

Alghanim
Industries
supports
education



Medical license
dept explains
verification
process



Turkish tanks
roll into Syria,
opening new
line of attack



Djokovic
through in
32 minutes,
Nadal breezes



150 FILS

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40 PAGES

KUWAITIS TOLD TO CHECK PHONES, LAPTOPS BEFORE TRAVELING TO US

CITIZENS URGED TO COOPERATE WITH US AIRPORT OFFICIALS



Min 30°
Max 49°
High Tide
01:46 & 13:33
Low Tide
07:48 & 20:14

US, CHINA RATIFY PARIS CLIMATE DEAL

HANGZHOU, China: The United States and China yesterday formally joined the Paris climate change agreement, with President Barack Obama hailing the accord as the "moment we finally decided to save our planet". The move by the world's two biggest polluters is a major step forward for the 180-nation deal, which sets ambitious goals for capping global warming and funneling trillions of dollars to poor countries facing climate catastrophe.

Obama and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping handed ratification documents to UN chief Ban Ki-moon, who said he was now optimistic the agreement will be in force by the end of this year. At a ceremony in the Chinese city of Hangzhou, Obama said climate change would "define the contours of this century more dramatically than any other challenge". History would show that the Paris deal would "ultimately prove to be a turning point", he said, "the moment we finally decided to save our planet". "There's an American saying, You need to put your money where your mouth is. That's what we're doing."

The Paris accord aims to limit global temperature increases to two degrees centigrade, and will be triggered after it is ratified by at least 55 countries, accounting for 55 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. The US and China are together responsible for some 40 percent of the world's emissions, so their participation is crucial.

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HANGZHOU, China: Chinese President Xi Jinping (center), US President Barack Obama (right) and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon shake hands during a joint ratification of the Paris climate change agreement ceremony ahead of the G20 Summit at the West Lake State Guest House yesterday. — AFP

DUBAI: Kuwait has advised citizens to make sure their phones or laptops contain no material that might be seen as being linked to extremist militants before traveling to the United States, the state news agency reported yesterday, after three men were denied entry in July. KUNA quoted a statement by the Kuwaiti embassy in Washington as saying that authorities at "some US airports may check the contents of mobile phones or other smart mobile equipment".

"The embassy of the state of Kuwait in Washington urged citizens to make sure that their phones or laptops do not contain any materials or photos of extremist nature, related to areas of conflict or terrorist organizations or footage of violence of all kinds before entering US territories," KUNA said, citing a statement. "(This is) so that students and citizens may be spared questioning by authorities in US airports and to avoid any action against them that could result in cancelling their visas and banning them from entering US territories," it added.

The Arabic language Al-Rai newspaper reported in July that three businessmen were questioned for 21 hours at Los Angeles airport and had their telephones checked before they were turned back, in the second incident of its kind this year. Kuwait is a key US ally and a member of an international alliance led by the United States which is fighting against Islamic State in Syria. In July, the United Arab Emirates, another close Gulf Arab ally of the United States, told its male citizens to avoid wearing traditional white robes and headress when travelling abroad, after a businessman was wrestled to the ground at an Avon, Ohio hotel and held as an Islamic State suspect. — Reuters



DAVAO CITY: Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte (center) inspects the site of a bomb blast at a night market early yesterday. — AFP

DUTERTE DECLARES 'STATE OF LAWLESSNESS' AFTER ATTACK

DAVAO: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte declared a nationwide "state of lawlessness" yesterday after suspected Abu Sayyaf extremists detonated a bomb that killed 14 people and wounded about 70 in his southern hometown. Duterte, who inspected the scene of Friday night's attack at a night market in downtown Davao city, said his declaration did not amount to an imposition of martial law. It allows troops to be deployed in urban centers to back up the police in setting up checkpoints and increasing patrols, he said.

An Abu Sayyaf spokesman, Abu Rami, claimed responsibility for the blast near the Jesuit-run Ateneo de Davao University and a five-star hotel, but Duterte said investiga-

tors were looking at other possible suspects, including drug syndicates, which he has targeted in a bloody crackdown. "These are extraordinary times and I supposed that I'm authorized to allow the security forces of this country to do searches," Duterte told reporters at the scene of the attack, asking the public to cooperate and be vigilant.

"We're trying to cope up with a crisis now. There is a crisis in this country involving drugs, extrajudicial killings and there seems to be an environment of lawless violence," said Duterte, who served as mayor of Davao for years before being elected president in June.

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UZBEK STRONGMAN KARIMOV BURIED

BANGLADESH HANGS ISLAMIST FINANCIER

DHAKA: Bangladesh hanged a wealthy tycoon and top financial backer of its largest Islamist party late yesterday for war crimes, dealing a massive blow to the group's ambitions in the Muslim-majority nation. Mir Quasem Ali, a key leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, was executed after being convicted by a controversial war crimes tribunal for offences committed during the 1971 independence conflict with Pakistan.

The 63-year-old was hanged at the Kashimpur high security jail in Gazipur, some 40 km north of Dhaka, amid stepped-up security outside the prison and in the capital. "The execution took place at 10:35pm (1635 GMT)," the country's law and justice minister Anisul Huq told AFP. Six opposition leaders have now been executed for war crimes after the secular government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina set up a domestic war crimes tribunal in 2010.

With Ali's death, all five top leaders of the Jamaat party have been hanged, a massive setback for the Islamists in the world's third largest Muslim nation. After the Supreme Court rejected his final appeal against the penalty on Tuesday, Ali declined to seek a presidential pardon, which would require an admission of guilt, paving the way for his execution. Prosecutors said Ali was a key commander of the notorious pro-Pakistan militia in the southern port city of Chittagong during the war, and later became a shipping, banking and real estate tycoon.

The war crimes trials have divided the country, with supporters of Jamaat and the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) branding them a sham aimed at eliminating their leaders. The executions and convictions of Jamaat officials plunged Bangladesh into one of its worst crises in 2013 when

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SAMARKAND: Uzbekistan laid strongman Islam Karimov to rest yesterday amid tight security, after his death triggered the deepest period of uncertainty in the country's post-Soviet history with no clear successor in view. Karimov, 78, was pronounced dead late Friday after suffering a stroke last weekend and falling into a coma, authorities said, following days of speculation about his rapidly failing health.

An Islamic funeral for the iron-fisted leader - who dominated the ex-Soviet nation for some 27 years - was held in his home city of Samarkand, southwestern Uzbekistan, yesterday and the country will begin three days of mourning. Russian

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and the presidents of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan were among dignitaries attending the memorial service on the famed UNESCO World Heritage site of Registan Square.

Uzbek state television showed footage of mourners carrying Karimov's coffin through a crowd in the historic square which is encircled by blue-domed madrasahs. "Our people and Uzbekistan have suffered an irreplaceable loss," Russian news wire Interfax quoted Uzbek Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev as saying at the ceremony.

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SAMARKAND, Uzbekistan: (From left front) Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, Tajikistan's President Emomali Rakhmon and Kyrgyzstan's Prime Minister Sooronbay Jeenbekov stand at the grave of Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov during his funeral ceremony yesterday. — AP

ROMEO THE MIRACLE DOG SURVIVES ITALY QUAKE

ROME: A golden retriever called Romeo has been pulled from the rubble of Italy's earthquake, more than nine days after he was given up for dead. Touching footage filmed by the firemen who saved him shows the shaggy dog being lifted out from under a pile of masonry that is all that remains of his owners' house. Appearing completely relaxed, Romeo slurps his first drops of water in more than 230 hours from a bottle held by one of the firemen.

As it becomes clear he is unscathed, the fireman holding him puts him down. Romeo then tiptoes gracefully down the pile of rubble to be reunited with tearful owners who had given up hope of finding him alive. "He's in great shape," says one of the firemen as others whoop in delight while Romeo trots around what remains of his yard. As he sniffs out familiar smells with trademark retriever

insouciance, he looks for all the world as if he has just woken from a short nap.

Romeo's owners were sleeping on the second floor of their house in the tiny village of San Lorenzo a Flaviano when the earthquake struck before dawn on Aug 24. They managed to get out, but Romeo, who was sleeping on the first floor, was trapped inside. After searching for him for hours, they were eventually evacuated from the devastated village for their own safety. All hope of finding Romeo alive appeared to have disappeared until Friday evening, when the couple returned to their home in the company of a group of firemen assigned to help them recover key belongings from the rubble.

Almost as soon as they came into the tiny medieval village, Romeo heard their voices and began barking. "We immediately began

moving masonry from where the barking was coming from and incredibly we got to him and he was in pretty good condition," one of the firemen told the ANSA news agency. "Luckily some beams had fallen in a way that they were holding up the weight of everything above them leaving Romeo with a little niche that he was able to survive in."

No human survivors of the quake have been found since the evening of Aug 24, when four-year-old Giorgia was pulled out alive after being located by another canine hero of the disaster, Leo. A Labrador who works as a police sniffer dog, Leo, was granted an audience with Pope Francis yesterday, two days after he was guest of honor at a summit between Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

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SAN LORENZO E FLAVIANO, Italy: A image grab from video shows Italian firemen carrying a golden retriever called Romeo, after he was pulled from the rubble of a house in this tiny village on Friday. — AFP

In Brief

4TH AFRICA SUMMIT

KUWAIT: Kuwait will lead the Arab side in the third meeting of the preparatory committee for the 4th Arab-Africa Summit, Assistant Foreign Minister for African Affairs Ambassador Hamad Al-Mashaan said. The summit is slated for November in Malabo, capital of Equatorial Guinea. The meeting, to be held tomorrow, will review the logistic arrangements for the event made by the Arab League Secretariat and the African Union Commission (AUC), including the final drafts and documents of the summit, Mashaan said. — KUNA



PALESTINIAN PRESS

CAIRO: The Federation of Arab Journalists (FAJ) strongly condemned Israel's closure of a Palestinian radio station in Hebron, the West Bank, for three months. Raiding the Sanabel radio on August 31, the Israeli forces arrested five journalists working in the station there. FAJ urged the international organizations to immediately intervene and provide protection for the Palestinian media and press. FAJ statement called for re-opening Sanabel and releasing the journalists. This barbaric measure constitutes a flagrant violation of the international conventions and norms, FAJ said. — KUNA



POETRY ACADEMY

KUWAIT: Director of recreational activities in the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Abdullah Al-Adwani announced on Saturday the start of a 'Poetry Academy' as the first scientific academy concerned with Arabic and folk poetry. Adwani said in a press statement that the idea behind creating a poetic academy is meant to produce young poets and critics to be able to enrich cultural life in the Kuwaiti society, as well as to promote youth self-confidence to enter the cultural arena and impact positively to promote national identity. — KUNA



Photo

o f t h e d a y



KUWAIT: People watch the sunset at the beach near Souq Sharq. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

3,000 LUPUS PATIENTS IN KUWAIT: OFFICIAL



KUWAIT: Head of the Rheumatic and Blood Disorders Department of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital Dr Aqail Al-Muhana speaks at the conference. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Around 3,000 people have been diagnosed with Lupus disease in Kuwait, head of the Rheumatic and Blood Disorders Department of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital Dr Aqail Al-Muhana said yesterday.

Muhana provided those statistics in a statement at the sidelines of the first 'Conference on Coagulation', organized by the Ministry of Health (MoH), with a contingent of more than 400 doctors, both from Kuwait and abroad in attendance.

Moreover, Muhana noted that around 1,000 patients suffer from blood and rheumatic disorders, adding that the goal of the conference is to provide them with the latest methods to cure these diseases.

Speaking on the purpose of the conference, Muhana said that it aims to educate the society on the types of rheumatic and blood disorders, as well as the ways to boost immunity against these diseases which would in turn, promote health knowledge.

A highly obscure disease, Lupus is a chronic disease that attacks the immune system, causing inflammation, pain and swelling of joints and other organs in the body. Treatment of this diseases depends on the symptoms and the severity of the condition, as women are 10 times more susceptible to Lupus than men. — KUNA



KFH CONCLUDES ACTIVITIES OF 'BAITI READING' CLUB

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) successfully concluded the activities of 'Baiti Reading' Club held at That Al-Salasil Library - Avenues mall after 8 sessions that witnessed the participation of 250 children aged 4-7 years old holding 'Baiti' card throughout the month of August. This initiative encouraged reading skills in children and brought back books to life again and retained its value as one of the most significant and highly sophisticated tools of knowledge.

Children were invited to participate in this event through various social media channels. KFH aims to make children get used to reading books and visit libraries in a very existing and interesting way and in a very friendly and pleasant atmosphere. Fully integrated programs are presented to participants including headlines review, narration of stories and rehearsal of certain alphabets suitable for their age, decoration of book marks, competitions, games, presents and prizes. This aims to support the main goal to encourage reading and libraries in children's hearts and minds

The program targeted Baiti

Account customers aged 4-7 years old
- 2 days a week 10:00 am - 12:00 pm -
Wednesday and Thursday only.

Parents were highly satisfied and happy with these events and activities and praised KFH for this initiative.



NBK HONORS FOURTH, FIFTH BATCHES OF AUB 'HIGH FLIERS'

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) celebrated the graduation of the fourth and fifth batch of participants in the prestigious 'High Fliers' leadership program, in partnership with the American University of Beirut.

The event was organized under the personal sponsorship and presence of NBK Group Chief Executive Officer Isam Al-Sager and attended by CEO Kuwait Salah Al-Fulajji, Head, Group Human Resources Emad Al-Ablani, and the Dean of Olayan School of Business at the American University of Beirut, Dr Steve Harvey.

Commenting on the success of the program, Al Sager said: "The next generation of leaders is the future of NBK. We are committed to continue to drive and develop our talent so that in time they can guide the bank to even greater success".

Sager congratulated the fourth and fifth batch of graduates and encouraged them to continue to strive to be a talent at NBK. "I am delighted with the outcome of this program and look forward to seeing the participants moving into key leadership roles in the bank. NBK Management will continue to provide the support to the high fliers to achieve their full potential and to maximize their capabilities and skillset," added Sager.

The 'High Fliers' leadership program is designed to provide NBK's future leaders with a wide range of leadership disciplines. This intensive program, which commenced in Oct 2015, covers topics such as finance, leadership, strategy and people management skills and included interactive learning methods, case studies and assignments.



AMIR EXTENDS CONDOLENCES FOR UZBEKISTAN PRESIDENT'S DEATH



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Friday sent a cable of condolences to Uzbekistan's acting President Nigmatulla Yuldashev on the passing away of President Islam Karimov. His Highness the Amir hoped Allah the Almighty bestow blessing upon Karimov, extending deepest condolences for the Uzbek people and the family of the deceased.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to Yuldashev on the passing away of Karimov. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a similar cable.

Meanwhile, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem sent a cable of condolences to Speaker of Uzbekistan's Legislative Chamber (lower house of parliament) Nurdinjon Ismailov over the passing away of Karimov. He expressed sincere sympathy with the government and people of the Uzbekistan republic after Karimov's demise earlier Friday. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The Embassy of Uzbekistan in Kuwait received condolences yesterday on the death of President Islam Karimov, who passed away on Friday. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES CONTRIBUTES TOWARDS CHILDREN'S EDUCATION IN KUWAIT AS PART OF KRCS 'GIVE THEM A CHANCE' CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the region, announced its support for the 'Give Them a Chance' campaign that was launched by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS). The campaign aims to provide quality education opportunities to all non-Kuwaiti children living within the country whose families are not able to afford paying school fees.

The number of children whose families cannot afford to pay for their tuition and have applied for assistance has reached 13,000 children. All of these children belong to non-Kuwaiti families living in Kuwait, many of whom are facing financial hardships and lack access to a key contributing factor towards a healthy and successful future: education.

Commenting on the campaign, Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Dr Hilal Al Sayer said: "When we launched this campaign for the first time last year, we were able to help 562 students partially pay for their school fees. We hope that we will be able to cover the costs for all applicants this year with the help of the private sector and individual donors. I would like to thank Alghanim Industries and its Chairman, Kutayba Alghanim, for their generous donation and for working with us to make this a successful campaign just as they have supported us in numerous other campaigns in the past."

Speaking about the partnership, Chairman of Alghanim Industries, Kutayba Yusuf Alghanim said: "One of the things that brings pride and joy to Kuwait is the willingness of its people to help those who are in need. The fact that this campaign contributes towards the education of future generations brings me great pleasure and reassures me about the future of this country. When we talk about spending money on education, we are actually talking about investing in future generations, and that is why we at Alghanim Industries always strive to support education and educational campaigns. Such initiatives are not new to Kuwait, and they are especially not new to the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, an organization that has always been at the forefront of putting together such campaigns, and we are honored to have worked with them on multiple charity drives."



Chairman of Alghanim Industries Kutayba Yusuf Alghanim



Chairman of the KRCS Dr Hilal Al-Sayer

Alghanim Industries is committed to its strategy of giving back to the community by empowering underprivileged people, supporting education and encouraging entrepreneurship as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility program. Last year, the company was named 'Diamond Partner' by Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) in recognition of its efforts to support KRCS by facilitating

treatment for needy patients in Kuwait, and by helping Nurture and Educate Students Today (NEST), which aims to raise awareness and support education of underprivileged children, both locally and internationally. The company also covered the expenses of restoring houses for the Children's Home - an orphanage launched by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's Social Welfare Sector for all orphans in Kuwait.



The 'Give Them a Chance' campaign's flyer.



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah chairs the meeting. — KUNA

PAY SEEKS VISION THAT MEETS YOUTH NEEDS: SHEIKH SALMAN

KUWAIT: It is imperative to fulfill a vision that supports the youth and caters to their needs and desires, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday.

In a meeting of the Public Authority for Youth (PAY) officials, Sheikh Salman, who is also PAY's Chairman, said that the authority strives to be a bastion of youth creativity and prowess, a statement issued by PAY noted.

Moreover, he added that PAY's work centers on endeavors that allow youth to hone their

skills and enhance their capabilities, describing them as the leaders of tomorrow. Furthermore, Sheikh Salman commended PAY officials for their diligence in mapping out meticulous strategies in an efficient and timely manner, "which is a remarkable accomplishment," he said.

Meanwhile, Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah said that the Minister of State for Youth Affairs office fully supports PAY as it seeks to ameliorate its ties with international organizations dealing with youth-related issues.

Speaking on the youth strategy, PAY Director General Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi described it as an encompassing one, saying that support of the country's leadership will prove instrumental and valuable.

PAY official Dr Jassim Al-Rubaian underscored that the authority seeks to assist youth to realize their aspirations, noting that the nature of their job entitles PAY employees to more bonuses and incentives. The PAY meeting was attended by prominent officials from across the country's government spectrum. — KUNA



Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah



Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah



PAY Director General Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi

1594 CHARITY PROJECTS CARRIED OUT IN EGYPT TILL 2015: KANDARI

CAIRO: Director of Kuwaiti Charity office in Cairo Ismail Al-Kandari said yesterday that the office has carried out nearly 1,594 diverse charity projects in various governorates of Egypt since its inception in 1987 until 2015.

Kandari said in a statement on the occasion of the issuance of the annual report for 2015 on its activities in Egypt that these projects come within the framework of agreements signed between the Ministries of Awqaf in the two countries with Al-Azhar, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Solidarity.

He added that the office made several projects including a project to sponsor orphans, supporting students, provi-

sion of therapeutic services and social assistance to needy cases, organization of seasonal projects covering all Egyptian governorates such as iftar dinners in the holy month of Ramadan and the distribution of sacrificial meat.

He stressed that the charity projects carried out by the office in the past few years have had a significant and positive impact in the development of the spirit of solidarity and integration between the peoples of the two countries.

Kandari pointed out that this concern stems from the strong relations between Kuwait and Egypt and within the framework of the close cooperation protocols between all executive bodies in both countries. — KUNA

414 TEACHERS HIRED FOR NEW ACADEMIC YEAR: MINISTER

KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Higher Education Bader Al-Essa said yesterday that they have hired 414 new teachers for the new academic year, both from Kuwait and abroad. New expat teachers from Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia are arriving here later this month before the school year kicks off, the minister added in a press statement. He also pointed to opening some new 20 schools.

Education is a social issue that requires joining efforts and keeping pace with developments. The minister noted that he would pay visits to schools to make sure all needs have been provided for the start of the academic year. He also urged officials at the Ministry of Education to inspect preparations and arrangements for the school year. — KUNA



Minister of Education and Higher Education Bader Al-Essa

KAPP SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH WB

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) signed an agreement with the World Bank to help prepare an updated Project Guidebook for the Authority consistent with the provisions of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Law 116/2014 and its executive regulations, said a statement yesterday.

The new Project Guidebook will be informed by international best practice and fully aligned with provisions of the new PPP Law. The agreement was signed on Thursday at the Authority's

Head Office by KAPP's General Manager Motlaq Al-Sanei and the World Bank's Country Manager Dr Firas Raad.

Sanei stated that the guidebook provided guidance to all public sector entities and private investors on the mechanisms for restructuring and implementing PPP's projects in Kuwait based on the 2014 Law. The Project Guidebook will include standard contract provisions for all tendered PPP projects and will serve as a valuable reference document for all parties interested in implementing PPP projects in the country. — KUNA

UNIONS DEMAND BONUSES AFTER FUEL PRICES INCREASE

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Labor unions have already started petitions to demand compensation for employees following the government's decision to increase fuel prices. On that regard, two societies issued statements yesterday, only two days after the new prices went into effect, demanding financial bonuses to workers they represent.

The secretary general of the society of educational executives Bader Al-Hadram criticized the government on its decision to increase petrol prices, noting that this decision would negatively affect educational facilities' executives and public servants in general. Accordingly, Hadram urged the Minister of Education Bader Al-Essa to pay all educational facilities' executives at least KD 200 as petrol allowance.

Fishermen's demands

Meanwhile, Chairman of Kuwait Fishermen Union Thahaer Al-Sowayyan stressed that it is high time fishermen's demands for subsidies and building a special village for them are met. Sowayyan

urged the government to grant fishermen petrol subsidies and said that he had already written to the finance ministry a few months earlier, demanding such subsidies. Sowayyan added that fishermen pay 95 fils instead of 85 fils for 92-octane petrol and 115 fils instead of 105 fils for 95 octane petrol because the supplying company takes the difference in pay. "This is too much, taking into consideration the amount of petrol fishermen use to sail out and back," he underlined, warning that such price increases might lead to increasing the prices of shrimps and various fish. He also warned that many Kuwaiti fishermen were actually considering quitting fishing.

Sheep prices

With the advent of Eid Al-Adha, sheep prices seem to be increasing daily, said informed sources, noting that yesterday's prices were KD 120-150 for local 'Nuaimi' sheep, KD 90-130 for Jordanian and Syrian sheep, KD 70-90 for Georgian and Australian sheep and KD 70-100 for Iranian sheep.



TRIO ARRESTED FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Narcotics detectives arrested three Arab nationals for trading in hashish, said security sources, noting that detectives had been tipped off concerning someone dealing in the drug. An undercover agent was assigned to make a deal with the suspect to purchase one kilo of hashish, and he was arrested red-handed. On searching the suspect's house, detectives found a further three kilos of the drug. The suspect then led police to his suppliers in Sharq, who were all arrested with four more kilos of hashish. A case was filed the suspects were referred to relevant authorities.

School robbed

A senior official at Farwaniya educational zone recently reported that a primary school had been burgled in Nahda. The official accused the school guard as he was not found at the school on discovering the robbery. He added that the school keys were found on the ground outside the

school and that the guard's mobile phone was switched off. According to the school director, 21 PCs, two CCTV screens, one water cooler, 15 fridges, seven plasma TVs, 10 printers, four loudspeakers and a coffee-maker had been stolen.

Municipal performance

The governorate affairs follow-up committee at Kuwait Municipality met under chairmanship of Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi. The committee discussed improving municipal performance in all governorates and means to improve services by cutting down paperwork to shorten the time needed for various transactions to a maximum of seven days. The committee also discussed measures against municipality inspectors who fail to do their jobs properly, as well as preparations for the upcoming Eid Al-Adha. Manfouhi disclosed that municipality teams would start working two shifts by November. He also noted that six temporary slaughterhouses had been set up for Eid.

MPs SPEED UP VISIT VISA HEALTH INSURANCE BILL

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The parliament's health committee is currently preparing a bill to impose health insurance on expatriates coming to Kuwait on visit visas. The committee argued that this bill is becoming a must now because according to them, some expatriates visit Kuwait only to go to hospitals, undergo complete medical check-ups and even special surgeries. This prolongs the time Kuwaitis have to wait to receive such medical services and puts more pressure on public hospitals, they stated.

Officials reprimanded

The Cabinet is due to hold a special meeting by the beginning of October to

discuss a list of senior officials who will be dismissed and referred to retirement, why they should be dismissed, how much they have achieved in the projects under their supervision and the obstacles that caused them to lag behind schedule. In this regard, well-informed sources said that a special committee from the supreme planning council headed by the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih had reviewed the development plan projects to pinpoint those falling behind schedule and the officials responsible for them. The sources added that senior officials who failed to achieve at least 80 percent of the projects within their jurisdiction will not have their tenures extended.

CBK ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR PROCESSING COMPLAINTS

KUWAIT: The Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday issued guidelines for clients seeking to process their complaints before submitting them to the bank. According to a press statement, the guidelines will hopefully secure the rights of clients in submitting their complaints against bodies under the supervision of CBK.

The guidelines will allow clients to process complaints against investment and funding companies, said the CBK, noting that these companies must answer back within a period of 30 days. The CBK added that clients could refer to the Central Bank directly if any company failed to answer the complaint.

Complaints against banking institutes could also be handed directly to the CBK, said the statement. The CBK advised clients to follow up on the latest banking regulations either through its website or at any of its official accounts on social media. — KUNA



CIVIL AVIATION URGES COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS

KUWAIT: The Directorate General for Civil Aviation urged all pilgrims heading to Saudi Arabia and those bidding them farewell or welcoming them after they return to Kuwait to cooperate with Kuwait International Airport officers.

In a press release distributed to the local press, the directorate also urged travelers to make sure their passports and IDs are valid, have a valid visa to their destination,

respect the maximum luggage weight and size regulations (max weight per piece is 32 kg; max dimensions 75x65x90 cm), to only take one handbag onboard of a maximum weight of 5kg, arrive at the airport at least three hours prior to takeoff, check into the passport lounge at least one hour prior to takeoff and to be at the departure gate at least 30 minutes prior to takeoff.

