

FREE

Kuwait Times Friday Times



Min 25°
Max 41°

www.kuwaittimes.net

NO: 16886- Friday, May 27, 2016

**Bike riding
on the rise
in Kuwait**

7



**Why am I
always
hungry?**

23



**LeBron and Love
power Cavaliers
over Raptors**

43



Fun in the sun at local water park

See Pages 4-6



Photo of the day



KUWAIT: Contrasting scene of a man in dark profile against the popular shark tank at the Scientific Center in Ras Salmiya. — Photo by Yasser Al Zayyat

Local Spotlight

SOCIAL MEDIA COOKS



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

Social media has not only changed traditional relationships between individuals, but it has also given rise to people who trade in people's health, especially food vendors. With the advent of the month of Ramadan, food sellers on apps like Instagram and WhatsApp have increased, and prices are high.

I am wondering why there is no crackdown on those women and why they are being excluded from the municipality's supervision regarding the conditions and standards of hygiene and safety, just like those that apply to restaurants and other food merchants. Why don't they keep business records? I am also wondering why there are no price controls, and no medical examination of workers. There has to be a round of inspections by the municipality, as is the case for restaurants, cafeterias and others. It is a big mess and the municipality and the interior ministry - represented by the cyber-crimes department - have to get involved.

If there are cases of food poisoning or filthy and expired foodstuff at registered restaurants, there are certain procedures to be followed. Every other day we hear about a restaurant that is closed for non-compliance with sanitary standards. But there has been an abnormal rise in online food sellers of all nationalities in the country, so how will consumer protection be enforced and how to guarantee that someone is checking the food supply and prices? So far, no one is doing anything for protecting the consumer. A whole family can suffer poisoning from contaminated food.

There is neither municipality supervision nor commerce or health ministry tours of these home kitchens. The cybercrime unit should also intervene because of the risk to people's health, as the preservation of public health is one of the most basic duties of the state, regardless of the government agency responsible.

Saudi Arabia has succeeded in resolving this matter. Those who want to set up such business ventures there need to have official registration, and those who violate this law are fined. This is one of the simplest things to maintain the health of the people from the risk of exposure to food poisoning or consuming expired items. The ministry of interior has the ability to identify these accounts and force their owners to register. Instagram cooks are becoming a trend that is out of control, putting people's health at risk.

HOW TO DISPUTE A RENT INCREASE

By Faten Omar

If you are facing a huge increase in rent, you're not alone. Apartment rental rates have skyrocketed across Kuwait even as summer approaches. Though most apartment dwellers have not seen salaries rise, landlords are looking for ever higher returns. Some landlords even ignore the five-year rule and raise rents against the law. Many tenants are ignorant or unsure of what to do, but a growing number of both local and expat tenants in Kuwait are not ready to give up without a fight.

The law stipulates that a landlord can raise the rent once every five years, and any increase other than this is illegal. At times, tenants are unaware of their legal rights and so they agree to pay higher rents after every year or two. But the landlord can only increase the rent if the tenant agrees to the proposed increase, five years have passed

since the last increase and the contract has ended, and if the rent is 50 percent less than the market rate.

According to article 11 of legislative decree no. 35 of 1978 on real estate lease, the law clearly states that the period stipulated in the contract must be respected and followed by both parties, the landlord is not entitled to evict the tenant and the tenant cannot vacate the premises before the end of the contract term. In all cases, the rent increase should not exceed 100 percent of the amount agreed between the two parties. This percentage may be modified by a decree.

Some landlords prepare a one-year contract to get around the law to ensure they have the power to renew it and increase the rent. Some landlords and companies disregard the law and try to take the tenant for a ride. Unfortunately, they get lucky sometimes, especially since most expats are foreigners and aren't fluent in Arabic. More

often than not, there is no English version of the contract, so foreigners fall victim to their ploy and don't have the courage to fight for their rights.

Kuwait Times has detailed the steps to deal with landlords who raise the rent against the law:

- 1- The tenant must go to the court in his/her area.
- 2- The tenant should fill the complaint form about raising the rent, which will be submitted to the court.
- 3- Go to the information section inside the court.
- 4- The mandoub of the court will go to the haris (janitor) of the building to give him the 'old' rent.
- 5- If the haris does not take the rent, the court will be reported of the non-receipt and this proves the case.
- 6- A complaint will be submitted to the court to be presented to a judge.

7- The old rent amount should be paid to the court (the tenant should check every month if the landlord has filed a complaint against him).

- 8- Attend the scheduled sentencing hearings.
- 9- The case will be sent to a technical expert.
- 10- The technical expert will go to the apartment for examination.
- 11- The technical expert will decide the right amount of rent to increase.
- 12- At the last sentencing hearing, the judge will review the technical expert's report and accept, change or reject the rent increase.
- 13- If the landlord does not take the exact amount of rent decided by the court, the tenant has to file another complaint, but this time at the court in the company of landlord's area.
- 14- Keep paying the 'new' rent at the court.

CONDOLENCES

**Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief,
management and staff**

convey their deepest condolences

to the family

of

Saleh Mahmoud Abu Sabra

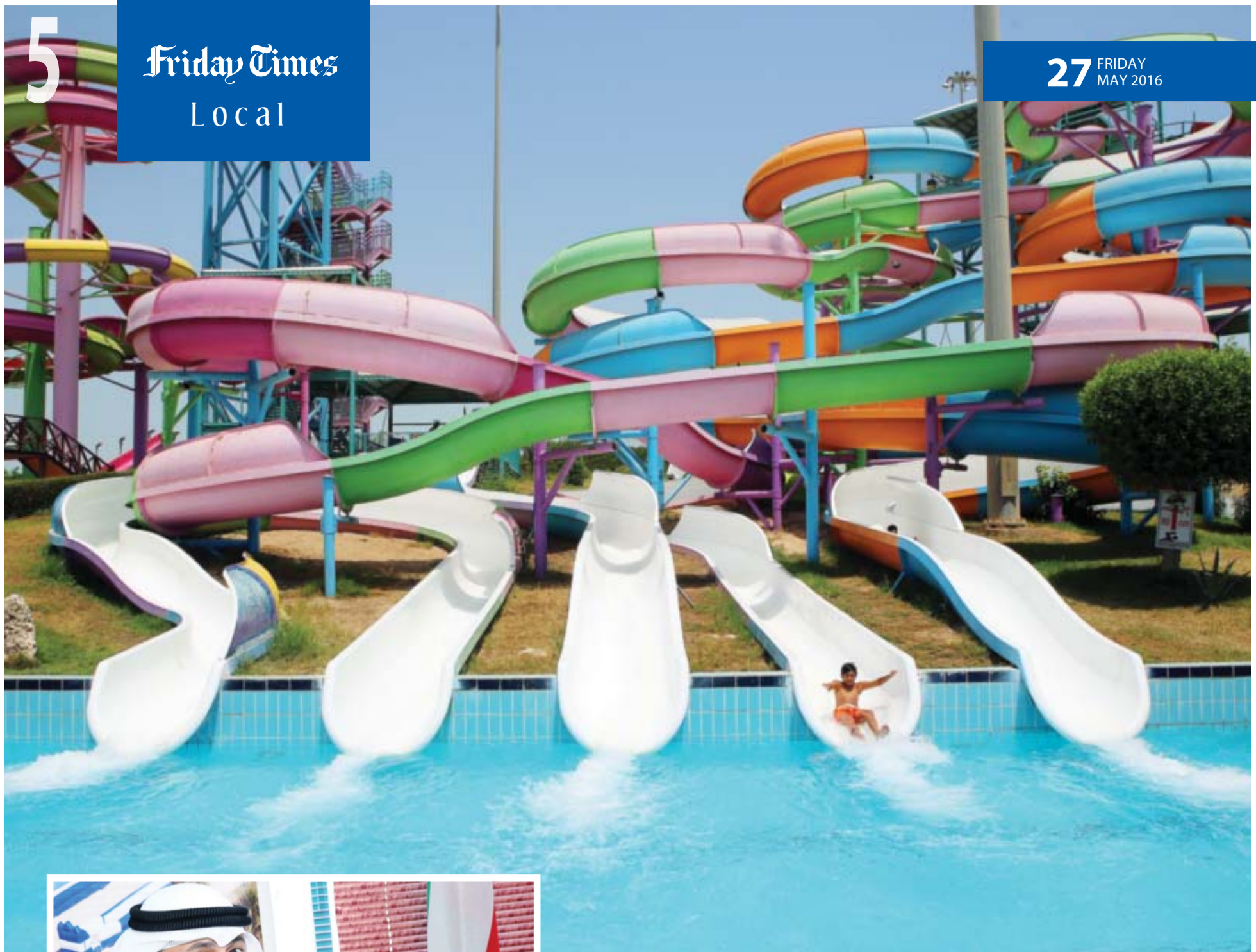
(Abu Al-Tayyeb – former colleague)

on his sad demise

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on him



Fun in the sun at local water park



Mohammed Khoursheed, General Manager and Board Member of Aqua Park.

By Nawara Fattahova

This is the perfect time to enjoy water activities and games, and Aqua Park is the ideal place for a fun and exciting day out. Aqua Park, which opened in 1995 as the first water park in the country, strives to provide quality entertainment by improving its services every year.

Aqua Tripo

After being closed for a few months in winter, the water park reopened to welcome visitors last month with a new surprise - the all new Aqua Tripo. "This slide is 15 meters high and with three different functionalities. It's suitable for all ages and is equipped with a sprinkler system, so it's misted by water during sliding," said Mohammed Khoursheed, General Manager and Board Member of Aqua Park. Aqua

Tripo was purchased at a cost of \$250,000. "We bought this slide at the World Water Park Association Conference held in Palm Springs in California. This slide will be installed by the beach, and we are planning to launch it by the end of June to be ready for Eid. We have increased the price of the entrance ticket from KD 3.750 to KD 4.250, not only because of this new ride, but because we have decreased the ticket price of this

Continued on Page 6

	IndianOil	
Marketing Division – Head Office – Mumbai		
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST		
EOI No./Name of Work:		
HO/LO/IMPORT/10: Supply of Various Grades of Base Oils.		
Download Period: 27.05.2016 to 12.07.2016		
Contact Person: Chief Manager (Lube Ops.)		
Tel: (+91) 22-2644 7945 E-mail: vikaspatil@indianoil.in		
Please visit https://ioclenders.gov.in for more details and downloading of tender documents. Addendum/Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on the above website only.		

MEI For University Services
25 to 31 May 2016
9.30 am - 1 pm
& 5 pm - 8.30 pm

The gateway to your dream career is now open!

SPOT ADMISSION 2016
Attractive scholarships up to 35% are offered for all UG Programs*
*except MBBS, BDL, Pharm.D, B.Pharm, BASLP

Courses Offered:
Engineering: Aerospace, Architecture, Automobile, Biomedical, Biotechnology, Chemical, Civil, Computer Science, Electrical and Electronics, Electronics and Communication, Electronics and Instrumentation, Genetics, Information Technology, Mechanical, Mechatronics, Nanotechnology and Software Engineering.
Medicine & Health Sciences: Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Optometry, Audiology, Medical Lab Technology, Medical Imaging Technology and Renal Dialysis Technology.
Science & Humanities: Commerce, Journalism and Mass Communication, Hotel Management, Law and Management.

For more details, visit: www.srmuniv.ac.in

Contact our representative Mr. Suresh Anand Mani
(Manager - Business Development)
at MEI For University Services
Baghdad Street, Maidan Hawalli, Kuwait
Phone: 25618333, 25661606, Mobile: 66133297
Email: sureshanand.m@srmuniv.ac.in / info@stieducation.com

SRM UNIVERSITY
(Under Section 3 of UGC Act 1956)

slide that is not included in the entrance ticket from KD 1 to 500 fils," he said. Aqua Park also offers special rates for groups, ministries, banks and other institutions. "Holding an open day is a great opportunity for employees of an organization to gather outside the work environment and enjoy their time. Any institution can book any day of their choice, and the park will be closed for others," stressed Khoursheed.

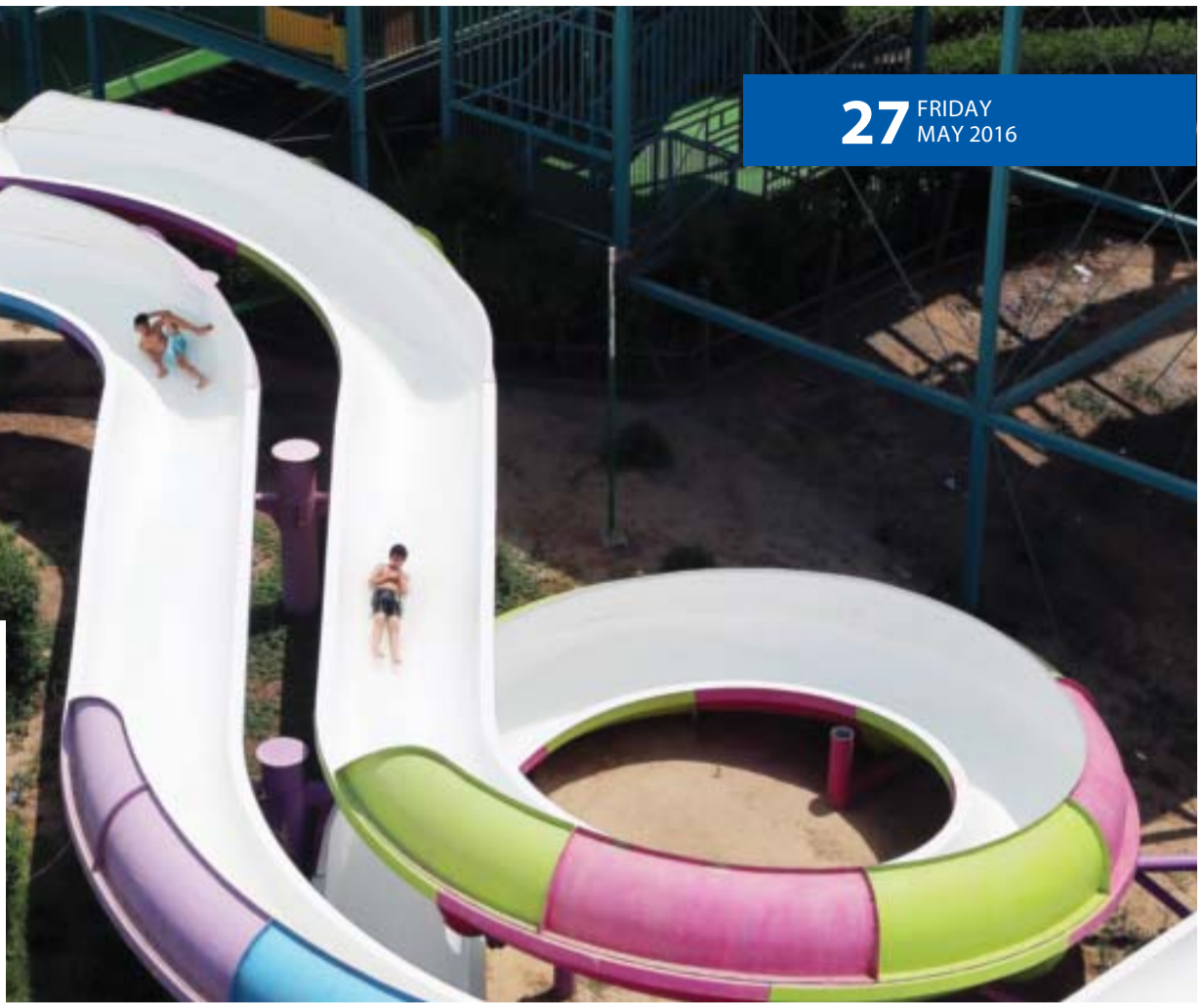
Safety

Safety is a priority at Aqua Park. "We concentrate on all safety aspects. We demolished concrete platforms and steps at all towers and rebuilt them, as 20 years of operations have passed. We did a lot of polishing and refurbishing of all slides including the fiberglass ones. Now all slides and utilities are as new as they were 20 years ago," he explained.

Aqua Park's water is checked by the Ministry of Health on a regular basis. "Inspectors from the ministry come on regular and surprise visits to take samples of the water to test in their laboratories, and we have passed all tests. This is due to our maintenance department that makes sure to check the water hourly with special test kits. Also, lifeguards make sure of visitors' safety, and they are all certified. Make sure to follow the rules and regulations for a safe day at Aqua Park," Khoursheed pointed out. Swimmers should wear suitable outfits for using the slides. "They should be wearing outfits made of polyester that help in smoother sliding to provide more joy. Wrong outfits will result in poor performance and may even damage the slide if they contain hard objects. Our lifeguards check all slides daily before opening them to visitors," he added.

Karting

The go-kart section has been rebuilt. "We have new cars at the track with higher speed and better performance. There are two kinds of karts - high performance single-seater and twin-seater cars; and the kiddie karts suitable for children aged between 5 to 8 years," he concluded.



One of the most popular summer destinations in Kuwait, Aqua Park offers a variety of slides, swimming pools, rides and games for kids. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Days & Timings

Aqua Park is open seven days a week from 10am to 10pm.

Friday is a families-only day.

Tuesdays are for women only from 2:30pm to 10pm.

During Ramadan, Aqua Park is open daily from 8pm to 2am, with special ticket prices during the holy month.

Other days are open to visitors of all categories. People are not allowed to bring in cameras and food. Air-conditioned lockers are available.



New slides • Safety checks



Bike riding on the rise in Kuwait

Story and photos by Ben Garcia

In many countries, people rely on bicycles as their primary means of transport to commute to work or school. But this is not the case in Kuwait, due to the harsh weather conditions, dangerous streets and a lack of bike-friendly lanes on the road. Since there are limited bikes around,



there are few bicycle shops and even fewer repair shops in the country. But according to one bike repairman, the popularity of cycling in Kuwait is on the rise.

Nanu Patel, 41, from the Indian state of Rajasthan, has been repairing bicycles in Salmiya

since 1998. He was brought here from India by his cousin, who at that time was a well-known repairman in the area. His cousin later left for good, but Nanu stayed. At that time, one could hardly find bicycles on the streets. But after the second Gulf War in 2003, he noticed a sudden spike in customers.

"Judging from the bikes I repair daily, I think demand has increased in the market compared to the 1990s, from children's bicycles to professional bikes. Before, I used to repair maybe 10 or 15 bikes a day, but the number has doubled now," he told Kuwait Times. Nanu is the only repairman in his shop, but there are other bicycle repair shops nearby.

Nanu's job isn't tedious, although he works daily from 10am to 10pm. He started on a salary of KD 120 in 1998, and now makes KD 250. "I get tips from a few good customers, otherwise people only pay for the service," he said. "My employer is not very demanding. When it comes to my work, he trusts me, so I set the prices based on the reality in the market, and they are reasonable. I know this because my rates are similar or even a bit lower than other shops," he said. "The cost of the repair excludes the price of spare parts, which customers have to purchase separately," he added.

Repairing a bike

Nanu listed the parts of the bike that are very important to know about in the repair business. He said the basic parts include the frame, which is



the skeleton of the bike. The fork is where the wheels are, and it absorbs shocks on rough streets, while the handlebar is used to steer the bike. The stem of the bike is also important, as it connects the steering tube of the fork and handlebars. A bike will not be a bike if there are no pedals. The wheels, chain, rim, brakes and derailleur are also very important parts of the bicycle.

"I wanted to go to India a few years ago for good, but when I studied the market back home, I

realized I could earn far better here, so I stayed. When my kids are done with their studies, I will go back and stay there," Nanu said. He has two children aged 19 and eight. "I got married when I was 13. My wife was 13 as well. It was a tradition in our family to marry early, but now I wouldn't allow it anymore," he said laughing, referring to his elder son who is still single. "My son is 19, but I don't want him to get married now. I want him to study and finish college before marrying," he said.



KUWAIT PAVES WAY FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS

News

i n b r i e f



Russia and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers pose for a group photo. — KUNA

Lavrov hails positive Russia-GCC dialogue

MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov yesterday applauded the strategic dialogue between Russia and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) during a meeting held in Moscow with GCC foreign ministers. He hoped that this meeting would boost cooperation in the political, economic, humanitarian and cultural aspects. Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir on his part said the GCC states are exerting great efforts to develop relations with Russia in various domains. The GCC and Russia share similar views in respecting nations' sovereignty, committing to the international law and not interfering in internal affairs, he said. Al-Jubeir praised Russia's support to the Palestinian case, stressing the importance of encountering terrorism and radicalism. He emphasized the importance of discussing regional developments, especially in Syria and Iraq, besides the Iranian interference in the region's affairs, to safeguard the region's stability. Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and GCC Secretary General Abdualatif Al-Zayani also took part in the meeting.

Kuwait, Tunisia ink MoU on social, labor affairs

TUNIS: Kuwait and Tunisia yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on social and labor affairs, a move set to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise amongst officials of both nations. Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning Affairs and Development Hind Al-Sabeeh signed the MoU along with her Tunisian counterpart Mahmoud bin Ramadan, in the presence of several officials from both countries. We have agreed to exchange expertise and knowledge in all fields germane to social affairs, Al-Sabeeh noted in a press statement during the signing of the MoU. Kuwait stands to gain from the exceptional skill of the Tunisian workforce, she added. Meanwhile, the Tunisian Minister of Social Affairs underscored the significance of Al-Sabeeh's visit to the North African nation, "saying it serves to further enhance bilateral ties." Speaking on the MoU, Ramadan added that it "would pave the way for further social development."

Info Minister and US officials discuss media cooperation

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah discussed with US Congressman Nick Rahall and American journalist Khaled Saffouri means of boosting cooperation in the fields of media and youth. The meeting highlighted the importance of benefiting from American expertise in those two fields. The meeting also stressed the deep-rooted bilateral ties, the Ministry of Information said in a press statement yesterday. Moreover, Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah met with Governor of Al-Jahra retired Lieutenant General Fahad Al-Amir, where they tackled the governorate's support to young adults by engaging them in all kinds of activities related to culture, education and sports. The Minister lauded this support and pointed out that "summer break provides an opportunity for young adults to engage in useful activities."

KUWAIT: Kuwait, in its quest to honor His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's vision to be a regional financial and commercial hub, has opened its doors for foreign investment to further promote already-active business environment. There are huge investment potentials in Kuwait, where the government and parliament have issued new laws making it easy for foreign investors to do business in Kuwait.

Potential is enormous

"Potentials are enormous," said Matthew Lodge, British Ambassador to Kuwait. His brief, yet significant, remark came in a video that shed light on investment opportunities in Kuwait. The video, boasting the fact that Kuwait has a strategic location, stable government and vibrant economy, would be displayed on British Airways Media on board international long-haul flights during the month of July this year, a period usually witnessing an increase in passengers.

The video, "Kuwait... Discover the Opportunity," would feature speakers from government and private sectors, in addition to the Speaker of the National Assembly, or parliament. All highlighting business opportunities in the country through lucrative laws and legislations. Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim, highlighted the fact that the constitution of Kuwait set the foundation for a stable political regime. "The constitution is the oldest in the region, and in order to develop any country you need political stability," said Al-Ghanim in the video, which highlighted changing economic and investment climate in Kuwait.

The constitution guarantees this stability through many means, including freedom of speech and expression. "The freedom of speech in Kuwait and press in Kuwait in the highest in the region," Sheikh Dr Mishal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director General of Kuwait Director Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), said. "The government and parliament worked in past few years and presented favorable measures to enhance business environment to create other forms of income," he said in the video, which also showcased the modern lifestyle and vibrant city life. The government and parliament approved a

new law that brings public-private-partnership (PPP), paving way for foreign companies to fully own projects inside Kuwait.

30 days or less

KDIPA helps foreign multi-national companies to establish a business in 30 days or less. The Partnerships Technical Bureau (PTB), established in 2008, is responsible for PPP projects' implementation. PTB aims to utilize private sector skills and expertise to maximize value for money and service quality in different sectors. Kuwait had embarked on over \$100-billion development plan, which included mega projects, including in sectors of transport, energy and communications. "We know we can't get where we want to be without investment and help of our friends and partners," Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, said in remarks in the short video, inviting foreign companies to "come to Kuwait."

Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Ali Al-Ghanim, said the new laws approved by the parliament and government allowed foreign investors to fully own business without need to have Kuwaiti partners. Saad Al-Ali, Deputy Director General for Editorial and Chief Editor of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), said that a "lot of our development projects are done in partnership with foreign companies." These companies, he added, "must understand the needs for Kuwaiti projects." Sheikha Al-Bahar, Deputy Group CEO, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), pointed out that the culture in the country was changing. "We are well prepared to create the best business environment for international companies, and the opportunities are huge," she added.

History of mercantilism

Trading and doing business are deep-rooted in the culture of Kuwait. People used to trade in commodities, woods and pearls before discovery of oil, which allowed them to open up to different business environments. "It is the culture of trading, culture of openness," said Sheikh Dr. Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

The video talked about giant PPP

project in Kuwait, like Shamal (North) Al-Zour power station with USD 1.8 billion on first phase out of five stages aimed at honoring growing electricity and water demands caused by increasing population. It also highlighted Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway project, which was on track for completion in 2018. A proposed \$7 billion metro was on track. Plans to build a new terminal at Kuwait International Airport are set to increase passengers' capacity from five to 10 million each year.

An ambitious \$16 billion Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port, north of Kuwait, would handle 3.6 million Twenty Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) each year. Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Culture Center would be a district for a variety of cultural activities. The timing of the video display, which would be in July, was because this month witnessed 20-40 percent increase of passengers from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and it was also the peak travel time in Europe, said Lawrence Ireton, country director of QCPTV, the company that produced the film. "The aim is to get understanding of these people of different nationalities to see the business environment in Kuwait from a wider perspective," he said.

Changes

The changes in the six GCC countries, including Kuwait, "signify need of foreign firms, and in Kuwait there are companies like IBM, GE and Huawei already operating," he added. Ireton noted that these international firms were making use of the PPP law, which he described as "the most unique in the GCC countries." IMB offers information technology services and solutions for local market. Huawei was contributing to non-oil sector in Kuwait, which was considered the highest mobile penetration in the region. The government and parliament of Kuwait are also promoting all measures needed to further boost foreign investment. "I see a lot of changes in legislation for benefit of the economy, this will give push for Kuwaiti companies and foreign companies to come and put their money for investment, because the opportunities are attractive for local and foreign investors," said Wafa Al-Qatami, Vice-Chairman of KDIPA and Board Member at KCCI. — KUNA



KUWAIT: A bird targets a bait in the photo as Kuwait temperature rises about 48 degrees Celsius. — KUNA

ICM TO TAKE PART IN PARLIAMENTARY POLLS

FOUR-YEAR BOYCOTT ENDS • POLLS DUE SUMMER 2017

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM), the largest opposition group in the country, yesterday said it will field candidates for the upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled for the summer of 2017, thus ending almost four years of boycott. ICM, which is viewed locally as the Kuwaiti Muslim Brotherhood, said it made the decision following meetings for its members in the past few weeks and the final decision was to end the boycott to the general election that started in late 2012 in protest against the change in the electoral

law. ICM is the second Islamic group to end the boycott after the Thawabet Al-Ommah (Principles of the Nation) made a similar decision early May.

A full boycott of the last parliamentary elections was taken by all the nationalist, Islamist and liberal groups in late 2012 when the government decided to change the electoral law and introducing a new voting system. Under the previous law, a Kuwaiti voter was allowed to elect up to four candidates in any of the five constituencies. Ten MPs were elected from each constituency. The government changed the voting system by allowing each voter to elect only one candidate thus depriving larger

groups from the benefit of electing a larger number of members of parliament.

The opposition groups considered the move as an attempt by the government to control the National Assembly by reducing the number of opposition members. But the constitutional court in June 2013 supported the new electoral law saying it is in line with the constitution and called for early polls the following month. As a result, the liberal National Democratic Movement ended the boycott along with a number of opposition individuals and some tribes on the basis that the government change became constitutional.

The ICM said in its statement yesterday that the boycott intended to stop the government from exploiting the outcome of the change. However, during the past few years, it "contributed to a rise in corruption levels, a setback in the development process in addition to issuing a large number of legislation which contravene the constitution". As a result, the ICM said that it decided to take part in the 2017 election in a bid to stop the deterioration in the country's democracy and other aspects of life. In some previous assemblies, the ICM held up to eight MPs and a number of supporters in the 50-seat Assembly.

Crime

Report

Surprise campaign nets Ramadan counterfeit drink

KUWAIT: A surprise campaign of commercial supervision department, on supermarkets and shops in Shuwaikh resulted in confiscating 1440 bottles of a popular drink, many use during Ramadan because it was counterfeit and did not have expiry date. The confiscated bottles were sent for testing and the owners were referred to the commercial prosecution to take the necessary action.

Liquor factory busted

An illicit liquor factory has been discovered at a camel farm in the Kabd area. The factory was run by three Asians who sold the liquor to customers across Kuwait. Farwaniya police learned about the factory, and following the legal procedures the place was raided and three men were arrested.

Man takes advantage of woman

A citizen filed a complaint with police regarding a relationship. She said that a man she fell in love with convinced her to a flat in Salmiya, had sex with her then stopped answering or returning her phone calls. Investigations are underway.

Students' cars broken robbed

A total of 27 cars belonging to students were broken into in the Keifan and Dhahiya secondary school parking lots. Students who were taking their exams were surprised when they found their cars broken into and their phones stolen, so police and criminal investigators went to the area to lift finger prints and detectives are investigating.

Taxi driver robbed

Capital (Asima) police arrested a citizen who robbed a taxi driver at knife point in Sharq area, and police found drugs on him, and also discovered that two of his friends helped him. Police received a call about the robbery, so they went to the scene and received a description of the suspect and the car. Officers then searched the area and spotted a car that matched the description, so it was stopped and IDs collected, then the three got out of the car and started running, so police chased them and arrested one of them. Police found drugs and a knife on the man, and the driver identified him.

Woman insulted at restaurant

A Jordanian woman received insults and threats from two citizens after asking them to lower their voices while in a Nugra area restaurant, as that disturbed her. A security source said a Jordanian expat told Nugra police that while she was in a restaurant, two women were sitting on a table next to hers and talking loudly, so she asked them to lower their voice, only to be surprised by their insults followed by threatening to hurt her. Police are investigating.

Gold bracelets stolen

A citizen in her 40s accused her daughter-in-law of stealing three gold bracelets, two rings and a necklace, as police summoned the alleged suspect for questioning. The complaint was lodged at Fahad Al-Ahmad police station.

KUWAIT RAISES ALARM OVER DANGERS OF TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

VIENNA: Kuwait yesterday sounded the alarm about the dangers of transnational organized crime which threatens peace and human security, violates human rights and undermines economic, social, cultural, political and civil development of societies around the world. This came out in a speech by the second secretary at Kuwait embassy in Vienna Nawaf Al-Rejaib, addressing the 25th session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) tackling the 5th item on its agenda regarding organized crime and relative protocols.

He indicated that Kuwait has endorsed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its three accompanied protocols, finding them a cogent legal basis for international cooperation as well as regional and bilateral ones in the fight against cross border crimes. In adhering to the implementation of (UNTOC), Kuwait in 2013 passed an anti-human trafficking law which resulted in the establishment of a number of anti-human trafficking civil society organizations, said Al-Rejaib, adding that this law penalizes offenders



Second Secretary at Kuwait embassy in Vienna Nawaf Al-Rejaib

with prison terms up to 15 years.

Kuwait, in the same year, also passed an anti-money laundering - anti-terrorism funding law in addition to passing a cybercrime law in 2015, he said. He raised the alarm against the misuse of internet-related social networks which may ease the communication reaches of

cybercrimes seen in promoting online terrorist literature and recruiting fighters to terrorist groups. He welcomed new countries joining (UNTOC) and endorsing its protocols and extolled the work being done by the UN office in charge of fighting crime and drugs around the world. — KUNA

FOUR MORE SUSPECTS NABBED



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Relations and Security Information Department said another four Egyptians have been arrested for engaging in vice activities with the person who has an infectious disease. Also the company owner who brought them to Kuwait was also detained. Residency Affairs Detectives identified the main suspect as Mohammad Al-Dabe Mahmoud and the company owner as Saad Rashid Saad Anbar. Detectives said the company owner connived with the four suspects in exchange of a percentage. The suspects whose residencies have expired claimed their sponsor knows about their illicit activities.



'Emergency' exercise

Kuwait Fire Services Directorate carried out an exercise at the Salmiya Millennium Hotel. The exercise began with an emergency call about a fire in one of the hotel's rooms. The entire Salmiya fire center personnel - under the leadership of the head of the center Lt Colonel Ali Al-Abdelrazaq and Major Mohammad Ashaknani rushed to the scene. The hotel was evacuated while the injured persons were rescued.

International

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2016

In Gaza, walls of silence over child sexual assault

12



Report traces arc of Clinton server and agency failures

14



Democracy helps fulfill dead Myanmar teen's last wish

18



ALBERQUERQUE: In this May 24, 2016 file photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a campaign event. — AP

TRUMP CLINCHES REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION BUSINESSMAN FINALLY REACHES THE MAGIC NUMBER OF DELEGATES

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump reached the number of delegates needed to clinch the Republican nomination for president yesterday, completing an unlikely rise that has upended the political landscape and set the stage for a bitter fall campaign. Trump was put over the top in the Associated Press delegate count by a small number of the party's unbound delegates who told the AP they would support him at the national convention in July. Among them is Oklahoma GOP chairwoman Pam Pollard.

"I think he has touched a part of our electorate that doesn't like where our country is," Pollard said. "I have no problem supporting Mr Trump." It takes 1,237 delegates to win the Republican nomination. Trump has reached 1,238. With 303 delegates at stake in five state primaries on June 7, Trump will easily pad his total, avoiding a contested convention in Cleveland. Trump, a political neophyte who for years delivered caustic commentary on the state of the nation from the sidelines but had never run for office, fought off 16 other Republican contenders in an often ugly primary race.

Warming to the Donald

Many on the right have been slow to warm to Trump, wary of his conservative bona fides. Others

worry about his crass personality and the lewd comments he's made about women. But millions of grass-roots activists, many of them outsiders to the political process, have embraced Trump as a plain-speaking populist who is not afraid to offend.

