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KUWAIT SEEKS INVESTORS

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NEW YORK: Sara Akbar, Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Energy (second left) looks on as one of the speakers addresses the audience during a one-day conference titled 'The Gulf Economic Update: Featuring Kuwait.' Akbar called for the diversification of economy in a way that would benefit the development and maintain growth. — KUNA

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OLD SCHOOL



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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There is a common perception among the youth that behind every failure, there is an older person whose ways of thinking and decision-making are outdated. The question is whether elders are really an obstacle in the path of the new generation. If yes, what could be the best role for senior leaders?

I had an amazing discussion recently with a group of young Kuwaitis who are about to graduate and start their careers. What led us to this debate was their obvious concern about the future and whether it would be easy for them to get promoted and climb the ladder of success at a time when those who have been in service for many years won't leave their positions and retire. These people are labeled as 'old school'.

There is also a difference between working for the private

sector and the public sector. I agree that in the public sector, you may come across those who have been in service for more than 30 years and refuse to leave, unless they suffer a sudden stroke or death forces them to quit. But in the private sector, it is a different situation. The question remains is why do young people don't find opportunities easily, even in the private sector.

There are tools for success, which most youth are not willing to accept. The first one is initiative. Bring ideas into action. I know that young people are energetic and very eager to push forward to use their college knowledge to generate profits and make money, but lasting value is created when the experience of elders who belong to the old school combines with their knowledge and judgment to create prosperity.

The elders who are labeled as old school can be divided into two categories - those who haven't adapted to the technological and ideological revolution, and if they haven't failed already, they will within the next 20 years or so. The other category is of those who have adapted to the new world order, and this makes them much more intelligent than most people, because throughout their lifelong experience, they adapted to completely different systems and ways of work, and they are well-known throughout the world now.

Is it a good idea to pass the torch to the young from those who are older? There is a requirement of basic knowledge and experience, and the young have no right to take the torch if they cannot surpass those who came before us, so that those who come after us will do a much better job rather than creating a cycle of self-improvement with every generation. The 'new school' should not seek a better version, but a new one.

Another point here is the need to put ideas for sale, whether of products or services. Think of all those who are being labeled as 'old school' - they made a fortune because they managed to sell their ideas even if they seem outdated now. Social media has the power and impact to shape and reshape the ideas of young people. The danger of these ideas is seeking to be rich and famous, even if this means you are making a fool of yourself. To many young people, creativity knows no boundaries, no rules, no laws or even traditions, which do not have the ability to stop the new generation regardless of the mistakes they sometimes commit.

I love the energy and enthusiasm of young people and appreciate the way they visualize their future. This is normal and logical. But if they listen to the old school, they might obtain things they could use - like wisdom and experience.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



KUWAIT: Young Kuwaiti men jet-skiing offshore Kuwait City while in the background can be seen several new buildings under construction. — Photo by Jaber Abdulkhaliq/KUNA

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CHALLENGES FACING KUWAITI FEMALE ATHLETES



Danah Al-Nasrallah. — Photo courtesy Dalia Al-Nasrallah

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

Women athletes in the Gulf face a range of discrimination. This year during the Olympics in Rio, one female athlete was branded a 'loser' in an Arabic newspaper after she failed to bring home a medal. Others were derided on social media, insulted or simply excluded from the news altogether. Arab female athletes also receive less funding and less attention from sponsors, government and society for their sports.

The situation is changing, albeit at a snail's pace. This year 31 women from the region competed at the 2016 Rio Olympic games, including weightlifters from the United Arab Emirates, runners from Saudi Arabia and a swimmer from Kuwait. Now as more female athletes challenge traditionally male-dominated sports, earning more attention through their hard work, they also challenge society and governments to alter their views about their achievements and women athletes in general.

Sexism in the media and society

But the change is far from complete. Still many female athletes faced humiliating comments on social media as well as backlash from society. The absence of objectivity in local society's perception of female athletes is similar to the discrimination their counterparts face all across the globe. During the 2016 Rio Olympics, activists and feminists pointed out normalized instances of sexism and gender discrimination in coverage of the games. For example, when US trap shooter Corey Cogdell-Unrein won a bronze medal in the women's trap shooting, the US newspaper, the Chicago Tribune announced the win by noting that the 'wife of a Bears lineman' had won a medal.

Similarly, Arab media describe female players who have chosen wrestling or bodybuilding, for instance, as rebellious or daring, but these women have simply taken physi-

cal and mental development more seriously than others.

Government discrimination

Kuwaiti track and field runner Danah Al-Nasrallah and swimmer Faye Sultan were the first female athletes to represent Kuwait at the Olympics in their respective domains. (Sultan competed as an independent athlete due to Kuwait's ban from participating. Still like all the Kuwaiti athletes there, she wore a Kuwait flag on her clothing and was vocal in support of standing as a representative for Kuwait, albeit unofficially.)

Both women believe that discrimination extends to governmental backing and funding. There are no female-friendly facilities in Kuwait for women athletes, as they are designed to only serve men. "The facilities in Kuwait are mostly geared towards men and their participation in sports. I would love to see more facilities that are available to women to give them a chance to pursue their dreams. I envision more female participation with unrestricted access to facilities and greater support networks," Sultan told Kuwait Times.

For a while, Nasrallah had to train with the boys, and eventually, she was told not to do so. "Our society is concentrated on the male. Where the male is elevated to the public sphere and praised for his achievements, women are typically relegated to the domestic domain and are often discouraged from public participation, particularly in sports," said Nasrallah.

Growing support for sports and athleticism

But Sultan believes all athletes are beginning to get more recognition in Kuwait. "I have witnessed a growing admiration for sports and overall fitness, and this is probably due to a general awareness of the benefits of sports and the discipline that comes from it," she reasoned.

There are innumerable health benefits of practicing



Faye Sultan at the Rio 2016 Olympics

sports. Despite awareness of these benefits, Kuwait has one of the highest rates of obesity in the world, and the highest among women, according to the 2016 global food security index. So how to encourage women in Kuwait to make sport or exercising part of their daily life?

"People who exercise enjoy quite a few advantages over those who don't, including but not limited to the prevention of many conditions like heart disease, diabetes, cancer, etc. It helps gain strength, balance, better coordination and improved mental health. It has always been my dream to increase the participation of Kuwaiti females in sports on the world platform," Nasrallah told Kuwait Times.

"Although I'm not working on a motivational project for Kuwaiti women in particular, I currently coach a high school team of female runners in Ann Arbor, Michigan. But at this point in time, the best way to encourage Kuwaiti women to participate in competitive sports is through private sponsorship. This already occurs in many countries where companies offer merchandise and/or money in exchange for an athlete to endorse their product. I am actually seeking sponsorship to fund my own running endeavors," Nasrallah added.

Notwithstanding that statistics do not bode well for Kuwaiti women, Sultan is optimistic. "There is a mass of untapped potential in Kuwait. We have a lot of raw talent, and it is going completely unchecked. I personally know many great Kuwaiti female athletes, but I imagine a lot of women shy away from pursuing sports seriously. Something needs to be done to give girls and women the option to pursue sports if they choose to do so," she said.

The best piece of advice Nasrallah gives to those beginning their journey in sport is to be focused on the positives. "Lock out the negativity and don't lose sight of your goal. If you're patient and consistent, results will follow," she said, as Sultan interjected: "Work hard, play hard!"

A photograph of three women in elaborate costumes standing on a red carpet in a grand, ornate hall. The woman on the left wears a red cape and a gold crown. The woman in the center wears a white, sequined, long-sleeved gown with a large train and a white headpiece. The woman on the right wears a black, sequined, long-sleeved gown with a long train and a black headpiece. The background features a large, ornate chandelier and a balcony with a railing.

**Filipino designer in Kuwait
wins acclaim in the US**



Fashion designer Resty Lagare showcasing some of his designs. — Images courtesy Resty Lagare



Fashion by design

By Ben Garcia

Resty Lagare knows fashion. The well-known Filipino designer based in Kuwait has been in the fashion business for years and will be making his runway debut in Phoenix next week at the Phoenix Fashion Week.

To his surprise, he's been asked to do the 'finale' along with fellow designer Rocky Gathercole. "I am still in complete shock - kinda on cloud nine! I'll be in the finale along with famous designers! It means a lot to me, and to be accorded with this humbling recognition is really something. I am still in dreamland and do not want to be disturbed!" an ecstatic Resty told Kuwait Times.

The well-travelled Resty has attended numerous fashion shows around the world. "I usually head to the most fashionable cities in

the world to attend events and see what's new in the world of fashion. But this time around, I booked my tickets not as a mere spectator, but as part of the show. I'm looking forward to the best and most wonderful experience ahead," he beamed.

"I can feel the adrenaline rush and I am really very excited. I am now rushing every piece I will be taking with me. I am creating and making sure that everything I want will be delivered," he said.

Resty also revealed that he will be dressing up some Hollywood celebrities at the fashion events and upcoming concerts.

Kuwait: A fashion hub

Haute couture in Kuwait and the Middle East is a growing and lucrative industry, thanks in part to wealthy, fashion-obsessed Khaleejis and a growing native industry of designers and other creatives. In recent years, local fash-

ion shows like the Kuwait Fashion Show as well as private viewings have expanded to attract foreign visitors. Fashionistas on social media command top rates for advertising high end fashion brands and attending launches and shows in the region as well as in fashion capitals of New York, London, Milan and Paris.

Resty is a resident fashion designer at one of the biggest haute couture shops in Kuwait, with two decades of fashion experience in the Middle East. "Kuwait is a very challenging yet fulfilling place to work. I love this job very much. When I draw the designs, I always imagine myself in them. I imagine Hollywood stars wearing my creations," he told Kuwait Times.

Women in Kuwait, according to Resty, are very stylish and well informed customers. "They are no different from people in Hollywood. They like to dress up and get the best designer clothing. They do not care about fads, but want to wear elegantly and exquisitely designed dresses," he said.

When designing for a client, according to Resty, fashion designers should see the whole persona of the person they are dressing. "We need to know the color that suits them, their personality, appearance, size, individuality and other things that suit them the most. It's up to them whether they like your recommendations, but mostly they will trust you," he said.

The haute couture industry in Kuwait, according to Resty, has a very bright prospect in the years to come, and will continue to evolve. "The demand for high fashion will always be there in Kuwait. You just have to pay attention to details to have an exquisite, intricate yet elegant creation that can compete with other globally known haute couture designers," he concluded.



Haute couture in Kuwait and the Middle East is a growing and lucrative industry, thanks in part to wealthy, fashion-obsessed Khaleejis and a growing native industry of designers and other creatives.

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The Director General of KDIPA Sheikh Dr Meshaal Jaber Al-Sabah addresses the audience during the conference.



Amiri Diwan Economic Advisor Dr Yousef Al-Ibrahim seen during his presentation at the conference. — KUNA Photos

Kuwaiti experts highlight country's lucrative investment environment

Gulf countries exploring ways to diversify its economy

NEW YORK: Amidst persistent political unrest across the Middle East and a decline in oil prices, Kuwait - among other Gulf countries - is exploring ways to diversify its economy with major aim of pushing growth forward. The Council of Foreign Affairs in New York held a one-day conference titled "The Gulf Economic Update: Featuring Kuwait," bringing together experts from the public and private sectors who discussed strategies toward maintaining sustainable growth.

During the conference, the participants gave an overview of current political and economic environment in the Gulf region, including a look at the challenges as well as opportunities for growth. The main feature of Kuwait's multi-faceted development plan is its regulatory and legal framework, included establishing a public authority, namely the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA).

The authority is mandated with the tasks of attracting both local and foreign investors, promoting Kuwait as a lucrative investment location, and streamlining the business environment to enhance the country's competitiveness. The Director General of KDIPA Sheikh Dr Meshaal Jaber Al-Sabah told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that Kuwait is steadily progressing in launching several positive measures towards liberalizing sectors of its economy.

Economic and social goals

During his presentation at the conference, Sheikh Meshaal said KDIPA's economic and social goals are: Economic diversification, transfer of technology and know-how, job creation for nationals, training and capacity building for citizens, supporting local suppliers and producers, and encouraging leading role of private sector with focus on small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

With Kuwait's unique proposition, he underlined the benefits of investing in the country starting with the "growth remaining favorable at 2.6 percent, inflation contained at three percent, high capital expenditure in social and physical infrastruc-

ture projects," in addition to efforts carried out to mitigate potential financial stability risks. He told the foreign investors who took part in the conference that the incentives are maintained through tax exemption up to 10 years, up to 100 percent foreign ownership, full or partial custom duty exemptions of equipment or raw materials, as well as benefits of bilateral and regional treaties.

As for the guarantees, he noted that investors are guaranteed a free transfer of foreign capital and earnings, protection from expropriation, transfer of ownership and project information protection. Sheikh Meshaal, in his separate statement to KUNA, said Kuwait is passing economic laws, improving transparency, and adopting best practices to optimally position itself as a preferred investment destination.

"The goal of our participation today is to shed light on the latest economic developments in Kuwait, as well as the latest economic laws passed

that call for income diversity, and reduce the dependence on oil," he added. Amiri Diwan Economic Advisor Dr Yousef Al-Ibrahim expressed to KUNA that today's event "was an excellent opportunity to showcase Kuwait." He lauded participants from both the private sector and governmental agencies for presenting a "fair and very knowledgeable" view about the Kuwaiti economy, and highlighting the latest development plans.

As the conference held different discussion panels, and side events throughout the day, Al-Ibrahim said the Kuwaiti representatives had the chance to clear so many misconceptions about investment opportunities in the country, as well as the investment environment. However, he said, Kuwait has its own challenges and "we were very frank in mentioning these challenges and how the government is going to tackle them and solve these problems." He said that such international forums are very important for Kuwait because they act as a bridge

to link Kuwait's future vision and the international economy.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Al-Ibrahim participated in a panel titled Silicon Desert: "Can Innovation and Entrepreneurship Thrive in Kuwait?" This panel focused on the financial impact of disruptive information and communications technology (ICT) innovations that are transforming leading businesses. Representing the independent public corporation, with a total capital of KD two billion, Dr Mohammad Al-Zuhair, Executive Chairman of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development, said to KUNA that the main goal of their participation is to develop and facilitate business opportunities for foreign investors.

With an aim of creating a developed economic environment, Al-Zuhair said they aim to build inclusive, collaborative and innovative ecosystems not only for locals but also foreign investors to lay foundation for economic opportunities in the country. Kuwait has recently seen several favorable developments in its regulatory and legal framework that enhance its status as an investment destination. Among the Kuwaiti speakers was Sara Akbar, Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Energy, who talked about challenges facing oil sector vis-a-vis the low oil prices. Akbar called for the diversification of economy in a way that would benefit the development and maintain growth.

The conference had a political perspective with Abdullah Bishara, in his capacity as board member of Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO), shed light on relations between Kuwait and the US, describing them as rock-solid. He said Kuwait was facing many challenges in the region, which was plagued by conflicts like in Syria and Yemen, as well as the war against terrorism where Kuwait was at the frontline. The conference included many experts representing different sectors such as Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, Kuwait Energy, Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC), World Bank and KIPCO. — KUNA



2 KUWAITIS, 2 ASIANS ARRESTED FOR DRUGS



By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Two Kuwaitis were recently arrested in Mahboula for possessing drugs, resisting arrest, damaging a police patrol and a civilian vehicle and crossing a red traffic light while trying to escape. Security sources said that the suspects refused instructions to pull over and drove away - triggering a pursuit. In another development, two Asians (26 and 27) were recently arrested in Mangaf for drug related crimes. A pack containing one and a half kilos of marijuana was found in their possession, said security sources.

42,383 traffic tickets

Traffic police recently filed 42,383 traffic violation tickets, detained 743 vehicles and 17 bikes and arrested 16 people for severe traffic violations. Six expats were also sent to deportation center for driving without licenses.

Street vendors nabbed

The joint committee comprising of elements from residency detectives, MSAL and Kuwait Municipality recently arrested 23 street vendors during several inspection campaigns throughout the country, said security sources.



Home-made liquor

A home-made liquor factory was recently raided in Mahboula. Security sources said that five Asians were arrested in the apartment. Seven barrels of liquor, 2 brewers and 63 bottles of liquor were also confiscated. Separately, an Asian was recently arrested in Hawalli. 106 large bottles of home-made liquor and 22 small bottles were found in his possession.

FINLAND SEEKS BETTER TRADE, ECONOMIC TIES WITH KUWAIT

KUWAIT: A senior Finnish official has called for further contacts and exchange of visits to boost economic and trade ties with Kuwait. The political relations between Finland and the GCC are "very strong", but economic ties have not been the same level over the past years, the visiting Finnish deputy foreign minister for external economic affairs Matti Antonin said yesterday.

He expressed hope for further GCC investments in Finland, and more bilateral trade, saying that his current visit to Kuwait is part of the efforts to realize

that aim. The Finnish official led his country's delegation to the 7th meeting of the Kuwaiti-Finnish Economic Committee over the past two days. The 8th session will be held in Finland next year, with the aim to enhance bilateral trade, which hit \$42 million only in 2015. Technology and communications are major sectors to promote economic ties, together with alternative energy, he said. Health and education technology also play a significant role.

In the meantime, Antonin said that Finland is rehabilitating national econ-

omy, adding that the country was affected by the retreat of Nokia, one of the major Finnish companies, in addition to the woes of the world's paper industry. Forests are a major natural wealth in Finland. He said that Nokia has recently acquired a leading firm in the field of electronic networks, the biggest acquisition deal in the history of the country. Once Nokia employed 100,000 in Finland, he said. According to Antonin, Finland is expected to have 1-2 growth rate in over the coming years. — KUNA

News

in brief

OIC condemns Israeli flotilla interception

JEDDAH: Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) strongly condemned the Israeli navy interception of Zaytouna-Oliva flotilla carrying humanitarian assistance to the Gaza Strip. OIC said in a press statement yesterday that this Israeli aggression was a clear violation of international laws and human values. OIC General Secretary Iyad Bin Amin Madani held Israel accountable for the safety of the people on board of the flotilla. Madani reiterated the urgency of lifting off the Israeli siege on the Gaza Strip to allow the entrance of essentials to the Palestinian people. He also urged the international community to be responsible on applying international laws. On Wednesday, the Israeli navy has intercepted the Zaytouna-Oliva aid ship that was planning to break the decade-long blockade of the Gaza Strip to raise awareness.

Kuwait to host Gulf meeting on elderly

KUWAIT: Kuwait is due to host a comprehensive Gulf meeting tomorrow over issues related to the elderly to mark the annual International Day of Older Persons, which falls on October 1st. The meeting, which brings together representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Gulf health officials, will feature discussions over developments in elderly healthcare, a statement by the Ministry of Health (MoH) noted. Moreover, the meeting on October 8-10 will also tackle sustained development goals for the year 2030, with a bevy of experts in elderly healthcare scheduled to be in attendance. The officials will share with each other their experiences in the realm of elderly care, in addition to planned projects and programs germane to that sector.

Info Minister inaugurates KWA new cultural season

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah on Wednesday opened the 2016-2017 cultural season of Kuwait Writers Association (KWA) with honoring a constellation of literary figures. Addressing the opening ceremony, he said Kuwait believes that any political, economic or social development should be based on a proper cultural foundation. "The political leadership of the country, led by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah strongly believe in the role of culture in the quest for progress and prosperity," Sheikh Salman stressed. He highlighted the innovative achievements made by the creative sons of Kuwait in various literary and artistic fields which culminated in selecting Kuwait as Capital of Arab Culture 2001 and Capital of Islamic Culture 2016. Meanwhile, Dr Talal Al-Rumeidhi, KWA Secretary-General, said the association will continue providing a platform for the young generation of intellectuals to benefit from the experiences of the old generation.

Media heading in a 'new direction'

KUWAIT: A recent Arab forum on media, technology and communication hosted by Kuwait, achieved its objective by displaying collective skill, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said yesterday. In a statement to the press on the sidelines of the forum's closing ceremony, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah said that media is heading in a new direction, as he commended the participants in this forum for putting media to good use. Moreover, he thanked all those that came out for the event, which gave participants the opportunity to share their knowhow with each other.

KUWAIT INVESTMENT DAR CREDITORS MULL DEBT PLAN

DUBAI: Creditors of Kuwait's debt-laden Investment Dar, whose assets include property and finance, are close to forming a team to negotiate a deal on the company's latest plan to restructure 813 million dinars (\$2.7 billion) in debt. Investment Dar, whose assets include a stake in the owner of Dubai's "The World" islands project, has made several efforts to restructure its debt since running into trouble in the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis, but with mixed success.

It paid off some creditors after signing a deal linked

to other assets in 2011 covering about 1 billion dinars. Saudi Arabia's Al Rajhi Bank, the Islamic investment company's largest creditor, is taking charge of forming the committee, which will be responsible for representing the roughly 70 to 80 creditors in negotiations with Investment Dar, two sources familiar with the matter said.

The committee will seek to galvanize some of the many creditors accused of preventing previous deals from gaining sufficient support by remaining inactive.

In its latest debt restructuring plan, unveiled in May, Investment Dar offered to hand assets to creditors immediately. Any deal remains complicated, however, by a rise in the number of legal cases being more actively pursued in the Kuwaiti courts since a stay on litigation against Investment Dar was lifted in February. That followed the failure of its previous plan after Kuwait's Court of Appeal rejected an application under the country's financial stability law to impose it on all creditors. — Reuters

Kuwait

of the day



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti traders follow the stock market at the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) in Kuwait City in this file photo. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Crime

Report

TEENS ATTEMPT SUICIDE

KUWAIT: Two female teenagers, a Pakistani and an Egyptian were recently rushed to Mubarak hospital for attempted suicide as they both had separately swallowed a large number of pills with the intention of killing themselves, said security sources noting that the girls were both revived. The Pakistani teen said she was trying to kill herself to avoid an arranged marriage being forced on her by her family. The Egyptian teen said that she tried to kill herself after her parents took away her mobile phone.

Ex-wife files complaint

A citizen recently filed a complaint against his ex wife accusing her of negligence in taking care of their children as she was late picking them up from school and left them waiting in the sun for what he labeled 'a long time'.

Investigation into death

The corpse of a 51 year old Pakistani man was referred for a coroner investigation after it was discovered that the man, who has been taken to Mubarak hospital for treatment, was found to have been dead more than an hour prior to his arrival at the hospital. The doctors also detected a nose bleed and thus suspect homicide.

Fraud case reported

Another in a string of telephone fraud cases reported, an expat reported that someone called telling him that he won a grand financial prize and that he needed to provide his bank account number and pin code so that they could deposit the money. The man said that later on, he found out that KD 130 had been withdrawn from his account.

Swindlers wanted

A citizen reported that an Arab expat and a stateless person had swindled him off KD 16,000 claiming to use the sum in importing German used vehicles and trading in them before they vanished, said security sources.

KUWAIT REITERATES FIRM STANCE AGAINST ALL FORMS OF TERRORISM

GCC MINISTERS APPROVE RULES AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

NEW YORK: Kuwait has reiterated its firm stance against all forms and manifestations of terrorism on Wednesday. Such criminal acts should not be justified or linked it to any religion, nationality, race or ethnicity, Abdullah Al-Mowazri, third secretary of the Kuwaiti delegation of the UN, said during the meeting of the UN General Assembly's Six Committee. He suggested that combating terrorism requires mobilizing all international efforts and capabilities to defeat such a scourge.

He also stressed the importance of heeding the root causes of terrorism as well as increasing efforts to promote good governance and peaceful coexistence among followers of different faiths and races. Al-Mowazri added that Kuwait has also joint nearly 18 international and regional conventions and agreements on combating terrorism. Kuwait has issued Law No 106 of 2013 on combating money laundering and terrorism financing, he pointed out. He announced that Kuwait will host on October 24 an international working group on countering the so-called Islamic State group's financial capabilities.

Human trafficking

In another development, Justice Ministers in the Gulf Cooperation Council member states have agreed on a number of model rules for combating human trafficking. In a final statement after their regular 28th meeting, held in Riyadh Wednesday, the ministers added that a joint panel has been also formed to prepare draft laws for fighting extremism, discrimination, hatred and racism. The conferees also approved a book of

ethics for judiciary in the Gulf states. They have endorsed a technique proposed by a Gulf panel to unify the legislative principles in the member states.

Earlier, Kuwaiti Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sanea underlined the significance of the GCC justice ministers' meeting as mainly aiming to overhaul nation-

al justice systems and promote inter-GCC cooperation and integration. The minister said efforts to cement cooperation in the fields of justice and judiciary and to gauge the implementation of relevant recommendations and resolutions reflect real and fruitful legal cooperation among the GCC member states' justice ministries. —Agencies

AUTHORIZATION CANCELLED

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Acting director of the manpower authority Abdullah Al-Motoutah said that the authority cancelled an authorization issued on March 17, 2015 for Kuwait Farmers Union's board of directors and issued another one naming a new temporary board on Oct 3, 2016 to run urgent tasks until an extraordinary general assembly is held to elect a new board.

FAO regional debate

Along with 12 other Arab countries, Kuwait took part in the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) second regional debate held in Egypt.

Solution for unemployment

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih said small projects are the best solution for unemployment. Speaking on opening a workshop on small and medium projects in GCC

countries, Subaih said that such projects are the best locomotives for national economies. Meanwhile, a delegation from the Supreme Planning and Development Council left for Japan to promote Kuwait's exhibition on small and medium projects.

Vehicles engulf in fire

A fire broke out yesterday in four vehicles near the Ashour husseiniya in Bneid Al-Gar, said security sources, noting that firemen rushed to the scene and managed to control the fire and prevent it from spreading. A fireman was injured in the process.

Nuclear medicine dept

Head of KCCC's nuclear medicine department Dr Farida Al-Kandari announced launching a new smartphone application for nuclear medicine tests. Kandari added that the new application was the result of cooperation between KCCC's physics unit and the computer sciences department at PAAET.

Friday Times

International

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2016

US again lashes out at Israeli settlements in West Bank



Yellowing Taj Mahal to go under scaffold for 'mud pack'



Malaysian court lets off 'Budgie 9' who partied in swimsuits



MAFRAQ, JORDAN: In this June 20, 2013 file photo, UN refugee chief, Antonio Guterres, second left, along with UNHCR special envoy, actress Angelina Jolie, second right, visit Zaatari refugee camp, near the Syrian border.—AP

UNSC ENDORSES PORTUGAL'S EX-PM

GUTERRES WANTS TO BUILD BRIDGES

UNITED NATIONS: Portugal's former prime minister Antonio Guterres, who is virtually certain to be the next UN secretary-general, says he wants to be "an honest broker, a bridge-builder and someone who tries to create conditions for consensus."

The veteran politician and diplomat, who won unanimous backing from the UN Security Council on Wednesday, said in an interview with The Associated Press and two other news organizations during his campaign that if he got the job his aim would be to work with all countries to help solve the myriad problems on the global agenda.

The Security Council met behind closed doors yesterday morning for a formal vote on Guterres' candidacy. Russia's UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, the current council president, expressed hope that the council will recommend Guterres by "acclamation" to the 193-member General Assembly, which must approve a successor to Ban Ki-moon, whose second five-year

term ends Dec. 31. Guterres topped all six informal polls in the council after receiving high marks from almost every diplomat for his performance in the first-ever question-and-answer sessions for candidates in the General Assembly. He was the only candidate of the 10 in the race to receive no "discourage" votes in Wednesday's poll, which was the first to use colored ballots to distinguish the votes of the five veto-wielding permanent members - the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France.

The result disappointed campaigners for a woman or an East European to be the world's top diplomat for the first time. "Antonio Guterres has won this race because he was the best candidate for the race," Britain's UN Ambassador Matthew Rycroft said before entering the meeting. "It was a crowded field, it was a strong field and I'm delighted that seven of the 13 candidates were women but I and others have always been clear that while now is the right time for a woman that we were going

to pick the strongest person."

Woman as Deputy secretary-general

Guterres will almost certainly select a woman as deputy secretary-general and he said in the interview that one of the things that is "crucial" at the male-dominated United Nations is "to have gender parity." He said that his 10 years as the UN high commissioner for refugees, which ended in December, were "excellent preparation" for a secretary-general who needs to be an honest broker and be seen by countries as independent in order to promote consensus and overcome crises.

"I think we are living in a world where we see a multiplication of new conflicts, and you see an enormous difficulty in solving the conflicts," Guterres said. "There is a clear lack of capacity in the international community to prevent and to solve conflicts."

What's needed, he said, is a new "diplomacy for peace" which requires discreet diplomatic

contacts and shuttling among key players in conflicts and disputes. The secretary-general should also engage as much as possible and "act with humility to try to create the conditions for member states that are the crucial actors in any process to be able to come together and overcome their differences," he said.

The 10 years as high commissioner were "the most remarkable experience you can imagine," he said. "It's the most fascinating work you can have, very demanding ... and I gained a lot of experience in dealing with all crises and all governments" involved in crises everywhere. After his term ended, Guterres said, he felt an obligation to do something "having had this dramatic experience of dealing with people that are suffering enormously" as refugees and having no solution to their plight. He said the place where he could probably contribute the most to solve that problem and other global crises was at the United Nations so he decided to apply to be secretary-general.—AP

ISRAEL CHARGES 7 ACCUSED OF PLOTTING HEZBOLLAH ATTACKS

JERUSALEM: Israel has charged seven residents of a village in the occupied Golan Heights of spying for Lebanon's Shiite militant group Hezbollah, police said yesterday. The seven suspects were arrested last month after a bag containing explosive devices was discovered near the town of Metulla in northern Israel, police said.

They were accused of spying for Hezbollah, contact with foreign agents and trafficking weapons and drugs, spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said. Israel considers Hezbollah and its ally Iran the country's main enemies and deems the Lebanese group a terrorist organization.

Public radio said a Hezbollah member had allegedly ordered the suspects to carry out bomb attacks in the northern Israeli city of Haifa. After an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000, the United Nations drew up a blue line in the disputed border region between the two countries.

The line divided the village of Ghajar, with its northern part falling inside Lebanon and the south becoming part of the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights. Ghajar's residents are Alawite Muslims of Syrian origin.—AFP

10 HURT IN BOMB ATTACK NEAR ISTANBUL POLICE STATION

ISTANBUL: A bomb placed on a motorcycle exploded yesterday near a police station in Istanbul, wounding at least 10 people, a senior official said. Vasip Sahin, the governor for Istanbul, told reporters at the scene in the Yenibosna district that none of the injured was in serious condition, retracting an earlier statement that one person was seriously hurt.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast, which could be heard from the city's nearby Ataturk Airport. Sahin said the investigation was ongoing and of the victims yesterday were civilians.

The private Dogan news agency said police were searching for a person spotted leaving the scene carrying a motorcycle helmet. Turkey has been rocked by a wave of bomb attacks in the past year that have killed hundreds of people and been blamed on Kurdish rebels or Islamic State group militants.

The Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which has been waging a three-decade long insurgency, has been targeting police and military in its campaign for Kurdish autonomy in southeast Turkey. A fragile 2 1/2-year cease-fire between Turkey and the PKK collapsed last summer. Since then, more than 600 Turkish security personnel and thousands of PKK militants have been killed in clashes, according to the state-run Anadolu Agency. Rights groups say hundreds of civilians have also been killed in the clashes.

The Dogan news agency said several parked cars and nearby windows were damaged in the blast.—AP



ISTANBUL: Police officers work at the scene of a blast yesterday.—AP



GAZA CITY: A Palestinian woman prays near a site that was hit by an Israeli air strike the previous day yesterday.—AFP

US AGAIN LASHES OUT AT ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN WEST BANK

'WILL ONLY DRAW CONDEMNATION'

WASHINGTON: The Obama administration on Wednesday once again condemned Israel for plans to construct housing on land claimed by the Palestinians, saying a new project announced last week profoundly hurts efforts to forge a two-state solution to the long-running conflict.

In unusually strong statements, the White House and State Department lashed out at a proposal announced last week to construct a significant new settlement of up to 300 housing units and establish an industrial zone in the West Bank. Both Israel and the Palestinians responded quickly with statements accusing each other of being the real obstacle to peace.