In addition, the directorate also urged the public to reduce the number of those bidding them farewell or welcoming them as much as possible, to cooperate with airport staff, not to crowd exits, entrances and luggage weighing areas, refrain from smoking except in designated areas, double check their flight number by calling 161, not leave any vehicle parked outside the arrival or departure

areas, make sure each passenger is only allowed to take a maximum of 100 ml of any liquid onboard, not take any luggage from people you do not know, not leave any unattended luggage anywhere in the airport and not carry dangerous items like pressurized gas, solvents, explosives, fireworks, flammable substances, magnets and poisonous and infectious substances.



KUWAIT: These photos released by the Interior Ministry last Friday show pilgrims stopping by a special pavilion it set at Kuwait International Airport to provide guidance and other services, as they prepare to leave to Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj.

EQUATE CONGRATULATES MEKRAD AS HEAD OF FIRE DEPARTMENT



KUWAIT: EQUATE Petrochemical company, Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, visited His Excellency Lieutenant-General Khaled Al-Mekrad to extend congratulations for being named as the Director-General of Kuwait Fire Service Department (KFSD).

During the visit, EQUATE was represented by its President and CEO Mohammad Husain; Vice President for Technical Services Tareq Jafar Al-Kandari; Environment, Health and Safety Leader Mohammad Al-Shamary; Emergency Services and Security Leader Abdulqader Al-Qabandi; Government Affairs Category Leader Mohammad Al-Boloushi and Process Safety Expert Abdullah Al-Hazza.

EQUATE President and CEO Mohammad Husain said, "KFSD plays an integral role in

ensuring the security and wellbeing of the entire Kuwaiti society, including industrial organizations. To reinforce this role for overall sustainability, KFSD and EQUATE have joined hands in knowledge sharing, specialized international training, a number of professional forums, as well as various community awareness campaigns for overall safety at homes, workplaces and the desert."

Husain added, "we are looking forward to continue this partnership with KFSD under the leadership of Lieutenant-General Al-Mekrad. In addition, utmost appreciation and gratitude to former KFSD Director-General Lieutenant-General Yousef Al-Ansari for his critical role throughout this partnership."



KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior's inspection department visited the Salmi land border exit to check the preparations and services presented to pilgrims heading by road to Saudi Arabia to perform hajj. Visitors included the department's director Major General Mohammed Al-Enezi and other top officials. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

MEDICAL LICENSE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR EXPLAINS DOCTORS' VERIFICATION PROCESS

'WORKING WITHOUT A LICENSE IS CONSIDERED A CRIME'

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Fake doctors are the most dangerous among fraudsters as they play with people's lives and public health. Although Kuwait is



KUWAIT: Dr Marzouq Al-Bader, Director of the Medical License Department at the Ministry of Health, speaks to Kuwait Times. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

known for its strict regulations for practicing medicine, a few sham doctors have been arrested. Kuwait Times met Dr Marzouq Al-Bader, Director of the Medical License Department at the Ministry of Health, which is in charge of issu-

ing licenses to doctors to practice medicine, to learn more about the procedure.

Dr Bader was appointed to this post in Aug 2010. He is a surgeon and sometimes participates in the committees evaluating surgeons. Previously, he was head of the surgical department at Mubarak Hospital, head of the surgical departments' council in Kuwait and consultant in vascular surgery. He also used to participate in inspections for the private sector.

"As part of the inspections and investigations, I evaluate the applicant's experience certificate and performance. I used to investigate patients' complaints in the private sector in the surgical field to check if problems were caused by medical error, complications or other issues. Also, not all complaints are genuine; some may be malicious complaints, while some deserve to be investigated," he told Kuwait Times. Dr Bader explained that medical errors are not limited to fake doctors, and can happen with any doctor, even experienced ones. "We cannot accuse any doctor that his license is fake, as there is always a risk in our profession," he said.

Expat doctors

To employ expat doctors, the process starts with the employer selecting the doctor. "The employer submits an application to our depart-

ment that he is willing to employ this doctor, after visiting the country where that doctor is working. The application should include the specialization of the doctor, in addition to the degrees and certificates (both academic and work experience)," explained Bader.

The doctor then has to accredit his academic degree. "The technical office sends his certificates to the Ministry of Higher Education to accredit them. If his degree is from a popular university, it is easier for us to confirm his data and degree online," he pointed out. The technical office at the department then sends the application to the section in charge of the doctor's specialization at the Ministry of Health.

"A committee then interviews the doctor and they issue a report about him. This committee may refuse the title that this doctor claims, as there are grades like A, B or C according to his experience. The committee consists of two or three members who are doctors practicing medicine in the public sector. They are usually Kuwaitis, but this is not a condition - they may sometimes be expat doctors. The members of the committee only change if the Minister of Health issues a decree in this matter," he added.

Same specialization

The committee is always formed from mem-

bers of the same specialization as the interviewed applicant. "If the committee accepts him, then he may start working after undergoing medical checkups, which is usual for any foreigner coming to Kuwait before getting a residency. Apart from the medical checkups in his home country, the doctor also has to pass other medical tests for doctors here in Kuwait," stated Bader.

After the doctor completes this procedure, he gets a work visa and then gets the approval to practice medicine in Kuwait. "Some doctors may be rejected if they are not physically fit, or technically unfit," he explained. "So fake doctors cannot pass this procedure, but they may be working without a license, which is illegal and is considered a crime. This may be difficult to do in a clinic, and most probably it may be practiced in a small, poor area, especially where Asian bachelors stay," noted Bader.

Inspectors from the Ministry of Health regularly go on inspections to various hospitals and clinics. "Our department checks and inspects those who are licensed by us. So if a patient undergoes a medical procedure at a beauty salon for instance, we are not in charge of the complications that the patient may face, as salons are not licensed by us for this kind of work," he concluded.

IS THE OIL ERA OVER?

Local spotlight



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

Oil prices have been oscillating in the last 50 years. But the current drop in oil prices seems to be the worst crisis around the world today, especially for oil-producing countries such as Kuwait, which depends on oil as the main source of income. It makes us all wonder if the oil era is about to end. What should be the solutions or alternatives to confront this issue and its possible implications?

Although it is not the first decline in oil prices - the world saw several declines in the '80s and '90s - today's oil crisis does not look transient or simple. We in Kuwait are confronting a new reality that we have not seen before that requires new government measures and policies to avoid serious economic and social consequences in the future.

The oil crisis of today is different from the past for political and economic reasons, especially since the price of oil today is subject to the variables of economics and political considerations and market demand, so it is not surprising to witness a continuing decline in oil prices this year.

The decline this time may continue for a longer period due to a couple of reasons, such as the regression of the global economy, presence of US shale oil and the shift from total reliance on oil as a sole source of income to alternative energies to increase the state's income, and this is evident in new Gulf states' policies such as in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. I believe these measures are great lessons to be learned by us in Kuwait.

The obvious tensions in relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran, two of the largest oil producers, will push prices to further declines. Some may wonder why we feel today we are facing a real crisis, especially as the drop in oil prices is not new. The increase in population in Kuwait means the need for more services related to infrastructure as well as the expansion of public spending, and these are main reasons for concern.

The Economic Development Committee of the Supreme Council for Planning in Kuwait officially announced in January that estimated income in the 2016/2017 budget amounted to KD 7.4 billion, a decline of KD 4.8 billion from the estimated revenue in the 2015/2016 budget. Also, estimated oil revenues declined in the 2017/2016 budget by 46.3 percent. The estimated budget deficit in 2017/2016 reached KD 12.2 billion.

It also stated that the overall revenues estimated in 2016/2017 budget only cover about 71.2 percent of total spending on salaries, which means that the state needs to deduct funds from the general reserve to spend on salaries. Also, costs of oil production are rising steadily in light of a fall in global demand for oil. The state is trying to deal with a new phase in the state economy. It is normal to feel concerned about the economy and its social repercussions, especially with regards to the problems of unemployment, education, health and housing. These problems are affecting people's daily lives and needs.

The situation is not gloomy and I believe there are some options. One tough solution is cuts in incomes, raising prices of goods and services including fuel, and this is what just happened in Kuwait. There have been some angry responses by the public. But people here have been accustomed to cheap prices for many years and I agree with the increase because it is justified and reasonable. Fuel prices had been the cheapest in the Gulf.

The oil market is passing through large transformations, and volatility in prices is expected. There is no doubt that reform measures are essential. The oil era may not be over yet, but the era of only relying on oil should be.

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Crime

Report

Good Samaritan mugged

KUWAIT: A citizen reported that four unidentified people assaulted and robbed him in Sulaibiya when he stopped to offer help. The man added that he was driving when he spotted the suspects' vehicle and the four standing out. Thinking they might need help, he stopped, but they immediately assaulted him and stole his mobile phone and KD 500. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Drug possession

Farwaniya detectives arrested a citizen wanted for a five-year prison term and a bedoon with two heroin packs, said security sources, noting that the suspects were arrested by a police patrol while they were driving in an unsteady course.

Wife missing

A Turkish man reported that his Filipina wife had deserted their house in Jahra and had switched off her mobile phone. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Fraud

A Saudi woman in her thirties was arrested for fraud, said security sources. Case papers indicate that policemen at a routine checkpoint in Ahmadi noticed that the suspect was trying to back off to evade the checkpoint. Stopping and checking on her, the suspect was found wanted for several fraud cases.

Policemen assaulted

In a defiant act against law-enforcement, 11 suspects assaulted a police force dispatched to arrest a wanted bedoon robber and managed to free the main suspect, said security sources. Case papers indicate that detectives rushed to the wanted suspect's house to arrest him and on their way out, they were attacked by 11 of the suspect's acquaintances with sticks and knives. The suspects also held two officers inside a room in the house to force them to release the main suspect, and fled the scene before backup arrived. A search is on for the 12 suspects, while the injured policemen were rushed to hospital for treatment. —Al-Rai



MPs PREPARE GRILLING MOTIONS OVER FUEL PRICES INCREASE

MINISTER REFUTES INTERNATIONS REPORT ON EXPATS

KUWAIT: The government's unilateral decision to increase fuel prices has already stirred tensions in its relationship with the parliament, as several MPs reportedly plan to file grilling motions over the issue. MP Hamdan Al-Azmi is expected soon to file an interpellation against Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Al-Saleh over the increase decision, sources said, adding that several lawmakers have already voiced their support for the motion. Meanwhile, MP Ahmad Al-Qudhaibi is also close to file a grilling against Minister of Commerce and Industry Yousuf Al-Ali over the minister's decision to suspend freezing prices of goods in Kuwait only three months after he made that decision in anticipation of the fuel prices increase. The government's decision to increase fuel prices, which went into effect



MP Hamdan Al-Azmi



MP Ahmad Al-Qudhaibi

last Thursday, has put public pressure on MPs as they prepare for elections next year, the sources suggested.

Meanwhile, head of the parliament's financial committee MP Faisal Al-Shaya called the government to suspend the issuance of free fuel coupons to ministers, lawmakers, Municipal Council members and senior state officials, saying that this would achieve social justice.

Strikes

In other news, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah stressed the need to introduce new regulations to regulate strikes in vital and strategic institutions, including 'tougher restrictions' in that regard. "It could be appropriate to reconsider the punishments which remain disproportionate with some actions that could harm the national economy, or use strikes for political purposes," the minister said in response to a draft law proposed by MP Dr Adel Al-Kharafi on organizing the right of strike for public and private sector employees.

Expats

Separately, a government official criticized a recent international report which recognized Kuwait as the worst country for expatriates in the world. "Several interna-



Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh



Commerce Minister Yousuf Al-Ali

tional organizations have applauded Kuwait's efforts in protecting labor rights through the activation of workers' protection regulations according to international standards," said Hind Al-Subaih, the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister for Planning and Development. She also suggested that the increasing number of expatriates in Kuwait on an annual basis comes to refute the accusations in the report which was released last week by InterNations.org. The minister also announced that a team was assigned at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor to study the report and identify the standards based on which it made its conclusions, adding that coordination was also established with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on that regard.



Al-Anbaa

ABDUL KAREEM'S MEMORIES

By Thaara Al-Rasheedi

There is hardly any voice that resembles that of Kuwait like that of veteran Kuwaiti singer Abdul Kareem Abdul Qadir. His voice portrays all the beauties in our country. Other singers' voices may, for some reason or another, remain fixed in our minds, except that of 'Abu Khaled' (Abdul Kareem), because it is like home to us all. You can hardly find someone who does not adore this genius. It is not a matter of a certain song of his. The secret lies in his voice that represents all love stories with all the hopes and dreams they contain. His voice really stands for honesty and credibility that have disappeared in our modern digital singing age.

Abdul Qadir's voice is one of a kind. There is no voice like it. It cannot be imitated. Many singers sang his songs but failed to leave the same impact on their listeners simply because

Many singers sang his songs but failed to leave the same impact on their listeners

they do not have Abu Khaled's emotions. One can hardly feel as nostalgic when listening to any other Kuwaiti singer. One can listen to Abdul Qadir's songs over and over without feeling bored and still feel as if one is hearing it for the first time, simply because his voice comes out of his heart not his vocal chords.

I did not write the above to review history. I am rather trying to revive the memories of the 1980s' lovers who were usually enchanted by songs like 'Ghareeb' and 'Ana Raddait' that still remind us of the golden old days when Kuwait was far much better off, before it started to deteriorate in arts, sports, literature and development over the past 30 years.

Our most recent public hospital opened in 1984 when Abu Khaled released his song 'Weda'eyya'. Our national football team also came third at the Asian Cup finals that year. In 1986, the last authentic sarcastic political play was performed.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



KUWAIT: Ahmadi Governorate inaugurated the 2nd Environmental Exhibition and carried out a cleaning campaign at the Abu Hulaifah beach yesterday.



Rousseff to head home, fight on

ZIMBABWE’S MUGABE SCOFFS AT DEATH RUMORS

MORE TURKISH TANKS ROLL INTO SYRIA

ANKARA-BACKED REBELS OPENING NEW LINE OF ATTACK

ELBEYLI, Turkey/BEIRUT: Turkey and its rebel allies opened up a new line of attack in northern Syria yesterday as Turkish tanks crossed the frontier from Kilis province, making a western thrust in an operation to sweep militants from its border. The incursion from Kilis - which has been repeatedly targeted by Islamic State rockets from inside Syria over the last year - coincided with a push elsewhere in the region by the Turkish-backed Syrian rebels, who seized several villages further east from the Sunni hardliners.

By supporting the rebels, mainly Arabs and Turkmen fighting under the loose banner of the Free Syrian Army, Turkey is hoping to push out Islamic State militants and check the advance of U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish fighters. The rebels last week took the frontier town of Jarablus with Turkish support. The operation, called Euphrates Shield, is Ankara's first full-scale Syrian incursion since the start of the five-year-old war.

Yesterday, the tanks crossed the border and entered the Syrian town of al-Rai to support the new offensive, a rebel spokesman and monitors said. Now under rebel control, al-Rai had previously been in the hands of Islamic State. Al-Rai is about 55 km west of Jarablus, and part of a 90-km corridor near the Turkish border that Ankara says it is clearing of jihadists and protecting from Kurdish militia expansion.

A rebel commander said they would aim to push east from Rai, in the direction of Jarablus, which would put pressure on Islamic State from both east and west of a stretch of territory it controls along the border



SURUC, Turkey: A Turkish army tank is stationed near the Syrian border yesterday. —AP

between the towns. "The operations are to work from Rai towards the villages that were liberated to the west of Jarablus," Colonel Ahmed Osman of the Sultan Murad rebel group told Reuters, adding that the offensive was backed by Turkey.

Villages Captured
The Hamza Brigade, part of the Free

Syrian Army, said it had taken control of Arab Ezza, a village about 30 km west of Jarablus and near where Turkish warplanes carried out air strikes on Friday. FSA factions had also captured the villages of Fursan, Lilawa, Kino and Najma just south of Arab Ezza, a source in the Failaq al-Sham rebel group said. US forces hit Islamic State targets overnight near Turkey's

border with Syria.

"US forces struck ISIL targets near Turkey's border in Syria last night via newly deployed HIMARS system," Brett McGurk, the special presidential envoy for the coalition fighting Islamic State, said on his Twitter account. HIMARS refers to a High Mobility Artillery Rocket System. It was not immediately clear where at the border the system

had been deployed. Turkey's pro-government Daily Sabah newspaper said Turkish air strikes in support of the rebels continued yesterday.

Focus on Kurdish Militia
While Euphrates Shield initially targeted Islamic State in Jarablus, most of the focus since has been on checking the advance of US-backed

Syrian Kurdish fighters, to the alarm of NATO ally Washington. Turkey disagrees with its ally's support for the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia, which it considers a terrorist group. The YPG has been among the most effective partners on the ground in the US-led fight against IS. Turkey is worried that advances by Syrian Kurdish fighters will embolden Kurdish militants in its southeast, where it has been fighting an insurgency for three decades led by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

In China, to attend the G20 meeting of world leaders, President Tayyip Erdogan said there should be no support for any terrorist organization - a reference to the United States' backing of the Syrian Kurdish fighters. "There is no good terrorist. All terrorists are bad. All organizations involved in terrorism are cursed. This is how we see things and how we put up our struggle," he said, according to a transcript of an interview with China's CCTV released by Erdogan's office.

The United States has voiced concerns about Turkish strikes on Kurdish-aligned groups that Washington supports. Germany said it did not want to see a lasting Turkish presence in an already tangled conflict. Turkey has said it has no plans to stay in Syria and simply aims to protect its frontier from the militant group and the Kurdish YPG militia. Activists have reported protests in some Syrian towns near the Turkish border in recent days against what demonstrators have called Turkish imperialism. Turkish security forces used tear gas and water cannon to disperse protesters along the border on Friday. —Reuters

ATTACK ON LAST IS SIRTE BASTION

SIRTE, Libya: Forces loyal to Libya's Government of National Accord said they launched a new attack yesterday on diehards of the Islamic State group in the coastal city of Sirte. Backed by weeks of US air strikes, the pro-GNA forces have recaptured nearly all of what had been the jihadists' main stronghold in North Africa. The city's fall would be a huge setback to IS's efforts to expand its self-proclaimed "caliphate" beyond Syria and Iraq where

the jihadists have also suffered losses.

"The fighting has begun. We are attacking the last Daesh positions in district three" where the jihadists are cornered, a GNA fighter told AFP, using an Arabic acronym for IS. The GNA forces media center confirmed on Facebook that the new push had begun to retake Sirte, located 450 km east of the capital Tripoli. "Our forces are advancing inside the areas where Daesh is, in district three, and so far have taken control of" two banks and a hotel, the media center said. It also said they had thwarted an attempted suicide bombing.

Seven members of the GNA forces were killed and 30 wounded in clashes with IS yesterday, it added. Earlier, an AFP journalist saw ambulances leaving Sirte - hometown of dead dictator Muammar Gaddafi- for Misrata to the west where the wounded are treated. Since the offensive against Sirte began on May 12, more than 400 fighters loyal to the government have been killed and about 2,500 wounded. It is not yet known how many IS militants have been killed, but the GNA media center said the bodies of 10 jihadists had been found in a school in district one, which was being combed after being retaken on Monday.


The forces loyal to the UN-backed GNA had said last weekend they were preparing to "liberate" the entire city after seizing several IS positions, including its headquarters. On Wednesday, GNA head Fayez al-Sarraj visited Sirte for the first time since loyalist forces launched their offensive more than three months ago to drive the jihadists from the city.

US Air Raids

Sarraj and some of his ministers toured former front lines as well as the Ouagadougou conference centre which IS had used as its base. "We will continue to chase, with the help of God, the Daesh remnants and strike them wherever they may be in our country," Sarraj said this week. The capture of Sirte by IS last year sparked fears the jihadists would use it as a springboard for attacks on Europe. The extremists took advantage of the chaos in oil-rich Libya after the 2011 uprising to seize Sirte in June 2015, hoisting their black flag above the city.

The offensive on the ground has been backed by US air power. On Friday, the United States Africa Command said that since the US campaign began on August 1, US drones, helicopters and bombers had carried out a total of 108 air strikes against the jihadists in Sirte. It said that on Aug 31, targets including five "enemy fighting positions" and a vehicle bomb were hit.

Fewer than 200 IS jihadists remain in Sirte, Pentagon spokesman Captain Jeff Davis said on Thursday, and they are essentially surrounded by GNA forces and the sea. The GNA has been struggling to assert its control over all of Libya. France on Friday urged Sarraj to find a compromise with the Tobruk-based parliament in the far east of the country, which does not recognise the unity government. "He must find a compromise with the Tobruk parliament and General (Khalifa) Haftar" who controls the armed forces in the east, Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said in Paris. On Tuesday, French President Francois Hollande said Sarraj would visit Paris "in the coming days". —AFP



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SYRIAN REFUGEE SAW STARS AND STRIPES AND ‘FELT SAFE’

SAN DIEGO: On a warm afternoon in June, Ammar Kawkab and his family joined the trickle of Syrian refugees arriving in the United States to escape the devastating war in their country. There were no crowds, television cameras or politicians to greet them at the airport in San Diego, their new home. But that was of no concern to Kawkab, who hails from the predominantly Kurdish city of Qamishli in northeast Syria, a frequent target of attacks by the radical Islamic State (IS) group.

All that mattered was that he, his wife and their four children were finally safe after a more than two-year journey that took them from their homeland to Lebanon and finally America. “On that day, I felt that finally I had a flag that could protect me,” the 52-year-old telecom technician told AFP, fighting back tears as he pointed to an American flag hanging on a wall in the family’s modest two-bedroom apartment in a suburb of San Diego. “The day I set foot here, I felt as much American as Obama,” he added. “As soon as I saw the flag, I felt safe.”

Kawkab is among the 10,000 Syrian refugees the United States has taken in this year as part of a resettlement program that has emerged as a hot-button issue in the White House campaign. While local communities across the country have offered support to the refugees, there has also been a wave of

opposition, with 31 governors calling for a ban on Syrian refugees entering the country in the wake of last November’s jihadist attacks in Paris. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has also seized on the issue, vowing to block refugees fleeing the violence in Syria from entering the US on grounds they were not being properly screened and posed a threat.

‘Starting to Get Scared’

Such rhetoric baffles aid officials and refugees like Sowsan Al-Zait, 45, who arrived in San Diego a year ago, fleeing the violence in her hometown of Homs, a key battleground in the uprising against the regime of Bashar Al-Assad. “After everything we went through, to have someone speak of us like this is incomprehensible,” sighed Zeit as she took a break on a recent morning from her English language class. “I initially felt safe here but in recent months, to be honest, we have started getting scared.”

David Murphy, head of the International Rescue Committee’s branch in San Diego, where some 372 Syrians have been resettled, said the xenophobic backlash was surprising given the extensive background checks - usually lasting two years - the refugees undergo. “The rhetoric is horrific, it’s embarrassing,” Murphy said. “These refugees are fleeing the horrors of war.



SAN DIEGO: Syrian refugees take notes during their Vocational ESL class at the International Rescue Committee center on Aug 31, 2016. Seated from left to right are Rawa Hawara and Sowsan Al-Zait. — AFP

They are fleeing ISIS, they are fleeing terrorists. They are not terrorists themselves. In many countries around the world, when you invite someone in, they are a guest. You help them. You don’t bring them in to a hostile environment,” he added.

‘Shame and Embarrassment’

According to the UN refugee

agency (UNHCR) and other aid groups, nearly five million Syrians have fled their country since the conflict broke out in 2011 and some eight million have been internally displaced.

The figures represent more than half of the country’s pre-war population of about 23 million. The influx of refugees has severely stretched the resources of neighboring countries such as Turkey,

Lebanon and Jordan, which have borne the brunt of the crisis, and pressure has been building for the US and other countries to step up and take in more Syrians. “The world looks to the United States for leadership on refugees and we are not providing it,” said Mark Hetfield, who runs HIAS, which helps resettle refugees. “The message that we should be giving to the world today is that this country was built on refugees ... and that every time this country has put limits on the number of refugees we accept, we have looked back on it with shame and embarrassment.”

Aid officials said that while the 10,000 mark - reached this week - was positive, at least 10 times that number of refugees should be admitted in the coming year if the United States is to do its part. “We have this very different juxtaposition here in the US where you have people all over the country responding with a welcome, and members of Congress and presidential candidates very much trying to close the doors,” said Jennifer Quigley, a strategist for refugee protection with Human Rights First. Kawkab said he hopes that with time, Americans will look upon refugees like him as individuals, each with a story to tell. “We are neither terrorists nor criminals,” he said. “And we are not here to be a burden on America. We want to give back to this country.” — AFP

FBI RELEASES FILES OF CLINTON EMAIL PROBE

TRUMP SAYS HILLARY’S ANSWERS ‘DEFY BELIEF’

WASHINGTON: The FBI on Friday poured fresh fuel on the fire sparked by Hillary Clinton’s use of a private email server as secretary of state, releasing heavily redacted notes on its probe, which White House rival Donald Trump seized on to attack her fitness for office. The 58 pages - 14 of which were entirely blacked out - showed that the FBI found no evidence her email system was compromised but decided it could not be ruled out because some of her mobile devices were not recovered. “The FBI did find that hostile foreign actors successfully gained access to the personal email accounts of individuals with whom Clinton was in regular contact and, in doing so, obtained emails sent to or received by Clinton on her personal account,” the notes said.

Clinton’s use of a private server has been the subject of simmering controversy as she runs for president against Trump, the Republican candidate. The documents’ release follows the FBI’s recommendation in July not to prosecute Clinton for sending unsecured emails with classified material through the server, though it found her to have been “extremely careless”. Clinton’s campaign said it was “pleased” with the report’s release. “While her use of a single email account was clearly a mistake and she has taken responsibility for it, these materials make clear why the Justice Department believed there was no basis to move forward with this case,” it said in a statement.

But Trump’s campaign pounced, charging that the notes “reinforce her tremendously bad judgment and dishonesty.” Clinton’s secret email server was an end run around government transparency laws that wound up jeopardizing

our national security and sensitive diplomatic efforts,” Trump spokesman Jason Miller said in a statement. Trump said Clinton’s answers to the FBI “defy belief.” “I was absolutely shocked to see that her answers to the FBI stood in direct contradiction to what she told the American people. After reading these documents, I really don’t understand how she was able to get away from prosecution,” he said in a statement.

