful tribute entitled "Next to You" to the Graduating Class of 2016. Kyungmi Lee then stunned audiences with an outstanding rendition of Mozart's Sonata Number 8 on the piano. Both Sara and Kyungmi are A/S Music students at ESF. This was followed prize distribution ceremony to Years 12 and 13.

Following the prize-giving ceremony HE the British Ambassador Mr Matthew Lodge gave a very inspiring speech to students and spoke about the rich history of ESF which was established in 1968 under the guidance of the incumbent British Consul. The evening concluded with a photo opportunity for the Graduates and parents followed by a sumptuous dinner buffet for the guests.





DRINK MORE WATER CAMPAIGN AT IISM

ndia International School, Mangaf conducts 'Drink More Water Campaign' at the onset of summer every year. This academic year it was held for a week starting from 1st May. Charts and posters, with slogans highlighting the necessity of drinking water, were made by the students to spread the awareness in the campus.

A special assembly was conducted in this regard and water was distributed to all by the students. Teachers and subject coordinators visited all the primary classes with messages showing the importance of keeping our body hydrated for the smooth functioning of its mechanics. The Water song was the anthem of the week. 'Eight glasses of water a day' irrespective of the seasons was the forerunner of the campaign. Activities and group discussions were held on the topic 'Healthy You'.

The concept was initiated by the School Director Malayil Moosa Koya and he appreciated the teachers and students for their effort and interest. Principal, FM Basheer Ahmed, Sr Vice Principal and the Vice Principals also took lead in the campaign.

<u>Kuwait & Times</u>

WHAT'S ON

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016



MAHMOUD HAJI HAIDAR HEALTH CENTER HOLDS AWARENESS DAY

KUWAIT: The diabetes unit at Mahmoud Haji Haidar Health Center held its annual awareness day, that came just before the holy month of Ramadan. The event included advice on all aspects of caring for your body during days of fasting and other general health tips and advice for the holy month. The advice ranged from nutrition, how to manage diabetes, blood pressure, skin care bearing in mind the hot temperature in the summer. Al-Sanabel Al-Tahabiya and Sebamed were on hand as usual, and distributed booklets on the proper care of the skin.



AL MULLA GROUP LAUNCHES THE FIRST TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NATIONAL MANPOWER



I Mulla Group has launched the first training program for national manpower qualification and training, in which selected representatives and executive members from public and governmental sectors have attended in support of the Group. The program was launched in cooperation with Taqat Projects Management Co. and sponsored by the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program. Al Mulla Group has participated in the intensive training course for the development of managerial and behavioral skills of its employees, which shall act as a bridge through which the employee may experience the real business environment and become deeply involved in labor market; especially the private sector which is deemed as a challenging field that requires expertise and skills that are not trivial. The program will provide training and gualifica tion for sixty Kuwaiti employees where each trainee will be granted twelve courses. The above training program is a consequence of the Group's concern to support the young national cadres and help them develop their skills and be engaged in real business environment, in order to complete the advancement and development journey of our beloved Kuwait. On that occasion; the Chief Administrative Officer Mr Abdullah Najeeb Al Mulla, gave a speech in which he emphasized on the continuous concern of Al Mulla Group to provide more opportunities to develop Kuwaiti employees and encourage them to participate in private sector; especially in Al Mulla Group, and stated that such action is a new promising movement for the Group. He also conveyed his thankfulness and appreciation to all participants of organizers, sponsors and trainers, and praised the trainees' interaction with the courses provide so far.

Ms Iman Al-Ansary, Manager of the National Manpower Development Department at the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program, addressed the participants and encouraged them to make benefit from such event, and added that training is the first step towards success and growth.

From his part; Mr Abdullah Al-Hajiri, partner and promoter of Taqat Projects Management Co. spoke about the compa-



ny's trend and desire to build the next effective generation that may take part in the advancement and rise of the country.

The evening show ended with Dr Ayoub Khalid Al-Ayoub, the General Secretary of Supreme Advisory Committee for the Completion of Applying Islamic Sharia Provisions at Al-Diwan Al-Amiri, and the promoter of the Speech and Dialogue Club, and the Consultant of Aljomanah Managerial Consultancy Co, where he gave an encouraging lecture to the attendants which was titled "Discover Yourself Again".

NISSAN AL BABTAIN SPONSORS RED BULL'S NEYMAR JR FIVE INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

bdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain Co (AABC), the exclusive agent of Nissan in the State of Kuwait always aims to reach its young clients and keep them entertained and engaged in the biggest events happening that is why Nissan Al Babtain is sponsoring the Red bull's Neymar Jr Five Tournament.

The tournament started on Monday the 2nd of April and will end with the final game today the 26th of May in Al Kout mall beach. The winning team will participate in the World Final held in Brazil to compete with the other teams from around the world. The world final will take place in Neymar JR Instituto Projeto in July in the state of Sao Paulo, Brazil where the winning team will get a chance to meet and practice with Neymar,

Nissan Al Babtain believes that supporting such activities gives young generation the opportunity to express themselves individually and in groups, which will prepare them to start their career with great confidence and the ability to communicate with others.







<u> Kuwait & Times</u>

TV PROGRAMS

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016

O/N MOVIES HD

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04:20 The Aviator 05:55 If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium 07:35 Big Screen 07:50 The Garbage Pail Kids Movie 09:25 Puckoon 10:50 The Raven 12:15 Captain Jack 13:55 Impromptu 15:40 Geronimo: An American Legend 17:35 Race For The Yankee Zephyr 19:25 The Aviator 21:00 Breaking Bad 22:00 A Dangerous Woman Requiem For A Dream 23:45 01:25 Hair



03:25 Africa's Trees Of Life 04:15 Gator Boys 05:02 Treehouse Masters 05:49 Village Vets 06:13 Village Vets 06:36 Call Of The Wildman 07:00 Call Of The Wildman 07:25 Too Cute! 08:15 Village Vets 08:45 Village Vets 09:10 Treehouse Masters 10:05 Tanked 11:00 Too Cute! 11:55 Bondi Vet 12:25 Bondi Vet 12:50 Village Vets Village Vets 13:20 13:45 Gator Boys 14:40 Treehouse Masters 15:35 Tanked 16:30 Africa's Trees Of Life 17:25 River Monsters 18:20 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster 19:15 Tanked 20:10 Animal Cops South Africa 21:05 Treehouse Masters 22:00 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster 22:55 Gator Boys 23:50 River Monsters 00:45 I'm Alive 01:40 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster 02:35 Tanked BBC FIRST

03:40 Orphan Black 04:35 Eastenders 05:10 Doctor Who 06:00 Doctors 06:30 Doctors 07:00 Doctors 07:30 Eastenders 08:00 Death In Paradise 08.55 37 Dave 09:50 Doctor Who 10:40 Doctors 11:10 Eastenders 11:40 Death In Paradise 12:35 37 Days 13:30 Doctor Who 14:20 Doctors 14:50 Eastenders 15:25 Death In Paradise 16:20 Dickensian 17:10 Doctor Who 18:00 Doctors 18:30 Eastenders 19:05 Death In Paradise 20:00 Holby City 21:00 Stella 21:55 Unforgotter 22:45 Orphan Black 23:35 Doctors Eastenders 00:10 00:45 Holby City 01:40 Stella

22:30 South Park 23:00 South Park 00:00 Owen Benjamin: High Five Til It Hurts 00:50 South Park 01:15 South Park 02:05 Owen Benjamin: High Five Til It Hurts

crime

03:00 The Haunting Of. 04:00 The Haunting Of .. 05:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook 06:00 The FBI Files 07:00 Beyond Scared Straight 08:00 The FBI Files 09:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook 10:00 Nightmare In Suburbia 11:00 Crimes That Shook Britain 12:00 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 Ms. Homicide 22:00 Married, Single, Dead 23:00 The Jail: 60 Days In 00:00 Crime Stories 01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos 02:00 Ms. Homicide



03:15 Superhuman Science 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 Yukon Men 06:00 06:50 Wheeler Dealers 07:40 Fast N' Loud 08:30 Game Of Pawns 08:55 Storage Wars Canada 09:20 Property Wars 09:45 How Do They Do It? 10:10 South Beach Classics 10:35 You Have Been Warned The Pop Illusionist 11:25 12:15 Superhuman Science 12:40 Superhuman Science 13:05 Game Of Pawns 13:30 Storage Wars Canada 13:55 Property Wars 14:20 Yukon Men 15:10 Wheeler Dealers 16:00 Fast N' Loud 16:50 South Beach Classics 17:15 How Do They Do It? 17:40 Salvage Hunters 18:30 For The Love Of Cars 19:20 The Weapon Hunter 20:10 Storage Wars Canada 20:35 Property Wars 21:00 Free Ride 21:50 For The Love Of Cars 22:40 Engine Addict With Jimmy De Ville 23:30 Fast N' Loud 00:20 Wheeler Dealers 01:10 Free Ride 02:00 For The Love Of Cars

05:24 Nowhere To Hide 06:12 I Was Murdered 06:37 I Was Murdered 07:00 **Blood Relatives** 07:50 I Almost Got Away With It 08.40 Nowhere To Hide 09:30 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones

04:36 Blood Belatives

10:20 I Was Murdered

10:45 I Was Murdered

12:00 Blood Relatives

11:35 California Investigator

11:10

California Investigator

12:50 I Almost Got Away With It

&investigation network

13:40 Nowhere To Hide 14:30 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones 15:20 I Was Murdered 15:45 I Was Murdered 16:10 Southern Fried Homicide 17:00 Blood Relatives 17:50 True Crime With Aphrodite 18:40 Nowhere To Hide 19:30 I Almost Got Away With It I Was Murdered 20:20 20:45 I Was Murdered 21:10 Murder Comes To Town Web Of Lies 22:00 22:50 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen 23:40 Your Worst Nightmare 00:30 Evil Kin 01:20 Web Of Lies 02:10 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen





- Secret Space Escapes 22:45 How The Universe Works 23:35 Mythbusters Through The Wormhole
- 01:08 Secret Space Escapes 01:55 How The Universe Works How It's Made



03:15 The Hive 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

rard* Nominee Andy Garcia y Award's Norminee Vera Farmiga Of Here! Wild Of Here! Wild Makeover 4:20 Prince Prince 2013 MILL VALLEY TILM PESTIWAL DEHVER TILM PESTIVAL Aiddleton One Day Can Change Everything 100 R menia In Select Theaters and On Demand January 31*

AT MIDDLETON ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

00:00 Violetta 00:45 The Hive 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch 01.40 Hank Zipzer 02:05 Binny And The Ghost 02:30 Violetta

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

13:00 Lab Rats 13:30 Phineas And Ferb 13:55 Phineas And Ferb 14:20 Kickin' It 14:45 Kickin' It 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse 15:10 Disney Mickey Mode15:15 Rocket Monkeys15:40 Guardians Of The Galaxy16:05 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 Bats 18:40 K.C. Undercover 19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse 19:10 Annedroids Phineas And Ferb 19:35 20:00 Mighty Med 20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything

20:55 K.C. Undercover

21:20 Pickle And Peanut

21:30 Pickle And Peanut

00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 01:00 Private Chef 01:30 Private Chef 02:00 Valerie's Home Cooking 02:30 Valerie's Home Cooking



03:40 American Restoration 04:05 American Restoration 04:30 Pawn Stars 05:00 Lost Worlds 06:00 Mountain Men 06:50 Ice Road Truckers 07:40 Ax Men

Planet

Watt

Kumbh Mela

08:30 Shipping Wars 08:55 American Restoration 09:20 American Restoration

09:45 Banger Boys 10:35 Counting Cars

11.25

I net M

00:20 Pawn Stars



03:25 Midsomer Murders 05:15 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out 06:10 Coach Trip 06:35 Catchphrase 07:05 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The 07:30 Midsomer Murders 09:20 The Jonathan Ross Show 10:10 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out 11:05 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The 11:35 Catchphrase 12:05 Coach Trip 12:30 Peter Andre's 60 Minute 13:25 Emmerdale 13:50 Coach Trip

Coronation Street 14:45 The Jonathan Ross Show 15:35 When Ant & Dec Met The 16:55 Royal Stories 17:25 Raised By Wolves 7:55 Raised By Wolves

18:20 Emmerdale 18:45 Coach Trip Coronation Street 19:10 19:35 When Ant & Dec Met The

20:55 **Royal Stories** 21:25 Raised By Wolves 21:55 Baised By Wolves 22:20 Coronation Street 22:50 Emmerdale 23:15 Peter Andre's 60 Minute