Restating a view

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said every US administration since 1967 has opposed Israeli settlement activity in the occupied territories, and the Obama administration has publicly restated that view because of the concern that settlement activity in the West Bank and East Jerusalem undermines the goal of a two-state solution.

"The actions of the Israeli government in announcing this settlement undermine the pursuit of peace," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said. He added that the US had also received public assurances from the Israeli government that contradicted the settlement announcement. "I guess, when we're talking about how good friends treat one another, that's a source of serious concern as well," he said.

At the State Department, spokesman Mark Toner said moving ahead with the project would be "another step toward cementing a one-state reality of perpetual occupation that is fundamentally

inconsistent with Israel's future as a Jewish and democratic state." "Such moves will only draw condemnation from the international community, distance Israel from many of its partners, and further call into question Israel's commitment to achieving a negotiated peace," he said.

Toner said the proposal was "deeply troubling" because Israel announced the proposal so soon after the US agreed last month to a new 10-year, \$38 billion military aid package for Israel. He also said it was "disheartening" as the announcement came the world was mourning the death of former Israeli leader Shimon Peres. US officials said the administration was particularly disturbed because the announcement came as President Barack Obama was visiting Jerusalem last week for the Peres' state funeral.

"It is deeply troubling, in the wake of Israel and the US concluding an unprecedented agreement on military assistance designed to further strengthen Israel's security, that Israel would take a decision so contrary to its long-term security interest in a peaceful resolution of its conflict with the Palestinians," Toner said. "Furthermore, it is disheartening that while Israel and the world mourned the passing of President Shimon Peres, and leaders from the US and other nations prepared to honor one of the great champions of peace, plans were advanced that would seriously undermine the prospects for the two-state solution that he so passionately supported."

In Jerusalem, the Israeli foreign ministry said only 98 units had been approved and said they do not constitute a new settlement. It said the new housing would be built on state-owned

land in an existing settlement and would not change its boundaries or geographic footprint. It said the construction is necessary to relocate Jewish residents from another area who must leave their homes due to a court order.

"Israel remains committed to a solution of two states for two peoples, in which a demilitarized Palestinian state recognizes the Jewish state of Israel," the ministry said in a statement. "The real obstacle to peace is not the settlements - a final status issue that can and must be resolved in negotiations between the parties - but the persistent Palestinian rejection of a Jewish state in any boundaries."

Take action

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat fired back, saying the proposal "affirms Israel's resolve to destroy the two-state solution" and demanding the international community take action.

"Israel continues to impede international efforts to achieve peace in Palestine and the region amidst the complete inaction by the international community to hold Israel accountable for the crimes it continues to commit against the land and people of Palestine," he said. "Concrete measures and actions against all Israeli settlement activities should be taken in accordance with international law and United Nations resolutions." The US, which has repeatedly criticized Israel for such projects over decades, has refrained from imposing consequences.

On Tuesday, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon also condemned the plans for the construction near Shiloh, west of Ramallah. Palestinians want their new state in the West Bank with east Jerusalem as its capital.—AP

GERMAN TRIAL OF AUSCHWITZ MEDIC, 96, COLLAPSES

BERLIN: Germany's trial of a 96-year-old former Nazi medical orderly at the Auschwitz death camp has collapsed, a court spokesman said yesterday. No date for a retrial of Hubert Zafke has yet been set after the proceedings were derailed by complaints that the judges were biased. "When this will happen we cannot say yet," Carl Friedrich Deutsch, a spokesman for the court, said in a statement.

Zafke had faced charges of at least 3,681 counts of being an accessory to murder in the concentration camp in Nazi-occupied Poland. But concerns over his mental and physical health had led to repeated postponements of the trial in the northeastern lakeside town of Neubrandenburg.

Over the last few hearings, a parade of doctors have been quizzed about Zafke's mental health, reaching contradictory conclusions. Prosecutors, and civil plaintiffs, had in turn launched motions of bias against the judges, charging that they were unwilling to try wheelchair-bound Zafke.

Deutsch said the prosecutors had asked three judges to recuse themselves. There was insufficient time to decide whether to grant or reject these requests before the next scheduled hearing next Monday.

The spokesman added bluntly that he couldn't understand why prosecutors would employ a legal tactic that left them open to charges they had "torpedoed the proceedings which they themselves had launched".

Anne Frank in Auschwitz

The charges against Zafke focus on a one-month period in 1944 when 14 trains carrying prisoners-including the teenage diarist Anne Frank-arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Frank, who arrived in Auschwitz with her parents and sister, was later transferred to another camp, Bergen-Belsen, where she died in March 1945, just two months before the Nazis were defeated. Yesterday's announcement marked the end of a case that had been marred by five delays and at times deteriorated into farce, increasingly frustrating victims' lawyers. The International Auschwitz Committee, which represents Holocaust survivors, had sharply attacked Germany's handling of the case, saying the court was hurtling "between sloppy ignorance and complete disinterest" in a resolution.

Some 1.1 million people, most of them European Jews, perished between 1940 and 1945 in Auschwitz before it was liberated by Soviet forces. More than 70 years after the prosecution of top Nazis began in Nuremberg, Germany has been racing against time to try the last Third Reich criminals.

Zafke was the fourth former concentration camp worker in the dock in the latest series of trials, following John Demjanjuk in 2011, Oskar Groening in 2015 and Reinhold Hanning this May-all convicted of complicity in mass murder. Those cases were hailed for providing a degree of catharsis for aged survivors, even if they shed little new light on the Holocaust.—AFP

PROTESTERS IN ETHIOPIA KILL UC DAVIS STUDENT

DAVIS: University of California, Davis officials say that a post-doctoral researcher in the university's plant biology department was killed in Ethiopia when the vehicle she was riding in was struck by rocks thrown by protesters.

The university said in a statement Wednesday that Sharon Gray was in the East African country for a meeting about her research when she was killed Tuesday while traveling in a car in the outskirts of the capital, Addis Ababa.

The university said what happened was unclear but spokesman Andy Fell confirmed to the Sacramento Bee. Gray was the American the US Embassy in Ethiopia confirmed was killed in an area that has seen months of deadly protests.

UC Davis says another member of the plant biology department who was traveling with Gray was not injured in is headed home. This is the first foreigner killed in the massive anti-government protests that have claimed the lives of hundreds of protesters since November 2015.—AP



GENEVA: United Nation's Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura (R), accompanied by Special Advisor to the UN Syria envoy Jan Egeland, speaks during a press conference on the Aleppo situation yesterday.—AFP

UN WARNS OF ALEPPO TOTAL DESTRUCTION AS ARMY ADVANCE 'BIGGEST GAINS IN YEARS AGAINST REBELS'

BEIRUT: The UN's Syria envoy yesterday warned Aleppo faces total destruction, as government forces made their biggest gains in years against rebels inside the opposition-held part of the battleground city.

Staffan de Mistura said eastern Aleppo could be "totally destroyed" by year's end, and called on the government to halt strikes if jihadist fighters left the city, even offering to escort them out himself. The envoy warned eastern Aleppo risked joining the ranks of the 20th century's worst tragedies, making comparisons to the Srebrenica massacre and the Rwandan genocide. His plea comes two weeks into an all-out government assault on opposition parts of Aleppo following the collapse of a short-lived truce negotiated by Russia and the United States. Loyalist fighters have made significant advances in the Bustan al-Basha district near the centre of Aleppo, divided between government fighters in the west and rebels in the east, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman said it was the biggest and most significant advance inside the city since 2013. The offensive by President Bashar al-Assad's forces has seen rebel-held areas pounded relentlessly with air strikes, barrel bombs and artillery fire that the Observatory says have killed more than 270 people.

On Wednesday, the army said in a surprise announcement it would reduce its bombardment "to allow civilians who want to leave to reach safe areas". "Anyone who does not take advantage of the opportunity to lay down their arms or leave will meet their inevitable fate," a statement said.

Army 'gimmick'

The Observatory reported fewer air strikes but heavy clashes in Bustan al-Basha, with the army now controlling key vantage points and half the neighborhood. Analysts dismissed the army announcement. "The regime and its allies have made a decision to conquer as much of eastern Aleppo as possible and they're moving ahead on that," said Emile Hokayem, a senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

"I think such announcements are actually marginal. They are a PR gimmick." Syria expert Thomas Pierret said the move could be intended to undercut growing international pressure for action over the plight of civilians in east Aleppo. The bombardment has damaged or destroyed several hospitals, including the largest facility serving the more than 250,000 remaining residents, who have been under near-continuous siege since mid-July. "The aerial onslaught on Aleppo... has bolstered Western proponents of a tougher approach" on Syria, said Pierret, a lecturer at the University of Edinburgh.

"A temporary halt or reduction of bombings could prevent interventionists from gaining further influence." Washington said this week it was suspending talks with Moscow on Syria over Russia's involvement in the Aleppo assault. But the US acknowledged Secretary of State John Kerry had called his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov to discuss Syria despite the announcement.

'Deluge of fire'

Moscow blames Washington for the truce's collapse and has shown no signs of easing its support for Assad. Speaking in

Geneva, De Mistura warned the ongoing assault would have dire consequences. "In maximum two months, two-and-a-half months the city of eastern Aleppo may be totally destroyed", he told reporters.

He urged fighters from the former Al-Nusra Front, now known as Fateh al-Sham Front after breaking with Al-Qaeda, to leave Aleppo under a deal to halt the regime's attack on the city. "If you decide to leave with dignity... I am personally ready to physically accompany you," said the envoy.

He also asked Russia and Syria's regime if they were truly prepared to bring about the ruin of Aleppo. "Or, are you rather ready to announce an immediate and total aerial bombing halt if Nusra leaves" the Italian-Swedish diplomat asked.

Russia said Thursday it was "ready to work" on a draft UN resolution calling for a ceasefire in Aleppo. The resolution was proposed by France, whose Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said during a visit to Moscow that "nothing can justify such a deluge of fire and of death" in Aleppo.

More than 300,000 people have been killed since the conflict began with fierce repression of anti-government protests in March 2011. It has since evolved into a complex multi-front war that has drawn in regional and international forces including, most recently, Turkey. Ankara launched an offensive on August 24, saying its forces and allied rebels would fight both the Islamic State group and Kurdish militia in northern Syria.

On Thursday, at least 29 rebels involved in Ankara's operation were killed in a blast claimed by IS at the Atme border crossing between Turkey and Syria, the Observatory said.—AFP

LAWSUIT SEEKS TO WIDEN DUTCH RESPONSIBILITY FOR SREBRENICA DEATHS

1995 SREBRENICA MASSACRE

THE HAGUE: Relatives of victims of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre told an appeals court yesterday that the Dutch government should be held responsible for failing to protect more of the thousands of Bosnian Muslim men and boys killed there. They are seeking to expand a 2014 ruling by a lower court that found the Netherlands culpable for the deaths of 300 of the 8,000 men and boys who were killed after leaving a United Nations compound that was run by Dutch peacekeeping troops. "We think the state should be held liable for a much larger group because there were possibilities to save many more men," lawyer Marco Gerritsen, who represents the Mothers of Srebrenica group, told judges.

The earlier court decision found that the Dutch peacekeepers could have known that the men seeking refuge at the base in the village of Potocari would be murdered if forced to leave. "In the knowledge that there was a serious risk of genocide men and boys were handed over (by the Dutch) to their killers, and they cooperated with the deportation of the women," said attorney Simon van der Sluijs, who also represents roughly 6,000 of the surviving Srebrenica relatives. Gerritsen argued that the Dutch were also responsible for the safety of thousands of men who fled into the forests surrounding the Bosnian Muslim enclave-designated a "safe area" by the UN to escape execution. Lawyer for the Dutch state, Bert-Jan Houtzagers, said the lower court had been wrong to find that the Dutch battalion had "effective control" over the compound when it was overrun by Bosnian Serb forces. "It was a chaotic situation where Bosnian Serbs called the shots and the only thing Dutchbat could do was to try and guide the situation to the best of their abilities," he said. The Dutch forces did not foresee the later genocide and had been focused on "helping the refugees and guiding the evacuation," he said.

The failure of Dutch soldiers to protect the Muslim men and boys of Srebrenica has left a deep scar in Dutch politics, contributing to the resignation of the Dutch government in 2002. The 1992-95 Bosnian war, in which at least 100,000 people were killed, was the bloodiest of a series of conflicts that accompanied the break-up of Yugoslavia in the 1990s. On July 11, 1995, the enclave was overrun by the Bosnian Serb forces lead by commander Ratko Mladic, who is on trial for war crimes at an international court in The Hague. A ruling was expected on March 14.—Reuters



SARAJEVO, BOSNIA: Bosnian workers count ballots in the central election counting center yesterday.—AP

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DES MOINES, IOWA: In this Jan. 28, 2016 file photo, Moderator Megyn Kelly waits for the start of the Republican presidential primary debate. — AP

HANNITY SAYS FOX COLLEAGUE MEGYN KELLY BACKS CLINTON

NEW YORK: A battle is brewing between two of Fox News' biggest stars after conservative host Sean Hannity accused colleague Megyn Kelly of backing Hillary Clinton.

The spat began Wednesday night on Kelly's program, when the anchor criticized both GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump and the Democratic candidate, Clinton, of avoiding tough media interviews. She said Trump "will go on Hannity and pretty much only Hannity and will not venture out to the unsafe spaces these days."

Hannity responded on Twitter, writing "u should be mad at @HillaryClinton Clearly you support her. And @realDonaldTrump did talk to u." When another Twitter user told Hannity he should stand by his colleagues, the host said, "Sure. When they stand by me." Hannity is a vocal supporter of Trump and has acknowledged giving him campaign advice. — AP

IRANIAN-TURKISH TYCOON ASKS US JUDGE TO DISMISS CASE

NEW YORK: Defense lawyers asked a US federal judge Wednesday to throw out a case against an Iranian-Turkish tycoon accused of defying sanctions on Tehran. Reza Zarrab, 33, was arrested in Miami in March en route to Disney World and charged with conspiring to violate US sanctions against Iran, defraud US banks and launder money by helping Iranian entities transfer funds through US institutions.

His lawyers-including Ben Brafman who defended former IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn-argued Zarrab had not broken US laws because he was a foreigner living abroad. "As a foreign national sitting in Turkey he hasn't violated US criminal law," said one of Zarrab's attorneys, Paul Clement, before Judge Richard Berman. "He's not subject to the jurisdiction of the US."

"This is an unprecedented expanded prosecution." However, Assistant US Attorney Michael Lockard said "foreign nationals are not permitted to use US financial institutions to benefit Iran."

Wearing a blue prison uniform, Zarrab listened to the proceedings with the assistance of an interpreter. Brafman also challenged the legality of Zarrab's Miami arrest because customs officers had requested the businessman's cell phone passcode and a list of his businesses and bank accounts before he was allowed to call a lawyer. "They have orchestrated this and allowed him to incriminate himself," Brafman said.

In response to that argument Lockard said it was not out of line for airport customs agents to request access codes from suspicious passengers, and that Zarrab had given his consent. Zarrab, who operates a gold brokerage, currency exchange, shipbuilding company, furniture manufacturing business and real estate construction firm, has passports from Iran, Macedonia and Turkey-countries that either have no extradition treaty with America or do not extradite citizens. His lawyers unsuccessfully tried in March to let him swap the grimness of a federal lock-up for a swanky Manhattan apartment with round-the-clock security. — AFP

NSA CONTRACTOR ARREST HIGHLIGHTS CHALLENGE OF INSIDER THREAT

SECOND CASE OF SECRET DATA REMOVAL

WASHINGTON: The arrest of a National Security Agency contractor accused of stealing classified information represents the second known case of a government contractor being publicly accused of removing secret data from the intelligence agency since 2013.

The latest arrest came despite efforts to reform security after the Edward Snowden disclosures, especially in regard to insider threats. Harold Thomas Martin III, 51, of Glen Burnie, Maryland, was arrested by the FBI in August, after federal prosecutors say he illegally removed highly classified information and stored the material in his home and car. A defense attorney said Martin did not intend to betray his country.

The arrest was not made public until Wednesday, when the Justice Department unsealed a criminal complaint that accused Martin of having been in possession of top-secret information that could cause "exceptionally grave danger" to national security if disclosed.

Effective or adequate

The fact that Snowden and now Martin - both working for Booz Allen Hamilton as contractors for NSA - were able to leave the NSA with highly classified documents, especially given the supposed security upgrades put into place, raises the question of whether the intelligence agency's efforts to tighten internal security afterward were effective or adequate. The NSA declined to comment.

"One key thing we don't have visibility into now is how he was caught, because that would provide some insight into whether the reforms that were put in post-Snowden were effective or not, or their relative efficacy," said Rajesh De, who was the NSA's general counsel when the Snowden story broke and remained there until last year. Snowden's 2013 theft of documents that were leaked to journalists revealed the NSA's bulk collection of millions of Americans' phone records.

Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the senior Democrat on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, said in a statement that "it is painfully clear that the intelligence community still has much to do to institutionalize reforms designed to protect (U.S. government secrets) from insider threats." While details remain sparse, Martin's arrest also illustrates the difficulty of guarding against an insider threat given that employees that, by virtue of their clearance level and jobs, must be entrusted with the nation's secrets. It's unlikely, given the thousands of people in the intelligence community, "you're going to be able to stop every incident of somebody taking documents if they're determined to do so. But the real question is how quickly can you detect it, how quickly can you mitigate the harm of any such incident," De said.

Adm. Mike Rogers, who heads the NSA, has repeatedly spoken since 2013 about efforts the agency has taken to ensure that such a thing doesn't happen again. He has said the agency tried to

strike a balance so as to not overly upset workers, who are law-abiding citizens, with aggressive internal security mechanisms. On Wednesday evening at a Harvard University event, Rogers declined to offer details on the ongoing investigation but officially confirmed that the contractor was employed at the NSA, which monitors and collects sensitive information and data, mostly from overseas.

Among the classified documents found with Martin, the FBI said, were six that contain sensitive intelligence - meaning they were produced through sensitive government sources or methods that are critical to national security - and date back to 2014. All the docu-

found stolen property valued at "well in excess of \$1,000," the complaint said. He voluntarily agreed to an interview.

"Martin at first denied, and later when confronted with specific documents, admitted he took documents and digital files from his work assignment to his residence and vehicle that he knew were classified," the affidavit says. "Martin stated that he knew what he had done was wrong and that he should not have done it because he knew it was unauthorized."

He has been in custody since his arrest in August. "There is no evidence that Hal Martin intended to betray his country," his public defenders, James Wyda and Deborah Boardman, said in a



GLEN BURNIE, MARYLAND: Debbie the wife of Harold Thomas Martin III, talks to reporters outside of her home on Wednesday. — AP

ments were clearly marked as classified information, according to a FBI affidavit accompanying the complaint.

No specification

The complaint does not specify which documents Martin is alleged to have taken. He was arrested around the same time U.S. officials acknowledged an investigation into a cyber leak of purported hacking tools used by the NSA. That toolkit consists of malicious software intended to tamper with firewalls, the electronic defenses protecting computer networks. Those documents were leaked by a group calling itself the "Shadow Brokers." The complaint does not reference that group or allege a link to Martin.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said President Barack Obama takes the situation "quite seriously. And it is a good reminder for all of us with security clearances about how important it is for us to protect sensitive national security information."

The New York Times first reported the arrest of a NSA contractor who worked for Booz Allen Hamilton. Booz Allen said in a statement that after learning of the arrest of one of its employees, it contacted law enforcement authorities to offer its cooperation and fired the worker.

At Martin's home, investigators

statement. "What we do know is that Hal Martin loves his family and his country. He served honorably as a lieutenant in the United States Navy, and he has devoted his entire career to serving his country. We look forward to defending Hal Martin in court."

The complaint charges Martin with unauthorized removal and retention of classified materials and theft of government property.

In 2013, journalists relying on classified documents stolen by Snowden revealed the NSA's bulk collection phone records and spurred a national debate on privacy and national security. Rogers has said that since those revelations, he's repeatedly reminded the workforce of their agreement to never divulge the sensitive information they've been given access to. In prior comments, Rogers has said security isn't just about technical and insider threat preparation, but also about ensuring professional behavior.

"At times, I have some people telling me, 'Hey, what this should show you is you can't trust contractors,'" said Rogers, in a speech at Stanford University in 2014, noting that some of the biggest compromises of information came from direct U.S. employees. "This idea that you can't trust contractors, I just don't think I'm concerned about the long-term implications of that." — AP



RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, CALIFORNIA: In this July 2, 2015, file photo, cars pass by a sign encouraging residents to save water. — AP

CALIFORNIA WATER BOARD FEARS WATER SAVING ABANDONED

FRESNO: New figures Wednesday show Californians' summer water use up by more than a third since the same time last year, making water regulators worry some areas have abandoned drought-time water savings since the state lifted mandatory conservation orders. "We're at yellow alert," said Felicia Marcus, chairwoman of the state Water Resources Control Board, as the board released August figures showing conservation by cities and towns dropping.

Water regulators would be looking closely at the causes for the increased water use, Marcus said. "I'm not ready to go to red alert until we figure it out." California is heading into a possible sixth consecutive year of drought with uncertainty of what this coming winter - the rainy season in the state - will do to ease the historic dry spell, officials said.

Last winter, a near-average amount of rain and snow fell in Northern California, prompting officials to relax conservation efforts statewide by turning over control to local water districts. That may have been a mistake, said Tracy Quinn, a Southern-California based water expert with the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Back to normal consumption

Ever since, Quinn said Wednesday, she notices more Californians have gone back to running water sprinklers full tilt, and hears friends and family expressing uncertainty whether the state is even in drought anymore. "It's very clear that at least in this drought voluntary conservation hasn't been successful," Quinn said. "What got us the savings we need is mandatory conservation throughout the state."

Overall, California cities and towns saved less than 18 percent on water in August, compared to the period before Gov. Jerry Brown declared a drought emergency. The amount saved was down 36 percent from August 2015, when urban Californians were under Brown's order to cut water use by 25 percent. — AP

REMAINS OF NEW YORK SOLDIER KILLED IN KOREAN WAR RETURN HOME

MASSENA, NEW YORK: The remains of a New York soldier killed during the Korean War have been returned for burial in his upstate hometown this weekend. The Pentagon says the remains of Sgt. 1st Class Louis Baxter of Massena (muh-SEE'-nah) were identified last month through DNA samples provided by his siblings and a nephew.

Military officials say the 22-year-old Baxter was serving in an artillery battalion in the Army's 7th Infantry Division when his unit was attacked during the fighting at the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea in late November 1950.

Baxter, initially listed as missing in action, was declared dead in 1953. His remains were recovered in September 2001. They were returned Wednesday to Massena, on the Canadian border in St. Lawrence County. Baxter will be given a military funeral Saturday. — AP

AFTER TESTY VP DEBATE, TRUMP REBUFFS CLAIM HE 'LOVES' PUTIN

RUNNING MATE ON THE DEFENSIVE

HENDERSON, NEVADA: Donald Trump pushed back Wednesday on Hillary Clinton's accusation that he's cozying up to Russian President Vladimir Putin after the charge put Trump's running mate on the defensive during the vice presidential debate.

Trump offered effusive praise for Mike Pence's performance - but also claimed credit for it - even as both campaigns acknowledged that the sole vice presidential debate was unlikely to alter the race's trajectory. The celebrity businessman said his relationship with Russia's leader would be determined by how Moscow responds to strong US leadership under a Trump administration. "They say Donald Trump loves Putin. I don't love, I don't hate. We'll see how it works," Trump told a rally outside Las Vegas.

Weird fascination

Clinton on Wednesday shrugged that off, saying Trump has "this weird fascination with dictators." "My opponent seems not to know the difference between an ally and adversary," Clinton said at an evening fund raiser in Washington. "There seems to be some misunderstanding about what it means to have a dictatorship and provide leadership."

The billionaire candidate sought to take away an argument that Clinton and her running mate, Tim Kaine, have ramped up in the final weeks of the campaign as they work to portray Trump as dangerous for American interests overseas. While US-Russia relations nosedive over failed diplomacy in Syria, Trump has complimented Putin, calling him a strong leader and even encouraging him to track down Clinton's missing e-mails, though Trump later said he was being sarcastic.

"You guys love Russia," Kaine said in Tuesday's debate. "You both have said Vladimir Putin is a better leader than the president." In a forceful rebuke, Pence described Putin as a "small and bullying leader," but blamed Clinton and President Barack Obama for a "weak and feckless" foreign policy that had awakened Moscow's aggression in Ukraine and meddling in the Middle East.

The US and Russia back opposing sides in Syria's civil war but both are fighting the Islamic State group there. The US cut off talks with Russia about Syria this week after the latest cease-fire collapsed, blaming Russia for failing to fulfill its commitments under the deal. "I can say this: If we get along and Russia went out with us and knocked the hell out of ISIS, that's OK with me folks," Trump said, using an acronym for the extremist group.

Since last week's debate, Trump has faced a barrage of questions over a leaked tax return showing he lost more than \$900 million in 1995. In turn, he's sought to reframe his life story as a comeback tale he hopes to recreate on behalf of a faltering nation. "America needs a turnaround. American needs a comeback. America needs a change. And that's why I'm running," Trump



HENDERSON, NEVADA: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally on Wednesday. — AP

said. Taking the stage in Henderson, Nevada, Trump took his own victory lap for Pence's performance, which he called "phenomenal. Pence's cool demeanor contrasted with Trump's bluster during his own, top-of-the-ticket showdown against Clinton. However strong Pence's performance, Trump made clear he considers it a reflection of himself. "I'm getting a lot of credit, because that's really my first so-called choice, that was my first hire," Trump said of Pence.

'Did just fine'

Even Clinton's team wasn't claiming that Kaine had come out on top. Former President Bill Clinton, for example, his wife's running mate "did just fine."

Kaine acknowledged that even his wife gave him a hard time for his constant interruptions during the debate. But Kaine said he was effectively able to block Pence from attacking Clinton. "I've never played hockey but I think I'd be a good goalie, based on last night," he said. The big moment for their running

mates behind them, both Clinton and Trump were shifting focus back to each other - and to Sunday's debate, the second of three showdowns between the nominees.

Clinton was deep in debate prep Wednesday at her Washington home. She was huddling with campaign chairman John Podesta, top policy aid Jake Sullivan and her debate advisers.

Trump, meanwhile, was on the campaign trail, making several stops across Nevada. In Reno, the New Yorker appeared to lecture Nevadans on how their state is correctly pronounced and then did an exaggerated version of his preferred pronunciation of "Neh-VAH-da," though most residents of the Silver State pronounce it, "Neh-VAD-uh." He then declared that "nobody says it the other way." Campaign manager Kellyanne Conway said, despite Trump's travels, the candidate was preparing "constantly" for the debate. Trump planned his own town hall in New Hampshire on Thursday, in an apparent dress rehearsal for the big event. — AP

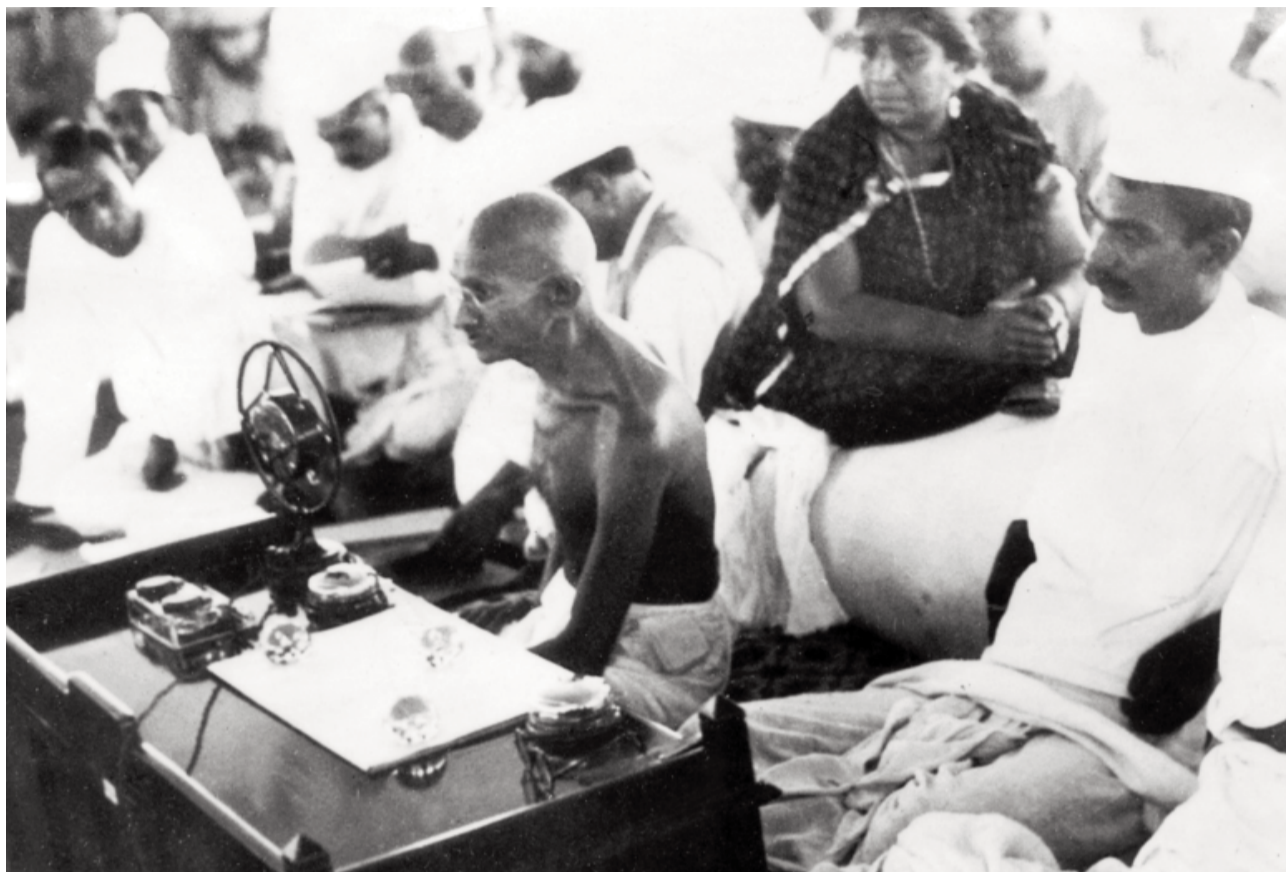
TRUMP DONATED TO STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL REVIEWING HIS BUSINESS

NEW YORK: US Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has given campaign contributions to state attorneys general while they considered decisions affecting his business, the Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday.

The Journal said records showed that Trump, his family and associates donated in particular to attorneys general in New York, from the 1980s through incumbent Eric Schneiderman, a Democrat who said last month he had opened an inquiry into the Donald J. Trump Foundation. "The money was given often when Mr. Trump's companies had decisions pending in these offices," it said.

Reuters could not confirm the report. The Trump campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Trump, a New York real estate develop-

er, has said during his campaign for the Nov. 8 election that as a businessman, he has made contribution to a number of politicians. He says his rival, Democrat Hillary Clinton, is part of a corrupt system in which rich donors influence politics, and that he is an outsider who can fix it. "In total, Mr. Trump has given about \$140,000 to a dozen people who either were state attorneys general or running for the post from 2001 to 2014, according to donation records," the Journal said. "Some of the recipients returned the contributions." The Washington Post has reported that Trump donated foundation money to support Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, a Republican, who was considering launching an investigation into Trump University, Trump's for-profit education venture. — Reuters



This file photo taken on November 5, 1934 shows Mohandas Karmachand Gandhi (C), also known as "Mahatma" (Great soul) Gandhi speaking during a meeting of the All India Congress in Bombay (Now Mumbai). Authorities in Ghana announced their intention to "relocate" a statue of Mahatma Gandhi, given recently by India to the University of Accra, following the publication of a petition denouncing the "racism" of the late leader Indian independence. The statue was inaugurated in June 2016 on the campus by the Indian President Pranab Mukherjee as a symbol of the close relationship between Ghana and India. — AFP

DOZENS OF AFGHAN TROOPS MISSING FROM MILITARY TRAINING IN US IN LESS THAN TWO YEARS

WASHINGTON: Forty-four Afghan troops visiting the United States for military training have gone missing in less than two years, presumably in an effort to live and work illegally in America, Pentagon officials said.