Steve House, chairman of the Colorado Republican Party and an unbound delegate who confirmed his support of Trump to the AP, said he likes the billionaire's background as a businessman. "Leadership is leadership," House said. "If he can surround himself with the political talent, I think he will be fine." Trump's pivotal moment comes amid a new sign of internal problems.

Hours before clinching the nomination, he announced the abrupt departure of political director Rick Wiley, who was in the midst of leading the campaign's push to hire staff in key battleground states. In a statement, Trump's campaign said Wiley had been hired only on a short-term basis until the candidate's organization "was running full steam."

His hiring about six weeks ago was seen as a sign that party veterans were embracing Trump's campaign. A person familiar with Wiley's ouster said the operative clashed with others in Trump's operation and didn't want to put longtime Trump allies in key jobs. The person insisted on anonymity

because the person was not authorized to publicly discuss the internal campaign dynamics.

Some delegates who confirmed their decisions to back Trump were tepid at best, saying they are supporting him out of a sense of obligation because he won their state's primary. Cameron Linton of Pittsburgh said he will back Trump on the first ballot since he won the presidential primary vote in Linton's congressional district.

"If there's a second ballot I won't vote for Donald Trump," Linton said. "He's ridiculous. There's no other way to say it." Trump's path to the Republican presidential nomination began with an escalator ride. Trump and his wife, Melania, descended an escalator into the basement lobby of the Trump Tower on June 16, 2015, for an announcement many observers had said would never come: The celebrity real estate developer had flirted with running for office in the past.

His speech then set the tone for the candidate's ability to dominate the headlines with provocative statements, insults and hyperbole. He called Mexicans "rapists," promised to build a wall between the US and Mexico and proposed banning most Muslims from the US for an indeterminate time. He criticized women for their looks. And he unleashed an uncanny marketing ability in

which he deduced his critics' weak points and distilled them to nicknames that stuck. "Little Marco" Rubio, "Weak" Jeb Bush and "Lyn' Ted" Cruz, among others, all were forced into reacting to Trump. They fell one-by-one - leaving Trump the sole survivor of a riotous Republican primary.

Drawing protests

His rallies became magnets for free publicity. Onstage, he dispensed populism that drew thousands of supporters, many wearing his trademark "Make America Great Again" hats and chanting, "Build the wall!" The events drew protests too with demonstrators sometimes forcibly ejected from the proceedings. One rally in Chicago was canceled after thousands of demonstrators surrounded the venue and the Secret Service could no longer vouch for the candidate's safety. When voting started, Trump was not so fast out of the gate. He lost the Iowa caucuses in February, falling behind Cruz and barely edging Rubio for second. He recovered in New Hampshire. From there he and Cruz fiercely engaged, with Trump winning some and losing some but one way or another dominating the rest of the primary season - in votes or at least in attention - and ultimately in delegates. — AP

EGYPT MUSLIMS ATTACK CHRISTIANS AFTER 'LOVE STORY'

CAIRO: Muslim villagers south of Egypt's capital set ablaze Christian homes and assaulted an elderly woman paraded naked in public over rumors of an interfaith relationship, the church and officials said yesterday. Coptic Pope Tawadros II called for restraint after the incident in Karam village in Minya province, the Coptic Orthodox Church said in a statement.

The authorities have assured the pope that they will "chase down the perpetrators and bring them to justice", the church said. Copts, who make up about 10 percent of Egypt's population of 90 million, have faced persecution and systematic discrimination that spiked during the 30-year rule of Hosni Mubarak, who was toppled by a popular uprising in 2011.

The latest incident on May 20 followed rumors that a Christian man was having a relationship with a Muslim woman, the diocese of Minya said

Wednesday on the Coptic Church's Facebook page. The church said that even though the man's parents had told police they were receiving threats, security forces took two hours to arrive after Christian homes started to come under attack on Friday night.

During the attack, armed individuals looted and set fire to seven houses belonging to Christian families, the church said. The church said an elderly woman, identified by the prosecution as the mother of the man said to be involved with the Muslim woman, was stripped naked and paraded before the mob.

A prosecution official said six homes were set on fire. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi was hailed by the church and many Muslims as their savior from Islamists after the former army chief toppled Egypt's Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013. Sisi had

been a member of the ruling military council following Mubarak's ouster in 2011, when 26 Copts were killed in clashes with soldiers outside the headquarters of state television.

The military said three soldiers were killed in the confrontation. The Copts had been protesting against an arson attack on a church in southern Egypt, which came after two deadly clashes between Muslims and Christians in Cairo. For many Copts, those events had been overtaken by more violence under Morsi, such as when police fired tear gas at mourners in the main Coptic cathedral and after his ouster when his supporters set fire to dozens of churches. In January 2011, when Egypt was under Mubarak, a suicide bomber killed more than 20 people at a New Years mass in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria. — AFP

FAVOUR: THE ORPHAN OF ITALY'S MIGRANT DRAMA

ROME: A baby girl who survived a shipwreck that killed her parents and captured the heart of an Italian doctor has become the new face of the country's migrant drama. Nine-month-old Favour arrived alone on the island of Lampedusa, which lies closer to the shores of north Africa than Italy, after her father and pregnant mother died during a nightmarish journey which left many survivors suffering serious chemical burns.

The boat, carrying about 120 people largely from Mali and Nigeria, overturned Tuesday after the migrants rushed to one side on spotting a rescue ship—a frequent and often fatal mistake which has led to many similar disasters. Survivors pulled from the sea were taken to Lampedusa's hospital and reception centre, including small, blue-hatted Favour.

Pietro Bartolo, the island's only doctor, has cared for hundreds of undernourished, dehydrated and distressed migrants and examined countless bodies of those who have drowned in the Mediterranean since the start of the crisis. But little Favour made a particular impact.

"I've asked to foster her, I want to keep her with me forever," he said in interviews published across Italian media on Thursday, adding that if he should not be awarded custody "someone must adopt her and give her a new life". "She is a marvelous creature, she hugged me, she didn't shed a tear," he said.

Bewitching

Bartolo met wide-eyed Favour off the rescue boat, taking her from the arms of a young woman—one of 20 people suffering burns severe enough to warrant hospital treatment—who recounted the fate suffered by the infant's parents.

She would not be Bartolo's first foster child: the 59-year-old took in a 17-year-old Tunisian boy five years ago, according to La Stampa daily. Her story has prompted dozens of Italian families to call the doctor's practice in Lampedusa seeking to adopt her.

"They call from all over Italy, the telephone in the clinic has been ringing off the hook. They want to take her in, they beg to be able to raise this little girl," Bartolo told the La Repubblica newspaper. Favour has also bewitched the island's mayor, Giusi Nicolini, who has made staff at the centre promise to warn her before she is transferred to a shelter for minors in Sicily so she has time to say goodbye. "She is so beautiful! It's incredible that she's so well, considering everything she's been through," she said.

As Bartolo held Favour, who played with the red glasses hung around his neck, he told La Stampa that her survival against the odds reminded him of the miraculous recovery of a woman years ago who had been placed in a body bag in Lampedusa before he discovered a weak pulse. Holding and playing with the little girl brought a ray of joy to a grim job which sees Bartolo stare death repeatedly in the face. "When they say you get used to it after a bit, I answer that I have never got used to it. And each time I have to open a body bag I am sick to my stomach," he said. — AFP



DOUMA: Syrian school girls sit at their classroom at the Saif Al-Dawla school as they take part in activities surrounding an art competition organized as part of a local initiative to shift the children's minds from the atrocities of the Syrian war. — AFP

SYRIAN STUDENTS SIT FOR EXAMS AFTER ESCAPING IS

'THEY TURNED OUR SCHOOL INTO A PRISON'

HASAKEH: Before jihadists seized his hometown and turned his school into a prison, Syrian teenager Ahmad Mohammad never imagined he would be excited about sitting his final exams. After a long wait, the 17-year-old and around 650 other teenagers were bussed into the northeastern Syrian city of Hasakeh this month to finally try to obtain their school diplomas. They travelled around 200 kilometers from several towns in the north of Raqa province that were retaken from the Islamic State (IS) group by Kurdish militia in June. Mohammad said he had not seen the inside of a classroom since early 2014, when jihadists captured his hometown of Tal Abyad on the border with Turkey and began using it as a gateway to their Raqa stronghold. "They turned our school into a prison operated by Daesh fighters," he told AFP, using an Arabic acronym for IS. "My heart would grow heavy when I walked past my school, not allowed to go in. I would remember the good times with classmates the war has scattered across the globe," he said. "Going back to school brought me back to life... The future looked very dark for me, but that changed today," he added.

Around two million children do not attend school in Syria, the United Nations says, five years into a complex war that has killed more than 270,000 people and sent millions into exile. In areas under its control, IS has enforced its own self-styled curriculum of religious education coupled with military training.

'We felt like outsiders'

In Hasakeh province, schools are run by either the government or Kurdish authorities who declared an autonomous region in areas under their control after the 2011 uprising against President Bashar al-Assad. Many of the students who travelled to the region brought heartrending tales of the obstacles they faced to get an education under IS.

"My father is a teacher and he continued teaching us in secret" after school was banned, said a teenager from the town of Suluk in Raqa province. Tahami Abdullah, a school official in Tal Abyad, said when fighters first entered the town "they asked for teaching hours to be reduced and for some of the subjects to be dropped".

"Then they abolished education completely and transformed schools either into prisons, missions or religious police posts," he said. He said IS forced many to sign a pledge promising not to teach the Syrian national curriculum. "They had their own special courses they would teach in their Islamic schools and missions," Abdullah said. "But no one taught or studied there except for their members and the families of the foreign fighters. We felt like outsiders." Ibrahim Khalil from Tal Abyad said he had not held a pen or notebook in several years because he was "so afraid IS would cut off my hand." "Daesh came to spread ignorance, but our will is stronger than theirs and we will study and continue our education."

IS 'wants us to be ignorant'

As state institutions collapsed across swathes of Syria, alternative methods of education have filled the void. The autonomous Kurdish administration that has managed parts of northern Syria since 2012 run their own schools and teach the long-banned Kurdish language. And opposition-run local councils manage schools in rebel-held areas.

In the battleground second city of Aleppo, schools in opposition-held areas have often been forced to shut for weeks at a time due to intense government bombardment. The frequent closures as well as mass displacement have sparked fears among rights groups of a "lost generation" of Syrian students. Ittihad Al-Hassan, an 18-year-old female student from Tal Abyad, said she was supposed to sit her ninth grade exams two years ago.

But when IS overran her hometown, the jihadists "banned learning and everything else... because they wanted us to be ignorant." "They forced us to cover up completely with a face veil. It was even forbidden for us to show our hands." She said sitting her exam reminded her of "safer days". Nirouda Mohammed, a Kurdish student who fled from Raqa city to Tal Abyad, said finally being able to sit her exams was a dream come true. "I missed sitting at a school desk," she said. "I'm confident that tomorrow, a new sun will rise over my country." — AFP

LEBANESE CITIZENSHIP LAW STRIPS WOMEN OF IDENTITY

BEIRUT: When her teenage daughter - a talented football player - was selected for a national Lebanese team, Nadine Moussa could not have been more proud. But the celebrations were short-lived. Under a 91-year-old law, women like Moussa, who are married to foreigners, cannot pass their Lebanese nationality on to their husbands or children - nor can they inherit or own property.

"She was selected and then told she was not allowed on the team because she is not Lebanese," Moussa said. "She was devastated - she stopped playing football after that, she felt rejected and excluded." Her two daughters, who have always lived in Lebanon, cannot access public health or education and when they are old enough, they cannot work without a permit, according to the law.

Nor can Moussa pass on the family property or land due to strict limits in Lebanon on the amount of property those who are classed as foreigners, such as her daughters, can own. "I have always felt like a second-class citizen, being deprived of the right to give my nationality to my children and my family, said Moussa, a lawyer, long-time activist and Lebanon's first female presidential candidate.

The law affects more than 77,000 people, a 2009 study, *Predicament of Lebanese Women Married to Non-Lebanese*, found. The issue is even more complicated for Lebanese women married to Palestinian men, because Palestinians are denied the right to own any property in Lebanon. It is 14 years since the campaign to reform nationality laws across the Middle East was launched.

Since then, most Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, have either partially or completely reformed their nationality laws, the executive director of the Collective for Research and Training on Development Action, Lina Abou Habib, said. "Although Lebanon boasts of being way more liberal than other Arab countries, it has not yet done any reform in this area," Abou Habib told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Government officials were not immediately available for comment.

Delicate balance

The country's mostly male politicians offer a standard set of arguments against allowing women to pass on their nationality to their foreign husbands and children, she said. "They say if you reform the law then all Palestinian men will marry Lebanese women and they will never return to Palestine, thereby taking away the right of Palestinian refugees to return home," Abou Habib said.

The United Nations estimates there are 450,000 Palestinian refugees registered in Lebanon. They have limited rights, cannot own property and are prevented from working in 20 nominated professions, according to the United Nations. Opponents argue that Lebanon maintains a delicate religious balance between Christians, Sunnis, Shiite and Druze.

They say if women were to gain nationality rights, it would mean Muslims would further outnumber Christians, threatening the existence of Christians in Lebanon. And

with the Syrian crisis now entering its sixth year and Syrian refugees making up one-quarter of Lebanon's population, some also argue if women have the right to nationality, Syrian men will marry Lebanese women and never return to Syria.

Abou Habib, and all activists interviewed for this story, reject these arguments as racist and say they are exploiting sectarian fears in order to deny women their rights. "There is no link between women's nationality and the issue of Palestine or the country's religious make-up or the Syrian crisis," she said. "At the end of the day, what is true is that the state does not recognize women as citizens."

Inheritance denied

Not all political parties and coalitions share the same view on women's nationality - it is split between the Christian parties who oppose it and the Muslim parties who support it, Abou Habib said. Complicating the campaign is the fact that Lebanon has been without a president since May 25, 2014, essentially paralyzing its parliament and reducing the chance of political reform.

"The issue doesn't disappear if there is no president or because we have the added complication of the Syrian displacement," Abou Habib said. "The issue is still there, women are still suffering." Property transfer is not only governed by state laws, but by religious laws as well. There are 18 recognised confessions or religions in Lebanon and laws prevent the transfer of property between confessions. Abou Habib offers her experience as an example.

Although she is an avowed secularist, her father's Greek Orthodox religion is listed on her identity card. She is married to a Sunni man, so via the patrilineal rules associated with religious identity in Lebanon, their daughter is also Sunni. "She cannot even inherit my car because she is a different confession," Abou Habib said. "You have the combination of the property law which is already discriminatory and religious family laws which are a disaster in their own right."

The law issued under the French Mandate of Lebanon in 1925 states that a person is considered Lebanese if born to a Lebanese father. Nada Makki, a project officer from the Committee for the Follow-Up on Women's Issues who worked on the 1999 study said many women were not aware that this law prevented them from passing their nationality onto their children.

"It is not until their children cannot access public health care or education, a special problem for low income families, that they realize what they are being denied because of this law," Makki said. "Of course, there is the inheritance - for women who have land and housing they do not have the right to pass this on to their children." Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil, who leads Christian party, The Free Patriotic Movement, has voiced some of the loudest opposition to the reform of Lebanon's nationality laws. Last November, he sponsored a bill that would grant citizenship to Lebanese expatriates but not to the spouses of Lebanese women. — Reuters



GAZA CITY: A Palestinian boy flies a kite in Gaza City. — AFP

IN GAZA, WALLS OF SILENCE OVER CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT

SHIFTING BLAME, CULTURE OF SHAME DAMAGING KIDS

GAZA CITY, Palestinian Territories: Life has turned into a nightmare for Fatma's family since her eldest son, 11, was sexually assaulted, a trauma which has damaged them all and forced them to move house.

"It started one night when our son came home late obviously very troubled," the 30-year-old mother of seven said, speaking to AFP under an assumed name to protect the boy's identity. "He told me that someone from our extended family and a neighbor took him to an isolated house. "He said, 'They undressed me and started a pornographic video on their computer, I wanted to escape but they caught me,'" Fatma recalled, saying she immediately called the police.

Two men, in their twenties, were arrested. Fatma's family is one of the rare victims who speak out on a taboo issue in the conservative Gaza Strip and to bring the case to court. "Even though they are part of the family, I asked for the death penalty," she said. But while one of the suspects was jailed, the other was quickly released.

And she said the family quickly hit a wall of shame and silence. "The school counselor who was asked about my son's behavioral problems was ashamed to talk about the real reasons, blaming family disagreements." The damage for the whole family has been irreparable. "We spent all our money moving house. I've suffered a lot and I got sick and all my children were affected indirectly," she said at a Gaza support unit run by the Palestinian Centre for Democracy and Conflict Resolution (PCDCR).

'Culture of shame'

The shelter is a rare haven for victims of sex crimes and their families in the crowded Palestinian enclave. Asma Saud, a psychological support staffer at the centre, said the few children who come there are just the tip of the iceberg. Sexual assaults like these, she explained, are "present but hidden because of the weight of tradition and culture of shame".

Gazan society, in which tradition has always played a major role, has turned in on itself further since the Islamist movement Hamas won 2006 elections and took sole control of the territory the next year after deadly clashes with the rival secular Fatah. Since then, Israel has blockaded the narrow strip of land wedged between it, Egypt and the Mediterranean.

One morning, while the disabled son of another woman was waiting for the school bus, "a neighbor attracted him by offering him money then cornered and sexually assaulted him," Nadia told AFP. "I warned the school and I got him discreetly examined by a doctor I know," the mother said. Since then he has been "disturbed, he has withdrawn inside himself", she said. He started lagging behind at school and has little enthusiasm for life.

Nadia, also a pseudonym, said the fear of what people will say made her wary of contacting the police. Instead she preferred to go to local elders to mediate between her family and that of the aggressor. But the attacker still lives in the same neighborhood. According to a PCDCR study, over 75 percent of 693 abused children identified in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip in two years knew their assailant.

Sex education

Mahassim, 48 and a mother of eight, knows her six-year-old daughter was molested by an employee at her school. "She is still shocked and I wonder how she will be able to lead a normal life," the mother said. She complained but said her family had been pressured by a third party who volunteered to mediate to keep the issue out of the courts.

"He asked me to show humanity and withdraw my complaint." PCDCR vice president Iyad Abu Hjayer said that of the 693 cases handled by the centre, only 22 families had gone to court and most eventually withdrew their complaints. Ayman Al-Batniji, spokesman for the Gaza police, deplored "the fear of scandal, which in our conservative society means many families refrain from approaching the police". The rape of a child under 14, if proven, can lead to the death penalty under Palestinian law.

Before Hamas took power, two men were executed for child rape. A 2003 law on sexual harassment calls for "between six months and one year in prison for the aggressor" added the centre's Abu Hjayer. He wants more support for victims, as well as tougher sentences. Abu Hjayer also called for real sex education "in school and at home" in the Gaza Strip. One in two inhabitants is under 18 in Gaza, where the United Nations says 300,000 children, having endured three wars with Israel since 2008 and a decade under blockade, need psychological support. — AFP

GERMANY'S REFUGEES TURN TO CHURCH FOR SANCTUARY

TUTZING: Peshtivan Nasser Abdal has been holed up in a church for the past four months, in a desperate bid to avoid deportation from Germany. The 21-year-old Yazidi Iraqi, like 400 other people, is being offered sanctuary by a German church under a tradition that dates back to the Middle Ages. The practice of religious asylum had been largely forgotten until last year when a massive influx of migrants led some churches to offer safe haven to vulnerable asylum seekers.

Although the church is not above the law in Germany, few expect police officers to storm in to drag away asylum seekers, particularly in the conservative and largely religious southern state of Bavaria where Abdal has found sanctuary. Abdal—who was persecuted in his home country by Islamic State group jihadists who view his Yazidi faith as heresy—has been granted safe haven by the Catholic parish of Tutzing.

To kill the daily monotony of being confined to an area that spans the church building itself, a few administrative blocks, a large garden, and an apartment where he is staying, the young man sorts through donated clothes and toys in a former swimming pool turned storage place that is linked to the parish grounds. "I am doing this every day to keep my spirits up," he said.

Over the past four months, he has not dared to step out of the church's perimeter in the well-to-do town located on the shores of Starnberg Lake, close to Munich. He shares a small apartment with another Yazidi, Suud Yazdin Arab. "It's all about routine here," said Arab, 24, who arrived a month ago in Tutzing. "We try to stay busy by sorting clothes, through German classes, for example. But I hardly meet anyone from outside. It's difficult."



TUTZING: Pastor Peter Brummer (C) speaks with the Iraqi immigrants Peshtivan Nasser Abdal (L) and Suud Yazdin Arab (R) in the Sant Joseph church. — AFP

Tolerated

Religious asylum falls in a grey area legally as it is not spelt out anywhere in German law. Whether a church should offer sanctuary is also at the discretion of a priest or pastor. Those who apply it sometimes do so to the annoyance of the state authorities.

German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere last year compared it to the application of Islamic Sharia law, a comment he later retracted. In practice, the tradition is tolerated in Germany, where about two in three of the 80 million citizens are Christians. "Every institu-

tion must respect German law. But we also respect the special place of the church in the case of religious asylum," said Stephan Frey, spokesman for the Bavarian interior ministry. Clergymen who take the risk of offering sanctuary also know what they might be getting themselves into. "We are not in a non-legal zone, we do not hide what we are doing, and the authorities are free to come to our premises," said Peter Brummer, 58, the priest in Tutzing who has championed religious asylum over the past two decades.

At the same time, he does not rule out the

possibility that he would physically oppose any attempt to expel the people he has offered protection to. Brummer sees it as a responsibility to protect people who have, in his view, a good chance of obtaining refugee status in Germany due to persecution in their country of origin.

"We accept refugees who have a good chance of succeeding in their asylum applications, and for whom we are the last resort," he said, adding that a person's religious affiliation plays no role in his decision of whom to offer safe haven to. "Christians should not differentiate in the face of need," he said.

'Providing a service'

Brummer said most of the people sheltered by churches are seeking help because of a rule which requires asylum seekers to apply for protection in the first EU country they are registered in. Germany had initially waived this procedure for Syrians fleeing war, but has since re-applied the rule as 1.1 million people arrived last year alone.

"In most of the cases, it is to prevent them from being sent back to Hungary or Bulgaria, where the living conditions for refugees do not meet human rights standards," said Brummer. Hungary has been heavily criticized for its hardline stance against asylum seekers. Brummer also noted that by offering sanctuary, the church is "providing a service to authorities" as it bears the cost of food, lodgings and medical fees for those it shelters. Meanwhile, the two Yazidis are careful to avoid stepping out into the public. But for Abdal, the long wait should soon be over, because European rules also state that after six months on German soil, he will be able to file his application for asylum here. — AFP



Kuwait Times

Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:
+965 248 35 616 / 617
 E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net
 ads@kuwaittimes.net
 Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Great Offers for

SUMMER



High Quality Operators & Intercomes

Panasonic
BUSINESS

VL-SW251CX



Wireless Video Intercom System

150 KD

VL-W605CX



Wireless Handset

With Installation

150 KD

KX-TE8219-1X



Caller ID Card

150 KD

KX 17730X



150 KD

KX-TEB3088X-PI



Analogue PBX

150 KD

VL-SF70CX



Wired Video Intercom

150 KD



Credit: Start from SKD • Up to 48 month • Instant approval

Shop Online: www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809



SALINAS, California: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton reacts while speaking at a rally at Hartnell College. — AP

REPORT TRACES ARC OF CLINTON SERVER AND AGENCY FAILURES

NEW REPORT PROVIDES NEW INSIGHTS INTO THE SERVER

WASHINGTON: Eight days before Hillary Clinton took office as secretary of state in January 2009, an aide to former President Bill Clinton quietly registered a new internet address for the couple. That trivial but deliberate online purchase is the earliest known hint of the private email system that now plagues the presumptive Democratic nominee's presidential campaign.

Buried in a footnote in a government watchdog's report released Wednesday, the reference to the registration of clintonemail.com was an early step toward building what became the private homebrew email system that has attracted an FBI investigation and raised questions about Clinton's judgment while serving as the nation's top diplomat.

The State Department inspector general's release of the 83-page report provides new insights into the server: Who knew about it, its vulnerabilities and the bureaucratic mismanagement that allowed the secret system to operate outside normal channels throughout Clinton's tenure.

The findings - more than a year in the making - also show how the use of private emails by Clinton and other top aides caused internal headaches for the few State Department officials who knew of its existence and for an agency that has long struggled to comply with federal cybersecurity and record-keeping requirements.

Homebrew server

It would take six years after that simple domain registration in 2009 for Clinton to publicly acknowledge the existence of her private homebrew server, which The Associated Press first traced back to her home in Chappaqua, New York, in March 2015. Much of what is known about the system and why she used it remains clouded by the lack of documentary evidence and Clinton's own reluctance to discuss the sensitive topic.

Over time, through media accounts and now details in the inspector general's report, a clearer picture has emerged of Clinton's email system and its use: A basement computer, running Microsoft server software, directly connected to the internet to handle communications between Clinton and her aides. But it is still not clear how well her system was secured at the time, especially in light of new hacking attempts disclosed by the inspector general's report.

In the first months of Clinton's tenure, only her most trusted political-appointee aides used or were clued into the existence of her server, according to the report. Outside that privileged circle, other senior officials scattered across the department had "some awareness" of her use of private emails to communicate internally - often because her emails to them originated from a rotating cluster of private clintonemail.com addresses. Some State Department officials learned as early as March 2009 that Clinton was using a private server in the basement of her family's home.

Clinton declined to be interviewed for the inspector general report - despite Clinton saying as recently as this month that she was happy to "talk to anybody, anytime" about the matter and would encourage her staff to do the same. Three former senior aides, Huma Abedin, Cheryl Mills and Jake Sullivan, also declined. A fourth former top aide, Thomas Nides, did not reply to the inspector general's requests. Abedin and Sullivan are now Clinton campaign aides and Nides, currently vice chairman of the Morgan Stanley financial services firm, is a major Clinton fundraiser.

In late 2010, two State Department staff members raised concerns about Clinton's private email account in meetings with John A. Bentel, then director of the Office of Information Resources Management, the agency's computer services unit. Bentel,

identified only by title in the report, also declined to be interviewed during the inspector general's review.

Federal regulations

In one meeting with Bentel, a staff member worried that messages sent or received using the private server could contain documents that needed to be preserved under federal regulations. Bentel told the staff member that State Department legal staff had "reviewed and approved" the server - though the inspector general's review found no evidence such a review had ever occurred. In that meeting and another that Bentel had with a different staff member who raised concerns, Bentel directed the staff members to "never to speak of the secretary's personal email system again."

Clinton's campaign has long insisted her system was well-protected. The AP reported last year that the server's security configuration could have allowed users to control it remotely, a practice that computer security experts widely say is vulnerable to hackers. And in January 2011, according to the inspector general report, a Bill Clinton aide wrote to Abedin that he had to shut down the system because Clinton's server had been targeted by outsiders.

"Someone was trying to hack us," the aide told Abedin. Later the same day, it happened again. "We were attacked again so I shut (the server) down for a few min," he said. The next day, Abedin warned Mills and Sullivan not to send Clinton "anything sensitive" in their emails. Clinton told another aide in May of that year that she was worried about a suspicious link she found in her email. And that August, Clinton's email account was targeted at least five times one morning by infected emails known as "phishing" that originated in Russia and were disguised as New York state speeding ticket notices. — AP

SANDERS MAY DEBATE TRUMP BEFORE CALIFORNIA CONTEST

WASHINGTON: An unconventional debate between a billionaire Republican and a democratic socialist is shaping up in California after presidential candidates Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders expressed an interest in squaring off against each other.

Sanders, a US senator from Vermont, is still in a primary battle against Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, while Trump effectively clinched the Republican Party's nomination earlier this month when his two remaining rivals dropped out. In an appearance on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live" late Wednesday, Trump said he was willing to participate in such an event against Sanders.

"If I debated him, we would have such high ratings," the New York developer and reality television star said. "I think I should ... take that money and give it to some worthy charity." Sanders appeared to agree in a post on Twitter yesterday. "Game on," he tweeted. "I look forward to debating Donald

Trump in California before the June 7 primary." Trump and Sanders have gone through a series of debates against rivals within their parties but Republican and Democratic presidential candidates usually do not debate each other until the parties have selected a nominee. The hashtag #BernieTrumpDebate began trending in the United States with news of the possible debate.

Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks said in an email to Reuters yesterday there were no formal plans yet for such an event. Representatives for the Sanders campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Kimmel said he asked Trump about the debate at the suggestion of Sanders, who is scheduled to appear on the show.

Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist who was elected to Congress as an independent and has made economic equality a keystone of his campaign, had first challenged Clinton to a California debate. He said he was disappointed when the former secretary of state declined. The Clinton campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment to a possible Trump-Sanders debate.

Clinton has tried to woo Sanders supporters as she works to secure the party's nomination for the Nov. 8 election. But some worry his supporters - who are largely young, working-class and disillusioned with party establishment - will turn instead to political neophyte Trump, who has championed a populist agenda. Sanders has said he will do everything he can to ensure that Trump does not win the White House. — Reuters

ONE DEAD IN NYC CONCERT SHOOTING

NEW YORK: Shots rang out inside a concert venue in New York City where hip-hop artist T.I. was getting ready to perform, leaving one person dead, three others wounded and concertgoers scrambling for the nearest exits, police said.

One of the victims was in critical but stable condition on Thursday. No arrests have been made, and a motive for the shooting is unclear. The shooting happened around 10:15 p.m. Wednesday in a third-floor green room area at Irving Plaza, near Manhattan's Union Square. It was not immediately known who had access to that area.

Witnesses described a frantic, frightening scene. Liv Hoffman, 19, was in the balcony VIP area to the left of the stage when the shooting happened. She said there had been some kind of argument between two groups of people before the shooting. A woman she had been talking to was one of the victims.

"The girl next to me was shot point blank, and men picked her up and carried her out," Hoffman told The Associated Press, still shaken by the events that unfolded right in front of her. "For two to three minutes we still heard firing, still heard shots, we were clutching each other making sure no one was getting hit."

Video shot inside the venue showed concertgoers rushing to the sides trying to leave the area as a group of people tended to a person on the floor. "I ran out, just trying to look for my friends, just trying to see if everyone was OK. Everyone was hysterical," Hoffman said.

Manhattan Chief of Detectives William Aubry said a 33-year-old man was shot in the stomach and died at a hospital. A 34-year-old man was in critical but stable condition with a chest wound. A 26-year-old woman and a 30-year-old man with leg wounds were expected to survive. Elijah Rodriguez was in the VIP area by the stage and said that T.I. was supposed to go on at 9 or 9:30 pm, but "he never showed up." — AP

TORNADO DAMAGES HOMES, SPARES SMALL KANSAS TOWN

CHAPMAN: A large tornado that the National Weather Service said was on the ground for about 90 minutes damaged or destroyed about 20 homes in a rural area of northern Kansas and came within a mile of hitting a small town.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or fatalities from the tornado Wednesday night. Paul Froelich, Dickinson County fire district one chief, said Thursday that the tornado swept across a 23-mile stretch of rural Dickinson County, damaging about 20 homes, and that six of those homes are considered total losses.

He said crews have completed secondary searches of the damaged properties and residents are so far accounted for. More than 120 first-responders and some search dogs were on the scene overnight helping with searches, Froelich said. The tornado hit in a sparsely populated, rural area and missed Chapman, a small town of about 1,400 residents on the eastern edge of the tornado's path, he said.

"It's amazing how this tornado missed those centers of population," Froelich said. "And we had outstanding early warning on this. ... People knew well in advance of this storm. Consider also, this is Kansas. This is Tornado Alley." Crews would begin dealing with debris management and disposal Thursday morning, including clearing several downed trees from rural roadways.

Take cover

The Red Cross set up an emergency shelter for displaced families. The tornado formed just after 7 pm near the Ottawa County community of Niles and stayed on the ground continuously until around 8:35 pm when it dissipated, National Weather Service meteorologist Chad Omitt said. Estimates are that it was a quarter- to a half-mile wide at times, he said.

The Storm Prediction Center says on its website that tornadoes can last from seconds to more than an hour, but that most tornadoes are on the ground for less than 10 minutes. Brian Warren, a meteorologist tech with the National Weather Service in Goodland, Kansas, said Thursday that the area likely experienced a type of large storm capable of producing slow-moving tornadoes known as a mesoscale convective system.

The weather service urged people to take cover as the tornado approached Chapman, which was devastated by a deadly tornado eight years ago. Omitt said "the heart" of the tornado at one point was just about a mile south of the small town, about 75 miles west of Topeka. The twister that hit Chapman June 11, 2008, tore a path of destruction six blocks wide. Officials said one woman died, 100 homes were destroyed or heavily damaged, and 80 percent of the town was damaged. — AP

LINCOLN ANTI-SLAVERY FILES SELL FOR \$4.5M

NEW YORK: Two documents signed by Abraham Lincoln in his drive to abolish slavery in the 19th century have sold for more than \$4.5 million in New York. Limited edition copies of the Emancipation Proclamation delivered on January 1, 1863 and the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery two years later, were issued by the man many still consider the greatest US president.

Sotheby's, which conducted the sale on Wednesday, said the copy of the 13th amendment sold for \$2.4 million, while the proclamation was snapped up by a telephone bidder for \$2.17 million. Both documents are framed. Lincoln signed the 13th amendment, which abolished slavery and involuntary servitude in the United States, on February 1, 1865 in the culmination of 70 years of discord over the status of slaves.

The copy sold is one of 14 signed by Lincoln, his vice president, the speaker of the House Schuyler Colfax and in this case, by 36 senators. In the proclamation, Lincoln ordered that all people held as slaves "henceforward shall be free." The emancipation immediately set as many as 50,000 men, women and children free, and transformed the mission of the American Civil War from one of restoration of the Union to one of liberation.