Makeover 00:10 When Ant & Dec Met The Prince

01:30 Emmerdale 02:00 Coronation Street 02:30 The Jonathan Ross Show



03:05 Glamour Puds 03:30 Glamour Puds 03:55 Cruise Ship Diaries 04:45 Maximum Foodie 05:10 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia 05:35 Rustic Adventures Italy 06:00 Rustic Adventures Italy 06:25 Carnival Eats 06:50 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces 07:40 Billionaire's Paradise 08:30 Tom's Istanbul Delight Glamour Puds 08:55 09:20 Glamour Puds 09:45 Cruise Ship Diaries 10:35 Maximum Foodie 11:00 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia 11:25 Rustic Adventures Italy 11:50 Rustic Adventures Italy 12:15 Carnival Eats 12:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces 13:35 Food Lover's Guide To The

14:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita

14:30 World's Biggest Festival:

16:20 Testing The Menu With Nic

15:25 Cruise Ship Diaries

01:00 Cesar To The Rescue

05:15 Trigger Point 07:00 Accidental Love 09:00 Pixels 11:00 Fast & Furious 7 13:30 Batman: Assault On Arkham 15:00 Streetdance: All Stars

17:00 Seventh Son 18:45 Tomorrowland 21:00 Kidnapping Mr. Heineken 23:00 The November Man 01:00 Whiplash

KIDS

01:50 Chefs Run Wild 00:45 Pawn Stars South Africa 02:15 David Rocco's Dolce Vita 01:10 Down East Dickering 02:40 David Rocco's Dolce Vita 02:00 Ice Road Truckers 02:50 Ax Men



ACTION 04:00 The Package 06:00 Safe House 08:00 12 Rounds 10:00 Abandoned Mine 12:00 Batman Unlimited: Animal Instincts 14:00 Safe House 16:00 12 Rounds 18:00 Biker Boyz 20:00 I, Robot 22:00 The Mark: Redemption 00:00 Hammer Of The Gods 02:00 Abandoned Mine O/N MOVIES HD

COMEDY

04:00 Three Men And A Baby 06:00 Father Of The Bride 08:00 Father Of The Bride Part II Three Men And A Baby 10:00 12:00 The Bounty Hunter 14:00 Bad Parents Father Of The Bride Part II 16:00 18:00 At Middleton 20:00 Identity Thief 22:00 Superbad 00:00 Good Luck Chuck 02:00 At Middleton

O/N MOVIES HD

FAMILY 03:15 Mighty Joe Young 05:15 Race To Witch Mountain 07:15 Pocahontas 09:00 Bedtime Stories 11:00 Postman Pat: The Movie 13:00 Three Wishes 15:00 Eragon 17:00 The Boxtrolls 19:00 National Treasure 2: Book Of Secrets 21:00 Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey 23:00 The Boxtrolls 01:00 National Treasure 2: Book Of Secrets



04:00 Powder 06:00 Les Miserables 09:00 Legends Of The Fall 11:30 Happiness 13:30 Les Miserables 16:30 Mood Indigo 19:00 Gattaca 21:00 Blue Sky 23:00 Starred Up 01:00 Cocaine Cowboys: Reloaded

O/N MOVIES HD

03:30 The Love Punch



03:00 South Park

03:00 Destroyed In Seconds 03:25 Destroyed In Seconds 03:50 Ultimate Survival 04:40 How It's Made 05:05 How It's Made 05:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman 06:20 Mythbusters

02:50 Engine Addict With Jimmy

De Ville

Discovery 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

22:00

00:20

02:42



12 ROUNDS ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

10:20

16:35 Doki

03:48 Evil Kin

03:25 Tattoo Disasters 03:50 Hungry Investors 04:40 Workaholics 05:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol 05:55 Tosh.0 06:20 Tosh.0 06:50 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol 07:40 Workaholics 08:05 Workaholics 08:30 Key And Peele 08:55 Key And Peele 09:20 Tosh.0 09:45 Tosh.0 10:10 Nathan For You 10:35 Nathan For You 11:00 Lip Sync Battle 11:25 Lip Sync Battle 11:50 Workaholics 12:15 Workaholics 12:40 Key And Peele 13:05 Key And Peele 13:30 Tosh.0 13:55 Tosh.0 14:20 Nathan For You 14:45 Nathan For You 15:10 Lip Sync Battle 15:35 Lip Sync Battle 16:00 Workaholics 16:30 Workaholics 16:55 Key And Peele 17:25 Key And Peele 17:50 Tosh.0 18:15 Tosh.0 18:40 Nathan For You 19:05 Nathan For You 19:30 Hungry Investors 20:15 Lip Sync Battle 20:38 Lip Sync Battle 21:30 Owen Benjamin: High Five Til It Hurts

07:25 Doki 07:50 Bad Dog 08:40 You Have Been Warned 08:30 Shake It Up 08:55 Hannah Montana 09:20 Hannah Montana Hannah Montana 09:30 How It's Made 09:55 How It's Made H2O: Just Add Water 09:45 10:10 H2O: Just Add Water 10:35 I Didn't Do It Mythbusters 11:10 Bondi Vet I Didn't Do It 11:00 12:00 Bad Dog 12:50 How It's Made 11:25 Jessie 11:50 Jessie 13:15 How It's Made 12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse 12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug 13:40 Ultimate Survival 14:30 Dirty Jobs And Cat Noir 15:20 Mythbusters 12:45 Hank Zipzer 16:10 Kids vs Film 13:10 Austin & Ally 13:35 Austin & Ally 17:00 NASA's Greatest Missions 14:00 Liv And Maddie 17:50 Mission Asteroid 14:25 Disney Mickey Mouse 14:30 Liv And Maddie 18:40 You Have Been Warned 19:30 Mythbusters 20:20 How It's Made 14:55 Dog With A Blog 15:20 Dog With A Blog 20:45 How It's Made 15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug 21:10 NASA's Greatest Missions And Cat Noir 16:10 Violetta 17:00 The Next Step 22:00 Mission Asteroid 22:50 Destroyed In Seconds 23:15 Destroyed In Seconds 17:25 Alex And Co 23:40 Through The Wormhole With 17:50 Jessie 18:15 Best Friends Whenever Morgan Freeman 00:30 Mythbusters 18:40 Girl Meets World 01:20 NÁSA's Greatest Missions 19:05 Evermoor Chronciles 19:30 Liv And Maddie 19:55 Liv And Maddie 20:20 The Next Step 20:45 Good Luck Charlie 21:10 H2O: Just Add Water INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY 21:35 H2O: Just Add Water 22:00 Binny And The Ghost 03:00 Discovery ID 09:00 Discovery ID 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A 15:00 Discovery ID Teenage Witch 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A 21:00 Discovery ID Discovery ID Xtra Teenage Witch 03:00 Murder Comes To Town 23:10 Hank Zipzer 23:35 Binny And The Ghost



06:00 Boyster 06:10 Super Matrak 06:35 Super Matrak 07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil 07:25 K.C. Undercover 07:50 Supa Strikas 08:15 Supa Strikas 08:40 Lab Rats 09:10 Kirby Buckets 09:35 Pokemon Series Xy: Kalos Quest 10:00 Rocket Monkeys 10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors 10:50 Marvel Avengers Assemble 11:20 Guardians Of The Galaxy 11:45 Pair Of Kings 12:10 Pair Of Kings 12:35 Lab Rats

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21:45 Lab Rats 22:10 Mighty Med 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA CHD 03:15 Christina Milian Turned Up 04:10 Christina Milian Turned Up 05:05 Christina Milian Turned Up 06:00 Fashion Bloggers 06:25 Kourtney And Kim Take Miami 07:20 Kourtney And Kim Take Miami 08:20 E! News 09:15 Kourtney And Kim Take Miami 10:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 12:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 13:05 E! News 14:05 Botched 15:00 Fashion Bloggers 15:30 Botched: Post Op 16:00 WAGs 17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 19:00 E! News 20:00 Dash Dolls 21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 22:00 Botched 23:00 E! News 00:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry 00:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry 01:50 Botched 02:20 E! News



03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 04:00 Man Fire Food 04:30 Man Fire Food 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games 06:00 Chopped 07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin 07:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin 08:00 Chopped 09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics 09:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics 10:00 The Kitchen 11:00 Anna Olson: Fresh 11:30 Anna Olson: Fresh 12:00 Chopped 13:00 The Pioneer Woman 13:30 The Pioneer Woman 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives 15:00 Man Fire Food 15:30 Man Fire Food 16:00 Chopped 17:00 The Kitchen 18:00 Anna Olson: Fresh 18:30 Anna Olson: Fresh 19:00 Chopped 20:00 Iron Chef America 21:00 Private Chef 21:30 Private Chef 22:00 Valerie's Home Cooking 22:30 Valerie's Home Cooking 23:00 Iron Chef America

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12:15 American Pickers 13:05 Storage Wars 13:30 Storage Wars 13:55 Fifth Gear 14:45 Shipping Wars 15:10 Shipping Wars 15:35 Shipping Wars 16:00 Mountain Men 16:50 Ax Men 17:40 Ice Road Truckers 18:30 Lost Worlds 19:20 American Pickers 20:10 Pawn Stars 20:35 Pawn Stars 21:00 Duck Dynasty 21:25 Duck Dynasty 21:50 Pawn Stars 22:15 Pawn Stars South Africa 22:40 Grave Trade 23:30 Duck Dynasty 23:55 Duck Dynasty

16:45 David Rocco's Dolce India 17:15 Tripping Out With Alie & **OVN** MOVIES HD Georgia 17:40 Rustic Adventures Italy 18:10 Rustic Adventures Italy 04:15 Ghatothkach - Master Of 18:35 Carnival Eats Magic 19:05 World's Biggest Festival: Kumbh Mela 20:00 Cruise Ship Diaries 20:50 Testing The Menu With Nic 21:15 David Rocco's Dolce India 21:40 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia 22:05 Rustic Adventures Italy 22:30 Rustic Adventures Italy 22:55 Carnival Eats 23:20 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces 00:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet 00:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita

06:00 Zarafa 08:00 Columbus In The Last Journey 10:00 Yellowbird 11:30 Daddy I'm A Zombie 13:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure 14:30 Mamma Moo And Crow 16:00 Worms 18:00 Yellowbird 20:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble 22:00 Mamma Moo And Crow 23:30 Worms 01:00 Columbus In The Last Journey

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Jordan Hinsor

SAN DUKIC SEAN COLEY IAA SMITH IOHNSON CLETING BY JENNY LEWIS C.D.C. & SARA KAY C.D.C. US CLETING BY LU E FISETTE ORGANIL SCORE BY MARC OUELLETTE A BERGER COSTUNEDESIS ENTRE ANNIE ILKOW, PROCEDIN DERHER JEAN BECOTTE DRECHER IF PROCEASE TO ANIEL VILLENEUVE CSC PROJECT JEAN BUREAU PROMIER IAN WHITEHEAD ELECTIVE PRODUCE JEAN BUREAU WRITTEREY IB WHITE ERECTER OF PHILIPPE GAGNON

TRIGGER POINT ON OSN MOVIES HD

Rel Media

CLASSIFIEDS

3:30 PM

5:30 PM

12:05 AM

MARINA-3



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LOGISTICS PROJECT ASSISTANT MANAGER GAC Kuwait is looking for an excellent Logistics Project Assistant Manager who can continue to develop our

business and explore the market potential further. The key duty is to provide customers with expert, creative

and tactical guidance in relation to the handling of a wide variety of "Project Related Cargoes".