Although the number of disappearances is relatively small—some 2,200 Afghan troops have received military training in the United States since 2007—the incidents raise questions about security and screening procedures for the programs.

They are also potentially embarrassing for US President Barack Obama's administration, which has spent billions of dollars training Afghan troops as Washington seeks to extricate itself from the costly, 15-year-old war. The disclosure could fuel criticism by supporters of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, who has accused the Obama administration of failing to properly vet immigrants from Muslim-majority countries and has pledged a much tougher stance if he wins.

Run away soliders

While other foreign troops on US military training visits have sometimes run away, a US defense official said that the frequency of Afghan troops going missing was concerning and "out of the ordinary."

Since September alone, eight Afghan troops have left military bases without authorization, Pentagon spokesman Adam Stump told Reuters. He said the

total number of Afghan troops who have gone missing since January 2015 is 44, a number that has not previously been disclosed. "The Defense Department is assessing ways to strengthen eligibility criteria for training in ways that will reduce the likelihood of an individual Afghan willingly absconding from training in the US and going AWOL (absent without leave)," Stump said. Afghans in the US training program are vetted to ensure they have not participated in human rights abuses and are not affiliated with militant groups before being allowed into the United States, Stump said.

The defense official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, added there was no evidence any of those who had absconded had carried out crimes or posed a threat to the United States.

The Afghan army has occasionally been infiltrated by Taliban militants who have carried out attacks on Afghan and US troops, but such incidents have become less frequent due to tougher security measures.

Trump, whose other signature immigration plan is to build a wall on the US-Mexico border, has proposed a temporary ban on Muslims seeking to enter the country, and has said that law enforcement officers should engage in more racial profiling to curb the threat of attacks on American soil.

After Omar Mateen, whose father was born in Afghanistan, killed 49 people at a gay nightclub in Orlando in

June, Trump said an immigration ban would last until "we are in a position to properly screen these people coming into our country."

Billions of dollars in training

Washington has allocated more than \$60 billion since 2002 to train and equip Afghan troops, but security remains precarious and the Taliban are estimated to control more territory in Afghanistan than at any time since 2001 when the US invaded.

Earlier this year Obama shelved plans to cut the US force in Afghanistan nearly in half by year's end, opting instead to keep 8,400 troops there through the end of his presidency in January.

The military training program brings troops to the United States from around the world in order to build on military relations and improve capabilities for joint operations. In some cases, officials said, the Afghan students who went missing were in the United States for elite Army Ranger School and intelligence-gathering training. The officials did not identify the missing troops or their rank.

Even though the troops were in the United States for military training, they were not necessarily always on a military base. If students under the military program are absent from training for more than 24 hours, they are considered to be "absent without leave" (AWOL) and the Department of Homeland Security is notified. — Reuters

SOLDIER FROM MARYLAND KILLED ON PATROL IN AFGHANISTAN

BALTIMORE: The Pentagon says a soldier from Maryland was killed after being hit by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan while on patrol with Afghan forces in a north-eastern province bordering Pakistan.

The Department of Defense said in a news release that 31-year-old Staff Sgt. Adam S. Thomas of Takoma Park, Maryland, died Tuesday in Nangarhar Province. Officials say Thomas died from wounds sustained when his patrol triggered an improvised explosive device. Thomas was assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Carson, Colorado. — AP

INDIAN POLICE ARREST 70 FOR TARGETING AMERICANS IN TAX SCAM

NEW DELHI: Indian police have arrested 70 people and are questioning hundreds more after uncovering a massive scam to cheat thousands of Americans out of millions of dollars by posing as US tax authorities and demanding unpaid taxes, a police officer said yesterday.

According to police in Mumbai, the yearlong scam involved running fake call centers which sent voice mail messages telling US nationals to call back because they owed back taxes. Those who called back and believed the threats would fork out thousands of dollars to "settle" their case, Mumbai police officer Parag Marere said yesterday.

The scam brought in more than \$150,000 a day, Marere said without giving a total sum. If the scam netted that amount daily, it would have made almost \$55 million in one year. Some victims were also told to buy gift vouchers from various companies, and hand over the voucher ID numbers which the impostors then used to make purchases, Marere said.

Police said they are likely to file charges against many of the 600 or more people still being questioned on suspicion of running the fake call centers, housed on several stories of a Mumbai office building.

Those arrested so far include several of the alleged ring-leaders, as well as people accused of providing equipment and setting up the fake call centers. The criminal charges filed against the suspects include extortion, impersonation and violations of India's information technology laws. "We are questioning those who were involved in the fraud, including those posing as tax investigators," Marere said.

Police raided the offices this week and seized hundreds of hard disks, high-end servers and other electronic equipment. Indian media reports said 70 percent of the scam's proceeds were retained by the suspects in India, while the rest was paid to collaborators in the US.

Indian news broadcaster NDTV reported that one US-based company allegedly collected the victims' personal information and passed it to the fake call centers. — AP



MUMBAI, INDIA: A police official, right, escorts two men outside the court in Thane yesterday. — AP



AGRA, INDIA: This file photograph taken on April 16, 2016, shows the Taj Mahal reflected in the Yamuna river. — AFP

YELLOWING TAJ MAHAL TO GO UNDER SCAFFOLD FOR 'MUD PACK'

EFFECTS OF SMOG

AGRA, INDIA: Scaffolding will cover the Taj Mahal's main dome next year while a "mud pack" is applied to its yellowing marble, authorities said yesterday as they battle the effects of smog on the country's top tourist attraction.

The famed monument to love, which attracts millions of visitors, has for years been acquiring a yellow tinge

despite a ban on coal-powered industries in the area. Authorities have been applying "mud packs" around the side walls and towers since last year to draw the impurities out of the stone, but have not yet touched the main central dome.

"This is a part of the cleaning process through mud-pack therapy and

is presently being undertaken at (the eastern wall of main mausoleum of Taj," said Bhuvan Vikram of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), a state body. "This would be followed by cleaning of other three walls (and) thereafter it would be the turn of the (main) dome of Taj Mahal."

The mud-pack therapy involves covering the surface with fuller's earth and leaving it to dry before removing it with soft brushes and distilled water. The Times of India said the scaffolding could be up for around six months. ASI official M.K. Bhatnagar said the scaffold would go up around the main dome sometime next year, but would not say how long it would be there. "The time for cleaning cannot be ascertained in advance as it depends on work required on the dome," he said.

"It (the therapy) would take time but we will make all efforts to minimize it." The Taj Mahal was built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan as a tomb for his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, who died giving birth in 1631.

It has attracted world leaders and royalty including former US President Bill Clinton. Diana, the late British princess, was famously photographed alone on a marble seat there in 1992. In May, authorities had ordered an investigation after green-tinged patches began appearing on the back wall of the monument, which stands on the banks of the heavily polluted Yamuna river. India has some of the world's worst pollution and is the third biggest carbon emitter. — AFP

PAKISTAN PASSES LONG-AWAITED ANTI-HONOR KILLING LEGISLATION

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's National Assembly passed legislation yesterday closing a loophole that allowed people who killed in the name of "honor" to go free, mandating life imprisonment even if the victim's relatives forgive the murder.

Honor killings "claim the lives of hundreds of victims every year", the bill stated, adding that the legislation was "essential in order to prevent these crimes from being repeatedly committed". Rights groups and politicians have for years called for tougher laws to tackle perpetrators of violence against women in Pakistan and the move follows a slew of high-profile killings in the country.

The perpetrators of so-called honor killings—in which the victim, normally a woman, is killed by a relative—often walk free because they can seek forgiveness for the crime from another family member.

A 2005 amendment to the law pertaining to honor killings prevented men who kill female relatives pardoning themselves as an "heir" of the victim. But punishment was left to a judge's discretion when other relatives of the victim forgive the killer—a loophole which critics say is exploited.

The amendments passed yesterday and published on the National Assembly website mandate judges to sentence someone who kills in the name of "honor" to life imprisonment, even if they have been forgiven, said senior opposition lawmaker Farhatullah Babar.

The assembly also passed a bill boosting the punishments for some rape offences. Rape conviction rates are close to zero percent, largely due to the law's reliance on circumstantial evidence and a lack of forensic testing. — AFP

BATTLE WITH TALEBAN FORCING AFGHAN CIVILIANS TO FLEE KUNDUZ

KABUL: Afghan civilians were increasingly leaving the northern city of Kunduz yesterday to escape fighting between government forces and the Taliban, a battle now in its fourth day, officials said.

The United Nations warned of a rapid deterioration of conditions for those "trapped in the city," as food and fresh water become difficult to find. The fighting in Kunduz, located on a key national crossroads, has raised concerns of a repeat of last year's scenario, when it briefly fell to the Taliban. Insurgents at the time held Kunduz for three days, then resisted Afghan and US forces for almost three weeks before the city was brought fully back under government control.

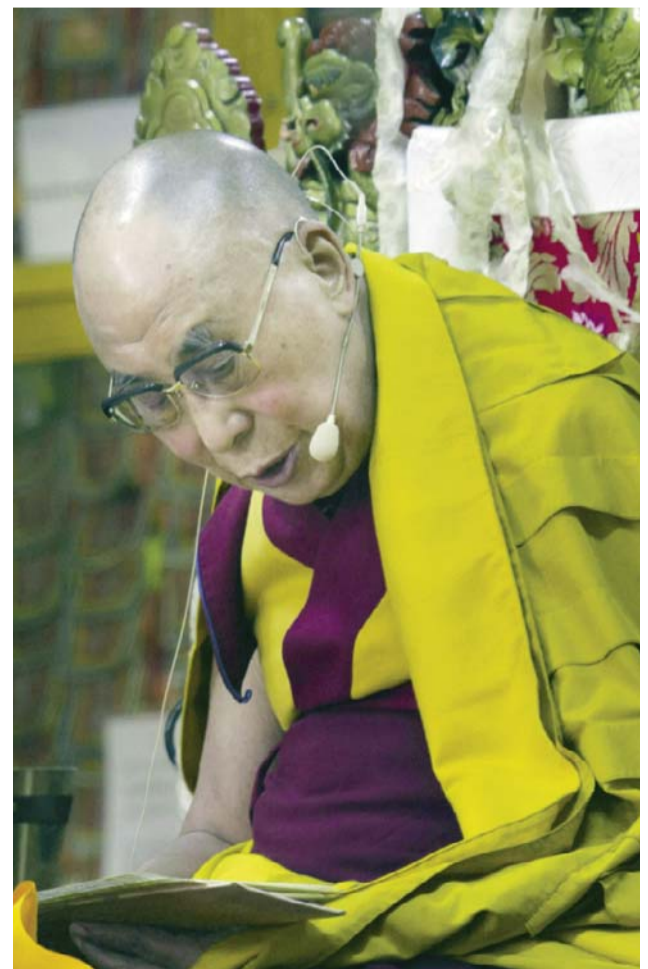
This time, the insurgents, who launched a multi-pronged attack early on Monday, have been pushed back from the city's south, said Gen. Qasim Jungalbagh, the police chief for Kunduz province. One Afghan soldier was killed and another three wounded in overnight fighting, he added.

The US military spokesman in Afghanistan, Brig. Gen. Charles Cleveland, said Afghan commandoes were clearing "isolated pockets of Taliban resistance" within the city yesterday.

Dominic Parker, head of the UN's Kabul office for the coordination of humanitarian affairs, said thousands of people have been forced to leave their homes in recent days. Clinics and other health facilities have shut down or are understaffed, reducing access to health care.

OCHA's information officer in Kabul, Danielle Moylan, said "up to 10,000 people have fled their homes."

Since Wednesday, about 1,200 people have arrived from Kunduz in neighboring Takhar province, said provincial refugee official, Murtaza Hamdard. "Most of them are staying in school buildings or with other families, but some are living out in the open," Hamdard said and appealed for urgent aid. — AP



DHARMSALA, INDIA: Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama reads from Buddhist scriptures during a religious talk at the Tsuglakhang temple. — AP

JAPAN NUCLEAR REACTOR SHUTTERED FOR SAFETY WORK

TOKYO: A reactor at the centre of Japan's national debate over nuclear power was halted yesterday under stricter post-Fukushima safety standards, as Tokyo struggles to bring back atomic energy.

Utility Kyushu Electric is shutting down the No. 1 reactor at its Sendai plant in southern Kagoshima for a few months of inspections and maintenance, leaving Japan with just two operating reactors. But there is speculation that the reactor's safety work could drag on longer.

Yesterday's shutdown follows

demands from the region's top politician that Kyushu Electric conduct extra safety inspections at its two operating reactors in the Sendai plant after deadly quakes hammered a neighboring prefecture in April.

Last month, the company refused governor Satoshi Mitazono's demands to immediately shut down the reactors over safety concerns. But it agreed to what it called "special inspections" in addition to regular maintenance work. Sendai's No. 2 reactor will be shut down for a similar review starting in December.

Dozens of reactors were switched off in the wake of the March 2011 Fukushima accident, the worst nuclear disaster in a generation. Anti-atomic sentiment still runs high five years later, challenging a push by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and utility companies to switch Japan's stable of reactors back on.

The catastrophe forced resource-poor Japan to turn to expensive fossil fuels to plug its energy gap, but fears about the safety of nuclear power and radiation exposure linger. The two Sendai reactors were restarted last year

under new safety regulations brought in after Fukushima, where reactors went into meltdown in March 2011 after a huge earthquake and tsunami.

Another reactor has been restarted at the Ikata plant in western Japan. Opposition to nuclear power has seen communities across the country file lawsuits to prevent restarts, including the Sendai plant. The residents argued that the plant's operator underestimated the scale of potential earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that could hit the region. A court rejected their argument and ordered restarts. — AFP

INDONESIA PROSECUTORS SEEK 20 YEARS IN COFFEE POISONING CASE

JAKARTA: Indonesian prosecutors said they are seeking a 20-year jail term for a woman charged with murdering her college friend by poisoning her coffee.

Jessica Kumala Wongso, a resident of Australia, is accused of the murder of Wayan Mirna Salihin at a Jakarta cafe in early January. The case has grabbed widespread media attention in Indonesia and neighbouring Australia, with the cafe turning into a tourist spot and coffee products being named after Wongso. Weekly court hearings are televised live.

President Joko Widodo's administration said in June Wongso would not be executed. The deal was made with Australia in order for Australian police to assist in the investigation. "The public prosecutor in this case demands the panel of judges ... sentence the defendant Jessica Kumala Wongso to 20 years in prison," prosecutor Melanie Wuwung said at the court hearing in Jakarta late Wednesday.

Wongso's lawyers say there is no evidence that she poisoned her friend's coffee. "There is no CCTV footage," lawyer Otto Hasibuan said. "What has been proven by prosecutors is only a game of words."

Prosecutors have no direct evidence or witnesses who have seen the incident." — Reuters

HONG KONG JAILS PROTESTER OVER ANTI-CHINA RIOTS

HONG KONG: A Hong Kong court jailed a protester yesterday in the first sentence handed down over a riot that erupted in February and saw violent clashes in the city fuelled by anti-China sentiment.

The violence erupted after officials tried to clear illegal street hawkers from a busy commercial neighborhood during Chinese new year, with police firing warning shots into the air.

Beijing officials blamed the clashes, which saw some 30 people arrested and charged with rioting, on "radical separatists". Some participants were from "localist" groups pushing for more freedom for the semi-autonomous city or even a split from Beijing.

A magistrates' court sentenced Chan Pak-yeung, 31, an active member and online radio presenter for the localist political party Civic Passion, to nine months in prison for resisting and assaulting police, the party said.

The court had heard that Chan hurled plastic water bottles at police and had kicked officers who tried to arrest him, news reports said. But Civic Passion questioned the evidence against Chan after the ruling. "This must be political prosecution," said the party's vice chairman Alvin Cheng.

Cheng said he was worried that there would be more jail sentences over the riots. Tensions are high in the city, which is ruled under a "one country, two systems" deal set up when it was handed back to China by Britain in 1997.

That agreement guarantees Hong Kong's freedoms and way of life for 50 years, but there are growing concerns that Beijing is increasing its influence. Hong Kong saw mass pro-democracy rallies calling for fully free elections erupt in 2014, but anger built up after authorities cleared protest sites and gave no concessions over political reform. — AFP



SEPANG, MALAYSIA: Edward Leaney, front left, and Jack Walker, front right, leave the Sepang Magistrate yesterday. — AP

MALAYSIAN COURT LETS OFF 'BUDGIE 9' WHO PARTIED IN SWIMSUITS DETAINED SINCE SUNDAY

KUALA LUMPUR: Nine Australians who spent four nights in police detention after stripping down to skimpy swimsuits printed with the Malaysian flag at that nation's Formula One Grand Prix walked free yesterday without a conviction after pleading guilty to causing a public nuisance and apologizing.

The nine were detained since Sunday after they partied in their swimwear and drank beer from shoes in full view of thousands of spectators at the Sepang track after Australian driver Daniel Ricciardo won the race.

Australian media dubbed them the Budgie Nine. A budgerigar is an Australian parrot that is a popular household pet and the Australians' swimwear is colloquially known as budgie smugglers. The name plays on nine Australians arrested in Indonesia for heroin trafficking in 2005 who became known as the Bali Nine. Their Australian families flew to Malaysia as

the police warned the friends faced potential two-year prison sentences.

Defense lawyer Muhammad Shafee Abdullah said the court accepted his argument that it was a trivial offense and that the nine, mostly dressed in suits in the court, were ignorant of the local culture and remorseful. He said one of them read out an apology to the court, admitting to an "error of judgment." Shafee said their actions were not illegal in most countries, including Australia. "We are sensitive about it, but they didn't know. They sincerely thought it was a respect and a celebration with Malaysians," Shafee said.

"The court accepted my mitigation that this was a trivial offense and under extenuating circumstances because they misunderstood the local culture. They have been admonished by the court and released without conviction," he added.

He said one of the men fainted in

court briefly due to dehydration. The nine, mostly Sydney University graduates in their 20s, left the court without speaking to reporters. The men included Jack Walker, an adviser to Australian Defense Industry Minister Chris Pyne.

His father John Walker said they were very thankful. "There's no charge, there's no fine and the boys apologized. They recognized what they did was unacceptable but they have been completely cleared and are free to travel and resume their lives," he said.

Ricciardo, the driver whose success inspired the Australians' beer-fueled revelry, described the incident as "pretty harmless." "I respect the laws of Malaysia, but beyond that I don't think they deserve any further punishment," Ricciardo told Sydney's The Daily Telegraph newspaper. "In Australia, it's a bit different, but I'm very sure they didn't intend to offend anyone," he said. — AP

Lifestyle

Friday Times

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2016

www.kuwaittimes.net

A model presents a creation for Manish Arora during the 2017 Spring/Summer ready-to-wear collection fashion show, yesterday in Paris.—AFP

Arab Fashion Week flaunts 'ready couture' in Dubai

Determination, self-discipline and self-belief



By Yalda Golsharifi

One of the most frequently asked questions I get is how I maintain a toned and fit body after having two kids. After giving birth, I allowed myself a safe period of time to let my body recover and when it was safe to do so, I went back to my normal lifestyle of eating clean and exercising regularly. I know that there are many alternatives and “easier” routes to losing weight, one of the most popular being liposuction. While there is no doubt that liposuction can give amazing results, I’m all for doing it the natural and healthy way. So many of us want the easy way out and procedures like liposuction only give people more reason to give in to the lazy lifestyle where eating whatever you want and doing no exercise becomes normal and acceptable.

Even though we hear about the amazing success stories of liposuction, there are still so many risks and complications that could happen. Excessive blood and fluid loss that can lead to a shock of the body, blood clots and buildup of fluid in the lungs are some of the scary and dangerous complications that could happen during the procedure. Also, after liposuction your body’s shape may not look even, then additional surgery will be required to try and fix that. As well as being risky, costly and dealing with bruising, swelling, and soreness for weeks and months after, to me this doesn’t seem like the easy way out. We know that liposuction works best for those who are overly overweight and obese and for people who have tried to lose weight but failed.

Healthy and active lifestyle

If you are really unhappy with some areas of your body, all it takes a little bit of determination. Be determined to change your lifestyle for the better and by doing this you will notice tremendous differences. If you don’t have or plan on having a healthy and active lifestyle, be sure that the fat will not only return to the area of liposuction but even more to different areas of your body and your shape may look disproportionate. Research has shown

that those who get liposuction and fail to change their eating/lifestyle habits are at risk of the fat returning to different areas of their bodies. For example, if you get liposuction on your hips and thighs or abdomen, a year or 6 months later, fat is distributed to other parts of your body such as arms, shoulders and mostly upper abs.

I think that as social media influencers, we should be careful about promoting bad eating habits and junk food and then not working out or having active lifestyles. This way we are influencing people to “take the easy way out” and making them believe that they just don’t gain weight when in reality, if you eat junk every day and not exercise, you will put on a lot of weight. This is something I don’t take lightly as I’m always trying to influence my followers and guide them to a healthier, cleaner way of life. Nothing will give you the amazing results of good food, exercise and water. A toned body only comes when it’s done the right way. Liposuction may remove fats, but exercise can not only tone, but reshape, shrink your waist and even give you a lifted booty.

In general when it comes to plastic surgery, I strongly believe that you should go for it when it’s something you cannot change and are unhappy with such as nose jobs, breast implants or even face lifts at an older age! However, butt implants, Brazilian butt lifts, liposuction and such are just things that people are becoming too lazy to fix. You want a bigger butt? Barbell squats, lunges and deadlifts. Want a smaller waist? Planks and dumbbell side dips. Want to lose weight? Hit the gym and kill it with some cardio! Your body is capable of handling so much, you are strong, why disable your body by doing something that is not natural? We were made to move and be strong, not lazy and weak. With just a little bit of determination, self-discipline and self-belief, the results you are looking for are so much easier to reach than you think.

ARAB FASHION WEEK FLAUNTS 'READY COUTURE' IN DUBAI

Arab Fashion Week opened yesterday with hopes of establishing Dubai as a top destination for the new genre of “ready couture” and as a major fashion capital. Organizers describe the form as a blend of haute couture and ready-to-wear or pret-a-porter. “In Milan, we celebrate high-end ready-to-wear. In Paris, we celebrate high-end haute couture,” said Jacob Abrian, the head of the Dubai-based Arab Fashion Council (AFC).

In Dubai and the Arab world, “we want to be innovative”, he said, with off-the-rack clothing that is tailored to haute couture standards and can be customized. For the first time in the region, the five-day show will also present a unisex collection signed by Rad Hourani, a Canadian-Jordanian designer known for his genderless creations. The fashion week will open with “ready couture” for women from Emirati designer Lamyia Abedin in the first of more than 20 Spring-Summer 2017 collections from more than 10 countries.

Now in its third edition, Arab Fashion Week aims to attract women from the Gulf who tend to dress up every day, as well as luxury-orientated buyers from Russia and China. The AFC, founded in 2014 to represent the fashion industry in the 22 countries of the Arab League, introduced “ready couture” after an in-depth study of the market, Abrian said. The form follows in the footsteps of limited ready-to-wear collections that can be customized, from famous fashion houses Roberto Cavalli and Dolce & Gabbana, he said.

‘Peace through fashion’

AFC spokeswoman Daline Eluar said the group “aims to strengthen the role of the UAE, through Dubai, to become the fifth international fashion capital alongside New York, London, Paris and Milan”. The fashion week seeks to show the world that the Arab region is not just “war and conflicts” but also “creativity, art and beauty”, she said. The Gulf city state is a growing tourist destination, a magnet for investors and home to one of the world’s largest shopping malls.—AFP

Lebanon censors films at international festival

Lebanon has banned the screening of three films at the International Beirut Film Festival opening on Wednesday, organizers said. The censored films were Palestinian filmmaker Maha Haj’s “Personal Affairs”, Syrian brothers Mohamad and Ahmad Malas’s “World Cup” and Iranian director Mohsen Makhmalbaf’s “The Nights of Zayandeh-Rood”, festival director Colette Naufal said. Lebanon’s General Security agency asked for a scene to be removed from the Syrian film but the festival organizers refused to comply, she said.

“It’s unfortunate that political considerations interfere in arts and culture,” Naufal said, adding the cinematic event was striving to be “a platform for freedom of expression”. Tarek Halabi, head of the audiovisual department at General Security, said screening

the Palestinian director’s film went against a boycott of all Israeli products in Lebanon, “whether artistic or not”, as it was produced by an Israeli company and shot in the Jewish state. “World Cup” had been approved for screening, he added, as long as certain scenes that were “insulting to Lebanese personalities and parties” were removed.

But he said that “The Nights of Zayandeh-Rood” “showed certain elements concerning Iran”, whereas “Lebanese laws forbid meddling in Iranian affairs”. Lebanon is considered one of the most open societies in the Middle East, but art is occasionally censored, usually for sexual content or sensitive religious issues. — AFP



Indian flower vendors showcase lotus flowers to attract puja organizers for Durga Puja, at a wholesale flower market in Kolkata yesterday. The five-day Durga Puja festival, which commemorates the slaying of the demon king Mahishasur by the goddess Durga and marks the triumph of good over evil. — AFP



In this July 4, 2015 file photo, Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones performs at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Ind. — AP

Rolling Stones to release new album in December

The Rolling Stones are heading back to their roots. The band announced yesterday it will release its first studio album in over a decade in December—covers of the American blues greats who got them into music in the first place. Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Ronnie Wood and Charlie Watts recorded "Blue & Lonesome" last December in three days at London's British Grove Studios. That's close to where the band, which formed in 1962, began performing at local venues with American blues as a major inspiration.

"The passion for blues music ... has always been at the heart and soul of The Rolling Stones", a statement said. "Their approach to the album was that it should be spontaneous and played live in the studio without overdubs." The album features songs by artists whose music the Stones played in their early days, such as Howlin' Wolf, Willie Dixon, Jimmy Reed, Eddie Taylor and Little Walter. During some of their stadium concerts in the past, the Stones have put on specific blues sets, and their repertoire includes the likes of Dixon's "Little Red Rooster" and Robert Johnson's "Love in Vain".

American blues was a major influence on the British rock scene of the late 1960s and early 1970s, with musicians in bands like Cream, Led Zeppelin and Fleetwood Mac all cutting their teeth on the genre. The Stones' last studio album was 2005's "A Bigger Bang". They have since gone on tours around the world, putting on a large, free, outdoor concert in Cuba in March. — Reuters

Lady Gaga premieres new songs at Nashville club



Lady Gaga showed that she could rock a club just as hard as arenas as she showcased songs from her new album. The Grammy winner played a short set at the 5 Spot bar in Nashville on Wednesday night to a small crowd of fans and guests and included three new songs from her forthcoming album, "Joanne." She introduced herself as Lady Gaga from New York City, but asked

her fans "tonight if you could just call me Joanne," which is the name of her aunt, who died at 19 and is also her middle name. The album is set for release Oct 21. The performance was streamed live on tour partner Bud Light's Facebook page, as will upcoming bar shows on Oct 20 and Oct 27.

Lady Gaga greeted crowds lined up behind police barricades before walking into the club wearing an embroidered jacket and large brimmed hat that covered her eyes and carrying a guitar case. She started with "Sinner's Prayer," followed with "A-Yo," and then brought in top country songwriter Hillary Lindsey as backup vocals on "Million Reasons," which Lindsey co-wrote. Lindsey is one of a trio of songwriters in Nashville who wrote the country hit "Girl Crush," performed by Little Big Town. Lady Gaga returned after a short break with her current single, "Perfect Illusion," and jumped into the crowd to sing and dance along with her fans.

After signing autographs, she played a second set for fans who had waited hours outside and sang the album's title song as well. She told the crowd of just over 100 people that she couldn't "give away too much tonight," and left them wanting more as they chanted "Joanne." Gaga will perform at the Super Bowl halftime show in February in Houston. — AP

Ugandan family's life in movie on a rare talent for chess



Robert Katende (left) and Brian Mugabi, coach and brother of Phiona Mutesi, play a game of chess at the SOM Chess Academy in Katwe, a Kampala suburb. — AFP photos

Standing on a drab side-street next to an open sewer in the Ugandan capital Kampala, Brian Mugabi points to the site of his former family home and reflects on how much the game of chess has changed their lives. Ten years ago Mugabi lived in abject poverty in Katwe, a slum in Kampala where it's a constant struggle to get by. But at a makeshift chess club in the heart of the neighborhood, his sister Phiona Mutesi suddenly displayed an extraordinary, raw talent for the game.

The family's story is now the basis for the feel-good Disney movie "Queen of Katwe" which premiered in Uganda last weekend with Oscar-winning Kenyan actress Lupita Nyong'o playing the role of Phiona's mother. "There are a lot of things that I've never experienced, like the red carpet and the audience was so huge, and also it was too much the movie, the first time to watch it, it was so emotional, like I couldn't believe it," Mutesi said at the premiere. "Sometimes people think that it's not real life but what they show in (Queen of) Katwe is true. The foods, the people, children working to sell corn on the street, it's all true."

Her brother was one of those corn sellers. "Starting at age six I walked through the slum selling maize. On a good day I would make 3,000 shillings (\$1) but there were many bad days," said Mugabi, now 22, who led his younger sister to a church-run chess club for the first time a decade ago. Mugabi pointed over the rough, bustling alley in front of him towards a cluster of high rises on the horizon. "That is downtown Kampala. We used to stand here and look at the fireworks at New Year, but the first time I ever went there was to play in a chess tournament," said Mugabi, who enjoyed the game but never matched his sister's abilities. "Everything changed when we discovered chess," he said.

Chess board's 'like slum life'

It was the free cup of porridge on offer that first attracted Mugabi to the chess club run by Robert Katende at

Agape Church, then a rickety structure made from weathered wooden planks and leaky corrugated tin. Mutesi followed him there, and 'Coach Robert', as everyone calls him, spotted her peering in through the cracks in the wall. "She was very shy and really very, very dirty—so much so that the boys teased her badly—but when she came inside she stood up to them and I saw that she was strong," said Katende, who founded the chess club in 2004 as part of a sports outreach program run by local missionaries.

"Life on the chess board is like life in the slum," said Katende. "There are challenges and surprises everywhere but if you look closely you can find opportunities, you can find your way through." Mutesi quickly stood out among the slum kids and began winning. "Phiona couldn't read or write but she has this remarkable talent to be able to see moves on the chess board," said Katende. He encouraged Mutesi to persevere and persuaded her mother, Harriet, that chess offered not just life skills but a route out of poverty.

'Captivating determination'

"What was so captivating for me was

her determination to survive, as a young girl. Because it's rare to find in young girls in the slum. They are always timid, because of the environment, they are so marginalized, they don't think they can do anything," Katende said. After just two years of playing Mutesi won a tournament and was crowned Uganda's junior champion.

Three years later she was national champion. In 2012, still just 16 years old, she was made a Woman Candidate Master while competing in her second international Chess Olympiad. Her dream now is to become a Grand Master. She has played in international tournaments from Sudan to Siberia and now her tale of triumph over adversity is on the big screen.

"Queen of Katwe" was shown at the Toronto Film Festival in September and has been released in the United States with Britain and Ireland to follow this month. Away from the bright lights of Hollywood, chess has truly turned the family's fortunes around. Mutesi, 20, and Mugabi are able to pay university fees, while their mother has swapped the family shack in Katwe for a proper home. — AFP



Robert Katende, coach of Phiona Mutesi, speaks during a coaching session at the SOM Chess Academy at Katwe.

France's Apocalypse Tapestry to be restored to medieval glory



A visitor looks at the "Apocalypse Tapestry" (1377-1382), the world's largest and oldest surviving medieval set of tapestries, at the Angers Castle in western France.