Signed copies of the proclamation were advertised for \$10 each in 1864 and sold to benefit the United States Sanitary Commission, considered a forerunner of both the Red Cross and the United Service Organization, Sotheby's said. The auction house said prior to the sale that the documents "represent crucial milestones" in American history and remain pertinent today amid renewed debate about racism in the United States. — AFP



ALBUQUERQUE: A woman waves the Mexican flag while driving past the Albuquerque Convention Center after a rally by Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump. — AP

HISPANICS FACE RIDICULE FOR SUPPORTING TRUMP

MINORITY SPEAKING OUT IN FAVOR OF BRASH BILLIONAIRE

ANAHEIM: Hispanic voters in Florida, New Mexico and California have waved Mexican flags and bashed Donald Trump pinatas - clashing with police, at times - to protest the Republican presidential contender's hard line approach to immigration.

Yet far from the protests, an increasingly vocal Hispanic minority is speaking out in favor of the brash billionaire. They are backing Trump even in the face of resentment and suspicion from friends and family, who are among the overwhelming majority of non-white voters opposed to the New York businessman's candidacy.

"I'm not ashamed to vote for Trump. I'd just rather not have the conversation with my family," said Natalie Lally, a 22-year-old college student from New York City whose large extended family has Colombian roots. She says silence fell over her grandmother's living room when she admitted her support for Trump during a recent family gathering that included more than 30 relatives.

"They just kind of seemed uneasy," she recalled. "And my uncle just said, 'Why?' " In the border towns of Texas, the working-class neighborhoods of New York, and even inside Trump's overwhelmingly white rallies, the pro-Trump Hispanic minority is willing to risk public and private ridicule to defend the GOP's presumptive presidential nominee. So far, however, they're not getting much help from Trump's campaign, which has yet to launch an outreach effort to improve his standing with the growing voting bloc.

23% voting for Trump

Approximately 23 percent of Hispanics said they'd vote for Trump in a May poll conducted by Fox News. Other recent polling places Trump far lower. The GOP's last presidential nominee, Mitt Romney,

has cited his poor standing with Hispanic voters as one of his biggest regrets from the last election, when he earned 27 percent of the Hispanic vote. Trump's team acknowledges the importance of the voting bloc, but says there has been little organized outreach so far.

"Any demographic that is growing at the rate of the Latino voters obviously will be of the utmost importance to a presidential campaign," Trump aide Ed Brookover said when asked about Hispanic outreach. "I know it's been talked about, but I think it's a touch early. I don't know of anything organized."

Trump's team expects to work closely with the Republican National Committee, however, which has had paid Hispanic outreach staff on the ground in nine states. Trump supporters are eager to help. Carlos Guerra, a 24-year-old son of Mexican immigrants who lives along the border in Laredo, Texas, says he wants to do more than wear Trump's "Make American Great Again" hat around town. "Our town is sick of the violence from Mexico," he said, applauding Trump's plan to build a massive wall on the border. "People are dying every day."

Some of his family members also support Trump, but "they're not as loud about it," he said. "I have talked to a lot of people and of course they criticize me," Guerra added. "They ask, 'Do you hate your race?' I feel discriminated against, honestly." Trump's policies and tone on immigration have sparked passionate - and sometimes violent - reactions from minority voters.

His vow to complete a massive wall along the Mexican border is a pillar of his agenda. He has also promised to impose a temporary ban on Muslims entering the U.S., embraced plans to deport more than 11 million immigrants in the country illegal-

ly and described Mexico sending rapists and criminals across the border in his announcement speech.

He lashed out at protesters who clashed with police outside his Tuesday rally in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The protesters, including many Hispanics, waved Mexican flags while others hurled rocks at police. "The protesters in New Mexico were thugs who were flying the Mexican flag," Trump wrote on Twitter. "The rally inside was big and beautiful, but outside, criminals!"

Trump pinata

During a Wednesday appearance in Anaheim, he claimed "a great relationship with the Hispanics." "The Mexican people are great. They're going to vote for me like crazy," he said. Outside the Anaheim event, a small group of protesters pummeled and decapitated a Trump pinata as police arrested more protesters.

Conversations with Trump Hispanic supporters across the country in recent months show many feel especially frustrated with immigrants in the country illegally. Many waited years for work authorization or citizenship or have relatives who did. And while some embrace Trump's plans for the wall and deportations, others say they don't believe Trump actually plans to follow through with his proclamations on the campaign trail.

Yet there are often a handful of Hispanic supporters inside his rallies. Before Trump took the stage in Albuquerque, Mary Jo Andrade, 37, a licensed mental health counselor, said her 17-year-old daughter is often teased in school for backing him. "She hears, 'Oh, you're not real Mexican. You're not true Mexican,'" Andrade said and added, "A lot of the time I tell her, 'Keep your silence because of that.'" — AP



NEW DELHI: In this photograph taken on February 18, 2014, Italian Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura (R) and military attache Franco Faure leave after a court hearing at the Supreme Court. — AFP

INDIA ALLOWS ACCUSED ITALIAN MARINE TO TRAVEL BACK HOME

LONG-RUNNING CASE THAT HAS SEVERELY SOURED TIES

NEW DELHI: India's top court yesterday allowed an Italian marine accused of killing two fishermen to return home pending a ruling on where he should be tried in a long-running case that has soured ties between the two countries.

Salvatore Girone and fellow marine Massimiliano Latorre are accused of shooting the fishermen while protecting an Italian oil tanker as part of an anti-piracy mission off India's southern Kerala coast in 2012. Latorre was allowed to travel back to

Italy in 2014 for treatment after suffering a stroke. But Girone has been barred from leaving India pending the resolution of a dispute between New Delhi and Rome over who has jurisdiction in the case.

Girone, who has been living in Italy's embassy in New Delhi, will be home next Thursday, Italy's Republic Day, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said in a tweet. "We confirm our friendship with India, its people and its government," said Renzi, who has been under pressure domesti-

cally to secure the provisional liberty of both marines. "And we see welcome back to seaman Girone who will be with us on June 2."

Modified conditions

The Supreme Court yesterday agreed to alter Girone's bail conditions allowing him to return, after a tribunal in The Hague ruled this month he should be free to go, pending the final outcome of arbitration. "Having considered submissions of the parties, subject to conditions, the Italian marine Salvatore Girone's bail conditions are modified," Justices PC Pant and DY Chandrachud said in a written judgement read out in court.

Italy initiated international arbitration proceedings in the case last year, referring the row to the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague and asking it to rule on where the men should be tried. Under his new bail conditions, Girone must return to Delhi within one month if the PCA rules that he face trial in India.

The Indian government's lawyers did not object to the marine's request to go home and the Italian foreign ministry issued a statement "confirming our commitment to the conditions and formalities established by the Indian Supreme Court". The detention of the marines, the murder charges and the long wait for the case to be resolved are sore subjects in Italy, with Prime Minister Matteo Renzi regularly flayed by opposition leaders for failing to get both men home.

Italy insists the oil tanker, the MV Enrica Lexie, was in international waters at the time of the incident. India argues the case is not a maritime dispute but "a double murder at sea", in which one fisherman was shot in the head and the other in the stomach. In December 2014, Rome threatened to withdraw its ambassador from India after a court rejected Latorre's original request for medical leave. — AFP

INDIA VOWS JUSTICE AFTER AFRICAN STUDENT KILLED

NEW DELHI: India promised swift punishment after a student from Congo was fatally attacked last week in New Delhi, following a demand by several African missions that the government take steps to ensure the safety of Africans living in India. Hundreds of thousands of African nationals study and work in India and routinely deal with rampant racism and discrimination in the country, where police action often has been slow in cases of violence against Africans.

The victim in last week's attack, Masunda Kitada Oliver, was a graduate student who had lived in India for over six years, according to the Congolese Embassy in New Delhi. He had hailed an auto rickshaw Friday night when three men insisted they had hired the vehicle. The men beat him up and hit him on the head with a stone, and he died later that night, police said.

Two of the men suspected in the attack have been arrested, while police are searching for the third. The African Heads of Mission in New Delhi issued a statement Tuesday urging

India's government to address the problems of "racism and Afro-phobia" in the country. They also asked the government to postpone an Africa Day celebration slated for yesterday.

"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," the statement said.

In response, India promised quick punishment. "We will ensure that justice is done and stringent punishment given to those involved in the attack," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement Wednesday.

Congo's Deputy Foreign Minister Antoine Boyamba told UN-backed Radio Okapi that the death of Kitada was a sad event, but called on Congo residents to remain calm. "The Indian authorities have assured us that they are doing what is necessary," he said. Kitada's father told Radio Okapi that his younger brother will go to India in the coming days to file a complaint. — AP

AFTER TWO YEARS, MODI SAYS HUGE TASK AHEAD

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has defended his record of reforming India's stuttering economy after two years in power, but conceded that his right-wing government faced "an enormous task ahead".

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal published yesterday, his second anniversary in office, Modi said he had set a path for faster growth, including opening up the economy to foreign investment and curbing corruption.

But Modi also said he needed India's 29 states to take up the challenge of reforming land purchasing and rigid labour laws, which businesses have long complained hamper manufacturing and development. "I have actually undertaken the maximum reforms," Modi said. But, he added, "I have an enormous task ahead for myself."

The Hindu nationalist premier swept to power at elections in May 2014 with the biggest mandate in 30 years, promising to reform and revive the struggling economy. Growth has since risen to 7.60 percent in the year ending March, sky-high inflation has dropped, the budget deficit has narrowed and foreign direct investment has soared.

But some investors are disappointed with a lack of "big bang" fundamental reforms to overhaul the economy that would further help pull tens of millions of Indians out of poverty. Investors were left deflated after Modi's government failed to push a bill through India's gridlocked parliament to make it easier to buy land for infrastructure and other development. "When I came to the government, I used to sit down with all the experts and ask them to define for me what is the 'big bang' for them," Modi said. "Nobody could tell me."

Modi, who has formed a close relationship with US President Barack Obama, is set to address a joint meeting of the US Congress next month during a trip to Washington. Modi said the invitation "is a matter of pride for me" adding that it was an "opportunity for me to address the American people". Although ties between New Delhi and Washington have strengthened, Modi played down any friction with rival China, pointing to increasing trade and diplomatic exchanges between Beijing and India. — AFP

THREE KILLED, 35 INJURED IN MUMBAI FACTORY EXPLOSION

MUMBAI: An explosion tore through a chemical plant yesterday, killing three workers and injuring up to 35 others in India's financial capital of Mumbai, officials said. The cylinder blast occurred around 11:00 am (0630 GMT), sparking a major fire at the manufacturing unit of Indian firm Herbert Brown Pharmaceutical & Research Laboratories in Thane district, just north of Mumbai.

"Three people have been declared dead and 30 to 35 were injured in the factory explosion," Sukhada Narkar, a spokesperson for Thane police, told AFP of the accident in Thane's Dombivli area. "Saddened to know about the unfortunate & tragic incident that took place at Dombivli," tweeted Devendra Fadnavis, the chief minister of Maharashtra state, of which Mumbai is the capital. India has a history of fires and other accidents at factories, sometimes because of a lack of safety measures and inspections. — AFP



MUMBAI: Indian fire fighters and rescue personnel work at the site of an explosion at a chemical factory in Dombivli. — AP

BANGLADESH POLICE SUSPECT ISLAMISTS FOR HINDU'S MURDER

DHAKA: Bangladesh police said yesterday they suspect local Islamists may have murdered a one-legged Hindu shop owner who was hacked to death outside his store, the latest in a wave of killings of liberals and religious minorities.

Police had initially said Wednesday's killing of 60-year-old Debesh Chandra Pramanik appeared to be part of a long-running dispute between him and another Hindu who was later arrested. But a top officer said the focus was now on local militants, rejecting a claim by the Islamic State (IS) group that it was behind the attack in the northern Gaibandha district. Pramanik was the ninth person to be hacked to death in similar circumstances in Bangladesh since early April.

District police chief Ashraf Islam said the fatal stabbing bore similarities to previous attacks by Jamayetul Mujahidden Bangladesh (JMB) which is also suspected of murdering another Hindu businessman in Gaibandha in February. "We suspect that members of JMB may have killed him," Islam told AFP.

Islam said Pramanik's neck had been hacked by his killers, without saying how many people were involved in the attack which took place as he opened his store at daybreak. Although no one from JMB has so far been arrested, police said an operation had been launched to detain local followers. "We've launched raids in the area," Islam said. — AFP

RESCUERS FIND BODY OF DUTCH CLIMBER WHO DIED ON EVEREST

KATHMANDU: A helicopter yesterday retrieved the body of a Dutch climber who died last week on Mount Everest, while attempts were being made to retrieve the bodies of two other climbers and to locate two more who went missing on the world's tallest mountain.

Eric Arnold had reached the 8,850-meter summit on Friday, but then died on his descent of apparent altitude sickness near South Col, which sits at 8,000 meters. A team of climbers was able to bring his body further down to Camp 2, where it was picked up yesterday morning and taken directly to a hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal's capital, and then on to the morgue. Expedition leader Arnold Coster accompanied the body.

Climbers were still attempting the difficult task of carrying two more bodies - of Australian climber Maria Strydom and Indian climber Subhash Paul - to a point where they could be retrieved by helicopters, which cannot go far beyond Camp 2 due to high winds and thin air at higher altitudes. Strydom and Paul also apparently suffered altitude sickness, with Strydom dying on Saturday while Paul succumbed on Monday.

Meanwhile, another team of Sherpa guides were heading to a spot called the Triangular Face, the final push toward the peak, to search for two other Indian climbers who went missing last weekend. "Other climbers reported they might have spotted the bodies in the area," Mountaineering Department official Gyanendra Shrestha said, and noted it was unlikely they would have survived the harsh conditions on the mountain. But there was little time left for the search, with bad weather and monsoon rains expected to pick up at the end of May.

If the two Indian climbers are confirmed dead, that would bring the death toll for this year's Everest season to five. Many had hoped for a safe season, after avalanche disasters left 19 people dead in 2015 and 16 Sherpa guides in 2014. Nearly 400 foreign climbers, guides and Sherpas have made it to the top of Everest this year. Separately, a Sherpa guide Ang Phurba slipped and fell about 2,000 meters to his death on May 19 while fixing ropes on the adjacent 8,516-meter peak of Lhotse. His body has been recovered. — AP



KATHMANDU: The body of Dutch climber Eric Arnold, who died last week near South Col during a Mount Everest expedition, is carried to Teaching hospital. — AP



This Saturday, May 21, 2016 file photo taken by freelance photographer Abdul Malik, purports to show volunteers standing near the wreckage of the destroyed vehicle, in which Mullah Akhtar Mansour was allegedly traveling in the Ahmed Wal area in Baluchistan province of Pakistan, near Afghanistan border. — AP

NAMING OF NEW TALEBAN CHIEF DIMS HOPES FOR PEACE TALKS

WAR SEEN ENTERING A MORE VIOLENT PHASE

WASHINGTON: The selection of a hard-line cleric as the new Taliban chief on Wednesday all but dashes US President Barack Obama's hopes for opening peace talks before he leaves office, one of his top foreign policy goals, current and former US defense and intelligence officials said.

The Taliban leadership council tapped Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada, a conservative Islamic scholar from the group's stronghold in southern Afghanistan, to succeed Mullah Akhtar Mansour, four days after Mansour was killed in a US drone strike. US officials had called Mansour a major impediment to peace talks, and some had expressed hope his death would eliminate an obstacle to peace negotiations between the Taliban and the government of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

Instead, some experts said, Akhundzada is likely to pursue aggressive attacks throughout the summer, intensifying the pressure on Obama to reconsider his plan to withdraw US military trainers and special forces and leave the decision on how to end America's longest war to his successor.

Late last year, Obama announced he would keep 9,800 US military personnel in Afghanistan through most of 2016. He added that US troops would be drawn down to 5,500 by the start of 2017. Obama has made extracting the United States from its 15-year war in Afghanistan a top priority, unsuccessfully pursuing efforts to bring the Taliban into talks with successive Afghan governments.

"Prospects for the Afghan peace

process remain poor. The Taliban leadership, including the new commander, Mullah Akhundzada, believe military victory is only a matter of time," said Bruce Riedel, a Brookings Institution expert and former CIA officer who headed Obama's first Afghanistan policy review.

Riedel said Pakistan's powerful Inter-Services Intelligence agency also believed that the Taliban, which ruled Afghanistan for five years before their ouster in a US-led invasion in 2001, could win a military victory. "The war is entering a more violent phase," he added, his prediction punctuated by a suicide bombing in Kabul that killed 11 people shortly after Akhundzada's selection was announced.

Troop plan under review

Confronted with Taliban gains, a weak Kabul government and the emergence of an Islamic State branch, the top US commander in Afghanistan is reviewing the withdrawal plan and is expected to complete his findings within a month.

The administration remains committed to its strategy of pressing for peace talks while providing funds and military advice, training and equipment to Afghan forces, said Defense Secretary Ash Carter, who indicated the US troop drawdown would resume.

The Taliban should realize "that they cannot win, that the Afghan security forces aided by us are going to be stronger than them and are going to be able to defend the state of Afghanistan and the government of national unity there, and therefore that the alternative

to coming across and making peace with the government is their certain defeat on the battlefield," Carter said on Wednesday in Rhode Island.

But current and former US government experts and independent analysts said they saw little chance of that happening, with one US defense official noting the Taliban announcement of Akhundzada's accession made no mention of negotiations.

'What have they been smoking?'

"Whenever I hear anyone in the administration talking about the prospects for peace negotiations or how killing Mullah Mansour could improve them, I have to ask what they've been smoking," a US military officer with extensive experience in Afghanistan, said on condition of anonymity.

"Regardless of who leads them, the Taliban have zero incentive to negotiate on their determination to restore their brand of Islamic rule." He and other US military and intelligence officials pointed out that the Taliban had been making steady battlefield gains against Afghan security forces, who have been suffering high casualty rates.

Moreover, the coalition government brokered by the United States between Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, his former rival and now the country's chief executive, is riddled by disputes and deeply unpopular. The insurgents have little reason to trust the coalition government or Obama's successor, who takes office in January, to keep any agreement, said a US official with experience in Afghanistan. — Reuters

HK DEMOCRACY PROTESTER GUILTY OF POLICE ASSAULT

HONG KONG: A Hong Kong pro-democracy activist who was allegedly beaten by police in an attack captured by television cameras and beamed around the world was found guilty yesterday of assaulting and resisting police officers. Political activist Ken Tsang was accused of splashing liquid on police officers during mass street rallies in 2014 — the same night as he was brutally beaten in the corner of a park.

Protesters outside the courthouse said the verdict amounted to “political persecution,” while Tsang’s lawyer Robert Pang said the attack his client had been subjected to was much more serious than the one he had been charged for. Tsang, 40, a member of the pro-democracy Civic Party, denied the charges but was found guilty of one count of assault and two counts of resisting police officers, which could carry up to two years in jail.

“The evidence showed that the defendant did indeed pour liquid, and that liquid fell on police officers,” magistrate Peter Law told the Kowloon City courthouse. “Although he did not have a specific target, he clearly knew there were many officers below,” he said, adding that it showed “hostility.”

Tsang, wearing a dark suit, sat calmly in the courtroom which was packed with both journalists and his courtreporters as the verdict was delivered. He was given bail until his sentencing on May 30. The police who allegedly beat him, who are not the same officers Tsang is accused of assaulting, are to stand trial separately.

It is the first conviction for a high profile case surrounding the rallies which blocked major highways in the city for over two months and was dubbed the “Umbrella Revolution”, with protesters calling for a free vote on the city’s leader. Nearly 1,000 people were arrested in connection to the rallies including student pro-democracy leader Joshua Wong, who faces two verdicts in June for protests in 2014.

‘He was tortured’

Speaking after the verdict, Tsang’s lawyer Pang described the “disproportionate violence” police allegedly used in the attack on the activist. “His body was covered in wounds... he was tortured. He was punched and kicked in a dark corner as a punishment,” Pang said.

Video footage aired by local television network TVB at the time showed a group of men hauling a handcuffed Tsang to a dark corner in a public park in the early hours of October 15, 2014. One man stood over him and punched him, as three others were seen repeatedly kicking him. Seven policemen will stand trial for the assault on the activist later this year. They have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Tsang said he was “disappointed” about the court’s decision and thanked supporters, adding that he was mulling over an appeal. He earlier said that police brought assault charges against him to distract from the case against them. The two incidents took place at the height of mass protests seeking free leadership elections in Hong Kong, and rocked the reputation of the city’s police force.

It took a year for charges to be brought against both Tsang and the officers accused of beating him, a delay that further increased controversy surrounding the cases. Thousands of protesters blocked major thoroughfares in Hong Kong in 2014 but ultimately failed to win any concessions from either Beijing or the city authorities. — AFP



HONG KONG: Political activist Ken Tsang (C) addresses the media outside the Kowloon city court in Hong Kong yesterday after he was found guilty of assaulting and resisting police officers during the 2014 pro-democracy protests. — AFP



YANGON: In this Aug 1, 2013 file photo, Win Kyu and his wife Khin Htay Win hold a portrait of their 16-year-old daughter Win Maw Oo, who was killed during pro-democracy protests brutally crushed by Myanmar’s military 25 years ago, in their house. — AP

DEMOCRACY HELPS FULFILL DEAD MYANMAR TEEN’S LAST WISH

SOUL LAID TO REST AS DEMOCRACY COMES AT LAST

YANGON: Dying from soldiers’ bullets, the young protester told her father not to lay her soul to rest until democracy reigned in her homeland. It has taken 28 years, but it is done. The time was finally right to perform a funeral ceremony for 16-year-old Win Maw Oo when the National League for Democracy party of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi came to power in Myanmar this year, after decades of bitter struggle.

Her former classmates joined her parents Sunday for the rites, led by Buddhist monks. A doctor who tried to save her life was also there. On display was a famous photo of Win Maw Oo taken just after she was shot; it made the cover of Newsweek. The ceremony is intended to free the souls of the dead. Participants chanted along with the monks, spoke Win Maw Oo’s name and sprinkled holy water.

Her parents did not have her remains, which is unusual in a ceremony such as this. But in Buddhism, the more important thing is to call the name of the deceased while dripping holy water and chanting with the monks. Buddhists believe that unless this happens, a soul cannot rest. Win Maw Oo was among an estimated 3,000 people killed in 1988 during the student-led pro-democracy protests in Yangon and other parts of the country in which Suu Kyi emerged as a pro-democracy figure and her NLD party was born. Myanmar was known as Burma at the time, and Yangon, then called Rangoon, was its capital.

Student uprising

Win Maw Oo’s parents had warned her that joining her fellow students during the uprising on the streets of the city was dangerous. Student unions were leading demonstrations against socialist

dictator Gen. Ne Win, demanding a multi-party democratic system. They asked her not to go.

“If they dare shoot, I am ready to die,” she told them. On September 19th, the day after a military takeover, soldiers sprayed bullets into a throng of students. The crowd scattered, and Win Maw Oo collapsed. One bullet hit her right shin, another her left thigh, and a third tore through her chest, collapsing a lung. Two doctors looking for wounded protesters spotted the teen on the street. Blood gushing from her wounds drenched the white blouse of her school uniform red. American photographer Steve Lehman snapped a picture of the tragic scene: the young schoolgirl wilting in the arms of two fear-stricken doctors, also soaked in her blood, trying to carry her to an ambulance. On the street behind them, another doctor attended to a corpse.

The girl’s father, Win Kyu, rushed to Yangon General Hospital. He raced up and down the wards, through rows of injured or dead protesters, bodies so numerous they were lining the hallways. In the emergency room, he found his daughter, eyes closed, drawing her final breaths. She could barely speak, Win Kyu recalled this week.

“She slowly opened her eyes and looked at me, weakly,” Win Kyu said. Then she motioned for him to come closer. She apologized for not heeding her parents’ warning, then mustered the strength to say one last thing: “Promise me you won’t hold a funeral, call my name and share merit for my soul, until this country has achieved democracy.” “I didn’t know what to say, because it was a bad sign already, so I was quiet for a bit,” said Win Kyu.

The request was painful for him. He

believed her soul would wander until they performed the ritual. “Then I thought, ‘Why not grant her the wish?’ She wasn’t asking for herself, or for her family, but for her country. So I promised her.” Moments later, Win Maw Oo, the eldest of his six children, died. In an attempt to conceal the true scale of the day’s casualties, authorities forbade doctors from allowing protesters’ families to claim their bodies. Death certificates left the cause of death blank. The day after his daughter died, Win Kyu pleaded with the surgeon who operated on her, who in turn lied to authorities that she had died of bone cancer so the body could be claimed. He retrieved his daughter’s body to be cremated. But the crematoriums were so busy that unclaimed bodies were being cremated four or five at a time, and in the chaos, Win Kyu never got his daughter’s ashes back.

Following the crackdown in which Win Maw Oo was killed, the country was thrust into more than two decades of harsh military rule. So Win Kyu waited. When in 2010 the country held the first elections in 20 years, Win Kyu felt the time was not yet right, because the party sponsored by the military remained in power; the NLD boycotted those elections, saying they were unfair. When Suu Kyi was elected to parliament in 2012, he still did not feel his daughter’s wish had been achieved.

Even when Suu Kyi’s party scored a landslide victory in the November 2015 general election, Win Kyu said he still wasn’t ready because so many of Win Maw Oo’s comrades were still locked away as political prisoners. It wasn’t until the new government took office in April and released all political prisoners in a general amnesty that Win Maw Oo’s family finally decided that it was time. — AP

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2016

Entertainment Weekly

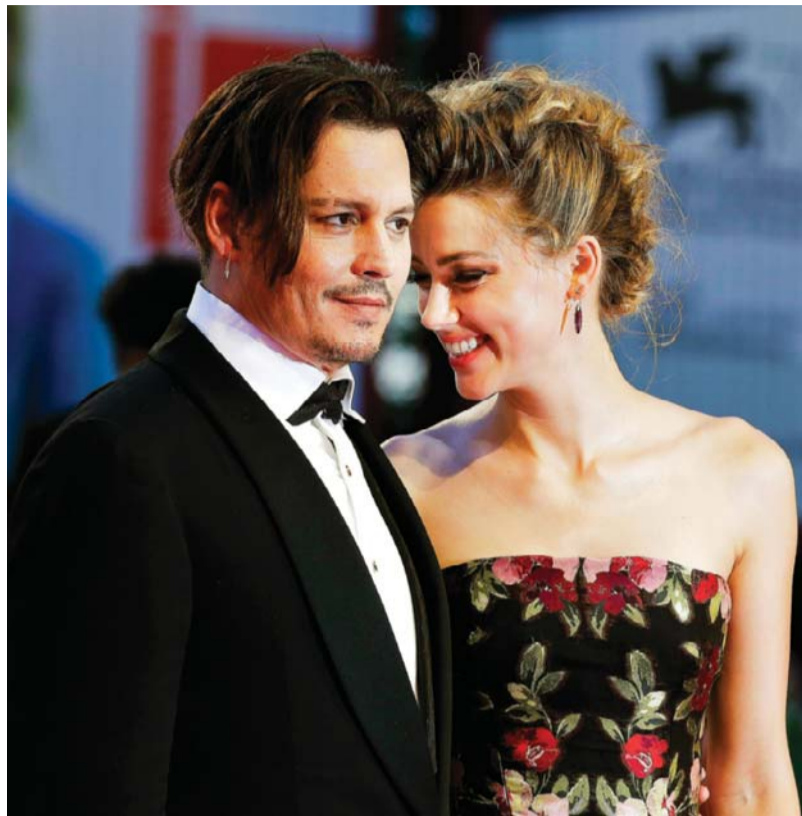
www.kuwaittimes.net

Johnny Depp's wife files for divorce

Page 20

In this file photo, Amber Heard, left, and Johnny Depp arrive at The Art of Elysium's Ninth annual Heaven Gala in Culver City, Calif. —AP





In this file photo, Johnny Depp, left, and Amber Heard arrive at the premiere of the film 'The Danish Girl' during the 72nd edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy. — AP photos



In this file photo US actors Johnny Depp, left, and Amber Heard arrive for the European premiere of their film, 'The Rum Diary,' in London.

Johnny Depp's wife files for divorce

Johnny Depp's wife has filed for divorce, citing irreconcilable differences after 15 months of marriage to the Hollywood star, celebrity news media reported on Wednesday. Court records published by the TMZ website show that Amber Heard submitted the petition to a court in Los Angeles on Monday seeking spousal support from the 52-year-old "Pirates of the Caribbean" star. The separation comes less than a week after the death of Depp's mother, Betty Sue Palmer, at the age of 81.

Celebrity magazine People, which said it had also obtained a copy of the petition, said 30-year-old Heard cited "irreconcilable differences." The pair, who have no children together, have been embroiled in a spat with Australian Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce since Heard failed to declare the couple's two dogs when they arrived in Queensland state a year ago for the filming of the latest "Pirates of the Caribbean" installment. Joyce, who is also the agriculture minister, threatened to have Pistol and Boo put down unless they "buggered off back to the United States" for breaking Australia's strict quarantine laws.

Actress-model Heard last month admitted falsifying her immigration arrivals card and was placed on a \$720 one-month good-behavior bond. The couple released an awkward video apology, after which Joyce mocked Depp for looking like "he was audition-

ing for the Godfather." "In all seriousness, the one thing I will never revel in is any relationship breakdown, no matter what animosity that might be seen on the airwaves between Mr Depp and myself," Joyce told reporters in Queensland on Wednesday when asked about the split.

"I have always wished the very best for people. No, I would never ever revel in something like that." The couple do not have a pre-nuptial agreement, TMZ reported. Heard listed their date of separation as Sunday in the documents published by the website, which make no mention of custody of the dogs. Depp and Heard met on the set of the 2011 film "The Rum Diary," when Depp was still in a long-term relationship with the French actress Vanessa Paradis, mother of his son Jack and daughter Lily-Rose. They married in a small, private ceremony in Los Angeles in February last year before celebrating with a larger event on Depp's private island in the Bahamas. Depp's latest film, "Alice Through the Looking Glass," is due to be released on Friday. Representatives for Depp or Heard could not immediately be reached for comment. — AFP



File photo shows Miranda Lambert performs during the 2016 iHeartRadio Country Festival held at Frank Erwin Center, in Austin, Texas. — AP

Miranda Lambert closes Pink Pistol boutique in Oklahoma town

Miranda Lambert is closing her Pink Pistol clothing boutique in the tiny Oklahoma town where she and her ex-husband, Blake Shelton, once shared a home. The country singer announced Wednesday that Pink Pistol will reopen later this summer in her hometown of Lindale, Texas. Opened in late 2012, the boutique drew tourists and shoppers to Tishomingo, a town of 3,000 residents about 115 miles southeast of Oklahoma City.

Shelton and Lambert divorced last year. Shelton said on Twitter on Wednesday that he bought the building where Pink Pistol is located and that "something is brewing" for the space. Lambert thanked Pink Pistol's employees in a statement and said, "Sometimes you need to close a chapter to build on a new beginning or go back home." — AP

Dierks Bentley goes dark on his new relationship record

Country star Dierks Bentley may be known for his boozy party songs like "Drunk On a Plane" or "5-1-5-0," but as a singer, he loves going dark. He's even named his new album "Black." "Sad country music is way better than happy country music," the Grammy-nominated Bentley said. "Happy country music is good for the live show. It's good for driving your car to work. The greatest country music is the sad stuff. That's where you learn stuff. That's how you get through stuff." The 40-year-old singer named the album, out today, after his wife Cassidy's maiden name, which he loved so much he tried to convince her to keep it.

"When we got married, I was like, 'You should just keep the name Cassidy Black, it's so cool,'" said Bentley, who often takes the stage in a plain black T-shirt. "I'll change my name to Dierks Black. I just like the color black." The title track is one of Bentley's sexiest songs of his career, a sultry bedroom ballad that allowed him to frame the entire album around the story lines of love, loss and heartache. He explores the self-doubt that comes while watching someone slip out of a relationship on "Why Do I Feel" and cheating lovers meeting in secret on a duet with Maren Morris on "I'll Be the Moon."

But Bentley also has learned from previous albums that fans, and radio stations, still want the fun Dierks, too. His first single, the summery "Somewhere on a Beach," hit No. 1 on Billboard's Hot country chart, and his next single, "Different for Girls," features pop-rocker Elle King. "I just hit it off with her right away," Bentley said of the "Ex's and Oh's" singer. "She's just really self-deprecating and funny, but a great singer."

More than a decade into his career, Bentley, who recently hosted the Academy of Country Music Awards with Luke Bryan, is adept at finding the balance on albums now. He is the country joker, the bluegrass picker, the love song singer and the stadium rocker all packaged together. "If people want to go buy a single and go party to it, that's great," Bentley said. "I am trying to make a record for me as much as I am trying to make a record for my fans." So he has no regrets about ending the album on a sad note, an acoustic guitar ballad called "Can't Be Replaced," in which he sings about his aging 15-year-old dog Jake, who has been with him since before he had a wife and kids and became a star. "The very first song I ever put out to country radio, 'What Was I Thinking,' had a picture of Jake on the cover and had a big dobro solo in that song," Bentley said. "So it's kinda like the perfect bookend to the last eight records and really to his life." — AP



Dierks Bentley poses for a portrait in Nashville, Tenn, to promote his latest album, 'Black.' — AP

Monroe belongings go on display in London

Handwritten notes, jewelry and a trove of other personal items belonging to Hollywood star Marilyn Monroe have gone on display in a London exhibition before they are sold at auction later this year. The collection of belongings will go under the hammer at Julien's Auctions

in Los Angeles in November. "Marilyn Monroe: The Legacy of a Legend" runs at London's Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour venue until June 20. — Reuters



Dubai police women walk towards their luxury cars during a demonstration in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. — AP photos



Dubai police Lt Saif Sultan Rashed Al-Shamsi, who oversees the tourist police's patrol section, pushes down one of the twin scissor doors of the \$140,000 BMW i8 during a demonstration in Dubai.