<u> Kuwait Times</u>

Kuwait

CINEMA

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016

KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (26/05/2016 TO 01/06/2016)

SHARQIA-1		MONEY MONSTER
MONEY MONSTER	11:30 AM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND		MONEY MONSTER
	1:30 PM	
MONEY MONSTER	3:45 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	5:45 PM	MONEY MONSTER
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	8:00 PM	
MONEY MONSTER	10:15 PM	FANAR-2
X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:15 AM	Hepta
		Hepta
SHARQIA-2		Hepta
WARCRAFT	11:45 AM	Hepta
WARCRAFT	2:15 PM	Hepta
WARCRAFT	4:45 PM	Hepta
WARCRAFT	7:15 PM	heptu
WARCRAFT	9:45 PM	FANAR-3
WARCRAFT	12:30 AM	THE NICE GUYS
WARCRAFT	12:50 AM	
		CABIN FEVER
SHARQIA-3		THE NICE GUYS
Hepta	12:00 PM	CABIN FEVER
Hepta	2:30 PM	THE NICE GUYS
Hepta	5:00 PM	THE NICE GUYS
Hepta	7:30 PM	CABIN FEVER
Hepta	10:00 PM	
Hepta	12:45 AM	FANAR-4
		WARCRAFT 3D
MUHALAB-1		WARCRAFT
Hepta	11:45 AM	WARCRAFT 3D
Hepta	2:15 PM	WARCRAFT
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	4:45 PM	WARCRAFT
	6:45 PM	WARCRAFT
Hepta	9:15 PM	WARCHAFT
Hepta		
Hepta	11:45 PM	FANAR-5
		X-MEN: Apocalypse
MUHALAB-2		THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	12:45 PM	FRI
MONEY MONSTER	3:00 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
X-MEN: Apocalypse	5:00 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
NO FRI +SAT		X-MEN: Apocalypse
SARBJIT (Hindi)	5:15 PM	X-MEN: Apocalypse
FRI +SAT		
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	8:00 PM	MARINA-1
MONEY MONSTER	10:15 PM	MONEY MONICTED
X-MEN: Apocalypse		MONEY MONSTER
	12:15 AM	MONEY MONSTER
MUHALAR-3		MONEY MONSTER MONEY MONSTER
MUHALAB-3	12:15 AM	MONEY MONSTER MONEY MONSTER X-MEN: Apocalypse
WARCRAFT	12:15 AM 11:30 AM	MONEY MONSTER MONEY MONSTER X-MEN: Apocalypse MONEY MONSTER
WARCRAFT WARCRAFT	12:15 AM 11:30 AM 2:00 PM	MONEY MONSTER MONEY MONSTER X-MEN: Apocalypse MONEY MONSTER MONEY MONSTER
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WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT	12:15 AM 11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM	MONEY MONSTER MONEY MONSTER X-MEN: Apocalypse MONEY MONSTER MONEY MONSTER X-MEN: Apocalypse
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WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT	12:15 AM 11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM	MONEY MONSTER MONEY MONSTER X-MEN: Apocalypse MONEY MONSTER MONEY MONSTER X-MEN: Apocalypse MARINA-2 WARCRAFT
WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT	12:15 AM 11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER MONEY MONSTER X-MEN: Apocalypse MONEY MONSTER MONEY MONSTER X-MEN: Apocalypse MARINA-2 WARCRAFT WARCRAFT
WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT FANAR-1	12:15 AM 11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM	MONEY MONSTER MONEY MONSTER X-MEN: Apocalypse MONEY MONSTER MONEY MONSTER X-MEN: Apocalypse MARINA-2 WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT
WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT	12:15 AM 11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER MONEY MONSTER X-MEN: Apocalypse MONEY MONSTER MONEY MONSTER X-MEN: Apocalypse MARINA-2 WARCRAFT WARCRAFT
WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT FANAR-1	12:15 AM 11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM	MONEY MONSTER MONEY MONSTER X-MEN: Apocalypse MONEY MONSTER MONEY MONSTER X-MEN: Apocalypse MARINA-2 WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT
WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT FANAR-1 PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	12:15 AM 11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM 1:15 PM	MONEY MONSTER MONEY MONSTER X-MEN: Apocalypse MONEY MONSTER X-MEN: Apocalypse MARINA-2 WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT

5:30 PIN	MARINA-3	
7:45 PM	Hepta	12:45 PM
9:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	3:15 PM
12:15 AM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	5:30 PM
	Hepta	7:45 PM
	Hepta	10:15 PM
11:30 AM	Hepta	12:45 AM
2:00 PM		
4:30 PM	AVENUES-1	
7:00 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	11:45 AM
9:30 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	2:00 PM
12:05 AM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	4:15 PM
	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	6:45 PM
	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	9:15 PM
11:30 AM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	11:45 PM
1:45 PM		
4:00 PM	AVENUES-3	
6:15 PM	MONEY MONSTER	11:30 AM
8:15 PM	MONEY MONSTER	1:45 PM
10:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER	4:00 PM
12:45 AM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	6:15 PM
121107111	MONEY MONSTER	8:30 PM
	MONEY MONSTER	10:45 PM
12:00 PM	MONEY MONSTER	1:00 AM
2:30 PM	MONET MONSTER	1.007.001
5:00 PM	AVENUES-4	
7:30 PM	Hepta	12:45 PM
10:00 PM	MONEY MONSTER	3:00 PM
12:30 AM	Hepta	5:00 PM
12.50 AM	NOTHU	5.00 FIM
	Special Show "THE ANGRY BIRE	
1:15 PM	5:00 PM	3 NOVIE
2:00 PM	THU 26.05.2016	
2.00 FIN	Hepta 7:30 PM	
4:15 PM	Hepta	10:00 PM
6:30 PM	періа	10:00 PM
8:45 PM	360°- 1	
8:45 PM 11:45 PM		12:15 PM
11:45 PW	Hepta	2:45 PM
	Hepta	5:15 PM
11.20 444	Hepta	7:45 PM
11:30 AM 1:30 PM	Hepta	10:15 PM
3:30 PM	Hepta	12:45 AM
5:30 PM	Hepta	12:45 AIVI
8:30 PM	360°- 2	
		12.00 DM
10:30 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	12:00 PM
12:30 AM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	3:00 PM
	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	5:15 PM
11.20 444	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	7:30 PM
11:30 AM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	10:00 PM
2:00 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	12:30 AM
4:30 PM	2600 2	
7:00 PM	360°-3	40.00.00
9:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	12:30 PM
12.05 AM	THE ANGRY RIRDS MOVIE 3D	2.45 DM

THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 3D

2	016)	
	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE (Arabi	c)
	5:00 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE Hepta	7:15 PM 9:30 PM 11:45 PM
	AL-KOUT.1 WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM
	AL-KOUT.2 PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND MONEY MONSTER PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND MONEY MONSTER PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	1:00 PM 3:15 PM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 11:45 PM
	AL-KOUT.3 Hepta Hepta Hepta Hepta Hepta Hepta	11:45 AM 2:15 PM 4:45 PM 7:15 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM
	AL-KOUT.4 THE NICE GUYS X-MEN: Apocalypse THE NICE GUYS THE NICE GUYS X-MEN: Apocalypse THE NICE GUYS	12:15 PM 2:30 PM 5:30 PM 7:45 PM 10:15 PM 1:00 AM
	BAIRAQ-1 WARCRAFT 3D THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE WARCRAFT WARCRAFT 3D WARCRAFT WARCRAFT	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:30 PM 9:00 PM 11:30 PM
	BAIRAQ-2 Hepta Hepta Hepta Hepta	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM

 Effective processing of project tender Update and maintaining records in th Coordination of approved suppliers ai Analysis of key data associated to the Required: High school diploma or equivalent (H 	fficient and adequate processes to ensure s and quotation responses ne operational systems nd vendors including prequalification proc	ess
recruitment.kuwait@	the right candidate, please send in gac.com only short listed cand Ils related to this ad will not be ent FERENT In Salam, two living rooms, bathroom, 2 master rooms, two rooms with bath, balcony, lift, private entrance, and central boiler. Tel: 99161006	idates will be notified.
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Gac

Duties & Responsibilities:



Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Automated enquiry

about the Civil

ID card is

1889988

9:30 PM

12:05 AM

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

			al Flights on Thursday 26/5/2016		JZR	779	Jeddah	14:25				are Flights on Thursday 26/5/2016		PAL	669	Dubai/Manila		4:45
	rlines		Route	Time	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30		nes Fl	lt	Route	Time	KNE	382	Taif	1	4:55
TH		772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	742	Dammam	14:55	JZR		540	Cairo	00:05	KAC	773	Riyadh		5:00
M		415	Sohag	00:10	KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00	AIC		76	Goa/Chennai	00:05	GFA	222	Bahrain		5:05
JZ		239	Amman	00:20	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05	BBC		44	Dhaka	00:10	FDB	058	Dubai		5:05
JZ		267	Beirut	00:30	SYR	341	Damascus	15:05	MSC		04	Asyut	00:10	KAC	673	Dubai		5:05
FD		069	Dubai	00:55	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	JAI		73	Mumbai	00:25	AXB	394	Kozhikode	1	5:10
KK		6506	Istanbul	00:55	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10	FDB		72	Dubai	00:30	QTR	1079	Doha		5:15
DL		635	Doha	01:00	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	KLM		11	Amsterdam	00:55	KAC	617	Doha		5:15
QT		1086	Doha	01:15	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	MSC		16	Sohag	01:05	KNE	530	Jeddah		5:55
JZ		539	Cairo	01:20	RJA	640	Amman	16:00	JZR	50		Luxor	01:15	SVA	505	Jeddah		6:00
SA		441	Lahore	01:30	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	THY		73	Istanbul	01:40	KAC	613	Bahrain		6:00
PO		858	Istanbul	01:40	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	DLH			Frankfurt	02:00	SYR	342	Damascus		6:05
RJ. ET		642 620	Amman Addia Ababa	01:45	JZR KAC	535 118	Cairo New York	16:20	SAI		42	Lahore	02:30	OMA	646	Muscat		6:10
GF		211	Addis Ababa Bahrain	01:45 02:15	KAC	531	Jeddah	16:30 16:35	ETH	62		Addis Ababa	02:45	ABY	128	Sharjah		6:15
UA		853	Dubai	02:15	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45	THY		65	Istanbul	02:45	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi		6:20
O		643	Muscat	02:25	NIA	251	Alexandria	16:50	PGT	85		Istanbul	02:55	RJA	641	Amman		6:55
FD		045	Dubai	03:15	KAC	562	Amman	16:55	UAE		54	Dubai	03:45	FDB	052	Dubai		7:00
M		612	Cairo	03:15	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	OMA		44	Muscat	04:00	KAC	675	Dubai		7:00
ET		305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	KKK		505	Istanbul	04:05	JZR	266	Beirut		7:10
QT		1076	Doha	03:25	FDB	8053	Dubai	17:45	FDB			Dubai	04:05	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh		7:15
KA		544	Cairo	03:40	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	ETD		06	Abu Dhabi	04:10	QTR	1073	Doha		7:25
LN		510	Cairo	04:00	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50	MSR		13	Cairo	04:15	KNE	532	Jeddah		7:25
JZ		555	Alexandria	04:15	KAC	678	Muscat/Abu Dhabi	17:50	QTR		077	Doha	04:35	UAE	858	Dubai		7:40
DH	ΗX	170	Bahrain	05:10	QTR	1080	Doha	17:55	JZR		60	Sohag	05:00	NIA	252	Alexandria		7:50
TH	IY	770	Istanbul	05:15	KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20	LMU			Cairo	05:00	SVA	511	Riyadh		8:15
JZ	R	529	Asyut	06:00	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20	RJA		43	Amman	06:25	JZR	184	Dubai		8:20
KA	NC	418	Manila	06:20	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	QTR		087	Doha	06:30	GFA	216	Bahrain		8:20
PA		668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35	THY			Istanbul	06:45	JZR	538	Cairo		8:30
KA		412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	GFA		12	Bahrain	06:50	FDB	8054	Dubai		8:40
BA		157	London	06:40	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35	JZR FDB	24	40 70	Amman	06:55 07:05	KAC QTR	563 1081	Amman		9:00 9:05
JZ		1541	Cairo	06:55	JAV	621	Amman	18:45	JZR		70 64	Dubai Dubai	07:05	JZR	238	Doha Amman		9:05
QT		8511	Doha	07:00	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55	FDB		062	Dubai	07:55	JZR	124	Bahrain		9:20
IR/		673	Ahwaz	07:15	KAC	618	Doha	18:55	IRA		72	Ahwaz	07.55	MSR	621	Cairo		9:30
FD		5061	Dubai	07:15	KAC	104	London	19:00	BAW		56	London	08:25	KAC	285	Dhaka		9:40
JZ		503	Luxor	07:25	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	QTR			Doha	08:30	JAV	622	Amman		9:40
KA KA		382 346	Delhi	07:30 07:35	GFA FDB	217 063	Bahrain Dubai	19:05 19:10	FDB		54	Dubai	08:30	GFA	218	Bahrain		9:50
KA		206	Ahmedabad Islamabad	07:33	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	JZR		78	Jeddah	08:50	FDB	064	Dubai		9:50
KA		200	Lahore	07:40	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15	JZR		34	Cairo	09:25	ABY	124	Sharjah		9:55
FD		053	Dubai	07:50	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35	KAC		19	Doha	09:30	FDB	060	Dubai		20:30
KA		302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	KAC		87	Jeddah	09:30	UAE	876	Dubai		20:35
KA		344	Chennai	08:15	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:45	KAC			Dubai	09:30	JAI	571	Mumbai		20:35
KA		332	Trivandrum	08:15	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50	JZR		82	Istanbul	09:45	KAC	331	Trivandrum		20:45
KA		352	Kochi	08:20	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05	ABY		26	Sharjah	09:45	DLH	634	Doha		20:50
KA		362	Colombo	08:20	KNE	381	Taif	20:10	UAE		56	Dubai	09:50	KAC	343	Chennai		0:55
UA		855	Dubai	08:25	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	ETD	30	02	Abu Dhabi	10:00	KAC	353	BLR		0:55
KA	NC	284	Dhaka	09:00	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	KAC		01	London/New York	10:00	KAC	543	Cairo		21:00
AE		125	Sharjah	09:05	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30	IRA	66	68	Mashhad	10:05	KAC	351	Kochi	2	1:00
ET		301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	QTR	10	071	Doha	10:35	KNE	232	Riyadh	2	21:10
IR/		667	Esfahan	09:05	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55	FDB		56	Dubai	10:40	MEA	403	Beirut	2	1:15
QT		1070	Doha	09:20	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05	SAW		04	Damascus	10:45	OMA	648	Muscat	2	1:15
FD		055	Dubai	09:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	KAC		77	Abu Dhabi/Muscat	10:50	MSR	619	Alexandria	2	1:30
SA		703	Damascus	09:45	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20	KAC		53	Istanbul	11:00	QTR	1089	Doha	2	21:45
UA		873	Dubai	10:40	KLM	417	Amsterdam	21:25	KAC			Beirut	11:00	DHX	171	Bahrain		21:50
GF		213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35	KAC			Amman	11:20	FDB	5054	Dubai		1:55
MI JZ		404	Beirut	11:00	QTR	1082	Doha Pabrain	21:55	KAC			Rome/Paris	11:25	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi		1:55
RB		561 553	Sohag Alexandria	11:25	GFA ETD	219 309	Bahrain Abu Dhabi	22:00	KAC		41	Dammam	11:35	ALK	230	Colombo		2:20
JZ		165	Dubai	11:30 11:50	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:10 22:15	GFA		14	Bahrain	11:35	UAE	860	Dubai		2:25
NL		151	Cairo	12:20	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:15	MEA		05	Beirut	12:00	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam		2:25
FD		075	Dubai	12:25	MSC	501	Alexandria	22:30	KAC			Cairo	12:05	KAC	381	Delhi		2:25
JZ		241	Amman	12:30	THY	764	Istanbul	22:55	UAE		74	Dubai	12:10	KAC	301	Mumbai		2:30
M		610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	185	Dubai	22:55	RBG			Alexandria	12:10	GFA	220	Bahrain		23:00
KA		620	Doha	13:10	MSC	403	Asyut	23:10	JZR		76	Jeddah	12:15	KAC	205	Islamabad		23:00
KN		231	Riyadh	14:00	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20	KAC			Jeddah	13:00	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi Alayandria		23:05
QT		1078	Doha	14:05	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30	JZR		76 76	Dubai	13:10	JZR	554	Alexandria		23:10
KA		672	Dubai	14:05	JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30	FDB		76 86	Dubai Biyadh	13:10	QTR	1083	Doha Bangkok/Manila		3:20
AX	(B	393	Kozhikode	14:10	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35		15	86 52	Riyadh	13:20	KAC JZR	411 1540	Bangkok/Manila Cairo		23:25 23:30
FD		057	Dubai	14:20	PIA	205	Lahore	23:40	NIA MSR			Cairo Cairo	13:20 14:00	MSC	1540 502	Cairo Alexandria		3:30
GF	A	221	Bahrain	14:20	JAD	301	Amman	23:45	NOR	. 0		Cano	14.00	IVISC	502	лісланина	23	5.50