Revelations

Embarrassing revelations include a passage in the report in which the 68-year-old Clinton told investigators she was unaware that confidential material was marked with a “C.” Clinton stated she did not know what the ‘C’ meant at the beginning of the paragraphs and speculated it was referencing paragraphs marked in alphabetical order,” the report said. “When asked of her knowledge regarding TOP SECRET, SECRET, and CONFIDENTIAL classification levels... Clinton responded that she did not pay attention to the ‘level’ of classification and took all classified information seriously,” it added.

The report also revealed that Colin Powell, who served as secretary of state from 2001 to 2005, warned Clinton to “be very careful” regarding emails. “Powell warned Clinton that if it became ‘public’ that Clinton had a BlackBerry, and she used it to ‘do business,’ her emails could become ‘official record(s)’ and subject to the law,” the report said, noting Clinton had emailed Powell after taking office in 2009 to ask about his use of a BlackBerry. “Powell further advised Clinton, ‘Be very careful. I got around it all by not saying much and not using systems that captured the data.’”

Consensus

The FBI notes said investigators identified 13 mobile devices that “potentially were used to send emails using Clinton’s Clintonemail.com email address”. It said eight of the devices were BlackBerries that she used while secretary of state, and the other five were devices, including BlackBerries, that she used after leaving office. In its summary of the interview with Clinton, the agency said she had received no direction on preserving or producing State Department records while transitioning out of her post.

However, Clinton noted that she had suffered a concussion in Dec 2012, less than two months before leaving office, and then had a blood clot. “Based on her doctor’s advice, she could only work at State for a few hours a day and could not recall every briefing she received,” the summary said. The apparent suggestion that Clinton’s blood clot led to memory loss could be potent fodder for the Trump camp - as it seeks to portray the Democrat as lacking the stamina for the job. Clinton’s campaign spokesman Brian Fallon sought to cut short any such notion, tweeting: “Asked abt briefings in late ‘12, Clinton said 2 things: (1) she couldn’t recall each briefing (2) she missed part of that time due to health.” Of some 30,000 emails Clinton subsequently turned over to the FBI, the agency’s director James Comey has said 110 contained classified information. Clinton had said none was classified at the time they were sent. Meanwhile, the State Department has been ordered to review for possible release nearly 15,000 additional emails and documents uncovered during the FBI investigation that had not been disclosed by her lawyers. — AFP



DETROIT: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump (right) watches dancers perform during a church service at Great Faith Ministries yesterday. — AP

PROTESTS OUTSIDE DETROIT CHURCH HOSTING TRUMP

DETROIT: Police struggled to hold back protesters yesterday outside a Detroit church hosting a visit by Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, who is on a charm offensive to allay skepticism of wary African American voters. “The devil’s in the pulpit,” shouted Wyoman Mitchell, one of about 150 protesters who charged police barricades outside the black Great Faith Ministries International church. Chanting “Dump Trump” and “We’re going to church,” the protesters attempted to push over the metal barricades to gain entry to the suburban church, but were impeded by police on horseback and on foot. It was unclear whether Trump was in the church during the commotion. Reporters were kept out of the church, except those traveling with the candidate. Church pastor Wayne Jackson had invited the New York billionaire to attend a fellowship service, and possibly make some remarks at the end. The visit is a high-profile stop in Trump’s recent bid to offset the overwhelming advantage his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton enjoys among African

American voters, who make up 12 percent of the electorate.

Charm Offensive

The charm offensive has been met with skepticism, but some analysts say it could make a difference in certain swing states. His pitch so far has been a crude appeal to self-interest. “What do you have to lose?” he said, addressing African Americans in a speech in Ohio less than two weeks ago to an overwhelmingly white audience. “They don’t care about you. They just like you once every four years - get your vote and then they say: ‘Bye, bye!’” he said.

To bolster his case, Trump points at the Democratic stance on immigration, claiming his rival would rather give jobs to new refugees than unemployed black youth. The African-American electorate traditionally leans heavily Democratic. In 2012, about 93 percent of black voters backed Obama - an overwhelming enthusiasm that Clinton appears to have kept alive, taking 90 percent of the black vote in her primary contest against Bernie Sanders. — AFP

EU, TURKEY TEST WATERS FOR RAPPROCHEMENT

BRATISLAVA: The European Union and Turkey tested the waters for a political rapprochement yesterday with a first meeting between the bloc’s 28 foreign ministers and a senior Ankara official after a failed coup in Turkey in July strained their uneasy ties. The EU, which depends on Ankara to keep a lid on the movement of migrants to the bloc, is now seeking to ease tensions with Turkey after voicing loud criticism of President Tayyip Erdogan’s post-coup crackdown.

“On the political level we need a rapprochement, we need to normalize the situation,” Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn told Reuters after the EU ministers’ meeting with Turkey’s EU Affairs Minister Omer Celik. “It’s the first time since the coup that we spoke to each other, not about one another. But we cannot forget the rule of law. Everyone around the table said that if they want to stabilise the situation, they must come back to the rule of law as quickly as possible.” Celik, speaking to reporters via a translator, expressed Turkey’s strong disappointment with the EU’s initial reaction to the

attempted military coup. But he also said: “As a result of the meeting, there is very strong consensus about focusing on a positive agenda and further enhancing cooperation between Turkey and the EU.” The EU, often critical of Turkey’s track record on human rights and rule of law, was taken further aback when Ankara dismissed 80,000 people from public duty and arrested many of them over alleged sympathies with the plotters. Turkey was enraged by what it saw as the EU’s half-hearted condemnation of the coup. It accused Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen of masterminding it, which he denied. With the talks in Bratislava, the bloc is now sending a more conciliatory message, while upholding demands that Turkey makes a greater effort towards upholding democratic principles. “I really expect an improvement of relationship now,” Slovak Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak said.

The Netherlands was more cautious, as it also raised with fellow EU states the issue of dealing with Gulen supporters in their own countries. Austria has gone as far as to propose dropping EU accession talks with Turkey over democratic

deficiencies but, despite widespread reservations among EU capitals on whether Ankara should or would ever join, Vienna seemed to be getting little support on this particular point.

Migration and Visas

Celik criticised Austria, saying such comments “lack vision” and “put in jeopardy the future of Europe”. He said Ankara would stick to the migration accord but that it was “not rational” to expect the Turkish government to relax its counter-terrorism laws now as it fights Islamic State in neighboring Syria and Kurdish militants on its own soil. He did not rule out, however, that this could happen in the future once there is “no terrorism threat” in Turkey, saying Ankara was ready for talks on that with the Council of Europe (CoE), a European rights body of which Turkey is a member.

The EU worries Turkey applies its anti-terror laws too broadly to go after Erdogan critics and has made easing them a precondition for granting Turks visa-free movement. Ankara previously threatened to walk away from cooperation on migration should it not get more relaxed travel rules in October, a prospect Celik downplayed yesterday. But he did say Turkey would not seal any new deals to control migration to the EU before it gets visa liberalization. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu would travel to Strasbourg next week to discuss the role the CoE could play in post-coup prosecutions in Turkey. “We need to underscore that we stand by the side of Turkey, and have enormous respect for the Turkish people who rose up and fought the military coup,” he said. “Perhaps we must admit self-critically that the empathy and emotionality of our statements of solidarity were not heard and received in Turkey with the needed intensity,” Steinmeier said of the EU’s initial reaction to the botched coup. EU-Turkey talks will continue when Erdogan will meet Jean-Claude Juncker, the head of the EU’s executive arm, on the sidelines of the G20 summit in China today and tomorrow. Russian President Vladimir Putin met Erdogan in Hangzhou on the eve of the summit and told him he was glad that political life was being stabilized in Turkey. “We see that the Turkey is living through difficult time, is fighting against terrorism and facing serious terrorist crimes.” — Reuters



HANGZHOU, China: Russian President Vladimir Putin (right) and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan shake hands during their meeting ahead of the G20 Summit yesterday. — AP



JUBA: US Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power speaks with South Sudan’s Cabinet Affairs Minister Martin Elia Lomoro as part of a visit with the UN Security Council high delegation yesterday. — AFP

SECURITY COUNCIL URGES JUBA TO ACCEPT ‘PROTECTION FORCE’

JUBA: The UN Security Council yesterday urged South Sudan to drop its opposition to the deployment of a regional protection force to beef up a large UN peacekeeping mission in the war-scarred country. Echoing a call made earlier yesterday by South Sudanese religious leaders, ambassadors from the council’s 15 member states met with senior government ministers in Juba and all spoke in favor of sending an additional 4,000 troops to the 13,000-strong mission, known as UNMISS.

One of the ambassadors, who asked not to be named, told AFP he thought the South Sudanese ministers “were surprised to see that the Security Council spoke with one voice.” “They were surprised by the tone of Russia, and also of China, which acted like someone who lost two peacekeepers.” The two died when artillery fire hit a UN base during July clashes between forces

loyal to President Salva Kiir and those of rebel leader Riek Machar. The upsurge threatened a fragile peace accord signed last year to end a devastating 18-month civil war which left tens of thousands dead. China and Russia abstained from an Aug 12 Security Council vote on the resolution that authorized deploying a protection force with a more robust mandate than that of UNMISS. UNMISS faced considerable criticism over its failure to protect civilians during the July fighting. So far Kiir’s government had rejected the idea of a new force, saying it would violate national sovereignty. Those at yesterday’s meeting emerged on a conciliatory note. “I want to assure the people of South Sudan that the rumor that the UN has come to impose on us and bring in foreign forces to take the freedom of our country is not there,” said Government Affairs Minister Martin Elia Lomoro. — AFP

ROUSSEFF TO FIGHT ON

BRASILIA: Brazil's sacked ex-president Dilma Rousseff said Friday she will abandon the presidential residence next week and continue the fight against her successor Michel Temer from her adopted hometown, Porto Alegre. The 68-year-old leftist leader must leave the Alvorada official residence in Brasilia within a month after senators voted Wednesday to fire her over charges she illegally manipulated the national budget.

In her first media briefing since then, she repeated her claim that Brazil's new president Temer had led a "coup" in having her



BRASILIA: Brazil's ousted president Dilma Rousseff speaks during a press conference at the Alvorada Palace on Friday. — AP

impeached. Rousseff's lawyers have already lodged an appeal in the high court against the impeachment, which she says was a plot by Temer, her former vice-president turned enemy. "I will not stay in Brasilia. I will go to Porto Alegre... early next week," Rousseff told a briefing of foreign reporters. "Democracy was on trial alongside me. Unfortunately, we lost," she said of the impeachment process. "I hope that we can rebuild it and make sure that this never happens again."

Rousseff was born in the southern central city of Belo Horizonte but built her political career further south in Porto Alegre. Her daughter and grandchildren still live there and she keeps an apartment in the city. Rousseff's impeachment ended 13 years of rule by the leftist Workers' Party. Temer is due to lead the country until the end of the current presidential term in 2018. His government has announced plans to cut spending, notably on pensions, promising to create jobs and strengthen public finances. The Workers' Party on Friday called for early elections to elect a new leader following the impeachment. "Faced with a usurper government, we believe the only way to restore democracy in the country is through a popular vote," party chairman Rui Falcão told a news conference. — AFP



SAO PAULO: A demonstrator holds a Brazilian national flag and a sign that reads in Portuguese "Temer out" during a protest against President Michel Temer on Friday. — AP

QUAKE ROCKS OKLAHOMA

TULSA, Oklahoma: One of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded in Oklahoma rattled a state where seismic activity has become a growing concern, sending tremors through six neighboring states, the United States Geological Survey said yesterday. The quake, which struck 14 km northwest of Pawnee in north-central Oklahoma at 7:02 am CDT (1302 GMT), had a magnitude of 5.6, matching in strength a temblor that hit the state in 2011, the USGS reported on its website. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

The earthquake, which had a depth of 6.6 km, could offer fresh ammunition to environmentalists concerned about the side-effects of oil and gas production, which has been blamed for a spike in minor to moderate quakes in the region. "We just had an earthquake that shook our whole house!" wrote Gretchen Scott of Enid, Oklahoma, 60 miles west of Pawnee. "Could actually hear it rumbling like thunder. Very freaky, and definitely not something I'd like to repeat soon!" she said on her Facebook page.

Pawnee Mayor Brad Sewell said the tremor lasted nearly a minute, far longer than previous ones that lasted only a second or two. Part of the facade of an early 20th-century bank building had fallen into a downtown street, he said. "We have had a

spate of quakes over the last several years, but nothing like this," he said. "It was a long, sustained quake." The likelihood of casualties and damage from the earthquake, was low, the USGS said. Most residences in north-central Oklahoma were resistant to earthquakes, it said on its website.

Oklahoma geologists have documented links between increased seismic activity in the state and the injection into the ground of wastewater from oil and gas production, according to a report from a state agency last year. Oklahoma is recording 2-1/2 earthquakes daily of a magnitude 3 or greater, a seismicity rate 600 times greater than before 2008, the Oklahoma Geological Survey (OGS) said.

The spike has put Oklahoma at the center of a national debate over whether wastewater disposal from oil and gas production triggers earthquakes. The state's economy depends heavily on energy production, accounting for one of every four jobs there. The water at issue is extracted from the ground along with oil and gas, separated and re-injected into deep wells. The drilling technique known as hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking", generates large amounts of wastewater. But the OGS report said fracking is responsible for only a small percentage of the total volume of wastewater injected into disposal wells. — Reuters

AFTER ROUSSEFF OUSTED, WHAT ABOUT GRAFT PROBE?

RIO DE JANEIRO: When Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff was kicked out of power, she became the biggest casualty of a massive corruption probe that is roiling Latin America's largest country - even though she was never personally implicated in the scheme. With Rousseff's permanent departure from the presidency on Wednesday, the big question is: What happens now to the investigation at the state oil company Petrobras?

Many of the lawmakers who voted to remove Rousseff are under investigation themselves in the scandal involving billions of dollars of kickbacks. Rousseff has charged that corrupt lawmakers wanted her out to halt the Petrobras probe. But if the intention was to sweep everything under the rug, it's too late, say law professors, corruption experts and political analysts. "Politicians have lost control over that investigation," said Carlos Pereira, a public administration professor at the Getulio Vargas Foundation, a think tank and university in Rio de Janeiro. "(Lawmakers) know they cannot interfere."

Indeed, between Rousseff's suspension in May for breaking fiscal laws in managing the budget and the final judgment against her on Wednesday, prosecutors doubled the number of politicians and people connected to them under investigation, according to the attorney general's latest numbers. Within a month after Rousseff was sus-

pending in May and her vice president Michel Temer took over on an interim basis, three members of his new Cabinet were forced to resign because of corruption allegations. Temer took over permanently with Rousseff's ouster.

'Car Wash'

Known as "Car Wash", the corruption case came to light after authorities discovered a ring of money launderers in gas stations and car washes. That led them to a much larger scheme: Construction companies that paid bribes to high-ranking politicians in exchange for inflated contracts with Petrobras. The operation was so large - some \$2 billion in bribes over a decade - that Petrobras even had a department dedicated to distributing illicit payments, prosecutors say.

While Rousseff has never been implicated, many accuse her of trying to protect her mentor and predecessor, former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who was charged in July with obstruction of justice in the probe. Many Brazilians also blame her for not doing more, as the bulk of the graft happened during the 13 years her Workers' Party was in power. In the last two years, dozens of business people and politicians from across the spectrum have been jailed. Fifteen of the 81 senators who voted on whether to remove Rousseff are being investigated in the Petrobras probe, includ-

ing the Senate President Renan Calheiros, who has been accused of receiving bribes.

"Car Wash shows that our justice system has achieved independence and autonomy, and you don't mess with that," said Luiz Jorge Werneck Vianna, a professor and justice system expert at Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. "The people will not accept it." Battling impunity is one of the few bright spots in a nation mired in recession and bogged down by the political crisis. Nearly one third of Brazilians see corruption as the nation's biggest problem, a higher percentage than for any other issue, according to a July poll by Datafolha. Since early 2015, more than 2 million people have signed a petition from the attorney general's office to introduce new laws and levy harsher sentences for corrupt public servants.

The judge presiding over the Car Wash case, Sergio Moro, has obtained hero status among many Brazilians. Recently speaking at a gathering in Washington, he said he said police, prosecutors and judges encounter strong support from average citizens but sharp opposition from lawmakers. Deltan Dallagnol, an outspoken prosecutor in the probe, has frequently warned about any attempts in Congress to hinder investigations, thus keeping the colossal case in the public eye. "With or without Dilma, it makes no difference to us," he said during a recent event in the northeastern city of Recife. — AP

HURRICANE THREATENS EAST COAST

DEKLE BEACH, Florida: The first hurricane to hit Florida in more than a decade wiped away beachside buildings, toppled trees onto homes and left hundreds of thousands without electricity before plowing inland on a path that could send it rolling up the densely populated East Coast with heavy rain, high winds and flooding. Hermine quickly weakened to a tropical storm and was spinning along the North Carolina coast early Saturday. But the National Hurricane Center predicted it would regain hurricane strength late in the weekend after emerging over the Atlantic Ocean. The system could then lash coastal areas as far north as Connecticut and Rhode Island through Labor Day.

"Anyone along the US East Coast needs to be paying close attention this weekend," said Dennis Feltgen, a

He later took to a Blackhawk helicopter to visit the coastal communities of Cedar Key and Steinhatchee hit hard by the damage from flooding and storm surge that crumpled docks and washed out homes and businesses. Scott pledged that businesses would be eligible for help from the state. But it's unclear whether Florida will get any federal disaster assistance as the state begins to clean up from the storm.

An estimated 325,000 people were without power statewide and more than 107,000 in neighboring Georgia, officials said. At 8 am, the hurricane center said the tropical storm's center was about 10 miles north-northwest of Oregon Inlet, North Carolina. Forecasters said the storm is expected to move over the Atlantic Ocean soon and threatens a dangerous storm surge into Hampton Roads in southeast

Dekle Beach damaged numerous homes and destroyed storage buildings and a 100-yard fishing pier. The area is about 60 miles southeast of St. Marks, where Hermine made landfall at 1:30 am in the Big Bend area, where Florida's peninsula and panhandle meet. Nancy Geohagan walked around collecting photos and other items for her neighbors after the storm scattered them. "I know who this baseball bat belongs to," she said plucking it from a pile of debris.

An unnamed spring storm that hit the beach in 1993 killed 10 people who refused to evacuate. This time, only three residents stayed behind. All escaped injury. In nearby Steinhatchee, a storm surge crashed into Bobbi Pattison's home. She wore galoshes and was covered in black muck as she stood in her living room amid overturned furniture and an acrid smell. Tiny crabs darted around her floor. "I had a hurricane cocktail party last night and God got even with me," she said with a chuckle. Where her bar once stood was now only wet sand and rubble. Pattison and two neighbors managed to set upright a large wooden statue of a sea captain she had carved from wood that washed ashore in the 1993 storm.

In Keaton Beach, about two dozen people waited on a road just after sunrise Friday, trying to get to their homes. Police blocked the road because of flooding. Dustin Beach, 31, rushed there from a hospital in Tallahassee where his wife gave birth to a girl Thursday night to see if his home still stood. "When my wife got up this morning, she said, 'Go home and check on the house. I need to know where we're going after we leave the hospital,'" Beach said.

Cindy Simpson was waiting near her car, hoping her beach home and boats survived. "It's a home on stilts so I put everything upstairs. We have two boats in the boat house, and I hope they're still there," she said. High winds knocked trees onto several houses in Tallahassee, injuring people inside. It was sometime after midnight when Alan Autry, 48, started hearing the large pines in his Tallahassee neighborhood start to crack and fall to the ground.

Then he heard one come down on the top floor of his house. The tree didn't initially crash through the roof, and Autry and his wife went to a neighbor's house. Sometime before dawn, the corner of his house collapsed from the weight of the tree. "We've been married 13 years and this is our fifth hurricane," said Autry who moved from central Florida six years ago. "By far, this is the worst damage we've ever had." — AP



VALDOSTA, Georgia: Chris Boland, whose home just missed a direct hit from a fallen pine tree, looks over the aftermath of Tropical Storm Hermine as he waits for power to be restored on Friday. — AP

spokesman for the National Hurricane Center. About 300,000 homes were without electricity in Florida, Gov Rick Scott said yesterday morning. Restoring electricity is the state's top priority, he said. "I want everybody to have their power. I want them to be able to take a hot shower," he said.

As Florida cleared trees and downed power lines yesterday, the National Weather Service on issued a flash flood watch for northeast North Carolina and southeast Virginia, including Virginia Beach and Norfolk. The watch is in effect through this evening. Rainfall totals of 3 to 6 inches are possible for southeast Virginia and 4 to 7 inches for northeast North Carolina. In Florida, Hermine's main impact came in the form of power outages and damage from storm surges. A homeless man south of Gainesville died when a tree fell on him, Gov Rick Scott said.

Virginia. Hermine had top sustained winds of 95 kph and was moving northeast at 33 kph.

Dominion Virginia Power said more than 53,000 customers were without power in Virginia. North Carolina Emergency Management reported nearly 45,000 customers without power Saturday morning, with most of the outages in the eastern part of the state. About 21,000 customers remained without power yesterday morning in South Carolina. Forecasters said the system could strengthen back into a hurricane by today morning off the Maryland-Delaware coast before weakening again as it moves north. Tropical storm watches and warnings were posted up and down the coastline. Amtrak said it has cancelled or altered some service on the East Coast as the storm approaches.

Back in Florida, a storm surge at

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GABON'S POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE CLAIMS MORE LIVES

LIBREVILLE: Post-election violence in Gabon has claimed two more lives, sources said yesterday, after President Ali Bongo was proclaimed winner of last week's vote while main challenger Jean Ping claimed victory for himself. One of the two new victims was a policeman, the first member of the Gabonese security forces listed as killed in the violence sparked by the announcement on Wednesday of Bongo's victory in last weekend's election. "I deplore the death of a police officer who was shot in Oyem," the main town in the north, Interior Minister Pacome Moubelet-Boubeya told AFP. The attackers, who shot the policeman in the head, were arrested as they attempted to cross the border with Equatorial Guinea. The interior minister added that, despite the ongoing violence, "we are seeing life returning to Libreville", with businesses beginning to reopen their doors. However the Gabonese capital has been without internet access since Wednesday. Tension was also high in the economic capital Port-Gentil where a youth was shot dead by security forces overnight, according to witnesses. "The parents wanted to march with the body up to the government building with many other people. They were dispersed by security and defense forces," one witness told AFP.

Several residents said the death was just one of several in Port-Bentil in recent days caused by the security forces. "They shoot, they take the bodies away, we are traumatised," one mother said.

Such claims have not been independently verified, but according to an AFP count the latest deaths bring the recent death toll to seven.

'Imminent crisis'

The archbishop of Libreville yesterday called

on both the ruling party and the opposition to avoid an "imminent crisis".

Bongo was declared victorious by a razor-thin margin of just under 6,000 votes, but his main challenger Ping, a veteran diplomat and former top African Union official, has insisted the vote was rigged and on Friday claimed victory for himself. "The whole world knows who is president of the republic, it's me Jean Ping," he said. Ping is calling for a recount at every polling station and has highlighted the election result in the Bongo family stronghold of Upper Ogooue, where official figures showed the president won 90 percent of the votes case on 99 percent turnout. The Gabonese authorities have categorically refused his request for a vote recount, invoking the country's electoral law which includes no such procedure. Bongo himself hasn't spoken publicly since Thursday.

International concern

The post-vote violence in this small but oil-rich central African nation has sparked international concern, with top diplomats calling for restraint as rights groups raised the alarm over the use of "excessive force". In a special session on Gabon late Thursday, the UN Security Council expressed "deep concern" about the situation, urging all sides to "refrain from violence or other provocations".

And Washington has urged all parties to work together to "halt the slide towards further unrest." Security forces stormed Ping's HQ late on Wednesday evening, after the announcement of Bongo's victory sparked riots in the capital during which the national assembly was set ablaze. Bloodstains, bullet marks, broken windows,



PARIS: People hold placards reading "Free Gabon", "Bongo, get out", during a demonstration in support of the Gabonese people, at the Esplanade du Trocadero in Paris, yesterday. —AFP

smashed furniture and documents tossed all over the floor bear witness to the attack.

Under a campaign poster promising to protect the people of Gabon from "need and fear", a large patch of blood lay congealing on shiny white tiles. "He was a lad of around 25 whom they shot through the window," explained opposition politi-

cian Fulbert Mayombo Mbenbjangoye as he escorted journalists late Friday around Ping's headquarters.

Across the country, the unrest has paralysed transportation, with bread and other fresh foods in short supply, the situation further aggravated by widespread looting. — AFP

MERKEL: REFUGEES NOT TAKING AWAY BENEFITS OF GERMANS

NATIONALISTS SEEK GAINS IN MERKEL'S BASTION

BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose conservative party faces possible defeat in an election in her home state today, rejected charges by anti-immigrant critics that her government was spending less on Germans due to a large influx of refugees.

In an interview published in yesterday's edition of Bild newspaper, Merkel also strongly defended her decision, one year ago this weekend, to open the door to hundreds of thousands of refugees mostly fleeing conflicts in the Middle East. "We did not reduce benefits for anyone in Germany as a result of the aid for refugees. In fact, we actually saw social improvements in some areas," Merkel said.



BAD DOBERAN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel (fourth right) and Christian Democrats' top candidate Lorenz Caffier (left) pose with members of a shanty choir during an election campaign event in Bad Doberan, Germany, yesterday. —AP

"We took nothing away from people here. We are still achieving our big goal of maintaining and improving the quality of life in Germany," she said, a day before a critical vote in the eastern state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The big influx of refugees and migrants has dragged her approval ratings to a five-year low of 45 percent, but Merkel was unapologetic and said, faced with the same situation today, she would act no differently.

"On that weekend (in 2015) it was not about opening the border for everyone, it was about not shutting it to those who had made their way to us from Hungary, on foot and in great need of help," she told Bild. Far fewer migrants are arriving in Germany now due to border closures in

southeastern Europe and to a deal between Turkey and the European Union whereby Ankara agrees to take back people leaving its shores for Greece in return for accelerated EU accession talks and visa-free travel for Turks to the bloc.

"RIGHT THING TO DO"

Merkel, who is contemplating a bid for a fourth term as chancellor in next year's federal election, has cited intense efforts to integrate refugees through language courses and other help, but has also pressed for quicker deportations of those whose asylum applications have been denied.

The German government repatriated 21,000

going to be a tight race. Every vote counts."