In image-conscious Dubai, even police patrol in luxury cars

Image is everything in Dubai - even when fighting crime. Police in this desert metropolis have built up a high-horsepower arsenal of luxury sports cars and SUVs over the years to complement their fleet of green-and-white patrol cruisers. The high-end squad cars fit into the greater gearhead ethos of Dubai, where fire-engine red Ferraris growl at stoplights and convertible Rolls Royces prowl the boulevard ringing the world's tallest building.

Lamborghinis also glisten through the glass of a massive new showroom on Sheikh Zayed Road, the country's longest thoroughfare that is a dozen lanes at its widest when cutting through Dubai. But don't expect their Lamborghini Aventador to show up if you rear-end someone. These police cars don't see duty at traffic accidents or engage in high-speed pursuits, said Dubai police Lt Saif Sultan Rashed Al-Shamsi, who oversees the tourist police's patrol section.

Instead, Al-Shamsi said the cars appear for special events across Dubai - or cruise areas frequented by tourists, offering visitors a glamorous image of the Dubai police. That also is a way for the city-state's police force to be more accessible and welcomed by the public in a country home to a huge foreign workforce, Al-Shamsi said.

Photogenic qualities

"One of the funny stories we have is that a lot of tourists and people here call the Dubai police ... on (the emergency number) 999 to ask about these cars," Al-Shamsi said. "They want to know which location they will be in and how they can find them and take pictures with them." Their photogenic qualities came out in force on a recent day as officers parked several outside the Armani Hotel in the 828-meter (2,717-foot) Burj Khalifa.

The twin scissor doors of the police's BMW i8 swung open like wings on the \$140,000 car, which flies to 60 mph in 4.2 seconds. The car's license plate read 2020, a nod to Dubai hosting 2020 World Expo, a world's fair held every five years. Along for the ride were a two-door Bentley Continental and a Nissan GTR, its license plate the same as Dubai's police emergency number and the plastic wrap still around its backseat.

Tim Dean, a 24-year-old tourist from St Petersburg, Florida, used to the Ford Crown Victoria police cars on the streets of the United States, stopped to snap a quick photograph of the assembled exotic vehicles. "You don't see many cop cars like this," Dean said. That's true, especially as the force's vehicles also include brands like Aston Martin, Lamborghini and Ferrari. However, one place you do see these cars is online. Videos of vehicles have millions of views and the cars themselves serve as characters in advertisements for Dubai events and in stunt clips.

Speed bump

In the United States, many police departments use sports cars captured in drug seizures for anti-narcotic efforts in schools. Al-Shamsi declined to discuss whether the Dubai police cars were purchases or donations. There's been little academic study on

what effect such cars have on actual policing and Dubai's effort may be more about projecting an image, said Dennis Kenney, a professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.

"I know that the police in Dubai also like to tout their high-end sports cars as traffic vehicles which beyond going really fast aren't too functional for any other aspects of policing," Kenney said. That could be seen on a recent morning when Cpl Mohammed Ali piloted the force's Brabus Mercedes-Benz G63 AMG, an SUV that retails for over \$200,000. He eased it over a speed bump, slipped the transmission into neutral and tapped the accelerator, drawing a throaty roar from its V8 engine. "It's very strong," the corporal said, a smile on his lips as he revved the engine again. — AP



The front of a Bentley Continental GT police car during a demonstration.



Police officer Bodoor Jassim Al-Saffar takes the wheel of a Bentley Continental GT police car.



Park guests ride the Dragon Challenge roller coaster at Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla.

Best new theme park rides: Virtual reality, interactivity

You're flying alongside Superman, seeing the world as the Man of Steel views it, thanks to virtual reality headsets on a roller coaster at Six Flags New England. Or you're feeling the fear as you come face to face with King Kong, 30 feet tall, at Universal Orlando's new Skull Island attraction. These are a few examples of the heightened experiences awaiting visitors at theme parks across the country this summer. Park-goers are no longer just sitting back to enjoy the ride. Thanks to virtual reality, interactive features and other new technology, they're playing roles and experiencing rides as never before.

"In terms of virtual reality, this has the chance to revolutionize the roller coaster experience," said Colleen Mangone, director of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions. "The guests physically ride the roller coaster while wearing the virtual reality headsets. So their visual line follows a story line or they could be accompanying a superhero. They are flying next to the superhero and as the superhero dives down, the coaster is diving down."

This season will also be about thrills and speed as several exciting roller coasters open across the country. Mako, a new shark-themed attraction at SeaWorld, is being billed as the tallest and fastest coaster in Orlando when it opens in June. In Los Angeles, Universal Studios Hollywood is buzzing about a new Walking Dead attraction coming in July, along with The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, which opened in April. In Tennessee, Dollywood's Lightning Rod is sure to thrill wooden coaster enthusiasts.

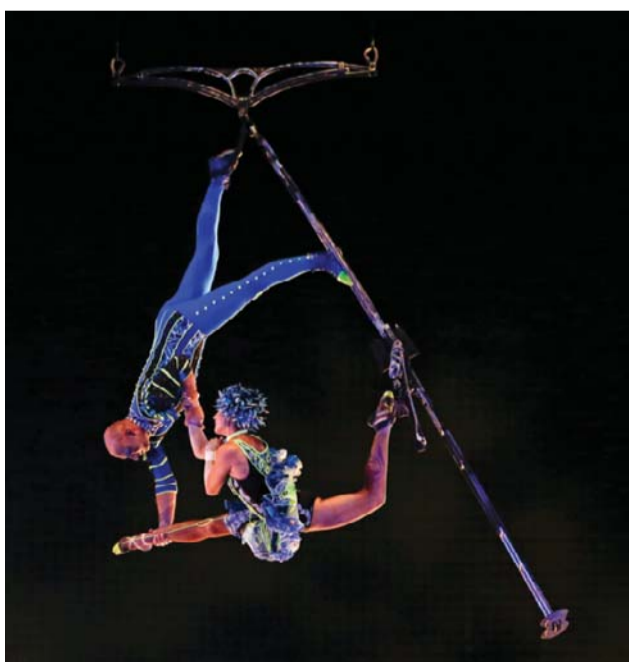
California

On July 4, Universal Studios Hollywood is slated to open The Walking Dead, based on the hit AMC show. Few details have been released but riders should expect a maze of horror. Also at Universal Studios Hollywood, fans can immerse themselves in the recently opened Wizarding World of Harry Potter. It's similar to the original Potter land at Universal Orlando, but the marquee ride, Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey, has added some unique 3-D technology.

Legoland California in Carlsbad joined the interactive fray when it debuted Ninjago in early May. Riders actually influence the outcome of the battle by using hand gestures to shoot, rather than laser guns, to help fight off evil during the experience. At Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo, The Joker, a hybrid steel and wooden coaster, will leave riders a little twisted - but in a good way - when it debuts May 29. The park has added steel tracks to the wooden frame of the Roar coaster, built in 1999, to create the hybrid experience. The 3,200-foot-long Joker will also include inversions, which the park says is a first for a wooden roller coaster, and will feature 15 moments of what the park is calling "extreme" airtime.



Crowds gather at the opening gates of The Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Studios Hollywood in Universal City, Calif.



In this undated photo provided by Six Flags New England, visitors ride the new Superman The Ride Virtual Reality Coaster at the park in Agawam, Mass. — AP photos

"It's going to be a great year," said Arthur Levine, a theme park expert for About.com. "For a while there the economy tanked and parks kind of retreated. We weren't really seeing a lot of new things happening at parks. Now they are re-investing and they are opening up new attractions and new roller coasters so that there really are types of exciting things to talk about." Here's a look at some of the best new theme park attractions this season.

Florida

Universal Orlando will debut one of the most anticipated rides in the country when Skull Island: Reign of Kong opens in July. Visitors will explore the jungle home of the legendary beast. The 30-foot-tall, 18-foot-wide Kong will be brought to life by 3-D technology and animatronics. The ride opens to the public following a June 23 preview event. SeaWorld Orlando's shark-themed Mako, opening June 10, will hit speeds of up to 73 mph with the highest point at 200 feet covering nearly a mile of track. It's a hypercoaster, which means speed, tight turns and a weightless feeling. At Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, the dark ride Frozen Ever After is scheduled to open in late June in Epcot's Norway Pavilion. A boat takes riders into the kingdom of Arendelle during the winter festival, where they'll encounter characters from the megahit "Frozen" while hearing music from the movie and voices of the original cast. At Disney World's Animal Kingdom, night safaris launch Memorial Day weekend, allowing guests to see nocturnal animals and observe their habits. Also at Disney, the new shopping, dining and entertainment center at Disney Springs offers four neighborhoods: The Landing, Marketplace, West Side and Town Center. Disney Springs is also hosting a Cirque du Soleil show.



The new roller coaster that opened this year at Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio.

Massachusetts

Six Flags New England in Agawam debuts Superman: The Ride Virtual Reality Coaster on June 11. Riders will wear wireless headsets providing high-resolution imagery and 360-degree views synchronized to the coaster.

Ohio

Cedar Point in Sandusky opened Valravn in early May. It's being called the world's tallest, fastest and longest dive coaster. Riders will hang over the edge of the first hill, 20 stories high, for four seconds before dropping at a 90-degree angle, 75 mph.

Tennessee

Dollywood has unveiled its hot rod-themed Lightning Rod ride. It's billed as the world's first launched wooden coaster and fastest wooden coaster, capable of reaching speeds of up to 73 mph.

Georgia

Six Flags Over Georgia in Austell debuts a DC Super Friends kids area in time for Memorial Day weekend with five family experiences themed on superheroes and villains: a Superman Tower of Power, Batcopters, Wonder Woman Flight School, Harley Quinn Games and The Joker Funhouse Coaster. — AP

Why am I always hungry?



By Nathalie Basma

How many times have you gone out to eat, had two appetizers, a main meal and your friend's leftovers, a 'bite' of every dessert offered at the restaurant, and still feel hungry 30 minutes after? Story of my life. Hunger is your body telling you it needs sustenance so it can operate efficiently. But what if your body (and mind) are trying to tell you something else?

1. You are not getting the right balance of nutrients.

Make sure you are getting a good amount of fiber protein, and some healthy fat. All three can help slow digestion, which keeps blood sugar stable and keeps you full longer. Examples of fiber can be a serving of plain popcorn, vegetable sticks and cherry tomatoes. Protein and healthy fat can come from roasted almonds, hummus (not the kind that is more tahini than chickpeas), avocados and skim cottage cheese. Be intentional about the snacks you choose.

2. You are eating too many simple carbs and sugars.

Eating lots of simple carbs and sugar will make

it impossible to feel satisfied. You know what I'm talking about. Bread, pasta, doughnuts and other yummy pastries are delicious and will fill you up temporarily; that is until your sugar high crashes and your body starts wanting more within the hour.

3. You are dehydrated and confusing thirst for hunger.

Our thirst and hunger cues come from the same part of the brain, making it hard for us to figure out what exactly our body is wanting. Keep a bottle of water with you at all times and drink it throughout the day. You'll know you're drinking enough water when your urine is a light yellow or clear color. Yes you have to pay attention to what goes into your body, and what comes out of it.

4. You are stressed.

When I'm stressed, my eating habits reach some superhuman levels. I'll eat everything and anything that's in my face. Simply put, stress increases your body's production of cortisol, which boosts your appetite. Even if you do keep relatively healthy snacks around, your body will still want more. Identify ways to reduce your stress levels and that will reduce your boost in appetite.

5. You are not paying attention to what you're eating.

Not paying attention to what you're eating is easy to fall into. Eat mindfully. In our busy days and hectic schedules, we forget to take a minute, slow down, and notice everything around us. Take a minute and pay attention to what and why you're eating. Are you hungry? Are you bored or restless? Are you eating because your friends are eating around you? For example, if you're wanting to snack on a bag of almonds, take the time to count out the amount of almonds you plan on consuming. This will help refocus your mind on what you are eating. It will also make sure that you don't eat the entire bag of almonds (something I do often) and turn a small snack into a full meal.

6. You are not getting enough sleep.

Sleep is very closely linked with two hunger hormones, leptin and ghrelin. Leptin reduces appetite and ghrelin stimulates it. So when you are sleep deprived, there is an increase in appetite and stimulation of hunger. Pay attention to your sleep habits and make sure you are getting a good amount of it on a regular basis. If you are having a hard time sleeping, (go back to number four) what are your stress levels looking like?

'Top Gear' roars back with Matt LeBlanc, high expectations

"Top Gear" doesn't do understatement. If it were a car, the BBC's hit auto show would be a flashy, precision-tooled racer. Co-host Chris Evans calls it "a car-show nuclear bomb" - and it returns to the screen facing the fallout of former host Jeremy Clarkson's explosive exit. The show's fusion of blokey banter, consumer advice and adrenaline-fueled automotive stunts in far-flung locations made it a huge hit, watched - according to the BBC - by 350 million people around the world.

The "Top Gear" formula, fine-tuned over many years under the brash Clarkson, has brought both success and controversy. Clarkson and his fellow presenters left last year after an off-set dustup in which Clarkson punched a producer (he later apologized and paid damages). Now the show is back, fronted by Evans and actor Matt LeBlanc, zooming away from his best-known incarnation as Joey Tribbiani in long-running sitcom "Friends." "When I was first starting out, I always wanted my

career to take me to exotic places," LeBlanc said during an interview in London. "And I ended up in a building in Burbank for 12 years with no windows."

This is all insured?

He's making up for it now. Filming for the six-episode season of "Top Gear" has taken the crew to Morocco, South Africa, Italy, Kazakhstan, the US and the gaudy English seaside resort of Blackpool. LeBlanc has driven an Ariel Nomad dune buggy in the Moroccan desert and raced Evans up South Africa's treacherous Sani Pass - one of several hair-raising experiences. "Some of the things we do, it was like, 'Really? This is all insured? Huh. Because that's a big cliff right there,'" LeBlanc said.

"You're constantly fighting (between) 'I want to win' and 'it's just a TV show,'" he said. "You want to make it entertaining, but you also want to make it." In the new-look "Top Gear" - premiering Sunday in Britain and Monday on BBC America - main presenters LeBlanc and Evans are joined by German driver Sabine Schmitz, former motorsport boss Eddie Jordan, automotive journalists Chris Harris and Rory Reid and anonymous, helmeted driver The Stig. Evans, a veteran British TV and radio host, says the format has been tweaked, but the essence of the program remains. He says fans - he counts himself among them - "don't want us to reinvent the wheel."

Clarkson and his co-hosts James May and Richard Hammond have decamped to Amazon's TV service for a rival show, "The Grand Tour," debuting later this year. Evans says he is relaxed about the competition, and pays credit to Clarkson and his colleagues for fusing car journalism with the wild spirit of rock 'n' roll.

"They took the component parts of a car show, and they said, 'OK, we could build this, or we could build a nuclear bomb,'" he said. "They assembled a car-show nuclear bomb. And they were just about to detonate it, but they're not there anymore so now we've got to do it." Clarkson, a self-styled enemy of political correctness, regularly generated headlines with his dismissive views on cyclists, environmentalists and vegetarians, and insensitive statements about a host of nationalities.—AP

US actor and BBC Top Gear presenter Matt LeBlanc poses in Morocco on March 10, 2016.



Gisele Bundchen to fight illegal animal trafficking

Gisele Bundchen is fighting for sea turtles. The United Nations said Wednesday that the Brazilian super-model has been named a goodwill ambassador as part of an unprecedented global campaign to fight the illegal trafficking of wildlife entitled "Wild for Life." "Knowledge is power and now is the time to set our minds to ending all illegal wildlife trade before the choice is no longer in our hands. Today, I am giving my name to change the game for sea turtles," Bundchen said in a statement.

Bundchen, who is married to New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, announced her support Wednesday morning with an Instagram post featuring a picture of sea turtle superimposed over her face. The campaign, which was launched at the second United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi, has named a number of celebrities as goodwill ambassadors with each representing a separate species threatened by the illegal trade.

Manchester City soccer player Yaya Toure is backing elephants and actor Ian Somerhalder is pulling for pangolins. Celebrities from China, India, Indonesia, Lebanon and Vietnam battling are also on board working to conserve orangutans, tigers, rhinos and helmeted hornbills and calling for citizen support to end the demand that is driving the illegal trade which enriches criminal networks and threatens peace and security around the globe. John Kay of Steppenwolf donated the use of the hit "Born to Be Wild," to the campaign. — AP



Gisele Bundchen



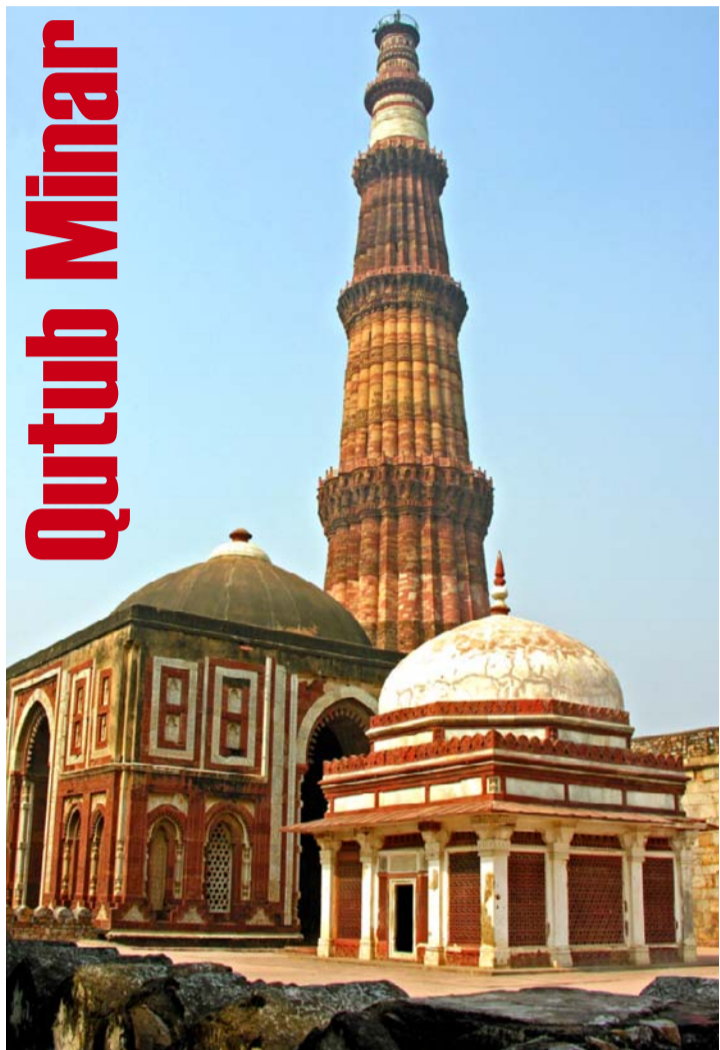
24

Friday Times

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2016

Kids

Qutub Minar



Qutub Minar, at 120 meters, is the tallest brick minaret in the world. Qutub Minar, along with the ancient and medieval monuments surrounding it, form the Qutub Complex, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The tower is located

14.32 meters (47 feet) at the base and 2.75 meters (9 feet) at the peak. Inside the tower, a circular staircase with 379 steps leads to the top. Qutub Minar station is the closest station on the Delhi Metro.

In 1200 AD, Qutub-ud-Din Aibak, the founder of the Delhi Sultanate started construction of the Qutub Minar. In 1220, Aibak's successor and son-in-law Iltutmish added three storeys to the tower. In 1369, lightning struck the top storey, destroying it completely. So, Firoz Shah Tughlaq carried out restoration work replacing the damaged storey with two new storeys every year, made of red sandstone and white marble.

Qutub Minar is surrounded by several historically significant monuments, which are historically connected with the tower and are part of the Qutub Complex. These include the Iron Pillar of Delhi, Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque, Alai Darwaza, the Tomb of Iltutmish, Alai Minar, Ala-ud-din's Madrasa and Tomb, and the Tomb of Imam Zamin. Other minor monuments include Major Smith's Cupola and Sanderson's Sundial.



in the Mehrauli area of Delhi, India. The Minaret of Jam a UNESCO World Heritage Site in western Afghanistan is thought to have been a direct inspiration for the Qutub Minar in Delhi, which was also built by the Ghurid Dynasty. Made of red sandstone and marble, Qutub Minar is a 73-meter (240 feet) tall tapering tower with a diameter measuring



Color me!

Bippity Boppity Boop!

I Know Your Number

What You Need:

- A sheet of blank paper, folded into thirds
- 3 pencils
- 3 friends

Instructions:

1. Tear the paper neatly along the folds so that you have three sheets of equal size. The smaller sheets may seem identical, but actually the center sheet is ragged on two sides, while the end sheets are ragged only on one side. No one will notice this, but you will see it is an important difference, which will help you succeed with this trick!
2. Hand the center sheet and a pencil to someone in your audience. Ask them to write any number and to fold the sheet into thirds. Tell the participant to concentrate on their number.
3. Hand the remaining sheets and pencils to two other audience members. Ask them to write numbers and to fold the sheets into thirds.
4. Collect the papers and scramble them.
5. Pull out the first volunteer's sheet. You'll know it's theirs because it's the only sheet with two ragged edges. Hold up the sheet and ask the volunteer if it is their number, and they will be amazed that you picked the right one!

SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION

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





KIDS RECIPES



INGREDIENTS

1. 1 tablespoons unsalted butter
2. 3 eggs
3. 1 tablespoons milk or water
4. A pinch or two teaspoons salt
5. Freshly ground black pepper
6. 1/4 cups diced cooked chicken
7. 1/2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar
8. 1/3 cup chopped fresh tomatoes

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat butter in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add chicken and saute until browned.
2. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, whisk together the eggs, milk, salt, and pepper. Pour into the pan and cook, stirring occasionally, to desired doneness, 4 to 5 minutes, adding cheddar and tomatoes just before the eggs are set.
3. Ask your parents to help you with stove.

WORD SEARCH

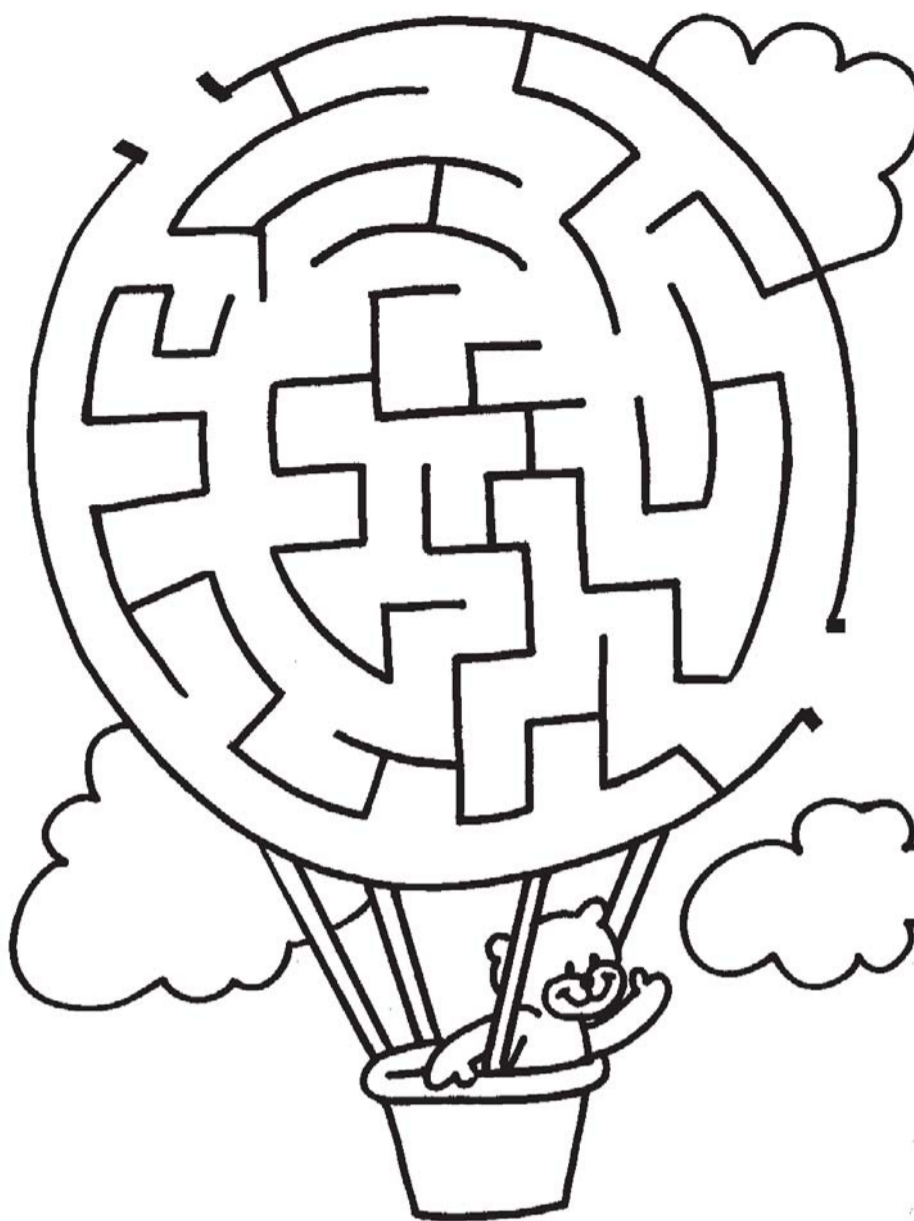
Bees

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

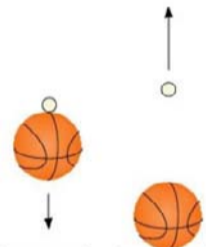
K	L	H	T	S	E	N	C	M	Z	Z	U	B
R	S	O	L	S	M	S	E	W	A	N	V	O
S	W	N	O	R	N	M	S	S	N	L	E	S
H	T	E	S	E	I	N	O	L	O	C	E	O
E	W	Y	I	W	U	S	W	A	R	M	W	S
E	I	F	I	O	S	W	O	R	K	E	R	S
V	N	N	W	L	G	E	X	O	N	E	N	Y
E	E	E	S	F	G	A	L	P	E	S	E	M
R	C	V	G	E	W	N	O	A	G	E	E	F
I	T	W	I	S	C	L	I	N	M	L	U	E
T	A	A	E	H	L	T	I	T	U	E	Q	M
X	R	E	N	E	W	W	E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

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

MAZE



Bouncing Balls



What You Need:

- One large ball
- One small ball

Instructions:

1. Place the small ball on top of the large ball.
2. Drop them at the same time together. Try to drop them straight down.
3. The energy from the first bottom ball is transferred to the second top ball, and that is why the top small ball ends up bouncing so high!

Tip:

Try using different types and sizes of balls. Which bounces higher?



Dream Catcher

What You Need:

- A wooden craft hoop
- A few inches of thin wire
- Some twine
- Beads with large holes
- A few feathers

Instructions:

1. Cut a few feet of twine.
2. Tie one end of the twine to the hoop.
3. String a few beads onto the twine and push the beads toward the tied end.
4. Wrap the twine around the other side of the hoop.
5. String a few more beads on the twine and then wrap the twine around the far side of the hoop.
6. Repeat this several times until you have a really cool webbed design made of twine across the hoop.
7. To decorate at the end, tie a short length of twine on the hoop.
8. String a bead or two on it and then tie a feather onto the end, and let the twine hang down.
9. Make a few of these hanging pieces to make the dream catcher look really fancy!





Zingy picnic salad makes for a fast, healthy picnic lunch

By Melissa D'arabian

In our small hometown, Sunday evening's concert in the park is more than just a gathering of locals and tourists. It's how we mark the passage of time between May and September.

Over the years, we've become picnicking experts. My top two pieces of advice on picnic-planning are keep it simple and keep it flavorful. Because the getting ready - packing up a tablecloth or blanket and all the dishes - takes time, I've learned to make the menu extra-simple. But extra simple doesn't mean sacrificing on flavor.

My solution is to turn to a trusted supermarket short-cut, the rotisserie chicken, as a starting point for a deceptively simple, yet unbelievably complex-tasting, chicken salad. A very distant cousin to the over-creamy chicken salad grandma used to make, this dish gets its garlicky-herbaceous flavor from pre-made pesto. A generous helping of lemon zest adds depth and balance. But the secret of this dish is capers added, with the juice.

Pack a thermal container of this chicken salad along with whole wheat pita halves, a head of lettuce for lettuce wraps, raw vegetables and a big bunch of grapes, and you have a strong picnic game for Sunday, or anytime.

Ingredients

Start to Finish: 15 minutes

Yield: 4 servings

For the dressing:

3 tablespoons prepared pesto

3 tablespoons low-fat plain Greek yogurt

2 tablespoons capers, brine included (do not drain)

1 tablespoon lemon zest

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

For the salad:

1/2 rotisserie chicken, cubed (about 2 1/2 cups)

1/2 cup finely chopped celery

1 cup cherry tomato halves

1 green onion, chopped

Lemon wedges and parsley for garnish (optional)

Preparation

To make the dressing, mix all the dressing ingredients in a small bowl with a spoon. In a large bowl, place the chicken, celery, tomato, and green onion. Spoon the dressing on top and stir to coat. Chill until serving. Serve with lettuce wraps, whole wheat pita, or tortillas.

Nutrition information per serving: 243 calories; 107 calories from fat; 12 g fat (3 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 80 mg cholesterol; 296 mg sodium; 5 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 3 g sugar; 28 g protein.

LEMON-PESTO CHICKEN SALAD



Indian style roast chicken for any occasion

By Meera Sodha

Ever since my parents came to England in 1972, my mum has had a wild love affair with roast chicken. The only thing she loves even more is her family and unfortunately for her, my dad is a vegetarian. So for 41 years now, her opportunities to turn the oven on, throw caution to the wind and put a beautiful bird in to roast have been limited. She's simply too loving a wife to torment my dad like that.

That's why every Mother's Day, there is only one thing that we will cook: tandoori roast chicken. But this isn't just any old roast chicken; it is one worthy of a feast. It has all the merits of a normal roast chicken, flavorful crispy skin, butter-soft meat and largely fuss-free prep, but it is much more elegant and celebratory.

The chicken is made tender with a marinade of yogurt and lemon juice, then enlivened with earthy cumin, garam masala, ginger and garlic. Once the ingredients have been blended into a paste, all that's needed is a quick rub down and rest (the chicken, not you) before it goes into the oven, leaving you free and out of the kitchen.

It's the only time of the year we force our father into the kitchen to help with the sides (supervised, of course). But given that there are plentiful greens around this time of year, they are quick and easy, too. We love to serve this with spring's finest asparagus, peas and spinach, a little lime pickle, toasted naan bread and some crisp white wine.

All of this fuss-free cooking allows us more time for a relaxing family lunch together. Until we need to tackle the washing up, that is.



TANDOORI ROAST CHICKEN

Ingredients

You will need a blender to make the marinade. I like to marinate the chicken first thing in the morning to give it time for the flavors to mingle.

Start to finish: 2 1/2 hours (10 minutes active)

Servings: 4

4-pound whole chicken, giblets removed
3 green serrano chilies, roughly chopped
6 cloves garlic
1 thumb-sized piece ginger
1 tablespoon garam masala
1/2 tablespoon cumin seeds
3/4 teaspoon hot paprika
1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
2 tablespoons lemon juice
3 tablespoons canola oil
1/2 teaspoon turmeric
1 1/4 teaspoons salt (or to taste)
2/3 cup plain Greek yogurt

Preparation

Line a roasting pan with foil, then place the chicken in the center. Combine all remaining ingredients except the yogurt in a blender, then puree until reduced to a fine paste. Mix in the yogurt. Rub the yogurt mixture over all parts of the chicken, then refrigerate and allow to marinate for at least 30 minutes and up to several hours. When ready to cook, heat the oven 350 F. Roast the chicken, not covered, on the oven's middle shelf for 40 minutes. Baste the chicken with any juices in the pan, then lightly cover with foil. Roast for another 40 minutes, or until the meat reaches 170 F at the thigh and 165 F at the breast. Remove the chicken from the oven, leaving it covered, and set aside to rest for 15 minutes before serving. — AP



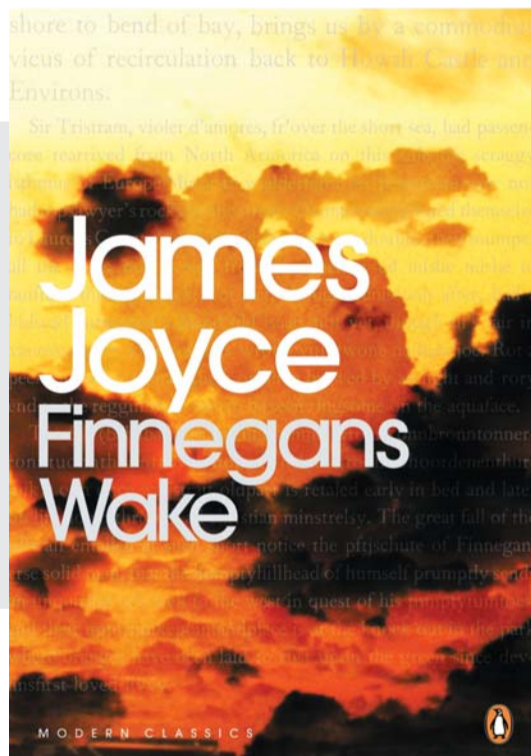
6 incredibly tough books to read

By Parth Khare

Ever decided to read a book belonging to the hall of fame of literature, ordered it in a jiffy, opened it and then, well, sighed?

While there might be plenty of Twilight and such sto-

ries catering to those with simpler tastes, there are books for the connoisseurs, for the hardcore, for those erudite enough to fathom its prolixity and obfuscation (see what I did there?). Here are some literature hall of famers who make your science major paper seem easier than Archies.