A woman restores a section of the "Apocalypse Tapestry" (1377-1382), the world's largest and oldest surviving medieval set of tapestries. — AFP photos

Dusty and somewhat faded, as befits its onetime use as insulation for horse stables, a priceless piece of medieval artistic heritage, France's Apocalypse Tapestry, is getting a welcome clean-up. As the French culture ministry says, it's high time "to see what state this old lady of upwards of 600 years of age is in." In truth, she is a little frayed at the edges, her once gloriously vivid red, blue, green and yellow threads less eye-catching than when the 104-metre (340 feet) oeuvre of wool and silk, showing the Apocalypse according to the Revelation of Saint John, was first crafted at the behest of Louis I, duke of Anjou, in 1373.

This feast of dragons, angels and seven-headed beasts depicting in gory style John's vision of the last days, was done about three centuries later than the better known Norman conquest era Bayeux Tapestry embroidered cloth-but it is larger. The work, which purports to be the longest tapestry in the world, originally stood 5.8 meters high compared with its current 4.6 meters, and was around 40 meters longer but it has lost some 20 panels and part of its border over time. Surviving sections of the 14th century masterpiece, state property since 1905, are now showing multiple signs of wear and tear as well as the effects of gallery lighting after having been on permanent display since the mid-1950s at Angers Chateau, about 300 kilometers (190 miles)



This file photo shows a woman restoring a section of the "Apocalypse Tapestry" (1377-1382), the world's largest and oldest surviving medieval set of tapestries, at the Angers Castle in western France.

southwest of Paris.

The culture ministry has been busy collecting data for "an autopsy to decide what we do in terms of restoration and guarantee its long-term public showing," says castle administrator Herve Yannou. As the deep clean progresses, the gallery has been plunged into virtual darkness with scaffolding erected to permit miniscule, "square centimeter by square centimeter," scrutiny of the huge work. It involves identifying, then quantifying all kinds of deterioration, say restorer Suzanne Bouret and Montaine Bongrand from the Loire region cultural affairs department (DRAC).

Delving into pictorial past
The inspectors have to probe

deeply and carefully. Is the tapestry dustier at the end on display at the entrance or the exit of the gallery? Is there greater deterioration towards the top or the bottom? They must also take into account temperature and humidity levels, grime, warping or tension in the fabric linked to hanging. Everything gets measured. Four sections out of a total of some 70 surviving scenes have been taken down. The rest remain on display while those removed from the work which, highly unusually, is reversible, undergo examination and cleaning.

Yannou points out a section depicting medical examiners on the reverse side of a scene called the Harvest of the Chosen Ones and the Sleep of the Just panel

showing seven men sharing two beds. Such scenes offer those who gaze upon them "a stunning smorgasbord of color," says Yannou, marveling that time has been kind to the color rendition of the section.

"The reverse side not only tells a story of the beauty of its color hue but also the different interventions which have taken place" over the centuries. "Here, part has been rewoven. There, one can see retouching techniques with new wool and threads going off in all directions," says Bouret, hunched over one section as a colleague vacuums away to suck up dust before weighing a tapestry that has endured being moved several times.

'Like an X-ray'

After a century in the keep of the dukes of Anjou, Rene of Anjou bequeathed the artwork in the late 15th century to Angers Cathedral. Some 200 years later, the bishopric was faced with what to do with the tapestry when the political climate conspired to see Church art fall victim to the chaotic aftermath of the French Revolution.

That period saw various works destroyed and the tapestry was cut up and used variously as floor mats, stable insulation and anti-frost covers for fruit. The work, which had fallen into "a thousand fragments," was rescued in 1850 by a church canon, who took a first stab at restoration, says DRAC curator Clementine Mathurin. — AFP

21st
BUSAN International Film Festival
6-15 October, 2016



Audience members wait to attend the opening ceremony of the 21st Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) in Busan yesterday. — AFP

Crisis-hit Busan Film Festival opens

The curtain was raised yesterday on the 21st Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) after two years of political infighting almost derailed the premier event of its kind in Asia. "I just hope the festival will become strong again and now we can all just focus on the films," said Yang Ik-june, star of the Zhang Lu-directed Korean drama A Quiet Dream, which opened the festival.

"Politicians should treat a festival like children and when children grow up they should be left to live their own lives." Disgruntled Korean film industry representatives had threatened to disrupt BIFF's opening ceremony over their support for axed former festival head Lee Yong-kwan, who they say is the casualty of the 2014 decision to screen the controversial documentary Diving Bell.

The film focused on the Sewol ferry disaster of that year that claimed more than 300 lives and BIFF had come under pressure from Busan mayor and then festival organizing committee chairman Suh Byung-soo to remove it from its program. In the end the main action taken has been a boycott of the event by a number of local film industry groups - including the Directors' Guild of Korea. But their protest over suggested political interference hasn't dissuaded international stars from the red carpet as BIFF prepares to screen around 300 films over its 10-day run.

There were wild cheers as the sun set over the Busan Cinema Centre for the likes of Japanese superstar Ken Watanabe (The Last Samurai) and local heartthrob Han Hyo-joo, who co-hosted the opening ceremony with her Cold Eyes co-star Seol Gyeong-gu. Hollywood's Miles Teller (Whiplash) and Aaron Eckhart (The Dark Knight) are among the international contingent set to appear during the course of the event. Workers meanwhile were toiling away on Busan's Haeundae Beach, which was battered by Typhoon Chaba on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Pavilions and stages were smashed and organizers forced to shift venues for a number of the festival's popular "meet-and-greet" events for fans and their idols. BIFF this year boasts 66 world premieres among its offerings while special programs include a focus on the life of the master Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami, who passed away in July and has been posthumously named BIFF's Asian Filmmaker of the Year. BIFF runs until October 15. — AFP

Robert De Niro's 'The Comedian' bought by Sony classics

Sony Pictures Classics has acquired North American rights to the Robert De Niro comedy "The Comedian" from Cinelou and plans an awards-qualifying run later this year. Taylor Hackford is directing from Art Linson's script. Leslie Mann, Edie Falco, Harvey Keitel, Danny DeVito, Patti LuPone, and Veronica Ferres also star. Producers include Hackford, Cinelou's Mark Canton and Courtney Solomon, and Linson Entertainment's Art

Linson and John Linson. Related Cutting Edge Invests in Robert De Niro's 'The Comedian'

Executive producers include Cinelou's Scott Karol, the Fyzz Facility's Wayne Marc Godfrey and Robert Jones, Mad Riot Entertainment's Mark Axelowitz and Lawrence Smith, as well as Iain Abrahams, Peter Sobeloff, Dennis Pelino, and Fredy Bush. De Niro plays a comic icon who has seen better days. Despite

his efforts to reinvent himself, the audience only wants to know him as the former television character he once played. He's a strain on his younger brother (DeVito) and his wife (LuPone) and is being forced to serve out a sentence doing community service for accosting an audience member. While there, he finds inspiration by meeting Mann's character, the daughter of a sleazy Florida real estate mogul (Keitel). Cinelou's Canton

said in a statement, "Robert De Niro has been nurturing this story for years, so we're incredibly honored to have been able to help bring it to life. Sony Classics is tailor-made to release the film, as Michael Barker and Tom Bernard have the perfect sensibility for it." Warner Bros. International will be handling foreign distribution, under its deal with Cinelou. The news was first reported by Deadline Hollywood. — Reuters

In Old Damascus, a sombre exhibit of artists who have fled Syria's war

In a traditional cafe in the heart of Damascus, young Syrians linger at an art exhibition evoking the despair and loss of their country's war. The only thing missing? The artists themselves. Instead of standing proudly by their works, the artists in the exhibition "And They Left" are scattered across Europe, having fled Syria's brutal five-year conflict in search of safety abroad. They entrusted their pieces to Bernar Jomaa, 39, who curated the exhibition of works coloured by sorrow and nostalgia. After arranging the last of a series of carved sculptures, Jomaa logs into Skype to show artist Sara Khatib, now living in Denmark, her section of the display.

Khatib, 29, begins to cry as she sees her work-including a stone figure of a woman hugging herself-displayed in her homeland, thousands of miles (kilometers) away. "I was really moved by the idea of the exhibit. I couldn't hold back my tears when I saw my work next to an old Damascene wall," said Khatib, who claimed asylum in Denmark in 2012. "I couldn't bring them with me to Denmark, but I didn't want that anyway-I wanted to leave a part of myself back in Damascus," Khatib told AFP. "My

art pieces are like my children... I'll come back one day to brush the dust off them, to see how much they've grown and what they've become." Syria's war has displaced half its pre-war population of about 23 million, with many displaced internally and nearly five million seeking refuge in neighboring countries or Europe.

'Forgotten works' in Damascus

The exhibition at Ziryab, a popular stone coffeehouse in the Old City of Damascus, features nearly two dozen works by 15 different Syrian artists who are now abroad. Their work is displayed under stone archways fitted with stained glass windows and on rustic wooden tables. "There are many pieces I've accumulated over the years from artists who have fled Syria without their art. I took all of these forgotten works and curated an exhibit by those who have fled," said Jomaa. Twenty-three-year old Yazan Kelesh pauses at a photograph of eight children, strained smiles shining through on their war-weary faces.

"Usually, artists are present at an exhibit to explain more about their work. But their absence today says everything about the

amount of suffering and pain caused by so many young people leaving, including so many artists," he says. The works emit a sort of tired, worn sadness: faceless blue-and-green creatures embracing next to sketches of a bald man with an anxious, furrowed brow. They are also nostalgic: One photograph shows the historic Bab Touma square in Damascus "before it was filled with checkpoints", says visitor Mayss, 31.

"Most of the works here are sad, whether in their colors, the photography angle, or the way they were sculpted. The artists clearly are very sensitive to recent events." On a typical afternoon in Ziryab, a dozen Syrians sip cups of bitter coffee or puff on water pipes during chats about what become typical subjects of high prices, mortar shells and military conscription.

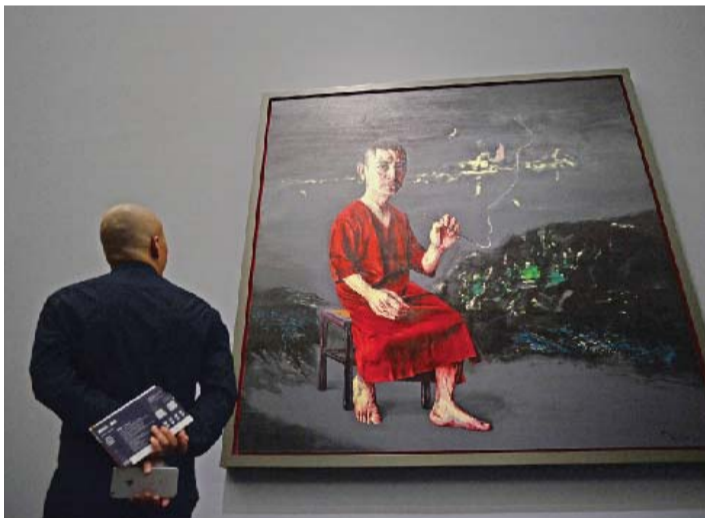
Too 'dangerous' for art

Although Damascus has been spared much of the violence of other major cities like Aleppo, young people in the capital have been hit by skyrocketing prices and unemployment. One corner of the coffeehouse is dominated by a large monochrome snapshot of a weary woman leaning against a wooden

plank, her eyes closed and her head in her hands. The photographer, Rami Skeif, is among thousands of Syrians who made the perilous journey to reach Europe by boat, travelling with his wife and young daughter in late 2015.

"We had to ride in a small boat for part of the journey, and we couldn't bring anything other than the essentials," 40-year-old Skeif wrote to AFP from Sweden. "I couldn't bring my works with me on a journey full of obstacles and danger, by land and sea, so I left them behind in Syria with my friend Bernard." Skeif says he hopes to return to Syria one day "to participate in an exhibition depicting a happy woman, expressing the joy we have demanded for my country".

One visitor in a long black coat scrutinizes the artwork very intently. "This exhibit is for artists who have left. Meanwhile, I'm still here, but my paintings are all gone," says the young man, who declined to give his name. He left his paintings behind in an eastern suburb of Damascus as rebels advanced several years ago, "and they were all stolen". "I visit all these exhibits, examining the paintings carefully, looking for my own way a mother searches for her sons." — AFP



This picture shows a man looking at an oil canvas by Chinese artist Zeng Fanzhi entitled "Self-portrait 09-8-1" at the "Parcours: Zeng Fanzhi" exhibition at Beijing's Ullens Centre for Contemporary Art (UCCA). — AFP



This picture shows a woman walking past an oil on canvas by Chinese artist Zeng Fanzhi entitled "Fly" at the "Parcours: Zeng Fanzhi" exhibition at Beijing's Ullens Centre for Contemporary Art (UCCA).

As China rises, top-selling painter looks to his roots

Blue-chip Chinese artist Zeng Fanzhi built up a lucrative career by looking to the West for inspiration and buyers, but a new retrospective in Beijing reveals an unlikely turn back towards China's own aesthetics and traditions. It is a story increasingly common in the world's second largest economy, where a growing disillusionment with material wealth has sent a generation in search of a heritage lost. Zeng is China's second best-selling living artist, according to wealth publisher the Hurun Report. "In the beginning, you feel happy that you've attained a certain kind of recognition, and are sold for a very high price, but as time goes on, it vexes you," he said.

"People badmouth you, and the success influences your emotional state and creative process," he added. In 2013, his painting "The Last Supper" sold for \$23.3 million at Sotheby's in Hong Kong, at the time the most expensive contemporary Asian work ever sold at auction. It was one of his "Mask" series, paintings whose empty-eyed, white-masked figures spoke of the psychological tensions lurking in China as the political idealism of the 1980s gave way to the

1990s' single-minded focus on rapid economic growth.

The media attention paid to just one period of his nearly three decade-long career left him feeling pigeon-holed, Zeng told AFP, following the opening of a retrospective of his work this month at Beijing's Ullens Centre for Contemporary Art (UCCA). The masks became a brand, he said, an easily commodified image that reinforced Western preconceptions of China and were used by auction houses and art publications to boost their own sales.

Zeng rode the wave of China's development, rising to fame from humble beginnings at a time when the country had no significant art market of its own. Now that its art scene is well-established, he has lost the need to seek validation and inspiration from the West, choosing to look instead to his own roots, he said. "In the '80s, we were so starved for outside information; we wanted so much to understand the world and know about Western art," he said, explaining his early obsession with artists like Paul Cezanne, Willem de Kooning and Lucian Freud. He said: "But nowadays, there's such an overwhelming



Chinese artist Zeng Fanzhi in his studio in Beijing.

amount of information it's cognitive overload. I have to close myself off and look inward to maintain my sense of self."

Stark contrast

Zeng's new show "Parcours: Zeng Fanzhi" exhibits more than 60 works from each of his wildly different major artistic stages, many for the first time on the mainland. He hopes it will provide a more complete picture of his continuous process of reinvention. Monumental oil

paintings of abstract landscapes overgrown with dark snarls of branches dominate the gallery's central nave, flanked by detailed portraits of his Western muses. The canvases are a stark contrast to his latest series: understated, black-and-white works on paper inspired by Song dynasty paintings.

They arise out of Zeng's 2008 shift towards an exploration of paper itself, finding inspiration for his brushwork in the subtle variations of its grain - a technique inspired by Chinese artistic philosophies. "As you grow older, your whole aesthetic sense and preferences change," said Zeng, who has started collecting traditional Chinese art and designing literati gardens like the one outside his studio, which features jagged scholar's rocks, stone lions and a koi pond. Despite Zeng's philosophical shift, UCCA director Philip Tinari admitted that it was impossible for the show to escape the shadow of his sales records: "He has probably created more financial value than all but a very few artists alive today." Nevertheless, "there's an honesty about this work that's not immediately apparent," Tinari said. — AFP

Italian squash bake brings Mediterranean flair to dinner

This week's Italian squash bake is a true work horse. Want an easy, make-ahead weeknight side dish? This will do the trick. Hosting both vegetarians and meat eaters for dinner? Serve Italian squash bake along with grilled chicken or fish on the side for the carnivores, and you'll be all set.

Since the recipe is quite flexible, you can easily make as much or as little as you need. The colors of the vegetable slices are pretty, juxtaposed against one another, making this a company-worthy recipe with zero last-minute prep.

A quick note to parents: Once you've sliced up the veggies, let your little ones do the layering - it's a great way to include them in the vegetable cookery of dinnertime. And you almost can't mess this up, aside from the aesthetics.

My daughter, who loves to help me make this, even considers it a (light-

ened-up) version of lasagna. She's actually not too far off. This Mediterranean-style squash bake is inspired by a tian, which is a Provençal dish named after the earthenware baking vessel traditionally used to make it. A tian typically is loaded with veggies, and then is often topped with lamb.

My squash version gets its flavor from calorie-free herbs, lemon juice and garlic cloves instead, plus just enough satisfying fat from a light dusting of cheese added in the final stages of baking. Since squash only packs in about 10 calories in a half-cup serving (and surprisingly only about a gram of sugar), a little cheese is the perfect touch of comfort. Bringing Mediterranean flair to your weeknight cooking routine might be just the thing your autumn needs.



ITALIAN SQUASH BAKE

Start to finish: 1 hour
Servings: 4

Ingredients

1 medium-large zucchini, sliced
1 medium-large yellow crookneck squash, sliced
2 large shallots, sliced
2 tomatoes, sliced (halve slices into half-moons if too large)
5-10 garlic cloves
2 teaspoons dried Italian herb seasoning
1 tablespoon olive oil
juice of 1/2 lemon
1/2 cup shredded mozzarella or parmesan cheese, or mixed salt and pepper

Preparations

Preheat oven to 375 F. Spray an 8-inch earthenware or regular baking dish with nonstick cooking spray. Season the vegetables with a little salt and pepper.

Layer the squash, tomato and shallot slices "shingle style" in the dish, alternating vegetables. Don't hesitate to pack the vegetables in fairly tightly; the slices should not lay completely flat.

Once the vegetables are all snugly in the baking dish, sprinkle on the garlic cloves, and dried herbs. Drizzle on the olive oil and squeeze on the lemon juice. Cover with foil and bake for a half hour.

Remove the foil and continue baking for an additional half hour, sprinkling the cheese on top the last 15 minutes (for a total bake time of about an hour.) Serve warm or room temperature.

NOTE: This recipe is very flexible and can be scaled up or down.

Nutrition information per serving: 123 calories; 58 calories from fat; 6 g fat (2 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 8 mg cholesterol; 259 mg sodium; 12 g carbohydrate; 3 g fiber; 6 g sugar; 7 g protein. — AP

Cooking on a deadline:

Chicken with spinach in creamy sauce

By Katie Workman

A while back, in honor of Julia's Child's birthday (she would have been 104 this year), I created a dish that embodies one of her many excellent sayings: "The only time to eat diet food is while you're waiting for the steak to cook."

You can fuss all you want with fancier dishes, exotic ingredients and new techniques, but isn't it true that when you make something super-homey, super-comforting, that's when everyone asks for seconds? When in doubt, choose comfort food. Here, thinly sliced chicken breasts are enveloped in a creamy, cheesy sauce peppered with wilted spinach and sundried tomatoes.

Sundried tomatoes were all the rage years ago, and then they faded out of fashion, but it seems a shame to turn your back on a great ingredient just because it was a little overexposed for a while. If you can find real sundried

tomatoes - which won't be hard little dried-up disks but rather pliant, brick-red, chewy bites - then that will make all the difference. Look for them in a store that sells good Italian ingredients. Oil-packed sundried tomatoes can also be used, but use paper towels to blot excess oil before chopping them.

You can buy thin-sliced chicken cutlets at the market or butcher, or use a steady hand and a large sharp knife to cut regular chicken breasts horizontally into thinner slices. Depending on how thick your chicken breasts are, you will get two or three slices per breast, about 1/2-inch thick apiece. And if you don't have fresh herbs, dried are perfectly acceptable here. This makes a nice amount of sauce, which is a good thing, because when you serve up this chicken over a plate of steaming pasta or rice you'll want to have lots of starchiness alongside the chicken, and you can ladle the luscious sauce over it.



Ingredients

Start to finish: 25 minutes
Serves 4 to 6

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 1/2 pounds thin-sliced boneless, skinless chicken cutlets
2 large shallots, chopped
3/4 cup chicken broth
1 cup heavy cream
1 teaspoon minced fresh oregano
1/2 teaspoon minced fresh thyme
1/2 cup grated Fontina cheese
1/2 cup finely grated Parmesan cheese
2 cups roughly chopped spinach
1/2 cup roughly chopped sundried tomatoes
Hot cooked rice or pasta to serve

Preparation

In a very large skillet, heat the olive oil over medium high heat. Sear the chicken for about 3 minutes on each side, or until browned and just barely pink in the center. Do this in batches if needed, and remove the chicken to a plate and set aside. Return the skillet to medium heat, add the shallots, and saute for 2 minutes until they start to become tender. Add the chicken broth and bring to a simmer, scraping up any browned bits from the bottom. Stir in the heavy cream, oregano and thyme, and heat until the edges of the sauce start to bubble. Sprinkle in the Fontina and Parmesan cheeses and stir until they are melted. Stir in the spinach and sundried tomatoes, and keep at a very low simmer until the spinach is wilted, about 2 minutes. Return the chicken to the pan and allow it to heat through, about 2 minutes. Serve the chicken with the sauce over hot rice or pasta. — AP



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Friday Times

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2016



African Animal Word Challenge

Can you fit the animal words on the left into the grid on the right? You will need to use logic!

4 letter words:

lion

5 letter words:

zebra

hyena

okapi

hippo

6 letter words:

baboon

impala

7 letter words:

warthog

giraffe

cheetah

gorilla

leopard

meerkat

gazelle

baboon

8 letter words:

elephant

9 letter words:

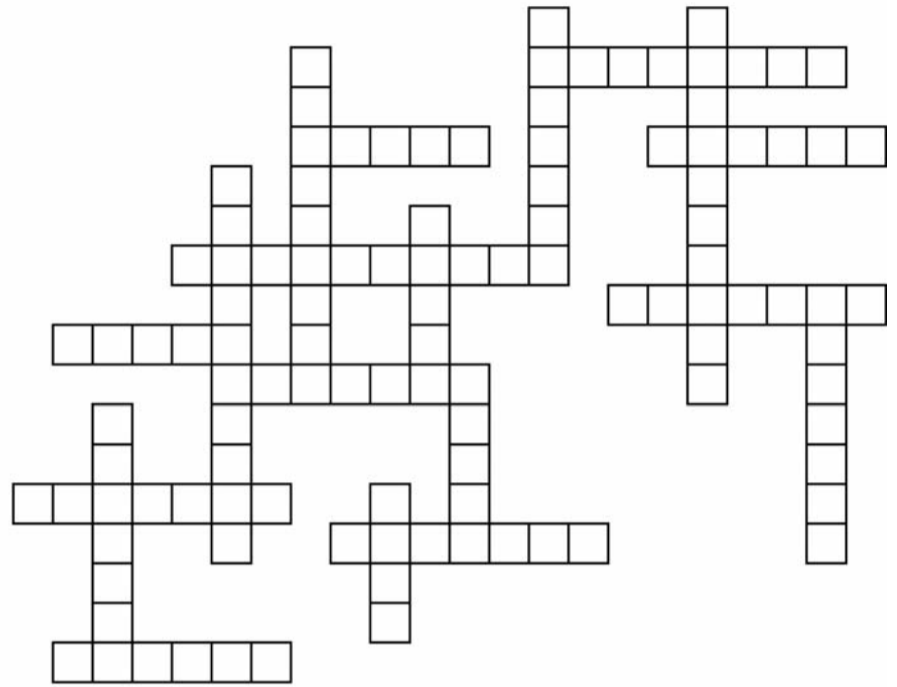
crocodile

10 letter words:

wildebeest

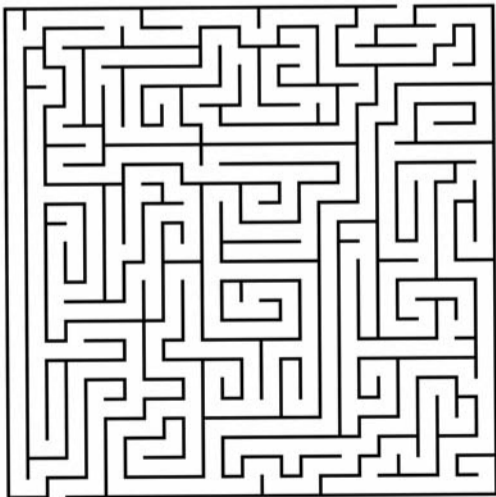
rhinoceros

chimpanzee

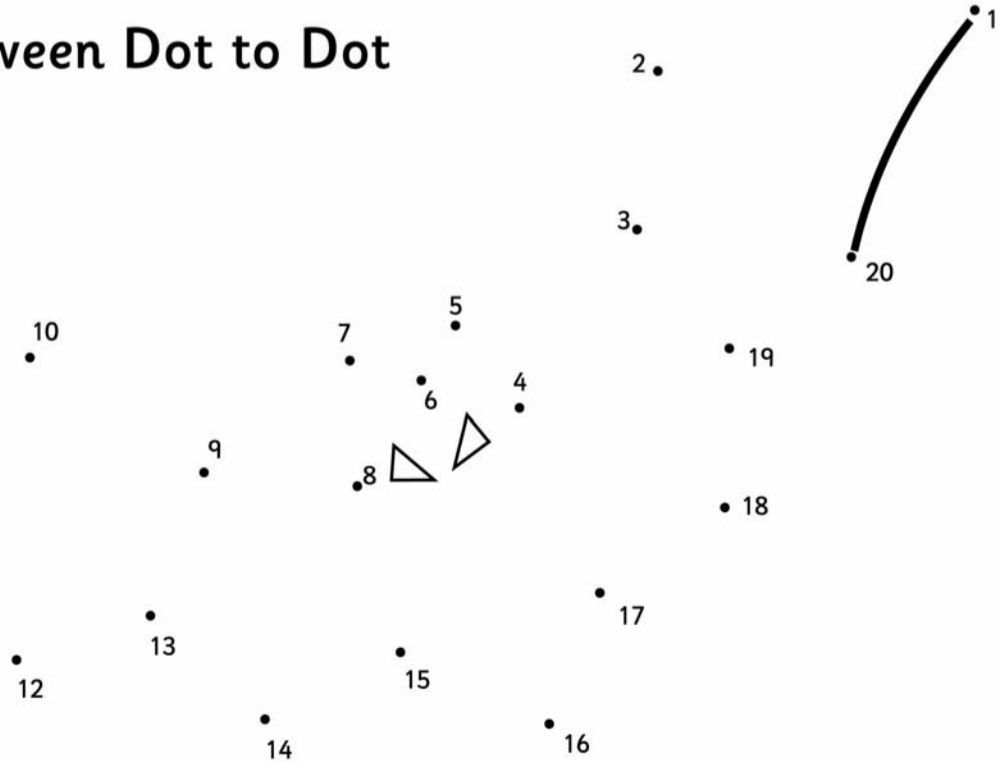


Halloween Maze

Can you help the spider find her way through the maze to her web?



Halloween Dot to Dot





Soccer Word Search

o	v	g	m	j	e	c	w	t	f	m	g
g	o	a	l	s	c	o	r	e	o	a	o
c	j	r	u	c	a	c	h	r	n	a	
a	d	s	t	r	i	k	e	r	w	a	l
p	v	a	q	o	j	f	p	x	a	g	k
t	n	v	j	t	r	e	f	e	r	e	e
a	i	d	m	o	e	o	k	m	d	r	e
i	t	o	u	r	n	a	m	e	n	t	p
n	l	q	v	e	h	b	m	c	u	p	e
o	h	l	m	a	s	h	x	f	j	x	r
s	t	a	d	i	u	m	b	m	e	a	c
d	q	l	n	u	h	f	i	n	a	l	h

- | | | |
|------------|---------|---------|
| goal | score | striker |
| tournament | final | cup |
| goalkeeper | forward | coach |
| manager | team | stadium |
| referee | captain | |



Find the differences!



Autumn Scramble

Can you unscramble the Autumn words below?



1. vhtsear _____
2. aveesl _____
3. cesowrrac _____
4. lowlye _____
5. binrefo _____
6. prae _____
7. aker _____
8. racon _____
9. isrqeulr _____
10. alppe _____
11. nagreo _____
12. lfal _____
13. rde _____
14. owbrn _____



Sudoku 6x6 Puzzles - Sheet 4

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the numbers 1 through 6. Don't guess - use logic!

	5	1	4	2	
3					5
1					2
	3	2	1	5	

		3	1		
6					2
		4	2		
		5	6		
3					1
		6	5		

		6	2		
1					3
		5	4		
		3	1		
6					4
		2	6		

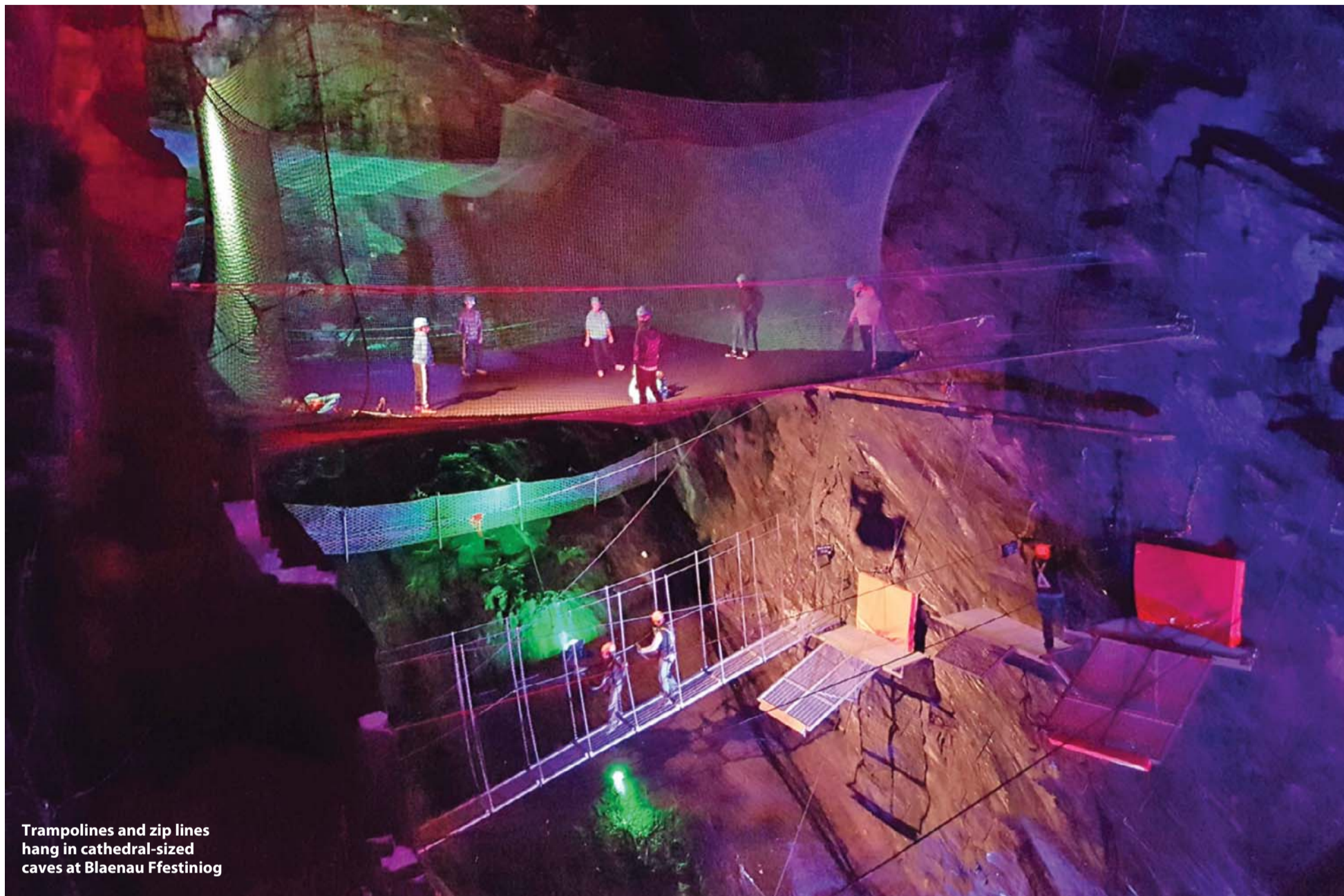




A hiker surveys
Snowdonia from
Glyder Fach

MOUNTAINS, QUARRIES AND SURF LAGOONS: ADVENTURES IN NORTH WALES

With its grand mountains, rolling hills and stunning coastline, the castle-packed, Welsh-speaking heartland of North Wales has always been an epic place for the active. And the addition of new facilities - including an innovative surf lagoon and record-breaking zip lines - to those age-old charms has created arguably the best place for adventure sports in Britain.