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

<u>Kuwait Mimes</u>

CROSSWORD 1265

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40	\top	\top	41	42			43		44	1	45	46		47	\top
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ACROSS

- 1. (computer science) Protocol that allows users to copy files between their local system and any system they can reach on the network
- 4. Express complaints, discontent, displeasure, or unhappiness.
- 12. A vinyl polymer used especially in paints or adhesives.
- 15. Towards the side away from the wind. 16. Any of several cultivated sour cherry trees
- bearing pale red fruit with colorless juice. 17. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
- 18. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- 19. A city in west central Washington on an arm of Puget Sound south of Seattle.
- 20. A psychological state induced by (or as if induced by) a magical incantation.
- 22. Any of the scrolled spongy bones of the nasal passages in man and other vertebrates.
- 24. An outburst resembling the discharge of firearms or the release of bombs. 25. An artificial language for international use
- that rejects rejects all existing words and is based instead on an abstract analysis of ideas.
- 26. The Teutonic god of thunder.
- 29. A ball of yarn or cord or thread.
- 30. A formal expression of praise.
- 33. An Old World reptile family of Sauria.
- 34. Make amends for.
- 36. A light touch or stroke.
- 37. Informal terms for a mother.
- 40. Capital city of the Piemonte region of northwestern Italy.
- 44. Horny plate covering and protecting part of the dorsal surface of the digits.

- 79. Humble in spirit or manner. 80. Dried bark of the cascara buckthorn used as a laxative.
 - DOWN
- 1. Having a horizontal surface in which no part is higher or lower than another.
- 2. A city in southeastern South Korea. 3. Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit available in
- many varieties

81. A kind of person.

- 4. A positively charged atom.
- 5. A strategically located monarchy on the southern and eastern coasts of the Arabian Peninsula
- 6. Covered with paving material.
- 7. A computer language designed in Europe to support natural language processing.
- 8. A spacecraft that carries astronauts from the command module to the surface of the moon and back.
- 9. A resident of Alabama.
- 10. Being nine more than forty.
- 11. A strip of land projecting into a body of
- water.
- 12. (botany) Outer tissue of bark.
- 13. A structure in a hollow organ (like the heart) with a flap to insure one-way flow of fluid through it.
- 14. Softly bright or radiant.
- 21. Large burrowing rodent of South and
- Central America. 23. An undergarment worn by women to sup
 - port their breasts.
- 27. A coenzyme derived from the B vitamin nicotinic acid.
- 28. Humorously vulgar.
- 31. Away from the mouth or oral region.

STAR TRACK



The behavior of another person may have you completely surprised today. You have a lot of mental drive. In trading and speculating, your choices are good and will gain good results in a short period. It is time to skim a bit of funds off the top and make some new investments. A little animal gains your attention after the workday and you may spend some time in helping to make decisions about animal control or finding lost animals. Some political office may become available and this is a good time to think ahead about ways you think you might be able to instigate some positive changes. This evening is a great time to reflect on your own situation, just how you feel about yourself and your future goals. Expect money soon.



Your determination to accomplish some project today may be interpreted as a sign of stubbornness. Others may not realize that you desire perfection. You may have to read instructions or ask advice before you can really get into action. Patience will win out and you will be able to plan your method of operation, so to speak. Be aware of your words and maintain low tones if possible, because there will be interruptions. Considering the current general feelings-it may be best to take mental notes of other things you want to accomplish and save those projects for a day over which you know you will have more control. The work of an artist has your attention this evening, perhaps Norman Rockwell's works.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your thinking this morning may be to get your daily exercise completed before work or become better motivated in your exercise routine. Your usual routine may be changed only slightly because of this beneficial exercise. Today has the makings for a very profitable and satisfying day. You will be able to talk someone at work into doing things your way or to approach a difficult customer a certain way. You are good at what you do and the actions of today show real progress toward wherever you want to go in the work environment. Positive outcomes are easy to find. Good surprises come from many different directions. Your birthday celebrations may be shared with others and wherever the day takes you-it is good.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

The more creative you are, the better able you will be to come up with a few problem-solving ideas. Take some time now to do some writing on what makes you happy and how you can reach this goal of being more creative. Your creative ideas lift your spirits and bring your thinking to a max in most work situations, particularly if you deal with difficult people. This is a good day and you should receive some good insights. Phone calls, letters and visiting neighbors are important parts of building your circle of relationships and you enjoy bringing out the best in another person. You would make a good teacher or a volunteer with young people. You show your charming side this evening and a romance or marriage is very possible soon.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your relationship with others is usually most harmonious. A young person or family member would do well to use you as a mentor in his or her relationships. This is also a good time to effect subtle changes in your profession. If you are observant today, you will be able to find little non-outstanding chores that will bring positive attention as you complete them without fanfare. You are dependable and you will discover this is a guality that is hard to find within the position you hold. You go out of your way to understand what is bothering a friend or relative this afternoon. This is a great time to get to know the goals and dreams of your loved ones. Learn to ask questions that will culminate in truthful answers. You are in a festive spirit this evening.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You have made some real headway with regard to healing any disgruntled type of individual. Additional responsibilities may be placed on you in the workplace today but you are able to achieve a positive end. You have plenty of time to complete whatever you feel you need to accomplish. You have a tremendous drive to create a positive atmosphere at work and home. Doing just about anything with friends or family will create good memories and an opportunity to take a few pictures. You may find yourself being entertained by a young child or attending an art show. Careful however, money

Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a fundamental day with much passion and lots of action. You have much physical vigor and it would not be a bad idea to take your breaks out-of-doors; perhaps the noon break you could take a swift walk and then come back and eat a good lunch. Working off the excess enthusiasm or anticipation will help you to focus. You could find yourself in the limelight this afternoon-everyone wants your attention. After work you may want to spend some time riding a bicycle or some other similar activity, perhaps with friends or family. You may feel very radiant. There may be a little time to do things around the house or with family this evening. There is an open door to some relationship healing which could include a parent or other relative.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This marks a time when you enjoy good relations with co-workers. Plans for a camping trip or plans for a summer get together are great ways to build good co-worker relations. Your thinking process is invigorated and you are able to clearly express your ideas to your work partners or to customers. If you are honest with others, you should expect the same in return. Outside of work, your financial position improves because of your association with a relative. You should work hard at this time to keep close relatives, just that-close. You are a caring spirit and may also feel great sympathy for friends; many people turn to you for psychological help. You may be of great help to someone today without even realizing it. Romance is present.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You seem automatically motivated to be productive-one thing you may concentrate on the most today could be on reorganizing and making files thinner and more accessible, perhaps by putting part of the files on a computer file in some way. Your optimism is not an illusion; you build your life strong and solid, just like you appear to others. People would benefit by your way of thinking and you may want to consider giving to the community through teaching young people. These could be called financial smarts, fast links to an organized life or a life well lived. Teachers will many times teach what they need to learn, yet your abilities will lead to many accomplished subjects. Going home this early evening, you may enjoy a visit with neighbors or friends.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You have a strong urge to work through some internal changes and you may have found a mentor to help you learn and acclimate yourself to some new working equipment or method or attitude. Push too hard, however, and you could be too bothersome to yourself. Give yourself some credit; you are smart and quick and can learn as well as the next person. Go ahead and move forward at your own understanding; if you make a mistake, consider it a learning tool-just learn the safety rules. Create peaceful situations as much and as possible. Groups of friends just magically seem to gather around you after work; perhaps a pizza party is in order. You find yourself appreciating what is guite ordinary. You and your mate are happy when life is simple.



An instinctive urge to get serious about taking care of yourself at many levels is emphasized now. This may mean an early morning exercise program, as well as some vitamin regimen. You encourage good health and positive thinking to others. Being involved in helping your loved ones can bring you a great deal of satisfaction. Professionally speaking, this is the type of day with lots of questions and answers. After work, there is talk of learning how to blend with others and have others blend with you. Although this could prove to be a learning time, much is accomplished and you are able to create some positive ideas for future changes in the production line. Tonight is healthy and fun. By the way, this is one of your best days for love



Many little chores seem to block your progress this morning but there is something about today that brings with it good luck. These slowdowns may have been meant to be, so to speak. A project needs one more person and it would be best to draw straws, particularly if this project comes with good pay or overtime and you are in charge of the decision making. You could find that you are appreciated or valued for your ability to act and get things done. This is not, however, a good time for you to try out new things or break away from the old routine. Your passion is high and you may feel as though you could conquer the world. There is an opportunity to partake in some group get together this afternoon. Other people pay for the food-yum.

- 47. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light. 48. Tuberous or rhizomatous herbaceous
- perennials. 50. (South African) A camp defended by a circular formation of wagons.
- 51. A town in southeastern New Mexico on the Pecos River near the Mexican border.
- 52. Any place of complete bliss and delight and peace.
- 53. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
- 54. A public promotion of some product or service.
- 55. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- 56. Game in which matchsticks are arranged in rows and players alternately remove one or more of them.
- 58. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
- 61. A step in walking or running. 64. The blood group whose red cells carry
- both the A and B antigens.
- 65. Lower in esteem.
- 68. An assembly (including one or more judges) to conduct judicial business.
- 72. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 75. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- 76. (usually followed by `to') Having the necessary means or skill or know-how or authority to do something.
- 77. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling). 78. Range of what one can know or understand.