1 FINNEGANS WAKE BY JAMES JOYCE

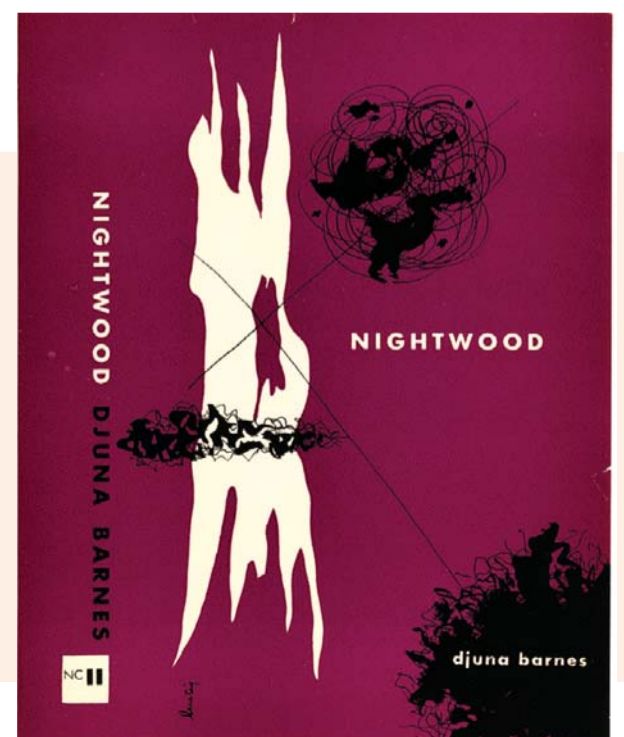
James Joyce, take a bow. No book in the history of English literature has exacted a consensus out of scholars and people, except probably Finnegans Wake. It is hard. Hard in the way that comprehending the entirety of the universe is, and you are more likely to do that than to get through the labyrinth that this book represents. A

strange style, stranger language, Irish babble, portmanteau words, neological puns and onomatopoeia of the toughest kind (use of sounds in words), here's a quote that sums everything up: 'The grasshopper was always jiggling ajog, hoppy on akkant of his joyicity.' No joy there, Joyce.

2 NIGHTWOOD BY DJUNA BARNES

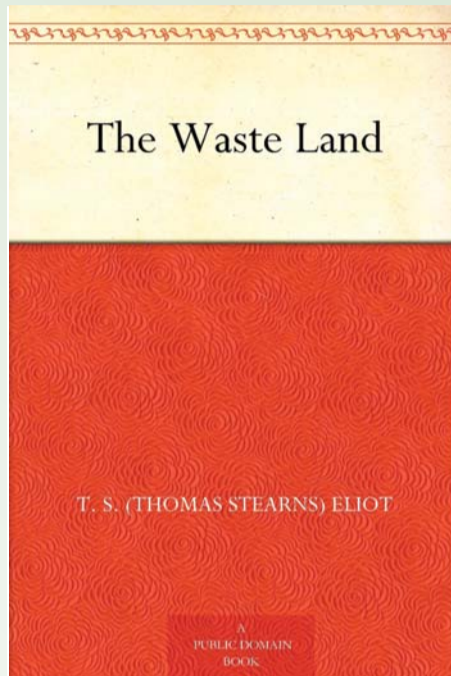
TS Eliot wrote some knotty, tough books himself (more on that later) but he described this one as 'altogether alive but demanding something of a reader that an ordinary novel reader isn't prepared to give.' High praise indeed from the father of modern English poetry, but here's the catch, we can't give what we don't have, we just can't. This book is awash with prose that is both torturous and tortuous to the untrained (sometimes even trained) mind with its Gothic prose style, its discursive and rambling nature and philosophical musings by a character who in his

spare time likes to dress himself up in nighties and curls of blonde hair (why didn't our philosophy teacher try that in those boring classes?). It is essentially a collection of monologues and ideas from the different characters which make you want to say, 'Mate, you've got some unresolved issues there'. From the book itself, 'you pound the liver out of a goose to get a pate, you pound the muscles of a man's cardia to get a philosopher.' And you pound your mind out to understand this book, despite its greatness.



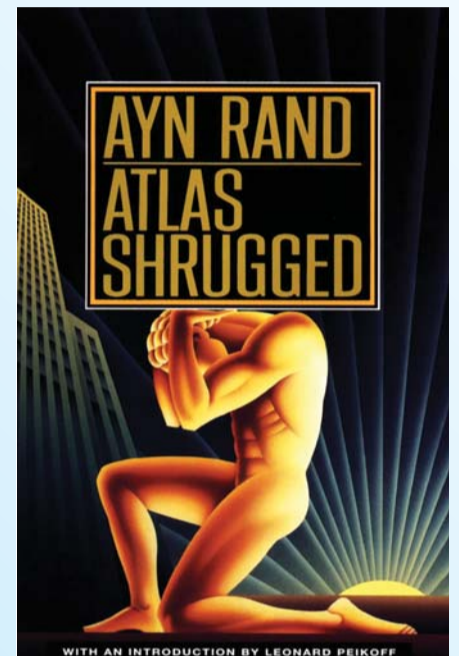
THE WASTELAND BY T. S. ELIOT

Go ahead, say it out loud. You have heard of this book. There are a lot of allusions to this book abound in popular culture (ever heard of 'death by water', or 'dead man's alley'? Yes, right). Released in 1922, this book encompasses the apprehensions of one of the most respected poet, critic and dramatist, Thomas Stearns Eliot. He was worried about the degradation of culture in the world and that the younger generation no longer pays due importance to the classics and old school greatness. He believed that modern poetry should come from reading old legendary books, and boy, did the wasteland come from them and smack you right in your (progressive) head. Here's something unique. The lines in this poem change languages. That's right, you heard me. So one time you are skiing in some mountains and next, you have a German line on your hands, followed by French and even (yes!) Sanskrit. It is chock full of allusions and it is a deliberate attempt to make you go back and read proper literature. A collection of 5 poems, it is sure to make you cry out your eyes. In Eliot's own learned words "I will show you fear in a handful of dust". Quiver.



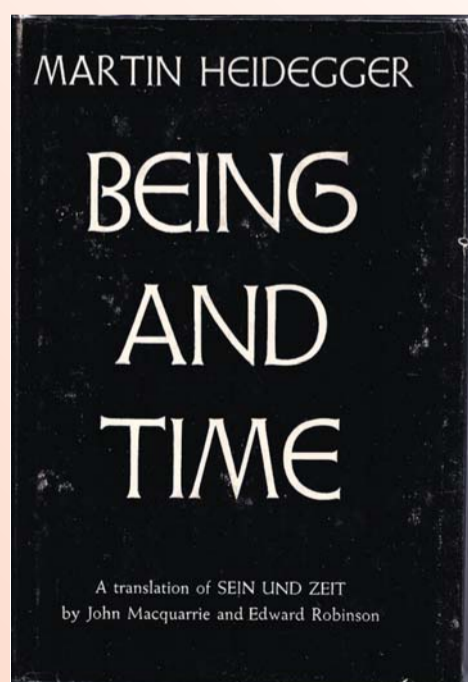
ATLAS SHRUGGED BY AYN RAND

And you will shrug too when you see the size of this one. Atlas Shrugged is big. Like, Charles Dickens level big and can be categorized as philosophic fiction. It is the story of a dystopian world in which government tries to control all the business and trade of America and the entrepreneurs who struggle against the order and then simply disappear into hiding. It has larger than life characters like a playboy billionaire who destroys his own business to prevent government seizing it, a genius who is a philosopher during the day, a pirate at night, and a guy whose name everyone keeps asking and we come to know about halfway in the book. With its immortal query (Who is John Galt?), it asks questions from everyone and is deeply philosophical at many levels. Full of flashbacks, parallel story lines and other worlds created by perfect individuals, it aims to contradict the futility of dystopia by creating a utopian society under its nose. It makes you feel the world's weight on your shoulders when you sift through its monologues and doesn't want you to shrug.



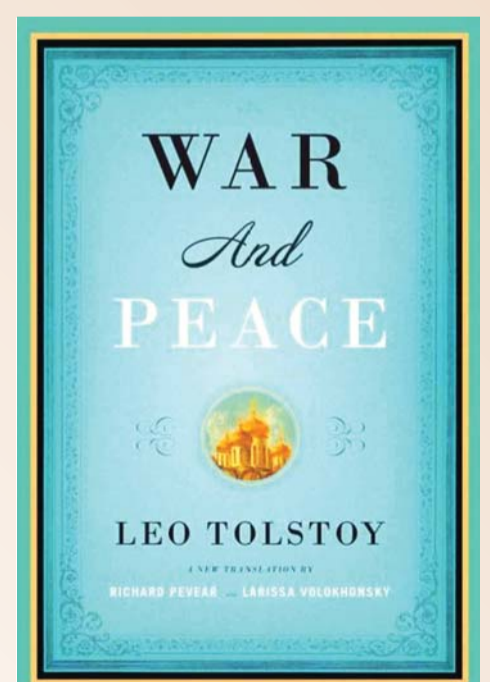
BEING AND TIME BY MARTIN HEIDEGGER

Martin Heidegger was a German philosopher and one of the most influential ones of this century. His Magnum Opus 'Being and Time' is one of the hardest books I have ever encountered, because of innate difficulties pervading it. The first is that literary meaning and philosophical meaning are very distinct and Heidegger really flirts with that line in it. It does not induce a dream like stupor with its obtrusiveness, like Finnegans Wake, rather, it is like getting punched in the face. It has intentionally added difficulty in the form of new words and old words turned new. It is philosophical, but propounds a way of thinking, questioning and tries to give a basic premise for a new science. Phew! Here's a quote to make you understand (and confuse): 'Temporality temporalizes future which makes present in the process of having been.'



WAR AND PEACE BY LEO TOLSTOY

With attributes that make its introduction as a professional wrestler feasible, in this corner comes the book that most people lie about reading, and those that have actually read it, did so to impress others. That's sad because Tolstoy was a brilliant writer. However, the book borders on whimsy as its plot meanders through different sub plots and at the end makes us realize that there was no central plot. To be taken only by prescription, not more than 100 pages a day, under supervision. As suggested by the author himself 'The strongest of all warriors are these two - time and patience.' Yes, you will need a lot of both in this battle. (<http://blog.rishankjhavar.com>)



Friday Times Movies



A Battle of the Senses:

Civil War's logical sense vs
Dawn of Justice's emotional sense

By Josh Rosenfield

Any artistic medium is to some degree in conversation with its audience. It evolves in reaction to the cultural climate in which it lives. Maybe that means embracing convention, or maybe that means rejecting it, or maybe that means something else entirely. Art does not exist in a vacuum. This is especially true when it comes to film, a medium which has been largely controlled by corporate interests for its entire lifespan. Mainstream film exists, for better or for worse, in response to the perceived will and whim of the consumer.

But that's not news to anyone reading this. Most of us are capable of watching a Hollywood film and recognizing which parts of it were supposed to appeal to which demographic. This isn't to say that the obviousness of their construction precludes them from being good art. I'm not that snobby. Still, the blockbuster cinema of the 2010s reflects one particular audience impulse which I find a little troubling.

I want to talk about how movies make sense.

That's a loaded word. "Sense." Internet culture is notoriously obsessed with logical reasoning. If something doesn't play by an arbitrary set of prescribed dogma - and everything will have the screws put to it - then it's judged to be bad and dismissed. You see this most often in video game culture, but it's infected film culture as well. "Why didn't [x] just happen?" is the rallying cry. Films aren't taken on their own terms. Rather, they're judged on how well they match up to that preconceived dogma of "sense."

This discourse is so dominant that mainstream cinema was inevitably going to evolve in reaction to it. It was only a matter of time. Last week, I saw *Captain America: Civil War*, and I saw the beginning of the end.

Civil War makes sense. I should clarify: it makes logical sense. It is painstaking in its setup, fanatically dotting each I and crossing each T. The film proves itself against the CinemaSins of the world. It's written with "Why didn't [x] just happen?" in mind. I couldn't help but picture the Russo brothers hunched over a desk, their fingers calloused from

furious typing, weeping bitter tears as they delete ten pages because they forgot to explain why Black Widow walks from one part of the airport to another.

Civil War has logical tunnel vision. It's so committed to making logical sense that it forgets to make emotional sense. We know why Iron Man and Captain America are fighting. We know their respective perspectives on the issue of being accountable to the United Nations and on Bucky's continued freedom. The film doesn't bother to explore any of this on an emotional level. Iron Man thinks the way he thinks because a mother of someone who died in *Age of Ultron* confronts him backstage at some event. The film asks us to believe that Tony Stark is just now realizing that innocent people have died during some of his fights. If you're looking at the film as an equation, it works. But a film is not an equation, and this scene plays more like an excuse than a development.

That turns out to be true for almost every scene in *Civil War*, a film which bends over backwards to fill any plot holes, and in the process forgets that it actually has to be a movie. *Spider-Man* is in *Civil War*. The excuse for his inclusion is "Tony needs another member for his team." He's not there because the film needs him to be there. He's there to be cool in the big airport fight and then disappear. The same is true of Hawkeye and Ant-Man. The movie gives us the how, but not the why.

I would be less worried about this if audiences hadn't so roundly rejected *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* a few months prior. Yes, I know, comparing these two films is as hacky as it gets. But it just so happens that these two films serve to best illustrate this point. See, *Batman v Superman* only makes emotional sense, not logical sense.

Let's look at a major climactic moment in both films. In *Civil War*, the final brawl between Cap and Tony is spurred by the revelation that Bucky killed Tony's parents. Cap tries to reason with Tony. After all, Bucky was brainwashed at the time. "I don't care. He killed my mom," says Tony, and the fight begins. In *Batman v Superman*, the title bout is about to end with Batman skewering Superman on a

Kryptonite spear when Superman asks him to "save Martha." Martha Kent is his adoptive mother's name, and Lex Luthor is holding her hostage to induce the fight. Martha also happens to be the first name of Batman's murdered mother. This revelation humanizes Superman in Batman's eyes. He throws down his weapon and agrees to help. "No Marthas will die tonight."

Civil War's mom scene is the result of a lot of context-free scenes scattered throughout the film. It opens with the Starks' murder, though we don't know it's them just yet. Tony's first appearance is in a memory of the last time he saw his parents. The night of their death is revisited a few times before the moment where Tony learns the truth. It's all seeded so precisely. You can't argue that it comes out of nowhere. It makes logical sense, but is there an emotional truth? *Civil War* doesn't put in the legwork to make this scene mean anything. All it cares about is getting to the scene without tripping.

Then there's *Batman v Superman*. Its mom scene was widely and loudly mocked. From the *Civil War* lens, the scene doesn't make sense. Why does Superman call his mother by her first name here? Why does Batman care enough to immediately stop trying to kill Superman? There isn't a checklist of previous scenes that explicitly set up this one. Most people found it ridiculous. Unlike *Civil War*'s mom scene, *Batman v Superman*'s has an emotional truth at its core. We know Batman harbors tremendous guilt about the deaths of his parents. We know that he is threatened by Superman's superhumanity, and disgruntled over being lectured on his brutal methods by a man who killed thousands in his fight against General Zod. It's only when he sees Superman at his weakest, begging for his mother, that Batman can see himself in Superman. He drops the spear because he recognizes Superman's essential human frailty for the first time. Yes, it takes a goofy and nonsensical route on its way to that moment. It's enough that the moment itself is so emotionally raw. It has a naked power that something as overwritten as *Civil War* never comes close to achieving. (<http://www.audienceseverywhere.net>)



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Living in the past may be tempting, but it is unproductive. Sometimes you can spend too much time in wishing things were the way they were instead of how they are. Come on now-let's get moving onward and upward. Investing your time in helping others in the office will benefit you in the long run. By helping others you will also be teaching teamwork and eventually there will be an opportunity to get your team together to be successful for your company. Love, spontaneous socializing and young people's problems will keep you on your toes, so to speak. You could be teaching or counseling. Your powers of creativity are strong and there are some fun activities that will show off your talents. Several people can participate-perhaps a little band.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Searching conversations, scientific inquiry, research and so on are just where you spend your day. Your passion is unattached now, independent and inquisitive. Groups with some humanitarian flavor appeal to you, and you may find a co-worker belongs to just such a group. Perhaps the group is teaching foreign people to read or speak in your language. You have very original ideas when it comes to community-making our collective dreams into a reality. There is a love of social connections of all kinds today: letters, wires, telephones, voice, thoughts, writing and mental processes in general. You are the communicator and you love to be involved in helping others communicate. You may enjoy your eccentric friends tonight.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are impressed by the creative way your workday unfolds. There is more than one celebration today and your duty is to smile and go with the flow . . . There are some good surprises throughout this day. A short time in travel after the workday has ended is worth your effort, particularly for the smiles that are returned. Enjoy expressing your appreciation to someone special; then allow others to treat you special. Someone unexpected gives you a gift that is an item you have been wanting for a long time and you almost forgot. You will make a big show of expressing your appreciation to this person. You have many friends and close family members that have fun and unique ways to show you love.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

With an analytical mind, you move forward through your day with graphs and forms. You could be designing homes or plotting the path of a new highway; whatever you do, you are determined to move into the direction of safety and not necessarily the norm. You do miraculous work. You may spend a great deal of time at home this afternoon thinking about ways in which to beautify your surroundings. It may be time to sell your home or move out of an apartment and into a home of your own. Nothing is magic, everything comes with responsibilities and you seem ready. That tendency to be a free spirit may be slowed a bit with all the collections you enjoy. However, this is your way of being grounded and you enjoy your hobbies and creative vents.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

A cycle of nostalgia and domesticity begins now, emphasizing a need for security and a sense of roots. You work to gain some control over recent office or professional changes and you will find positive results at this time. You tend to be out front and personable. Your personal appearance is important to you and you put a lot of thought and effort into how you appear or come across to others. You may find yourself teaching, guiding or putting yourself out in front of the public in some way, perhaps a little politics. If there is time after the workday, you might enjoy sorting through your clothes and getting rid of the things that are out-of-date or do not serve a purpose any longer. This evening is a memory maker; good news comes to your attention.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may find a change on the agenda today. This may be the day the office prepares for some big changes, like a move or new management. You may have ideas on how to expand or have heard that new property was becoming available; get the facts right before making any resolutions. Patience will be on your side today. If a business or a person makes an investment, they will want assuredness. Your ability to communicate effectively is good. A loved one or close family member is in need of your listening ear this afternoon, perhaps an elderly relative. You are able to take time with this person to ask the right questions in order to make sure there is a good understanding. You may discover some spiritual insight or self-discovery this evening.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Your friends, partners and close associates mean a lot to you and you are always watching for fun things that they might enjoy, if not today, then on a special occasion. At lunch break today you might find that visiting with co-workers and chatting about the entertainment that they enjoy with family might be something new you could introduce to your family and vice versa. The conversations at the noon break create opportunities to get to know the co-workers and to network and get to know the company better. This afternoon is a good time to take a step back to see what changes are needed at work and at home. Steps that include taking the time to be better organized and creating a personal filing drawer for projects not yet completed are good projects.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

A tour guide could not be as diplomatic as you are today. People or co-workers may flock to your desk to get your opinion or your patient advice; careful, this could get to be a habit. Consider that higher-ups are watching and be on your best behavior today; you could teach others a few things. The world offers you a plethora of opportunities for fun and exploratory escapades. This afternoon is a good time for surrounding yourself with the best positive vibes you can create. If you are dating and considering marriage, you may be thinking about the type of person you might not want in a marriage so that you can watch for the special person you would enjoy having as a mate. Give yourself plenty of time before making a final decision about marriage.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You feel the need to be responsible in all of your affairs. There is nothing that you do that is not done wholeheartedly. When you perform your professional duties, purchase a home, create a family or maintain a relationship, you go all the way. You may at times have frivolous moments, but a person would do well to set his or her life after your example. There is security in the decisions you make and a safety net when it comes to the welfare of your family. Today will be a step out of the ordinary for you and you will enjoy some mystical event, dream or vision that will help you dissolve any barrier from a past event. There is the key to the greater psychic and spiritual sensitivity you are feeling now. A great deal of support is in your life now.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your lover or partner may be working toward financial freedom these days. Encourage, compliment, praise and communicate-this is a benefit to the family. Beginning or planning to brush up on some past skills will provide you with hours of fun and mental stimulation as well as a tool for any business changes you might want to make in the future. After work today you could find yourself shopping or visiting an ice cream shop with your loved one. Someone from your past may contact you. There is a lot to talk about and you could find it difficult to end a visit. You attract a large circle of acquaintances that are particularly charmed by your sense of humor. It is fun to visit with friends from the past. You might find a birthday calendar useful.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Financial matters may need study and you could find a budget or at least you have a mind set to create a working budget for your office or to help bring about opportunities for new investments; good for you. The workplace is busy and everybody seems talkative instead of work-oriented. Any disturbance today can be easily handled and by the way you handle questions, interruptions and difficult people, you might be up for a new position. There is likely to be an emphasis on reading, writing, studying and all forms of exchanging information with others this afternoon. Later today, you may find an exciting newness to an old relationship. Old loves, new loves, all is in how you nurture and respect each other. Beautiful possibilities are ahead of you.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

The work you do and the way you organize your office and your home become more important to you at this time. The faster you can find a part or a file, the faster you can be efficient. There is a need to create a balance of production, clearing away and building up with organized systems and schedules. Going home this afternoon you may enjoy stopping at a library or bookstore. You are interested in probing into your inner workings today. This may mean a great self-help book, a test from a magazine or just some good fun conversations with loved ones. You may find yourself talking about goals and expectations of where your life and your family as a group will be in the future. Perhaps a new home, or an office or some new improvements are in order.

COUNTRY CODES

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



03:20 Untamed Heart
05:00 The Adventures Of Gerard
06:30 The Haunted Palace
08:00 The Night They Raided Minsky's
09:40 Fuzz
11:10 Still Life: A Three Pines Mystery
12:40 The Bank Shot
14:05 Sharks' Treasure
15:40 Impromptu
17:25 Of Mice And Men
19:15 The Adventures Of Gerard
20:45 Big Screen
21:00 Cutter's Way
22:50 Blue Velvet
00:50 Madhouse



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



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



03:00 South Park
03:25 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
05:55 Key And Peele
10:10 Nathan For You
14:20 Tosh.0
20:20 Lip Sync Battle
21:30 Inside Amy Schumer

22:00 South Park
22:30 Tattoo Disasters
23:00 Tattoo Disasters
00:00 Amy Schumer: Mostly Sex Stuff
00:50 Inside Amy Schumer
01:15 South Park
02:05 Inside Amy Schumer
02:30 South Park



03:30 Randy's Wedding Rescue
04:20 Little People, Big World
04:45 Little People, Big World
05:10 Cake Boss
05:35 Something Borrowed, Something New
06:00 Our Little Family
06:48 Cake Boss
07:10 Cake Boss
07:34 Cake Boss
07:57 Cake Boss
08:22 Bakery Boss
09:10 Bakery Boss
09:57 Cake Boss
10:22 Cake Boss
10:45 Something Borrowed, Something New
11:10 Something Borrowed, Something New
11:35 Say Yes To The Dress
12:00 Say Yes To The Dress
12:25 Say Yes To The Dress
12:49 Say Yes To The Dress
13:12 Say Yes To The Dress
13:35 Ask Oprah's All Stars
14:25 Oprah's Lifeclass
15:15 Little People, Big World
15:40 Little People, Big World
16:05 Little People, Big World



03:00 The Jail: 60 Days In
04:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
05:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
06:00 The FBI Files
07:00 Beyond Scared Straight
08:00 The FBI Files
09:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
10:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
11:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
12:00 I Dated A Psycho
13:00 Homicide Hunter
14:00 The First 48
15:00 Beyond Scared Straight
16:00 The FBI Files
17:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
18:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
19:00 Homicide Hunter
20:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
21:00 The First 48
22:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
23:00 Broadmoor: A History Of The Criminally Insane
00:00 The Haunting Of...
01:00 My Crazy Ex
02:00 The First 48
Discovery Channel HD
03:40 Lost And Sold
04:05 Storage Wars Canada
04:30 Property Wars
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:30 Carfellas
06:00 You Have Been Warned
06:50 The Pop Illusionist
07:40 What Happened Next?
08:05 What Happened Next?
08:30 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
09:20 Rival Survival
10:10 Dive Wars Australia

11:00 Free Ride
11:50 For The Love Of Cars
12:40 Engine Addict With Jimmy De Ville
13:30 Driving Wild
14:20 Diesel Brothers
15:10 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
16:00 Curse Of The Frozen Gold
16:50 Curse Of The Frozen Gold
17:40 Curse Of The Frozen Gold
18:30 Curse Of The Frozen Gold
19:20 Curse Of The Frozen Gold
20:10 Curse Of The Frozen Gold
21:00 Driving Wild
21:50 Diesel Brothers
22:40 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
23:30 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
00:20 Kidnap And Rescue
01:10 Driving Wild
02:00 Diesel Brothers
02:50 Street Outlaws: New Orleans



03:00 Untamed & Uncut
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Kids vs Film
07:25 Doki
07:50 Bad Dog
08:40 You Have Been Warned
09:30 How It's Made
09:55 How It's Made
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bondi Vet
12:00 Bad Dog
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Ultimate Survival

14:30 Dirty Jobs
15:20 Mythbusters
16:10 Kids vs Film
16:35 Doki
17:00 Troy
17:50 Superhuman Showdown
18:40 You Have Been Warned
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 How It's Made
20:45 How It's Made
21:10 Troy
22:00 Superhuman Showdown
22:50 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
00:30 Mythbusters
01:20 Troy
02:10 Superhuman Showdown



Discovery ID Xtra
03:00 Murder Among Friends
03:48 Surviving Evil
04:36 Blood Relatives
05:24 The Perfect Murder
06:12 Over My Dead Body
06:37 Over My Dead Body
07:00 Blood Relatives
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
08:40 The Perfect Murder
09:30 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
10:20 Secret Lives Of Stepford Wives
10:45 Secret Lives Of Stepford Wives
11:10 Southern Fried Homicide
12:00 Blood Relatives
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:40 The Perfect Murder
14:30 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
15:20 Over My Dead Body
15:45 Over My Dead Body
16:10 Murder Comes To Town
17:00 Blood Relatives
17:50 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
18:40 The Perfect Murder
19:30 I Almost Got Away With It
20:20 Over My Dead Body
20:45 Over My Dead Body
21:10 Swamp Murders
22:00 Evil Lives Here
22:50 Too Pretty To Live
23:40 Evil Stepmothers
00:30 Surviving Evil
01:20 Evil Lives Here
02:10 Too Pretty To Live



03:05 How It's Made
03:29 Mythbusters
04:16 Secret Space Escapes
05:03 How The Universe Works
05:50 Kings Of Construction
06:37 How Do They Do It?
07:23 Mythbusters
08:08 How It's Made
08:53 Kings Of Construction
09:38 Through The Wormhole
10:23 Secret Space Escapes
11:08 How The Universe Works
11:53 Kings Of Construction
12:38 Mythbusters
13:23 Through The Wormhole
14:10 How It's Made
14:33 How It's Made
14:57 Invent It Rich
15:44 How The Universe Works
16:31 Kings Of Construction
17:18 How It's Made
17:41 How It's Made
18:05 Mythbusters
18:50 How It's Made
19:40 How The Universe Works
20:25 Through The Wormhole
21:15 How It's Made
21:37 How It's Made
22:22 How It's Made
22:45 How The Universe Works
23:35 Mythbusters
00:20 Through The Wormhole
01:08 How It's Made
01:31 How It's Made
01:55 How The Universe Works
02:42 How It's Made

04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Lolirock
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Gravity Falls
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:40 Hank Zipzer
08:05 Shake It Up
08:30 Shake It Up
08:55 Hannah Montana
09:20 Hannah Montana
09:45 H2O: Just Add Water
10:10 H2O: Just Add Water
10:35 I Didn't Do It
11:00 I Didn't Do It
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Jessie
12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Hank Zipzer
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:30 Liv And Maddie
14:55 Jessie
15:20 Jessie
16:10 Violetta
17:00 Backstage
17:25 Radio Disney Music Awards 2016
18:55 Violetta Recipes
19:05 Evermoor Chronicles
19:30 Liv And Maddie
19:55 Liv And Maddie
20:20 Backstage
20:45 The Suite Life Movie
22:15 Mouk
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta



03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopdidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopdidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopdidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopdidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Goldie & Bear
08:45 Miles From Tomorrow
09:10 PJ Masks
09:35 Doc McStuffins
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Goldie & Bear
11:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:25 The Lion Guard
11:50 Handy Manny
12:15 Jungle Junction
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



AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON ON OSN MOVIES HD



03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2016

- 18:30 Sofia The First
- 19:00 PJ Masks
- 19:30 The Lion Guard
- 20:00 Goldie & Bear
- 20:30 Sofia The First
- 21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 21:25 PJ Masks
- 21:50 Jungle Cubs
- 22:20 Aladdin
- 22:50 Zou
- 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:20 Calimero
- 23:35 Zou
- 23:50 Loopdidoo
- 00:05 Art Attack
- 00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:45 Calimero
- 01:00 Zou
- 01:15 Loopdidoo
- 01:30 Art Attack
- 01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 02:05 Calimero
- 02:20 Zou
- 02:30 Loopdidoo
- 02:45 Art Attack



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



- 03:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 04:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 05:05 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 06:00 Fashion Bloggers
- 06:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 06:50 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 07:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 08:20 E! News
- 09:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 10:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 10:40 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 11:35 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 12:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 12:35 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 13:05 E! News
- 14:05 Live From The Red Carpet
- 16:00 Fashion Police



FATHER OF THE BRIDE PART II ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 19:00 E! News
- 20:00 WAGs
- 21:00 WAGs
- 22:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 23:00 E! News
- 00:00 Botched
- 00:55 Botched
- 01:50 Botched: Post Op
- 02:20 E! News



- 03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 04:00 Man Fire Food
- 04:30 Man Fire Food
- 05:00 Chopped
- 06:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 07:00 Man Fire Food
- 07:30 Man Fire Food
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 09:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 10:00 The Kitchen
- 11:00 Anna Olson: Fresh
- 11:30 Anna Olson: Fresh
- 12:00 Chopped
- 13:00 Guy's Big Bite
- 13:30 Guy's Big Bite
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Man Fire Food
- 15:30 Man Fire Food
- 16:00 Chopped
- 17:00 The Kitchen
- 18:00 Anna Olson: Fresh
- 18:30 Anna Olson: Fresh
- 19:00 Chopped
- 20:00 Iron Chef America
- 21:00 Chopped
- 22:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 23:00 Iron Chef America
- 00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 01:00 Chopped
- 02:00 Cutthroat Kitchen



- 03:25 Churchill's Secret
- 05:15 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
- 06:10 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild
- 06:35 Catchphrase
- 07:30 Churchill's Secret
- 09:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 10:10 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of

- Here!
- 11:05 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild
- 11:35 Catchphrase
- 12:30 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
- 13:25 Emmerdale
- 13:50 Coach Trip
- 14:20 Coronation Street
- 14:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 15:35 Catchphrase
- 16:30 Endeavour
- 18:20 Emmerdale
- 18:45 Coach Trip
- 19:10 Coronation Street
- 19:35 Catchphrase
- 20:30 Endeavour
- 22:20 Coronation Street
- 22:50 Emmerdale
- 23:15 Churchill's Secret
- 01:05 Catchphrase
- 02:00 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild
- 02:30 Emmerdale
- 02:55 Emmerdale



- 03:05 Lucky Chow
- 03:30 Places We Go
- 03:55 Grandma's Boy
- 04:20 My Dubai
- 04:45 My Dubai
- 05:10 World's Biggest Festival: Kumbh Mela
- 06:00 Bondi Rescue
- 06:25 Bondi Rescue
- 06:50 Cesar To The Rescue
- 07:40 Chefs Run Wild
- 08:05 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 08:30 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 08:55 Lucky Chow
- 09:20 Places We Go
- 09:45 Grandma's Boy
- 10:10 My Dubai
- 10:35 My Dubai
- 11:00 World's Biggest Festival: Kumbh Mela
- 11:50 Bondi Rescue
- 12:15 Bondi Rescue
- 12:40 Cesar To The Rescue
- 13:35 Chefs Run Wild
- 14:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 14:30 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 14:55 Lucky Chow
- 15:25 Places We Go
- 15:50 Grandma's Boy
- 16:20 My Dubai
- 16:45 My Dubai
- 17:15 World's Best Chefs
- 17:40 World's Best Chefs
- 18:10 Bondi Rescue
- 18:35 Bondi Rescue
- 19:05 Lucky Chow

- 19:30 Places We Go
- 20:00 Grandma's Boy
- 20:25 My Dubai
- 20:50 My Dubai
- 21:15 World's Best Chefs
- 21:40 World's Best Chefs
- 22:05 Bondi Rescue
- 22:30 Bondi Rescue
- 22:55 Cesar To The Rescue
- 23:45 Chefs Run Wild
- 00:10 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 00:35 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 01:00 My Dubai
- 01:25 Home Strange Home
- 02:15 Cradle Of Mandopp



- 03:45 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
- 04:40 1000 Days For The Planet
- 05:35 Hyena Coast
- 06:30 Animals Gone Wild
- 07:25 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
- 08:20 1000 Days For The Planet
- 09:15 Kingdom Of The Oceans
- 10:10 Queen Of The Baboons
- 11:05 Deadly Game
- 12:00 Ragged Tooth
- 12:55 Predator Battleground
- 13:50 Animals Gone Wild
- 14:45 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
- 15:40 1000 Days For The Planet
- 16:35 Kingdom Of The Forest
- 17:30 Wild Colombia
- 18:25 Deadly Game
- 19:20 Africa's Wild Kingdom Reborn
- 20:10 1000 Days For The Planet
- 21:00 Kingdom Of The Forest
- 21:50 Wild Colombia
- 22:40 Deadly Game
- 23:30 Dinofish
- 00:20 Hyena Coast
- 01:10 Animals Gone Wild
- 02:00 Dangerous Encounters
- 02:50 Walking With The Great Apes



- 03:50 Nazi Megastructures
- 04:45 Brain Games Compilation
- 05:40 Science Of Stupid
- 06:05 Science Of Stupid
- 06:35 1000 Days For The Planet
- 07:30 Street Genius
- 07:55 Street Genius
- 08:25 Wicked Tuna
- 09:20 The Generation That Changed The World
- 10:15 Locked Up Abroad
- 11:10 Desperate Hours

- 11:35 Desperate Hours
- 12:05 Strippers: Cars For Cash
- 13:00 Wicked Tuna
- 14:00 Man V. Viral
- 15:00 1000 Days For The Planet
- 16:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 17:00 Desperate Hours
- 18:00 The Border Wars Compilation
- 19:00 1000 Days For The Planet
- 20:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 20:50 Desperate Hours
- 21:15 Desperate Hours
- 21:40 The Border Wars Compilation
- 22:30 1000 Days For The Planet
- 23:20 Science Of Stupid
- 23:45 Science Of Stupid
- 00:10 Locked Up Abroad
- 01:00 Desperate Hours
- 02:00 The Border Wars Compilation
- 02:55 Nazi Megastructures



- 03:00 Two And A Half Men
- 03:30 Two And A Half Men
- 04:00 Living With Fran
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 05:30 Better With You
- 06:00 My Name Is Earl
- 06:30 Community
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:00 Living With Fran
- 08:30 Better With You
- 09:00 Two And A Half Men
- 09:30 Mad Love
- 10:00 Mad Love
- 10:30 Community
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:00 My Name Is Earl
- 12:30 Living With Fran
- 13:00 Better With You
- 14:00 Two And A Half Men
- 14:30 Mad Love
- 15:00 Mad Love
- 15:30 Life In Pieces
- 16:00 The Carmichael Show
- 16:30 My Name Is Earl
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:00 Fresh Off The Boat
- 18:30 Black-ish



- 03:00 Odyssey
- 04:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 The Fosters
- 07:00 C.S.I.
- 08:00 Prison Break
- 09:00 Royal Pains
- 10:00 Supernatural
- 11:00 C.S.I.
- 12:00 Prison Break
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show

- 14:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 Blindspot
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Prison Break
- 19:00 Royal Pains
- 20:00 Shark Tank
- 21:00 The Night Shift
- 22:00 Survivor: Kaoh Rong
- 23:00 Sleepy Hollow
- 00:00 Defiance
- 01:00 The Night Shift
- 02:00 Survivor: Kaoh Rong



ACTION

- 03:45 I, Robot
- 05:45 Pearl Harbor
- 09:00 Biker Boyz
- 11:00 The Marine 4: The Moving Target
- 12:45 I, Robot
- 14:45 R.I.P.D.
- 16:30 Pearl Harbor
- 19:45 X-Men: Days Of Future Past
- 22:00 Death Race
- 00:00 The Green Inferno
- 02:00 R.I.P.D.