Trampolines and zip lines hang in cathedral-sized caves at Blaenau Ffestiniog

Go underground at Llechwedd Slate Caverns

Slate mining once dominated the economy in northwest Wales: slate from these hills supplied most of the roofs in Victorian Britain and was transported around the world. Its decline over the last century hit local communities hard and left quarried hillsides, great caverns and dark tunnels in its wake.

They're all visible around the small town of Blaenau Ffestiniog. Surrounded on all sides by Snowdonia National Park, its quarry-scarred landscape means it didn't qualify for park status. Yet the area has a hard beauty of its own, and once you head downwards you discover another world. You can explore the Llechwedd Slate Caverns just outside town via numerous tours, and adventurous can spend two hours exploring the eerily magnificent mines on a

Caverns tour, using zip lines, rope bridges and footholds hammered into the walls, gazing into dark holes and across cathedral-sized caves. It's a great feeling - you get to put your hands on history, and set your heart pounding.

If that sounds a bit much, operators Zip World also offer Bounce Below, a series of enormous interconnected trampolines and slides. Trampolining in a cave is a unique experience, and the atmospheric lighting and chiseled walls around you give the giggling fun of bouncing up and down a nice counterpoint.

Fly high and low on record-breaking zip lines

Outdoor zip lines offer up a different perspective. You can build up quite a lick heading down these, a physical thrill that's

matched by the awesome spectacle of North Wales swooshing by beneath you. Blaenau Ffestiniog's three zip lines take you down from the hills above to the mine itself. At Bethesda, northwest of Blaenau, Zip World Velocity (zipworld.co.uk) boasts the longest line in Europe and the fastest (up to 100mph) in the world. More records are smashed elsewhere. Go Below, outside the appealing town of Betws-y-Coed, has the world's longest underground zip line and can take you to the deepest point in Britain that's accessible to the public - almost 400m below ground.

Snowdon: A mountain for all comers

Betws-y-Coed is a great base for exploring Snowdon, at 1085m the highest point in England and Wales. It's famous for its views



Rolling through woodland at Coed Llandegla



Tryfan offers some of the most enjoyable scrambling in Britain



Zip World Velocity is the world's fastest zip line

(to Ireland on a - rare - clear day), legends (it's said to be the tomb of a giant slain by King Arthur) and the fact that you can get a train its summit. That accessibility is a big part of its appeal, and there are numerous ways to tackle the mountain, from the 120-year-old railway and the zig-zagging Miners' Track to challenging climbing pitches and notorious Crib Goch (a knife-edge steep slope on one side and a sheer drop on the other).

Exploring Snowdonia National Park

Snowdon is the best known - and busiest - feature of Snowdonia National Park, which stretches over 823 sq miles of peaks, valleys, forests and coastline. But there are arguably even better walks to be had in other parts. The Glyders mountain range is a steep mass of broken rocks whose heather- and boulder-covered upper reaches feel like another planet. Tryfan, the most iconic of its peaks, offers invigorating scrambling routes and is topped with two rocks called Adam and Eve - the bold can leap between the two for good luck. Further south, Cader Idris is popular with walkers and climbers, while the park as a whole was made a Dark Sky Reserve in 2015 in tribute to its clear air.

Mountain biking

Exploring Wales needn't just be done in walking boots - the country has some of the world's best mountain biking facilities. East of the national park, towards Wrexham, Coed Llandegla is a forest reserve with trails operated by Oneplanet (oneplanetadventure.com) that run the gamut from gentle, family-orientated routes to viciously steep ascents and hardcore jumps and drops. The impressive skills zone is a good place to practice, and the blue trail is great for beginners who want downhill sections that exhilarate without being petrifying. Back in the national park, Coed y Brenin (beicsbrenin.co.uk), near Dolgellau, was the UK's first dedicated

mountain bike centre and now has eight trails including extensive single track.

Making waves in the valleys

A high-profile and surreal addition to the landscape, Surf Snowdonia is a ground-breaking surf lagoon that allows you to catch consistent waves in a tree-lined valley miles from the sea. The technology is high-tech and the waves are artificial - they roll along once every 90 seconds, and form predictable heights in different parts of the lagoon, making them great for learning on - but the setting in a wide valley outside Dolgarrog is appealing and natural enough to make the experience thoroughly satisfying. Ecopod accommodation, other activities including surf kayaking and a comedic 'blob' that launches participants high in the air complete the picture. If you're inspired to get a taste of Welsh seawater, try Rhosneigr or Aberdaron.

The best of the rest

The range of landscapes and ingenuity of local tour guides mean there are countless other activities to undertake in North Wales. The isle of Anglesey has druidic history and offers coasteering, windsurfing and puffin-spotting trips, rafting can be undertaken at various locations including Bala and hikers can get away from Snowdon's crowds in the rolling hills of Clwydian Range near Ruthin.

There are good bases across northwest Wales, with Betws-y-Coed and Llanberis (both near Snowdon), Conwy (an appealing walled town on the coast) and Porthmadog (which offers easy access to both Snowdonia and the peaceful L?n Peninsula) among the options. While trains and buses connect the key towns, wider exploration is easiest with your own vehicle. Tour companies across the region can also help arrange trips. (www.lonelyplanet.com)



Traversing Crib Goch, one of the more challenging routes up Snowdon



Surf Snowdonia's inland lagoon offers waves amid the hills of North Wales



Aries (March 21-April 19)

There is an emotional seriousness to becoming focused now. You will want to dig deep for information, references or confirmations. It seems that time is not slow enough for all that needs accomplishing. You could be too strict with yourself, to insist that whatever does not contribute to security and other long-term goals is trivial. Your ambition is intensified. Study and research could enter into your work more often now-perhaps you feel that statistics will help back your actions, or your word. Real estate or home and family planning take on a greater importance for you now. You may feel that it is time to build your support group and have roots. This is a very nice day, perhaps filled with some renewed appreciation for those you love.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is a noteworthy day, which you can use to your best advantage. It is a day that is not too lazy or too stressful-time for accomplishing tasks or setting things up to work in your favor. You are very conscientious when it comes to security and seldom make a move that does not strengthen your position. This easygoing day can certainly work in your favor, without taxing the nervous system or pushing you to extremes. You seek responsibilities the way others look for pleasure and you even invite obligations. Stop to smell the flowers this evening-enjoy nature. Truth, religion and philosophy are subjects that will become a focus now. You may even find that travel to another country or study of a particular group of people will be upcoming options.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Work, achievement and ambition make your daytime world move to the beat of accomplishment. You are good at your work and when it is possible, you enjoy having your work on view. Although you stay alert and busy you may also be very much at ease. Everything seems to be working well. You may have an opportunity to do a bit of research when a technical question appears. As you dig for facts you may have to explain that it is better than quickly jumping to conclusions. Not everyone is a politician but you may find someone thinks that he or she will make a good politician. You might listen but there is a catch . . . This person is family. Find something with which you can agree and if you dance to your own drummer, excuse yourself.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This may be a challenging day. You can use your skills and expertise to solve problems and by the end of the day you will know you have succeeded. Any professional advice you might need is available. Feedback from others could be negative as well as positive but in your particular medium, this is a response you need in order to gain a focus or a creative direction for your talents. Your current situation may demand some reevaluation. Real power seems to be hidden-finding it may mean delving into the secret places, and that's where you are bound to look now. An elder in your family has some memorabilia items to sell or give away. Do not think good riddance here; take a look; there could be some wonderful vintage music to hear.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This may be a time of emotional change that could leave you feeling two ways at once, without getting too deep into either polarity. Habits are in a cycle of change; variety satisfies a deep inner need. Being on the go and keeping a finger to the winds of change will make you feel in touch-learning and communicating confirms an innate need to understand more of your own life. This is a good day to find the balance, choose what dreams you want as an outcome and stay your path. All the energies are working in your favor. It is easy for you to love and be compassionate and to value what life offers. You have a sense of unity and brotherhood that will stay with you. A class in yoga or music will help in creating a sense of balance and understanding.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You could find yourself in a detached frame of mind, as though you are viewing things from the outside. Your co-worker friends might be happier if you took a more personal attitude. Making your mark on the world has a special significance to you. Achievement, ambition and authority take a greater meaning. Ease up a little this afternoon and focus on some unfinished project. There may not be quite enough work to keep you totally busy. You will soon discover a few things that need your attention and higher-ups will be happy with whatever you develop . . . Your cubicle, your computer or perhaps your counter area. You gain positive recognition. This evening is a good time for surrounding yourself with friends and young people.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Short trips or planned vacation time can be enjoyed this fall. Good fortune opens up in a very natural way for you. Your creative talent earns admiration. If you earn a living by this talent, now is the time to make your plans for some sort of expansion. This could mean a raise, buying advertisement, designing coupons to get attention or just plotting your path to success. It is not the time for action, however, just the planning. A love affair is sparked this evening, if you are receptive. Subjects like psychic insights and teaching dreams may prevail this evening as you visit with loved ones. Mysticism, mythology, poetry and music are natural to you. Loved ones want to help you celebrate your day today!



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

The challenging days outweigh the less-challenging days this month. Your most exciting, life-fulfilling dreams can be met during this type of day. You create a focus; you achieve and gain an appreciation of your life development. The energies that are available are hot and ready to be used; however, you must choose the direction you want as the energies can be negative if there is any indecisiveness. This does not mean you get a motorcycle because your friend bought one. It does mean you evaluate, expand and develop one of your talents or tendencies of expression. There will be an opportunity to learn something new in work or away from work in the future. For now, your challenge will bring you new friends and opportunities to excel.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

In your contemplation this morning you may be thinking about living in a different place, a different home and perhaps enjoying a different body. Some of your co-worker friends may talk about a lake house or some other place as a vacation place. You might think about changing houses when it comes time for a vacation. Perhaps a family member lives in another country or another state. This is not as expensive as time-share and you might find a willing friend or family member that wants to know more about your city. Work moves along fairly well today and you will find this a good time to project your image. Money that someone owes you may be repaid to you now. This evening is a time of relaxation and for enjoying the people around you. Laugh.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

With lots of customers gathered today, you may have a couple of people that get into a dispute. Some people have no interest in understanding a situation; they only want to air their own opinions. You enjoy finding the truth and uncovering a new idea brings new understanding, but with this situation you may have to let them find their own answers. Later you will find the energies smooth out a bit. It is good your day is busy . . . Time moves along quickly and you accomplish a lot. Be careful that you do not overspend or indulge too much after work. If you have a date, everything conspires to reveal you at your most elegant. You may find a double date is fun and you may be friends with the other couple. You enjoy lots of conversation and laughter.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Learning and communicating encourage an instinctive urge to move forward in your life path. You may be presented with the possibilities of moving up in your career or perhaps someone has suggested a pay raise and advancement when more education is achieved. Self-sacrifice and an understanding attitude on your part could have a far-reaching effect on your own life path and career now. You could be most persuasive and eloquent in speech and communication with loved ones this evening. A good conversation creates new ideas and has positive results. You are sociable, popular and unique in the ways you interact with others. This afternoon and evening may prove to be quite enjoyable, whether you spend it with friends or at a familiar gathering.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may find opposition from others today but this will pass. It would be best to keep your comments to yourself for now. Careful-there is a need to be respected and that need could override your ability to keep quiet-count to ten. Patience-respect will come with time. You are developing a knack for organizing things and this will not go unnoticed. There is a sense of ambition and self-confidence that improves with each day. Work, achievement and ambition mean a lot to you. Saying and writing things with style count for a lot now. Your ability to socialize and handle a large crowd is like watching a butterfly cover a room and get to know all the guests-the social butterfly. Neighbors or family members bring good experiences your way.

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

BBC FIRST

09:00 Pramface
09:35 Pramface
10:10 Doctors
10:45 Eastenders
11:15 Stella
12:00 Holby City
13:00 Doctors
13:30 Doctors
14:05 Eastenders
14:35 Casualty
15:30 Dickensian
18:30 Casualty
19:20 Holby City
20:15 Doctors
20:45 Eastenders
21:20 The Musketeers
22:15 The Musketeers
00:05 Doctors
00:35 Doctors
01:05 New Tricks
02:00 DCI Banks
03:00 The Kettering Incident
03:55 Happy Valley
04:50 Friday Night Dinner
05:15 Hunderby
05:40 Doctors

COMEDY CENTRAL

09:00 Catch A Contractor
11:05 Lip Sync Battle
11:30 Workaholics
11:55 Workaholics
12:20 Tosh.0
12:50 Tosh.0
13:15 Key And Peele
13:40 Key And Peele
14:05 Workaholics
14:30 Workaholics
14:55 Tosh.0
15:20 Tosh.0
15:45 Key And Peele
16:10 Key And Peele
16:35 Catch A Contractor
17:00 Frankenfood
17:25 Frankenfood
17:50 Tosh.0
18:15 Key And Peele
18:40 Workaholics
19:05 Workaholics
19:30 Tosh.0
19:55 Tosh.0
20:20 Workaholics
21:35 Tosh.0
22:00 Tosh.0
22:30 Nathan For You
22:55 Nathan For You
23:25 Workaholics
23:50 Ridiculousness
01:27 Urban Tarzan
01:50 Urban Tarzan
02:13 Lip Sync Battle
02:37 Catch A Contractor
03:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
03:30 Inside Amy Schumer
03:54 Broad City
04:18 South Park
04:42 TUT
05:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

Discovery Family

09:00 Destroyed In Seconds
09:50 Ultimate Survival
10:40 How It's Made
11:30 Storm Chasers
12:20 Mythbusters
13:00 Doki
13:25 Kids vs Film
13:50 My Cat From Hell
14:40 How It's Made
15:05 How It's Made
15:30 Science Of The Movies
16:20 Mythbusters
17:10 K9 Cops
18:00 My Cat From Hell
18:50 Ultimate Survival
19:40 How It's Made
20:30 Storm Chasers
21:20 Mythbusters
22:10 Doki
22:35 Kids vs Film
23:00 World's Funniest
23:50 The Big Brain Theory
00:40 Science Of The Movies
01:30 Mythbusters
02:20 How It's Made
03:10 World's Funniest
04:00 The Big Brain Theory
04:50 Destroyed In Seconds



09:15 The Hive
09:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
10:10 Hank Zipzer
10:35 Binny And The Ghost
11:00 Violetta
11:45 The Hive
11:50 Mouk
12:00 Jessie
12:25 Jessie
12:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
13:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
13:20 Disney Cookabout
13:45 Bunk'd
14:10 Austin & Ally
14:35 Shake It Up
15:00 A.N.T. Farm
15:25 A.N.T. Farm
15:50 That's So Raven
16:15 That's So Raven
16:40 Good Luck Charlie
17:05 Good Luck Charlie
17:30 Jessie
17:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
18:00 The 7D
18:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
18:40 Hank Zipzer
19:05 Star Darlings
19:10 Austin & Ally
19:35 Austin & Ally
20:00 Liv And Maddie
20:25 Liv And Maddie
20:50 Dog With A Blog
21:15 Jessie
21:40 Bunk'd
22:05 Star Darlings

22:10 Gravity Falls
22:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
23:25 How To Build A Better Boy
00:55 The 7D
01:05 Liv And Maddie
01:30 Jessie
01:55 Violetta
02:45 Backstage
03:10 H2O: Just Add Water
03:35 H2O: Just Add Water
04:00 Binny And The Ghost
04:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:10 Hank Zipzer
05:35 Binny And The Ghost



09:10 Henry Hugglemonster
09:20 Calimero
09:35 Zou
09:45 Loopdidoo
10:00 Art Attack
10:25 Henry Hugglemonster
10:35 Calimero
10:50 Zou
11:00 Loopdidoo
11:15 Art Attack
11:35 Henry Hugglemonster
11:50 Calimero
12:00 Zou
12:20 Loopdidoo
12:35 Art Attack
13:00 The Hive
13:10 Zou
13:25 Loopdidoo
13:40 Gummi Bears
14:05 Sofia The First
14:30 Goldie & Bear
14:40 PJ Masks
14:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates

15:10 Doc McStuffins
15:20 Miles From Tomorrow
15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
15:45 Goldie & Bear
16:00 Sofia The First
16:25 The Lion Guard
16:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
17:20 Minnie's Bow-Toons
17:25 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
17:50 The Hive
18:00 Doc McStuffins
18:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
19:00 The Lion Guard
19:30 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
19:45 Aladdin
20:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
20:45 Doc McStuffins
21:15 Minnie's Bow-Toons
21:20 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
21:50 Miles From Tomorrow
22:15 Sofia The First
22:45 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
23:00 The Lion Guard
23:30 Goldie & Bear
23:55 Unbungalievable
00:00 Goldie & Bear
00:30 Goldie & Bear
01:00 PJ Masks
01:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
02:00 Sofia The First
02:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
03:00 PJ Masks
03:25 Doc McStuffins
03:55 Aladdin
04:20 Gummi Bears
04:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
04:50 Zou
05:05 Henry Hugglemonster
05:20 Calimero
05:35 Zou



12:00 Booster
12:10 Super Matrak
12:35 Super Matrak
13:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
13:25 K.C. Undercover
13:50 Supa Strikas
14:15 Danger Mouse
14:40 Counterfeit Cat
15:05 Counterfeit Cat
15:10 Gravity Falls
15:35 Lab Rats
16:00 Rocket Monkeys
16:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
16:50 Booster
17:20 Booster
17:45 Pair Of Kings
18:10 Pair Of Kings
18:35 Lab Rats
19:00 Lab Rats
19:30 Phineas And Ferb
19:55 Phineas And Ferb
20:20 Kickin' It
20:45 Kickin' It
21:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:15 Supa Strikas
21:40 Supa Strikas
22:05 Lab Rats
22:30 Danger Mouse
22:55 Kirby Buckets
23:25 K.C. Undercover
23:50 Annedroids
00:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
00:40 K.C. Undercover
01:05 Counterfeit Cat
01:10 Gravity Falls
01:35 Counterfeit Cat
02:00 Lab Rats
02:25 Supa Strikas
02:55 K.C. Undercover
03:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
03:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
04:10 Marvel Avengers: Ultron Revolution
04:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
05:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

22:55 Victoria
23:50 Murdoch Mysteries
00:45 Emmerdale
01:15 Emmerdale
01:45 Coronation Street
02:10 The Chase
03:00 Catchphrase
03:30 Royal Stories
03:55 Victoria
04:50 Emmerdale
05:15 Emmerdale
05:40 Coronation Street



09:05 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
09:30 Eat: The Story Of Food
10:20 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
11:10 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
11:35 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
12:00 East Bites West
12:25 East Bites West
12:50 Access 360 World Heritage
13:40 Delinquent Gourmet
14:05 Eat Street
14:30 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
14:55 Sara's New Nordic Kitchen
15:20 Eat: The Story Of Food
16:10 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
17:00 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
17:25 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
17:50 East Bites West
18:15 East Bites West
18:40 Access 360 World Heritage
19:35 Delinquent Gourmet
20:00 Eat Street
20:30 Baking Good, Baking Bad
20:55 Baking Good, Baking Bad
21:25 Eat: The Story Of Food
22:20 Cesar Millan: Viva Las Vegas!
23:15 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
23:40 Delinquent Gourmet
00:10 East Bites West
00:35 East Bites West



09:20 Innovation Nation
09:50 Nazi World War Weird
10:45 Innovation Nation
11:10 Innovation Nation
11:40 Robo-Humans
12:35 Locked Up Abroad
13:30 No Man Left Behind
14:25 Family Guns
15:20 Innovation Nation
15:45 Innovation Nation
16:15 4 Babies A Second
17:10 Migrations
18:05 Brain Games
19:00 Family Guns
20:00 No Man Left Behind
21:00 Locked Up Abroad
22:00 4 Babies A Second
23:00 Migrations
00:00 Man Hunt



09:45 Snakes In The City
10:40 War Elephants
11:35 Hippo vs Croc
12:30 World's Deadliest Animals
13:25 Snakes In The City
14:20 War Elephants
15:15 Animal Storm Squad
16:10 Amur: Asia's Amazon
17:05 Secret Life Of Predators
18:00 Megafish
18:55 Secrets Of The King Cobra
19:50 World's Deadliest Animals
20:45 Snakes In The City
21:40 Mystery Of The Lynx
22:35 Animal Storm Squad
23:30 Amur: Asia's Amazon
00:25 Desert Lions Of Namib



09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
09:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
11:00 Max & Shred
11:24 Henry Danger
11:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
12:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
12:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
13:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



THE DOGS OF WAR ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION



09:40 Hollywood Cycle
10:35 Hollywood Cycle
11:30 Celebrity Style Story
12:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
12:55 E! News
13:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
14:10 E! News
15:10 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
18:00 E! News
18:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
19:10 LA Clippers Dance Squad
20:05 LA Clippers Dance Squad
21:00 E! News
21:15 LA Clippers Dance Squad
22:15 LA Clippers Dance Squad
23:10 LA Clippers Dance Squad
00:05 Catching Kelce
00:35 Fashion Bloggers
01:00 E! News
02:00 WAGs
03:00 Rob & Chyna
04:00 Rob & Chyna
05:00 E! News
05:15 WAGs



09:25 Secret Photos Of The Duke And Duchess Of Windsor
10:20 Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans
11:15 Murdoch Mysteries
12:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
13:05 The Chase
14:00 Secret Photos Of The Duke And Duchess Of Windsor
15:00 Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans
16:00 Murdoch Mysteries
16:55 Who's Doing The Dishes?
17:50 The Chase
18:45 Emmerdale
19:15 Emmerdale
19:45 Coronation Street
20:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?
21:10 The Chase
22:00 Catchphrase
22:30 Royal Stories

- 13:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 13:48 Winx Club
- 14:12 Harvey Beaks
- 14:36 Breadwinners
- 15:00 Get Blake
- 15:24 Rabbids Invasion
- 15:48 Henry Danger
- 16:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 16:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 17:00 Winx Club
- 17:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 17:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 18:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 18:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 19:00 Breadwinners
- 19:24 The Loud House
- 19:48 Harvey Beaks
- 20:12 Lost In The West I
- 21:00 Lost In The West II
- 21:48 Lost In The West III
- 22:36 The Loud House
- 23:00 Sanjay And Craig
- 23:24 Harvey Beaks
- 23:48 Breadwinners
- 00:12 Henry Danger
- 00:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 01:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
- 01:24 Game Shakers
- 03:24 Breadwinners
- 03:48 Breadwinners
- 04:12 Sanjay And Craig
- 04:36 Sanjay And Craig
- 05:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 05:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 05:48 Henry Danger



- 09:01 Paw Patrol
- 09:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 09:35 Dora The Explorer
- 09:59 Max & Ruby
- 10:07 Bubble Guppies
- 10:29 Little Charmers
- 10:41 Shimmer And Shine
- 11:05 Dora And Friends
- 11:27 Zack & Quack
- 11:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 12:00 Paw Patrol
- 12:13 Paw Patrol
- 12:36 Dora The Explorer
- 13:00 Wanda And The Alien
- 13:11 Zack & Quack
- 13:22 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 13:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 14:10 Paw Patrol
- 14:35 Shimmer And Shine
- 14:58 Dora The Explorer
- 15:21 Paw Patrol
- 15:45 Little Charmers
- 15:57 Bubble Guppies
- 16:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 16:40 Zack & Quack
- 16:52 Team Umizoomi
- 17:15 Louie
- 17:22 Louie
- 17:30 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 17:53 Olive The Ostrich
- 17:58 Olive The Ostrich
- 18:03 Max & Ruby
- 18:26 Wanda And The Alien
- 18:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 18:48 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 19:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 19:22 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 19:45 Zack & Quack
- 19:55 Zack & Quack
- 20:05 Team Umizoomi
- 20:28 Louie
- 20:35 Louie
- 20:40 Olive The Ostrich
- 20:44 Olive The Ostrich
- 20:49 Paw Patrol
- 21:01 Paw Patrol
- 21:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 21:35 Dora The Explorer
- 21:59 Max & Ruby
- 22:07 Bubble Guppies
- 22:29 Little Charmers
- 22:41 Shimmer And Shine
- 23:05 Dora And Friends
- 23:27 Zack & Quack
- 23:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 00:00 Paw Patrol
- 00:13 Paw Patrol
- 00:36 Dora The Explorer
- 01:00 Wanda And The Alien
- 01:11 Zack & Quack
- 01:22 Dora And Friends
- 01:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 02:10 Paw Patrol
- 02:35 Shimmer And Shine
- 02:58 Dora The Explorer
- 03:21 Paw Patrol
- 03:45 Little Charmers



AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON ON OSN MOVIES HD

- Bubble Guppies
- 04:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 04:40 Zack & Quack

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 10:00 Ladder 49
- 12:00 Divergent
- 14:30 The Dogs Of War
- 16:30 Close Range
- 18:00 The Package
- 20:00 Divergent
- 22:30 The Dogs Of War
- 00:30 Brick Mansions
- 02:00 Snowpiercer
- 04:00 Rivers Nine

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 09:00 My Girl 2
- 11:00 The Santa Clause
- 13:00 White Fang
- 15:00 The Chronicles Of Narnia: Voyage Of The Dawn...
- 17:00 Penguins Of Madagascar
- 19:00 House Arrest
- 21:00 Frankenweenie
- 23:00 Big Fat Liar
- 01:00 The Book Of Life
- 03:00 Tooth Fairy
- 05:00 Frankenweenie

OSN MOVIES HD

- 11:00 Drumline: A New Beat
- 13:00 Goosebumps
- 15:00 Fantastic Four
- 17:00 Everest
- 19:00 Hotel Transylvania 2
- 20:30 Avengers: Age Of Ultron
- 23:00 Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
- 01:00 San Andreas
- 03:00 Daddy's Home
- 05:00 Trainwreck

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 10:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
- 12:00 The Single Moms Club
- 14:00 Coneheads
- 16:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
- 18:00 Bringing Down The House
- 20:00 The Hundred-Foot Journey
- 22:15 Coneheads
- 00:00 Honeymooners
- 02:00 We'll Never Have Paris
- 04:00 Horrible Bosses 2

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 09:30 Birdman
- 11:30 War Horse
- 14:00 The Horse Whisperer
- 17:00 Belle
- 18:45 The Signal
- 20:30 Romeo & Juliet
- 22:30 The Horse Whisperer
- 01:30 Every Day
- 03:15 Short Term 12
- 05:00 Hustle And Flow

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 09:00 Egon And Donci
- 10:30 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 12:00 Columbus In The Last Journey
- 13:45 Bolts And Blip
- 15:45 Hey Arnold! The Movie
- 17:15 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart
- 19:00 Egon And Donci
- 20:30 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
- 22:00 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory
- 00:00 Hey Arnold! The Movie
- 02:00 The Heart Of The Oak
- 04:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
- 05:30 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA

- 09:00 Nightcrawler
- 11:00 Reach Me
- 13:00 The Girl
- 15:00 Welcome To The Punch
- 17:00 A Teacher's Obsession
- 19:00 The Love Guide
- 21:00 Big Eyes
- 23:00 Welcome To The Punch
- 01:00 Scenic Route
- 03:00 Draft Day
- 05:00 Cold In July

OSN MOVIES PREMIERE

- 10:00 About Alex
- 12:00 The Dorm
- 14:00 Jupiter Ascending
- 16:15 The Good Lie
- 18:15 Superfast
- 20:00 Sleeping Beauty
- 21:45 Jupiter Ascending

- 00:00 Insurgent
- 02:15 7 Minutes
- 04:00 Final Girl



- 09:00 Alaska Mega Machines
- 09:48 Mythbusters
- 10:36 Battle Factory
- 11:00 Battle Factory
- 11:24 Strip The Cosmos
- 12:12 How Do They Do It?
- 12:36 Food Factory
- 13:00 How Do They Do It?
- 13:26 Mythbusters
- 14:14 Strip The Cosmos
- 15:02 Alaska Mega Machines
- 15:50 How Do They Do It?
- 16:14 Food Factory
- 16:38 Battle Factory
- 17:02 Battle Factory
- 17:26 Mythbusters
- 18:14 Strip The Cosmos
- 19:02 How Do They Do It?
- 19:26 Food Factory
- 19:50 Alaska Mega Machines
- 20:38 Battle Factory
- 21:02 Battle Factory
- 21:26 Strip The Cosmos
- 22:14 Mythbusters
- 23:02 Alaska Mega Machines
- 23:50 Mythbusters
- 00:40 Strip The Cosmos
- 01:30 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
- 01:55 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
- 02:20 How Do They Do It?
- 02:45 Food Factory
- 03:10 Mega Builders
- 04:00 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
- 04:25 Bigger, Better, Faster, Stronger
- 04:50 Strip The Cosmos
- 05:40 Mythbusters



- 09:15 Cake Boss
- 09:35 Oprah Prime
- 10:20 Little People, Big World
- 10:45 Little People, Big World
- 11:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 12:00 Little People, Big World
- 14:30 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 15:20 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
- 16:10 Bakery Boss
- 17:00 My 600lb Life
- 17:50 Love, Lust Or Run
- 18:15 Love, Lust Or Run
- 18:40 Love, Lust Or Run
- 19:05 Love, Lust Or Run
- 19:30 Love, Lust Or Run

- 16:30 Suburgatory
- 17:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 18:00 The Bernie Mac Show
- 18:30 Living With Fran
- 19:00 George Lopez
- 19:30 Suburgatory
- 20:00 Last Man Standing
- 22:30 The Bernie Mac Show
- 23:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 00:00 Superstore
- 00:30 The Goldbergs
- 01:00 The Goldbergs
- 01:30 New Girl
- 02:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 03:00 The Simpsons
- 03:30 The Simpsons
- 04:00 Saturday Night Live
- 05:00 The League
- 05:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



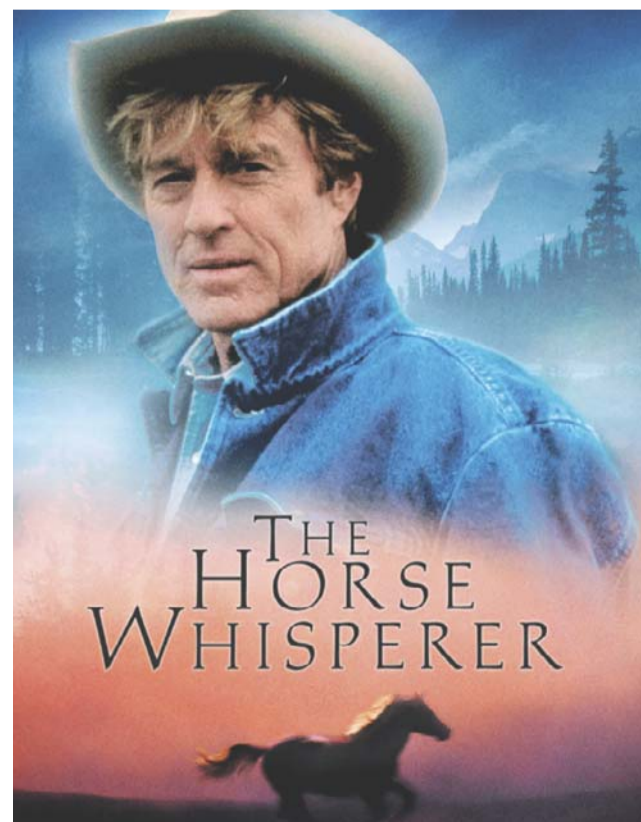
- 10:00 Good Morning America
- 13:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow
- 14:00 Rosewood
- 15:00 The Amazing Race
- 17:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow
- 18:00 Rosewood
- 19:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 20:00 Live Good Morning America
- 23:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 00:00 Rosewood
- 01:00 The Amazing Race
- 02:00 Grey's Anatomy
- 03:00 Dead Of Summer
- 04:00 Survivor: Millennials vs Generation X
- 05:00 Outlander



- 09:00 Homicide Hunter
- 10:00 Killer Kids
- 11:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
- 12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 13:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 14:00 Homicide Hunter
- 15:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 16:00 Frenemies
- 17:00 The First 48
- 18:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 19:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 20:00 Homicide Hunter
- 21:00 Frenemies
- 22:00 The First 48
- 23:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 00:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 01:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 02:00 Frenemies
- 03:00 Homicide Hunter
- 04:00 Murder On The Social Network
- 05:00 I Killed My BFF

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 09:30 Last Man Standing
- 10:00 Living With Fran
- 10:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 11:30 George Lopez
- 12:00 The Bernie Mac Show
- 12:30 Suburgatory
- 13:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 14:00 Living With Fran
- 14:30 George Lopez



THE HORSE WHISPERER ON OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

Word Search Puzzles

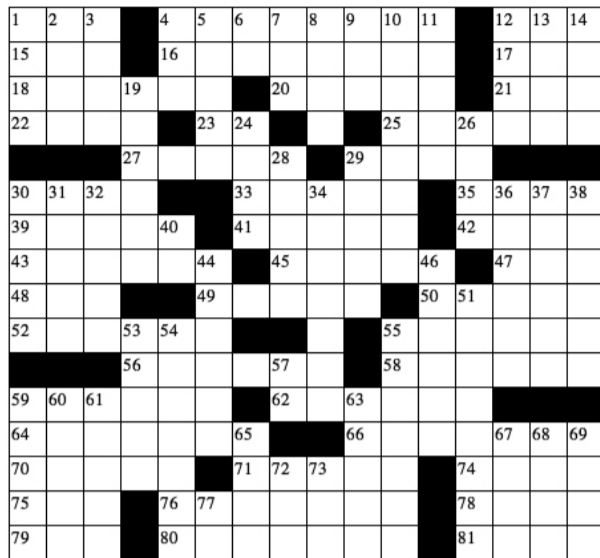
Australia

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 49 letters spell a secret message.