Nationalists gain Chancellor Angela Merkel's decision a year ago to open the borders to a surge of migrants is casting a long shadow over a state election this weekend in Germany's economically weak northeast, where an anti-immigration party is poised for strong gains.

Polls suggest that the 3-year-old Alternative for Germany can expect to win over 20 percent of votes today in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, a coastal region where Merkel has her parliamentary constituency. That would give it a chance of overtaking Merkel's conservatives for second place, and perhaps even finishing as the strongest party in the state legislature. That would be an embarrassment, though a manageable one, for the chancellor as she looks ahead to national elections next year.

The migrant influx that saw Germany register more than a million newcomers last year has divided Germans and helped reduce Merkel's popularity ratings from stellar to solid. New Year's Eve robberies and sexual assaults blamed largely on foreigners, and two attacks committed by asylum-seekers in July and claimed by the Islamic State group, have raised tensions.

The influx has slowed drastically this year. Merkel says the government has "worked incessantly," citing moves to toughen asylum rules and integrate refugees. She has stuck to her insistence, first voiced a year ago, that "we will manage" the refugee crisis.

Still, Alternative for Germany, or AfD, has thrived over recent months by opposing Merkel's approach. It fared well in three state elections in March. Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, a sparsely populated area of the formerly communist east, looks like fertile ground.

"There is an alliance of all parties under the chancellor's motto, 'We will manage it,' and we are the only ones who say we don't want to manage it at all," AfD deputy leader Alexander Gauland said this week. His party has no intention of going into government, and other parties won't work with it. Gauland said that while people in Mecklenburg may have no refugees in their villages, "they of course see on television, and in the streams that have come to Germany, there's a threat to what they feel is home."

He described Merkel's late-night decision on Sept. 4 last year, along with Austria's then-chancellor, to open the borders to migrants from Hungary as "dictatorial." Such sentiments combine in Mecklenburg with long-standing resentment in rural areas that have seen facilities dwindle as the population shrinks, according to Hajo Funke, a political science professor at Berlin's Free University. The state's 9 percent unemployment rate is well above the 6.1 percent national average. — Agencies



HARLOW: Members of the Polish community march through Harlow exactly a week after the killing of Ark Jozwik in Harlow, Essex, east of London yesterday. Six local teenagers have been arrested and released on bail pending further investigation following the attack on the 40-year-old factory worker, in a run-down open air shopping centre in the town. —AFP

15 WORKERS KIDNAPPED IN NIGERIA'S OIL HUB

LAGOS: Gunmen have kidnapped 15 oil workers on a road near Nigeria's oil hub of Port Harcourt, police said yesterday, in the latest unrest in the restive region. "Fifteen oil workers, including their driver, were abducted yesterday (Friday) by unknown gunmen who hijacked their vehicle on Omoku/Elele road after shooting into the air to scare passersby," Rivers state police spokesman Nnamdi Omoni told AFP.

He said the workers, who were employees of Nestoil, an oil and gas service firm, were on their way to their office in Port Harcourt when they were seized. They are all Nigerian local staff.

Omoni said police was on the trail of the gunmen. "We are combing the bush and creeks in the area. Our men are all over the place. We are doing our best to rescue the victims and apprehend the kidnappers", he said. Omoni said police had recovered

the bus after it was abandoned by the gunmen. Kidnappings targeting prominent Nigerians and foreigners, especially in the oil-producing south, was rife in the 2000s until a 2009 government amnesty reduced unrest in the region.

The hostages are usually released after ransom payments. Last month, two Chinese nationals were seized near the nation's capital Abuja. They were released after 24 hours, but it was not clear if ransom was paid. A resurgence of violence since the start of the year has seen a wave of devastating attacks on Nigeria's oil infrastructure that have slashed output and hammered government revenue.

Nigeria which normally gets 70 percent of government revenue from oil, has slipped into a recession, while inflation has surged to 17.1 percent, its highest in more than a decade. — AFP

MUGABE REJECTS ILL HEALTH TALK AMID RISING PUBLIC ANGER

HARARE: Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe returned home from abroad in a jovial mood yesterday, poking fun at the latest online media speculation that he was gravely ill and had sought medical help in Dubai. Mugabe, 92, came back to the grim reality of rising public anger over an economic meltdown widely blamed on his misrule, with violence erupting a week ago when police fired teargas at opposition leaders and protesters.

Reports that Mugabe's health is declining have become common in recent years, but the veteran politician, in power since independence from Britain in 1980, often refers to himself as "fit as a fiddle".

Yesterday Mugabe poured scorn on rumours on some online news websites - partly fed by his early departure from a regional summit - that he had been rushed for medical treatment in Dubai. Mugabe told journalists at Harare international airport he had gone to Dubai on a family matter concerning one of his children. "Yes, I was dead, it's true I was dead. I resurrected as I always do. Once I get back to my country I am real," he quipped.

But Mugabe showed some signs of frailty, walking slowly from the plane and only chatting briefly with officials before being whisked away in a motorcade.

Mugabe rejects the blame for a crisis

currently manifesting itself in acute cash shortages and high unemployment, and last week warned protesters there would be no "Arab Spring" in Zimbabwe, referring to the uprisings that toppled several Arab leaders. He routinely blames Zimbabwe's economic problems on sabotage by Western opponents of his policies, such as the seizure of white-owned commercial farms for black people. Last week Mugabe accused Western countries, including the United States, of sponsoring recent anti-government protests.

But even some of his once stalwart supporters, including Zimbabwe's war veterans who invaded white commercial farms in support of Mugabe's land seizures, have turned their backs on him, saying he has "devoured" the values of the liberation struggle.

Zimbabwe, which has also been hit by drought and weak commodity prices, is struggling to pay salaries to soldiers, police and other public workers, fuelling political tensions, including within the ruling ZANU-PF. Divisions have emerged inside the party as senior officials position themselves for power after the veteran leader is gone, with one faction supporting Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa while another backs first lady Grace Mugabe. — Reuters

CENTRAL MALI TOWN FALLS TO JIHADISTS

BAMAKO: The central Malian town of Boni was under jihadist control on Friday after administrative buildings were attacked and the army driven out, an elected official and a security source told AFP.

Boni is home to several thousand people and remained under the control of the unidentified armed group by nightfall, who fired on administrative buildings and torched the mayor's office in the afternoon. "At the moment jihadists are in control of the town of Boni. They infiltrated the town and today fired on several buildings," an elected official who requested anonymity said, adding: "the army is no longer there."

Ongoing international military intervention since January 2013 has driven Islamist fighters away from major urban centres which they had briefly controlled, but large tracts of Mali are still not controlled by domestic or foreign troops. Jihadist groups early last year began to carry out attacks in central Mali as well as the long-troubled north. "We asked our forces present in Boni to withdraw to the locality of Douentza, which has been done," a military source told AFP, also asking not to be named as the Malian army has refused to comment on the incident.

Douentza is around 90 kilometres (56 miles) from Boni. Residents reached by phone described men entering the town riding motorbikes and carrying weapons, shouting "Allahu Akbar" during the attack and flying several jihadist flags. — AFP



BRAEMAR: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, centre, accompanied by Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, left and Prince Charles, attend the Braemar Royal Highland Gathering, at the Princess Royal and Duke of Fife Memorial Park, in Braemar, Scotland, yesterday. —AP

MOTHER TERESA'S LEGACY UNDER CLOUD AS SAINTHOOD NEARS

KOLKATA: As the Vatican prepares to declare Mother Teresa a saint this Sunday, in the Indian city where she rose to fame, claims of medical negligence and financial mismanagement at her care homes threaten to cloud her legacy. Pope Francis approved the canonisation of the widely beloved Roman Catholic nun last December, nearly two decades after she died in Kolkata, in whose teeming slums she devoted her life to helping the destitute and the sick.

Yet criticisms of the soon-to-be Saint Teresa of Kolkata abound, with doctors and former volunteers recounting grim tales of poor sanitation, medical neglect and forced conversions of the dying. Born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu to Albanian parents in what is now Macedonia, her Missionaries of Charity homes for the dying earned her a Nobel Peace Prize and the sobriquet Saint of the Gutters.

"We feel that Mother Teresa's elevation to sainthood would be a renewed thrust to (her) charitable works," Thomas D'Souza, the Archbishop of Kolkata, told AFP. Like millions of Catholics worldwide, Gautam Lewis is excited to celebrate the canonisation of the woman he calls his "second mother",

who rescued the orphan after he was struck with polio aged two. "Mother Teresa used to carry me to church every Sunday and she personally supervised my treatment when I underwent surgeries and rehabilitation to get rid of polio," Lewis, now a pilot in London, told AFP.

"I remember feeling very safe and secure in her presence," said the 39-year-old, in Kolkata for celebrations of the nun. Already considered a living saint by many, the humanitarian's path to canonisation was sealed after the Vatican last year recognised the second of the two required miracles, following her death. A critically ill Bengali tribal woman and a Brazilian man suffering from multiple brain tumours both credited prayers to the deceased nun with saving their lives.

But Aroup Chatterjee, a British doctor born in the city formerly known as Calcutta, said that "her whole emphasis was propagation of her faith at any cost."

"To convert a dying, unconscious person is very, very low behaviour, very disgusting," the 58-year-old author of a controversial 2003 book on the nun said. "Mother Teresa did that on an industrial basis."

Questions over care

One of Mother Teresa's most vocal critics, the late British-born author Christopher Hitchens, accused her of exacerbating the plight of the poor with her staunch opposition to contraception and abortion. The famous atheist, who made a provocative film about the nun called Hell's Angel in 1994, said she denied basic care to patients out of a belief that suffering brought them closer to God.

"I think it is very beautiful for the poor to accept their lot, to share it with the passion of Christ," Hitchens quoted her as saying in 1981, in his book *The Missionary Position*. Some former volunteers say her order glorifies pain and poverty and accuse it of delivering bare-bones care, despite receiving millions of dollars in donations. Hemley Gonzalez, who started his own NGO in Kolkata as a response to the alleged deficiencies he witnessed when volunteering at Missionaries of Charity eight years ago, calls it "a modern-day cult". Nuns washed needles with tap water before reusing them, he said, and scolded him for giving terminal patients haircuts because they were going to die anyway. — AFP



KOLKATA: A giant picture of Mother Teresa is displayed outside the Missionaries of Charity Mother house in Kolkata yesterday. — AP



NAYPYIDAW: Myanmar's State Counsellor and Foreign Minister Aung San Suu Kyi departs after delivering her closing address at the conclusion of the peace conference in Naypyidaw yesterday. — AFP

MYANMAR'S PEACE SUMMIT ENDS WITH LONG ROAD AHEAD

NAYPYIDAW, Myanmar: Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi concluded a landmark summit with ethnic rebels yesterday, calling it the first step on what promises to be a tough road to peace. The conference in the capital Naypyidaw was Suu Kyi's first big drive to end insurgencies that have rumbled across Myanmar's frontier states for nearly seven decades.

The Nobel laureate, now leading the country after championing a democracy struggle against the former junta, has devoted her first few months in power to kickstarting fresh negotiations between rebel militias and the army. No resolution emerged from the four-day summit, which gave representatives from dozens of ethnic groups a chance to air grievances and outline their political aspirations. Suu Kyi's biggest achievement was bringing new players to the table, including rebel armies that did not sign a shaky ceasefire brokered by the former military-backed government last year. However three groups still actively clashing with troops did not attend the talks, and the powerful Wa-a heavily armed militia based near the border with China stormed out on day two over what the government said was a misunderstanding.

"To achieve peace is very difficult," Suu Kyi told the conference hall filled with hundreds of delegates on Saturday, the final day of the summit after it was decided a fifth was not needed. "This is the first meeting. After this, there will be more meetings. And there are many things we have to do during the time in between," she added.

The veteran democracy activist, who spent some 15 years under house arrest during junta rule, urged all sides to "look forward" as the peace process continues. Distrust of the military still runs deep in Myanmar—especially in the minority areas battered by decades of fighting and oppression.

Many of the conflicts are complicated by tussles over drug trades and lucrative gem and timber reserves in rebel-held areas.

Challenges ahead

While Suu Kyi has backed the minorities' calls for greater autonomy in their homelands, it will be a challenge to craft a federal arrangement that meets each group's unique demands. Any changes to a junta-era charter will also require support from the still-influential army, which has the power to veto any proposed amendments. Although the army has loosened its grip the country since the end of junta rule 2011, soldiers still run key government ministries and a quarter of parliament seats.

Lian Hmung Sakhong, a leader from the Chin National Front who helped organise the peace conference, said the next gathering of delegates will be held in six months.

"Our current challenge is to get the signatures of ethnic groups that did not sign the NCA," he said, referring to the limited ceasefire negotiated last year. A leader from the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) — a powerful rebel faction that did not sign the truce-stressed that no concrete agreements were reached at this week's talks.

"We were able to present our proposals at this conference, but nothing important happened," General Gun Maw told reporters, adding that more discussion is needed before his group will sign a deal. Myanmar's diverse patchwork of ethnic groups make up around a third of the population, but the government and military have long been dominated by members of the majority Bamar ethnicity, to which Suu Kyi belongs. The peace summit comes almost 70 years after her independence hero father signed an agreement promising autonomy to major ethnic groups ahead of Myanmar's break from colonial ruler Britain.

But the deal collapsed after his assassination and was ignored by the junta that seized power, triggering uprisings that have simmered in the country's borderlands ever since. — AFP

BANGLADESH POLICE KILL ALLEGED MILITANT TIED TO DHAKA ATTACK

NEW DELHI: Bangladesh police launched an overnight raid and killed a man who allegedly trained the Islamist militants believed to have carried out the July hostage-taking in Dhaka's diplomatic quarter that left 20 people dead including 17 foreigners. Details of the Friday night raid in Dhaka's Mirpur neighborhood emerged slowly, and authorities on Saturday confirmed the death of a man they identified as Murad,

saying he also went by Jahangir and Omar. They are still trying to determine his full identity. Police counter-terrorism chief Monirul Islam said the man was killed in a gunbattle after stabbing three officers with a knife.

He described the man as a military commander of the banned group Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh who trained fighters for the July 1 attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery. — AP

INDIA DROPS PLAN TO EXPAND FRENCH SUBMARINE ORDER

SECRET DATA LEAK FUELS SECURITY CONCERNS

NEW DELHI: India is unlikely to give French naval contractor DCNS a proposed order for three new submarines, in addition to the six it is already building in the country, following the leak of secret data about its capabilities, Indian defence officials said. Details of the Scorpene submarine were published in the Australian newspaper last month, triggering concerns that it had become vulnerable even before it was ready to enter service.

DCNS had offered to build three more submarines to help India replace its ageing Soviet-era fleet, and had held talks over the past year, two Indian sources said. That offer will not now be taken up, according to the officials. "We had an agreement for six, and six it will remain," a defence ministry official briefed on the navy's plans told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A spokesman of the Indian Navy confirmed that the orders would not be placed for three more submarines. "Indian has ordered only six Scorpene submarines and orders have not been placed for three more as reported by some media.

Therefore question of cancellation does not arise," the spokesman said. A navy officer said there had been a serious breach of data and the navy's efforts were focused on determining the damage done to the existing submarines. "No order will be signed, nothing is going to happen now," the officer, who is also been briefed on the submarine data leak, said when asked if the government planned to enlarge the order.

India's defence ministry has written to DCNS asking for details about the extent of the leak and how data relating to the Scorpene's intelligence gathering frequencies, diving depth, endurance and weapons specifications had ended up in the

public domain, both officials said. A naval group headed by a three-star admiral is looking at altering some features of the submarine, the first of which began sea trials in May for induction later this year, to minimise any damage. The remaining five are in various stages of production at state-run Mazgaon Docks shipyard in Mumbai and they were all due to enter service by 2020.

INVESTIGATION

An official at Mazgaon Docks said the firm was focused on completing the original order of six Scorpenes and that he was not aware of any plan to build more. A DCNS spokesman said the firm was in close touch with "our key customers like India to keep them informed of the development of our investigation, respond to their questions and mitigate their legitimate worries".

"The investigation is still ongoing and one of its objectives is to determine the potential prejudice and minimize its potential consequences," the spokesman said. DCNS is preparing to build a new fleet of submarines in Australia for A\$50 billion (\$38.13 billion). Australian defence officials have warned the firm to beef up security in the wake of the leak. DCNS has said that the leak, which covered details of the Scorpene-class model and not the vessel currently being designed for the Australian fleet, bore the hallmarks of "economic warfare" carried out by frustrated competitors.

Indian officials have pointed to a "non-disclosure of information" clause that was written into the 2005 contract at French insistence, the first defence ministry official briefed on the communication with the DCNS, said. But the official said the government could only invoke that clause if it was established that the data was leaked and not stolen.

A French government source has said the firm had apparently been robbed, and it was not a leak, adding it was unlikely classified data was stolen.

NOISE SIGNATURE

Indian submarine experts say that, while the breach in information security was serious, it does not make the Scorpene's immediately vulnerable to detection. The most vital data about a submarine is its unique "signature" of noise, heat and electro-magnetic emissions, and it is the combination of such signatures that determines the ability to detect them. "If that is gone, then you might as well say goodbye to the submarine. You are exposed," said former vice admiral and submariner A.K. Singh.

Such signatures are assembled in the course of the sea trials of a submarine, and in the case of the Scorpene's that has yet to happen, he said. India's submarine arm is down to 13 vessels, only half of which are operational at any time, and is falling rapidly behind China, which is expanding its maritime presence in the Indian Ocean. Even Pakistan, which operates Agosta submarines also built by DCNS and is in talks with China for a new set of submarines, is drawing close to the operational strength of the Indian navy.

The Indian government has approved the acquisition of the next generation of submarines beyond the Scorpene, in a project estimated at \$8 billion.

DCNS has expressed an interest in that project, as has Russia and Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems. The first defence official said he did not expect any movement on that project until the investigation into the Scorpene leak was completed and new security measures put in place. — Reuters



HANOI: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (centre L) and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc (centre R) watch as Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Defense Nguyen Chi Vinh (front R) and an unidentified Indian official from the foreign ministry (front L) sign an agreement at the Government Cabinet Office in Hanoi yesterday. — AFP

INDIA OFFERS \$500M CREDIT AS VIETNAM SEEKS ARMS BOOST

HANOI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered Vietnam a credit line yesterday of half a billion dollars for defence cooperation, giving a lift to a country rapidly pursuing a military deterrent as discord festers in the South China Sea. The deal was among a dozen cooperation agreements Modi signed in Hanoi alongside his Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Xuan Phuc, on the first visit to the country by an Indian prime minister in 15 years.

India and Vietnam share borders and large trade volumes with China and have repeatedly locked horns with Beijing, over the territorial disputes in the Himalayas and the South China Sea, respectively.

Both are also beefing-up of their defences and in India's case, its defence industry, promoting heavily its supersonic BrahMos missile. India is keen to sell the missile to Vietnam and four other

countries, according to a government note seen by Reuters in June. It was unclear if the latest loan included the \$100 million India had previously made available to Vietnam for four yet-to-be-built patrol vessels in a deal agreed in late 2014. In an address to media, Modi said the credit was for "facilitating mutual defence cooperation" and the relationship between the two countries would "contribute to stability, securities and prosperity in this region".

Modi, who was en-route to a G20 Summit in China, made no mention of the patrol vessels, nor BrahMos missiles, and did not elaborate on what Vietnam would use the \$500 million credit for.

The offer comes after a surge of almost 700 percent in Vietnam's defence procurements as of 2015, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute think-tank, which tracks

the arm trade over five-year periods. Vietnam is in the midst of a quiet military buildup analysts say is designed as a deterrent, to secure its 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone as China grows more assertive in staking its claims in the South China Sea.

Experts say Vietnam is in the market for fighter jets and more advanced missile systems, in addition to its six kilo-class submarines it has bought from Russia, the last of which it will receive late this year. The 12 agreements signed on Saturday covered areas like health, cyber security, ship-building, UN peace-keeping operations and naval information sharing.

Both leaders said ties would be upgraded to the level of "comprehensive strategic relationship" and bilateral trade would be almost doubled to \$15 billion by 2020. — Reuters

OBAMA'S ASIAN PIVOT LEAVES CLOSER TIES, NEW CHALLENGES

BEIJING: As Barack Obama embarks on what is likely to be his final trip to Asia as president, attention is returning to what is known as the US "pivot" to the continent launched during his first term. The policy adjustment aimed to reinforce alliances and shift military assets to a region that has grown in importance alongside the rise of China as a global economic and political power. A look at some of the impacts on different countries in the Asia-Pacific region:

CHINA: KEY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

The US shift of focus to Asia has been driven by China's emergence as a global force and America's rival in the region. Such frictions have persisted despite an economic relationship that has seen the world's largest economies and biggest military spenders amass two-way trade of more than \$600 billion in 2015. On the military side, the US pivot chiefly involves the reassignment of 60 percent of the Navy fleet to Asia, the rotation of Marines through Australia and stronger cooperation with the Philippines, mainly as a response to China's robust assertions of its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea.

China has strongly criticized the US approach and pressed ahead with island-building including airstrips, harbors and other infrastructure of potential military use. The US has refused to recognize the new features as islands with sovereign rights and has repeatedly sent warships and planes near them in freedom of navigation missions.

Farther north in the East China Sea, the US has ignored China's declaration of an aircraft defense identification zone that encompasses islands controlled by American treaty partner Japan. South Korea's plan to deploy an American missile defense system has also aroused China's ire, sending relations between

Seoul and Beijing to their lowest level in years.

China is also the largest foreign holder of US debt, and by some estimates, Chinese foreign direct investment into the U.S. has started to outstrip the flow of US investment into China.

PHILIPPINES: A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP

The American pivot to Asia coincided with increasing Philippine insecurity over China's assertiveness in the disputed South China Sea. The symbiosis sparked an upswing in relations under former President Benigno Aquino III at the same time as ties with Beijing strained after Chinese ships seized the disputed Scarborough Shoal in 2012. The antagonism worsened when Aquino's government sued China the following year before an international arbitration tribunal over contested territories. In 2014, the long-time treaty allies signed a defense pact allowing American forces to temporarily base in designated Philippine military camps. In July this year, the tribunal invalidated China's vast claims but Beijing dismissed the ruling as a sham.

By then, Aquino has been succeeded by Rodrigo Duterte, who made known his dislike for US policies and its ambassador and announced he will chart an independent foreign policy not dependent on Manila's former colonizer. While there hasn't been a sign that he will roll back defense cooperation with the US, Duterte has also refrained from pressing China to comply with the arbitration ruling and has coozied up publicly to Beijing.

AUSTRALIA: US ALLY WITHIN CHINA'S ECONOMIC ORBIT

Australia and the US have increased their military cooperation as part of the pivot, with American Marines now rotating through a training hub in the north-



BEIJING: US President Barack Obama, right, smiles after a group of children waved flags and flowers to cheer him during a welcome ceremony with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China. —AP

ern port city of Darwin. Meanwhile, an Australian army general was appointed to a senior position in the US Army Pacific contingent. At the same time, Canberra remains strongly committed to its economic relationship with China. While China's economic slowdown has reduced its demand for Australian iron ore and other commodities, Chinese companies remain keen investors in the Australian economy. Wealthy Chinese also spend heavily on Australian higher education, vacations and real estate.

The balance between economic and security interests has not always been easy to maintain. Australia has been supportive of the US freedom of navigation exercises in disputed areas of the South China Sea, and has regularly sent its own air force patrols over the region, drawing anger from Beijing. Yet Australian public opinion remains strongly in favor of

close ties with China.

JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA: KEY ALLIES DESPITE HISTORICAL DIFFERENCES

Relations between South Korea and Japan, two key US allies in Asia, have seen numerous setbacks in past decades due to bitter rows over history. It appeared the ties had sunk to one of their lowest ebbs following the 2012 inauguration of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who, by taking a more hawkish and nationalistic stance, raised suspicions in Seoul that he was trying to obscure Japan's brutal colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula. The Obama administration grew increasingly frustrated about the poor relations between its allies, which together host about 80,000 US troops and are critical to Washington's plans to better deal with a

rising China and North Korean threats.

The US worked behind the scenes to bring together Abe and South Korean President Park Geun-hye for a summit with Obama in March 2014. It resulted in the opening of talks between South Korea and Japan over resolving the issue of South Korean women who were forced into sexual slavery by Japan's military in World War II.

In October 2015, on the sidelines of a trilateral summit that also included China, Park and Abe met for the first formal talks in more than three years. South Korea and Japan two months later reached an agreement for Japan to provide 1 billion yen (\$9.9 million) to a South Korean foundation established to help support former sex slaves.

JAPAN: NEWLY ASSERTIVE US ALLY IN NORTHEAST ASIA

Like South Korea, Japan is host to a large US military presence, numbering about 50,000 troops at present, and has a formal mutual protection alliance with Washington.

There are concerns in Japan about the US commitment to its defense in light of US budget constraints and war fatigue after Iraq and Afghanistan. Specifically, there are questions over what the US would do if China were to attempt to seize control of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea that

both countries claim. Obama and other senior US officials have tamped down those concerns somewhat by publicly reiterating that the US is treaty-bound to defend Japan.

Despite China's strong objections, the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has also pushed through contentious legislation to loosen post-World War II restrictions on the Japanese military to allow Japan to contribute more to regional defense. Japan has also deepened its security ties with Australia and Southeast Asia. — AP

OBAMA PRESSES XI ON SOUTH CHINA SEA AHEAD OF SUMMIT

BEIJING URGED TO UPHOLD LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

HANGZHOU, China: US President Barack Obama yesterday pressed his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on territorial disputes in the South China Sea, urging Beijing to uphold its legal obligations and stressing the United States' commitments to its regional allies. Tensions over the disputed waters between China and its neighbors were expected to hang over the G20 summit, which opens in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou yesterday.

China is keen to ensure a smooth summit, its highest profile event of the year, as it looks to enhance its global standing and avoid acrimony over a long list of tensions with Washington. Obama, now in the last five months of his presidency, wants to put a final stamp on his signature policy shift toward the Pacific, setting the tone for his White House successor, who will be elected in November and take office on Jan 20.