COMEDY

- 04:00 Bad Parents
- 06:00 Father Of The Bride Part II
- 08:00 Man Of The House
- 10:00 Bad Parents
- 12:00 At Middleton
- 14:00 The Trip To Italy
- 16:00 Man Of The House
- 18:00 50 First Dates
- 20:00 John Tucker Must Die
- 22:00 The Starving Games
- 00:00 Scary Movie 4
- 02:00 50 First Dates



FAMILY

- 03:00 Honey, I Blew Up The Kid
- 05:00 Ice Age: The Meltdown
- 07:00 Snow Dogs
- 09:00 Into The Woods
- 11:15 First Kid
- 13:00 Big Hero 6
- 15:00 Paddington
- 17:00 The Chronicles Of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch...
- 19:15 The Chronicles Of Narnia: Prince Caspian
- 21:45 National Treasure
- 00:00 Paddington
- 02:00 The Chronicles Of Narnia: Prince Caspian



- 03:00 Seventh Son
- 05:00 Batman: Assault On Arkham
- 07:00 Streetdance: All Stars
- 09:00 Seventh Son
- 10:45 Tomorrowland
- 13:00 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart
- 14:45 The Maze Runner
- 16:45 The Book Of Life
- 18:30 Avengers: Age Of Ultron
- 21:00 Jurassic World
- 23:15 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes
- 01:30 Insidious: Chapter 3



KIDS

- 04:15 Daddy I'm A Zombie
- 06:00 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of The Lost Gold
- 08:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
- 10:00 Zarafa
- 11:30 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
- 13:00 Justice League vs. Bizarro League
- 14:30 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
- 16:00 Pixies
- 18:00 Zarafa
- 20:00 Worms
- 22:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
- 23:45 Pixies
- 01:15 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
- 02:45 Worms

Word Search Puzzles

Winter 2 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

- BLIZZARD
- HAIL
- SKIS
- BOOTS
- HOCKEY
- SLED
- CARNIVAL
- ICE FISHING
- SLIPPERY
- CHRISTMAS
- KNIT CAP
- SNOW BLOWER
- EGG NOG
- OLYMPICS
- SNOW SHOVEL
- FIREWOOD
- PARKA
- SNOWFLAKE
- FREEZE
- SEASON
- SOLSTICE
- GLOVES
- SKIING

Yesterday's Solution

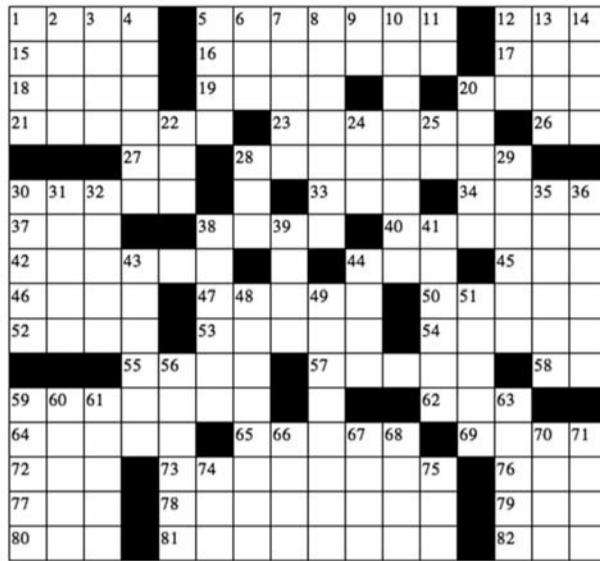
Large Print Word Search Puzzles

Winter 1 - Solution

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

- ANTIFREEZE
- ICE SCRAPER
- SNOWBALL
- 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

CROSSWORD 1266



ACROSS

1. In addition.
5. Pertaining to or involving or having the nature of space.
12. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
15. The emotion of hate.
16. Type genus of the Cariamidae comprising only the crested cariama.
17. Primitive predaceous North American fish covered with hard scales and having long jaws with needle-like teeth.
18. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
19. (Norse mythology) Ruler of the Aesir.
21. Unhappy in love.
23. English writer (1672-1729).
26. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
27. Informal terms for a mother.
30. Large antelope with lightly spiraled horns of desert regions of North Africa.
33. An index of the cost of all goods and services to a typical consumer.
34. Mentally or physically infirm with age.
37. (Irish) The sea personified.
40. A rectangular block of hewn stone used for building purposes.
42. The basic unit of money in Zambia.
45. White crystalline compound used as a food additive to enhance flavor.
46. God of the Underworld.
47. Type genus of the Bramidae.
50. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
52. Lacking in liveliness or charm or surprise.
53. Hungarian composer of light operas (1870-1948).
54. Living in or characteristic of farming or country life.
55. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
57. Conforming to an ultimate standard of perfection or excellence.
58. A hard malleable ductile silvery metallic element that is resistant to corrosion.
59. An ambitious and aspiring young person.
62. Having undesirable or negative qualities.
64. Moth having nonfunctional mouthparts as adults.
65. A Buddhist who has attained nirvana.

69. A short labored intake of breath with the mouth open.
72. Pertaining to the forward part of a vessel.
73. Having no roof.
76. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
77. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
78. Of or relating to a pastor.
79. A light touch or stroke.
80. The seed of the cereal grass.
81. Short account of an incident (especially a biographical one).
82. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
2. Remove with or as if with a ladle.
3. Indicating the most important performer or role.
4. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
5. A native or inhabitant of Scotland.
6. A number of sheets of paper fastened together along one edge.
7. Come into existence.
8. Tack or small nail of tinned iron.
9. A state in midwestern United States.
10. Suffering from a partial loss of memory.
11. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
12. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
13. Fallow deer.
14. The phenomenon of resistance to motion through a fluid.
20. English film actress (1913-1967).
22. Duplicator that transmits the copy by wire or radio.
24. Automatic data processing by electronic means without the use of tabulating cards or punched tapes.
25. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
28. Step on it.
29. Of or relating to the palm of the hand.
31. Vacuum flask that holds liquid air or helium for scientific experiments.
32. A dramatic work intended for performance by actors on a stage.
35. Someone employed by a gas company.
36. Wild sheep of semidesert regions in central Asia.
38. 1 species.
39. An Indian nursemaid who looks after children.
41. Scarabaeid beetle considered divine by ancient Egyptians.
43. A small tent used as a dressing room beside the sea or a swimming pool.
44. One of a set of small pieces of stiff paper marked in various ways and used for playing games or for telling fortunes.
48. Engage in a rehearsal (of).
49. The childhood of a girl.
51. A Russian prison camp for political prisoners.
56. Tree of the Amazon valley yielding a light brittle timber locally regarded as resistant to insect attack.
60. Intense feelings of suffering.
61. 100 ngwee equal 1 kwacha.
63. (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann.
66. A training program to prepare college students to be commissioned officers.
67. A rounded thickly curled hairdo.
68. The small projection of a mammary gland.
70. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
71. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
74. (British) Your grandmother.
75. A chronic skin disease occurring primarily in women between the ages of 20 and 40.

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

DIPLOMATS START TO OVERSHADOW GREEN EXPERTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

FORMER MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO BE UN CLIMATE CHIEF

BONN: Diplomats are gradually crowding out environment experts in global efforts to tackle climate change, a shift signalling a higher profile for the issue and improved chances for more coordination to fight it. Foreign ministries usually wield more clout in national governments than their environment colleagues and have more experience in coordinating issues as varied as politics, pollution, health, finance and diplomacy.

The change is in the air these days at a May 16-26 United Nations meeting on implementing last December's Paris Agreement to limit global warming, negotiated at a high-level meeting hosted by

France's then foreign minister Laurent Fabius. Last week, the United Nations chose Patricia Espinosa, a former Mexican foreign minister, as its climate chief from July. She has the highest-ranking diplomatic experience of anyone starting the job.

"There has been a shift to understand that climate change is not only an environmental challenge, it's an economic, a social challenge and does require active engagement of almost every member of the cabinet," outgoing UN climate chief Christiana Figueres of Costa Rica told reporters. Climate change has become a higher global priority and foreign ministers, usually among the

most senior cabinet ministers, are well placed to coordinate action, said Figueres, previously a national negotiator and environmental expert.

Before Fabius chaired the Paris meeting, where almost 200 nations agreed a sweeping plan to end global dependence on fossil fuels to limit rising temperatures, environment ministers had been in charge of most of the UN's annual climate talks since they started in the 1990s.

"Climate change has become a core issue for diplomacy," said Elliot Diringer of the US Center for Environment and Energy Solutions, saying the long-term success of the Paris Agreement would hinge on diplomatic skills to persuade ever tougher action to restrict emissions. Reflecting this trend, Moroccan Foreign Minister Salaheddine Mezouar attended the start of the Bonn talks, which are preparing a high-level conference in November in Marrakech on implementing the Paris Agreement.

Global warming "cannot be analysed only from the silo of the environment ministry," said Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu of the Democratic Republic of Congo, who chairs a group of the 48 poorest nations at the Bonn meeting. Mpanu-Mpanu said some environment ministers feel displaced from their area of expertise by foreign ministers. Some cope well with the new split but "in some countries it can create a lot of tensions," he said.

Espinosa, who was also in the vanguard by hosting U.N. climate talks in Mexico in 2010 as foreign minister, said "we need both" environmental experts to solve technical issues and diplomats to understand the politics. — Reuters



Hundreds of local inhabitants rescue a 15 meter-long and 2 meter-high alive whale swept away offshore in the central coastal province of Nghe An yesterday. The operation was successful after vehicles including an excavator had been mobilized to create a canal enabling to return the fish to the sea. — AFP

PREGNANT WOMEN WITH ZIKA HAVE UP TO 13% RISK OF MICROCEPHALY

WASHINGTON: Pregnant women infected with the Zika virus during the first trimester have a risk of up to 13 percent that their infant will be born with the microcephaly birth defect, a new study says.

Scientists calculated the risk based on Zika infection data and cases of infants born with abnormally small heads and brains in French Polynesia, which experienced an outbreak in 2013-2014, and the hard-hit Brazilian state of Bahia.

Brazil has experienced an explosion of Zika infections and cases of microcephaly since 2015. The study, which appeared Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine, said the risk of microcephaly was very low for pregnant women who contracted the disease beyond the first trimester.

Researchers from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Harvard University wrote that they found "a strong association between the risk of microcephaly and infection risk in the first trimester" of pregnancy, but "a negligible association in the second and third trimesters."

Experts agree that the mosquito-borne Zika virus is behind a surge in cases of microcephaly after their mothers were infected with the virus. "Although much remains unknown about the effects of (Zika) infection during pregnancy, population-level data from French Polynesia and Bahia reveal a clear association between first-trimester (Zika) infection and microcephaly risk," the experts wrote.

They said "the estimated risk due to infection in the first trimester ranged from 0.88 percent... to 13.2 percent." If the risk of infection "is similar in the other geographic areas where (Zika) has since spread, many more cases of microcephaly and other adverse outcomes are likely to occur."

The researchers urged pregnant women to take precautions to avoid Zika infections, "and for health care systems to prepare for an increased burden of adverse pregnancy outcomes in the coming years." Normally, microcephaly is rare in the United States, affecting only between 0.02 and 0.12 percent of all births in the United States. In Brazil, 1,271 babies have been born with unusually small heads and deformed brains since the outbreak of Zika began there last year. — AFP

CLINIC
PAGE



Kuwait Times

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem

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

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



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (26/05/2016 TO 01/06/2016)

SHARQIA-1		THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	2:00 PM	WARCRAFT	4:30 PM
MONEY MONSTER	11:30 AM	FRI		WARCRAFT	7:00 PM
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	1:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	4:15 PM	WARCRAFT	9:30 PM
MONEY MONSTER	3:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	6:30 PM	WARCRAFT	12:05 AM
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	5:45 PM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	8:45 PM		
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	8:00 PM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	11:45 PM	AL-KOUT.2	
MONEY MONSTER	10:15 PM			PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	1:00 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:15 AM			MONEY MONSTER	3:15 PM
		MARINA-1		PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	5:15 PM
SHARQIA-2		MONEY MONSTER	11:30 AM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	7:30 PM
WARCRAFT	11:45 AM	MONEY MONSTER	1:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER	9:45 PM
WARCRAFT	2:15 PM	MONEY MONSTER	3:30 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	11:45 PM
WARCRAFT	4:45 PM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	5:30 PM		
WARCRAFT	7:15 PM	MONEY MONSTER	8:30 PM	AL-KOUT.3	
WARCRAFT	9:45 PM	MONEY MONSTER	10:30 PM	Hepta	11:45 AM
WARCRAFT	12:30 AM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:30 AM	Hepta	2:15 PM
				Hepta	4:45 PM
SHARQIA-3		MARINA-2		Hepta	7:15 PM
Hepta	12:00 PM	WARCRAFT	11:30 AM	Hepta	10:00 PM
Hepta	2:30 PM	WARCRAFT	2:00 PM	Hepta	12:30 AM
Hepta	5:00 PM	WARCRAFT	4:30 PM		
Hepta	7:30 PM	WARCRAFT	7:00 PM	AL-KOUT.4	
Hepta	10:00 PM	WARCRAFT	9:30 PM	THE NICE GUYS	12:15 PM
Hepta	12:45 AM	WARCRAFT	12:05 AM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	2:30 PM
				THE NICE GUYS	5:30 PM
MUHALAB-1		MARINA-3		THE NICE GUYS	7:45 PM
Hepta	11:45 AM	Hepta	12:45 PM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	10:15 PM
Hepta	2:15 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	3:15 PM	THE NICE GUYS	1:00 AM
THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	4:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	5:30 PM		
Hepta	6:45 PM	Hepta	7:45 PM	BAIRAQ-1	
Hepta	9:15 PM	Hepta	10:15 PM	WARCRAFT 3D	11:30 AM
Hepta	11:45 PM	Hepta	12:45 AM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	2:00 PM
				WARCRAFT	4:00 PM
MUHALAB-2		AVENUES-1		WARCRAFT 3D	6:30 PM
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	12:45 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	11:45 AM	WARCRAFT	9:00 PM
MONEY MONSTER	3:00 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	2:00 PM	WARCRAFT	11:30 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	5:00 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	4:15 PM		
NO FRI +SAT		PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	6:45 PM	BAIRAQ-2	
SARBJIT (Hindi)	5:15 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	9:15 PM	Hepta	11:30 AM
FRI +SAT		PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	11:45 PM	Hepta	1:45 PM
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	8:00 PM			Hepta	4:30 PM
MONEY MONSTER	10:15 PM	AVENUES-3		Hepta	7:00 PM
X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:15 AM	MONEY MONSTER	11:30 AM	Hepta	9:30 PM
		MONEY MONSTER	1:45 PM	Hepta	12:05 AM
MUHALAB-3		MONEY MONSTER	4:00 PM		
WARCRAFT	11:30 AM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	6:15 PM	BAIRAQ-3	
WARCRAFT	2:00 PM	MONEY MONSTER	8:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER	12:15 PM
WARCRAFT	4:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER	10:45 PM	MONEY MONSTER	2:15 PM
WARCRAFT	7:00 PM	MONEY MONSTER	1:00 AM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	4:15 PM
WARCRAFT	9:30 PM			THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	6:15 PM
WARCRAFT	12:05 AM	AVENUES-4		MONEY MONSTER	8:15 PM
		Hepta	12:45 PM	MONEY MONSTER	10:15 PM
FANAR-1		MONEY MONSTER	3:00 PM	MONEY MONSTER	12:15 AM
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	1:15 PM	Hepta	5:00 PM		
MONEY MONSTER	1:30 PM	NO THU		PLAZA	
FRI		Special Show "THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE"		Hepta	3:30 PM
MONEY MONSTER	3:30 PM	5:00 PM		WARCRAFT	5:45 PM
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	5:30 PM	THU 26.05.2016		Hepta	8:15 PM
MONEY MONSTER	7:45 PM	Hepta 7:30 PM		Hepta	10:45 PM
PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	9:45 PM	Hepta	10:00 PM		
MONEY MONSTER	12:15 AM			LAILA	
		360°- 1		WARCRAFT	3:30 PM
FANAR-2		Hepta	12:15 PM	MONEY MONSTER	6:00 PM
Hepta	11:30 AM	Hepta	2:45 PM	Hepta	8:00 PM
Hepta	2:00 PM	Hepta	5:15 PM	Special Show "DVD"	7:00 PM
Hepta	4:30 PM	Hepta	7:45 PM	WED 01.06.2016	
Hepta	7:00 PM	Hepta	10:15 PM	WARCRAFT	10:30 PM
Hepta	9:30 PM				
Hepta	12:05 AM	360°- 2		AJIAL.1	
		PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	12:00 PM	MARUDHU (Tamil)	3:45 PM
FANAR-3		PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	3:00 PM	MARUDHU (Tamil)	6:45 PM
THE NICE GUYS	11:30 AM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	5:15 PM	MARUDHU (Tamil)	9:45 PM
CABIN FEVER	1:45 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	7:30 PM	IDHU NAMMA AALU (Tamil)	3:45 PM
THE NICE GUYS	4:00 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	10:00 PM	IDHU NAMMA AALU (Tamil)	6:45 PM
CABIN FEVER	6:15 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	12:30 AM	IDHU NAMMA AALU (Tamil)	9:45 PM
THE NICE GUYS	8:15 PM				
THE NICE GUYS	10:30 PM	360°- 3		AJIAL.2	
CABIN FEVER	12:45 AM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	12:30 PM	SARBJIT (Hindi)	3:45 PM
		THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 3D	2:45 PM	SARBJIT (Hindi)	6:15 PM
FANAR-4		THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE (Arabic)	5:00 PM	SARBJIT (Hindi)	9:00 PM
WARCRAFT 3D	12:00 PM				
WARCRAFT	2:30 PM	AL-KOUT.1		AJIAL.3	
WARCRAFT 3D	5:00 PM	WARCRAFT	11:30 AM	WARCRAFT	5:15 PM
WARCRAFT	7:30 PM	WARCRAFT	2:00 PM	WARCRAFT	7:45 PM
WARCRAFT	10:00 PM				
WARCRAFT	12:30 AM				
FANAR-5					
X-MEN: Apocalypse	1:15 PM				

FOR RENT

A compound consist of 22 flats, each one with 3 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms and big living room.

The compound is near the sea. Preferably VIP foreigners.

Tel: **25736466**
94976434

Prayer timings

Fajr:	03:18
Shorook	04:50
Duhr:	11:45
Asr:	15:20
Maghrib:	16:40
Isha:	20:10



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

Clinics

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

Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2016

BRENT OIL BREAKS ABOVE \$50 FOR FIRST TIME IN 7 MONTHS

PAGE 38



Abe points to 2008 economic crisis as G7 debates global risk
Page 39



Workers block the access to the nuclear power plant of Nogent-sur-Seine yesterday during a protest against controversial labor market reforms that has already severely disrupted fuel supplies. — AFP (See also Page 38)

OPEC AWAITS SAUDI RULING ON OUTPUT

CARTEL LIKELY TO ROLL OVER POLICY WITH NO OUTPUT TARGET

DUBAI/LONDON: For those seeking guidance on Saudi Arabia's thinking regarding the future of OPEC, the last few weeks' agenda of the new Saudi energy minister, Khalid Al-Falih, might offer a few clues. Since his appointment on May 7 as head of a new mega-ministry - overseeing energy, industry, mining, atomic power and renewables - Falih has toured six state firms, met the South Korean premier, the Canadian foreign minister and Gulf industry ministers, and opened a gas turbine plant.

To fellow members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, that speaks volumes. Unlike his predecessor Ali Al-Naimi, Falih may not have much time for OPEC. The group meets on June 2, its first talks with the new minister in attendance. For oil-price hawks such as Iran, Algeria and Venezuela, fears are growing that the 56-year-old OPEC is losing its role as an output-setting cartel and turning into a talking shop.

"Saudi Arabia killed OPEC and buried it," a senior OPEC source from a non-Gulf producer said.

"In OPEC, they go for (including) Indonesia and Gabon to convert OPEC to a forum," the source said, referring to OPEC's decision, supported by Riyadh, to include minor producers. As a historic reminder, OPEC last decided to change output in

December 2008, when it cut supply amid slowing demand due to a global financial crisis. Between 1998 and 2008, OPEC made 27 changes to output.

For decades, Saudi Arabia, Vienna-based OPEC's largest producer and de facto leader, had a preferred range for oil prices and, if unhappy, would try to orchestrate a group-wide production cut or increase. But a technology-driven spike in non-OPEC output such as that of US shale and growing fuel efficiency led Riyadh to conclude that the era of fast oil growth might be ending.

Hence, in the past two years Riyadh has stuck to a strategy of fighting for market share, thinking that pumping more oil now at low prices is better than producing less in the future. Many OPEC members - apart from Riyadh's allies in the Gulf, such as Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates - were unprepared for that shift, with their finances crippled by heavy debts and stagnant production.

Venezuela and Nigeria pressed Saudi Arabia to agree to price-boosting output cuts, and even Riyadh's arch-rival Iran is signalling it will be ready for renewed dialogue on freezing production once it reaches pre-sanctions levels. "Of course, the issue of the role of OPEC can be raised. Some members want OPEC to play a



Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih

more significant role in managing the market," said an OPEC delegate from one of the main producing countries in the Middle East.

Earlier this year, Iran refused to join an initiative to freeze output but signalled it would be part of a future effort once its production had recovered sufficiently.

An OPEC watcher said: "Other producers are going to want to come and revive the freeze

agreement. Iran is now at pre-sanctions levels. And though the worst has been avoided, the reality is that many of these producers remain under real stress."

MULTI-TASKING

Saudi and Iranian OPEC delegates clashed earlier this month over long-term strategy, with Riyadh saying OPEC should not manage the market and Tehran arguing that the group had been created to perform precisely that task. The tensions come amid a backdrop of worsening relations between Riyadh and Tehran, which are fighting proxy wars in the Middle East, including in Yemen and Syria.

To be sure, OPEC has weathered internal strife and conflict before - such as in the 1980s, when Iran and Iraq were at war. It has been through periods that saw it fail to influence prices such as the 1990s - only to return and control the market. But it is hard to see OPEC regaining its grip, unless the Saudi position - driven by Falih's ultimate boss, Deputy Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman - changes dramatically. Falih's tasks - his ministry is to oversee half of the economy, not to mention plans for a share listing in state oil giant Saudi Aramco - are likely to divert more of his time away from OPEC. — Reuters



MARSEILLE: People holding French CGT union's flag take part in a demonstration against the French government's planned labour law reforms in front of Les Terrasses du Port commercial centre yesterday in Marseille. — AFP

FRENCH DOCK WORKERS THROW SMOKE BOMBS

PROTESTS ESCALATE AGAINST LABOR REFORMS

LE HAVRE, France: Thousands of dock workers poured into a public square in the French port city of Le Havre yesterday, setting off smoke bombs as part of escalating nationwide protests against a labor bill that would loosen protections for French workers.

As union activists disrupted fuel supplies, trains and nuclear plants during a day of demonstrations around the country, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls opened the door to possible changes but said the government would not abandon the bill, which would make the country's 35-hour work week more flexible, among other provisions. The draft law, aimed at boosting hiring after a decade of nearly 10 percent unemployment and slow but corrosive economic decline, has escalated into the toughest challenge yet to President Francois Hollande and his Socialist government.

"There could be improvements and modifications" in the bill, Valls said on BFM television yesterday. He didn't elaborate on what might be changed, and insisted that the "heart" of the bill - a measure weakening the power of unions over workplace rules - should remain. Withdrawing the bill "is not possible," he said. Union activists and ordinary workers reacted with derision.

Members of the CGT union, leading the protests, said it's too late to compromise. Many remain angry that the government forced the bill through the lower house of parliament without a vote because of division in the Socialist majority. "Valls is hardening his tone? Well were hardening our tone too!" an organizer shouted into a loudspeaker at the Normandy Bridge, where some 200 to 300 trade unionists and other protesters gathered to block traffic in one of many disruptions to roads around the country yesterday.

After vacating the bridge, which typically carries about 12 million vehicles a year, union activists spread the disruption to Le Havre, driving slowly through town or briefly blocking roads on foot as cars around them honked repeatedly. Then the dock workers stormed the main square in front of City Hall, setting off multicolor smoke bombs and throwing some in fountains, kicking up plumes of water. The sounds of sirens and the smoke bomb explosions reverberated around the area.

Fabien Gloaguen, an activist with the militant Worker's Force movement, said the government would have to back down. "He's going to withdraw it," Gloaguen said.

Valls insisted the bill is "good for workers" and small businesses, and argued that many of its critics are ill-informed of its contents. In addition to loosening rules about the 35-hour work week, the bill makes it easier to fire workers in times of economic downturn, and weakens the power of unions to set working conditions across an entire sector.

Two months of protests escalated over the past week as unions targeted the sensitive oil industry, blocking fuel depots and refineries. The government has started using its strategic fuel reserves and forcing depots to reopen, but supplies remained spotty yesterday, with long lines and caps on purchases. Drivers endured long waits to reach gas pumps, railing at the strikes, the government and the overall funk in France.

Gas station manager Bernard Ballaux has limited customers to 50 euros (\$56) worth of diesel after a week of panic buying. Customers "fear that they won't have gas anymore so they are irritated, tense."

Prices have risen noticeably at gas pumps. But at the blocked Normandy Bridge, at least one pair of travelers said they didn't mind. "It's for us that they're doing this," said Jean-Luc Geraert, whose battered white van was caught behind the makeshift barricade. Geraert, a 55-year-old industrial painter, said if the government doesn't back down soon, "it's going to get worse." — AP

GLOBAL GAINS KD 243,000 NET PROFIT FOR Q1 2016

KUWAIT: Global Investment House Company announced yesterday it gained net profit of KD 243,000 for Q1 2016 period, ending on March 31. During 2015, the Asset Management business remained resilient with KD1 billion of assets under management, said the company in a press release. Global investment focuses on launching products and services best suited to the clients' investment needs, it added.

During Q1 2016, the Investment Banking team generated KD 0.5 million revenues from five different mandates, ranging from advisory to M and A mandates, two of which were successfully closed during the quarter. The Company's continuous efforts to control and rationalize its cost base resulted in reducing operating cost base by 12 percent in the same time period, the

report noted. Global has a healthy capital structure, conservatively deployed primarily in liquid and operating assets with no external debt and a capital base of KD 90.7 million, the company added. "It is expected that the instability in the region and low oil prices will last for some time, which will continue to have adverse effect on the regional equity markets, investment banking deal flows and new money raising efforts", Vice Chairman and Group CEO Maha Al-Ghunaim said. She added that "we remain committed to continue creating value to all our stakeholders by offering investment products and services suitable for clients' needs in these challenging times such as special situations asset management, low risk income generating investment instruments, among others". — KUNA

BRENT OIL BREAKS ABOVE \$50 FOR FIRST TIME IN 7 MONTHS

LONDON: Oil prices climbed above \$50 a barrel yesterday for the first time in nearly seven months as a global supply glut that plagued the market for nearly two years showed signs of easing.

Oil prices have rallied in recent weeks after a string of outages, due mainly to wildfires in Canada and unrest in Nigeria and Libya, knocked out nearly 4 million barrels per day of production.

Above \$50 a barrel, oil was seen by many market players as breaching a psychological barrier that could lead producers, particularly among US shale companies, to revive operations scrapped in recent years. Global benchmark Brent crude oil was up 56 cents at \$50.30 a barrel at 1220 GMT, having reached \$50.71 the highest in nearly 7 months, after a larger-than-expected draw in US crude oil inventories last week indicated buyers are starting to mop up spare supply.

US crude futures were up 48 cents at \$50.04 a barrel, after touching \$50.21, the highest since mid-October. "Certainly (\$50) is a psychological barrier. There is a momentum, people will try and push it up over that," said Ric Spooner, chief market analyst at Sydney's CMC Markets. A source at oil producer Chevron said yesterday its activities in Nigeria had been "grounded" by a militant attack, worsening a situation that had already restricted the supply of hundreds of thousands of barrels.

A meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on June 2 in Vienna to discuss the oil market added further support. OPEC officials were more positive about oil market conditions at talks in Vienna ahead of next week's gathering of oil ministers, two sources said yesterday, in a sign the exporter group is unlikely to change output policy on June 2. However, the recent rise in oil prices and friction between key members Saudi Arabia and Iran mean a coordinated effort to intervene to support prices is slim. "A (production) freeze remains a tail risk, but a very small one. The bigger risk is that following the meeting Saudi will increase production to meet rising summer domestic demand, to preserve market share in its oil wars with Iran and Iraq," David Hufton, head of PVM Oil brokers, said. "These are all compelling reasons to expect Saudi production to rise over the summer months." — Reuters

IRANIAN APPETITE FOR GERMAN GOODS FUELS SURGE IN EXPORTS

BERLIN: German exports to Iran, especially of machines and equipment, rose significantly in the first quarter following the removal of international sanctions against the Islamic Republic, government data showed yesterday. Exports to Iran surged by 7 percent year-on-year in the January-March period to 500 million euros (\$558.85 million), the Federal Statistics Office said. This compares with a 0.7 percent rise in overall, year-on-year German exports in the same period.

"This is quite reasonable," said Michael Tockuss, head of the German-Iranian Chamber of Commerce. "Machines and equipment are doing exceptionally well, but also grain and wheat."

For decades before sanctions were imposed, Germany was Iran's biggest trading partner. The gap in Iranian imports from Germany and other Western countries was subsequently filled by Chinese, Korean and Middle Eastern competitors. German industry anticipated a steep rise in exports to Iran after world powers lifted crippling sanctions against the Islamic Republic in January in return for Tehran's compliance with a deal to curb its nuclear ambitions. However, Tockuss said great expectations arising from the nuclear deal have been dampened by difficulties in financing as Western banks remain reluctant to do business in Iran for fear of transparency issues that could lead to fines. The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) said in February it was still concerned about what it called Iran's failure to address the risk of terror financing and the serious threat this poses to the global financial system.

"The whole big euphoria that existed a few months ago has evaporated a little bit," said Tockuss. "This is mainly because of the big difficulties with financing." He added that Iran had shown interest in large-scale projects to build refineries and petrochemical factories and cement plants, but was unable to finance such undertakings with credit from foreign banks.

"Its own banks lack liquidity. They are dependent on our banks to finance projects," Tockuss said. Despite such difficulties, he said, Germany should expect business with Iran to outperform activity with most other emerging markets. German exports to Iran could reach 2.5-3 billion euros this year, up from 2 billion euros in 2015, he added.

Germany's Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) expects exports to Iran to reach 5 billion euros in the coming years and reach twice that figure in the long term. — Reuters

NEW ZEALAND BUDGET FLAGS CONCERNS OVER BREXIT

WELLINGTON: New Zealand said yesterday its budget was in the black and predicted ongoing surpluses, but warned a British exit from the European Union could pose economic risks if it hit key exports like lamb and dairy. The former British colony was badly affected in the early 1970s when London joined the European market, slashing its access for crucial agricultural exports like dairy—the country's biggest export earner—in a single stroke.

Treasury papers released in yesterday's New Zealand budget said the so-called Brexit was a factor that could derail the strong economic performance Wellington expects over the next few years. "The possibility of Britain exiting the European Union may lead to high volatility in global markets," the papers said, adding this "would weigh on demand and inflation in New Zealand".

Finance Minister Bill English sidestepped the political debate about Britain's future in Europe, which will be decided by a referendum on June 23, but admitted he was wary about the economic impact of a vote to leave. "We'd take the view that anything that creates significant uncertainty in the world's third largest economy probably isn't that good for us," English told reporters.

"But of course it's up to the British people to decide through their referendum." Other potential downsides for the economy cited in the papers included a sharper-than-expected slowdown in China, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, terror attacks in Europe and uncertainty over low interest rates. There were no surprises in the budget, with the government keeping its powder dry for next year, when Prime Minister John Key will seek a fourth term.