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

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| ADELAIDE | DIDGERIDOO | MARSUPIALS | QUEENSLAND |
| AUSSIE | DINGO | MELBOURNE | RAINFORESTS |
| BEACHES | DOWN UNDER | MONARCHY | RUSSELL CROWE |
| BOOMERANG | EMUS | NEW SOUTH WALES | SEAFOOD |
| BRISBANE | EUCALYPTUS TREES | NICOLE KIDMAN | SHRIMP |
| CANBERRA | HUGH JACKMAN | OCEANS | SURFING |
| COMMONWEALTH | KANGAROO | OUTBACK | SYDNEY |
| CONTINENT | KEITH URBAN | PARLIAMENT | TASMANIA |
| CORAL SEA | KOALA | PERTH | VEGETITE |
| CROCODILES | KOOKABURRA | PLATYPUS | VICTORIA |
| DESERTS | KYLIE MINOGUE | PRIME MINISTER | WOMBAT |

CROSSWORD 1392



ACROSS

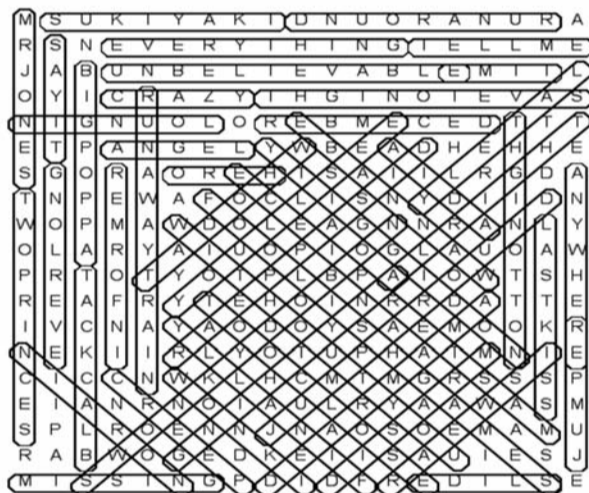
- (folklore) A small grotesque supernatural creature that makes trouble for human beings.
- Any of various evangelical Protestant churches that believe in the baptism of voluntary believers.
- The network in the reticular formation that serves an alerting or arousal function.
- A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- Beat through cleverness and wit.
- The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
- A German city near Leipzig.
- Anthropologist and linguist.
- Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
- Bushy plant of Old World salt marshes and sea beaches having prickly leaves.
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- Philosophical system developed by of Lao-tzu and Chuang-tzu advocating a simple honest life and noninterference with the course of natural events.
- Of or relating to the dura mater.
- A blind god.
- A city in west central Mexico.
- (prefix) Within.
- At full speed.
- Relating to or having the characteristics of bees.
- A collection of objects laid on top of each other.
- A motley assortment of things.
- A communist state in Indochina on the South China Sea.
- (Hawaiian) A small guitar having four strings.
- Either extremity of something that has length.
- Device for resetting instruments or controls v 1.
- American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
- An unwholesome atmosphere.
- A member of the Tarachitian people of central Mexico.
- Of or relating to a directionless magnitude.
- (Greek mythology) Goddess of wisdom and prudent arts and prudent warfare.
- A medicinal drug used to evoke vomiting (especially in cases of drug overdose or poisoning).

DOWN

- Diurnal bird of prey typically having short rounded wings and a long tail.
- Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
- (criminal law) Money that must be forfeited by the bondsman if an accused person fails to appear in court for trial.
- A long thin fluffy scarf of feathers or fur.
- 100 auro equal 1 krona.
- A heavy precious metallic element.
- Syndrome resulting from a serious acute (sometimes fatal) infection associated with the presence of staphylococcus.
- (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
- A watery solution of sugars, salts, and minerals that circulates through the vascular system of a plant.
- Type genus of the family Tridacnidae.
- Of a pale yellow color like straw.
- East Indian cereal grass whose seed yield a somewhat bitter flour, a staple in the Orient.
- The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
- A fraudulent business scheme.
- The vein in the center of a leaf.
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- An endorsement.
- Type genus of the family Lepadidae.
- Of great mass.
- Of or relating to Oman or its people.
- (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann.
- Fleshy tawny or reddish saprophytic herb resembling the Indian pipe and growing in woodland humus of eastern North America.
- Of or relating to the nervous system.
- A member of the Siouan people of the northern Mississippi valley.
- The first event in a series.
- A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
- United States evangelical preacher famous as a mass evangelist (born in 1918).
- Characterized by undue haste and lack of thought or deliberation.
- Large arboreal boa of tropical South America.
- Rise or heave upward under the influence of a natural force, as on a wave.
- Cassava with long tuberous edible roots and soft brittle stems.
- Of or relating to or resulting from an abnormal accumulation of protein and electrolyte rich fluid in the peritoneal cavity.
- A light strong gray lustrous corrosion-resistant metallic element used in strong light-weight alloys (as for airplane parts).
- A group of soldiers.
- (with 'in') Guardianship over.
- Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
- Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
- A Gaelic-speaking Celt in Ireland or Scotland or the Isle of Man.
- An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- A quantity of no importance.
- One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
- The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
- An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.

Yesterday's Solution

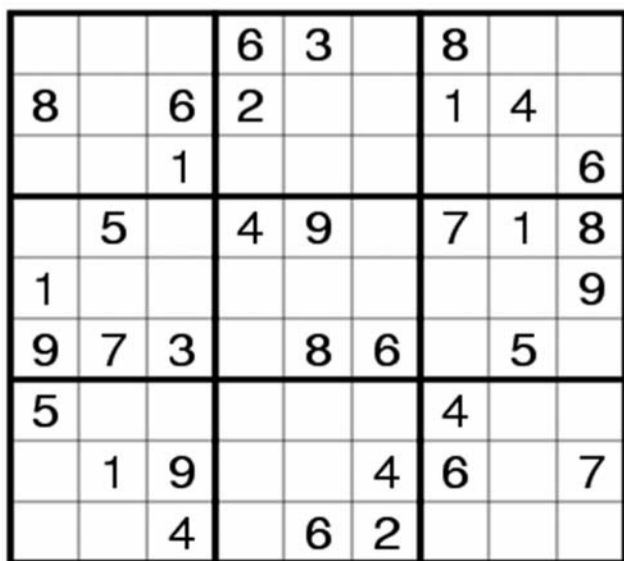
90's Songs 4



- | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| ADIA | DISARM | LATELY | SAY IT |
| ALRIGHT | EVERLONG | LOUNGIN | SLIDE |
| ANGEL | EVERYTHING | MASTERPIECE | SUKIYAKI |
| ANYTHING | FINALLY | MISSING | TELL ME |
| ANYWHERE | FOOLISH GAMES | MR. JONES | TIME |
| BIG POPPA | HERO | NO DIGGITY | TOO CLOSE |
| BLACK CAT | I KNOW | NO RAIN | TWO PRINCES |
| CRAZY | I SWEAR | NOBODY KNOWS | UNBELIEVABLE |
| CREEP | INFORMER | NOT TONIGHT | UNBELIEVABLE |
| DEAR MAMA | JUMP AROUND | RUN-AROUND | WANNABE |
| DECEMBER | JUMPER | RUNAWAY TRAIN | WHO DAT |
| DISAPPEAR | LAST KISS | SAVE TONIGHT | WITHOUT YOU |
| | | | YOU'LL SEE |

The hidden song title is: ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



Yesterday's Solution



STUDY SHOWS HEALTH IMPROVING GLOBALLY, BUT PROGRESS IS PATCHY

LONDON: Globally, people's health is improving and life expectancy is rising, but progress is far from universal with chronic diseases bringing long-term illness and causing seven out of 10 deaths, according to research published yesterday. The Global Burden of Disease study, which shows the key drivers of ill health, disability and death in individual countries, found that by 2015, the world population had gained more than a decade of life expectancy since 1980 - rising to 69.0 years in men and 74.8 years in women.

Among main contributors to this were large falls in death rates for many communicable or infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS, malaria and diarrhea. The rate of people dying from cardiovascular disease and cancers has also fallen, the study found, although at a slower pace. The study analyzed 249 causes of death, 315 diseases and injuries and 79 risk factors in 195 countries and territories between 1990 and 2015.

Christopher Murray, director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, which led the study, said its results painted a picture of patchy health gains across the world, driven in part by economic development.

"Development drives, but does not determine health," he said in a statement as the findings were published in The Lancet medical journal. "We see countries that have improved far faster than can be explained by income, education or fertility. And we also continue to see countries - including the

United States - that are far less healthy than they should be given their resources."

As well as life expectancy, the study estimated healthy life expectancy - the number of years people can expect to live in good health. It found that while healthy life expectancy had increased in 191 of 195 countries - by 6.1 years - between 1990 and 2015, it had not risen as much as overall life expectancy, meaning people are living more years with illness and disability. Among the world's wealthier regions, North America had the worst healthy life expectancy at birth for both men and women. Diabetes, which is often linked to people being overweight or obese, and drug use disorders - particularly with opioids and cocaine - cause a disproportionate amount of ill health and early death in the United States, the study said. Its other key global findings were:

- 1- Seven out of 10 deaths are now due to non-communicable diseases such as cancer, heart disease, stroke and diabetes
2. Headaches, tooth cavities and hearing and vision loss each affect more than 1 in 10 people worldwide
3. There has been progress in reducing unsafe water and sanitation, but diet, obesity and drug use are an increasing threat
4. More than 275,000 women died in pregnancy or childbirth in 2015, most from preventable causes
And under 5 deaths have halved since 1990, but there has been slower progress on reducing newborn deaths. — Reuters



LONDON: This file photo of nurse Pauline Cafferkey as she is transported to an RAF Hercules aircraft at Glasgow Airport in Glasgow Scotland before she is flown to London for treatment at the Royal Free Hospital after contracting Ebola. — AP

UK NURSE WHO GOT EBOLA IN WEST AFRICA HOSPITALIZED AGAIN

A British nurse who contracted Ebola while working in Sierra Leone has been hospitalized for a fourth time. Officials said Pauline Cafferkey is in "stable condition" yesterday after being rushed to Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow, Scotland. Officials say she is undergoing "routine

monitoring" by infectious disease specialists. Cafferkey was hospitalized in a specialty unit shortly after she returned to Britain from West Africa at the end of 2014. She has been readmitted twice to hospitals since then with complications linked to the often-fatal disease. — AP

CLINIC
PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
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M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAFP. PEM

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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (06/10/2016 TO 12/10/2016)

SHARQIA-1			
DEEPWATER HORIZON	12:30 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	2:00 PM
DEEPWATER HORIZON	2:45 PM	STORKS	4:15 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	5:00 PM	STORKS	6:15 PM
MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	7:30 PM	DEEPWATER HORIZON	8:15 PM
DEEPWATER HORIZON	10:00 PM	DEEPWATER HORIZON	10:30 PM
DEEPWATER HORIZON	12:15 AM	DEEPWATER HORIZON	12:45 AM
SHARQIA-2		AVENUES-1	
LAF WA DAWARAN	11:30 AM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	1:30 PM
STORKS	11:30 AM	SULLY	4:15 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	1:45 PM	OPPAM - Malayalam	6:30 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	4:00 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	9:30 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	6:15 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	11:45 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	8:30 PM	AVENUES-2	
LAF WA DAWARAN	10:45 PM	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	12:00 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	1:00 AM	DEEPWATER HORIZON-2D- 4DX	2:45 PM
SHARQIA-3		MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	5:15 PM
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	11:30 AM	HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS: PART 1	8:00 PM
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	2:15 PM	DEEPWATER HORIZON-2D- 4DX	11:00 PM
STORKS	5:00 PM	AVENUES-3	
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	7:00 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	11:30 AM
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	9:45 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	1:45 PM
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	12:30 AM	LAF WA DAWARAN	4:00 PM
MUHALAB-1		LAF WA DAWARAN	6:15 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	11:30 AM	LAF WA DAWARAN	8:30 PM
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	1:45 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	10:45 PM
STORKS	4:15 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	1:00 AM
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	6:15 PM	AVENUES-4	
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	9:00 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	12:00 PM
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	11:45 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	2:15 PM
MUHALAB-2		LAF WA DAWARAN	4:30 PM
DEEPWATER HORIZON	11:30 AM	LAF WA DAWARAN	6:45 PM
DEEPWATER HORIZON	1:45 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	9:00 PM
MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	4:00 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	11:15 PM
PREMAM - Telugu	4:00 PM	360°-1	
MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	6:45 PM	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN -3D	12:30 PM
NO FRI+MON		MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	3:15 PM
PREMAM - Telugu	6:45 PM	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	6:00 PM
DEEPWATER HORIZON	9:30 PM	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	8:45 PM
PREMAM - Telugu	9:30 PM	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN -3D	11:30 PM
DEEPWATER HORIZON	12:15 AM	360°-2	
MUHALAB-3		THE DISAPPOINTMENTS ROOM	12:00 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	12:45 PM	THE DISAPPOINTMENTS ROOM	2:00 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	3:00 PM	THE DISAPPOINTMENTS ROOM	4:00 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	5:15 PM	SULLY	6:15 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	7:30 PM	SULLY	8:30 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	9:45 PM	THE DISAPPOINTMENTS ROOM	10:45 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	12:15 AM	THE DISAPPOINTMENTS ROOM	1:00 AM
FANAR-1		360°-3	
LAF WA DAWARAN	12:15 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	1:00 PM
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	2:30 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	3:45 PM
STORKS	5:15 PM	NO FRI+SAT	
STORKS	7:15 PM	OPPAM - Malayalam	3:45 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	9:15 PM	FRI+SAT	
LAF WA DAWARAN	11:30 PM	OPPAM - Malayalam	6:45 PM
FANAR-2		THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	9:45 PM
DEEPWATER HORIZON	11:45 AM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	12:30 AM
DEEPWATER HORIZON	2:00 PM	AL-KOUT.1	
MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN -3D	4:15 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	12:30 PM
MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	7:00 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	2:45 PM
DEEPWATER HORIZON	9:45 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	5:15 PM
DEEPWATER HORIZON	12:05 AM	LAF WA DAWARAN	7:30 PM
FANAR-3		LAF WA DAWARAN	9:45 PM
TANK 432	11:30 AM	LAF WA DAWARAN	12:05 AM
TANK 432	1:30 PM	AL-KOUT.2	
MIRZYA - HINDI	3:30 PM	DEEPWATER HORIZON	11:45 AM
PREMAM - Telugu	3:30 PM	DEEPWATER HORIZON	2:00 PM
MIRZYA - HINDI	6:30 PM	STORKS	4:15 PM
PREMAM - Telugu	6:30 PM	LAF WA DAWARAN	6:15 PM
TANK 432	9:30 PM	DEEPWATER HORIZON	8:30 PM
PREMAM - Telugu	9:30 PM	DEEPWATER HORIZON	10:45 PM
TANK 432	12:15 AM	DEEPWATER HORIZON	1:00 AM
MARINA-1		AL-KOUT.3	
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	1:15 PM	USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	11:30 AM
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	1:30 PM	USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	2:00 PM
MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	4:00 PM	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	4:30 PM
MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	6:45 PM	MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN	7:00 PM
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	9:30 PM	USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	9:30 PM
USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	12:15 AM	USS INDIANAPOLIS: MEN OF COURAGE	12:15 AM
MARINA-2		AL-KOUT.4	
LAF WA DAWARAN	12:45 PM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	1:15 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	3:00 PM	TANK 432	2:00 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	5:15 PM	FRI	
LAF WA DAWARAN	7:30 PM	TANK 432	4:00 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	9:45 PM	TANK 432	6:00 PM
LAF WA DAWARAN	12:05 AM	TANK 432	8:00 PM
MARINA-3		TANK 432	10:00 PM
DEEPWATER HORIZON	11:45 AM	THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN	12:05 AM

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Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2016



EasyJet warns
of profit slump

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PROTECTIONISM'S RISE 'A DELICATE BALANCING ACT'



JAKARTA: Vendors wait for customers at a market in the Indonesian capital Jakarta yesterday. — AFP

ADS FOR FOREIGN MAIDS HIGHLIGHT POOR PAY

FINDINGS SHOW POOR TREATMENT OF MAIDS IN MIDDLE EAST

JAKARTA: A survey of ads for jobs in Asia and the Middle East found that foreign domestic workers are paid most in Hong Kong, yet earn a fraction of what they would make if they worked in wealthier countries. Activists said the survey highlighted the need for action to tackle the low salaries of migrant domestic workers in the two regions and help stamp out exploitation. Of the major countries employing migrant domestic workers in Asia and the Middle East, salaries are highest in Hong Kong, at \$567 a month, according to the study by HelperChoice, a website that connects employers with domestic workers seeking jobs.

Domestic workers, mostly women from poorer South and Southeast Asian countries, often earn more than they could back home, but far below the monthly minimum wage domestic workers earn in countries such as Australia (\$2,230) or France (\$1,866), based on 40 hours of work per week, HelperChoice said. "What the survey shows is how poorly paid domestic workers are in Asia and the Middle East," said Eman

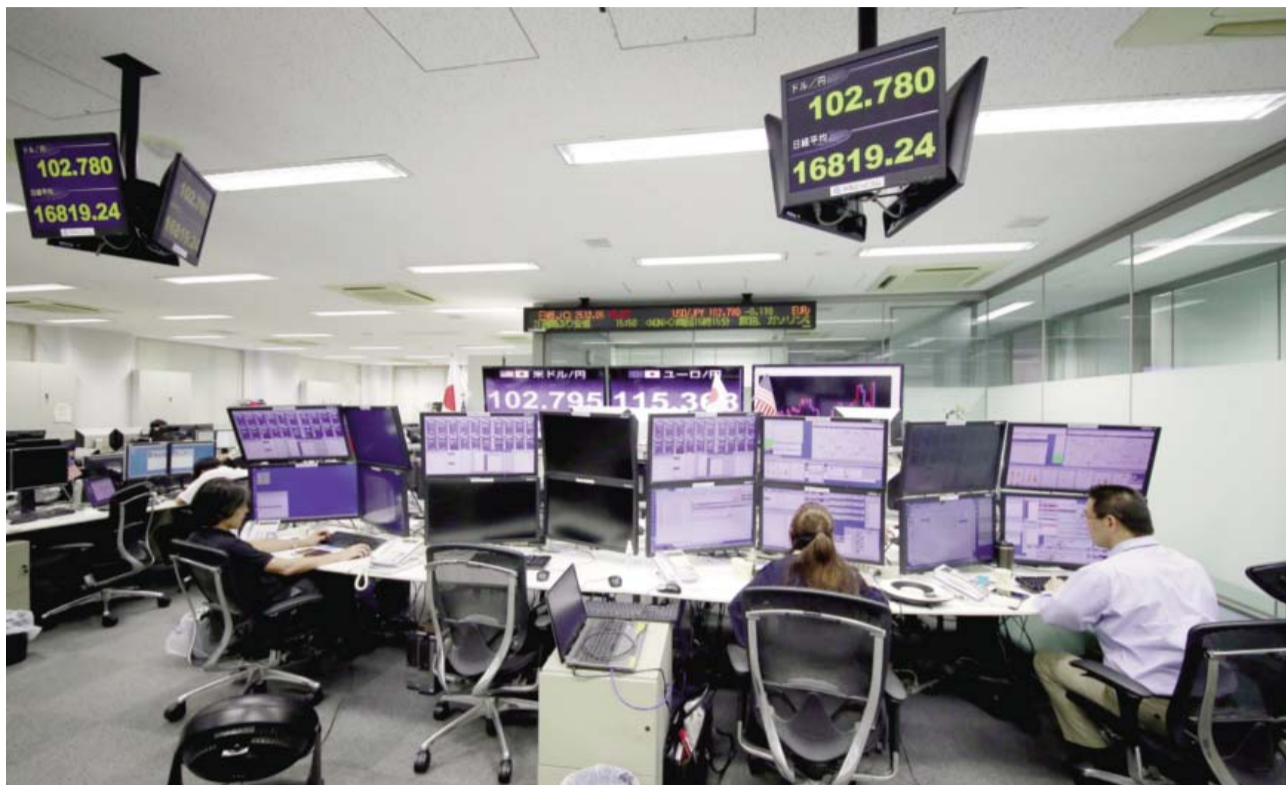
Villanueva, a spokesperson from the Hong Kong-based Asian Migrants Coordinating Body, an umbrella group representing foreign domestic helpers in the financial hub.

He said a foreign domestic worker's salary in the city - about \$1 to \$1.40 an hour based on 12 to 16 hours of work a day - is only a third of Hong Kong's minimum wage. "If other countries in Asia and the Middle East are even lower, that's a really, really sad situation for domestic workers," Villanueva told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Activists said the findings highlight the poor treatment of maids in Asia and the Middle East, where nearly half of the world's 52 million domestic workers are employed, according to the International Labor Organization.

Families in Asia and the Middle East rely heavily on domestic workers to cook, clean and care for children as well as the elderly. Hong Kong, which has more than 300,000 foreign domestic workers, mainly from the Philippines and Indonesia, has set a minimum wage for these workers at \$556 per month,

but Villanueva said they have been pushing for a hike to at least \$645 a month and better terms. He said current employment regulations - similar across Asia and the Middle East - require a domestic worker to live with their employers without regulated working hours, encouraging abuse and exploitation.

"It creates a situation where a worker is working 24 hours non-stop. When the baby cries or when there is something to attend to, the employers can just knock on our door," said Villanueva, a Filipino who has been a domestic worker in Hong Kong for 25 years. The average salary for a domestic worker is \$439 in Singapore, \$431 in Qatar and Saudi Arabia, and \$388 in Kuwait, according to the HelperChoice study. By comparison, in Thailand, the average salary for foreign maids from neighboring Myanmar is between \$123 and \$143, according to a survey by the MAP Foundation, a migrant rights group based in Chiang Mai, Thailand.— Reuters



TOKYO: Money traders monitor computer screens with the day's exchange rate between yen and the US dollar at a foreign exchange brokerage in Tokyo. — AP

GOLD LOSES SHINE AS US FED FEELINGS LIFT DOLLAR

EUROPEAN SHARES CHOPPY

LONDON: Growing expectations that US interest rates will rise before the end of the year lifted the dollar and bank shares yesterday but took the shine off gold, one of the year's best-performing assets so far. Investors were already looking to US jobs data today as the dollar hit a four-week high against the yen and pinned Britain's sterling firmly to a three-decade low. European shares endured a choppy session. Beaten-down banking stocks provided the biggest boost, while reports of a takeover sent German lightbulb maker Osram to a record high.

German industrial orders data also came in surprisingly strong but the region's big markets - Britain's FTSE, Germany's DAX and France's CAC - still dipped in and out of the red. Wall Street was also set for a subdued start. "By and large the dollar is continuing to trade well," said Societe Generale strategist Alvin Tan. "Expectations about the Fed raising rates are edging up and that has been helped by the good run of US data ... The big one though is tomorrow with the non-farm payrolls report."

Strong US jobs numbers could cement expectations of a Federal Reserve rate increase, most likely in December. The median forecast of economists polled by Reuters is for payrolls to rise by 175,000. The Fed-sensitive two-year US government bond yield reached a four-month high of 0.857 percent on Wednesday as rate futures markets started pricing in a more than 60 percent chance rates would rise before the end of the year. Europe's benchmark bond yield edged back below zero, however, as minutes of the European Central Bank's last meeting soothed investors' nerves about it eventually winding down its stimulus program.

Euro-zone yields, including the bloc's top-rated German debt, which is usually seen as a safe haven in times of stress, have shot higher this week after reports about possible ECB moves. The minutes said underlying price growth showed no sign of recovery and "it was therefore of crucial importance to preserve the very substantial degree of monetary support currently embedded" in its forecasts.

Losing shine

A growing number of Fed officials have expressed the need for higher rates in recent weeks and US traders were getting ready for a pre-payrolls appetiser in the form of weekly jobless claims figures due at 1230 GMT (8:30 a.m. ET). The threat of tighter monetary policy in the US and possibly Europe in future as well hit precious metals hard. Gold slumped to \$1,264.7 per ounce, just off a 3 1/2-month low of \$1,262.2 it had hit overnight. Silver also sagged to \$17.69 after having tumbled to \$17.565 per ounce, its lowest since late June. "A surprise on the upside (of US jobs numbers) will make market watchers expect an even higher probability of a rate hike and that could bring gold prices down," said OCBC Bank analyst Barnabas Gan.

"I would advise to buy on dips for gold simply because the fall in gold prices is very much driven by very short-term factors," Gan said, who has a year-end forecast of \$1,350 an ounce. In the currency market, the dollar rose to a one-month high of 103.67 yen and last stood at 103.63 yen. The British pound was at a new three-decade low of \$1.2666 on worries about Britain's exit from the European Union. The euro slipped too to \$1.1185, as the dollar's jostling and lingering concerns over the health of Deutsche Bank and other parts

of the banking system offset the lacklustre speculation about ECB tapering.

Oil prices began to perk up ahead of US trading having slipped from three-month highs after Saudi Arabia trimmed the price of its flagship crude in Asia. International benchmark Brent futures was last at \$51.93 a barrel, after rising as high as \$52.09 on Wednesday, the highest since early June. US crude futures traded at \$49.85, flat on the day but up 2.7 percent on the week. "Markets are hoping that they will not just agree on a cut next month but will also come up with a series of cuts in the future," said Hirokazu Kabeya, chief global strategist at Daiwa Securities. "But unless we have more evidences of cooperation, it is hard to see oil prices rising much further." — Reuters

OIL HOLDS NEAR 2016 HIGHS AFTER US INVENTORY DROP

LONDON: Oil prices held steady yesterday, underpinned by a surprisingly large drop in US inventory levels the previous day to stay within sight of this year's highs hit in June. Brent crude futures were virtually unchanged at \$51.85 per barrel at 1120 GMT, after hitting a high of \$52.09 the previous day. US futures were down 9 cents at \$49.74 a barrel. Both contracts hit their highest in nearly four months on Wednesday after US data showed crude oil stockpiles fell 3 million barrels last week to 499.74 million barrels, confounding expectations for an increase.

Still, inventories are near record highs and even the prospect of a modest cut in production from the world's largest exporters might not be enough to fuel a more sustained rally, analysts said. "Optimism on the OPEC deal and surprising

storage declines pushed oil prices to the upper end of the recent trading range. Both trends are temporary and unlikely to mark the easing of the oil supply glut," said Norbert Ruecker, head of commodity research at Swiss bank Julius Baer.

"We see more downside than upside from today's price levels," he added. Traders said a decline in prices early in yesterday's session reflected a weaker physical crude market after top exporter Saudi Arabia cut the price of its crudes to Asia for November in a sign that the global fuel glut is persisting. Hefty refinery maintenance in Europe, and the ensuing drop in demand for crude, has also put the physical North Sea oil market under pressure, forcing sellers to offer barrels of grades such as Forties at their weakest since July. — Reuters

ASIA STOCKS UP

TOKYO: Asian shares firmed yesterday thanks to stronger US economic data, while growing prospects of a near-term US rate hike and possible tapering of stimulus in Europe hit gold and lifted the dollar to one-month highs versus the yen. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.4 percent while Japan's Nikkei gained 0.6 percent. On Wednesday, US S&P 500 Index gained 0.43 percent, led by banks and energy companies. US services sector activity recovered sharply in September from six-year low hit in August, following similarly upbeat news from US factories on Monday.

"Both manufacturing and service indexes recovered from big falls in August. While it is not clear what the underlying US economic trend is, given the recovery in Japanese and Chinese surveys the global economic cycle appears to be rebounding for now," said Chotaro Morita, chief bond strategist at SMBC Nikko Securities. Growing optimism on the US economy boosted bets that the US Federal Reserve will raise interest rates in December. The policy-sensitive two-year US note yield hit a four-month high of 0.857 percent on Wednesday. Interest rate futures are pricing in about a 60 percent chance the Fed will hike by its December meeting. The 10-year US Treasuries yield also rose to 1.706 percent, compared to around 1.60 percent at the start of week. A strong US payrolls report today could cement expectations of a rate hike. The median forecast of economists polled by Reuters is for non-farm payroll to rise 175,000. The rise in bond yields partly stemmed from speculation the European Central Bank may eventually taper its bond buying after Bloomberg reported on Tuesday the bank would probably wind down the monthly 80-billion euro (\$90 billion) scheme.

Euro-zone bond yields have picked up since then, with Germany's 10-year Bund yield rising back to near zero percent from 2 1/2-month low of minus 0.16 percent hit last week. The spectre of tighter monetary policy in the US and Europe hit precious metals hard. Gold extended losses, hitting a 3 1/2-month low of \$1,262.2 per ounce and last stood at \$1,267.4. Silver also fell to \$17.69 after having fallen to \$17.565 per ounce, its lowest since late June. In the currency market, the dollar rose to a one-month high of 103.67 yen and last stood at 103.37 yen.

The British pound recovered slightly after hitting a three-decade low of \$1.2686 on Wednesday on worries about Britain's EU exit. It last traded at \$1.2747. The euro was little changed at \$1.1209, with pressure from concerns about the health of Deutsche Bank offset by speculation about the ECB's tapering. Oil prices rose to their highest since June on a combination of the fifth unexpected weekly drawdown in US crude inventories and hopes that major producers will agree to cut output next month. The US Energy Information Administration said crude stockpiles fell 3 million barrels last week, well below the build of 2.6 million barrels forecast by analysts in a Reuters poll.

International benchmark Brent futures rose to as high as \$52.09 per barrel on Wednesday, the highest since early June and last stood at \$51.53, up 5 percent so far this week. US crude futures traded at \$49.50, down 0.6 percent on the day but up 2.6 percent on the week. "Markets are hoping that they will not just agree on a cut next month but will also come up with a series of cuts in the future," said Hirokazu Kabeya, chief global strategist at Daiwa Securities. "But unless we have more evidences of cooperation, it is hard to see oil prices rising much further." — Reuters

NORWAY DIPS DEEPER INTO OIL RICHES

OSLO: Norway plans to spend a record amount of its oil riches next year—an election year—to stimulate its economy hit hard by oil price weakness, a budget bill presented yesterday showed. The right-wing government plans to use 225.6 billion kroner (25 billion euros, \$28 billion at current exchange rates) of its oil revenues in 2017, or 20 billion kroner more than this year. That corresponds to an extra 0.4 points of gross domestic product (GDP), the government said in the budget bill.