He has invested in developing closer ties with nations in Southeast Asia, and is taking pains in his last scheduled trip to the region to reassure partners worried about the economic and military might of China. After more than four hours of meetings with Xi and his top officials, Obama emphasized the importance for China to "abide by its obligations" to an international maritime treaty in the dispute over rights to a territory rich in oil and fish through which \$5 trillion in trade travels each year. An arbitration court in The Hague ruled in July that China had no historic title over the waters of the South China Sea and had infringed on the rights of the Philippines, which brought the case under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. China rejected the ruling and accused the United States of stirring up trouble in the sea where its territorial claims overlap in parts with Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei

and Taiwan. "China will continue to firmly safeguard its sovereignty and maritime rights in the South China Sea," Xi said according to a statement on the foreign ministry's website.

"At the same time, it will persist in peacefully resolving disputes through consultations with parties directly involved," Xi said, urging the United States to "play a constructive role" in the peace and stability of the region. In an unusually lengthy statement following the meeting, the White House said Obama had "underscored the United States' unwavering commitment to the security of its treaty allies". "The president reaffirmed that the United States will work with all countries in the region to uphold the principles of international law, unimpeded lawful commerce, and freedom of navigation and over-flight," the White House said.

'Candid' Talks, Ending in a Nighttime Stroll

Obama is at his last summit of the world's 20 major economies, and the White House said the Hangzhou visit would likely be his final meeting as president with Xi, with whom he has grappled over hacking incidents, commercial tensions, and differences over human rights. Obama stressed the need for a "an open trade and investment environment" and "the need for China to protect religious freedom for all of its citizens," the White House said. China rejects criticism of its human rights record, arguing it has lifted millions out of poverty. Cyber issues, from concern over hacking and cyber espionage to emerging Chinese policies on information technology that foreign companies fear could limit their operations in the country, have also strained ties. The visit got off to a rocky start when a Chinese government official angrily scuffled with Obama's top national security adviser, Susan Rice, at the airport, and yelled at a press aide. Obama and Xi tried to strike a cooperative tone, formally agreeing to join the Paris agreement to curb climate-warming emissions, a deal they worked together to cement. But then they got down to more thorny issues. For his part, Xi told Obama that China objects to the deployment of a US missile shield in South Korea to help protect against the North Korean nuclear threat. — Reuters



HANGZHOU, China: Chinese President Xi Jinping (right) and US President Barack Obama shake hands prior to a meeting at the West Lake State House yesterday. — AFP

ONE KILLED AS BOMB EXPLODES ON TRAIN IN SOUTHERN THAILAND

BANGKOK: One railway worker was killed and three people were wounded when a bomb exploded on a train in Thailand's southern town of Pattani yesterday, police said, a day after peace talks between the Thai government and Muslim separatists.

The bomb was hidden under rail tracks at Khok Pho district of Pattani, damaging the last carriage, Police Captain Promote Juichouy told Reuters. The blast destroyed half the carriage and blew a big hole under the track, police said. The three wounded people included two train workers and a female passenger. The train was heading to Bangkok.

Peace talks between Thailand's government and Muslim separatists ended on Friday with no breakthrough but an agreement to meet again. The insurgents denied responsibility for a string of bombs last month. A decades-old insurgency in the Muslim-majority southern provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat has claimed more than 6,500 lives since it escalated in 2004, according to the independent monitoring group Deep South Watch. As with most such attacks, no one claimed responsibility. The blast occurred three weeks after a series of explosions hit three of Thailand's most popular tourist resorts and a town in the south, killing four people and wounding dozens. Meanwhile, Thai authorities have arrested the first suspect linked to a string of bomb and arson attacks that rocked southern tourist towns last month, a police officer said yesterday. The coordinated blasts erupted across seven provinces on August 11-12, killing four and injuring dozens, including foreign tourists. No one has claimed responsibility for the bombing spree but analysts say it bore the hallmarks of ethnic Malay Muslim insurgents behind a 12-year rebellion concentrated further south. —Agencies



BANGKOK: Women from the Pom Mahakan fort community sit down in protest during eviction proceedings in Bangkok yesterday. The three-generation-old traditional Thai artisan community of Pom Mahakan fort were ordered to vacate the area for urban development by yesterday after more than 20 years of fighting and negotiations with City Hall. — AFP



CANBERRA: The first indigenous woman elected to Australia's House of Representatives Linda Burney, holding up her cloak as she gives her first speech in the national parliament in Canberra. —AFP

ABORIGINAL WOMAN GOES FROM 'NON-CITIZEN' TO AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT

SYDNEY: Wearing a cloak decorated with the goanna lizard, the first Aboriginal woman elected to Australia's lower house took her seat in parliament this week, saying that as a child she was a "non-citizen". Former teacher Linda Burney made history in July when she was voted into the House of Representatives, joining only a handful of other indigenous lawmakers in Australia's national parliament. In her maiden speech, she said that her kangaroo skin cloak "tells my story", as another Wiradjuri woman sang to her in traditional language from the public gallery.

"It charts my life, on it is my clan totem the goanna and my personal totem the white cockatoo," she told parliament on Wednesday. Burney said she would bring the "fighting Wiradjuri spirit" to the capital in Canberra, as she described how far she had come from her childhood in New South Wales. "I was born at a time when the Australian government knew how many sheep there were but not how many Aboriginal people," Burney, a former New South Wales state government minister,

said. "I was 10 years old before the '67 referendum fixed that. The first decade of my life was spent as a non-citizen," the 59-year-old lawmaker added.

The 1967 referendum changed Australia's constitution to allow Aboriginal people to be counted in the national census. But indigenous Australians still suffer disproportionate levels of disadvantage and imprisonment and have a much lower life expectancy.

They are also dealing with the legacy of policies under which indigenous children were taken from their mothers to be raised by white families or in institutions. Burney, who is with the opposition Labor Party, joins the ruling conservative Liberal Party's first Aboriginal MP, Ken Wyatt, who was elected in 2010, and follows in the footsteps of former senator and Olympian Nova Peris, who was the first indigenous woman in the upper house. "The Aboriginal part of my story is important, it is the core of who I am," Burney said. "But I will not be stereotyped and I will not be pigeonholed." — AFP

VANDALIZED POSTERS AHEAD OF HONG KONG'S ELECTIONS

HONG KONG: Hong Kongers are heading to the polls today in the first major election since 2014 pro-democracy street protests. A new crop of radical activists are challenging both pro-Beijing rivals and Hong Kong's mainstream pro-democracy parties for seats in the Legislative Council, or Legco.

A series of vandalized posters are a sign that the elections are the most contentious since the 1997 British handover of the city to China. Many of the candidates in the defaced posters are from the new wave of pro-democracy activists who, unlike their older established mainstream counterparts, reject the idea that Hong Kong is a part of China and support more confrontational tactics and radical action in their fight for full

democracy from Beijing. A key theme of this year's vote is a growing call for independence from China. Such talk was once considered unthinkable but has become commonplace as residents fret over Beijing's tightening. Some of the more radical candidates want Hong Kong-focused localism and others desire full autonomy.

Pro-democracy candidates agree on the need for direct elections for Hong Kong's top leader, currently hand-picked by a committee of mostly pro-Beijing elites. Chinese communist leaders had promised to allow elections but insisted on screening out unfriendly candidates, a stance that sparked the 2014 protests and left Hong Kong's democratic development in limbo. — AP



A bee hovers as three others gather nectar and pollen from a sunflower growing along East Green Street in Hazleton, Pennsylvania on Friday. — AP

DUTERTE DECLARES 'STATE OF LAWLESSNESS'...

Continued from Page 1

The attack came as Philippine forces were on alert amid an ongoing military offensive against Abu Sayyaf extremists in southern Sulu province that intensified last week after the militants beheaded a kidnapped villager. The militants threatened to launch an unspecified attack after the military said 30 of the gunmen were killed in the weeklong offensive.

Rami is the son-in-law of Mohammad Said, an influential militant commander who used the nom de guerre Amah Maas and was killed in the ongoing Sulu offensive. Davao Vice Mayor Paulo Duterte, the president's son, also told reporters that militants linked to the Islamic State group had threatened the progressive city. Some commanders of the Abu Sayyaf, which is blacklisted by the United States and the Philippines as a terrorist organization for deadly bombings, ransom kidnappings and beheadings, have pledged allegiance to IS. The military, however, says there has been no evidence of a direct collaboration and militant action may have been aimed at bolstering their image after years of combat setbacks.

Communications Secretary Martin Andanar said that the bomb appeared to have been made from a mortar round and that doctors reported many of the victims had shrapnel wounds. Despite the emergency, Duterte said he would proceed with trips to Brunei, Laos and Indonesia

starting today, but a Department of Foreign Affairs official later told AP that the Brunei leg of Duterte's first foreign visits has been postponed. At an Asian summit in the Laotian capital of Vientiane, Duterte said in jest that most of the leaders he would meet, including President Barack Obama and Russian leader Vladimir Putin, have had a taste of terrorist attacks.

Armando Morales, a 50-year-old masseur, said the explosion threw him off his chair, adding that the blast had an upward force and emitted smoke but no fireball that could have killed more people. He saw at least 10 people lying bloodied on the ground, mostly fellow masseurs and their customers. "I helped tie their wounds to prevent blood loss," the still-dazed Morales said. "They were pale like dead already."

Police immediately set up more checkpoints in key roads leading to the city, a regional gateway about 980 km south of Manila. The police force in the capital also went on full alert at midnight. US National Security Council spokesman Ned Price said in a statement that local authorities in the Philippines continue to investigate the cause of the explosion, and the United States stands ready to provide assistance to the investigation. Obama will have an opportunity to offer his personal condolences to Duterte, with the two leaders planning to meet on the sidelines of the summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations leaders in Laos next week, Price said. — AP

US, CHINA RATIFY PARIS CLIMATE DEAL

Continued from Page 1

China's Communist-controlled parliament ratified the agreement earlier yesterday, and President Xi said the Asian giant was "solemnly" committed to the issue. "Hopefully this will encourage other countries to take similar efforts," he said in Hangzhou, where he is to host the G20 summit of the world's leading developed and emerging economies.

Until yesterday, only 24 of the signatories had ratified the accord, including France and many island states threatened by rising sea levels but who only produce a tiny proportion of the world's emissions. Ban said there would be high-level talks in New York later this month to push more countries to sign up, and told the two leaders they had "added powerful momentum" to efforts to bring the accord into force. "I am optimistic we can do it before the end of this year."

Climate is one of the few areas where the world's two most powerful countries - who are at loggerheads on issues ranging from trade disputes, cyberspying and the South China Sea - are able to find common cause. Campaigners welcomed the move, with WWF saying they had sent "a very powerful signal that there will be real global action on climate change." But some environmental groups say that the Paris pledges by China, the US and others fall far short of what is needed to meet the goal of less than two degrees of warming. "This moment should be seen as a starting point, not the finale, of global action on climate," said Greenpeace policy adviser Li Shuo.

The Paris pact calls for capping global warming at well below two degrees Celsius, and 1.5 C if possible, com-

pared with pre-industrial levels. For China, ratifying the agreement fits with Beijing's domestic political agenda of being seen to make efforts to clean up the environment, after years of breakneck industrial development led to soaring air, water and ground pollution. The scourge is estimated to have caused hundreds of thousands of early deaths, and is the source of mounting public anger.

Under the Paris accord, China has pledged to cut its carbon emissions per unit of GDP by 60-65 percent from 2005 levels by 2030 and increase non-fossil fuel sources in primary energy consumption to about 20 percent. Neither of those requirements implies a commitment to cut absolute levels of emissions, although China is also obliged to have them peak by "around 2030". In its Paris commitment, the US promised to cut its own emissions 26-28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.

During the negotiations over the Paris deal Beijing stressed the concept of "differentiated responsibilities" - the idea that developed countries should shoulder the lion's share of the burden as they have polluted most since the Industrial Revolution. For its part the White House is looking for the Paris accord to come into force during Obama's tenure, in part to burnish his climate legacy, but also to ensure it is not derailed by the forthcoming US election.

The administration has been careful to structure the agreement so that it can be enacted by Obama under existing presidential authorities and without Congressional approval. Policymakers from Tokyo to Stockholm have bitter memories of George W Bush and his Republican Party refusing to ratify the Kyoto Protocol after it was agreed by Bill Clinton's administration. — AFP

ROMEO THE MIRACLE DOG SURVIVES ITALY...

Continued from Page 1

The toll from the deadliest quake to hit Italy since the 2009 L'Aquila disaster now stands at 294 confirmed dead following the discovery of another body on Friday evening at Casale, a small village near Amatrice, the tourist town where three quarters of the deaths occurred. The final death count may yet top 300 with a handful of people unaccounted for and some hospitalized victims in a critical condition.

Vasco Errani, the government's reconstruction supremo, vowed yesterday that hundreds of people made homeless by the quake would be back in houses "in your own territory" within seven months. Many are currently

housed in tents in a region where freezing overnight temperatures are common from mid-October. The clear-up operation was given a significant boost yesterday with the reopening of a key road bridge on the main road leading to Amatrice. The centuries-old original "bridge of three eyes" was left structurally unsafe by the quake but army engineers have built a temporary by-pass next to it.

Farmers' organization Coldiretti meanwhile announced that all the surviving cows in the agricultural area hit by the quake were being fed and milked every day. The milk is being used to make a "caciotta" cheese. The first samples were sold at a market in Rome yesterday with funds raised going to help farmers in the quake-hit area. — AFP

BANGLADESH HANGS ISLAMIST FINANCIER

Continued from Page 1

tens of thousands of Islamist activists clashed with police in protests that left some 500 people dead.

Family members met Ali for the last time in the prison just hours before he went to the gallows. "All along he said he was innocent. He said he is being killed unjustifiably," said Tahera Tasnim, one of Ali's daughters after 23 members of his family met him. "He said this repressive government is killing them (Islamist leaders) to stop Islam being established in the society and the country," Tasnim told AFP. Ali had helped revive Jamaat and made it a potent force in Bangladesh politics by setting up charities, businesses and trusts linked to it after it was allowed to operate in the late 1970s.

Before he was arrested in 2012, Ali headed the Diganta Media Corporation, which owns a pro-Jamaat daily and a television station that was shut down in 2013 for stoking religious tensions. He was convicted in Nov 2014 of a series of war crimes including the abduction and murder of a young independence fighter. Defense lawyers have said the charges against him were baseless.

His son Mir Ahmed Bin Quasem, who was part of his legal defense team, was allegedly abducted by security

forces earlier in August, which critics say was an attempt to sow fear and prevent protests against the imminent execution. Jamaat, which is banned from contesting elections, has labeled the charges against Ali "false" and accuses the government of exacting "political vengeance".

Russel Sheikh, a senior police official, told AFP that officials had taken the "highest security measures" ahead of the execution for fear of violence by his Islamist supporters. More than 1,000 police were deployed in Gazipur and hundreds of paramilitary border guards were outside the prison and in Dhaka, security officials told AFP. Rights groups have criticized the war crimes trials, saying they were flawed and lack any foreign oversight.

A group of United Nations human rights experts last week urged Bangladesh to annul Ali's death sentence and to retry him in compliance with international standards. But Hasina's government has defended the trials, saying they are needed to heal the wounds of the conflict, which it says left three million people dead. Independent researchers put the war toll much lower. When Bangladesh's independence war broke out, Jamaat opposed the struggle, siding with the military regime in Islamabad. — AFP

UZBEK STRONGMAN KARIMOV BURIED

Continued from Page 1

"Death took from our midst the founder of the state of Uzbekistan, a great and dear son of our people."

Loyalist Mirziyoyev headed the organizing committee for the funeral, in a sign that he could be the frontrunner to replace Karimov. Russian premier Medvedev told the Uzbek leadership that Moscow "in these sad days" is "with you, you can have no doubt", RIA Novosti reported. An AFP journalist in Samarkand - which also houses the mausoleum of feared 14th century warlord Tamerlane - said national flags were flying with black ribbons of mourning attached and that the road to the cemetery where Karimov was buried next to his family was strewn with roses. Police had cordoned off most of the center of the city and were not letting ordinary citizens or cars through.

Many people had anticipated that Karimov would be succeeded by his older daughter Gulnara, a businesswoman and pop star, but she fell from favour two years ago and there was no sign of her on Saturday among the family members in the funeral cortege. At Tashkent airport, as the coffin was being loaded onto a plane bound for Samarkand, Karimov's wife, Tatiana, and his younger daughter, Lola Karimova-Tillyaeva, stood at the foot of the aircraft steps. His daughter, dressed all in black, was dabbing her eyes with a white handkerchief.

Despite his brutal quarter-century rule, which earned him a reputation abroad as one of the region's most savage despots who ruthlessly stamped out opposition, people in Karimov's home town mourned his passing and some youths wore black clothes. "When we found out about his death, all my family - my wife, my son's wife, the children - we were all crying, we couldn't believe it," one local man, 58, told AFP, refusing to give his name. "It is a great loss for every Uzbek. He made our country free and developed."

Crowds of people had earlier reportedly lined the road to watch and throw flowers at the cortege as it drove through the capital Tashkent. Karimov was one of a handful of Soviet strongmen who clung to power after their homelands gained independence from Moscow in 1991, and he played Russia, the West and China off against each other. The most serious challenge to his rule came from his

eldest daughter, once seen as a possible heir, whom he placed under house arrest in 2014 after a family power struggle erupted publicly.

Uzbekistan has never held elections deemed free and fair by international monitors, and Karimov won his fifth term in office last March with 90 percent of the vote. Under Uzbek law, senate head Nigmatulla Yuldashev has now become acting president until early elections are held. His death pushes the strategically located landlocked country into a "phase of uncertainty", the head of the Russian lower house of parliament's international affairs committee, Alexei Pushkov, said Friday.

Rights groups - which have long accused Karimov's regime of the most serious abuses including torture and forced labor in the lucrative cotton industry - have slammed his time in power as a catastrophe for Uzbekistan. But Karimov portrayed himself as guarantor of stability and bulwark against radicalism on the borders of Afghanistan, crushing fundamentalist groups in the majority Muslim republic.

Citing an Islamist threat, Karimov cracked down ruthlessly on anyone deemed to be a religious extremist. Growing a beard or renouncing alcohol was sometimes enough to earn arrest. Rights groups say detainees were tortured. In the Uzbek city of Andizhan in May 2005, security forces killed around 500 mostly unarmed people who had been protesting against local officials, witnesses and rights groups said. Karimov put the death toll at 169 and said his forces had put down an armed uprising. Karimov's own family were not immune from the harsh treatment. In a letter smuggled to a BBC journalist in 2014, Gulnara, the older daughter, alleged she was being held under house arrest by her father's security officials after her family ostracized her.

"Islam Karimov leaves a legacy of a quarter century of ruthless repression," said Steve Swerdlow, Central Asia researcher at Human Rights Watch. "Karimov ruled through fear to erect a system synonymous with the worst human rights abuses: torture, disappearances, forced labour, and the systematic crushing of dissent." Despite Karimov's brutal record, Uzbekistan still receives US aid and both Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian leader Vladimir Putin have jetted in for talks over the past year. — Agencies

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Issues

BRAZIL'S TEMER WINS PRESIDENCY, HUGE PROBLEMS

By Damian Wroclawsky

Brazil's new president, Michel Temer, has an unusually short time to get through an unusual - even daunting - list of tasks, starting with fixing one of the world's biggest economies. Dilma Rousseff's dismissal from the presidency in her impeachment trial on Wednesday was a triumph for her former vice president turned bitter enemy. But now Temer has what's left of Rousseff's second term - two years and four months up to the end of 2018 - to deal with the same problems that overwhelmed her.

Economy

With Brazil in its deepest recession since the 1930s, Temer's main hope is that he can turn the economy around. Unemployment rose to 11.6 percent in May to July while GDP shrank 0.6 percent in the second quarter. The markets believe in him: the Sao Paulo stock market has risen some 29 percent since he became interim president during Rousseff's impeachment process in May. The Brazilian currency, the real, has gained more than 15 percent in value. "My promise is to recover the strength of our economy and put Brazil back on the rails," he said soon after his swearing in on Wednesday.

But getting his proposed fixes - austerity cuts, pension and labor law reforms, and privatization - through Congress will be tough. With a giant budget deficit of more than \$53 billion, analyst Harold Thau from Tecnica consultants says, "the priority is to reorganize the public accounts." "There are no longer the conditions to keep spending more than what's coming in or to raise taxes."

Temer has named the respected Henrique Meirelles as economy minister. A former central banker under the governments of Rousseff's predecessor Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, he says he will reduce spending, reform labor markets and lower ballooning pension costs. However, those unpopular initiatives will require constitutional amendments, which means heavy congressional support. The first test will be in setting a spending ceiling for 2017 with no increases except to reflect inflation.

Politics

Few are better than Temer, 75, at finding their way around the Brazilian political maze, but he is far from popular and comes in without a mandate from having won an election. As the chief of Brazil's biggest party, the center-right PMDB, he has built a cabinet based on the main forces in Congress - largely conservative on social agendas and liberal in economics. But how much power does he really have? Sylvio Costa, editor of the specialist Congresso em Foco website, says Rousseff "was in large part brought down by her inability to build relations with Congress. Temer will have to build strong majorities, but to do that, he'll have to make concessions."

"After a traumatic (impeachment) process, he will have to come to understanding with Congress, but there's also the problem of coming to an understanding with the public, which is deeply turned off by politicians," he added. Illustrating the fragility of Temer's foundations, the Senate failed to agree on barring Rousseff from politics altogether even as it removed her from the presidency. It was as if Temer's main enemy were defeated, but not quite driven off the battlefield. The failure of that second vote, which called for an eight-year banishment, "caused an enormous uneasiness," says former presidential candidate Aécio Neves from the social-democratic PSDB party.

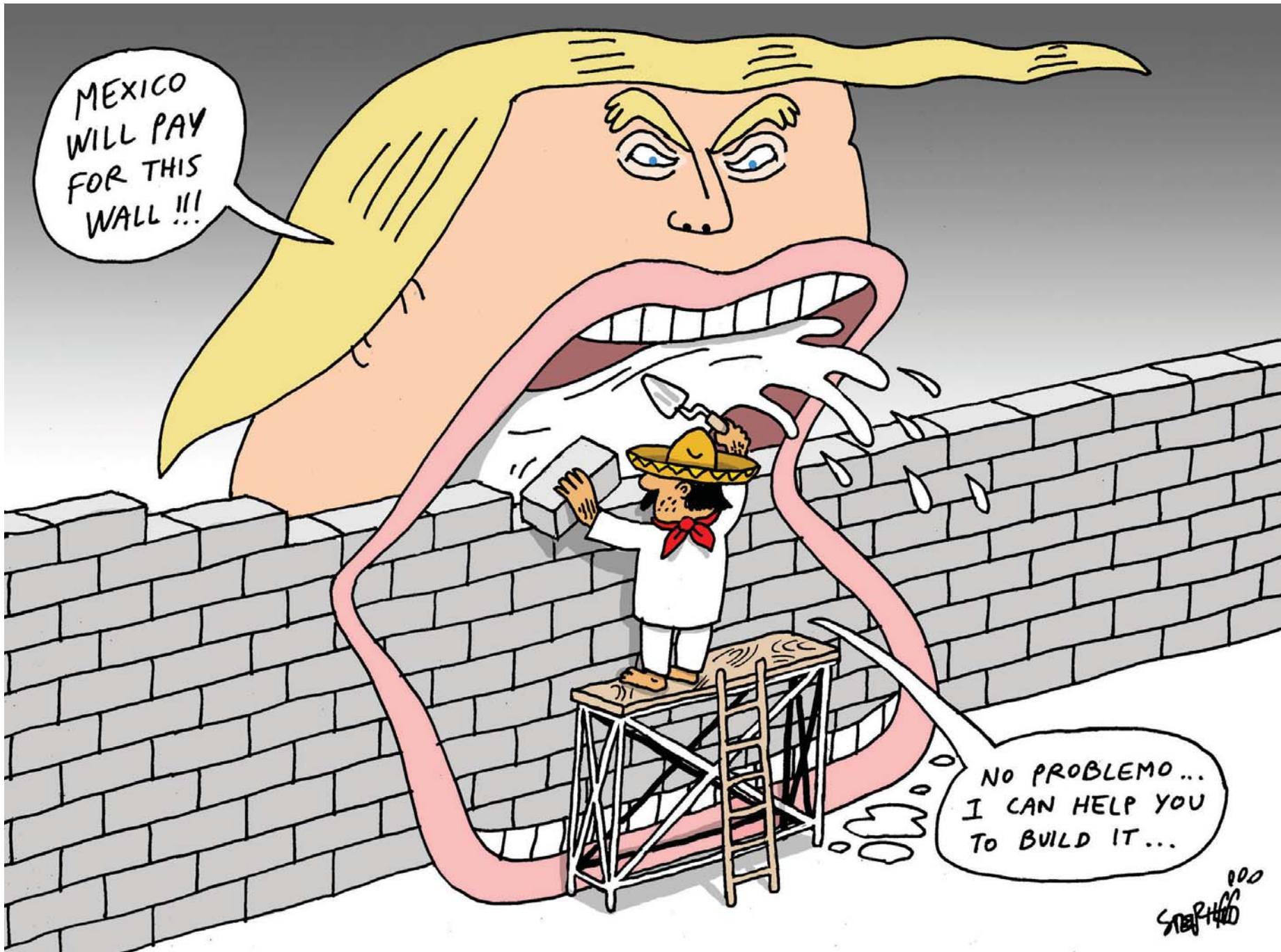
Corruption

Hanging over left and right in Brazilian politics is the mega-scandal at Petrobras oil company, the jewel in the crown of state-run business where a vast network of embezzlement and bribery has been uncovered. Players from both Rousseff's Workers' Party and Temer's PMDB, along with others, have been prosecuted or convicted in the wholesale theft from Petrobras, partly for personal enrichment and partly to fund their parties' political campaigns.

Almost as soon as Temer named his cabinet on becoming interim president, he had to sack three ministers when it was disclosed that they were caught up in the Petrobras probe. The fear for Temer's allies is that more names will be named. Construction tycoon Marcelo Odebrecht, one of the lynchpins in the corruption scheme, has told prosecutors that he gave \$3 million to the PMDB at Temer's request, Veja magazine reported.