English said the surplus for 2015-16 was NZ\$668 million (US\$448 million) and forecast a NZ\$719 million surplus next year, rising to NZ\$2.45 billion in 2017-18 and NZ\$3.6 billion in 2018-19.

He announced modest new spending initiatives averaging NZ\$1.6 billion a year, focusing on health, education, infrastructure and social welfare programs. "The books are back in the black and we are taking the opportunity to address some of New Zealand's pressing social issues," English said. He said the country was set to enjoy solid economic growth averaging 2.8 percent over the next four years. "Only a handful of developed economies enjoy such a positive outlook," he added. — AFP



WELLINGTON: Finance Minister Bill English discusses the annual budget with analysts and the media in Wellington yesterday. — AP



ISE MIE: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, center, walks along with leaders of Group of Seven industrial nations as they visit Ise-Jingu shrine in Ise, Mie prefecture, Japan, yesterday ahead of the first session of the G7 summit meetings. — AP

ABE POINTS TO 2008 ECONOMIC CRISIS AS G7 DEBATES GLOBAL RISK

EMERGING ECONOMIES CAUSE CONCERN, LEHMAN SHOCK CITED

ISE-SHIMA, Japan: Group of Seven leaders voiced concern about emerging economies at a summit in Japan yesterday as their host, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, made a pointed comparison to the 2008 global financial crisis but not all his G7 partners appeared to agree. The G7 leaders did agree on the need for flexible spending to spur world growth but the timing and amount depended on each country, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshige Seko told reporters, adding some countries saw no need for such spending.

Britain and Germany have been resisting calls for fiscal stimulus. "G7 leaders voiced the view that emerging economies are in a severe situation, although there were views that the current economic situation is not a crisis," Seko said after the first day of a two-day G7 summit in Ise-Shima, central Japan.

Abe presented data showing global commodities prices fell 55 percent from June 2014 to January 2016, the same margin as from July 2008 to February 2009, after the Lehman collapse. Lehman had been Wall Street's fourth-largest investment bank when it filed for Chapter 11 protection on Sept. 15, 2008, making its

bankruptcy by far the biggest in US history. Its failure triggered the global financial crisis. Abe hopes, some political insiders say, to use a G7 statement on the global economy as cover for a domestic fiscal package including the possible delay of a rise in the nation's sales tax to 10 percent from 8 percent planned for next April.

Obama told a news conference that he stressed the importance of pushing back against competitive currency devaluations, which some countries might be tempted to use to boost exports. Other summit topics include terrorism, cyber security and maritime security, especially China's increasing assertiveness in the East and South China Seas, where Beijing has territorial disputes with Japan and several Southeast Asian nations.

G7 leaders agreed that it was important to send a clear signal on the South and East China Seas, Seko told reporters, adding China was mentioned in discussions on maritime matters on Thursday. At a news conference late on Wednesday, Abe said Japan welcomed China's peaceful rise while repeating Tokyo's opposition to acts that try to change the status quo by force and urg-

ing respect of the rule of law - principles expected to be mentioned in a statement after the summit. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the South China Sea issue had "nothing to do" with the G7 or any of its member states.

"China is resolutely opposed to individual countries hyping up the South China Sea for personal gain," Hua said.

Obama pointed to the threat from North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, saying the isolated state was "hell bent" on getting atomic weapons. But he said there had been improved responses from countries in the region like China that could reduce the risk of Pyongyang selling nuclear material.

G7 leaders were rattled by Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, Obama said, adding Trump's statements displayed ignorance and were aimed at getting headlines, not what was needed to keep America safe and the world on an even keel. Summit pageantry began when Abe escorted G7 leaders to the Shinto religion's holiest site, the Ise Grand Shrine in central Japan, dedicated to sun goddess Amaterasu Omikami, mythical ancestress of the emperor. — Reuters

US TO CRACK DOWN ON PAYDAY LOANS

WASHINGTON: Struggling to make ends meet, millions of Americans resort to so-called payday loans whose costly charges can devastate personal finances. For the first time, the US government plans to implement a new rule that could limit the short-term, small-dollar loans that typically are due to be repaid on the borrower's next payday.

A proposed regulation is coming within weeks, says the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, a federal agency created after the 2008 financial crisis that has been working for more than a year on the measure. The CFPB proposal will be made public as early as June 2, people close to the situation told AFP.

"The main idea is that we don't want

customers to get stuck in debt," said Samuel Gilford, a spokesman at the CFPB. "What is intended to be a short-term loan ends up a much longer-term financial obligation."

Offered outside the regulated banking sector, payday advance loans are usually provided by one of 20,000 storefronts across the nation. Usually less than \$500 is borrowed, for a period of two weeks or a month. To qualify, the borrower must have steady income and a checking account. In exchange for the loans, the lender can require access to the borrower's checking account for repayment. Or the borrower writes a check for the full balance in advance, which the lender can cash in when the loan becomes due.

The finance charge on payday loans is much higher than regular bank loans or credit cards. According to the CFPB, a typical two-week payday loan charges \$15 for every \$100 lent. That equals an annual loan rate of nearly 400 percent, while credit cards typically charge from 12 percent to 30 percent.

Cycle of debt

If the borrower cannot repay the loan, that can lead to a pernicious cycle of more borrowing and more finance charges. "You borrow \$300, you are going to owe \$350 in two weeks. In two weeks, if you don't have those \$350, you can maybe come up with the \$50, pay that interest and reborrow the \$300. That's the most common scenario—peo-

ple will typically roll over their loan," said Gilford. A study by Pew Charitable Trusts, a nongovernmental research and polling group, said that "most borrowers pay more in fees than they originally received in credit."

Payday loans have become increasingly criticized as consumer rip-offs, and consumer rights advocates have clamored for a clampdown in the practice, seen as widely targeting the poor and minorities. Google recently announced it would ban ads for payday loans and auto title loans, in which borrowers pledge their vehicle as collateral to obtain modest loans at high interest rates, saying: "This change is designed to protect our users from deceptive or harmful financial products." — AFP

BRITAIN PROPOSES FEE CAP ON CASHING IN PENSION POTS

LONDON: Charges on Britons cashing in their pension early will be capped at 1 percent of the pot's value from March 2017, the Financial Conduct Authority proposed yesterday. The FCA also said that insurers will not be able to apply any early exit charge for personal pension contracts entered into after the proposed new rules come into force.

Britain has introduced so-called "pension freedom" reforms in a bid to give people aged 55 years or over more choice in providing for their retirement, but high exit fees have put off some people.

"This is an important step so people feel able to access their pension savings should they wish to," FCA Director of Strategy and Competition Christopher Woolard said in a statement. If the exit charge in a pension contract is already set at below 1 percent, it cannot be raised, the FCA said. Just under 750,000 people have pensions that include an exit charge and could therefore potentially benefit from the cap between 2017 and 2020, it added. Separately, the government is consulting on capping early exit charges in occupational pension schemes.

"Over 230,000 people took advantage of our pensions freedoms in the first year by accessing 4.3 billion pounds flexibly from their pension pots," Harriett Baldwin, a junior finance minister, said. Funds super-market Hargreaves Lansdown said the 1 percent cap was a "victory for corporate vested interests", and should have been set at zero percent to benefit a further 150,000 investors. "Those wishing to transfer old, expensive private pensions to improve their value for money, while they are still building their savings, will not benefit from the cap," Hargreaves Lansdown's head of

retirement policy, Tom McPhail, said.

The ban will not start until next year and Hargreaves Lansdown said it will ask the FCA if anyone cashing in a pension from Thursday can have a guarantee that they can reclaim any charges. JPMorgan Cazenove said the 1 percent cap will not have a material financial impact on UK life insurers. "The FCA is estimating a loss of revenue of 65 million pounds for the industry over four years which, in our view, is negligible for the UK life industry," JPMorgan Cazenove said in a note to clients. — Reuters



HAVANA: A man carries a sack along a street of Havana on Wednesday. Cuban authorities are considering legalizing certain private businesses, a potentially transformative move for the communist island as it liberalizes its economy, according to proposals published this week. — AFP

CUBA CONSIDERS LEGALIZING SMALL PRIVATE BUSINESSES

HAVANA: The Cuban authorities are considering legalizing certain private businesses, a potentially transformative move for the communist island as it liberalizes its economy. The ruling Communist Party on Tuesday published a list of reforms proposed during its congress in March, including possible changes to laws governing small and medium-sized businesses. Potential reforms include allowing Cubans to create "small businesses mainly run by the worker and their family, medium-sized, small and micro-scale private businesses."

Parliament must debate and approve the proposal before it can become law in the one-party state. But the very mention of the possibility in an official party document signals change in Cuba, which is opening its relations with former enemies such as the United States. President Raul Castro started gradually reforming the economy when he took over in 2008 from his brother Fidel, leader of the 1959 revolution.

Raul Castro has allowed Cubans to be self-employed workers and hire staff in certain cases, such as family-owned restaurants and bed-and-breakfasts, although they do not have the same formal legal status as companies. The president acknowledged during the March congress that "the increase in self-employed workers and their authorization to hire staff has led in practice to the existence of medium, small and micro enterprises that are operating today without legal status." The state still holds tight control over most of the economy, however. Tuesday's document proposed that small private businesses should serve only to "complement" existing state-run enterprises. Yosvany Lopez, a 36-year-old restaurant-owner in Havana, told AFP on Wednesday that he is skeptical about the potential for business reform.

"Up to now all they have tried to do has been to obstruct the functioning of these businesses," he said. — AFP

OLD JOBS DIE HARD IN CHINA'S RUSTBELT

BEIJING RELUCTANT TO CUT JOBS AT LOSSMAKING OILFIELDS

DAQING, China: Once the pride of Communist rulers and now hit by a global glut and slowing domestic growth, China's largest oilfield epitomizes Beijing's reluctance to cut jobs at loss-making state-run operations. Thousands of oil pumps painted black, yellow and red stretch to the horizon in Daqing, which has produced more than two billion tons of the black gold since it started flowing almost 60 years ago.

But many are now motionless, with production cut and the city suffering its first economic contraction for more than three decades last year. As oil prices hovered near historic lows, the field lost around \$800 million in the first two months of 2016, its top Communist official said in March according to state-run media. "It's because of the Americans," said a local oil worker surnamed Wang.

Analysts partly concur, blaming price declines on the United States' doubling production in recent years. The shale oil boom in the US saw it export oil for the first time in 40 years in January, and the OPEC cartel of oil producing nations has failed to agree production cuts.

As the world's biggest crude buyer, China benefits from low prices but it is also the world's fourth biggest producer, with a larger output than Canada meaning millions of jobs are at risk.

Western oil majors have been hammered by price falls, and BP alone has cut 11,000 jobs since the beginning of last year. Widespread redundancies would ravage Daqing, where the sector employs some 10 percent of nearly 3 million residents. The oil field, owned by PetroChina, the listed subsidiary of Chinese oil giant CNPC, produced some 38 million tons in 2015, down thirty percent from its peak, according to Nikkei.

But while several local workers told AFP that they had taken wage cuts of up to a quarter, jobs were still secure.

Iron Man

The Daqing oil field—and its fate—are heavy with symbolism. When oil was discovered there in the late 1950s, China's internationally isolated Communist party, named the field and the city which grew up around it "big celebration". Its first generation of oilmen, notably "Iron Man" Wang Jinxi—part of a team who



DAQING: Local residents riding bicycles next to oil pumps in Daqing, Heilongjiang province. Once the pride of Communist rulers and now hit by a global glut and slowing domestic growth, China's largest oilfield epitomizes Beijing's reluctance to cut jobs at loss-making state-run operations. — AFP

drilled with primitive tools in temperatures as low as -30 Celsius—were lauded as examples of the socialist work ethic. When Mao Zedong in 1964 declared "In Industry, Learn From Daqing," the party's propaganda apparatus flooded the country with books, songs, films and plays praising the city.

But the city's "Iron Man" park—its centerpiece a bust of Wang on a plinth bearing the slogan "The iron man spirit is a precious spiritual treasure"—is now crumbling and littered with broken statues. "It's the most classic example of industrial China," Lin Boqiang, an energy researcher at Xiamen University, told AFP, adding: "That era is over." State-firms such as CNPC have to maintain employment "because of their social responsibilities," he added. In February China's President Xi Jinping was quoted telling officials from Heilongjiang, the province that includes Daqing: "Economic restructuring today cannot come at the cost of workers' well-being. We must guarantee the incomes and treatment of front-line employees," he added. Across China's northeast, where steel and coal firms support entire cities, there is significant overcapacity in both sectors. CNPC can

subsidize losses at Daqing with profitable operations elsewhere, such as refining, analysts said, but smaller firms face bankruptcy without government bailouts. The nation's growth has fallen to a quarter-century low. China will cut 1.8 million coal and steel jobs, officials said this year. But no time frame was given, and ratings agency Fitch said the plan faces "immense" social challenges.

After the state-run Longmay mining group said last year it would slash 100,000 jobs, miners staged massive protests. "We are still employed. But wages are just 38 percent of what they once were," a Longmay worker called Chen told AFP. Beijing has earmarked some 150 billion yuan (\$23 billion) to cover redundancies and retraining. Restructuring would be "a big problem" for social stability in Daqing, said Michal Meidan, a consultant at Energy Aspects in London, because oil "runs the city".

Half a world away, well digger Wang—wearing a frayed blue jacket emblazoned with PetroChina's orange logo—agreed. "All these wells are losing money, but they will keep producing," he said. "Otherwise what would workers do?" —AFP

THOUSANDS OF BRAZILIAN JOB SEEKERS LINE UP IN RIO STREET

RIO DE JANEIRO: Thousands of Brazilians lined up yesterday at a Rio jobs fair, many of them so desperate to escape the country's economic nosedive that they said they'd take anything on offer.

In a symbol of Brazil's precipitous slide into economic hardship, the almost stationary queue stretched right across a large central square. They were young, old, women, men, and their anxious faces told the story of a country where unemployment in the first trimester was 10.9 percent, the economy is forecast to shrink by 3.88 percent this year and an impeachment trial against the president has triggered political upheaval.

Rubens Antonio, 44, said he had worked at the BNDES national development bank just up the road until he was laid off in 2014. "That's when the economic crisis started. I haven't had steady work since," he said. At the end of the line was a small tent where a half dozen union representatives collected resumes and took interviews. On offer was something increasingly precious in Brazil: 6,000 jobs.

The jobs, offered by a variety of companies taking part in the collective recruitment event, "range from managers to cooks and painters," said Fabiano Guedes, an organizer. Guedes said the line had been just as long all day and that by mid-afternoon he estimated 4,000 people had turned up, with many more to come by the evening. Thousands more people would be filing applications online.

"I knew there'd be a lot of people, but not this many," he said. "We're in crisis. Brazil is broken."

Taking whatever comes

In the tent, interviewers wore shirts emblazoned with "Be Work Happy," the slogan of an online recruitment tool company assisting the event, which was organized by a trade union group. But unlike a typical jobs fair where people apply for specific careers, many here were blindly offering their resumes so that they could enter the pool and hope to be picked for anything at all.

Diego Pouco, a 19-year-old information technology student, said he would prefer to work in administration, but had joined the line without even knowing what was available.

"All we know is they have a lot of openings in various areas," he said. Pouco, standing with his friend Felipe Val, also 19, had waited for three hours and was about halfway to the tent. "My feet are kind of tired, but that's OK, I'm a young guy," he said. Val said that leaving school when Brazil is in such dire straits is a challenge, but that he is determined to find work. — AFP



BOSTON: A woman passes a "We're Hiring!" sign while entering a clothing store in the Downtown Crossing of Boston. Yesterday, the Labor Department reported on the number of people who applied for unemployment benefits the week before. — AP

APPLICATIONS FOR US JOBLESS BENEFITS FALL

DURABLE GOODS ORDERS UP, INVESTMENT SLIPS

WASHINGTON: Fewer people sought unemployment aid last week for the second week in a row, the latest evidence that hiring is likely solid. Weekly applications for unemployment aid dropped 10,000 to a seasonally adjusted 268,000, the Labor Department said yesterday. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, increased to 278,500. The figures, along with other recent data, suggest the economy is picking up a bit after barely expanding in the first three months of the year. Applications are a proxy for layoffs, so last week's decline is a sign that companies are confident enough to hold onto their workers. When layoffs are low, hiring is typically steady.

Applications have been below 300,000, a historically low level, for 64 weeks, the longest such streak since 1973. About 2.16 million people are receiving benefits, 3.1 percent lower than a year ago.

The US economy expanded at just a 0.5 percent annual rate in the first quarter, after tepid growth of 1.4 percent in the final three months of last year. In the past two weeks, however, several reports have suggested growth will rebound in the April-June quarter to nearly 2.5 percent, some economists forecast.

Sales at retail stores and restaurants jumped in April, evidence that Americans were willing to spend robustly after several months of caution. And the housing market has perked up: Sales of existing homes rose last month, while sales of new homes soared to the highest level since 2008. Steady hiring and low mortgage rates have encouraged more Americans to take the plunge and buy a home. Housing construction also increased in April.

The improving economy, if sustained, could encourage the Federal Reserve to raise the short-term interest rate it controls for only the second time in nine years, perhaps as early as its next meeting in June or the following one in July.

Durable goods

Orders to US factories for long-lasting manufactured goods rose in April by the most since January. But much of the strength came from a surge in the volatile category of commercial aircraft. A key category that tracks business investment fell for a third straight

month, a sign that manufacturing remains under stress. The Commerce Department says orders for durable goods increased 3.4 percent in April after a 1.9 percent gain in March. Demand in the closely watched category that serves as a proxy for business investment fell 0.8 percent after a 0.1 percent decline in March and a 2.1 percent plunge in February.

Manufacturing has been under pressure as weak global demand and a strong dollar hurt exports and falling oil prices have triggered cutbacks at energy companies. — AP

DUTERTE VOWS ECONOMIC GROWTH OUTSIDE OF 'DEAD' PHILIPPINE CAPITAL

DAVAO, Philippines: Incoming Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte pledged yesterday to spread economic activity beyond the overpopulated capital of Manila, calling it a "dead" city overrun by shantytowns. Duterte said he would create new jobs by setting up economic zones outside of Manila to spread the wealth beyond the sprawling metropolis of about 15 million people, and that he would not allow any more factories to be built in the capital.

"I have to create more jobs but Manila is already saturated," Duterte told reporters in the southern city of Davao, which he has ruled as mayor for most of the past two decades. "If there are any investors coming in, I will tell them I will not allow factories anymore in Manila, not only because it is a dead city but because I have to build a new environment for the people."

Duterte, who won a landslide election victory just over two weeks ago, said repeatedly while campaigning one of his top priorities would be improving the lives of about 26 million Filipinos, more than a fourth of the population, who live on \$1.30 a day or less.

Popular frustrations over the sharp rich-poor divide that largely remain despite years of continuous strong economic growth under incumbent leader Benigno Aquino helped to bring Duterte to power, analysts have said. Lack of opportunities around the rest of the Philippines have for decades made Manila a magnet for people seeking a better life, but millions have instead been forced to live miserable existences in megaslums. The nation's rich-poor divide is on vivid display in Manila, where the slums are just a few kilometres (miles) from gated villages with luxury homes for the rich, as well as glittering skyscrapers and billion-dollar casino complexes. — AFP



KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysians check trading applications on their cell phones at a private stock market gallery in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Asian stock markets were mixed yesterday amid worries about a US rate hike and that a rally in oil prices may not be sustainable. — AP

CUBS EDGE CARDINALS 9-8

ST LOUIS: Jake Arrieta remained unbeaten on the season despite allowing as many as four runs for the first time in nearly a year as the Chicago Cubs beat the St. Louis Cardinals 9-8 on Wednesday. Arrieta (9-0) joined the White Sox's Chris Sale as the only nine-game winners in the majors. Arrieta allowed four runs in a regular-season game for the first time since June 16, 2015. He became the first Cub to win his first nine decisions since Kenny Holtzman in 1967 and it is the best start to a season for the franchise since Jim McCormick went 16-0 in 1886. Kris Bryant hit a three-run homer and Jason Heyward and Ben Zobrist each drove in two for the Cubs. Carlos Martinez (4-5) lost his career-high fifth straight start, giving up six runs in five innings.

BLUE JAYS 8, YANKEES 4

Russell Martin hit his first two home runs of the season, Michael Saunders also went deep and Toronto finally broke out its big bats, halting New York's six-game winning streak. Marco Estrada (2-2) took a two-hitter into the seventh inning and the last-place Blue Jays won for the fourth time in six games following an 0-5 slide. Ivan Nova (3-2) threw well again but lost for the first time in four starts since moving from the bullpen to the rotation.

ASTROS 4, ORIOLES 3

Evan Gattis hit a two-run homer and Luis Valbuena had a tiebreaking solo shot in the sixth inning that gave Houston a win. Baltimore tied the score 3-3 with a two-run sixth, and Valbuena homered for the second straight day with an opposite-field drive, two-out to left-center field off Tyler Wilson (2-3). Houston starter Collin McHugh yielded three runs and eight hits while fanning a season-high 10 in 5 1/3 innings. Pat Neshek (2-0) got the last two outs of the sixth, and Luke Gregerson allowed one hit in a scoreless ninth for his 10th save in 13 chances.

METS 2, NATIONALS 0

Steven Matz pitched a career-high eight innings to win his seventh consecutive start for the New York Mets. Matz (7-1) has a 1.13 ERA over his winning streak, not allowing a run in four of those starts. David Wright hit his sixth homer of the season in the first and Rene Rivera singled in a run in the seventh to help New York take the decider of a three-game set. Jeury's Familia worked out of trouble in the ninth for his 16th save. Tanner Roark (3-4) allowed two runs - one earned - over seven innings for Washington.

RED SOX 10, ROCKIES 3

Jackie Bradley Jr. extended his major league-best hitting streak to 29 games, Xander Bogaerts homered to extend his hitting streak to 18 games and Boston got its fourth straight win. Steven Wright (4-4) had another solid outing, giving up three runs, two earned. He has now given up three runs or fewer in eight of his nine starts. Chad Bettis (4-3) held the Red Sox scoreless through three innings but was responsible for seven runs over the next two innings before getting pulled.

DODGERS 3, REDS 1

Joc Pederson hit a go-ahead, two-run single with two outs in the fourth inning and Scott Kazmir struck out 12, lifting Los Angeles over Cincinnati to complete a three-game sweep. The Dodgers have won four in a row overall and nine straight against the Reds, who extended their season-high skid to 10 games. Kazmir (4-3) allowed one run and four hits in six innings. He struck out 12 for the third time in his career and first since Sept. 6, 2012, against the Mets, and walked two. Kenley Jansen retired the side in the ninth for his 14th save in 16 chances after blowing his previous two opportunities. Dan Straily (2-2) took a perfect game into the fourth inning, when the Dodgers rallied for a 2-1 lead on Pederson's hit.

PIRATES 5, DIAMONDBACKS 4

David Freese hit a long two-run home run to cap a four-run fifth inning, Sean Rodriguez also homered and Pittsburgh rallied. Freese hit a 451-foot blast into the Pirates' bullpen in center field off Rubby De La Rosa (4-5) to put the Pirates ahead 5-4. They trailed 4-1 coming into the fifth but then Gregory Polanco hit an RBI double and Starling Marte drove in a run with a groundout. Jeff Locke (3-3) gave up four runs and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings for his first career victory against the Diamondbacks. Mark Melancon worked around Chris Owings' second double of the game with two outs to pitch a scoreless ninth and get his 16th save in 17 opportunities.

MARINERS 13, ATHLETICS 3

Adam Lind hit home runs in his first two at-bats and had a season-best six RBIs while Seattle scored a season-high in runs in a rout of Oakland. Lind hit a solo homer with two outs in the sec-



HOUSTON: Carlos Correa #1 of the Houston Astros forces out Manny Machado #13 of the Baltimore Orioles at second base in the eighth inning on May 25, 2016. — AFP

ond inning to get Seattle on the board, then capped the Mariners' six-run third inning with a three-run shot off Oakland starter Zach Neal (0-1), making the first start of his career. Hisashi Iwakuma (3-4) threw seven strong innings and won his second straight decision.

MARLINS 4, RAYS 3

Cole Gillespie had a late tiebreaking RBI single, Marcell Ozuna drove in two runs and Miami beat Tampa Bay. Miami took a 4-3 lead in the eighth when JT Realmuto singled, went to second on Chris Johnson's sacrifice bunt and scored on Gillespie's single off 30-year old Tyler Sturdevant (0-1), who made his major league debut Tuesday. Kyle Barraclough (3-1) got two outs in the seventh to get the win. David Phelps allowed a single but struck out three in the eighth before A.J. Ramos pitched the ninth to record his 15th save. Logan Morrison had three hits, including a homer, and three RBIs for the Rays.

INDIANS 4, WHITE SOX 3

Corey Kluber allowed two runs over 7 1/3 innings and Cleveland roughed up a top White Sox pitcher for the second straight day. After sending Chris Sale to his first loss after a 9-0 start, the Indians got three runs and five hits in six innings against Joel Quintana (5-4). Quintana's ERA, an AL-best 1.98 at the start of the day, rose to 2.22. Before Tuesday, the White Sox had been 15-3 in games started by Sale and Quintana. Melky Cabrera hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning, and Jose Abreu had three hits for the White Sox. Kluber (4-5) allowed two runs - one earned - and seven hits in 7 1/3 innings with nine strikeouts. Cody Allen struck out two in a perfect ninth to remain perfect in 11 save chances.

RANGERS 15, ANGELS 9

Rangers rookie Nomar Mazara hit the longest home run in the major leagues this season, Rougned Odor drove in three in likely his last game before a suspension and Texas beat Los Angeles. Mazara led off the second with a drive into the second deck of the right-seat seats that would have traveled 491 feet had it landed unimpeded, according to Major League Baseball's Statcast program. Los Angeles had leads of 1-0 and 4-1 after its first two at-bats, but Hector Santiago (3-3) quickly gave those up each time. Odor is awaiting the outcome of his appeal on an eight-game suspension assessed for punching Toronto slugger Jose Bautista during a brawl May 15. A decision is expected before Friday night's game. Colby Lewis (4-0) got the win even though he failed to get through six innings for the first time in 10 starts this season.

TWINS 7, ROYALS 5

Miguel Sano hit the go-ahead two-run home run in the fifth inning after Minnesota lost an early lead, and the Twins staved off another series sweep. Eduardo Nunez and Brian Dozier each homered, too, the first two batters to face Royals starter Dillon Gee (1-2) and just the fifth pair in Twins history to go deep in their first two plate appearances of the game. Tyler Duffey (2-3) gave away a 3-0 lead during a five-run fourth by the Royals, but the right-hander hung around long enough to become the first Twins starter this season to record his second victory. The rotation has totaled six wins.

GIANTS 4, PADRES 3, 10 INNINGS

Brandon Crawford singled in Matt Duffy with two outs in the 10th inning, and surging San Francisco got its 13th win in 14 games. Duffy singled off Brad Hand (1-2) with one out, pinch-hitter Hunter Pence popped out, Duffy advanced on a wild pitch and Crawford hit a 1-2 offering over center fielder Jon Jay as Duffy scored standing up. San Francisco completed a three-game sweep, extended its winning streak to five and improved to 9-0 against the Padres this season. Yungervis Solarte hit a tying, two-run homer off Josh Osich in the eighth. George Kontos (1-1) retired two batters for the win.

PHILLIES 8, TIGERS 5

Odubel Herrera and Peter Bourjos homered off Anibal Sanchez, and Philadelphia Phillies salvaged the finale of a three-game series. Detroit had won eight of nine, including the first two games of this set, but Herrera's three-run drive put Philadelphia up 5-1 in the fourth. Aaron Nola (4-3) and the Phillies were able to hold on from there. Jeanmar Gomez pitched the ninth for his major league-leading 17th save in 18 chances. Sanchez (3-6) allowed three earned runs and eight hits in six-plus innings. The Tigers made two errors in the fourth before Herrera's two-out homer, so three runs were unearned. Philadelphia's Andres Blanco swiped home in the second as part of a double steal, with Bourjos taking second.

BREWERS 3, BRAVES 2, 13 INNINGS

Jonathan Villar's run-scoring single in the 13th inning for Milwaukee sent Atlanta to another home loss. Villar lined an 0-2 pitch into left field off Casey Kelly (0-2), who had been scheduled to start for the Braves on Saturday. Instead, he wound up going four innings after the Braves used up their entire bullpen by the end of the ninth. Atlanta dropped to 2-19 at Turner Field. Michael Blazek (3-1) picked up the win for the second night in a row. Carlos Torres earned his first save. — AP

Motor Racing

HAMILTON FASTEST AFTER THE DRAIN COVER DRAMA

MONACO: Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton set the pace in an incident-filled opening Monaco Grand Prix practice yesterday, with debris and a loose drain cover bringing an early end to the session. The Briton, who trails his championship leading Mercedes team mate Nico Rosberg by 43 points after five races and collided with the German in Spain 11 days ago, lapped the sinuous street circuit in one minute 15.537 seconds. Rosberg, winner for the past three years in the principality, was second fastest in 1:15.638 on the new ultrasoft tyres. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel was third fastest, four tenths slower, followed by

the Red Bulls of Australian Daniel Ricciardo and Dutch 18-year-old Max Verstappen. Verstappen, who became Formula One's youngest race winner in Spain, will be using an older specification Renault engine than Ricciardo in Sunday's showcase race around the picturesque harbourside track.

Brazilian Felipe Massa provided the first incident when he skewed his Williams into the barriers at the first Sainte Devote corner before the uphill sweep to Casino Square, leaving plenty of work for his unimpressed mechanics. That smash, with 24 minutes gone, triggered the virtual safety car. Mexican Esteban

Gutierrez set it off again with half an hour remaining when he stopped his Haas before Portier with electrical problems, and then Renault's British rookie Jolyon Palmer crashed at Tabac. "Sorry, guys," Palmer said over the radio. Yellow warning flags were waved when Brazilian Felipe Nasr's Sauber went off at Sainte Devote and the virtual safety car was deployed for the third time when Rosberg's car suffered damage and a rear left puncture at Sainte Devote. Television replays indicated a manhole cover had lifted, confirmed later by Mercedes, with McLaren's Jenson Button then running over it and debris from the Mercedes. —Reuters

SHARKS MAUL BLUES

SAN JOSE: After 25 years, the San Jose Sharks will finally play for the Stanley Cup. Captain Joe Pavelski scored an early goal and Joel Ward added two of his own as the Sharks advanced to the Stanley Cup final for the first time, beating the St. Louis Blues 5-2 on Wednesday night in Game 6 of the Western Conference final. Joonas Donskoi also scored, Logan Couture had an empty-netter and Martin Jones made 24 saves as a Sharks team notorious for postseason letdowns will now play for the championship that has eluded stars such as Pavelski, Joe Thornton and Patrick Marleau for so many years. Thornton assisted on Pavelski's goal less than four minutes into the game to set the tone and Marleau had two assists in the third period that set off chants of "We Want The Cup! We Want The Cup!"

Game 1 of the Stanley Cup final will be Monday night. The Sharks will either host Tampa Bay or visit Pittsburgh, depending on which team wins Game 7 of the Eastern Conference final Thursday night. With the loss, the Blues' postseason woes continue as the franchise still seeks its first championship and first trip to the Cup final since 1970. Coach Ken Hitchcock's second goalie change of the series did not work as Brian Elliott allowed four goals on 26 shots in his return to the net.

Vladimir Tarasenko, a 40-goal scorer in the regular season, got his first points of the series when he scored twice in the third period but it was too late for the Blues, who still trailed 4-2. Despite making the playoffs 16 times in 18 seasons and winning the second most games in the NHL since the start of the 2003-04 season, the Sharks have been known for their soul-crushing playoff disappointments. They won just three games in three previous trips to the conference final, were knocked out twice in four seasons by an eighth seed and most notably blew a 3-0 series lead to lose in the first round to Los Angeles in 2014.

The impact of that loss lasted for an entire year as San Jose missed the playoffs entirely last season. But led by first-year coach Peter DeBoer and bolstered by some key acquisitions by general manager Doug Wilson, the Sharks recovered this year and are now only four wins away from a championship. This was the first time in San Jose's history that the team played with a trip to the Stanley Cup final on the line. The atmosphere in the Shark Tank reflected the high stakes with the fans at a frenzy during pregame introductions and the "Let's Go Sharks!" chants starting soon after the puck dropped.

The Sharks fed off that energy and were buzzing early as Hitchcock predicted before the game. St. Louis nearly silenced the crowd when Alexander Steen got a chance in the slot early in the period but Jones robbed him with a glove save. That led to a breakaway for Thornton, who missed the net on his chance. But Pavelski recovered the puck behind the net and before Elliott knew what was happening, Pavelski tucked the puck in on a wraparound for his NHL-leading 13th goal of the playoffs.

San Jose added to the lead early in the second when Ward tipped a point shot from Brent Burns past Elliott to make it 2-0. The Sharks had a chance to add to it when Scottie Upshall was called for a four-minute high sticking penalty. But the Blues managed to kill San Jose's potent power play and started to take over the play after that. They couldn't get a goal the rest of the period, however, as San Jose kept them mostly to the outside and Jones made a great pad save against Jori Lehtera. Ward's second goal and another by Donskoi in the third period removed any drama and allowed the fans to celebrate. — AP



CLEVELAND: Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) shoots against Toronto Raptors' James Johnson (3) during the first half of Game 5 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals on Wednesday, May 25, 2016. — AP

CAVALIERS ROUT RAPTORS
LEBRON, LOVE POWER CAVALIERS

CLEVELAND: LeBron James scored 23 points then sat the fourth quarter, Kevin Love scored 25, and Cleveland unleashed tenacious defense on Toronto to regain control of the Eastern Conference finals with a 116-78 rout of the Raptors in Game 5 on Wednesday night. On their court in front of 20,000-plus screaming, towel-waving fans following two straight losses in Canada, the Cavaliers opened a 34-point lead in the first half, pushed it to 43 in the second and took a 3-2 series lead. They can clinch their second straight conference title and trip to the NBA Finals with a win in Game 6 on Friday night in Toronto. "We gotta come out from the beginning and that starts with the Big 3," James said, referring to himself, Love and Kyrie Irving, who added 23 points. "We'll be much better."