- 32. 100 aurar equal 1 krona.
- 35. United States physiologist (born in Germany) who did research on parthenogenesis (1859-1924).
- 38. A large body of water constituting a principal part of the hydrosphere.
- 39. A dark region of considerable extent on the surface of the moon.
- 41. A small island.
- 42. Speak in a nasal voice. 43. An extreme state of adversity.
- 45. The United Nations agency concerned with
- atomic energy. 46. Soviet physicist who worked on low temperature physics (1908-1968).
- 49. The site of three famous battles among Greek city-states.
- 57. Based on the meter as a standard of measurement.
- 59. A member of the Algonquian people of Maine and southern Quebec.
- 60. A telegram sent abroad.
- 62. Any of several tall tropical palms native to southeastern Asia having egg-shaped nuts.
- 63. The basic unit of money in Yemen.
- 66. A very young child (birth to 1 year) who has not yet begun to walk or talk.
- 67. A branch of the Tai languages.
- 69. A small cake leavened with yeast.
- 70. Norwegian mathematician (1802-1829).
- 71. Long and thin and often limp.
- 73. A drug combination found in some overthe-counter headache remedies (Aspirin and Phenacetin and Caffeine).
- 74. A doctor's degree in dental surgery.

seems to escape your grasp, even when you are not aware. Hold cash carefully, the wind is strong. Smile, someone has you in a camera lens.

WORD SEARCH

Winter 1 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

H N E S O W D H O L I D A Y S G F SQAMNLOSELCICIONN OEIGOOSLLSBVJHUWF DCTCGFWLPWLEGIPOB BAZAEOXMEWZVKBGZW LLACKSBUAEOPGEKDJ A P T H U S C O E N T N V R L S O CEWINTERTIRESNOTL K R W W F P F M A D O C I A T N L IIGHXISRMPACNTSAR CFMITTENSREJAIOPU EXHNOLIGFEGRPORIH **RFARSKCOSLOOWNFKO** H B M M C F M W L L A B W O N S J

ANTICOCCZE		SNOWBALL
ANTIFREEZE	ICE SCRAPER	
BLACK ICE	ICICLES	SNOWMAN
COLD	MITTENS	SOUP
FIREPLACE	SCARF	STORM
FOG	SKATES	TOBOGGAN
FROST	SKI PANTS	WINTER TIRES
HIBERNATION	SLEET	WOOL SOCKS
HOLIDAYS	SNOW PLOW	

Yesterday Solution

Autumn - Solution

YZTTQPMOCTOBER/F ZEQUINOXZNS ₩<u></u> K M <u>N I K P M U P</u>⁄O/K/H BI $Z \oplus N Q E W P/S/R/V$ A V N O\C\R\M(T∕U∕C Z W CINNR Ρ K OMYBORN R B L U/B S V E Y G W S L D 0 Q XTXVXN W/S/OXPZ U U F N/U W/E KMP н G, v EG ODZ. Æ KARND SMM H (K/LEPE (F/ZCZIXXMYI

CANNING CHILLY COLD CROPS EQUINOX FALL FARMING FEAST	FROST HALLOWEEN HARVEST HAYSTACK NOVEMBER OCTOBER PUMPKIN RAKE	SCHOOL SEASON SEPTEMBER SQUASH THANKSGIVING TURKEY WINDY
FEAST	RAKE	

Yesterday's Solution

С	R	Α	В		С	Α	L	Р	Α	С		R	Α	S	P
R	Α	R	Е		Α	R	Α	U	С	Α		Н	U	Μ	Е
I	N	G	Е	R	Μ	Α	N		Е	N		U	R	U	S
В	Α	0	В	Α	В		D	Α		Т	0	В	Α	G	0
		Т	Α	В	Е	S		М	E	L	В	Α			
В	С		L	Ι	R	Α			М	Е	Е	R	K	Α	Τ
Α	R	Α	М	Е		Q		G	Р		Α	В	Α	S	E
Н	U	Μ		S	Е	Q	U	0	Y	Α	н		D	Т	S
Α	R	Е	Α		R	Α	Р	Ρ	Е	L		D	Α	Ι	L
S	Α	Ν	D	В	Α	R			М	Α	D	Е	Ι	R	Α
Α	L	D	0	L		Α	G	н	Α		Α	В			
			R	Ι	С	н	Е	Α		Α	L	Α	S	K	Α
R	E	С	Α	Р			Ι	D	0	L		S	Α	E	K
Α	R	Α	В		В	Α	S	Е	L		С	Е	Ι	В	Α
М	I	L	L		I	N	Η	Α	L	E	R		D	Α	В
Р	Е	K	Е		G	U	Α	N	Α	С	0		Α	В	Α

Yesterday's Solution

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

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

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

W	F	Е	Ν	D	Е	R	S	Е	к	0	Ρ	S	
0	Т	w	S	G	С	G	т	в	т	С	R	R	
М	S	н	т	R	Е	Y	R	Е	κ	Е	0	S	
Ν	S	Е	н	Е	А	Α	С	Ν	М	S	Е	L	
Е	D	Е	в	S	к	в	R	L	Е	L	в	S	
Е	Ν	L	А	Е	Y	R	Е	S	I.	Е	Е	А	
М	А	S	S	А	s	Ν	т	L	L	s	L	н	
Α	т	Е	Ν	т	Т	F	А	L	D	Е	т	в	
R	s	s	L	А	Ν	G	Т	s	D	Ν	А	н	
F	к	s	н	L	Е	L	х	А	А	L	А	н	
R	с	с	Ν	L	L	L	т	Т	R	Е	s	н	
I.	L	А	s	0	А	Е	Α	Ν	G	А	G	А	
- E	κ	Α	L	н	Е	А	D	L	L	G	н	т	

JOKES

- Q: Who says sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me?A: A guy who has never been hit with a diction-
- ary.
- **Q:** How do you make a fire with two sticks? **A:** Make sure one is a match!
- **O**. Why did the banana go to the hospital?



AXLE	FRAME	KICKSTAND
BELL	GEARS	LOCK
BRAKES	HAND SIGNALS	SEAT
CHAIN	HANDLEBARS	SPOKES
CYCLIST	HEADLIGHT	TIRES
FENDERS	HELMET	WHEELS

- Water is the only substance on earth that is lighter
 as a solid than a liquid.
- The biggest canyons in the world are under water. Beneath the Bering Sea off Alaska there are seven giant canyons: Bering Canyon, 240 miles long; Navarin Canyon, 60 miles wide; Zhemchung Canyon, 9000 feet deep. In comparison, the Grand Canyon in Arizona is only 10 miles wide, one mile
- The Sahara, one of the worlds largest and driest deserts with sand up to thirty feet deep was once a land with

flowing rivers, humid swamps and lush fields. Cave painting, 9,000 years old, found in the heart of the Sahara, show men herding cattle and hunting lions and hippos. About 2,000 years ago the cave painters, herders and animals left because the area that was rapidly becoming the desert we know today.

- A: Because he wasn't peeling well!
- **Q:** What's the slipperiest country? **A:** Greece!
- Q: Why can't you say a joke while standing on ice? A: Because it might crack up!
- **Q:** Why did the orange stop in the middle of the hill?
- A: It ran out of juice!
- **Q:** What do postal workers do when they're mad? A: They stamp their feet.
- **Q:** Why are the floors of basketball courts always so damp?
- **A:** The players dribble a lot.
- Q: What starts with E, ends with E and only has one letter?A: An envelope.
- A: An envelope.
- **Q:** What is at the end of everything? **A:** The letter G.
- Seeds from a wild flower, the Artic Lupine, found in Alaska, have grown in the lab after being frozen in the ground for 10,000 years.
- The bristle-cone pine, which grows in the deserts of Nevada and California, is the oldest living species in the United States. Some are believed to be 4600 years old and can live to be 5500 years old.
- Monster waves of over 100 feet tall can suddenly appear at sea when there is no storm to cause them. They are actually accidental meetings of several waves that can combine to form oneWhen scientist drilled through the ice of Antarctica's Lake Vanda, they discovered that the water at the bottom of the lake was an amazingly warm 77 degrees Fahrenheit. Ice crystals actually heat the water by focusing on the bottom of the lake. huge one that can easily sink a freighter.

THE TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS

The Temple of Artemis or Artemision , also known less precisely as the Temple of Diana, was a Greek temple dedicated to the goddess Artemis. It was located Ephesus (near the modern town of Selcuk in present-day Turkey). One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, it was completely rebuilt three times before its eventual destruction in 401 AD. Only foundations and sculptural fragments of the latest of the temples at the site remain.

The first sanctuary (temenos) antedated the lonic immigration by many years, and dates to the Bronze Age. Callimachus, in his Hymn to Artemis, attributed it to the Amazons. In the 7th century BC, the old temple was destroyed by a flood. Its reconstruction began around 550 BC, under the Cretan architect Chersiphron and his son Metagenes, at the expense of Croesus of Lydia: The project took 10 years to complete. The temple was destroyed in 356 BC by an act of arson and was again rebuilt, this time as the Wonder.

Where was it?

The Temple of Artemis was located near the ancient city of Ephesus, about 75 km south from the modern port city of Izmir, in Turkey. Today the site lies on the edge of the modern town of Selcuk.

The sacred site (temenos) at Ephesus was far older than the Artemision itself. Pausanias was certain that it antedated the lonic immigration by many years, being older even than the oracular shrine of Apollo at Didyma. He said that the prelonic inhabitants of the city were Leleges and Lydians. Callimachus, in his Hymn to Artemis attributed the earliest temenos at Ephesus to the Amazons, whose worship he imagined already centered upon an image (bretas) of Artemis, their matron goddess. Pausanias says that Pindar believed the temple's founding Amazons to have been involved with the siege at Athens. Tacitus also believed in the Amazon foundation, however Pausanias believed the temple predated the Amazons.

Modern archaeology cannot confirm Callimachus's

Amazons, but Pausanias's account of the site's antiquity seems well-founded. Before World War I, site excavations by David George Hogarth identified three successive temple buildings.Re-excavations in 1987-88 confirmed that the site was occupied as early as the Bronze Age with a sequence of pottery finds that extend forward to Middle Geometric times, when a peripteral temple with a floor of hard-packed clay was constructed in the second half of the 8th century BC. The peripteral temple at Ephesus offers the earliest example of a peripteral type on the coast of Asia Minor, and perhaps the earliest Greek temple surrounded by colonnades anywhere.

In the 7th century BC, a flood destroyed the temple, depositing over half a meter of sand and flotsam over the original clay floor. Among the flood debris were the remains of a carved ivory plaque of a griffin and the Tree of Life, apparently North Syrian, and some drilled tear-shaped amber drops of elliptical cross-section. These probably once dressed a wooden effigy (xoanon) of the Lady of Ephesus, which must have been destroyed or recovered from the flood. Bammer notes that though the site was prone to flooding, and raised by silt deposits about two meters between the 8th and 6th centuries, and a further 2.4 m between the sixth and the fourth, its continued use "indicates that maintaining the identity of the actual location played an important role in the sacred organization".

Destruction

In 356 BC, the temple was destroyed in a vainglorious act of arson by a man, Herostratus, who set fire to the wooden roof-beams, seeking fame at any cost; thus the term herostratic fame. For this outrage, the Ephesians sentenced the perpetrator to death and forbade anyone from mentioning his name; but Theopompu later noted it. In Greek and Roman historical tradition, the temple's destruction coincided with the birth of Alexander the Great (around 20/21 July 356 BC). Plutarch remarked that Artemis was too preoccupied with Alexander's delivery to save her burning temple.

Homemade **Greenhouse**

Cts

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- What You Need
- o A tray of grass or growing seeds
- o A jar or any container

Instructions

Place the jar over a patch of grass or a section of your plant tray of seeds.
 Watch the plants under the jar grow taller and faster than the ones outside.

Why?

The jar creates a greenhouse, which provides a warmer and moister atmosphere for growing plants. The light and heat from the sun go through the glass and heat the air inside, and the heat cannot escape very easily.



English-Muffin Egg Pizzas

- 1. 4 English muffins
- olive oil
 tomato sli
- tomato slices
 2 hard-cooked eggs, sliced
- 5. grated mozzarella
- 6. oregano
- 7. salt

DIRECTIONS

1. Make Hard-Cooked Eggs. (Ask a parent to

help you with the eggs.)