The article did not say whether the money was supposedly a bribe or legitimate donation and Temer has not been charged with any crime. However, it is clear the Petrobras scandal could still wreak havoc. Corruption was one of the chief motivators for huge crowds that demanded Rousseff step down. Now she and Lula will hope to turn the corruption issue against Temer's government in an attempt to whip up their own supporters, who will already be reeled by the austerity measures. "The people are not indifferent to what's happening," warned communist senator and Rousseff ally Vanessa Grazziotin. —AFP

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Washington Watch

FOR TRUMP, IT'S THE SHOW THAT COUNTS

By Dr James J Zogby

Late last year, as the primaries were just heating up, pundits and commentators were busy trying to make sense of the Donald Trump phenomenon. His stump speeches were more akin to the stream of consciousness rantings of an out-of-control id than what was expected from a serious presidential candidate. He frequently contradicted himself and, more often than not, told bold-faced lies. He insulted groups and individuals, making his party's leaders squirm. And yet his crowds were huge and passionate and his poll numbers were high and getting higher. The political class was baffled.

One Sunday morning, the Washington Post and New York Times both ran what purported to be "analysis" pieces arguing that Trump might not be as rightwing as some feared. Their methodology was questionable, at best. Both authors argued that maybe the best way to discern the candidate's real policy positions would be to take his contradictory pronouncements on any number of issues and attempt to reconcile them. Both concluded that maybe the candidate was indulging in his own crude form of triangulation and that the real Donald Trump was neither a true conservative nor a liberal, but a moderate, at heart!

The entire exercise was as amusing as it was wrong-headed. What they didn't understand then, and what apparently many pundits still don't get, is that policies, or even words themselves, don't matter to Donald Trump. It's the performance and the reaction it gets that counts. All the rest is misdirection designed to confound gullible analysts and garner more attention.

This game of misdirection was on full display during the past few weeks leading up to Trump's big immigration performance on Wednesday. The speech had been scheduled and then cancelled a few weeks back - all of which made its delivery more anticipated. And so while Hillary Clinton was raising money, delivering serious policy addresses, and staying off more bad news related to her never-ending email saga and issues related to the Clinton Foundation, Trump was

titillating the media with the possibility that his position on immigration might be evolving. Was he moderating his views to appease Republican office-holders who needed their standard-bearer to moderate his positions? Was he attempting to broaden his own appeal to win Hispanic and African American voters? Was he finally making the long-awaited shift to becoming "a real presidential candidate?"

Wild Goose Chase

While television pundits bloviated and the columnists filled pages of newspaper speculating about his intentions, Trump gleefully led them all on a wild goose chase. Even the candidate's supporters got caught up in the game. Some attempted to explain away a possible shift, arguing that "he never really meant that stuff about mass deportations or the wall." Others worried that any softening would cost him dearly since his base support came from hard core nationalists who believed that the wall would be built, Mexico would pay for it, and all "illegals" would be deported.

The day before his much hyped "policy speech" on immigration, Trump announced that he would fly to Mexico to meet with that country's president. All eyes were now just where he wanted them - on him. The media frenzy grew. It was "all Trump, all the time". One network even featured a countdown clock in the corner of the screen counting down the seconds to the "big speech".

What was thought to be "a bold and risky" meeting in Mexico turned out to be a rather ho-hum affair. The wildly unpredictable controversial American candidate met with the wildly unpopular Mexican president and both said little that was of interest to anyone. It was left to the media to make the absence of fireworks into a big story. And then it was on to the speech.

Speech

What I always find intriguing about Trump policy speeches is the delivery. Whenever he attempts a major policy address he has taken to reading his remarks, rather awkwardly, from a teleprompter. But Trump, being Trump, can't help

but go off-script. He reads a line and then makes a comment - as if to agree with what he just read. The overall effect is a bit comical.

The speech was reported by Trump opponents to be "an exercise in hateful rhetoric" filled with misstatements of fact and by supporters to be a "restatement, with added details, of Trump's headline position" on immigration. In reality, it was both and more - it was a show, and, for Trump, that's what matters.

Fact checkers had a field day pointing out that Trump misstated, exaggerated, or just plain made up statistics or claims contained in his remarks. To his already bigoted position on which immigrants would be allowed into America, Trump added new, deeply disturbing criteria - new immigrants must be shown to "share our values and love our people" and that they be selected on the basis of "their likelihood of success in US society".

But the speech was also filled with Trumpian contradictions. At one point, the candidate reaffirmed that there would be no amnesty and that those here illegally would have to return to their countries, while in another place he suggested that those who are here illegally who have families and are working hard could stay - but then left that hanging without clarification. One network, falling for this misdirection, ran a lower third saying "Trump softens, hardens, softens stand".

In the end, however, it's important not to be carried away with analyzing what he said or attempting to discern what he meant. It's a fool's errand trying to make sense out of nonsense. Because for Donald Trump, the policy formulations don't matter, neither do the misstatements, exaggerations or contradictions. What matters is that he built a "huge" audience in front of which he performed well. He appeared presidential in the afternoon and then reverted to hate-filled demagogue at night - and his folks loved the incitement and loved him. Like everything else he does, it was a show. All the rest was misdirection designed to confound and draw more attention - and he loved every minute of it.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute

SAFE HAVEN FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES?

By Megan Rowling

From the Congo Basin to Kenya, India and Paraguay, the designation of forest land as "protected areas" has brought homelessness, hunger and persecution to indigenous peoples who have lived there for centuries, rights experts say, pointing the finger at governments and the conservation groups they work with. In many cases, international conventions and national laws oblige states to respect legal and customary ownership of land by indigenous tribes, consult them on how that land is used, and involve them in efforts to conserve the natural resources it contains.

But today, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, will tell the World Conservation Congress in Hawaii that there remains a huge gap between the rules on paper and reality on the ground. "It is not easy to find good stories about how these are implemented in practice," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "There are still a lot of indigenous people who have been evicted - and are still being evicted - from their territories because of the creation of national parks, and (for) those who have been evicted, there is no recourse."

In addition, even though land is supposedly being set aside for the purpose of protecting its natural value, this is often followed by state-backed exploitation of the oil, minerals, trees and other resources on it, Tauli-

Corpuz and indigenous leaders warned. Edwin Vasquez, leader of the Huitoto Indians in Peru and head of COICA, a coordinating body for indigenous organizations in the Amazon River Basin, said national parks were being carved out of indigenous territories in his country, preventing native people from hunting and fishing there.

"(The government) wants to create a national park with no indigenous people, and then they declare the exploitation of the resources on it as a national priority, and they exploit those resources for the development of the country," he said. "They see us as an obstacle to development." Peru's new government said last month that economic growth this year would be boosted partly by an increase in mining production of around 20 percent.

And yet mining projects in the South American nation are frequently beset by social conflicts, particularly over contamination of water. Vasquez said his people had proved they are good custodians of the land and are not opposed to economic development. But they want the government to consult with them on the process, as it has agreed to do under International Labour Organization Convention 169 and national law.

Donor Conditions?

Since 2012, Peru's government has, in fact, been working on measures to improve consultation with the backing of Germany. The Office of the Ombudsman has developed

guidelines for the different groups involved, and has trained more than 500 representatives of indigenous peoples and 6,500 government officials on the right to prior consultation. When the project ended in 2015, around 40 consultations had been completed or were ongoing, limiting conflict in the oil sector, German's development agency noted.

However, such efforts by donor governments are rare, according to Gonzalo Oviedo, senior adviser on social policy at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which is organising the Sept 1-10 Hawaii congress. When donors provide bilateral funding to set up and maintain protected areas, they should attach conditions to the aid, 80 to 90 percent of which goes directly to governments, he said. "What we want is that every donor that provides funding for conservation should oblige the recipients of the funding to implement standards about the respect of indigenous people's rights and... community rights," he said. "They don't do it today."

Oviedo said progress has been made in aligning the interests of conservation organizations and indigenous groups since the early 1990s, particularly in Latin America. The main spark for conflict today comes from the economic agendas of developing states that want to extract natural resources to fuel their prosperity, he added. "It is not as simple as going to a poor country and telling the government to stop doing anything of commer-

cial value in these areas because you have to protect those communities," he said.

In Brazil, for example, indigenous peoples are a tiny minority, yet hold around a sixth of the country's land, Oviedo said, leading to the argument that resources on their land should be exploited to ease poverty among the wider population.

Carrot and Stick

UN rapporteur Tauli-Corpuz said conservation groups, which include the powerful WWF and The Nature Conservancy, should pressure the governments they work with to safeguard the rights of indigenous peoples in protected areas. "If that's not happening, those conservation organizations are also equally culpable of neglecting the indigenous peoples and not protecting their basic human rights," she said.

Oviedo said conservation organizations, including IUCN, could be "a bit more brave" in addressing issues like land ownership when they work with governments. IUCN is taking steps to protect indigenous rights, he added, such as declining to recommend sites for World Heritage status if governments do not put good policies into practice, and creating a "green list" of protected areas where they are. But there is a limit to how much conservation organizations can achieve on their own, he said. "The kind of political changes that are needed don't necessarily happen just because of conservationists asking for that," he said. —Reuters

SCHWEINSTEIGER LEFT OUT OF UNITED’S EURO SQUAD

LONDON: Out of favour Manchester United midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger has been left out of the club’s squad for the Europa League group stage. Schweinsteiger has reportedly been forced to train with United’s reserves this season as new boss Jose Mourinho looks to sell the German World Cup winner. The 32-year-old has yet to make an appearance under Mourinho, who has told the former Bayern Munich star it will be “very difficult” to give him any playing time this season. Schweinsteiger has been named in United’s Premier League squad but he will be ineligible to play in Europe after being excluded from the 27-man list submitted to UEFA. The German had stated on the eve of his 121st and final international appearance for Germany on Tuesday that it was still his “absolute dream” to help United this season. Teenage defenders Timothy Fosu-Mensah and Axel Tuanzebe, who has yet to make his first-team debut, were included in the United squad published on UEFA’s website for the group stage, which Mourinho’s men begin with a trip to Feyenoord on September 15. —AFP



LA LIGA PUSHES FOR VIDEO REFEREE TRIALS

MADRID: Spanish football officials want trials with video referees similar to those taking place in other countries to start as early as next season, La Liga confirmed yesterday. La Liga has requested that the Spanish football federation (RFEF) contacts the International Football Association Board, which controls the laws of the game, to organise the use of technology on a trial basis. The trial would be used in Copa del Rey matches and the Spanish Super Cup. “On August 12 La Liga sent a letter to the Referees’ Technical Committee of the RFEF inviting them to start the experimentation with the video referee’s assistant,” a La Liga statement read. Video technology is currently being trialled in the USA with federations in Australia, Germany, Brazil, the Netherlands and Portugal set to follow suit. France’s 3-1 friendly win over Italy on Thursday was the first time the system had been used in an international match. “It was a first at this level with national teams. We’re moving forward. It was promising,” said FIFA president Gianni Infantino, who hinted the system could even be implemented for the 2018 World Cup. “If it works then of course the entire footballing world would be happy to have this system to help referees during the biggest tournament in the world.” —AFP

DAY’S FAMILY UNHURT AFTER TRAFFIC CRASH

BOSTON: World number one Jason Day’s wife and children escaped injury after being involved in a traffic accident, a statement said Friday. Day’s wife Ellie, children Dash and Lucy and a friend were riding in a car when it was hit by a bus, a statement said. Ellie Day was taken to hospital as a precaution but later released. “Thankfully everyone is now resting comfortably,” Jason Day said in a statement following his second round at the Deutsche Bank Championship in Norton, Massachusetts. “We want to thank the emergency services and hospital personnel for their assistance,” added Day, who fired a one-under-par 70 at TPC Boston. In December, Ellie Day was taken to hospital from an NBA game in Cleveland. She had been sitting courtside when Cavaliers star LeBron James crashed out of bounds while chasing a loose ball. He tumbled into Day, knocked her chair over and landed on top of her. She was treated for concussion symptoms. —AFP



ONTARIO: Marina Alex watches her tee shot on the seventh hole at the Manulife Classic golf tournament in Cambridge, Ontario, Friday. —AP

MARINA ALEX LEADS LPGA MANULIFE CLASSIC IN CANADA

CAMBRIDGEL: Marina Alex eagled her final hole for an 8-under 64 and the second-round lead Friday in the LPGA Manulife Classic.

Alex played the final five holes in 5 under for the lowest score in her LPGA Tour career, setting up the 18-foot eagle putt with a 5-wood approach on the par-5 ninth.

“Super happy,” Alex said. “Just kind of everything fell together, ball-striking, putting. I actually left a couple of putts out there, but I’m not going to complain about the score that I shot.”

The 26-year-old former Vanderbilt player had a 10-under 134 total at Whistle Bear for a one-stroke lead over Thailand’s P.K. Kongkraphan and South Korea’s Hyo Joo Kim.

Second-ranked Ariya Jutanugarn was four strokes back after a 68 in her bid to win three straight events for the second time this season. Using a driver in competition for the second straight day after shelving it for months, the 20-year-old Thai player had an eagle, six birdies, two bogeys and a double bogey.

She began the streak at the Women’s British Open, and rebounded from a knee injury that forced her to withdraw during the Rio Olympics to win the Canadian Pacific Women’s Open on Sunday in Alberta.

Playing in the second group of the day off the 10th tee, Alex took advantage of calmer conditions than she faced Thursday afternoon in a first-round 70.

“I think we were fortunate,” Alex said. “Right now, it’s totally scorable.”

She had eight birdies and two bogeys.

“It actually is a pretty wide-open course, which is sometimes for me a little challenging because it’s hard to pick out targets,” Alex said. “But I’m trying really hard to focus, be as narrow as possible off the tee and into the green and just be very specific with what I’m trying to do.”

Kongkraphan had a bogey-free 66. She recently went through coaching and club changes.

“I have a problem with my iron pretty bad,” Kongkraphan said. “I tried to get better, so I switched the club and changed the

coach. ... From last week I have so much more confidence.”

Kim closed with a birdie for a 67. She won the season-opening event in the Bahamas.

South Korea’s Mi Hyang Lee was 8 under after a 67. She had a hole-in-one on the fifth hole.

“I think just less wind and the greens more better condition,” Lee said. “So just everything is perfect.”

U.S. Open champion Brittany Lang, second last year at Whistle Bear after winning the inaugural event in 2012 at Grey Silo, was 6 under after a 71.

First-round leader Chella Choi also was 6 under after a 72. The South Korean player three-putted three times. “Hope tomorrow is better,” Choi said.

Defending champion Suzann Pettersen had a 71 to reach 4 under.

Canadian star Brooke Henderson, playing alongside Jutanugarn, was 3 under after a 71. She eagled the par-5 12th and closed with a birdie.

“Not exactly what I was looking for,” Henderson said. “That birdie on my last hole kind of made me feel a lot better about the day, which is always nice, and 3-under par, I can’t complain too much.”

The 18-year-old Henderson beat top-ranked Lydia Ko in a playoff in June in the KPMG Women’s PGA for her first major title, and successfully defended her Portland Classic title in early July. Ko was 2 under after a 72.

“I putted much better today, so it was good to see some putts go in,” Ko said. “Without the putter, I don’t think I would have been able to shoot even par.”

Alena Sharp was the top Canadian, shooting a 70 to reach 5 under. She tied for fourth last week at Priddis Greens for her best finish on the tour.

“I didn’t make many putts,” Sharp said. “It was tough to get it close to the pins. I thought they were a little trickier today. The greens are definitely firming up, so you got to hit high shots in.”

Michelle Wie missed the cut by a stroke with her second 72. She has missed 12 of 20 cuts this season and is 112th on the money list with \$55,375. —AP

MOORE, HAHN TAKE LEAD AT DEUTSCHE BANK

BOSTON: Ryan Moore and James Hahn fired six-under-par 65s to grab a one-shot lead after a low-scoring first round at the Deutsche Bank Championship at TPC Boston on Friday. Hahn drained an eight-foot birdie putt on his final hole while Moore saved par on his last to inch clear of the chasing pack in the \$8.5 million tournament, the second event in the FedExCup playoff series. Brian Stuard, England’s Paul Casey, Argentina’s Fabian Gomez and Venezuela’s Jhonattan Vegas were locked in a four-way tie for third at five under after carding 66s.

Australia’s Adam Scott-winner of the inaugural Deutsche Bank crown in 2003 — was amongst a bunch of 13 players tied for seventh, two strokes off the pace.

Moore and Hahn opened up their slender advantage after recording bogey-free rounds with six birdies apiece on the demanding 7,207-yard layout. World number 43 Moore is chasing his sixth PGA Tour title, just a month after winning the John Deere Classic by two shots. The 33-year-old is 11th in the lucrative FedExCup standings could climb to second overall with a victory this weekend.

Moore admitted he was at a loss to explain the unusually congested field at the top of the leaderboard, where only two shots separate 19 players. “It’s hard to say why that happens,” said Moore. “Usually someone will kind of separate and maybe shoot an eight under or nine under sometimes around this course.”

Hahn meanwhile enjoyed a near flawless round, hitting every fairway in regulation for the first time in his professional career. The 34-year-old Korean-born world number 65 is seeking the third win of his PGA Tour career, with the most recent victory coming at the Wells Fargo Championship in May.

Casey and Gomez had set the early pace in the morning flights, although Stuard briefly went to six under before faltering with back-to-back bogeys before finishing with a birdie.

World number two Dustin Johnson, number three Jordan Spieth, Sweden’s number four Henrik Stenson, Patrick Reed and Olympic champion Justin Rose of England are all three shots adrift.

Reed is well-positioned for a charge over the weekend as he looks to build on last week’s victory at The Barclays.

Defending Deutsche Bank champion and world number eight Rickie Fowler is four off the lead, tied for 38th, after carding four birdies and a pair of bogeys.

World number one Jason Day of Australia is also in touch at one under after an eventful day which saw his wife Ellie and children escape injury in a traffic accident.

Ellie Day was taken to hospital as a precau-



NORTON: Ryan Moore chips to the 18th green during the first round of the Deutsche Bank Championship golf tournament in Norton, Mass., Friday. —AP

tion but later released. “Thankfully everyone is now resting comfortably,” said Day, who is tied for 48th with Fiji’s Vijay Singh and 2014 Deutsche Bank winner Chris Kirk among others.

Northern Ireland’s world number five Rory McIlroy and Bubba Watson are tied for 67th

six shots back.

But it was a miserable day for Phil Mickelson, who ended up carding a quadruple bogey at the 439-yard par four sixth hole. Mickelson finally finished 10 strokes off the lead, tied for 93rd. —AFP

ROOKIE LANGASQUE FIRES 63 TO SHARE LEAD AT EUROPEAN MASTERS

CRANS-MONTANA: Tour newcomer Romain Langasque of France shot a 7-under 63 to share the lead after the European Masters second round on Friday.

The 21-year-old Langasque, playing only his fifth European Tour event, fired five birdies, an eagle-3 and no bogeys to move to 9 under alongside Richard Bland of England and Australian Richard Green, who had rounds of 64 and 66 respectively.

“I’m quite sure I will be on the European Tour next year, so I play without pressure,” said Langasque, who leads the money list on the second-tier Challenge Tour.

On another day of warm sunshine and low scoring in the Swiss Alps, Alex Noren of Sweden also had a 63 to join a three-way tie one stroke off the lead with Scott Hend of Australia and Richard Lee of Canada.

Andrew Johnston, the popular Englishman known to fans as “Beef,” was in a group of five players on 7 under after a morning round of 68.

Defending champion Danny Willett of England had a quadruple bogey 8 at the par-4 12th in his round of 72.

Willett was joined at 3 under by his European Ryder Cup teammate Chris Wood, who shot a 2-under 68.

Lee Westwood of England, a pick by captain Darren Clarke to face the United States at Hazeltine, Minnesota, from Sept. 30, shot a 4-

under 66 to move to 2 under.

Matt Fitzpatrick needed four birdies in his final five holes to make the cut at level par with a 5-under round of 65 Friday.

The fifth member of the Ryder Cup team playing here, Andy Sullivan of England, missed the cut by one stroke despite shooting a 67.

Clarke, who arrived at the Crans-sur-Sierre club only after making his three picks Tuesday in England, had a 76 to follow his first-round 78. —AP



CRANS-MONTANA: France’s Romain Langasque competes during the second round of the Omega European Masters Golf Tournament in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, Friday. —AP

NO CRYING IN LINEBACKING - BO BOWER'S RETURN

IOWA CITY: You want to make this something grand. It's not often in the life of a football player where he's able to blow the dirt out of his nose and dig himself out of the depth chart graveyard.

You want the horns to blow. You want maybe a flyover. These occasions call for something, something more than what Bo Bower, the grand marshal of this story of renewal, offered up this week.

"It's like we're all doing," said Bower, who will get first shot at weakside linebacker for the No. 15 Hawkeyes when they open the season Saturday against Miami (Ohio). "We're all just trying to get on the field. Anyway we can try to do that, we're going to do it."

This is what you get with Bo Bower, a 6-1, 235-pounder from West Branch. He walked on at Iowa in 2013 and earned a scholarship and a starting job at outside linebacker in 2014 as a redshirt freshman. You don't remember that parade, either, because, well, you heard the man.

"He started 13 games as a redshirt freshman and didn't get quite the playing time (last year)," said longtime West Branch High School football coach Butch Pedersen, "but he never bawled about it. He did the same thing at West Branch. He started for me as a sophomore and played a variety of positions, wherever we needed him. It didn't shock me at all that he's done what he's done. I'm extremely proud of him."

On the last day of a bleak, dreadful and wholly unsatisfying football season in 2014,

Bower lost his job. It was somewhere in the third quarter of the Tax Slayer Bowl. The score was abominable, something like 42-7. Bower was subbed out for Ben Niemann, who planted an anchor at the outside linebacker position and is now going into his second season as a starter.

Bower slid inside to weakside linebacker. He ran No. 1 on the depth chart in the spring of 2015, but fell short in a camp battle with senior Cole Fisher.

FIRST SPRING PRACTICE

This is where a lot of college football players' dreams go night-night.

"You hope all players just keep pushing, but it's easier to say that and it's easier to say have a good attitude and all those types of things, but he's lived it," Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz said. "We all have our moments in private where, boy, this and that and that type of thing, but he's never demonstrated anything but a positive attitude since he's been here."

Bower arrived in Iowa City as a 200- or 205-pound walk-on linebacker. During his first spring practice period, he suffered a broken thumb. The cast looked kind of out of place, with it being bigger than most of the rest of his arm.

As you might imagine, Bower blew right through that, too. He's not the self-conscious type. He was an undersized linebacker with a broken thumb and he came out on the other end of that as a scholarship starter.

"Everyone comes in a little skinny, I feel

like," Bower said. "That goes away quick."

Bower came up in the powerful West Branch program, which works closely with a local strength and conditioning coach. The Bears have won four state titles (including three under Pedersen). They've been to the state playoffs the last eight consecutive seasons. There's an army of all-staters and Shrine Bowl participants.

You have to fight for your spot and you have to fight to keep it, because there's another kid who wants to live his dreams playing in the "Little Rose Bowl," the nickname given to West Branch's Oliphant Street Field.

"When Bo was here, he was one of our hardest workers in the weightroom," Pedersen said. "He's shown what sticktoitiveness does. That's a message to our team now. We're not going to quit. He had two options, basically. He could've laid down and bawled about it or get up and Bo got up and fought."

Maybe part of this comes from his family. Bower's folks, Tammy and Chris, run Bower Drywall out of Iowa City. You know Bo probably has put some sweat equity into the family business.

"His dad and mom weren't the types who'd let him sit around all day and do nothing," Pedersen said. "They made him accountable, they made him work. He wasn't one of those couch potatoes at all and you knew his work ethic came from his mom and dad."

By now the point that Bower is completely practical in his manner has been hammered home. If there's residue to losing your spot in

the starting lineup, it's probably that you now have a keen awareness that it can go away.

And that is the specter here. Bower forged ahead of sophomore Aaron Mends for the first shot at the weakside linebacker spot for the 2016 Hawkeyes. Camp was maybe the first lap. The race is just starting.

EXPECTATIONS

"It's really a pretty good story," Ferentz said about Bower being named No. 1, and then "and that one is not nailed down yet."

Mends came to Iowa as a do-it-all high school star out of the Kansas City, Mo., area. He made 212 career tackles and rushed for 1,790 yards in his career. Iowa, Iowa State and North Dakota State offered him. Mends owns weightroom records at Iowa, including a record squat of 595 pounds for inside linebackers. He has all of the tools. He's a third-year sophomore, so he has put in his time.

"Anyone who plays the weakside position is going to be new to it," Mends said this spring. "There's definitely going to be some competition there, but it's going to be good for us. We're all pushing each other to be the best. At the end of the day, we all just want the best will linebacker out there."

Ferentz noted twice this week that the position wasn't nailed down. He also said three players might see time there - Bower, Mends and, perhaps, true freshman Amani Jones.

Perhaps like Bower in 2014, Mends holds expectations for himself. He was listed No. 1

all the way up until the first depth chart of the season was released. How does he handle it? That remains to be seen, obviously.

"Everybody has been competing, and we'll let the guys continue to compete, too," Ferentz said. "There's no finality to any of this stuff now. That's what makes a team good, just letting guys compete and battle out there. I can't say enough about Aaron, too. I mean, he's really got a great attitude. He's a really good young guy. He's improved a bunch."

"It's not a knock on him at all. It's just Bo is doing a little better right now."

Defensive coordinator Phil Parker said Mends is ticketed for some duty in third down rush packages. Last season, Mends earned time as a stand-up rusher in "raider packages" on third down. He moved into that role after Bower moved out and replaced Niemann in the first half of the Nebraska game, when Niemann suffered a concussion.

Bower also played special teams all last season. He kept value, stayed sharp and didn't bawl.

Bower did allow himself a little bit of a smile this week. It had nothing to do with a triumphant return as a starter. It was someone asking him about the water slide video at fellow linebacker Josey Jewell's farm in Decorah this summer.

Yeah, that was fun. You know what else is fun? Being on the field. "It always is," Bower said. "It's always fun to be on the field." —AP

MILLS' LATE TD RUN LIFTS GEORGIA TECH PAST EAGLES

DUBLIN: Freshman Dedrick Mills' 4-yard touchdown run with 35 seconds remaining lifted Georgia Tech to a 17-14 win over Boston College yesterday.

Justin Thomas threw two key completions on the go-ahead drive. The senior passed to Qua Searcy for 22 yards on a fourth-and-19 play and found Ricky Jeune for 26 yards on third down.

Georgia Tech (1-0, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) won its first game played outside of the United States in

the 124-year history of the program. Mills led the Yellow Jackets with 68 yards rushing.