It's hard to imagine the Cavs being more in sync. They clicked at both ends in Game 5, handing the Raptors a beating that could linger into the offseason. After coming in with momentum and confidence, Toronto's players left Quicken Loans Arena shaken and one loss from having their deepest playoff run stopped. "They kicked our butts, bottom line," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said. "That's been all three ballgames." James had eight assists and six rebounds in 31 minutes before checking out late in the third quarter with the Cavs up 37. He spent the fourth quarter resting on the bench while Cleveland's reserves finished the romp.

At halftime, James, Irving and Love had outscored the Raptors 43-34. Cleveland has won its three games in the series by a combined 88 points, and won its last four over Toronto at home by 110. "They are a different team here," Casey said. "We came in here with a chance to do something special and we didn't get it done. They pushed us around and took what they wanted." DeMar DeRozan scored 14 and Kyle Lowry 13 for the Raptors, who were overwhelmed from the start. Bismack Biyombo had just four rebounds after getting 40 the past two games. The only positive for Toronto was center Jonas Valanciunas, who returned after missing eight straight games with a sprained right ankle. He scored nine points in 18 minutes.

Playing defense as if every possession was the game's last, Cleveland held Toronto to 34 points in the opening half while building a 31-point halftime lead - the largest in conference finals history. Since their expansion arrival in 1993, the Raptors had never been down by 30 before in any game - regular or postseason - at halftime but they have rarely seen a defense like this either. The Cavs were all over the court, swarming and stifling DeRozan and Lowry, who combined for 67 points in Game 4. A courtside doctor might have stopped this one in the first half. Love found his shooting touch after it went missing during the lost weekend in Toronto, where he went just 5 of 23 and was benched for the fourth quarter of Game 4. He finished 8 of 10 from the field, a confidence-boosting performance that should temporarily quiet his critics. "Kevin Love being Kevin Love," Cavs coach Tyrone Lue said. "He had two bad shooting games and we made a big deal out of it. Nothing he does amazes me. We gotta keep him aggressive all the time."

The Cavs made a point of getting Love the ball right away and he responded by making all four field goal attempts, dropping a 3 late in the first quarter that pushed the Cavs to a 37-19 lead. "It was a bounce-back game for him," James said. "He's a true professional." Cleveland's onslaught continued in the second quarter, and when James got free for an easy two-handed dunk, Cavs fans could relax and begin making TV viewing plans for Friday. These looked more like the Cavaliers who opened the postseason with 10 straight wins, obliterated the Raptors by a combined 50 points in Games 1 and 2 and given a chance to beat whomever survived in the West.

TIP-INS

Cleveland is 7-0 at home in these playoffs, winning by an average of 20.9 points. ... Trumped their 31-point win in Game 1, which was the previous most lopsided playoff victory in team history. ... James played in his 191st career postseason game, moving him ahead of Magic Johnson for 12th place on the all-time list. — AP



COLORADO: Team USA marathoner, Desiree Linden, runs inside the High-Altitude Training Center - part of the US Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The elevation, temperature, and humidity are adjusted to simulate the conditions expected at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. — AFP

OLYMPICS

POLICE DOGS TRAIN TO SNIFF OUT TERROR THREAT

RIO DE JANEIRO: Police dogs in Brazil are more used to sniffing out drugs than explosives, but with the Olympics coming up, they have been training hard to help thwart potential terrorist attacks. Although Brazil has never suffered a terrorist attack on its soil, it is on high alert for any threats at the Games, which open in Rio de Janeiro on August 5. To prepare, the Rio Canine Intervention Brigade just completed a two-week training with specialists from a French elite police force, RAID.

The dogs showed off their new skills Wednesday in exercises at Rio's international airport. Tails wagging and tongues lolling, they eagerly followed their human counterparts around an airport security zone to clear it for the arrival of a hypothetical VIP-sitting and whining when they found a hidden "bomb." "The Rio Canine Intervention Brigade hadn't been trained in this type of approach," said

RAID trainer Christophe B., who withheld his full name for security reasons. But "Brazilian dogs are just as effective as French ones when you look at the number of drug seizures they make," he added.

Labrador legend

Rio has ample experience with violent crime fueled by drug trafficking, which has pitted the police and military against heavily armed gangs in the poor shantytowns known as favelas that dot the city. So do its police dogs. One of the two dogs taking part in Wednesday's exercises, Chefe, is something of a local legend: he was born to a now-retired labrador named Boss that made so many drug busts traffickers put a price on its head in 2012. While drug-related violence is on the authorities' watch-list of potential threats to the Games, the recent wave of jihadist

attacks worldwide has put terrorism at the top of the list. The threat escalated after the attacks on Paris that killed 130 people last November. Three days later, French jihadist Maxime Hauchard—an Islamic State group fighter identified as an executioner in grisly videos of hostage beheadings—warned on Twitter: "Brazil, you're our next target."

'It's war here'

The Brazilian police dogs are ready, the RAID trainers say. "They already face a kind of terrorism in the favelas," one said. "It's war here. So (the security forces) use urban guerrilla tactics. They're very good." Brazil will have 85,000 police and soldiers providing security for the athletes, VIPs, journalists and tourists from around the world at the Olympics double the number for the London Games in 2012. — AFP

KENYA PASSES ANTI-DOPING LAW AMENDMENTS AMID BAN THREAT

NAIROBI: Kenyan lawmakers passed yesterday amendments to an anti-doping bill to avoid a possible Olympics ban after being ruled non-compliant by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). A new anti-doping law drafted in consultation with WADA was passed last month, but the agency later said "inconsistencies" meant it fell short of strict international standards and declared Kenya "non-compliant with immediate effect." Lawmakers were therefore recalled for a special sitting in parliament yesterday for the bill to be put back before them to approve the amendments needed. Aden Duale, leader of the parliamentary majority, thanked lawmakers for coming back from holiday for the vote to make sure the country's athletes "are not locked out."

Changes to the legislation were needed for Kenya to avoid exclusion of its world-beating distance runners from this summer's Rio de Janeiro Olympics. The bill is intended to save Kenyan athletes from an Olympics ban threatened by IAAF president Sebastian

Coe. "Sport is very critical to this country and the athletes have added a lot of value in this country in terms of marketing," opposition lawmaker Chris Wamalwa said in parliament, while criticizing the sports ministry for not ensuring a law accepted by WADA passed the first time.

Many in Kenya fear doping is rife among their top-class runners, who have been the source of enormous national pride. "They have been the ambassadors of this country and it is the highest time to assure our sports people particularly the youth that we have their interests at heart," Wamalwa added. Some 40 Kenyan athletes have been involved in drug scandals in the last three years and athletics supremo Isaac Mwangi has been suspended for alleged corruption involving doping cover-ups, drawing a sharp rebuke from WADA. The bill must now pass before the Senate for approval before being signed into law by President Uhuru Kenyatta, who has put his weight behind ensuring the bills is passed so that Kenya can attend the Olympics. — AFP

GUNMEN RUN WILD IN RIO TOURIST SPOTS AHEAD OF OLYMPICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Pulling in at one of Rio's swiftest buildings, the driver of the blue luxury car turns on the blinkers, pauses for the security gate to open and suddenly is staring into the barrel of a gun. A man in a dark top runs up, pointing the firearm at the side window. Two more assailants yank open the doors and grab items before all three flee, and the car continues toward the garage. Twenty seconds have passed on the security camera footage. And the crime statistics for one of the most tourist-friendly neighborhoods in this Olympic host city have just risen another notch.

Deadly violence in Rio de Janeiro's poorest areas, known as favelas, has been famous internationally at least since the hit Brazilian film "City of God" in 2002. But while the half million tourists and 10,500 athletes expected to attend the Olympics starting August 5 will be cautious about entering favelas, there are growing fears for their safety in even the fanciest areas of the city. The car hold-up occurred last week outside an imposing residence called the Diamond Tower, near the beach in ultra-chic Ipanema. A similar armed attack in the same street a month ago made waves because the daughter of Rio state's acting governor was in the car.

For the increasingly weary inhabitants of privileged neighborhoods, violent crime is no longer something that happens to others. "We're afraid of going to the bank to get money. At night we don't feel safe. It's so sad, we have a country without authority or laws," said Tito Martis, a 75-year-old Ipanema resident, waving a rolled up newspaper in anger. "It's brutal and absurd."

Olympians at risk?

About 85,000 soldiers and police will be deployed in Rio for the Games, twice as many as at the 2012 London Olympics. But it is unclear how effective they will be in a city sometimes resembling the Wild West. Automatic weapons battles often erupt between police and drug traffickers. Although isolated to favelas, these clashes can be only blocks away-within stray bullet range—from the supposedly quiet zones where Olympians and tourists will congregate. Recent fire-fights have taken place near the Athletes' Village in Barra and in Chapeu Mangueira, near Copacabana, which will host the beach volleyball and several other competitions. An hours-long confrontation involving heavy exchanges of automatic fire took place last weekend in the Rocinha favela, near Ipanema. — AFP

NADAL WINS 200TH GRAND SLAM MATCH

DJOKOVIC, NADAL REACH MILESTONES AT FRENCH OPEN

PARIS: World number one Novak Djokovic and nine-time champion Rafael Nadal racked up personal Grand Slam milestones yesterday as they moved into the French Open third round. Top seed Djokovic, looking for a Roland Garros title to complete a career Grand Slam, claimed his 50th win at the tournament by seeing off Belgian qualifier Steve Darcis 7-5, 6-3, 6-4. It was the Serb's third win in three career meetings with Darcis, a player nicknamed 'Shark' who dumped Nadal out of Wimbledon in 2013.

But it was a far from a smooth display from the 11-time major winner and three-time French Open runner-up who committed 42 unforced errors. "He plays with a lot of speed, is good from the baseline and it was not easy for me to play the points the way I wanted," Djokovic said of 32-year-old Darcis. "He has a lot of talent and it was tough. I am happy to have won in three sets." Djokovic next takes on Britain's Slovenian-born Aljaz Bedene who reached the third round of a major for the first time with a 7-6 (7/4), 6-3, 4-6, 5-7, 6-2 win over Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta.

Nine-time champion Nadal became just the eighth man to rack up 200 Grand Slam match wins as he saw off Argentina's world number 99 - and fellow left-hander-Facundo Bagnis 6-3, 6-0, 6-3. Nadal, 29, dropped the first two games against Bagnis but then won 18 of the next 22 to ease into a last-32 clash against either Spanish compatriot Marcel Granollers or Nicolas Mahut of France. "The most important thing is a victory in the second round more than the 200 victories," said Nadal, who now has a 72-2 win-loss record at Roland Garros and only dropped three games in his opening victory over Sam Groth of Australia.

Roger Federer, missing from the French Open this year, tops the all-time list of Grand Slam matches won on 302. Djokovic is sixth on the list with 216 after his win yesterday. Later, defending women's champion Serena Williams continues her campaign to win a 22nd Grand Slam title and equal the record set by Steffi Graf. The 34-year-old top seed faces world number 81 Teliana Pereira of Brazil who has never got beyond the second round of a Grand Slam.

Venus follows Serena

Venus Williams follows her sister on Court Suzanne Lenglen against American compatriot Louisa Chirico.

The 20-year-old Chirico, ranked at 78 in the world, came through qualifying and won her first match at the Grand Slam level by beating fellow American Lauren Davis in the opening round. Also reaching the third round yesterday were 2010 semi-finalist Tomas Berdych, the seventh seeded Czech, who defeated Malek Jaziri of Tunisia 6-1, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Latvia's Ernests Gulbis, who beat Federer on his way to the semi-finals in 2014, made the last-32 with a 6-2, 7-5, 6-3 win over Portugal's 26th seed Joao Sousa. But going out was Australian 20th seed Bernard Tomic, beaten 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (8/6) by Croatian 19-year-old Borna Coric.

Serbian 14th seed Ana Ivanovic, the 2008 winner, defeated Japan's Kurumi Nara 7-5, 6-1. Dutchwoman Kiki Bertens followed up her first round win over Australian Open champion Angelique Kerber by beating Camila Giorgi of Italy 6-4, 6-1.

Swiss eighth seed Timea Bacsinszky, a semi-finalist last year, defeated Canada's Eugenie Bouchard 6-4, 6-4. — AFP



PARIS: Serbia's Novak Djokovic serves the ball to Belgium's Steve Darcis during their men's second round match at the Roland Garros 2016 French Tennis Open yesterday. — AFP

SUSPENDED SHARAPOVA IN RUSSIA OLYMPIC TEAM

MOSCOW: Russia have included Maria Sharapova in their Olympic tennis team despite the star player being suspended over a positive test for the banned drug meldonium, the country's tennis federation said yesterday. "By the end of the first week of Roland Garros, the question of Sharapova's participation at the Olympic Games should be resolved," Shamil Tarpishev, the head of Russia's tennis federation, told R-Sport news agency. "She has been put on our Olympic application. It has to be submitted by June 6."

Sharapova, who won silver at the 2012 London Olympics, was suspended in March after she admitted she had tested positive for meldonium at the Australian Open in January. Since then, a string of high profile Russian athletes-including Olympic swimmer Yulia Efimova-also tested positive for meldonium. But the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), which had only banned the Latvian-made drug from January 1, said in April that athletes could escape a ban for taking meldonium because of uncertainty about how long it takes for the substance to leave the body.

Many athletes who had been suspended for testing positive for meldonium have since been absolved. In April, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) said that Sharapova's case would be heard in accordance with WADA's recommendations on how to deal with cases involving meldonium. Russia is poised to send its four highest-ranked players to compete in the singles event at the Rio Olympics, which as of Monday were Sharapova, Svetlana Kuznetsova, Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova and Ekaterina Makarova. If Sharapova cannot compete, Tarpishev said, the team would select the fifth highest-ranked player in the WTA rankings, 19-year-old Daria Kasatkina. — AFP

SQUASH

SHERBINI REGAINS AUTHORITY IN THE WORLD SERIES FINALS

DUBAI: World champion Nour El Sherbini rescued herself from a first day setback with a calm and authoritative victory over Camille Serme, advancing to the last four of the PSA World Series finals yesterday. Sherbini's 11-4, 11-6 success against the Frenchwoman, last year's British Open champion, enabled her to qualify from her group in second place after her opening loss against Egyptian compatriot Raneem El Welily, and to approach the knockout stages in a sounder frame of mind.

So far it has also been a personal success for the diffident 20-year-old, who has experienced new and increasing pressures after grabbing the top ranking for the first time this month, becoming a target for all her rivals, and being loaded with public relations commitments. "I've managed to stay calm and be focussed," Sherbini said after a performance in which she mixed adroit volleying and nice front-court touches with characteristically imposing drives. "I really didn't want to lose, so I needed to focus from the beginning and I managed to do that. I was helped because my opponent made some mistakes, but my aim was to qualify (for the semi-finals) and I'm pleased to have done that."

"When I first arrived here I wasn't relaxed and I had a lot of stuff to do, but now it's better. Winning this tournament would be a nice end to the season but I'm not allowing myself to think about that. "Amr Shabana always says 'step by step' and I'm managing to do that," Sherbini concluded, referring to the words of the popular four times former world champion who is now Egypt's team

director. Sherbini's progress since last month's world title triumph in Kuala Lumpur has been further hampered by the need to study very soon afterwards for exams in media management.

On Thursday though she looked in better form, but much tougher tests should happen from now on when she will compete with the customary best of five games scoring instead of the truncated best of three used in the group matches. Sherbini was left to wait and see who she will face in the semi-finals while her conqueror on Tuesday, Raneem El Welily, finished top of group B with a 100 per cent record after a 15-13, 11-9 victory over her best friend and compatriot Omneya Abdel Kawy. Men's world champion Gregory Gaultier also qualified for the semi-finals, winning all his three matches.

He had to pull out a few extra tricks though to prevail 7-11, 11-8, 11-1 against Omar Mosaad, yet another high level Egyptian. Although Gaultier's progress to the last four had already been already assured and Mosaad's exit confirmed, the match had tangible drive and tension, probably deriving from it being a repeat of the World Open final six months ago in Seattle. "I had to play a hundred percent," said the Frenchman. "In other matches he was struggling with his movement but this time he was covering the court well, so I had it tough. "But I'm pleased to stay a hundred percent, and would really like to win this title again," added Gaultier, who has won the World Series finals twice before, but not for seven years. — AFP



Friday Times

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2016



FRANCE'S KANTE GROWS INTO STARDOM

PARIS: From rejection for being too small and too timid, N'Golo Kante has become a hot property who will be one of the most watched players at the European Championship finals. The 25-year-old only stands 1.69 metres (5 feet 7 inches) and weighs just 68 kilograms (150 pounds). But his non-stop running, pinpoint passing and refusal to acknowledge defeat fitted perfectly in Leicester City's stunning English Premier League title success. Kante even stunned Leicester coach Claudio Ranieri with his energy after the unfancied side paid a reported 5.6 million pounds (\$8.1 million/ 7.8 million euros) for him. Kante now has a £25 million price on his head. Arsenal, Chelsea, Paris Saint-Germain and Juventus have all been linked to a possible close-season bid.

A host of small clubs in France will be wondering how they let Kante slip through their fingers when he lines up for France at Euro 2016. "He was so discreet and so good-natured that the scouts clearly did not see how exceptional he was," Pierre Ville, a former head of JS Suresnes, a team in the Paris suburbs said. Kante, born in Paris, played at

Suresnes throughout his teenage years and was still with them in the ninth division of French football at the age of 19. Ville showed photos of Kante watching Suresnes teammates holding a trophy he had won for being player of a tournament in the under-14 team. But for long, Kante's talent could not get him a foothold in professional football.

Sochaux, Amiens, Rennes, Lorient and even France's Clairefontaine national centre said he would not make the grade—no matter how much he ran. "Often people would say to us, 'we already have 20 players like him,'" recalled JS Suresnes senior coach Tomasz Bzymek. "Maybe the people who supervised him did not take enough time with him. His main handicap was his size. But for me, on the contrary, that was an advantage," added Piotr Wojtyna, who coached Kante in regional teams. So Kante became stuck at Suresnes, showing up players years older. A former teammate, Francois Lemoine, remembered Kante's debut in the senior side at the age of 17.

Batteries in shorts

"He came on as a left back with 10 min-

utes to play and we were being easily beaten. He put everyone to shame. I said to the others 'Look at him, he is younger than us but he plays his match and he does not give in'. It was a lesson in humility." Jean-Pierre Perrinelle, a 400 meters runner at the 1972 and 1976 Olympics and a Suresnes president, who died in 2014, took Kante to a trial at Boulogne-sur-Mer. Boulogne, who produced Bayern Munich winger Franck Ribery, were then in Ligue 1 and Perrinelle's son Damien was a defender there. Kante spent three years at the Channel club passing an accountability certificate and going to training on his kids' scooter. He played in the reserves until 2012-2013 when he was the star of a Boulogne side that had been relegated to the third division.

Former Boulogne teammate Cedric Fabien said: "Off the field he was quiet, but on the pitch he turned into a monster. I have never seen anyone run, run and run like he did." Caen signed him for next to nothing. Kante swapped his scooter for a second hand Renault Megane. He became a key player as Caen rose from the second division

to Ligue 1. "He has always adapted to the level he has been pitched into," said Alain Caveglia, Caen's sporting director. "We always wondered how far he would go." Marseille's coach at the time, Marcelo Bielsa, wanted Kante because of his passing.

But Leicester won. Ranieri wondered how to control Kante, but he appears to have given in. "This player Kante, he was running so hard that I thought he must have a pack full of batteries hidden in his shorts. He never stopped running in training," Ranieri said. "I had to tell him, 'Hey, N'Golo, slow down. Slow down."

Don't run after the ball every time, okay?" "He says to me, 'Yes, boss. Yes. Okay.' Ten seconds later, I look over and he's running again." His role in Leicester's fairytale story earned him a call up to the French side this year. He made his France debut in a 3-2 win over the Netherlands in March and four days later scored his first international goal in a 4-2 win over Russia on his 25th birthday. Leicester must now be wondering and worrying that Kante will become too hot to handle. — AFP

RASHFORD FACES EURO AUDITION

SUNDERLAND: England manager Roy Hodgson has challenged Marcus Rashford to make his life difficult when the Manchester United sensation auditions for a Euro 2016 place in today's friendly against Australia.

Rashford has emerged as a late contender for a seat on the flight to France after a fine breakthrough season with United, but the 18-year-old has only one chance to convince Hodgson he is worthy of being included in the final 23-man squad. With Leicester striker Jamie Vardy set to miss the Australia clash due to his wedding on Wednesday, Hodgson has decided to give United forward Rashford his international debut at Sunderland's Stadium of Light.

But Hodgson will announce the three players who have not made the cut for the tournament once the second of England's warm-up fixtures is concluded and he hopes Rashford, who has recovered from a knee injury sustained in United's FA Cup final win over Crystal Palace, puts himself in the frame with a strong showing.

"I don't really know what to expect from him," Hodgson said. "Don't forget Rashford was a bit unlucky because the amount of time we are going to have with him is very short. "There isn't an awful lot of chance for him to stamp his authority on myself and the coaching staff when there is such a short period of time. But I'm ruling nothing out."

"There is no doubt I made the right decision putting him in this large group because the lad has enormous talent. "I thought his performance in the FA Cup final was very good. I'm delighted I shall be seeing him and then we will have to wait to see whether I will be seeing a lot more of him in the summer."

With the United and Liverpool players who missed Sunday's 2-1 win over Turkey at Eastlands now available to Hodgson following their respective FA Cup and Europa League finals, the race is hotting up for those last berths at the Euros. The return of Wayne Rooney after the FA Cup final raises the question of the England captain's precise role in Hodgson's team. Rooney has been playing in midfield for United and Hodgson, who is likely to deploy a 4-2-3-1 formation in France, must decide whether he is now best used in the same role or if he should remain as a striker.

If Rooney is still regarded as a forward, he will likely be competing with Vardy and Harry Kane for the role of England's spearhead. Kane claimed the Premier League golden boot after netting 25 times for Tottenham last season and has already scored five times in 11 international appearances. He opened the scoring against Turkey, then missed a penalty before Vardy netted the winner. "When you have got a pair of strikers who have scored 25 and 24 Premier League goals it shows that we have top strikers," Kane said. — AFP

RONALDO - SKINNY KID WHO BROUGHT FAME TO FUNCHAL

FUNCHAL: A car park with a spectacular view of Funchal bay now stands on the site of the house where Cristiano Ronaldo grew up and became a football genius in the dusty streets. The superstar's name now brings tourists to the island of Madeira and the main town will again fall silent each time Ronaldo is playing for Portugal in the European Championship finals in June. There is a three meter high statue in Funchal, the CR7 Museum has wax effigies of the footballer alongside some of his trophies and Ronaldo's face stares out from holiday guides.

In Funchal, local people say the town hall decided to demolish the modest Ronaldo house to put off onlookers after the footballer's father died in 2005. But they also love to recall their favorite Ronaldo tales. "When he was six years old, Cristiano juggled the ball alone in front of his house. The ball never touched the ground," said a neighbor from the time, 73-year-old Adelino Andrade. Now 31, Ronaldo remains one of the most marketable sports superstars, a fashion icon who is not ashamed to show off his six-pack abs.

Neighbors recall a skinny boy running around the Santo Antonio district on a hill overlooking Funchal, capital of the island which each year welcomes about one million tourists with its sunshine and volcanic beauty. Portugal's captain first attracted scouts playing for CF Andorinha, a modest club which proudly shows off its links to the player. "We opened the football doors for him. He needed a club to show his talent," said Andorinha's president Jose Bacelar, 67, who coached the senior team when Ronaldo first joined the club at the age of seven. "It's Andorinha that was lucky that he started here," Bacelar added. "Even at that time, he had an extraordinary



MADRID: Real Madrid's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (left) vies with Real Madrid's defender Sergio Ramos (center) during a training session at Real Madrid sport city. — AFP

technique." There are Ronaldo portraits around the club. The face of the young Ronaldo stares out from the club shirts that players wear now. Andorinha have banned the use of Number 7 on their shirts. It is reserved for the star, "if he decides to come back one day". The Ronaldo name was already well known at Andorinha before he arrived. His father was a caretaker at the club. "He was very close to his father, who took him by the hand to Andorinha," recalled ex-neighbor Andrade.

The family was poor. Neighbours recalled that the father was known to have a drink and his mother, Dolores Aveiro, was a powerful figure in the family. Ronaldo has a brother and two sisters. "Cristiano learned the hard way, through adversity," said Bacelar. "Things are too easy for young people today. There won't be another

Ronaldo come through." Ricardo Santos, 30, played alongside Ronaldo at Andorinha. "Things were difficult at home for him. So he spent a lot of time in the street playing football," Santos said.

Ronaldo played with his friends and cousins, who were all older and tougher. "You learn other ways to play in the street," he added. The youths who play on the Andorinha pitch now dream of following in Ronaldo's footsteps. "Ronaldo is the best model," declared nine-year-old Jose Pedro. "When I take a free-kick, I do exactly like he does. It always goes in." At the age of nine, Ronaldo joined the Nacional Madeira team. The rest is history. He was spotted by Sporting Lisbon, transferred to Manchester United as a teenager and then went to Real Madrid in what was then the world's highest transfer. — AFP

SPANISH CAPITAL GRIPPED BY FOOTBALL FEVER

MADRID: Crosstown rivals Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid—who will meet in the Champions League final on Saturday for the second time in three years—are omnipresent in the Spanish capital. Bars decorated with football jerseys of the two squads can be found across the city, their football crests can be seen everywhere and the two team's imposing stadiums dominate their neighborhoods. Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium, a monument of concrete pillars located in a well-off neighborhood in northern Madrid close to the office towers of Spain's biggest companies, can seat 81,000 spectators, making it Europe's fourth-largest stadium.

The club's museum showcases the many trophies the team has won over the years and received 1.2 million visitors last year, making it the third most visited museum in the Spanish capital after the Reina Sofia modern art museum and the world-famous Prado Museum. The Reina Sofia, home to Picasso's 20th century masterpiece "Guernica", received 2.6 million visitors while the Prado Museum, Spain's leading art museum, got 2.5 million visitors. "Every time I go, I have the same fun as when I was a child. When I think that so many great footballers played there," said Antonio Armero, 52, a member of Real supporters' club "La Gran Familia".

Atletico's Vicente Calderon stadium, with a capacity of 54,900 spectators, is located further south in Arguenzuela, a modest neighborhood of red brick apartment buildings by the Manzanares river. It is often regarded as one of the loudest and most boisterous grounds in European football thanks to the fans' songs and chants that rain down from the stands. "Bernabeu is theatre. People applaud or whistle," said Leo Rodriguez, 50, an Argentine supporter of Atletico. "The Calderon feels more like Argentina. We sing, we shout, we live."

'It's a shame'

But Atletico is becoming less and less the club of working class people. In 1995 it opened its new training ground and academy in Majadahonda, a wealthy Madrid suburb. The club is building a new stadium on the site of La Peineta, once a proposed Olympic stadium, east of Madrid's city centre.

"It's a shame. If we had been consulted, we would not change," said Gerardo Aranda, 75, a member of the club since 1964. Each team has its own supporters' clubs called "penas" that regularly organise events or travel to watch their team play at away matches. "La Gran Familia" (The Great Family), is one of Real's largest clubs with over a thousand members. They meet in a chic bar with several giant television screens located near the Bernabeu stadium.

Armero said the club used to meet "in a small typical Spanish bar" until its owner retired. "We had our own room on the second floor, with jerseys, portraits of presidents of the club," he added. If Real win their 11th Champions League title on Saturday, their supporters known as "merengues"—will gather at Plaza de Cibeles in front of city hall to celebrate. If Atletico win the title, their fans-known as "colchoneros" or "mattress-makers"—will celebrate about 300 meters (1,000 feet) further south on the broad tree-lined Paseo del Prado by the Neptune Fountain.

Madrid government officials remain carefully neutral. The headquarters of the Madrid regional government in the central Puerta del Sol are decorated with the crests of both teams. The San Anton church in the trendy and gay-friendly Chueca neighborhood has done the same on its doors facing the busy Hortaleza street. And, for those who refuse to support either team, the capital region hosts several other clubs with thousands of passionate supporters that navigate between the first and second divisions, such as Rayo Vallecano, Getafe CF and CD Leganes.— AFP



MILAN: People walk by a billboard portraying Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo (left) and Atletico Madrid's Fernando Torres, at the Champions Festival event area, in Milan, Italy yesterday. The Champions League soccer final between Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid will be held at the San Siro stadium tomorrow. — AP

FIVE 'KEY' CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL CLASHES

MADRID: Real Madrid face local rivals Atletico Madrid in the Champions League final for the second time in three years at Milan's San Siro tomorrow. Atletico are aiming to win the competition for the first time after losing out 4-1 to Real after extra-time in the final in Lisbon two years ago. By contrast, Real are already the most successful side in Champions League history as 10-time winners. Here, AFP sports looks at five key clashes that could decide the outcome.

Cristiano Ronaldo v Juanfran

Three-time World Player of the Year Ronaldo is looking to match his own record of 17 goals in a single Champions League season, which he set with Real's fourth from the penalty spot in the final two years ago before famously tearing off his shirt to show off his toned torso. Atletico right-back Juanfran's understated nature couldn't be more different. However, his consistently solid defensive displays have seen the former Real player seal his place in Spain's Euro 2016 squad and keep Ronaldo quiet in recent Madrid derbies. The Portuguese has scored just twice as Real have won just one of the last 10 matches between the sides.

Sergio Ramos v Griezmann

Ramos broke Atletico hearts two years

ago as it was his stoppage time header that sent the game into extra-time, with Los Rojiblancos just seconds away from victory. Real's captain has had a poor season by his standards as he has often been bothered by a shoulder injury, but has returned to form in a 10-game unbeaten run since early April.

Griezmann is Atletico's major goal threat. The Frenchman has scored 32 times this season, including a double to knock out holders Barcelona in the quarter-finals and the all-important away goal that sealed Atletico's place in the final against Bayern Munich in the semis. Moreover, Griezmann also scored the winner the last time these two sides met in February.

Luka Modric v Koke

The stars at both ends of the field will be dependant on midfield maestros Modric and Koke to provide them with the service necessary to make the difference. Modric's ability to control the game with his range of passing has made him arguably Real's most consistent performer this season.

Koke's phenomenal work rate has seen him run more per match than any other player in the Champions League this season at well over 12km per game. However, the Spanish international also adds a touch of class to Atletico's midfield and has 17 assists this season.

Karim Benzema v Diego Godin

The secret to Atletico's success in Diego Simeone's five seasons in charge has been a rock-solid defence led by Uruguayan warrior Godin. Thanks to Godin's discipline and organisation, Atletico have already kept 35 clean sheets this season, including eight in their 12 Champions League games and five in their last nine outings against Real. Benzema had his best ever goalscoring season in La Liga with 24 in 27 games, but is still to register for Real in a final and has scored just three times in 22 appearances against Atletico.

Gareth Bale v Filipe Luis

Bale is in the best form of his Real career three years after joining for a world record fee and has been the man for the big occasion since moving to the Spanish capital, scoring against Atletico in the final two years ago and in the 2014 Copa del Rey and Club World Cup finals.

However, that is Bale's only goal against Atletico and his glory moment in Lisbon only came after Luis went off injured. The Brazilian briefly left Atletico after Lisbon for Chelsea only to rejoin at the start of this season and has kept Bale in check whenever he has been faced by the Welshman.—AFP

ATLETICO SEEKING FINAL STEP TO REWRITE MADRID DERBY HISTORY

MADRID: In the dying moments of Diego Simeone's second Madrid derby as Atletico Madrid coach, a banner was lowered behind the goal his side was defending to display a stinging message: "Wanted: A dignified rival for a decent derby". Real Madrid's fans have since got far more than they bargained for as Simeone has transformed Atletico from a self-destructing shambles into a European powerhouse in the past four years.

Tomorrow, Madrid's two heavyweights will face each other for a second time in three years in the Champions League final and the 18th occasion since that rainy night

in October 2012 when the chasm between the clubs seemed insurmountable. In the 17 encounters since, Atletico have won seven and lost just five, including just once in the 10 matches since their first Champions League final meeting in Lisbon two years ago. Yet, that match continues to define the rivalry and Real and Atletico's relative standing in Europe.

The display by the Real Madrid ultras in 2012 had more truth to it than the usual chutzpah exchanged between rival fans. Atletico went 14 years and 25 matches without winning a derby between 1999 and 2013. When they finally did win one, they

did it in style, winning the Copa del Rey final at Real's own Santiago Bernabeu. A first league title in 18 years followed a week before the final in Lisbon in 2014. Simeone's men were seconds away from a first ever Champions League in the Portuguese capital until Sergio Ramos's stoppage time equalizer sent the game into extra-time where Real were rampant to seal a 4-1 win and their 10th European Cup.

Despite all that Simeone has done to banish the demons of a club that once used to revel in their label as "El Pupas"—the jinxed ones—they felt cursed once more in the biggest match in the club's history. Real

also burst Atletico's European bubble in a tightly contested quarter-final last season decided by another late Real goal scored by Javier Hernandez. The Champions League is not just the only trophy Atletico haven't won in their history, it is the only one they haven't won in Simeone's tenure.

The Europa League, European Super Cup, Copa del Rey, La Liga and Spanish Super Cup have ensured a trophy in every one of his five seasons in charge. "In life there is no revenge. There are new opportunities. And this is a new opportunity," Simeone said after Atletico booked their place in the final.—AFP

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2016

Friday Times

www.kuwaittimes.net

PARIS: Spain's Rafael Nadal serves the ball to Argentina's Facundo Bagnis during their men's second round match at the Roland Garros 2016 French Tennis Open yesterday. — AFP

DJOKOVIC, NADAL REACH MILESTONES

Page 45