2. Toast 8 English-muffin halves and place on a cookie sheet.

Recipes for **Kids**

- 3. Drizzle each with olive oil, then layer on tomato slices, hard-cooked egg slices (1/2 an egg each), and a little grated mozzarella. Sprinkle with oregano and salt.
- 4. Place it the microwave for a few minutes or until the cheese melts.





'Star Trek' at 50: Boldly going on... and on

t launched with a mission of just five years "to boldly go where no man has gone before" but half a century later "Star Trek" is a multi-billion-dollar cultural phenomenon adored by fans the world over. When the show debuted in 1966 the concept was a three-season television show following the crew of the starship Enterprise as they ventured into the galaxy to seek out new civilizations. Little did NBC know it would snowball into a touchstone in entertainment spawning six shows with a combined 725 episodes and 13 movies, and turning its stars into household names.

"To be talking about the 50th anniversary is insane. I was born the same year that Star Trek was," veteran filmmaker JJ Abrams, the creative force behind the new "rebooted" trilogy, told a convention in Hollywood last week. "I know how old I feel, so the idea that this thing endures is incredible." The original series starred William Shatner, now 85, as the suave Captain James T Kirk and Leonard Nimoy, who died last year at the age of 83, as his stilted sidekick-a halfhuman, half-Vulcan science officer named Mr Spock.

Gene Roddenberry wrote the pilot in 1965, the same year as the first US spacewalk, and pitched the show as "a wagon train to the stars," figuring that westerns were popular in Hollywood at the time. Fans say

Roddenberry examined earthly social issues with an unparalleled sensitivity, presenting television's first truly multiracial cast, and the first televised interracial kiss.

New audiences

Korean-American actor John Cho, who plays Starfleet Officer Hikaru Sulu in the rebooted trilogyincluding the upcoming 50th anniversary film "Star Trek Beyond"-describes multiculturalism as one of its "defining features." "I really believe theoretically in 'Star Trek' movies. It's a good cultural product, in my opinion. I wanted to be a part of something I felt was an important, positive cultural contribution," the 43year-old told AFP.

The franchise has attracted a devoted global cult unified by their affection for the Roddenberry vision, and today "Trekkies" are the only fan group listed by name in the Oxford English Dictionary. Karl Urban, who plays ship's doctor Leonard "Bones" McCoy-the role originally made famous by the late DeForest Kelley-said "Beyond" was more complex and yet more fun than previous episodes. This is in part thanks to Simon Pegg-engineer Scotty in the reboot series-who was behind numerous British comedy hits including 2004's "Shaun of the Dead" and took on scriptwriting duties for "Beyond."

"We wanted to make sure we got the balance right between paying respect and homage to what had been before-little inside jokes and references for longterm fans-and making it fresh and delivering new material that new audiences can appreciate," Urban, 43, told AFP.

'Sexy and fun'

The "Lord of the Rings" and "Riddick" actor is one of a handful of cast members who describe themselves as having been big fans of the original series. "I just remember being into it as a kid. There were hot girls in short miniskirts. It was sexy, it was fun," he said. 'Kirk had this swagger to him, where he was constantly getting it on with aliens of all sorts of different races." Part of the enduring appeal of "Star Trek," says Urban, is its commitment to a hopeful depiction of a humanity united in the future despite differences in race and creed. "That, and getting it on with green girls," he adds immediately. The latest film hits US theaters on July 22 but, whatever its fortunes, the "Star Trek" phenomenon will boldly go on, with a new television series due out from January 2017 on CBS.

"It's been around for 50 years and hopefully we can build something that can continue it for another 50 years," said "Beyond" director Justin Lin, an action afi-



cionado who made four of the "Fast and Furious" films. "What's so fun about being a part of this is that, with these characters and themes, we can go anywhere, we can evolve and they are going to run into new challenges. And there should be no boundaries."-AFP

Karl Urban, who plays the role of 'Bones', on arrival for the Los Angeles premiere of the movie 'Star Trek Into Darkness' in Hollywood, California. —AFP



This file photo shows rapper Kanye West during his concert in central Yerevan, Armenia. — AFP

Kanye West sued by Hungarian over song sample

Hungarian artist is seeking more than \$2.5 million from that West's lawyers refused to negotiate "in good faith," Kanye West, saying the rap superstar's track "New Slaves" sampled his music without permission or royalties. Gabor Presser, who described himself as a "living legend" in Hungary, said that West's lawyers put "extraordinary time pressure" on him to sign off quickly on use of the song which appeared on his 2013 "Yeezus" album. In a lawsuit filed this

instead sending him a \$10,000 check as an advance with the expectation of an agreement. The Hungarian artist said he did not accept the advance and had continued trying to reach an arrangement with West's lawyers.

"Defendant Kanye West knowingly and intentionally misappropriated plaintiff's composition for use in 'New Slaves.' After his theft was discovered, defendants refused to deal fairly with plaintiff," the lawsuit said. West has not responded to the lawsuit. "Yeezus" went to number one in several countries and was certified platinum in the United States, meaning it has sold more than one million copies. The lawsuit said that West's tour in support of "Yeezus" generated some \$35 million. West, who is married to reality television star Kim Kardashian, earlier this year said he was \$53 million in debt and needed money to bring his "beautiful ideas to the world." Samples are commonplace in hip-hop but artists are expected to seek permission for taking elements of recordings. Another Hungarian, folk singer Monika Juhasz Miczura, has filed a separate lawsuit against Beyonce for allegedly sampling her music without even seeking permission for "Drunk in Love," her hit with rapper husband Jay-Z. — AFP

Prince would-be heirs object to genetic testing

wo people who say they are heirs to pop icon Prince have objected to a proposal by his estate to ask for genetic tests. Prince died on April 21 without a will and with no recognized children, leaving a giant question mark on an estate that could be worth hundreds of millions of dollars and includes a vast vault of unreleased material. Bremer Trust, a special administrator assigned to manage Prince's estate, said last week that it may wish to ask people claiming to be the "Purple Rain" star's descendants to undergo and pay for genetic tests.

In a legal filing made public Tuesday, two people who recently came forward as heirs said that they had already offered sufficient proof under law of their relationship to Prince in his home state of Minnesota. The proposal by Bremer Trust would "grant it complete unfettered discretion to determine when to require parties claiming genetic relationship" to Prince to undergo tests, the filing said.

The objection was filed by Brianna Nelson, who says she is the sole living child of Prince's late half-brother Duane Nelson, and the guardian of an 11-year-old said to be the daughter of Duane Nelson's son, who has also died. Duane Nelson had headed security for Prince but later became estranged. He died in 2011. Another person who claims to be Prince's heir is

Edinburgh Film Festival chief



Carlin Williams, a 39-year-old inmate from Kansas City whose mother says she had sex with the rocker in a hotel in 1976. The court in Carver County, Minnesota, where Prince maintained his Paisley Park estate, has set a June 27 hearing to examine the proposal for genetic testing. — AFP



week in a New York court, Presser asked for a jury trial and sought a minimum of \$2.5 million in damages plus legal expenses.

"New Slaves," a political track with a critique of contemporary racism that features singer Frank Ocean, was the first single of "Yeezus," on which West pursued a harder-edged sound inspired by the drill scene in his native Chicago. To promote the album ahead of its release, West projected a video of "New Slaves" on 66 buildings around the world. Presser said that around one-third of "New Slaves" is a sample from the 1969 song "Gyongyhaju Lany" by Omega, the leading Hungarian rock band in which he was then the keyboardist.

West acknowledged use of the song but, in the lawsuit, Presser said that the rapper's lawyers tried to force him to give permission within 24 hours, apparently due to the timeline for the video projections. Presser said he needed more time and



This image released by Matt Ross Public Relations shows Andrew Keenan-Bolger, foreground left, and Sarah Charles Lewis, foreground right, with the cast during a performance of 'Tuck Everlasting,' in New York. — AP

Michael Jackson's daughter, Paris, reveals tattoo tribute

ichael Jackson's daughter, Paris, is showing off another tattoo honoring her late father. In a tweet Monday with a picture of the new ink , Paris Jackson writes, "Never forget your roots, and always be proud of where you came from." The tattoo copies part of the cover art of Michael Jackson's 1991 album, "Dangerous," which shows Jackson behind a mask with only his eyes and trademark hair curl visible. Last month, the 18-year-old revealed a different tattoo that says "Queen of My Heart" in her father's handwriting. She wrote on Instagram : "To everyone else he was the King of Pop. To me, well, he was the king of my heart." Next month marks the seventh anniversary of Jackson's death. — AP

Broadway musical 'Tuck Everlasting' no longer everlasting

he new musical "Tuck Everlasting" has failed to find eternal life on Broadway. It's closing on Sunday after playing less than 70 performances. The show earned only one Tony Award nomination - for Gregg Barnes' costumes - and never pulled in more than \$340,000 a week from a potential of \$1.1 million. The tale of a young girl who befriends a unique family that has gained eternal life began previews on Broadway in late March at the Broadhurst Theatre under the direction and choreography of Casey Nicholaw. The musical is based on the popular 1975 children's book of the same title by Natalie Babbitt, which became a Disney film in 2002. It starred Broadway veterans Carolee Carmello, Fred Applegate, Andrew Keenan-Bolger and Terrence Mann. — AP

Mark Adams unveils 70th edition

he 70th edition of the Edinburgh Film Festival, which runs June 15-26, will showcase 161 feature films from 46 countries, including 22 world premieres, five international premieres, 17 European premieres and 85 UK premieres. Artistic director Mark Adams, unveiling the selection yesterday, said there was "something for everyone," and the festival would "challenge, provoke and entertain audiences." Highlights include the UK premiere of Disney-Pixar animation "Finding Dory," In-Person events featuring the likes of Kevin Smith and Kim Cattrall, and the opening and closing gala world premieres of "Tommy's Honor" and "Whisky Galore!" Classic include "ET the Extraterrestrial" with John Williams' score performed live by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and the world premiere of the newly-restored 4K version of the Scottish classic "Highlander," celebrating its 30th anniversary with star Clancy Brown in attendance.

The Best of British strand includes David Blair's heartwrenching drama "Away," starring Timothy Spall and Juno Temple as two lost souls seeking solace under the lights of Blackpool; Rita Osei's debut "Bliss!," following a teenage girl on a rite-of-passage journey of discovery across Scandinavia; Mercedes Grower's offbeat debut "Brakes," led by Julian Barratt and Noel Fielding; Janos Edelenyi's poignant but amusing "The Carer," starring Brian Cox, who will be in attendance at the festival; and Charles Henri Belleville's hedonistic backpack thriller "Jet Trash."

Will Poulter and Cara Delevingne lead the British ensemble cast in the coming-of-age drama "Kids in Love" from Chris Foggin; Philip John takes audiences on an anarchic road-trip in "Moon Dogs"; and twin librarians plan revenge in the quiet section in Euros Lyn's Welsh-language "The Library Suicides" (Y Llyfrgell). There are also brooding Icelandic noirs "Pale Star" and "A Reykjavik Porno" from Scot Graeme Maley; artist Henry Coombes' "Seat In Shadow," a witty study into the symbiotic relationship between an eccentric, part-time Jung-obsessed psychotherapist and his patient/muse; Joanne Froggatt starring as a woman attempting to keep her family together as her husband endures unimaginable pain in Bill Clark's "Starfish"; Ibizaset crime thriller "White Island" from Benjamin Turner; and the Agyness Deyn-led complex dystopian thriller "The White King" from Alex Helfrecht and Joerg Tittel.

British films in competition for the Michael Powell Award for best British feature film and best performance in a British feature film will be selected from this strand, and include nine world premieres, one European premieres and two UK premieres. Taking part in the series of In Person talks will be Dominique Pinon of "Alien: Resurrection," "Amelie" and "Outlander" fame, whose renowned star turn in "Diva" will feature in this year's "A Celebration of the Films of Cinema du Look" retrospective; Jeremy Thomas, the producer of over 50 films, including 1983's "Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence," starring the late David Bowie, screening at this year's festival; Kim Cattrall, who will discuss a career that has seen her leave an indelible mark across both the screen and the stage; and indie auteur Kevin Smith, creator of cult classics "Clerks" and "Dogma," will also be taking to the stage alongside the star of his latest comedy "Yoga Hosers," Harley Quinn Smith. For the full program click here. — Reuters

Bob Dylan

Bob Dylan turns 75, with latest tour and album in the wind

Oock bard Bob Dylan, forever young in the minds of baby boomers who grew up with his music, turned 75 years old on Tuesday, a little more than a week before the start of a US summer tour in support of his latest album. The biggest public event marking his arrival at the three-quarter-century mark was a two-night "Dylan Fest 75" benefit concert on Monday and Tuesday in Nashville, Tennessee. It featured performances by artists such as Emmylou Harris, Kesha, Boz Scaggs and Ann Wilson. Kesha also paid tribute to Dylan at the Billboard Music Awards on Sunday night in Las Vegas with a stirring cover of his 1964 ballad "It Ain't Me, Babe."