The Yellow Jackets' only touchdowns came on their first and last drives of the game. Backup quarterback Matthew Jordan's 3-yard scoring run capped the opening drive. Boston College held Georgia Tech's spread-option attack to 240 yards, including 121 yards rushing.

"It's tough," said Georgia Tech coach Paul Johnson. "I tell you,

they're as good defensively as anybody we've played, including Clemson or anybody. They're good and we had a hard time getting anything going consistently."

It was a crushing loss for Boston College (0-1, 0-1 ACC), which was winless in conference games in 2015 and has lost nine straight overall. The Eagles took a 14-7 lead on quarterback Patrick Towles' 6-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter.

Towles, a graduate transfer from

Kentucky making his first start for the Eagles, threw an interception and lost a fumble in the first half.

Harrison Butker's 39-yard field goal cut the lead to four points.

Jon Hillman's 73-yard touchdown run on the Eagles' first play of the second half tied the game at 7-7. Hillman ran for 102 yards on 17 carries.

The game, which had a 7:30 a.m. EDT kickoff, was played through rain, leaving the grass turf at Aviva Stadium slippery.

THE TAKEAWAY

Georgia Tech: It was a confidence boost for the defense, as Georgia Tech won despite ending scoring at least 20 points in 21 straight conference games. The streak, which began in 2013, was the second-longest by a Power 5 team, behind TCU's 22-game run.

Boston College: The Eagles' defense, which led the nation in 2015 by allowing only 254.3 yards per game, looked strong again before Georgia Tech's go-ahead drive.

UP NEXT

Georgia Tech: The Yellow Jackets will face FCS in-state rival Mercer for the first time in 75 years. The first game in Georgia Tech history came against Mercer on Nov. 5, 1892, and the teams' last game came in 1938. Mercer revived its program, which had been dormant for 72 years, in 2013.

Boston College: The Eagles will take a break from the ACC schedule when they look for their ninth straight win over in-state rival UMass. The last win for UMass in the series came in 1978. —AP



DUBLIN: In this photo released by Georgia Tech, Georgia Tech Quarterback Justin Thomas (5) warms up before the first half of an NCAA football game between Boston College and Georgia Tech, yesterday, in Dublin, Ireland. —AP

PETER SAGAN TO RACE IN TOUR DOWN UNDER

ADELAIDE: Road cycling world champion Peter Sagan will make his first appearance in the Tour Down Under since 2010 when he takes part in the 19th edition of the race from Jan. 17-22.

Sagan will lead his new team Bora-Hansgrohe for the first time in the South

Australian race which also opens the World Tour calendar. Since his last Tour Down Under, Sagan has become one of the most dominant riders in the professional peloton with 11 grand tour stage wins.

He has also won both the Tour of Flanders

and Gent-Wevelgem this year. Last September, he clinched the road world title at Richmond, Virginia.

The Slovakian racer says "returning after seven years to the race that set off my professional career is a great feeling." —AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Peter Sagan of Slovakia jumps over a rock during the men's cross-country cycling mountain bike race at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Aug 20, 2016. —AP



ORLANDO: In this Oct. 24, 2015, file photo, Houston quarterback Greg Ward Jr. looks for a receiver against Central Florida during an NCAA college football game in Orlando, Fla. If Ward, who passed for 2,828 yards, ran for 1,108 yards and accounted for 38 touchdowns last season, has a big game against Oklahoma and leads the Cougars to an upset, he can vault himself into the heart of a crowded field of Heisman contenders that includes three of the top four vote-getters from last season. —AP

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S OPENING WEEKEND

NEW YORK: The first weekend of the college football season is loaded. Here are five things to know as you prepare to immerse yourself in football.

BEST GAME

No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 20 USC? No. 10 Notre Dame at Texas? No. 18 Georgia vs. No. 22 North Carolina. No. 5 LSU vs. Wisconsin at Lambeau Field. And that's just to name a few. Lots of interesting matchups from which to choose, but the best looks as if it will be the last.

No. 11 Mississippi faces No. 4 Florida State in Orlando, Florida, on Monday night. The Rebels are in a bit of a reload season after losing three first-round draft picks that were the heart of a team coming off two straight New Year's Six bowl appearances. There is still plenty for the Ole Miss fans to be excited about, starting with Chad Kelly, one of the best quarterbacks in the country, throwing to a bunch of speedy receivers.

Florida State seems set everywhere but quarterback. Redshirt Deondre Francois takes over a team with national title hopes. Dalvin Cook is one of the best running backs in the country and safety Derwin James is a versatile playmaker on defense.

Add in some SEC-ACC bragging rights and you have the game of the week.

HEISMAN WATCH

No player could do more for his Heisman Trophy hopes in Week 1 than Houston quarterback Greg Ward Jr. The 15th-ranked Cougars open against No. 3 Oklahoma at NRG Stadium, the home of the Houston Texans. If Ward, who passed for 2,828 yards, ran for 1,108 yards and accounted for 38 touchdowns last season, has a big game and leads the Cougars to an upset, he can vault himself into the heart of a crowded field of Heisman contenders that includes three of the top four vote-getters from last season.

If Ward and the Cougars play a clunker, you can probably scratch him off the list of possible winners.

NUMBERS TO KNOW

-Longest current season-opener winning streaks:

Florida - 26. The Gators play UMass at the Swamp.

USC - 17. The Trojans face Alabama in Arlington, Texas.

Ohio State - 16. The Buckeyes host Bowling Green.

-Nebraska coach Mike Riley and

Virginia coach Bronco Mendenhall each enter the season with 99 victories. The Cornhuskers open the season at home against Fresno State. Mendenhall's first game as Cavaliers coach is home against FCS power Richmond.

(SLIGHTLY) OFF THE RADAR

BYU opens against Arizona at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, marking the return of Cougars QB Taysom Hill for a sixth season of eligibility.

Hill lost most of each of the last two seasons to injuries. He also did a Mormon mission at the start of his career. So now at 26, a quarterback who was in the same recruiting class in 2009 as Matt Barkley, gets one more chance to lead the Cougars. When healthy Hill drew comparisons to Tim Tebow. He won a tight competition with Tanner Mangum to win the starting job.

The Arizona game is the first in a string of high-level opponents for the independent BYU. Also on the schedule: Utah, UCLA, West Virginia, Toledo, Michigan State, Mississippi State, Boise State and Cincinnati. All of those teams played in bowl games last season. All but Cincinnati spent at least one week ranked.

Regardless of how well the Cougars do, a full season from Hill will be a victory.

COACH IN NEED OF A WIN

It's never too early to start the hot seat watch.

Texas A&M's Kevin Sumlin and Auburn's Gus Malzahn enter the season with pressure to change the trajectory of their programs. Both start with huge home openers. The Aggies take on No. 16 UCLA and Auburn host No. 2 Clemson and Deshaun Watson.

Big challenges and great opportunities to show things are headed in the right direction. Also, a chance to start 0-1 in front of the home crowd.

For Auburn, a solid showing against a team that pushed Alabama in the championship game could make a loss in the opener palatable to Malzahn's critics. That's not necessarily the case for Sumlin. UCLA has the ranking and the star quarterback in Josh Rosen, but the Aggies are favored at home by a couple points. It is a winnable game. The Aggies are 1-6 at Kyle Field against ranked teams under Sumlin. Fall to 1-7, with an always tough slate of SEC West games still ahead, and things almost immediately get uncomfortable in College Station, Texas. —AP

LESTER STEERS CUBS TO 2-1 WIN AGAINST GIANTS

CHICAGO: Jon Lester pitched 6 2/3 innings of no-hit ball and settled for his second complete game of the season, helping the sizzling Chicago Cubs beat the San Francisco Giants 2-1 on Friday to move a season-high 40 games over .500. Hunter Pence ended Lester's bid for a second no-hitter with a homer to left on a 1-2 cutter. Brandon Crawford followed with a double, and Lester (15-4) got Eduardo Nunez to line to third and worked around Trevor Brown's one-out double in the eighth. Lester allowed three hits and walked two. The Cubs have won five straight to improve to 87-47. David Ross and Dexter Fowler had RBI hits in the second off Albert Suarez (3-3). Pence's second homer in two days ended a 12 2/3-innings hitless streak for the San Francisco. The Giants are a major league-worst 15-29 since the All-Star break. Lester walked Buster Posey with two outs in the first inning and followed by setting down 18 straight by getting some help. Third baseman Kris Bryant made a diving, backhand grab of Crawford's liner to lead off the fifth and Dexter Fowler made a sliding catch of Kelby Tomlinson's liner in center an inning later. The 32-year-old Lester threw a no-hitter on May 19, 2008, for Boston against Kansas City. That came less than two years after he was diagnosed with cancer.

ORIOLES 8, YANKEES 0

Mark Trumbo hit his major league-leading 41st homer to cap a six-run second inning, and Baltimore peppered New York with four long balls. Pedro Alvarez and Chris Davis hit two-run homers in the second inning and Manny Machado added a two-run shot in the fourth. Baltimore leads the majors with 213 home runs, including 117 at home. When Alvarez went deep, the Orioles became the 19th team in big league history to have six players hit at least 20 in the same season. Alvarez joins Trumbo, Machado (33), Davis (33), Adam Jones (24) and Jonathan Schoop (21). Dylan Bundy (8-5) allowed two hits and four walks over 5 2/3 innings. Rookie Chad Green (2-4) yielded four runs and five hits in 1 2/3 innings before leaving with right elbow pain.

RANGERS 10, ASTROS 8

Rougned Odor homered for the third straight game in a seven-run fourth inning, Carlos Gomez had two hits in his first game against his former team and Texas held off Houston. The Rangers nearly squandered a seven-run lead but won their sixth straight to push their AL est advantage to 9 1/2 games over the second-place Astros. Houston lost the first of 13 straight games against division leaders to start September, six of those against Texas. Odor's team-leading 28th home run was one of three in the fourth inning against Doug Fister (12-10), who came out after Jonathan Lucroy followed Odor's shot to right with a line drive just over the 14-foot wall in left for a 9-2 lead. Alex Bregman had a solo homer and a two-run triple but popped out to end the eighth with two runners on after the Astros had pulled within two. A.J. Griffin (7-3) was the winner, and Sam Dyson pitched a perfect ninth for his 31st save. Carlos Beltran also homered in the fourth, his 26th overall and fourth since coming to the Rangers from the New York Yankees at the Aug. 1 trade deadline.

NATIONALS 4, METS 1

Bryce Harper hit two doubles and became the latest player to steal a base against Noah Syndergaard, helping A.J. Cole post his first major league win as Washington beat New York. Washington won its fourth in a row and increased its NL East bulge over the wild card-contending Mets to 10 1/2 games. Like a lot of teams, the Nationals came out running on Syndergaard (12-8), swiping four



CHICAGO: Chicago Cubs second baseman Ben Zobrist, left, throws to first after forcing out San Francisco Giants' Hunter Pence (8) at second base during the third inning of a baseball game, in Chicago. Brandon Crawford was safe at first. — AP

bases in the early innings. Tall and slow to the plate, he's had 45 runners steal with him on the mound - the most against any pitcher since Hideo Nomo in 2001, ESPN Stats & Info said. Trea Turner led off the game with a single, stole two bases and scored on Harper's sacrifice fly. Harper doubled with one out in the fourth, stole third with two outs and came home on a single by Wilson Ramos. Harper's double set up Anthony Rendon's two-run single in the ninth. Cole (1-1) gave up one run and three hits in six innings. Asdrubal Cabrera homered for the sixth time in eight games, sending a drive over the right-center wall in the Mets' fourth. Mark Rzepczynski, Koda Glover, Oliver Perez and Mark Melancon combined for three innings of scoreless relief. Melancon closed for his 38th save.

INDIANS 6, MARLINS 2

Carlos Carrasco struck out 11 while pitching scoreless ball into the eighth inning, and Cleveland beat Miami. Carrasco (10-7) had the 10th double-digit strikeout game of his

career and the third this season. The right-hander allowed six hits and walked one in 7 1/3 innings, leading AL Central-leading Cleveland to its fourth straight victory. Cleveland scored three times in the first and once in the second off Andrew Cashner (4-11). Abraham Almonte's two-run double pushed the lead to 6-0 in the fifth. J.T. Realmuto hit a two-run homer off Jeff Manship in the eighth for Miami.

TIGERS 7, ROYALS 6

Miguel Cabrera homered and finished with three hits and four RBIs to help Detroit beat Kansas City. Cabrera's single in the ninth off Wade Davis (1-1) scored Ian Kinsler and Jose Iglesias to put the Tigers ahead. Davis, who just came off the disabled list and had not pitched since July 22, blew his third save in 24 chances. In the seventh, Cabrera hit a 439-foot shot off Peter Moylan. Cabrera also had an RBI single in Detroit's three-run third. Justin Upton homered in the second and added an RBI single in the third. Francisco Rodriguez (3-3) picked up the victory, despite blowing a save in the eighth when Paulo Orlando hit a two-run single to give the Royals a 6-5 lead.

RAYS 8, BLUE JAYS 3

Alex Cobb went five solid innings during his first start in two years, Logan Morrison hit a go-ahead two-run homer, and Tampa Bay beat AL East-leading Toronto. Cobb, coming back from Tommy John surgery, allowed two runs and four hits in his first appearance since Sept 28, 2014, at Cleveland. He struck out seven, walked one and retired his final 10 batters. Morrison put the Rays up 4-2 in sixth on his 12th homer off Marcus Stroman (9-6). Luke Maile hit a solo homer and Kevin Kiermaier had an RBI triple off Francisco Liriano before Brad Miller added a two-run shot against Ryan Tepera in a four-run seventh that made it 8-2. Danny Farquhar (1-0) worked a scoreless sixth for the win.

REDS 3, CARDINALS 2

Eugenio Suarez singled up the middle with the bases loaded in the ninth inning, rallying Cincinnati past St. Louis. Seung Hwan Oh (4-3) walked Zack Cozart on four pitches to open the ninth, and Brandon Phillips followed with a single. After Scott Schebler singled one out later to load the bases, Suarez got his first career game-ending hit. The Reds had loaded the bases in the seventh and eighth and failed to score. Raisel Iglesias (1-1) gave up a walk in the ninth. Yadier Molina and Randal Grichuk connected for an early lead off Anthony DeSclafani, who has been tough against St. Louis during his career. The right-hander is 3-1 in six starts against the Cardinals with a 2.25 ERA.

BRAVES 8, PHILLIES 4

Freddie Freeman hit a tiebreaking RBI double in the ninth, Matt Kemp had four RBIs and Atlanta beat Philadelphia. Ender Inciarte and Adonis Garcia started the ninth with consecutive singles off closer Jeanmar Gomez (3-3). Freeman then lined a double to left to put the Braves up 5-4. Kemp followed with an RBI single past a drawn-in infield. Kemp's three-run homer in the fifth tied it at

MLB results/standings									
Chicago Cubs 2, San Francisco 1; Atlanta 8, Philadelphia 4; Milwaukee 1, Pittsburgh 0; Cincinnati 3, St. Louis 2; Cleveland 6, Miami 2; Washington 4, N.Y. Mets 1; Colorado 14, Arizona 7; San Diego 4, L.A. Dodgers 2.									
East Division				St. Louis	70	63	.526		
Washington	W	L	PCT	GB	161.5				
New York	79	55	.590	-	Pittsburgh	67	65	.508	19
101.5	69	66	.511		Milwaukee	58	76	.433	29
Miami	68	67	.504		Cincinnati	56	77	.421	
111.5					301.5				
Philadelphia	60	74	.448	19	West Division				
Atlanta	52	83	.385		Los Angeles	74	60	.552	-
271.5					San Francisco	72	62	.537	2
Central Division					Colorado	65	69	.485	9
Chicago	87	47	.649	-	Arizona	56	78	.418	18
					San Diego	56	78	.418	18.

4. Nick Markakis added an RBI double in the ninth and Tyler Flowers had a sacrifice fly. A.J. Ellis hit a three-run homer for the Phillies. Braves starter Joel De La Cruz allowed four runs and six hits in five innings and remained 0-7. Mauricio Cabrera (3-0) struck out three straight batters in the eighth.

ROCKIES 14, DIAMONDBACKS 7

Nick Hundley hit a grand slam and pinch-hitter Daniel Descalso also homered in a seven-run eighth inning that sent Colorado past Arizona. Nolan Arenado and Carlos Gonzalez each had two hits for the Rockies. The game was tied at 7 with two outs in the eighth when Enrique Burgos (1-2) hit Charlie Blackmon with a pitch to start Colorado's rally. Arenado's single two batters later put the Rockies ahead, and after two walks, Hundley hit his ninth homer and first career slam off Silvino Bracho. Descalso followed with the third pinch-hit homer of his career to finish the rally. Carlos Estevez (3-7) worked a perfect eighth for the win.

BREWERS 1, PIRATES 0

Six Milwaukee relievers picked up the slack when starter Junior Guerra's return from the disabled list lasted less than four innings, leading the Brewers past Pittsburgh. Guerra left after 70 pitches over 3 1/3 innings in his first start since going to the disabled list with right elbow inflammation on Aug. 8. Milwaukee's bullpen limited Pittsburgh to just two hits the rest of the way as the Brewers dealt the Pirates their fourth consecutive loss. Blaine Boyer (2-3) pitched a scoreless fifth to pick up the win. Tyler Thornburg worked the ninth for his seventh save. Scooter Gennett drove in Milwaukee's only run with an RBI-double in the sixth off Pittsburgh's Jameson Taillon (3-4).

WHITE SOX 11, TWINS 4

Todd Frazier homered for the second straight game, Adam Eaton had four hits and the Chicago beat Minnesota. Carlos Rodon (6-8) tied a season high with seven innings for his career-high fourth straight win as the White Sox ended a four-game losing streak. Brian Dozier homered for Minnesota, which ended a 13-game losing streak Thursday. The Twins have the majors' worst record at 50-85. Kyle Gibson (5-9) was the loser.

RED SOX 16, ATHLETICS 2

David Ortiz singled twice and drove in three runs and David Price won his fifth consecutive start for Boston. Travis Shaw homered and had five RBIs, Hanley Ramirez added three RBIs hile Xander Bogaerts doubled and scored three runs to help the Red Sox move within one game of first-place Toronto in the AL East. Boston (75-59) moved within three wins of matching their total of last season. Price (14-8) pitched seven solid innings against the overmatched A's. The left-hander gave up two runs and finished with seven strikeouts and three walks. Over his last five starts Price is 5-0 with a 2.06 ERA. Stephen Vogt had an RBI double for the A's, who have lost eight straight to Boston, dropped a season-high 20 games under .500 (57-77).

PADRES 4, DODGERS 2

Yangervis Solarte hit a tie-breaking home run leading off the eighth inning for last-place San Diego. The Dodgers' lead in the NL West remained at two games over the San Francisco Giants, who lost to the Cubs. Brad Hand (4-3) got the victory, allowing one hit and striking out four in 1 2/3 innings of relief. Brandon Maurer pitched the ninth for his seventh save. Solarte hit his career-high-tying 14th homer off Adam Liberatore (2-2) leading off the eighth. Pinch-hitter Brett Wallace added an RBI-single for a 4-2 lead. Joc Pederson drove in both Dodgers' runs. His RBI single gave them a 1-0 lead in the fourth and his 19th homer tied the game 2-all in the sixth. They had 13 hits and stranded 11 runners.

MARINERS 11, ANGELS 8

Ketel Marte had two singles and three RBIs in a nine-run second inning and Seattle stopped a five-game losing streak. Nelson Cruz hit his 33rd homer for the Mariners, who remained four games behind Baltimore and Detroit for the final AL playoff spot. Even after building a seven-run lead, the Mariners had a hard time putting this one away. Los Angeles scored four times in the ninth before Edwin Diaz retired star slugger Mike Trout with two on for his 12th save. Trout hit a three-run homer to help the Angels take a 4-0 lead in the first inning. — AP



CHICAGO: San Francisco Giants' Hunter Pence hits a single against the Chicago Cubs during the third inning of a baseball game, in Chicago. — AP

SOUTH AFRICA ANNOUNCE RACIAL QUOTAS FOR NATIONAL TEAM

CAPE TOWN: Cricket South Africa (CSA) have put in place racial quotas for the national team across all three formats of the game in an effort to increase the number of black players in a sport still dominated by whites.

CSA have sought an average minimum of six Black players, of which two must be Black African, in matches over the season, the organisation announced yesterday.

The move will have little immediate impact on the team as those targets were reached in the recent test series win over New Zealand when the side was at full-strength bar the absence of injured captain AB de Villiers.

"The test starting XI that played in the recent series against New Zealand contained six players of colour and two Black Africans, and the ODI starting XI had as many as eight players of colour in their most recent series against the West Indies and Australia," CSA President Chris Nenzani said in a statement.

"With the targets being measured over the full season and being cumulative across all three formats, our selectors and team management will have the flexibility to deal with varying circumstances.

"This shows very clearly that the targets are very attainable and sustainable and we will maintain the

world-class standards that our players regularly produce."

South Africa are next in action in a one-day international against Ireland on Sept. 25, before meeting Australia in the first of five 50-over matches at home on Sept. 30.

CSA have already introduced quotas for the country's domestic franchise competitions where teams must field at least six players of colour, including three black African players.

However, South Africa's sports minister Fikile Mbalula has been critical of what he says is the slow rate of change in the country's major sporting codes, bar football.

The government has been pushing for more black representation in the national teams of popular sports like cricket and rugby still dominated by whites who were favoured for selection during apartheid rule.

It banned its national cricket and rugby federations from hosting or bidding for international tournaments for at least a year in April due to their failure to increase their representation of black players. The country has seen greater participation among black players in most sports at junior level despite the challenge of providing adequate school facilities in poorer districts but Mbalula wants to see this reflected at national team level. — Reuters

ARTHUR ISSUES PAKISTAN ONE-DAY SIDE WARNING

LEEDS: Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur made it clear some members of his one-day side were on borrowed time after another defeat by England raised fears the team might not qualify automatically for the 2019 World Cup.

England beat Pakistan by four wickets at Headingley on Thursday to go 4-0 up in a five-match one-day international series. Once England had restricted Pakistan to a modest 247 for eight, with only skipper Azhar Ali (80) and Imad Wasim (57 not out) getting beyond 24 for the tourists in this day/night fixture, it was always going to take a remarkable display in the field to prevent a home win.

Mohammad Irfan rocked England with two early wickets but, much too Arthur's annoyance, the giant paceman only bowled half of his allotted 10 overs because of a calf problem.

Pakistan started this series ninth in the International Cricket Council ODI rankings, with only tournament hosts England and the top seven in the standings come the end of September next year qualifying automatically for the 2019 World Cup.

The remaining places for the slimmed-down 10-team tournament will be decided at a 2018 qualifying event in Bangladesh. While a World Cup without 1992 champions Pakistan remains unlikely, it is by no means unthinkable.

This is a scenario that will frighten both their legions of loyal fans and ICC chiefs who could see their showpiece tournament deprived of a money-spinning match between Pakistan and arch-rivals India.

"It is what it is," said Arthur, who only took over as Pakistan coach in May. "I hate the phrase, but we are number nine in the world and we can see why."

Pakistan have a tough schedule as they try to



Mickey Arthur

improve their ranking, with the ICC system also factoring into account the quality of a team's opposition.

"When I saw the fixture list, the games aren't easy," said Arthur, whose side have at least qualified for next year's Champions Trophy, 'the mini World Cup,' in England.

"We've got two series against West Indies that we have to play well in—West Indies are a decent one-day outfit.

"Between them we are sandwiched with an ODI series in Australia which is incredibly tough," explained Arthur who, in contrast to the team's white-ball form, saw Pakistan rise to the top of the Test rankings following a 2-2 drawn series with England earlier in the tour.

'FRUSTRATING'

As for late call-up Irfan's fitness problems in his first match of the tour, Arthur said: "It's very frustrating.

"There were checks and balances in place (regarding Irfan's fitness).

"He was put on standby when we selected our one-day squad, he went to the national academy and did his training."

Arthur, now coaching his third Test side after spells in charge of his native South Africa and Australia, added: "I'm finding my way with the one-day team.

"I want to give guys opportunities and then we'll know by the end of the tour who we can and can't take forward."

For the first time this series, Pakistan had a chance of victory when England slumped to 72 for four at Headingley.

But a century stand featuring plenty of power-hitting from all-rounder Ben Stokes (69) and wicket-keeper Jonny Bairstow (61) took the match away from Pakistan.

"It's been an eye-opener for for me, the last four games," said Arthur ahead of Sunday's series finale in Cardiff.

He then made it clear how he envied an England side who, in an encouraging sign for Pakistan, were a laughing stock in 50-over cricket as recently as last year following their first-round exit from the 2015 World Cup.

"England are a phenomenal cricket team, power-hitters all the way down," said Arthur.

"We haven't been able to get quick starts and clear the ropes. We just don't have the players to do that within our group of 15 at the moment.

"I look at the strikers England have at their disposal—it's unbelievable." — AFP



PALLEKELE: Sri Lankan cricketer Upul Tharanga plays a shot during a practice session at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Pallekele yesterday, ahead of the fifth and final one day international match against Australia. — AFP

MOEEN ALI COMMITS TO BANGLADESH TOUR

CARDIFF: Moeen Ali has become the first England player to confirm unreservedly that he will be available for the upcoming tour of Bangladesh.

The future of the tour was in the balance after an attack on a Dhaka cafe in July killed 20 — mostly foreign-hostages, with the Islamic State group claiming responsibility.

But all-rounder Ali, speaking in Cardiff yesterday ahead of England's fifth and final one-day international against Pakistan in the Welsh capital on Sunday, said: "If selected, I'll definitely go.

"I'm pretty happy with everything and really looking forward to it," the 29-year-old Worcestershire off-spinner and left-handed batsman added. "I've been there a few times, five or six."

Following the Dhaka attack, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) sent an inspection team to Bangladesh led by long-serving security chief Reg Dickason.

After he reported back, the ECB said last month that the tour, which includes three one-day international and two Test match fixtures in October and November, would go ahead as planned.

"My view is you're not safe anywhere these days," said Ali.

"I think you can be anywhere and still not be safe," England assistant coach Paul Farbrace, who was with the Sri Lanka squad when their bus came under armed attack in Lahore in 2009, has also said he intends to travel to

Bangladesh.

But England one-day captain Eoin Morgan, who was among a group of players given a security briefing by Dickason, said Friday he had still to make up his mind.