Norway's oil-dependent economy

has slowed considerably as a result of the falling oil price, which has dropped from around \$115 per barrel in mid-2014 to around \$50 now. But the economy is showing signs of recovery. Thanks to interest rate cuts, a weaker Norwegian krone, and an expansionary budget policy, growth is picking up and the unemployment rate appears to be topping out at the enviable level of around 5.0 percent.

Mainland GDP-excluding oil, gas and shipping—is expected to tick in at 1.0 percent this year, 1.7 percent next year, and 2.4 percent in 2018, accord-

ing to the government's forecasts. "But it's too early to say that the Norwegian economy is cured," Finance Minister Siv Jensen said as she presented the 2017 budget bill. The government therefore plans to spend up to 3.0 percent of its sovereign wealth fund, the world's largest, today worth around 7.13 trillion kroner (793 billion euros, \$886 billion euros). That's more than the 2.8 percent used this year, but less than the 4.0 percent maximum that is authorized.

The country's September 2017 legislative elections look set to be a close

race between the ruling coalition—made up of the Conservatives and the anti-immigration populist right—and the leftwing opposition. The budget bill calls for tax breaks for households, a one-point reduction of the corporate tax rate to 24 percent, a tax hike on petrol, and sets a seven-percent target for biofuels' market share. The minority government will now undertake negotiations with its centre-right allies in parliament to win their backing for the budget, which means it could see some amendments before being passed. — AFP

PROTECTIONISM'S RISE 'A DELICATE BALANCING ACT'

DEFENDING GLOBALIZATION - BUT ACKNOWLEDGING THE PAIN

WASHINGTON: Protectionism's rise in Europe and the United States is pushing the world's economic leaders toward a delicate balancing act: defending globalization but acknowledging the pain that sometimes comes with it. With the US presidential elections a month away, the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund kicked off this week in Washington with a stern warning: For the world to turn its back on trade now would only worsen the ills of a flagging global economy.

"Increasing pressure for inward-looking policies are a particular threat to the global outlook," the IMF said in downgrading growth forecasts for advanced economies, pushing concerns about Deutsche Bank's stability and China's commercial debt binge into the background. The president of the World Bank, Jim Yong Kim, urged world governments to banish "the storm clouds of isolationism and protectionism," saying that open borders had lifted a billion people out of poverty in over a quarter century.

Unreceptive audience

Long bandied about by the major international financial institutions, this message faces an increasingly unreceptive audience. In the United States, long a bastion of trade liberalization, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has rallied supporters by promising a trade war with China and retaliatory import duties on Mexico. Across the Atlantic, the British vote to secede from the European Union threatens to spur other countries to roll back economic integration in Europe. The free-trade pact currently under negotiation with the United States, known as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, faces stiff resistance in Europe.

Bit by bit, globalization finds itself accused of depressing wages, causing industrial decline and keeping low-skilled workers unemployed. Against a backdrop of sluggish global trade, these accusations extend far beyond the insular clique of activist NGOs and are starting to threaten established dogma. But

Germany says it will hold the line. "We are committed to build an open world economy, reject protectionism, promote global trade and investment," German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble said in a statement published Wednesday on the IMF's web site. And for now, only a few countries, such as Poland, have gone so far as to enact protectionist measures.

A reckoning

But the possibility of a re-set, or at least a rhetorical one, is setting in amongst the world's financial centers, which fear they risk encouraging populist movements by remaining deaf to the rising grievances about globalization. The IMF and its managing director Christine Lagarde have been foremost in this reckoning, conceding that global growth benefits too few and globalization's losers should receive dedicated support.

In an opinion piece published Wednesday in *The Wall Street Journal* and co-authored with the heads of the

World Bank and World Trade Organization, Lagarde also said global trade should benefit everyone. "Despite the tremendous benefits of trade, too many people feel it has left them behind," the co-authors said. "Transforming trade into an engine of growth for all... requires reinvigorating trade integration, not rolling it back."

There is no telling, however, whether this will suffice to weaken the appeal of protectionism, which is fed not only by economic malaise but also by a rejection of economic elites, which are epitomized by the World Bank and IMF. The rise of protectionism is a sign of "a fundamental distrust of the financial elites," said Paulo Nogueira Batista, vice president at the New Development Bank. "The problems that arose in the banking sectors, the multiple instances of fraud, misconduct, the failure of the organizations in Washington to face up to the challenges... this all created a mixture of resentment, a feeling that this system doesn't represent the people," he said. — AFP

IRISH CENTRAL BANK CUTS 2016 GROWTH FORECAST

DUBLIN: Ireland's central bank said yesterday it had cut its economic growth forecast for the second quarter in a row, citing weakness in exports and domestic demand. It said risks were clearly tilted to the downside due to the uncertain impact of Britain's exit from the European Union. The Irish economy will grow by 4.5 percent in 2016, down from a forecast three months ago of 4.9 percent, the bank said in its quarterly report. Ireland's finance ministry on Tuesday cut its 2016 forecast to 4.2 percent.

At that pace, Ireland will still probably be the EU's best-performing economy. But the country's focus on exports and its trade ties to Britain make it especially vulnerable to the effects of Brexit. The Central Bank said it had refrained from cutting its forecast of 3.6 percent GDP growth in 2017 as the impact of Brexit remained so unclear. The finance ministry is forecasting growth of 3.5 percent. "The initial fears in relation to the impact of Brexit on the UK economy have given way to a less pessimistic assessment in recent months," Central Bank Chief Economist Gabriel Fagan said in a statement.

But "the potential for adverse macroeconomic, financial and currency market effects to quickly re-emerge remains," he added. "In such circumstances, risks to the latest forecasts remain clearly tilted to the downside." The central bank said the cut to the 2016 growth forecast largely reflected a reduced contribution from exports, with growth of 5.6 percent seen rather than 6.4 percent, with some moderation also seen in domestic demand growth. "A wide range of domestic spending and activity indicators suggest that Irish economic activity continues to expand at a healthy pace, though growth momentum may have slowed slightly over the first half of the year," Fagan said. — Reuters

GREEK DOCTORS, PARAMEDICS PROTEST SEVERE HEALTH CUTS



ATHENS: Greek state hospital staff march in central Athens with a horse carriage transferring a mock emergency during a protest against the underfunding of hospitals and to demand hiring more staff yesterday. — AFP

ATHENS: Holding black helium balloons and parading an effigy of a dying patient, striking public hospital and ambulance workers marched through Athens to protest severe cuts in public funding for the national health service. Health care workers held a 24-hour strike yesterday, leaving hospitals running with emergency staff. Protesters marched past 10 state-run hospitals before reaching the health ministry.

Per capita spending on health has been axed by a nearly a third since 2009 as the government made cuts required by its bailout programs. That has created longer waiting lists for treatment, staff shortages, and frequent medical equipment failure at Greek hospitals. Health unions accuse the left-wing government of delaying plans to hire more hospital staff, which they argue would cover just 20 percent of jobs lost due to austerity measures. — AP

MINI 'PEPPER' ROBOTS START NEW JOBS IN TAIWAN

TAIPEI: A shiny new cohort joined the workforce in Taiwan yesterday—a troop of mini robots all going by the name “Pepper”, enlisted to entertain customers and give them the hard sell. Chinese-speaking Pepper was introduced into two banks and an insurance company in the capital Taipei, dancing to music, playing with children in lobbies and leading staff aerobics sessions. The pint-size white automatons are designed to flatter queuing customers, declaring: “It’s my honor to serve you”.

Skilled in public relations, they guess clients’ ages at far lower than reality. Then they move in for the kill, providing information on financial products and encouraging customers to go to company websites and sales staff for information. Cathay Life Insurance, Taiwan’s biggest insurer, introduced its first Pepper into its Taipei branch yesterday. The firm plans to have 10 robots island-wide, but stressed that Pepper is meant to supplement its human colleagues, not sideline them. “Pepper’s job is to greet customers and introduce products to make the wait for services less boring,” said Rachel Wang, the insurer’s executive vice president.

“We hope it can do more in the future, but it definitely won’t replace our staff,” she said. Standing 120-centimetres tall, the robot was first unveiled by Japanese mobile carrier SoftBank in 2014, whose French arm Aldebaran developed the technology. Pepper has a wide-eyed face perched on top of a white plastic body, with rollers and what looks like a tablet computer on its chest showing its name. The robots have already been introduced into other workplaces around the world, including in Japan and France.—AFP



JAKARTA: Vendors serve customers at a market in Jakarta yesterday. —AFP

TRUMP'S FACTORY JOBS SENT TO CHINA MAY NEVER COME BACK

DONGGUAN: US presidential candidate Donald Trump has pledged to bring long lost American manufacturing jobs back from China. But he may be too late—even for products that bear his family name. A Chinese company that makes shoes for his daughter’s fashion line is moving production to Africa, where labor is much cheaper. The billionaire tycoon has frequently accused China of stealing US jobs through unfair trade practices and currency manipulation, while simultaneously relying on the country to make Trump-branded goods.

But the kind of work that goes into making such products may never return to America, the president of major footwear producer Huajian Group said.

“Some manufacturers can’t even survive in China anymore,” Zhang Huarong said, speaking in his office in the southern factory hub of Dongguan. His company has made about 100,000 pairs of Ivanka Trump-branded shoes over the years, according to spokesman Liu Shiyuan. In August it filled an order for 20,000 - just weeks after Trump accepted the Republican nomination, with a speech vowing to bring jobs back to the US.

It is a goal Trump plans to accomplish by imposing a 45 percent tariff on Chinese-made goods, but his focus could be misplaced: Zhang has become one of a growing number of Chinese manufacturers expanding to Africa and Southeast Asia in search of lower production costs. In 2012, Zhang opened his first factory in Ethiopia. Four years later, he is building a billion-dollar facility there. Its production lines are already humming. “My goal is to create 30,000 jobs in Ethiopia by 2020, with exports reaching \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion,” he said. Low-wage, low-skilled manufacturing jobs like those Zhang is sending to Africa are “being priced out of the Chinese market, which still pays wages far beneath even minimum wage jobs in the United States,” said Christopher Balding, professor of economics at Peking University HSBC Business School. The Trump campaign did not respond to questions from AFP, while Ivanka Trump’s company “declined” to comment.

Huajian’s shoes are a fraction of the more than 1,200 shipments of Trump-branded products that have flowed into the US from China and Hong Kong over the last decade, according to an examination of US import data by anti-Trump political action committee Our Principles PAC.

Trump has defended his family’s decision to license its name to companies that make the goods—from shoes to ties to dress shirts—in China as smart business, while slamming other US firms such as Ford and Nabisco for offshoring.—AFP

US FARMERS MAKING FORAY INTO QUINOA

DEMAND FOR GRAIN GROWS

SEQUIM: To the south of Nash Huber’s farm fields are the Olympic Mountains, peaking at nearly 8,000 feet. Due north is the end of a channel of Pacific Ocean waters that separate the United States from Canada. Yet in this corner of the country is where the 75-year-old Huber hopes the South American grain quinoa takes root. Last month, Huber harvested quinoa commercially for the first time on about 30 acres, making him the latest addition to a small number of US farmers trying to capitalize on American eaters’ growing demand for the Andean grain.

“It’s a beautiful crop,” Huber said as he surveyed his combine grinding the plants and spitting out the seeds. He chose a variety called Redhead, which turned his field lipstick red for a couple of weeks before harvest. “We’re still learning. I kind of stepped off the end of the dock here with a bit of a bite this year.” Americans consume more than half the global production of quinoa, which totaled 37,000 tons in 2012. Twenty years earlier, production was merely 600 tons, according to the United Nation’s Food and Agricultural Organization.

Yet quinoa fields are so rare in American farming that the total acreage doesn’t show on an agricultural census, said Julianne Kellogg, a Washington State University graduate student monitoring quinoa test plots around the Olympic Mountains, including one next to Huber’s field. A rough estimate puts the country’s quinoa fields at 3,000 to 5,000 acres. Quinoa’s nutritional punch

has pushed the grain beyond health food stores and into general consumption, propped up by celebrities like Oprah Winfrey. It has all the amino acids humans need, making it a complete protein, Kellogg said. That’s hard to find in grain crops, she said. It’s also gluten-free.

The grain’s future is marked with possibilities, including milk, beer, cereals, hair products, snacks - products well beyond the salad bar. “I think we’re witnessing the start of a staple,” said Sergio Nuñez de Arco, a Bolivia native whose company, Andean Naturals, has been instrumental in bringing quinoa north, distributing to Costco, Trader Joe’s and others. The spike in demand from the US and Europe led big farm operations in Peru to enter quinoa farming a few years ago. That resulted in an oversupply, and prices have been falling.

According to a July report from the US Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agricultural Service, quinoa prices plummeted about 40 percent between September 2014 and August 2015. “Farmers are rotating out of quinoa,” Nuñez de Arco said. “They went back to the city to look for work. It was good while it lasted, so it’s back to rural migration.” Nuñez de Arco has opened a California processing plant for the bitter coating that covers the quinoa grains. It wasn’t welcome news for his Bolivian farmers.

“There needs to be some improvement to practices and they’re gonna get that through some healthy competi-

tion,” said Nuñez de Arco, now based in San Francisco. “My push has been to protect the smaller farmer in a top-shelf niche, where they will have the demand.” In Washington state, Huber’s quinoa will head to Lundberg Family Farms, a California-based company that has been a leader in domestic quinoa production. This year, Lundberg and its network of contracted farmers along the West Coast hope to harvest 2 million pounds of quinoa.

“It’s great to have product available where folks are consuming it,” said Tim Schultz, vice president of research and development at Lundberg. “You have less food miles on it.” For more quinoa to grow in the United States, farmers and researchers must find the right mix of varieties and environments. The Washington State University plots are testing varieties for heat resistance and late-summer sprouting, among other benchmarks.

Next year, they’ll test plots in Maryland and Minnesota. “From a farmer’s perspective, it’s more options for rotations,” said Kevin Murphy, an assistant professor at the university. That’s an option that attracted Huber. Quinoa represents his first commodity crop. On a harvest day, he eyeballed a lower yield than he wanted, in part because the elk that roam the nearby woods frolicked in the quinoa fields. “I hope I break even,” he said with a laugh. “If we break even or make a little bit of money, that’ll be good because I learned quite a few things here.”—AP



LESQUIN: A plane of the low cost airline carrier EasyJet takes off at Lille-Lesquin airport. British low cost airline EasyJet warned yesterday that annual profits would slump by almost a third, hit by a Brexit-driven tumble in the pound, terror attacks and industrial action. —AFP

EASYJET WARNS OF ANNUAL PROFITS SLUMP

LONDON: British low cost airline EasyJet warned yesterday that annual profits would slump by almost a third, hit by a Brexit-driven tumble in the pound, terror attacks and industrial action. EasyJet forecast annual pre-tax profits would dive by about 28 percent to between £490 million and £495 million (\$624-\$630 million, 556-562 million euros). The news sent the company's share price sliding almost 6.5 percent in early morning deals on the London stock market. "We have been disproportionately affected by extraordinary events this year but our excellent network, cost control and revenue initiatives and our

strong balance sheet underpin our confidence in the business," said chief executive Carolyn McCall in a trading update.

On a brighter note, EasyJet also announced it had carried a record 22 million passengers in the three months to the end of September, despite what it described as "major external shocks" for the sector. "EasyJet has performed strongly in a difficult operating environment for all European airlines and in the three month period has been affected by major disruption, exchange rate fluctuations impacting holiday travel costs, the impact on demand from terrorist events

and the low cost of fuel continuing to drive increased market capacity," it said.

The airline, which is based in Luton airport north of London, forecast that the slumping pound would hit earnings this year to the tune of £90 million. That was more than double the previous guidance of £40 million. Sterling tumbled following Britain's shock June 23 vote in favor of leaving the European Union. The currency slid even further this week to fresh 31-year dollar lows after Prime Minister Theresa May vowed to kick off the Brexit process by the end of next March.

The collapsing value of the pound weighs

on EasyJet's performance because it makes dollar-priced jet fuel more expensive, ramping up the cost of running aircraft. In morning deals, EasyJet shares slid 6.38 percent to 939 pence to top the fallers' board on the London FTSE 100 index, which was down 0.1 percent at 7,023.78 points. "EasyJet is facing challenging times on a number of fronts, and it's one of the worst performing stocks in the FTSE 100 since the EU referendum," noted equity analyst George Salmon at stockbroker Hargreaves Lansdown. The airline will publish its annual results on November 15 for the group's fiscal year, which runs to September 30.—AFP

IRAN, VIETNAM PLEDGE \$2 BILLION TRADE BOOST

HANOI: Vietnam and Iran pledged yesterday to boost future trade to \$2 billion, as Tehran seeks to jump-start its sputtering economy after crippling international sanctions were lifted this year. Iran's moderate President Hassan Rouhani, in Vietnam on a three-country swing through Southeast Asia, has come under fire from conservative critics who say the nuclear deal signed with world powers has failed to bring a hoped-for economic boom. Rouhani, who was elected on a promise to normalize relations with the outside world, praised ties with Vietnam yesterday after both sides signed several deals. "The two sides agreed to increase bilateral trade turnover to \$2 billion," the Iranian president told reporters in Hanoi.

Trade between Iran and Vietnam hit \$350 million last year, according to Iran's official IRNA news agency. "In economics, cooperation opportunities are still large... but the scale of cooperation and bilateral trade are still modest," Vietnam's President Tran Dai Quang said. The landmark nuclear deal—which was reached in July 2015 and came into force in January—saw sanctions against Iran lifted in exchange for curbing Tehran's nuclear program, opening up one of the world's last untapped markets for global business.

Analysts say Hanoi and Tehran, which have both had strained relations with the United States in the past, are keen to bolster alliances beyond regional diplomatic spheres. For Rouhani, the visit marks a "turning to the East, seeing what's there, caucusing, carving out some strong economic relations, which Iran needs," said Vanessa Newby, international relations research fellow at ANU's College of Asia-Pacific Affairs. For mineral-rich Vietnam, Iran offers a key partnership in the oil and gas industry and for health and technology exchanges. —AFP

SHARES IN JAPAN'S IT GIANT FUJITSU SOARS

FUJITSU EYES PC MERGER WITH CHINA'S LENOVO

TOKYO: Shares in Japanese IT giant Fujitsu soared yesterday on news it is considering merging its struggling personal computer division with China's Lenovo, the world's biggest PC maker. A deal would mark the latest move by a Japanese firm to hive off struggling divisions to repair their finances, with Toshiba and Sony among a string of companies that have sold off assets in recent years.

Japanese personal computer makers have been scaling back their businesses as consumers move to mobile devices to check e-mail or use the web. The leading Nikkei business daily said the merger was among a number of options Fujitsu was considering for the money-losing unit. It did not give financial details. In response, the conglomerate confirmed it is looking at "various possibilities including the reported move" but did not elaborate. The firm's Tokyo-listed stock surged nearly six percent to close at 568.7 yen yesterday.

Fujitsu has been struggling to find a partner for its PC unit. It had been in talks with Toshiba and Vaio to merge their once high-flying personal computer businesses, but the talks have yet to result in a deal. The reports yesterday from the Nikkei and other Japanese media said Fujitsu and Lenovo were aiming to reach a deal by the end of this month as Fujitsu looks to focus more on its IT services business. Possible options include transferring its PC design, development and manufacturing operations to a Lenovo-led joint venture, the Nikkei said.

Another option could see Lenovo taking a majority stake in Fujitsu's PC subsidiary, it said, adding that either move could see about 2,000 Fujitsu employees move over to the Chinese company. Lenovo already has a PC joint venture with Japan's NEC. Hiroshi Sakai, a chief analyst at SMBC Friend Research Center, warned Fujitsu may be running out of time to find a buyer for its PC unit in a

shrinking market. Still, he added that its focus on corporate clients and its facilities in Japan could be attractive for a potential suitor. "Fujitsu's PC division still has strong footing and holds reasonable domestic share so it's attractive for a future business partner," he said.

Once mighty Japanese firms have been selling off assets in recent years as they struggle to reorganize in the face of stiff competition from lower-cost rivals overseas, including in China and South Korea. Earlier this year, Sharp agreed to a buyout that would see it taken over by Taiwan's Hon Hai, better known as Foxconn, after the Japanese industrial mainstay was pummeled by huge losses and mounting debts. China's Midea Group has bought a little more than 80 percent of loss-making Toshiba's home appliances arm, while Sony has unloaded a string of assets to claw back to profitability, including its laptop unit and a Manhattan office building.—AFP

GILLASPIE'S BLAST LIFTS NY GIANTS OVER METS

NEW YORK: Conor Gillaspie belted a three-run home run in the top of the ninth inning Wednesday to lift the San Francisco Giants to a 3-0 victory over the New York Mets in the National League wildcard game. Giants pitcher Madison Bumgarner produced another playoff gem, throwing a four-hit shutout as San Francisco ousted the defending National League champions to book a NL Division Series against the Chicago Cubs.

The Giants, winners of the World Series in 2010, 2012 and 2014, will be aiming to douse the fervent hopes of a Cubs team who have amassed the best regular-season record in the major leagues as they chase a first World Series title since 1908. The Giants have now won their last six knockout games dating back to the 2012 National League Division Series. Bumgarner gave up two walks, struck out six and threw 120 pitches, 79 for strikes. He has allowed only one run in his past 30 post-season innings dating back to the start of the 2014 World Series. The Giants defied the dominance of Mets starting pitcher Noah Syndergaard, who took a no-hitter into the sixth inning.

Syndergaard allowed two hits with three walks and struck out 10 in seven scoreless innings. But Brandon Crawford led off the top of the ninth with a double against Mets relief pitcher Jeury's Familia. After Familia struck out Angel Pagan, Joe Panik walked to bring Gillaspie to the plate. Gillaspie, who started at third base only because Eduardo Nunez had a strained hamstring, belted a 1-1 pitch over the right field fence to put the Giants up 3-0.

"I was trying to get something elevated, that was pretty much my only chance against him," said Gillaspie. "Pretty much the whole game I was spinning off balls, so I was telling myself to stay in there as much as I could, and trust I could get there." Bumgarner retired three straight Mets batters in the bottom of the frame to seal the win. "Great to move on and get going to Chicago," said Bumgarner. "Ain't much to say. That's a big game for us



NEW YORK: San Francisco Giants second baseman Joe Panik, left, throws the ball to third as New York Mets' TJ Rivera (54) is caught in a rundown during the fifth inning of the National League wild-card baseball game. — AP

right there, and we were fortunate to get some late runs, and we got the win."

Pitchers' duel

It was a tense pitchers' duel between Bumgarner and Syndergaard for most of the night. Neither team got a runner past first base until New York's TJ Rivera led off the fifth

with a double. He was then caught in a rundown between second and third on Rene Rivera's one-out ground ball. San Francisco put a runner on second in the sixth, when Denard Span broke up Syndergaard's no-hitter with a two-out single. Span stole second before Brandon Belt hit a high fly to center field, where Curtis Granderson crashed into

the wall making the catch to a roar of appreciation from the crowd of 44,747.

Syndergaard was lifted after seven innings and his stellar effort went for naught. "Everybody knows what kind of stuff he's got," Bumgarner said of his opposite number. "We were fortunate to get his pitch count up, get him out of the game." — AFP

A LOOK AT ALL 16 POTENTIAL WORLD SERIES MATCHUPS

NEW YORK: With the wild-card games out of the way, there are now four teams left in each league and 16 possible matchups for the World Series. Here's a list of them all - and what would make each of them noteworthy. The matchups are listed in descending order of likelihood, using probability figures from Fangraphs.com heading into Thursday's action.

DODGERS vs. RED SOX (11.7% chance)

Dave Roberts might still be able to dine for free in Boston after his role in the 2004 postseason for the Red Sox, but he manages Los Angeles now. These two franchises met in the World Series 100 years ago, when the Dodgers played in Brooklyn and were called the Robins. One can only imagine what Magic Johnson, a part owner of the Dodgers, would think about having to go through Boston to win a title in baseball.

CUBS vs. RED SOX (10.1%)

We were a few plays from Baseball Armageddon in 2003, but the pennants slipped away from the Cubs and Red Sox. Since then, Boston has ended its long wait for a championship and added two more titles for good measure, so if the Red Sox do meet the Cubs in the World Series this year, the narrative figures to be less about dueling curses and more about Theo Epstein.

DODGERS vs. BLUE JAYS (9.2%)

Russell Martin received his first All-Star nod in 2007 when he was 24 and playing for the Dodgers. Three teams later, he's with the Blue Jays and remains one of the game's more productive catchers.

CUBS vs. BLUE JAYS (7.9%)

This "Original Six" World Series between Chicago and Toronto would have the hockey fans - and the Great Lakes enthusiasts - excited.

GIANTS vs. RED SOX (6.7%)

Avert your eyes from this matchup if you'd like to see some new blood in the World Series. Boston and San Francisco have won a combined six titles since 2004. The Red Sox and New York Giants met in the 1912 World Series, which went to a winner-take-all Game 8 because Game 2 had ended in a tie. Boston won in 10 innings with the help of a dropped fly by Fred Snodgrass.

DODGERS vs. RANGERS (6.6%)

A homecoming for Dallas native Clayton Kershaw, plus the potential for a head-to-head matchup between Yu Darvish and Japanese countryman Kenta Maeda.

DODGERS vs. INDIANS (6.3%)

Another throwback matchup: Cleveland

and Brooklyn played a best-of-nine World Series in 1920, with the Tris Speaker-led Indians prevailing in seven.

NATIONALS vs. RED SOX (6.1%)

This would have looked considerably more intriguing if Jonathan Papelbon were still on the Nationals.

CUBS vs. RANGERS (5.7%)

Has there ever been a World Series with a 90-degree game in one city and a snow delay in the other?

CUBS vs. INDIANS (5.4%)

In another year, the Indians might be huge sentimental favorites as they try to win their first World Series title since 1948, but good luck making that argument if this is the matchup.

GIANTS vs. BLUE JAYS (5.3%)

The Giants very nearly moved to Toronto in 1976, but they remained in the Bay Area after being bought by Bob Lurie. The Blue Jays played their first season as an expansion team in 1977.

NATIONALS vs. BLUE JAYS (4.8%)

Canada's team against the team that left. There would be some interested observers in Montreal, oui?

GIANTS vs. RANGERS (3.8%)

A rematch of the 2010 World Series, which the Giants won in five. Madison Bumgarner was 21 when he pitched in that postseason, blanking Texas for eight innings in Game 4.

GIANTS vs. INDIANS (3.6%)

Willie Mays and Vic Wertz. A 111-win Cleveland team going down in four straight. There's lots of history here - and if the Giants take a 3-1 lead in the series but have a key player suspended for Game 5, Bay Area fans might have a sinking feeling about what comes next.

NATIONALS vs. RANGERS (3.5%)

Washington fans old enough to remember the Senators are also old enough to remember where they moved after the 1971 season. Even Redskins-Cowboys would have to take a backseat to this DC-Texas rivalry for a couple weeks. Maybe.

NATIONALS vs. INDIANS (3.3%)

When the Nationals were still the Expos, they traded Cliff Lee, Grady Sizemore and Brandon

Phillips to the Indians for Bartolo Colon. It was a lopsided trade in Cleveland's favor - but then again, Colon may end up outlasting them all. — AP

ROSE FIGHTS AGAINST RAPE ALLEGATION IN CIVIL LAWSUIT

LOS ANGELES: A woman who says Derrick Rose and two friends gang-raped her wept quietly in court as her lawyer provided jurors with lurid descriptions but the NBA star's defense fired back by portraying the encounter as something from a porn film, not a horror movie.

Opening statements began Wednesday in the woman's \$21.5 million federal court lawsuit, which claims she was either drugged or had drunkenly passed out before the sexual encounters at her apartment in August 2013. She was the victim of a "classic gang rape" by a man - Rose - who has never shown remorse and told New York Knicks President Phil Jackson that he'd lost no sleep over the matter, attorney Waukeen McCoy said.

Rose, 28, didn't appear for the start of trial - he was in Houston a day earlier for the Knicks' preseason opener - but he was expected in court Thursday. The six women and two men empaneled as jurors on Wednesday found themselves listening to play-by-play descriptions of the encounter. But they had pained expressions as the woman's lawyer provided a graphic description of what he described as a callous assault as she faded in and out of consciousness.

"The plaintiff will tell you all three men were in the bedroom at the same time," McCoy said. "Each of them took turns raping her, they don't even know who went first." As he spoke, the 30-year-old woman leaned forward so her long dark hair covered her face and dabbed at her eyes with tissues. The Associated Press is not naming her because it generally does identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault.

No criminal charges have been filed against Rose but Los Angeles police continue to investigate. In sharp contrast to McCoy's statement, defense lawyers doubled down on their assertions that the accuser willingly had sex with the trio at Rose's mansion in Beverly Hills. They said the woman gave lap dances earlier under a sky full of stars by the side of Rose's pool overlooking city lights, performed oral sex on Rose and had sex with his two friends before inviting them back to her apartment.

Rape still being questioned

"There was no gang rape," attorney Mike Monico said. "There was no rape at all." McCoy said the story about her having sex earlier in the night was falsely concocted to try to show she was insatiable and wanted to have sex with the men later that night. Jurors will have to rely primarily on her word against that of Rose and the other two men, Ryan Allen and Randall Hampton. There is no physical evidence because the woman was not examined by a doctor afterward and did not report the rape to police for two years - after filing the \$21 million suit. McCoy said the woman was too embarrassed to initially report the incident. After sex, Rose took his condom, put it back in the wrapper and took it with him "like he was never there," McCoy said. NBA players are instructed to flush their condoms down the toilet or take them so women can't use the sperm to impregnate themselves, Rose's lawyer said.

Rose was traded to the New York Knicks this season after spending his previous seven years in his native Chicago with the Bulls. He's in the final year of a five-year deal that will pay him \$21.3 million, almost identical to what the plaintiff is seeking. — AP



NEW YORK: In this June 24, 2016, file photo, Derrick Rose speaks during a news conference at Madison Square Garden. — AP



PITTSBURG: Pittsburgh Penguins's Patric Hornqvist, right, collides with Detroit Red Wings goalie Jared Coreau (31) in the second period of an NHL preseason hockey game. — AP

RED WINGS BEAT PENGUINS, ISLANDERS GO PAST DEVILS

PITTSBURGH: Martin Frk and Brendan Smith scored late in the second period to lead the Detroit Red Wings to a 4-2 exhibition victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Wednesday night. Gustav Nyquist had a goal and two assists, Tyler Bertuzzi had a goal and an assist, and Jared Coreau finished with 30 saves for Detroit.

Carter Rowney and Kris Letang scored earlier in the second period for the defending champion Penguins to tie the score. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 25 shots. With about 6 seconds left on Chris Kunitz's penalty for hooking, Frk took a pass from Bertuzzi across the front of the goal and, while falling to a knee, fired it past Fleury to give Detroit a 3-2 lead with 4:49 left in the second. Smith's wrist 2:13 later made it a two-goal game, and Steve Ott's short-handed empty-netter with 17 seconds remaining capped the scoring. Nyquist and Bertuzzi scored in the first to give Detroit a 2-0 lead.

Beauviller lifts islanders

At Newark, New Jersey, Anthony Beauviller scored the tiebreaking goal with 6:40 left in the New York Islanders' 3-2 victory over the New Jersey Devils. Andrew Ladd and Alan Quine also scored for the Islanders, and Thomas Greiss stopped 19 shots to beat the Devils for the second time in three nights.