Dylan himself kept a characteristically low profile. A spokesman would say only that the veteran singer-songwriter planned to pass the day privately. Still, there was no sign that Dylan's rendezvous with the big 7-5 was slowing down the performer, whose music gave voice to an era of youthful revolt during the 1960s and has transformed the sound and depth of popular music for more than half a century. His latest studio set, "Fallen Angels," the 37th studio album of his career, was released last Friday, a followup to his 2015 collection of Frank Sinatra songs.

Pausing after a series of shows in Japan in April, Dylan was scheduled to launch a two-month U.S. summer tour on June 4 with a performance at the Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery in Woodinville, Washington. R&B-gospel singer Mavis Staples is slated to open for Dylan on all 30 dates of the trek, which is slated to wind across the country before wrapping up on July 17 in Gilford, New Hampshire.

In October, Dylan is on the bill with the Rolling Stones for the first of three nights of concerts in Indio, California, featuring fellow rock icons Paul McCartney, Neil Young, Roger Waters and the Who. Dylan has toured nearly endlessly since 1988, remaining true to the credo he expressed in "Forever Young," a hit track from his 1974 album, "Planet Waves." Or, as he sang in "My Back Pages" 10 years earlier, "Ah, but I was so much older then, I'm younger than that now."- Reuters

Kuwait & Times

LIFESTYLE

Features



A tigress and her stripes

By Yalda Golsharifi

wish I was one of those women out there who have absolutely no issues with stretch marks and who don't mind them one bit when it comes to losing weight or during pregnancy sadly I'm not. Some say stretch marks are hereditary, but all the women in my family got them during pregnancy. I had convinced myself that there are ways to avoid them, did my research and believed I could avoid them altogether. I was determined. I came up with my remedies - remedies that had proven to work for me over the span of both my pregnancies and resulted in beautiful skin.

There are different ways to reduce the appearance of stretch marks, but let me tell you girls out there, that it does require consistency with your routine and a loooot of patience. I'm constantly being asked about my skin, and yes, my remedies did work, but I was disciplined from the start.

First things first, you need to start early on. It doesn't matter whether you can see a stretch mark or not, moisturize, moisturize, moisturize as soon as you find out that you're pregnant. Get all those glorious smelling oils and creams working into your skin. As for old stretch marks, they require extra patience and even then may not vanish completely. But do what you must, do your bit and show them love.

Now what exactly did I use in order to avoid stretch marks? Extra virgin coconut oil (if you've been following me for a while, you must know I'm coconuts over coconut oil) and olive oil. Who cares if you smell like olive or coconut oil? (I personally love the smell of coconut oil.) It's your body and you take care of it the way it needs to be taken care of.

I used to alternate between the two as I wanted my body to absorb the moisture and not get used to just one of them. I'd rub it on my belly three times a day but most importantly after showers since that's when you need the moisturizing the most as your pores are still open, especially if you like your warm showers as much as I do. Long warm showers are known to dry out your skin, so moisturizing with oils or creams is key. Avoid tanning as well since this is known to dry out your skin while also causing damage. Do remember to keep your belly covered if you're at the beach.

These oils were massaged into my belly and other parts that were prone to stretch marks, like breasts, thighs and inner thighs, especially if you're gaining weight around that area. Massaging it in is important as this really helps the skin absorb it rather than just applying the oil. Research also shows that exfoliating a couple of times a week can help remove dead skin and that way your moisturizer or body oils will be absorbed better into your skin.

Along with the external care of your body, you should also care for it internally by staying hydrated at all times. Water, coconut water and infused water is what I recommend. Eat foods that are actually good for your body and try to exercise or stay active during the span of your pregnancy, that is if your doctor agrees with this and you have no health issues.

I've read numerous articles by many celebrities about their experience with stretch marks and they've all brought it down to one thing - love them more than anything on your body. In the end, our bodies go through so much during pregnancy and it all really depends on how you take care of it. "Your body is not ruined. You're a tiger who has earned her stripes."

HOW TO DECORATE WITH **ANTIQUES AND HEIRLOOMS**

n this age of minimalism and decluttering, the common response to an offer of a family heirloom or antique might be, "I don't have space," "It's not my taste," or simply "No thanks." Well, "pull yourself out of that as fast as you can and start saying yes," urges Susan Sully of Charleston, South Carolina, author of "Past Present: Living with Heirlooms and Antiques" (The Monacelli Press, 2016). Unless you find a piece really ugly, she says, just take it.

"What's so bad about temporarily having too much stuff?" asks Sully. "The worst is saying no and having lost the precious tangible objects that tell the story of your family or a place you love." San Francisco decorator Ken Fulk, designer chairman of the New York Botanical Garden's Antique Garden Furniture Fair, agrees: "No room is complete without something of age and provenance and character." And that show's manager, antiques dealer Karen DiSaia, describes heirlooms and antiques as "the connective tissue of life, offering a feeling of depth and history." The trick to blending old and new in your home's decor is careful curating - and keeping an open mind, says Sully.

Anchor lineup

Her book is packed with photos and descriptions of 20 homes around the country, from a converted fire station to farmhouses to elegant city dwellings. She offers tips on displaying odd collections, setting inviting tables, arranging tabletop compositions, and bringing together objects from different styles and periods. "Start by dropping all your preconceptions abou

what goes with what. Just put things together and see what happens," she advises. "Then rearrange them a few different ways and look at it all again. You might have two pairs of completely different chairs, but put them together and you might be surprised." Create what Sully calls an "anchor lineup" and then have fun curat-



ing the small stuff: "You don't need a lot of things in each room - just a few great pieces that converse with each other.

Start with an uncluttered, interesting foundation, with one or two interesting, eye-catching pieces in each room that are there to stay. Then you can start a rotating exhibit of vases and lamps and oddments." The book includes the dining room of a Federal Revival home in Birmingham, Alabama, where a wall lined with gilded, leather-bound books and two sleek contemporary glass vases adds a warm yet airy backdrop for a heavy, dark-stained English library table. It's surrounded by light-colored Hepplewhite-style dining chairs beneath an ornate Italian chandelier. The parlor area in an 1880 home in San Antonio, Texas, features high Victorian detail and white furniture juxtaposed with strong colors in a series of Josef Albers lithographs. They share a corner with a small pile of painted wooden cubes found in an antique shop.

Smaller condominium

"I've always been interested in having at least one modern piece of furniture or contemporary painting in each room, so the house doesn't look like a museum," said the homeowner, banker and art collector Carl Groos. Even for space-challenged apartment dwellers, antiques hold an important place. After downsizing from a large home to a much smaller condominium, Atlanta antique collectors Stephanie and Bill Reeves grouped together portraits that had peen displayed throughout their house "We displayed the portraits as if they were in a bigger room," Bill Reeves explains. "As a result, the space looks bigger." Sticking to a palette of taupe, gold and brown allowed them to bring together pieces from different continents and centuries in an elegant and understated way, they said. And don't treat heirlooms like stuffy museum pieces, Sully advises. Instead, "take what's old and give it life again by actually using it. ... Allow heirlooms to relate to the rest of the room. These are beautiful things with stories to tell and history to share." Use the fancy stemware and silver. "Life is short, and silver only really tarnishes when it's unused. It wants to be handled and washed. I hand-wash the knives, but throw the rest in the dishwasher and it looks great," she says. "If you mess it up, c'est la vie. But making heirlooms a part of your life adds depth and character, and makes every day more glamorous." - AP





Liana Yaroslavsky's striking La Luna table, crafted from Murano glass. — AP photos



Photo provided by Gartner/Blade, an Amethyst covered jar and bowl from Danielle



In this photo provided by Gartner/Blade, a Batik covered sphere with Avian finial from Danielle Blade and Stephen Gartner is shown.





Photos provided by The Monacelli Press show photographs of the rooms in an 1850's Alabama farmhouse featured in the book "Past Present: Living With Heirlooms and Antiques," by Susan Sully. — AP photos



Photo shows one of Chris Ahalt's "balloon animals," which are blown out of glass, and tethered to thin copper rods attached to small lead weights.

nris Ahalt's menagerie of blue whales, pink hippos and gold giraffes looks like a flotilla in a really fun dream. Their balloon-animal bodies are gathered at the point of attachment in a tight little knot, tethered to a tiny lead weight. But they aren't latex. Ahalt, who lives in Minneapolis, makes the whimsical yet realistic-looking creatures out of blown glass.

"Balloons, to me, suggest celebration, children and wonder," he says. "The animals that I pick appeal to those child-like sensibilities as well." But there's profundity in his designs, as well. He crafts animals that are facing endangerment; rendering them in glass, he says, highlights not only their beauty but their precarious existence. "The thrill never gets old of thwarting the glass' desire to fall apart, and it's always a victory when a piece comes together," Ahalt says. "At times I do wish I'd chosen a career in something a little less temperamental," he laughs. "Glassblowing can be a really frustrating medium. There are countless hours lost to broken glass." There are lots of other artists, too, willing to take the risk.

Danielle Blade and Stephen Gartner, glassblowers in Ashley Falls, Massachusetts, create vessels and lighting inspired by the environment outside their rural studio. "Both of us have strong ideas about beauty. We have spectacular gardens here, and it's wonderful to wander them," Gartner says.

"We're trying to bring that walk in the woods into our living room," says Blade. In their Strata collection of vases and vessels, tones of warm, earthy color are blown into layers that evoke geological terrain. A pendant light rendered in different hues brings to mind the gaseous planet Jupiter. Some of the design duo's objects come topped with surprising



One of Chris Ahalt's "balloon animals," which are blown out of glass, and tethered to thin copper rods attached to small lead weights.

touches like a delicate snail's head; a sliver of animal bone or antler; or a curling leaf.

Casey Hyland blows softly tinged blue and white glass into vessels that look like droplets of sky with wispy clouds. He'll teach you how to blow your own ornaments, mugs and paperweights in classes offered at his Louisville, Kentucky, studio.

Loy Allen rests delicate glass monarch butterflies and dragonflies on bud vases and perfume bottles, using a technique called lampworking, in which the glass is molded over a small flame. A native South Dakotan, she's inspired by the plant and animal life around her Hot Springs studio, as well as by the Art Nouveau movement.

Corvallis, Oregon-based artist Eric Bailey's little creatures include sleek, racer-striped lizards, tree frogs and colorful snails that clamber impishly over bottles and cylindrical paperweights. Beyond objects, some glass designers are producing furniture. The "canvas" of a coffee, dining or side table can give an artist space to do extraordinary things. John Foster, another Minneapolis-based artist, assembles multiple cut crystals of various sizes into his Sparkle Palace cocktail table, which looks like a giant molecular structure. When light shines through it, prisms cast a rainbow around the room.

Designer Liana Yaroslavsky is known for avant garde creations; for example, she encases chandeliers, or piano keys and sheet music, inside her tables. O2, available as a side or coffee table, suspends 100 Murano glass balls inside a transparent cube to give the effect of bubbles in water. And the base of Yaroslavsky's Luna table was also blown from Murano glass; the sphere looks like she plucked the moon from the sky and rested a glass top on it. — AP



On the island of **Cyprus:** Aphrodite's Bath, historical sites and beautiful nature



Photo shows Gulf Air's Airbus A320 aircraft.



By Nawara Fattahova

S unny pleasant weather, clean waters, tasty food, rich historical sites, beautiful nature and friendly, welcoming and lovely people all characterize the gorgeous island of Cyprus. Its strategic geographical location has attracted conquerors over the ages, and today Cyprus is divided into Greek and Turkish parts. The southern part of this Mediterranean island is the Greek part, which has many popular touristic sites.

Arriving in Larnaca, the third largest city in Cyprus, our group was warmly welcomed by the staff of the Cyprus Tourist Organization. The trip was organized by Gulf Air, the national carrier of Bahrain, on the occasion of celebrat-





A view of the seaside in Laranaca.

ing the 40th anniversary of launching direct operations between Larnaca and Manama. The flight was comfortable,



View shows the sea at the Coral Beach Hotel in Paphos.

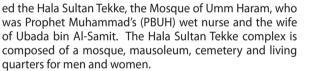


A traditional fish meze restaurant in Larnaca.

onboard Gulf Air's state-of-the-art Airbus A320 aircraft, and we enjoyed the flatbed seats in the Falcon Gold (premium) class cabins and Gulf Air's Gold Lounge services.

Accompanied by Talal Al-Mahmood, Gulf Air's Manager of Communications and Sponsorships, we landed in Larnaca at noon, and were taken from the airport by minibus by our friendly driver Agapios and sweet tourist guide Effie straight for lunch at Charmers Restaurant, where we were served delicious fish mezze, and of course halloumi cheese. Mezze is the traditional way of dining in Cyprus, and halloumi is the popular traditional cheese of Cyprus. Halloumi is a must with each meal - breakfast, lunch and dinner. As on any island, fish and seafood are the most popular meats on the restaurant's menu.

On our way to the quiet, coastal city of Paphos, we visit-



Arriving at the Coral Beach Hotel in Paphos, I instantly fell in love with it. My room in this traditional-style cozy hotel had an unbelievably romantic view of the sea, and at night I enjoyed falling asleep while listening to the symphony of the waves. The beach was beautiful and not crowded, and during the two nights that I spent in this hotel, I had the chance to witness two weddings taking place on the pier.

History, traditions and Latin and Roman stories are documented on the mosaics of this town. Our team had the opportunity to enjoy listening about ancient stories drawn on the mosaics preserved at various locations. We also strolled around other historical monuments including the Limanaki Castle in Paphos.

May is not the season for turtles to lay eggs on the beach, but we were able to listen to an explanation of this process by Andreas, who drove us on an excursion to the Lara turtle beach and the Akamas peninsula sea caves. We also visited Aphrodite's Bath (Fontana Amorosa). According to legend, Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, beauty, pleasure and procreation, took her lovers to this place to take a bath.

As I mentioned above, halloumi is a symbol of Cypriot cuisine, and we were given a chance to taste homemade halloumi cheese. We visited Letymbou village, were we experienced real Cyprian hospitality and were served traditional lunch in a home atmosphere after enjoying a breadmaking workshop, which I was not so good at, while my colleague Talal appeared as an expert.

On our second day, our other lovely tourist guide Dena joined us. We left our nice hotel, heading to the coastal city of Limassol, the second largest urban area in Cyprus, also called Lemesos in the local language. It has the biggest port in Cyprus and a wide range of activities, and a number of museums and archaeological sites as well.

Before arriving to Limassol, we visited the Elea Estate Golf Club in Yeroskipou. This clubhouse is in a breathtaking



A sign that shows the way to the Aphrodite's Bath Our Kuwait Times reporter at the Aphrodite's Bath (Fontana Amorosa). (Fontana Amorosa).



Talal Al-Mahmood cutting bread during the bread-making workshop.

One of the sand beaches in Larnaca.

<u>Kuwait Cimes</u>

CONTRACTOR Travel

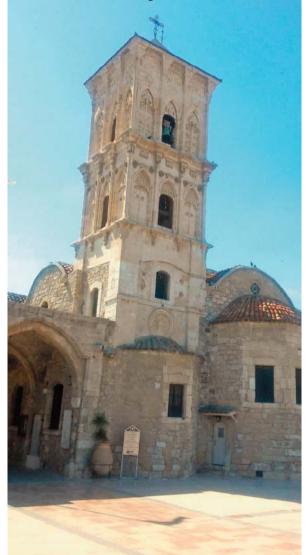


The media delegation at Larnaca airport.



The media delegation enjoying a bicycle ride with Nextbike rental in Lemassol.

A church in Omodos village.



location with amazing views and spacious grounds. This club provides complete services including golf, dining and even souvenirs. Elea Estate has an 18-holes par 71 course, and was designed to make the most of the stunning natural environment and test the strategic skills of players. Eirini Zinouli, the Sales and Marketing Manager, said they look forward to welcoming more visitors from the GCC soon.

More historical sites were waiting for us. We visited the Kourion archaeological site, including the House of Eustolios, were we enjoyed more mosaic artworks, telling us more legendary stories. We also visited the ancient Greek Roman theatre, where experienced journalist Habib Toumi showcased his singing skills. He even encouraged us to try and live the experience of the ancient times, and succeeded to force me to sing a bit.

On our way to our modern Amathus Beach Hotel, we



The media delegation at the ancient Greek Roman theatre.

Concourse D, Dubai International Airport and Heathrow Terminal 4, the passengers are well taken care of with well laid-out business, dining, lounging facilities and TV areas in addition to the added facilities of the "Quiet Lounge" which holds private sleeping rooms with comfortable beds, dimming lights and the 'do not disturb' option to rest in complete privacy.

Additional facilities include a cigar lounge and shower rooms with hotel-style towels and luxury brand toiletries and amenities. There are also separate prayer rooms and secure lockers for those who want to use these facilities while the modern, self-service buffet area offers a wide variety of snacks and meals, including an Italian coffee corner offering the world famous LavAzza brand coffee varieties.

Passengers can stay connected with free Wi-Fi throughout the lounges, discreet power sockets at every seat and a business center that includes PCs, fax machines and printers. For families, the lounge offers a spacious family room with our SkyNannies in attendance as well as a gaming room equipped with Xbox and PlayStation units.

Gulf Air Falcon Gold Lounge access

The lounge is freely accessible to all Black, Gold, Silver and Blue card-holding FFP members of Gulf Air, and Falcon Gold class ticket holders of Gulf Air and premium class ticket holders of the carrier's code-share partner airlines.



The Grand Mosque of Lemassol.



Hala Sultan Tekke Mosque.



visited the new Limassol marina. At the Amathus, we were warmly welcomed by the front-desk staff with fresh juice. Our last day started with an hour-long biking experience at Molos and the old town of Limassol, including Ayliou Andreou and Saripolou streets. This exciting pedaling experience was organized with Nextbike bike rental.

Since many years had passed since I last rode a bike, I was pleased to pedal again with my group and were led by Neofytos, the Manager of Nextbike, who explained that not only tourists and visitors rent bikes, but even some locals do so occasionally or regularly, and some even use it to get to work. This was followed by a visit to the Troodos Mountains, passing by Ayios Amvrosios and Kantou villages. Enjoying the nature and the sound of water at the little waterfall, we had lunch at the Neraida Restaurant in Foini village.

Four days were certainly not enough to explore this beautiful Mediterranean island. Our program on this trip was full, yet I enjoyed every single activity and didn't regret waking up early every morning, which I usually consider a torment. Of course, what made the trip even better and full of fun was the accompanying group, especially Habib, who was the most active member of the group, and bailed me out with the huge number of great photographs that he took with his phone and camera.

Gulf Air's Falcon Gold Lounges

Gulf Air's Falcon Gold Lounges are distinct in many ways - specifically, their architectural designs combine traditional Arabian theme with modern amenities, giving guests a sense of space and freedom. With dedicated Gulf Air Falcon Gold Lounges in all of Bahrain International Airport,

Gulf Air's flatbed seats

Gulf Air's state-of-the-art Airbus A320 aircraft is one of the first narrow body aircraft with fully flatbed seats in its Falcon Gold (premium) class cabins. With a total of 14 flatbed seats in Falcon Gold class, Gulf Air integrated the comments of its customers during the development stage of its A320 seats' design to ensure the product met their requirements.

Through customer interface workshops the views of the airline's Gulf Air Falconflyer Loyalty Program (FFP) members - were incorporated and, today, the outcome of the FFP workshops is a seat that meets most passenger requirements in terms of seating and sleeping comforts. There is also significant storage space such as a shoe packing pocket and a side compartment specifically designed for laptops - further complemented by a USB port in every seat to allow passengers to easily charge electronic devices.

For those seeking onboard entertainment, each Falcon Gold seat comes complete with a full Audio-Video on Demand (AVOD) feature: a selection of over 1,500 movies, music, music videos, games and television programming with touch screen technology. Individual 15-inch touch screens in every seat and high quality noise cancelling headphones further enhance the viewing experience.



Mosaic artworks at the Kourion archaeological site.



Mosaic artworks at the Kourion archaeological site.



The Elea Estate Golf Club in Yeroskipou.



Lara turtle beach and the Akamas peninsula sea caves.





Photo shows one of the dozens of lowriders on display at the historic plaza in downtown Santa Fe. — AP photos

Lowrider car culture takes summer spotlight in New Mexico

nose classic cars called lowriders are the focus of a summer celebration in Santa Fe. The spotlight on lowrider culture includes exhibitions at the New Mexico History Museum and the New Mexico Museum of Art. The low-to-the ground cars are decked out with hydraulics, chrome and can-

types of people, two world views," he said. "This exhibit is about the latter - people who express themselves through pride in their ride."

Lowriders can come in any flavor, from the classic bombs made between 1930 and 1955 to hoppers that are outfitted

switches, boosting one wheel off the ground while the rear of the car squatted and twisted. The front ends of others jumped up and down as the driver and passengers bounced around inside and the car crept forward with each hit.



A polished lowrider rim in downtown Santa Fe, NM.

dy-colored paint jobs. The celebration kicked off Sunday when more than 100 lowriders cruised into one of the state's most historic plazas in the heart of Santa Fe.

Lowriders have become fixtures across the Southwest. There are some similarities with the cars that cruise the streets in California and Texas, but there are also differences with the culture that has been thriving for decades in New Mexico. The cars have become rolling works of art and symbols of Hispanic cultural identity.

"The New Mexico style is a little more focused on family, faith and place," said Kate Ware, a curator at the New Mexico Museum of Art. Ware spent more than a year helping to pull together a collection of photographs, sculptures, paintings and videos highlighting the lowrider lifestyle and its connection with religion and community. Of the more than 50 works in the "Con Carino" exhibit at the art museum, some date back to the 1970s. The show will run through Oct 9.

Hydraulic lift system

At the history museum across the street, there are lowriders, hubcaps, a chromed-out Chevy small block engine and dozens of photographs that capture the essence of lowriding. In one corner is a scale that's used to gauge how high a car can hop, the term used to describe the front end bouncing off the ground, triggered by a custom hydraulic lift system. "Lowriders, Hoppers, and Hot Rods: Car Culture of Northern New Mexico" will be on display at the history museum through March 5, 2017.

Daniel Kosharek, the photo curator at the history museum, said there are people who use cars just for transportation and then there are those who use the cars for self-expression. "Two with suspension systems that have evolved into high-tech rigs from the earliest days when sand bags were used to weigh down a car to get it closer to the ground. Steven "Sparky" Gomez has tens of thousands of dollars invested in his Packard. He's been offered double its worth but there's no way he's selling it. For Gomez, lowriding is a family tradition started by his father back in the 1940s.

"You get a car that somebody else discarded and as you see, you turn it into a piece of art and it's better than drugs and alcohol. There's no limit," he said. "And then you feel like a movie star when you're in it because everybody's waving at you." At the celebration kick-off, cars circled the plaza, some flipped their



A piece of glazed stoneware created by Rose B Simpson that is on display.

Plane flaps

The spokes spun slowly, the slower the better as the crowd soaked in all the chrome and glistening metal-flake paint. "Bajito y suavecito." Translation: Low and slow. "These are folks who really put their heart and soul into these cars and it's a family treasure," Ware said. "The whole family is involved in the making and the financing and then of course there's this whole brotherhood, this team of people who help put the car together." In the 1980s, the northern New Mexico community of Espanola proclaimed itself the Lowrider Capitol of the World, but the history of lowriders stretches back at least to World War II. El Paso, Texas, and Los Angeles like to take credit for birthing lowriders as a Latino response to Anglo hot rod culture.

As the style progressed, some car customizers began building their suspensions with hydraulic lifters originally designed to raise and lower plane flaps. Air bags came later and smoothed out the ride. The exhibits touch on history but they also seek to elevate lowrider culture beyond the usual stigmas and stereotypes to celebrate the craftsmanship and commitment that come with building and maintaining a lowrider. After the hopping settled down Sunday, Gomez surveyed the crowd. "You see the smiles on people's faces. It kills all the stereotypes," he said. "We're not drug dealers. We're not gang members. With our appearance, people assume stuff but once they get to talk to us and find out the real history behind lowriding, they find out it's just a beautiful culture."— AP



Photo shows lowriders on display at the historic plaza in downtown Santa Fe.



Photo shows Steven 'Sparky' Gomez with the Imperials Car Club during a show at the historic plaza in Santa Fe.



Lowriders parading around the historic plaza in Santa Fe



Photo shows one of the dozens of lowriders on display at the historic plaza in downtown Photo shows a detailed lowrider paint job on display. Santa Fe. — AP photos



Photo shows lowriders on display at the historic plaza in downtown Santa Fe.