Ben Lovejoy and Adam Henrique had goals for New Jersey, and Cory Schneider finished with 30 saves. Quine got the Islanders on the scoreboard first,

snapping a shot past Schneider with 4:42 left in the opening period. Lovejoy tied it 2:20 later, and Henrique's third of the preseason put the Devils ahead at 8:25 of the second. Ladd, who signed with New York in the offseason, got his second on the power play to tie it with about 8 1/2 minutes remaining in the middle period.

Capitals beat Blues

At Kansas City, Missouri, TJ Oshie and Christian Thomas scored two goals each to lead the Washington Capitals to a 4-2 victory over the St. Louis Blues. Daniel Winnik had two assists for the Capitals, who have won three straight. Vladimir Tarasenko and Dmitrij Jaskin scored for the Blues. Thomas scored the tiebreaking goal off a pass from Winnik with about 3 1/2 minutes left in the first period. Oshie made it 3-1 at 7:38 of the second, and Thomas gave Washington a three-goal lead near midway through the third off another pass from Winnik. Jaskin pulled the Blues within two in the final minute.

Avalanche stay perfect

At Dallas, Andreas Martinsen scored the only goal and Calvin Pickard had 28 saves to lead the Colorado Avalanche to a 1-0 victory over the Stars. Martinsen scored off a pass from Ben Smith at 8:25 of the opening period, and the Avalanche improved to 5-0 in the preseason to remain the only unbeaten team. Colorado visits the Los Angeles Kings in its final game before the season opener at home against the Stars on Oct

15. Kari Lehtonen finished with 19 saves for Dallas.

Skinner lifts Hurricanes

At Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Jeff Skinner scored the lone goal in a shootout to give the Carolina Hurricanes a 3-2 victory over the Buffalo Sabres. Roland McKeown and Elias Lindholm gave Carolina a 2-0 lead in regulation. Evander Kane pulled Buffalo within one in the second period and Justin Bailey tied it with a short-handed goal in the third. Eddie Lack made 20 saves for Carolina.

Sabres center Ryan O'Reilly left because of lower-body injury in the first period. He was making his preseason debut with Buffalo after helping Canada win the World Cup of Hockey. The Sabres announced he was held out of the rest of the game for precautionary reasons. The teams also played Tuesday night in Marquette, Michigan, with Buffalo winning 2-0.

Tkachuk stars for flames

At Calgary, Alberta, 18-year-old Matthew Tkachuk scored in regulation and added the shootout winner in the Calgary Flames' 2-1 victory over the Arizona Coyotes. Tkachuk, the sixth overall pick in the June draft, was the only shooter to score in the shootout, zipping a shot into the top corner on Mike Smith. Christian Dvorak scored for Arizona at 6:12 of the first period, and Tkachuk tied it 29 seconds later. Brian Elliott stopped 22 shots for the Flames, and Smith made 36 saves. — AP



DURBAN: South African batsman and Captain Faf du Plessis plays a shot during the third ODI between South Africa and Australia at Kingsmead cricket stadium. — AFP

SOUTH AFRICA CHASES DOWN AUST'S 371 TO WIN ODI SERIES

DURBAN: David Miller thumped 118 not out from No 6 to take South Africa to the second-highest successful run chase in one-day international cricket and a series win over Australia on Wednesday. On his home ground, Miller blasted his 118 from just 79 balls, with 10 fours and six sixes, as South Africa made 372-6, overtaking Australia's 371-6 with four balls of the last over to spare. Miller's third ODI century - surely his best - gave South Africa an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-game series, and gave the Proteas their first ODI series win over Australia in seven years. He did it while hobbling with a groin injury for much of

the latter part of his innings. "It's a special one," Miller said of his match-winning knock. "You don't get those ones too often."

Miller and South Africa completely overshadowed an impressive batting effort from top-ranked Australia after the tourists, desperate to stay alive in the series, opted to bat first. Opener David Warner made 117, captain Steve Smith added 108, and Australia posted the highest ODI total at Kingsmead. That record lasted just a few hours. South Africa's victory revived memories of the game between the two countries in 2006, when Australia made 434 and

South Africa chased that down for what's still by some way the highest run chase to win an ODI.

On Wednesday, Australia slipped to a third straight loss on the tour, this time by four wickets but possibly the most painful considering the situation. "We posted 370, which is a pretty good score," Australia captain Smith said. "You don't lose too many games scoring 370. We've just got to keep learning and trying to find a way to win." Facing an imposing target, openers Quinton de Kock (70) and Hashim Amla (45) gave South Africa its early momentum, but the home team was teetering having lost six wickets when Miller took control.

The big-hitting left-hander had crucial support from Andile Phehlukwayo, the fast bowler playing just his fourth one-day international and who hit a career-best 42 not out to carry South Africa home alongside Miller. South Africa stayed with or near the required run rate for much of its chase, but when Miller and Phehlukwayo came together they still needed 107 runs off 74 balls. Phehlukwayo got away with one when he appeared to edge behind early in his knock. Umpire Adrian Holdstock said not out and Australia didn't have any decision referrals left.

Miller crunched a four to backward square leg to get to his century, and Phehlukwayo attacked anything he could, hitting four fours and two sixes. He hit a looping reverse sweep to win the game and the series, causing raucous celebrations in the South African dressing room. "I would rank that up there as the best win I've been involved in," South Africa captain Faf du Plessis said. — AP

WAR GAMES IN BANGLADESH AHEAD OF ENGLAND BATTLE

DHAKA: Bangladeshi army commandos abseiled into the national stadium yesterday in a show of strength designed to reassure England's cricketers over their security on the eve of the opening ODI of their controversial tour. More than a dozen commandos scaled down ropes from helicopters hovering over the nets at Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, which is hosting the first two games in a three-match series beginning on Friday night.

The side is being skippered by Jos Buttler after regular one-day captain Eoin Morgan decided not to go on the tour in the wake of an attack by jihadists earlier this year on a cafe full of foreigners. Twenty-two people were killed in July's assault on the

Holey Artisan Cafe in Dhaka's upmarket Gulshan district, casting doubt over whether Bangladesh's security forces could guarantee the England team's safety. But speaking to reporters yesterday, Buttler insisted there had been no sense of unease among the players since they had arrived last weekend.

"Everything has been in good order. Travel to and from the ground has been great for us although I'm sure it's been a bit frustrating for the locals," he said in reference to road closures ordered on security grounds. "Security has been great so far, I think the guys within the group haven't even mentioned it. That's fantastic for us as the guys in the group are very settled and focused on cricket." — AFP

INDIA EYE NZ WHITEWASH AS KOHLI SEARCHES RUNS

INDORE: India skipper Virat Kohli will look to lead Test cricket's new number one side to a whitewash in the series finale against New Zealand starting tomorrow-and halt a rare slump in his own form in the process. Since scoring his first Test double century against the West Indies in July, the normally prolific Kohli has failed to pass 50 in any of his subsequent seven innings and is averaging only 20 against the Black Caps.

India's comfortable wins in the first two matches of a three-Test series have allowed them to overtake Pakistan at the top of the rankings and also divert attention away from Kohli's downturn in form. New Zealand's Trent Boult dismissed the right-hander both times in the second Test in Kolkata after his strike partner Neil Wagner had softened him up the other end with a string of bouncers. Kohli, who has been widely praised for soaking up the additional pressure since taking over from MS Dhoni as Test captain last year, has been playing down the concerns about his own form.

"I don't think there is anything called form. It's how you feel on a particular day," the 27-year-old said in comments carried by Indian media this week ahead of the third Test at Indore's Holkar Stadium. "My own form? I don't really think about these things, because cricket is a game where you prepare well but the result cannot be in your hand all the time, especially batting where you have only one chance."

Kohli aside, India's batting has been sound in the first two Tests but Shikhar Dhawan's broken thumb has opened the door for a recall at the top of the order for veteran Gautam Gambhir. The aggressive left-hander, who enjoyed a successful opening partnership with the now retired Virender Sehwag, played the last of his 56 Tests on India's tour of England in the summer of 2014. But he has forced his way back into contention after a strong showing on the domestic circuit.

Kumar blow

There will also be a change to the bowling line-up after medium-pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who took six wickets in Kolkata, was ruled out on Wednesday with a back strain and the uncapped Shardul Thakur drafted in as a replacement. New Zealand are expected to welcome back skipper Kane Williamson, who missed the second Test due to a viral infection. The Black Caps will be aiming to avoid their second successive series whitewash in India after losing the 2012 rubber 2-0. The tourists have performed well in patches but have been guilty of failing to push home their advantage at key moments.

Senior batsman Ross Taylor, who led the team in Kolkata, said New Zealand were still keen to display their aggressive brand of cricket in the final Test. "We're still fizzing to go for Indore, hopefully we can play some fear-free cricket to put India under pressure," Taylor said after the 178-run loss in Kolkata. "We've tried to be aggressive, we always try and be aggressive. It didn't work this time but we will still be aggressive in the next Test and hopefully we can get a better result." There had been question marks over whether the Test would go ahead following a row between the Indian board and a Supreme Court-appointed panel which has order the organisation to institute reforms.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had privately threatened to cancel the series after their accounts were allegedly frozen by the panel but they later stepped back from the brink. The match marks the first time the Holkar Stadium, located in Indore in Madhya Pradesh state, has hosted a Test match and the pitch is expected to favour batsmen and seam bowlers.

Squads

India: Virat Kohli (captain), Murali Vijay, Gautam Gambhir, Cheteshwar Pujara, Karun Nair, Ajinkya Rahane, Rohit Sharma, Wriddhiman Saha (wicketkeeper), Ravichandran Ashwin, Amit Mishra, Ravindra Jadeja, Jayant Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Shardul Thakur.

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (captain), Trent Boult, Doug Bracewell, Jeetan Patel, Martin Guptill, Tom Latham, BJ Watling (wicketkeeper), Henry Nicholls, Luke Ronchi, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Matt Henry, Jimmy Neesham, Ross Taylor, Neil Wagner. — AFP



BEIJING: Zhang Shuai of China celebrates after defeating Simona Halep of Romania during the women's singles match of the China Open tennis tournament. — AP

HOME HERO ZHANG STUNS HALEP TO REACH CHINA OPEN QUARTERS

BEIJING: Home hero Zhang Shuai cruised past Simona Halep to book a quarter final place at the China Open yesterday in rain-hit Beijing. Zhang overpowered fifth-ranked Halep in less than an hour, beating her 6-0, 6-3 to delight the home crowd in the Chinese capital.

It was a day of upsets as Elina Svitolina ousted top seed Angelique Kerber, scuppering her plans of a 12th quarter-final this season, and intermittent rain interrupted-and then suspended-play on the open-air outer courts. It was the Ukrainian's second win this year over a world number one after she denied Serena Williams a fifth Olympic gold medal with a straight set win in the third round in Rio.

In the roofed National Stadium, the home fans' cheers carried Zhang into the quarter finals for the first time in seven attempts, dropping just three games en route. The 27-year-old began the year with a first-round upset of Halep at the Australian Open-her first win in a Grand Slam main draw, which left her in tears. But there were no tears

yesterday-just huge smiles and an ecstatic audience.

Meanwhile, 19th-ranked Svitolina beat Kerber-who ascended to the top of the rankings at the US Open, the same week she also claimed her second Grand Slam crown-with a 6-3, 7-5 win. "When they announce (the names at the start of the march) you have this weird feeling because you realize you're playing against world number one", Svitolina said after the match. "I try to really don't think about it. If I think too much, I lose my way," she added.

'Nothing for free'

Kerber, who had her right thigh taped during the match, had a break lead in each set but appeared glued to the baseline and was unable to take control. "I know that I have to move very well when I play my game, and I couldn't play my game like I play," Kerber told reporters. The German still plans to play in Hong Kong next week as she chases points to end the year atop the rankings-but her right leg may alter her plans.

"Still it's in my schedule to play Hong Kong. It's right after the match, so I don't know exactly with my leg or whatever. But it's still in my schedule," she said. Briton Johanna Konta scored her first ever win over US Open finalist Karolina Pliskova in a three set tie break, 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (7/2). With a victory over the sixth-ranked Czech, Konta-currently at number 14 moves closer to breaking into the top ten for the first time. The win also moves the 25-year-old into tenth position in the race for the eight-player WTA Final in Singapore, meaning she could play if one of the eight dropped out.

But if fellow quarter-finalist Petra Kvitova, currently 12th in the race, continues her stellar Asian run, the Briton could be nudged out. Agnieszka Radwanska put friendship aside to secure her second consecutive win over former number one Caroline Wozniacki in the pair's third meeting in as many weeks. Third-ranked Radwanska booked her quarter-final spot on the third match point with a dash to the net to return a drop shot from the Dane. — AFP

SMITH DRAMA A MAJOR CHALLENGE FOR BLACKS

DURBAN: With no other rugby team coming close to unsettling New Zealand, the drama and distraction of scrumhalf Aaron Smith's suspension appears to be the biggest obstacle between the All Blacks and another supremely dominant season. Even then, it's unlikely that the incident and Smith's absence for the world champion's final test of the Rugby Championship in South Africa - when the All Blacks could equal the record for consecutive wins - will derail one of the most impressive teams in world sport and its 16-game streak.

On the field, TJ Perenara provides such a strong backup at No. 9 that New Zealand won't be any weaker without Smith. And off the field, an unshakeable team culture that has created a consistent level of excellence since the first of back-to-back World Cup wins in 2011 means it's hard to see any dip in focus. Former South Africa coach Heyneke Meyer, whose team lost to New Zealand in last year's World Cup semifinals, told South African media this week that it was what went on behind the scenes with the All Blacks that made them the best.

"What people don't understand," Meyer said, "is that whatever happens off the field translates directly into what happens on it. This is where the All Blacks are ahead of the rest." Meyer described how the stars of the All Blacks, rugby's most famous team, weren't above cleaning the dressing room. "They've got an unbelievable team culture where senior players sweep the dressing room. It's all about the team and there are no prima donnas," Meyer said. That made Smith's indiscretion last month - entering a disabled toilet with a woman while he was traveling with the team - shocking to New Zealanders. It's such a big deal that Prime Minister John Key weighed in, saying Smith had let himself and the team down.

Team ethic

The All Blacks put so much trust in their team ethic, an ethic now under scrutiny because of Smith, that a group of senior players were part of the decision to suspend him for tomorrow's game against the Springboks in Durban. "The leadership group met and were unanimous in the fact that behavior was not acceptable," said Steve Hansen, the thick-set, straight-talking head coach who has been with the All Blacks' staff for 12 years. Smith's actions also prompted recollections in New Zealand of the last and only other time an All Black left a tour for disciplinary reasons: Keith Murdoch was sent home from Wales in 1972 for punching a security guard after he was refused entry to a closed bar.

The Smith controversy broke as New Zealand's squad arrived in South Africa after a member of the public complained belatedly about the airport incident, and Smith asked to be allowed to go home. He'll face a misconduct hearing, and a media storm, back in New Zealand. In Durban, the challenge for the rest of the All Blacks is to charge through the distraction and on to a record-equaling 17th test win in top-tier rugby, and give the game's most celebrated team a chance at another accomplishment, the outright world record, at home against Australia in two weeks. — AP

ROSBERG WARY OF HAMILTON BACKLASH

SUZUKA: Nico Rosberg is bracing himself for a backlash from wounded Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton after seizing the initiative in the Formula One title race. Hamilton, the reigning world champion, looked to be cruising to victory in Malaysia last weekend before his engine blew up as Rosberg's battling third-place finish allowed the German to open a 23-point lead with five races left. Rosberg, whose feud with Hamilton has threatened to boil over in previous years, predicted yesterday that Hamilton would come back strong in the championship run-in.

"I don't draw encouragement from (Hamilton's troubles)," insisted Rosberg, who threw away a 43-point advantage earlier this season. I don't really think too much about Lewis's misfortune, I think

more about my situation. "Anyways I know that Lewis, when he has difficulties like that, will come back fully-motivated," he added. "So it's not really encouraging to know that he's going to come back as strong as ever." In stark contrast to Hamilton, who angrily tore into Mercedes after his third engine failure of the season in Sepang, Rosberg is enjoying a purple patch of form, having won three races in a row before Malaysia.

"I really learnt to manage my energies and know where not to waste energies in rubbish stuff," said Rosberg. "There for sure I've made big progress. It's important to me and I really like to take that approach." Asked to elaborate, he smiled: "The rubbish stuff would be reading the news, for example, or

playing computer games, or going partying until five in the morning." It was not clear if that remark was a sly dig at Hamilton and his elaborate lifestyle, but Rosberg is in the form of his life and a first-ever victory in Suzuka this weekend would severely dent Hamilton's title hopes.

Rosberg played down concerns that technical problems could decide the championship race. "I'm not worried because I have learnt to put my energy into things that I can influence-and that's something I definitely can't influence," said the 31-year-old, who finished second behind Hamilton last year after starting on pole. "I also have all the trust in the team," added Rosberg, who suffered an ERS (energy recovery system) problem in the 2014 title decider in Abu Dhabi. — AFP



SAITAMA: Japanese forward Shinji Okazaki (L) fights for the ball with Iraqi defender Ahmed Ibrahim (R) during the 2018 World Cup football qualifying match between Japan and Iraq. — AFP

YAMAGUCHI RESCUES JAPAN AGAINST IRAQ AS SYRIA SLAM CHINA'S HOPES

SAITAMA: Substitute Hotaru Yamaguchi's 95th-minute winner rescued Japan and their stuttering World Cup qualifying campaign as they escaped with a 2-1 victory over Iraq yesterday. The Blue Samurai were headed for an ignominious draw in Saitama when Yamaguchi smashed a loose ball from a corner through a forest of legs and into the Iraqi goal. The result gave Japan their second win in three final-round qualifiers and boosted under-fire coach Vahid Halilhodzic, who has endured calls for his resignation and has suffered reported player unrest.

It also lifts Japan's hopes of reaching a sixth straight World Cup at Russia 2018 as they draw temporarily level on points with Group B pace-setters Australia and Saudi Arabia, who face each other later. As Borussia Dortmund forward Shinji Kagawa watched from the bench, Japan dominated the early possession but rarely threatened, with Hiroshi Kiyotake's 11th-minute piledriver their closest sight of goal.

But Genki Haraguchi put the hosts ahead with a brilliant piece of skill as he flicked Kiyotake's cross through his legs and beneath the diving body of goalkeeper Mohammed Hameed on 26 minutes. AC Milan's Keisuke Honda should have made it 2-0 a minute later but he hit his close-range half-volley straight at the busy Hameed. Iraq nearly equalised in first-half injury-time but Alaa Abdul-Zahra's volley, from a sweeping ball that dropped over his head, bounced kindly for Japan 'keeper Shusaku Nishikawa.

However, Iraq rocked the four-time

Asian champions on 60 minutes when Saad Luaibi nodded Ahmed Yaseen's free kick just inside the post and past the diving Nishikawa. Not content with a draw, Iraq poured forward in search of a shock victory, but it was Honda who very nearly grabbed the clincher when his header came off the post in the 80th minute. And as six minutes of injury-time ticked away, Hiyotake's cross rebounded to 67th-minute substitute Yamaguchi, who buried the winner to send the stadium into ecstasy. The top two sides from two groups of six book their ticket to Russia, while the two third-placed teams go into a play-off series.

Syria's rocks China's World Cup hopes

Syria dented China's bid to reach a second World Cup when they pulled off a stunning 1-0 qualifying upset yesterday. Mahmoud Al-Mawas's breakaway goal in the 54th minute settled a gritty game in Xian which left China stranded on one point from their first three games in Group A. Seventy-eighth ranked China have ambitions of hosting and even winning a World Cup, but Al-Mawas dented their hopes of reaching the tournament for a second time at Russia 2018.

The bustling, bearded forward latched onto a long ball and prodded his first touch past on-rushing goalkeeper Gu Chao before controlling the bouncing ball into the net. Syria should have made the game safe in the 73rd minute but Omar Kharbin managed to miss an open goal from Al-Mawas's inviting cutback. Syria, despite playing

their home games at neutral venues because of the conflict in their country, now climb above China in Group A to draw level on four points with mighty Iran, who play Uzbekistan later.

Super Son fires Korea past Qatar

In-form Tottenham Hotspur forward Son Heung-Min grabbed the winner as South Korea came from behind to beat Qatar 3-2 and take a step towards the 2018 Russia World Cup yesterday. After South Korea trailed 2-1 at half-time, the hosts levelled through Ji Dong-Won before Son extended his electric scoring run with the decisive strike on 58 minutes.

Uli Stielike's team saw out the last 24 minutes a man down after Hong Jeong-Ho was sent off, compounding a miserable evening for the defender after he gave away a penalty for Qatar's opener. While South Korea march on in the final qualifying round, Qatar look unlikely to reach their first World Cup before hosting it in 2022 as they remain pointless and bottom of Group A after three games.

South Korean captain Ki Sung-Yueng opened the scoring with a low shot that skipped past the diving Saad Al Sheeb after 11 minutes. But Qatar hit back and they won a penalty when Hong was booked for taking down Sebastian Soria. Captain Hassan Al Haydos stepped up and struck it past Kim Seung-Gyu. And the Gulf state wasn't done yet as Soria made it 2-1 just before half-time, flicking Rodrigo Tabata's cross past Kim Seung-Gyu. — AFP

FIFA CHIEF 'OPEN' TO 48-TEAM WORLD CUP

ZURICH: FIFA president Gianni Infantino confirmed in an exclusive interview with AFP yesterday that he backs expanding the World Cup to 48 teams, giving "more of a chance to more teams". Infantino believes "a fundamental point" for an expanded finals would be to have it co-hosted "by several countries". He also declared himself "quite happy and confident for the future" of the scandal-tainted world governing body of football.

"Nobody is perfect, I am the last to be. But I don't steal, I don't profit, I don't cheat and I don't want to allow anyone in this organisation to do so," he said. Infantino, 46, succeeded the disgraced Sepp Blatter at the head of FIFA, and is determined to stamp his own authority on the job as president and on the sport's future. He had already suggested that he would be in favour of a 40-team World Cup, up from the current 32.

"We can consider a World Cup of 48 teams which would in fact be a 32-team format because we have seen that the ideal format is 32 teams," explained Infantino. "The idea would be that the best 16 teams in qualifying would qualify directly for the group phase." He confirmed that the 32 other teams would dispute a play-off round from which the winners would enter the next stage to join the other 16 countries. "This gives more chances for more teams. Furthermore, there would be no impact on the football calendar because these play-off matches would be played instead of friendlies before the World Cup.

'16 finals'

"From the point of view of the promotion of football, there would be '16 finals' before the real start of the group phase, real matches taking place to determine the 16 teams." Swiss-Italian lawyer Infantino said that the projected increase to 48 teams "is certainly going to be discussed on October 13 and 14 when the next FIFA Council meets". "It's a project, it's an idea just as the World Cup with 40 teams is already on the table with groups of four or five teams. "We will certainly make a decision next year. We need to see what the impact for football at international level is going to be." The suggestion to widen the World Cup to 48 countries is bound to generate mixed emotions.

The 2016 European Championship in France, organized by Infantino's former employers at UEFA, featured 24 teams in a month-long tournament with just eight countries being eliminated at the end of the first stage.

Watered down

Many argued that the format caused quality to be watered down; others were buoyed by seeing the likes of Wales make the semi-finals while Iceland stunned England on their way to the quarter-finals. Infantino believes a 48-team World Cup would represent "a high sporting level because from each play-off the best teams would qualify.

"People talk a lot about a decline in the standard but in my opinion the quality of the Euros was not less good, on the contrary. There were teams who you could not imagine could be so strong and the level was very high." Away from a new-look World Cup, Infantino told AFP that he is also committed to forging a fresh and clean FIFA after a series of corruption scandals since May 2015.

Infantino, who was the right-hand man of suspended Michel Platini in his UEFA career, believes he has the desire and the personnel to put FIFA's dark days behind them. He underlined the importance of the work "of the new general secretary Fatma Samoura, the development of women's football and the integration of former players like Zvonimir Boban, assistant secretary general, and Marco Van Basten in the area of technical development".

"I was elected on a program of reforms, I have a lot of belief in these reforms and their implementation" he added, hailing the measures taken in the context of "good governance and transparency in financial movements". "There is obviously still work to do but I am quite happy and confident about the future."

He also vowed yesterday that the 2026 World Cup bidding process will be free of the controversy that surrounded the selection of Russia as 2018 hosts and Qatar in 2022. Infantino was responding to a recent claim by US President Barack Obama that decisions on who hosts the Olympics and World Cups are corrupt. "I can't speak about the past. — Agencies

GERMANY HOPING TO FIX MISFIRING ATTACK

BERLIN: Germany host the Czech Republic tomorrow in the first of back-to-back World Cup 2018 qualifiers targeting two home wins despite missing main striker Mario Gomez. The Germans face the Czechs at Hamburg's sold-out Volksparkstadion Stadium, then face Northern Ireland four days later in Hanover looking to score, even with Wolfsburg's Gomez out with a glutes injury.

"This isn't just about picking up three points," team manager Oliver Bierhoff told magazine Kicker ahead of the Hamburg game. "We want to send out a clear message, in the direction of the 2018 World Cup." The main concern in the German camp is efficiency—finishing chances and converting pressure into goals — an old problem which re-emerged at the European championships when Germany lost to France in the semi-finals.

"We weren't efficient enough," said Bierhoff, reflecting on their Euro 2016 campaign. "The unbelievable potential which we have has to be used better and we must have more purpose in the final third of the pitch." Germany kicked off their Group C campaign with a 3-0 win over Norway in Oslo last month when Thomas Mueller netted twice.

With Gomez missing, the onus again falls on Bayern Munich's Mueller (two goals in nine club games) and Borussia Dortmund's Mario Goetze (one goal in five games) to hit the back of the net for their country. The Czech Republic won the last meeting, in October 2007, when they stunned the Germans in Munich with a 3-0 win in a Euro 2008 qualifier. Germany's head coach Joachim Loew is the only survivor in either squad from the defeat nine years ago.

The Czechs were held to a goalless draw by Northern Ireland in Prague at the start of September. Germany captain Manuel Neuer says both qualifiers will test die Mannschaft's attack, especially with Gomez injured. "It's a shame that Mario is out, he's a classic striker, but we have others who can step in and who are very flexible," said Neuer in Thursday's press conference in Duesseldorf. "We know how hard it will be to get goals against these teams, who are two of the strongest in the group. "We want to be first in the group and we're hoping for a good atmosphere on Saturday to help us get a good result." —AFP

LONG WAIT SEEMS OVER FOR GAMEIRO

PARIS: It's been a long wait for Kevin Gameiro. But in the absence of the injured Olivier Giroud and with Karim Benzema still out of the France squad, the Atletico Madrid forward will finally get the opportunity to establish himself for good in Didier Deschamps' team. Gameiro, who joined Atletico in the offseason for a reported 30 million euros (\$34 million), is expected to start alongside Madrid teammate Antoine Griezmann when France takes on Bulgaria on Friday at the Stade de France in a World Cup qualifier. The European Championship runners-up, who were held to a 0-0 draw by Belarus in their Group A opener, will then travel to Amsterdam to play the Netherlands three days later. Griezmann, the top scorer at Euro 2016, is Deschamps' first choice, with Gameiro, Andre-Pierre Gignac, Anthony Martial and Nabil Fekir in competition to replace Giroud. The Arsenal striker, who has not started a game this season with his club, has been hindered by a toe injury while Benzema - who has not appeared for France since being charged with blackmail over a sex-tape scandal - still has no place in the plans of Deschamps, at least on a short-term basis.

The double absence of Benzema and Giroud is likely to benefit the 29-year-old Gameiro, who has strong credentials for his inclusion. His main asset is the promising relationship he has started to build with Griezmann at Atletico. Despite Fernando Torres' competition that has been limiting his playing time, Gameiro has scored three goals and delivered as many assists in nine appearances. "Individually, both of them are quality players and the fact that they are playing together with their club is a good thing," Deschamps said. "They can improve their chemistry."

Gameiro started his international career six years ago and was regularly called by previous France coach Laurent Blanc, until a friendly game against the United States in November 2011. The former Sevilla player then had to wait nearly five years before wearing the France jersey again.—AP



LOME: This file photo taken on June 9, 2013 shows a Togolese mascot taunting Cameroonian supporters before the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying football match Togo vs Cameroon at the Kpegue Stadium in Lome. After two years without football championship due to an institutional crisis, Togolese fans are delighted to see the return of the sport. —AFP

NIGERIA, SOUTH AFRICA SEEK REDEMPTION IN WORLD CUP

JOHANNESBURG: Africa Cup of Nations title-holders want to seek redemption by finishing two of the five African places at the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Five-time World Cup qualifiers Nigeria appear to have the tougher task after being placed with Algeria, Cameroon and Zambia, undoubtedly the 'group of death' among five four-team mini-leagues. But it is not going to be much easier for South Africa as they try to top a section including in-form Senegal, confident Burkina Faso and Cape Verde, a team ranked No. 1 in Africa for part of this year. Veteran Zambia goalkeeper Kennedy Mweene scoffs at media suggestions that the Chipolopolo (Copper Bullets) are in Group B just to make up the numbers. "When the media say you are no-hopers and certain to finish last, that motivates you," he warned Nigeria ahead of a Saturday showdown in central city Ndola. "Deep down, Algeria, Cameroon and Nigeria know it is not going to be easy playing against us. Being outsiders suits us just fine."

Caretaker Zambia coach Wedson Nyirenda rewarded ZESCO United for reaching the CAF Champions League semi-finals against the odds by including seven of their stars. Zambia also

failed to reach the 2017 Africa Cup, coming third in a group won by minnows Guinea-Bissau, so the pressure on Nyirenda is almost as much as that on opposite number Gernot Rohr.

"Do not forget that Zambia are a big team, too," stressed Germany-born Rohr, the recent successor to Sunday Oliseh in one of the hottest African coaching seats. "They were the 2012 Nations Cup winners. "The group is open, but I think the motivation of the Nigerian team is very high. Time is not on my side, but it is possible to build a very good team."

Injuries hamper stars

Injuries have ruled out English Premier League pair Isaac Success and Victor Moses, but Manchester City teenage star Kelechi Iheanacho is poised to trouble Mweene. Cameroon will be up against it in Blida, a city where Algeria are virtually invincible and scored seven goals each against Ethiopia and Tanzania within the past 12 months.

No coach is more conscious of making a good start than Ephraim 'Shakes' Mashaba of South Africa, considered by most of the domestic media as lucky to still be in the post. A home draw with lowly Gambia followed by an away loss at football middleweights Mauritania left Bafana with a Cup of Nations mountain to scale, and they never looked like reaching the summit.

Poor finishing has been a long-running problem with former defender Mashaba surprisingly reluctant to accept responsibility. "We are brilliant when it

comes to building up, but have real problems in the final third of the pitch," he conceded. He has recalled beanpole Eleazar Rodgers from local outfit Wits, who can be lethal in the air and is also good at retaining possession in a lone-striker role.

Winger Gervinho will be the only survivor of the Ivory Coast 'golden generation' on show against Mali in Bouake after the recent retirement of talisman Yaya Toure and the resting of rusty Salomon Kalou. Ghana will lack injured midfielders Andre 'Dede' Ayew and Kwadwo Asamoah when they host Uganda in Tamale, but veteran striker Asamoah Gyan is fit to captain the Black Stars. Here are five facts ahead of 2018 World Cup Africa qualifying fixtures this weekend:

- Cameroon have qualified for the World Cup the most times from Africa with seven appearances since 1982.

- Of the 13 African countries who have played at the World Cup, only Angola and Togo failed to reach the group phase of the 2018 elimination competition.

- Not more than three of the five 2014 African qualifiers can reach Russia as Algeria, Cameroon and Nigeria have been grouped together and only the winners go to the finals.

- Ivory Coast and Ghana are hoping to equal the 1990-2002 record of

- Cameroon and qualify for four consecutive tournaments.

- Although Egypt have won the Africa Cup of Nations a record seven times, the last of only two World Cup appearances was 26 years ago. —AFP

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KOLKATA: India's captain Virat Kohli plays a shot during the third day of the second Test match between India and New Zealand at the Eden Gardens cricket stadium. —AFP

India eye NZ whitewash as Kohli searches runs