Meanwhile wicket-keeper Jonny Bairstow told several British newspapers:

"I've not made a 100 percent decision but I know within my mind that I have a lot of faith in Reggie. I've been on a heck of a lot of tours with him, he's known me since I was a young boy. So I've got a lot of faith in him." Ali said he had no qualms about anyone taking their time over deciding whether or not to commit to the tour.

"It's really tough (to decide), even for myself.

"Everyone's different, and has their own views on things—and as a team, you back other other's decisions.

"It's up to the individual. There's no pressure on anyone—it's up to that person and how he feels." Australia cancelled their tour of Bangladesh last October for security reasons and then withdrew their side from the Under-19 World Cup in the country at the start of this year. England, however, fielded a team in the youth tournament.

Last month International Cricket Council chief executive David Richardson welcomed England's decision to go ahead with their tour of Bangladesh by saying: "It is important to the global game of cricket that it can be played safely in as many countries as possible." — AFP



LEEDS: This file photo taken on September 1, 2016 shows Pakistan's Mohammad Irfan celebrates after dismissing England's Alex Hales (not pictured) during play in the fourth one-day international (ODI) cricket match between England and Pakistan in Leeds. Irfan has been ruled out of the remainder of the tour of England, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced yesterday. — AFP

IRFAN OUT OF ENGLAND TOUR

CARDIFF: Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Irfan has been ruled out of the remainder of the tour of England, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced yesterday.

The giant 7ft 1in (2.1 metres) Irfan, who was himself only called into the squad as an injury replacement for Mohammad Hafeez on August 27, managed just five legitimate overs in Thursday's fourth one-day international against England at Headingley before going off with cramps to the visible annoyance of coach Mickey Arthur.

Pakistan lost the match by four wickets to go 4-0 down in a five-match series. But it might have been different had the 34-year-old Irfan, who removed openers Jason Roy and Alex Hales in a return of two for 26 as England slumped to 72 for four, stayed on the field in what was his only match of the tour. The towering left-arm, who conceded three wickets, also received two official warnings from the umpires for running on the pitch. Fellow paceman Hasan Ali, set to feature in the fifth and final ODI in Cardiff on Sunday, has taken Irfan's place in the Pakistan squad for the lone Twenty20 international against England at Manchester's Old Trafford on Wednesday—the last match of the tour.

The PCB statement said: "Irfan initially suffered cramps in his hamstring in that match (at Headingley) and came off to receive treatment. "He returned to play and later on complained about cramps in his left and right calf that prevented him bowling further in the match. "He will return to Pakistan and will work on his fitness in the National Cricket Academy (in Lahore)."

It added: "The team management has asked to retain Hasan Ali for the T-20I against England on September 7, 2016. The national selection committee has concurred with this request and the Board has agreed to name Hasan Ali in place of Mohammad Irfan for the T20."

Earlier, Pakistan bowling coach Azhar Mahmood, speaking to reporters in Cardiff on Saturday before Irfan was ruled out of the tour, said: "Definitely Mickey was unhappy (to see Irfan go off) and as bowling coach I was unhappy as well.

"We had a chance to win that game (at Headingley) the other day. If we can get two (more) wickets it will be a different ball game.

"Unfortunately, everyone gets cramp. He is a big guy and his body is totally different to a normal human." — AFP

MAHMOOD WANTS PAKISTAN TO LEARN THEIR ENGLISH LESSONS

CARDIFF: Pakistan bowling coach Azhar Mahmood has urged his side to follow England's example as they look to stage a one-day international revival of their own. The tourists head into today's final ODI in Cardiff already 4-0 down in the five-match series and with just a lone Twenty20 international in Manchester on Wednesday to follow before they leave Britain. Pakistan drew the preceding four Test series with England 2-2 to rise to number one in the world Test rankings.

By contrast they are a lowly ninth in the ODI table, with the 1992 champions in danger of failing to qualify automatically for the 2019 World Cup in England.

They will return for next year's Champions Trophy and Mahmood, a veteran of several seasons in English county cricket, hopes they learn quickly from their recent defeats.

"It's been a disappointing time for us," Mahmood, who saw Pakistan concede a world record total of 444 for three in the third ODI at Trent Bridge, told reporters in Cardiff on Saturday.

"The way we bowled at Nottingham wasn't good enough. "We are going to make mistakes. As long as we learn from them, we hope we can turn the tables around."

That is what England have done following their embarrassing first-round exit at last year's 50-over World Cup in Australia and New Zealand. "Where England were 18 months ago, they changed the mentality and we have to do the same thing," Mahmood said.

"Mindset, a little bit more aggression, a bit more positive cricket, intent. We need to change this mentality and thinking. Moving forward, we've got

young players who can change things around but it will take time."

'NEW FACES'

Mahmood said the transformation in England's ODI form started when current assistant coach Paul Farbrace first took temporary charge following the sacking of Peter Moores after the World Cup.

"When Moores left and Farby took over, that's the time they thought, 'we've got not nothing to lose, we just need to express ourselves on the field.'"

One of the players who has been emblematic of England's new style of ODI cricket is Mahmood's Surrey team-mate Jason Roy. Mahmood's last appearance for the London-based county was a domestic Twenty20 against Kent at The Oval in July where opening batsman Roy struck 120 in a 37-run win. "They (England) have got players like Jason Roy—he can change the game in no time — (Eoin) Morgan himself, Jos Buttler," said Mahmood. "They've got a good unit of young players who understand the game and can play big shots and rotate the strike really well," the 41-year-old former Pakistan all-rounder added.

"Where we are lacking as a batting unit we are not rotating the strike and we don't have the guys who can clear the ropes. "We need to find those guys very quickly if we want to improve in one-day cricket."

As for the stark contrast in Pakistan's Test and 50-over form, Mahmood said: "We've got a lot of new faces in the one-day side. "If you see why we are number one in Test match cricket, we've got players who have been playing for the last five years so it's a consistency we need to give our one-day guys too." — AFP

SOUTH AFRICA END THIRD AFTER FLUFFING PENALTY

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa had a penalty saved as they were held 1-1 at home by Mauritania on Friday in a disappointing end to a poor 2017 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying campaign. The result before a small crowd at Mbombela Stadium in north-eastern city Nelspruit condemned Bafana Bafana (The Boys) to finishing third in Group M behind winners Cameroon and Mauritania.

Their hopes of qualifying for the tournament proper were already in tatters before the game began.

Guidileye Diallo put Mauritania ahead and Hlompho Kekana equalised in the first half while

Thamsanqa Gabuza had a weak second-half spot-kick saved by Mohamed Salah Din Boubacar.

Diallo completed a clinical counter-attack by stroking the ball into the corner of the net and Kekana, renowned for his powerful long-range shooting, scored with his head off a corner.

Gabuza struck the ball tamely and too close to Boubacar, a half-time substitute after Brahim Souleymane was forced off with blood gushing from his mouth after an accidental collision.

Former African champions South Africa were expected to challenge Cameroon for first place, not

win only once in six matches and finish behind a country that has never qualified for the tournament.

Ending below Mauritania — 40 places lower on the world rankings—is a huge embarrassment for a South African team talking up their chances of qualifying for the 2018 World Cup.

They face top seeds Senegal, Cape Verde and Burkina Faso in a mini-league that kicks off during October and only the group winners qualify for Russia. Ephraim 'Shakes' Mashaba avoided discussing the many wasted chances against Mauritania in a post-match interview.

"We played very well and were all over them," he said. "How we allowed a Mauritanian to run from the centre circle to create a goal is a mystery to me." France-born Mauritania coach Corentin Martins said: "Our objective was to finish second in the group and I am happy that we achieved that goal." However, a draw dashed the slim chance the visitors from north-west Africa had of filling one of two places reserved for the best runners-up.

A further 23 qualifiers are scheduled for today with 13 countries seeking to fill the remaining six places at the 2017 tournament in Gabon. — AFP

HAMILTON TAKES MONZA POLE, EQUALS LEGENDS

MONZA: Lewis Hamilton drew level with legendary racing drivers Juan Manuel Fangio and Ayrton Senna in the record books yesterday when he flew to pole ahead of Nico Rosberg for today's Italian Grand Prix.

The championship leader and defending three-time champion clocked a best lap time of one minute and 21.135 seconds to outpace the German by nearly half a second.

The 'silver arrows' dominated the session to finish comfortably ahead of the Ferraris of Sebastian Vettel and Kimi Raikkonen. "I was right in the sweet spot today and I was able to get an exceptional lap time out of it," said Hamilton. "What this team has achieved in phenomenal." It was Hamilton's third successive pole at the Italian event and his fifth in all at Monza, a feat that equalled those of Argentine Fangio and Brazilian Senna.

It was also the 56th pole of Hamilton's career.

Senna was the last man to achieve a hat-trick of Italy poles. Hamilton and Rosberg's front row lockout was Mercedes' 41st and enabled them to equal the record of dominance set by Red Bull pairing Vettel and Mark Webber in their heyday.

Hamilton will be bidding on Sunday to register a hat-trick of Italian wins with his 50th career victory to enlarge his nine points lead in the title race ahead of Rosberg.

His pole made a pleasant change from last weekend's grid when Hamilton started last in Belgium after penalties, charging through the pack at Spa-Francorchamps to claim third.

Valtteri Bottas was fifth for Williams ahead of Australian Daniel Ricciardo and his Red Bull team-mate, Dutch teenager Max Verstappen. Sergio Perez was eighth ahead of his Force India team-mate Nico Hulkenberg with Esteban Gutierrez taking 10th for Haas.

"I feel proud and honoured to be mentioned amongst such greats as Senna and

Fangio. Never in a million years did I expect my name to be mentioned in the same sentence and I am very proud of that."

A downcast Rosberg said: "The basic explanation for the gap is that Lewis did some good laps... I did a good job, up to now, but I wasn't quick enough." Vettel admitted: "The gap is quite big... The guys ahead of us are in a world of their own."

The session began in near-perfect conditions, with late-summer sunshine bathing the old royal park north of Milan.

Newly arrived French driver Esteban Ocon produced the first incident in his Manor after seven minutes, when he stopped at the first chicane. Yellow flags were soon waved, but only after the two Mercedes had gone through to set the early pace, Hamilton topping the times with 1:21.854. Aware of the dangers, Hamilton radioed the team. "We've got to make sure we don't get stuck behind people again," he said.

Ocon's misfortunes meant he was eliminated along with the two Renaults of Kevin Magnussen and Jolyon Palmer, the two Saubers of Marcus Ericsson and Felipe Nasr and the out-of-sorts luckless Daniil Kvyat of Toro Rosso. The Q2 segment began with both Mercedes out on softs ahead of the rest, Rosberg clocking 1:21.809 only for Hamilton, who 'flat-spotted' his right front tyre, to beat that by three-tenths.

Drivers must start Sunday's race with the tyres they used in Q2, meaning Hamilton may have a disadvantage unless he is allowed to change his tyre on safety grounds. Felipe Massa, in his last Italian Grand Prix, qualified 11th in his Williams to miss out on the top ten shootout. He went out with Romain Grosjean of Haas, in 12th, who also picked up a five place penalty for a gearbox change, Fernando Alonso of McLaren and Pascal Wehrlein of Manor, in a notable 14th. — AFP



OSLO: Germany's head coach Joachim Loew (2nd R) speaks to his players including Germany's midfielder Thomas Mueller (4th R) during a training session on the eve of the World Cup 2018 football qualification match between Norway and Germany in Oslo. — AFP

LOEW EYES GERMANY'S RISING STARS ON ROAD TO RUSSIA

BERLIN: With Manuel Neuer confirmed as his new captain, Joachim Loew plans to blood Germany's next generation as part of his team's preparations to defend their World Cup title in Russia. Germany's journey to the 2018 finals starts today at Oslo's Ullevaal Stadium in their opening qualifier against Norway. Since winning the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, head coach Loew has lost five experienced veterans, each of whom made more than 100 appearances for Germany. Philipp Lahm, Miroslav Klose, Per Mertesacker, Lukas Podolski and now Bastian Schweinsteiger, who bowed out in Wednesday's 2-0 friendly win over Finland, have all retired from international football. With them went the collective experience of 604 caps and 152 goals.

But Germany's next crop of talent is knocking at the door. Loew has said they will get their chance on the road to Russia, in forthcoming qualifiers and friendlies, plus next June's Confederations Cup, against the likes of Portugal, Mexico, Chile, Australia, New Zealand and hosts Russia.

Hoffenheim defender Niklas Suele made his debut against Finland while Schalke 04's Max Meyer and Bayer Leverkusen's Julian Brandt also started in Moenchengladbach.

All three are still only 20.

RISING STARS

"They did well. You could see that we were taking a look at the future," Loew said following the Finland win.

"It was either their first game, or one of their first, and we'll be using games like that to give the players experience.

"That's how I'll most likely use the Confed Cup. "I want to increase the prospects of the younger players. From now on, the door is wide open."

For now, Loew will take no risks with the starting line-up in Oslo, but Meyer and 21-year-old Bayern Munich defender Joshua Kimmich are expected to feature.

A 2-0 defeat away to Poland in October 2014 meant Germany lost their opening Euro 2016 qualifier. Loew will want no repeat against Norway, who lost their warm-up friendly 1-0 to Belarus in Oslo on Wednesday.

"We will field a strong team. And we will win," he insisted. Home qualifiers against Czech Republic and Northern Ireland, a friendly away to Italy and a trip to minnows San Marino will follow in October and November.

Neuer said four wins from their four qualifiers in 2016 are expected.

Loew has an embarrassment of young riches waiting in the wings. Rising stars like winger Leroy Sane, for whom Manchester City reportedly paid £37 million (\$48m, 43m euros), and Borussia Dortmund's defensive midfielder Julian Weigl are also still only 20.

The same goes for Schalke's attacking midfielder Meyer, who captained the Germany team in Rio and scored the senior side's opening goal against Finland. He turns 21 on September 18.

New cycle

"A new cycle will begin now," Germany's team manager Oliver Bierhoff said Friday.

"We have analysed the Euro, Schweinsteiger and Podolski have retired, so this is our first overhaul since the 2014 World Cup. "The team's faces change regularly, but we have to keep working hard, keep developing the team and fill any holes left (by retirements). "We have to give the next generation the experience and the opportunities at the top level."

The world champions themselves are far from an ageing bunch. Of Loew's trusted core, Toni Kroos and Thomas Mueller are still only 26, while Jerome Boateng, Mats Hummels and Mesut Ozil are 27. Of the other World Cup winners, only Benedikt Hoewedes, Sami Khedira and Neuer will be the wrong side of 30 when the next World Cup kicks off in June 2018.

Neuer, voted the world's best goalkeeper for the last three years, follows on from Lahm, who captained Germany from 2010 until the World Cup win in Brazil, and Schweinsteiger, skipper from 2014 through to Euro 2016. Having already been captain for five of Germany's six matches at Euro 2016, when Schweinsteiger was sidelined with a knee injury, Neuer says his role is to integrate tomorrow's stars into the national set-up. "I try to speak to the young players and make sure they feel welcome," said Neuer.

"It's worked well and they have confirmed that with their performances." — AFP



MONZA: Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team's British driver Lewis Hamilton (C) celebrates winning the pole position next to second placed Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team's German driver Nico Rosberg and third placed Scuderia Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel after the qualifying session at the Autodromo Nazionale circuit in Monza yesterday ahead of the Italian Formula One Grand Prix. — AFP

GIROUD SAYS FRANCE WON'T REST ON LAURELS

CLAIREFONTAINE-EN-YVELINES: Arsenal striker Olivier Giroud said France won't be taking Belarus lightly when they begin World Cup 2018 qualifying in Minsk on Tuesday. France have been in great form over the summer, reaching the Euro 2016 final on home soil in July before triumphing 3-1 away to Italy on Thursday in a friendly.

Giroud scored in that match and the 29-year-old expects a tough challenge from Belarus, whom France beat 3-1 at home and 4-2 away in qualifying for the last World Cup in Brazil.

"I don't know this team (Belarus), we

haven't had time to study them," said Giroud. "We expect a difficult match but it's up to us to make it easy. "They're well into their league season so physically they'll be in top shape, which won't be our case, me especially." Although Giroud described France's Euro final defeat to Portugal as "painful", he recognises that the national team is in rude health. "We realise that we had a good Euro, we're on the right path even though we lost that final," he said. "There was a lot of expectation and we lived up to that billing. Now, we mustn't get over-confident or rest on our laurels." — AFP



LONDON: AC Milan's Stefano Eranio (L) vies with Arsenal legend Gilberto (R) during the Charity football match between Arsenal Legends and Milan Glorie at The Emirates stadium in London yesterday. — AFP

ENGLAND TO OPEN ALLARDYCE ERA WITH SLOVAKIA REUNION

TRNAVA: Sam Allardyce's tenure as England manager begins today when his side launch their bid to reach the 2018 World Cup against former Euro 2016 foes Slovakia in Trnava.

Allardyce, 61, was handed the role he had long coveted after Roy Hodgson stepped down in the immediate aftermath of England's humiliating Euro 2016 elimination by Iceland.

It was England's most dismal loss since a 1-0 defeat by the part-timers of the United States at the 1950 World Cup, but Allardyce believes the experience will make his young team stronger.

"For me it is about going out and the players showing not just how passionate they are, but how skilful they are at international level," he told reporters this week.

"We were the youngest squad at the Euros and I think the experience they have gained in that tournament—some of them for the first time—will give them a better determination and next time round they will be much better."

England would not have encountered Iceland in France had it not been for a frustrating 0-0 draw against Slovakia in Saint-Etienne in their final group game. Hodgson received a torrent of criticism after making six changes for the match, in which England failed to score despite dominating proceedings.

Several players who lined up in England red at the Stade Geoffroy-Guichard on June 20 have seen their statuses change significantly in the two months and two weeks since.

Goalkeeper Joe Hart is now on loan at Torino after being frozen out by Pep Guardiola at Manchester City. He at least got a place in Allardyce's first squad, unlike Everton's Ross Barkley and new Bournemouth loanee Jack Wilshere, both of whom were overlooked.

Chris Smalling, an ever-present at centre-back throughout the Euro, is not currently getting in

Manchester United's team and Daniel Sturridge has had to get used to a watching brief at Liverpool.

Ryan Bertrand, the left-back in Saint-Etienne, is injured and 18-year-old sensation Marcus Rashford has dropped to the Under-21s after seeing his place taken by Zlatan Ibrahimovic at United.

ROONEY RECORD

But Raheem Sterling, lambasted for his performances in France, is in the form of his life at Manchester City and, like his new club-mate John

Stones, is a strong contender for a starting role.

West Ham United midfielder Michail Antonio, meanwhile, could win his first cap.

Captain Wayne Rooney is to be used in the number 10 role, having laboured in midfield at the Euro, and has vowed that this qualifying campaign will be his last. Already his country's record goal-scorer, Rooney will earn his 116th cap at Trnava's Stadion Antona Malatinského, taking him past David Beckham as England's most capped outfield player. — AFP



BURTON-UPON-TENT: England's defender John Stones (R) vies with England's midfielder Jordan Henderson (L) as England's midfielder Danny Drinkwater (C) looks on during a training session at St George's Park near Burton-Upon-Trent in central England yesterday ahead of their World Cup 2018 qualifier football match against Slovakia. — AFP

Sports

Marina Alex leads
LPGA Manulife
Classic in Canada



Hamilton takes
Monza pole,
equals legends



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2016

ARTHUR ISSUES PAKISTAN ONE-DAY SIDE WARNING

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NEW YORK: Rafael Nadal of Spain returns a shot to Andrej Kuznetsov of Russia during his third round Men's Singles match on Day Five of the 2016 US Open at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center on Friday in the Flushing neighborhood of the Queens borough of New York City. — AFP

DJOKOVIC WINS IN 32 MINUTES, NADAL BREEZES

NEW YORK: Novak Djokovic reached the US Open last 16 in just 32 minutes Friday when Mikhail Youzhny retired injured before fellow two-time winner Rafael Nadal also made the fourth round for the first time in three years.

Today, history can be made at Flushing Meadows with Serena Williams going for her 307th Grand Slam win when she takes on Sweden's Johanna Larsson for a place in the last 16. That would lift her past Martina Navratilova for the most in the Open Era as she targets a seventh title.

Defending men's champion Djokovic was 4-2 ahead in the first set when Russian 34-year-old Youzhny called it quits suffering from a left hamstring injury.

The outcome completed a bizarre first week for world number one Djokovic. After labouring over four sets to beat Jerzy Janowicz on Monday, he was handed a walkover into the third round when Czech opponent Jiri Vesely withdrew from their second round clash with an arm injury. "I have never had this happen before in my Grand Slam career, getting a walkover and the next match lasting just half an hour," said Djokovic. The top seed next faces Britain's world number 84 Kyle Edmund who stunned John Isner of the United States 6-4, 3-6, 6-

2, 7-6 (7/5) to make a Slam fourth round for the first time. Nadal reached the fourth round for the first time since 2013 — the year of his last New York title-with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 win over Russia's Andrej Kuznetsov.

"Andrej is always a tough opponent, he returns well and has good shots from the baseline," said fourth seed Nadal who faces France's Lucas Pouille for a quarter-final slot.

"I had a fantastic first set, a little trouble with my serve in the second but the third was key so I'm very happy," Djokovic's very brief encounter had been preceded on Arthur Ashe Stadium by women's eighth seed Madison Keys pulling off an epic comeback to beat Japan's Naomi Osaka.

Keys won the latest-ever finishing women's match at the tournament on Monday when she completed victory over compatriot Alison Riske at 1:48am. On Friday, the 21-year-old was involved in more drama when she rallied from 1-5 down in the final set to defeat Osaka 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (7/3).

KEYS BENEFITS FROM CHOKE

The 18-year-old Osaka was so traumatised by her failure to convert her dominance into victory that she

broke down in tears as she twice tried and failed to serve for the victory.

"This is the greatest comeback of my career, hands down," said Keys who will face two-time runner-up Caroline Wozniacki for a quarter-final spot. In stark contrast, German second seed and Australian Open champion Angelique Kerber closed out the night session with a 6-1, 6-1 win in just 53 minutes against American 17-year-old CiCi Bellis. Kerber, who claimed her season-leading 50th match win, next faces two-time Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova.

Jack Sock, the American 26th seed, reached the fourth round for the first time by knocking out 2014 champion Marin Cilic 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 in tie where he did not face a single break point.

The 23-year-old Sock, whose last two appearances at the US Open had ended in retirements, goes on to face French ninth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga. Tsonga, a two-time quarter-finalist, made the last 16 with a 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) victory over South Africa's Kevin Anderson. Wozniacki, who knocked out ninth-seeded former champion Svetlana Kuznetsova in the second round, clinched a seventh win in seven meetings over unorthodox Monica Niculescu of Romania.

The Dane's 6-3, 6-1 victory featured eight breaks of serve. Roberta Vinci, the Italian seventh seed and runner-up to compatriot Flavia Pennetta in 2015, overcame a second set blip to defeat 21-year-old Carina Witthoef 6-0, 5-7, 6-3.

The 33-year-old Vinci led 5-4, 30-0 in the second set before her 84th-ranked German opponent dug deep to take the tie into a decider. But Vinci prevailed on the back of 40 winners and will meet Lesia Tsurenko of the Ukraine for a quarter-final place.

Tsurenko, the world 99, made the last 16 at a Slam for the first time by beating 12th seed Dominika Cibulkova 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. The 27-year-old Tsurenko committed 44 unforced errors. Fortunately for her, newly-married Cibulkova hit 54.

Latvia's Anastasija Sevastova backed up her shock victory over third seed and French Open champion Garbine Muguruza by making the last 16 for the first time with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Kateryna Bondarenko of the Ukraine.

World number 48 Sevastova, who briefly retired in 2013, has matched her best run at a Slam and next faces British 13th seed Johanna Konta who put out Belinda Bencic 6-2, 6-1. — AFP

HALEP GETS HUNGARIAN FRIGHT BEFORE REACHING LAST 16

NEW YORK: Fifth seed Simona Halep narrowly avoided a third-round upset with a 6-1 2-6 6-4 win over Hungary's Tímea Babos yesterday to keep her US Open title hopes alive.

Halep came into the match having dropped nine games in her opening two matches and looked ready to make speedy work of Babos but she needed two hours and eight minutes on an overcast Arthur Ashe Stadium court to secure her place in the last 16.

After blitzing the opening set in 24 minutes, Halep meekly surrendered the second to the 34th-ranked Babos, who had been knocked out in the opening round in four previous visits to Flushing Meadows.

Babos continued to apply the pressure in the third, breaking Halep at the first opportunity, but the fiery Romanian battled back, angrily smashing her racket on to the court before holding serve for a 5-4 lead. Halep was gifted her place in the fourth round when Babos double-faulted to hand her the break and match.

"I don't know how I came back," Halep told reporters. "I felt like I didn't play my best but I was fighting to the end for every ball. I was trying to push her back. I was trying to run for every ball. I did everything I could today and I'm really happy I could finish the match in my way."

Next up for Halep is 11th-seeded Spaniard Carla Suarez Navarro who advanced with a tidy 6-4 6-3 win over Russian Elena Vesnina.

Outside of the Williams sisters, Petra Kvitova is the only multiple women's Grand Slam title winner in the

US Open and is pursuing a third major on a diet of movies, napping and as little practice as possible.

The big-hitting Czech, who captured the Wimbledon crown in 2011 and 2014, is in the second week of a major for the first time this year.

It's been achieved without dropping a set and by studiously avoiding as often as possible the sometimes tortuous trip from Manhattan across the East River to Queens. n"lt's funny. We were joking today that we were going to the site for the fourth time and I played three matches," said the 26-year-old Czech.

"I came here on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Last year I did the same. I played five matches and I spent six days here.

"I'm happy that I'm not a person who has to practice every day." It was a plan which worked well for Kvitova 12 months ago when she made the quarter-finals, her best run by far in New York, a city which has taken its time to convince her of its charms.

"I'm not really a fan of the traffic, but I started to like it last year when I played well and I made the quarter-finals." Kvitova is some way behind Serena Williams (22 Grand Slam titles) and Venus Williams (seven) when it comes to the big-stage experience.

"I try to have a nap every day. I do a little bit of shopping or just walk in the city and do the fitness. After lunch I watch a movie or something." Kvitova made the last 16 on Friday by beating Elina Svitolina 6-3, 6-4 and will face either second seed Angelique Kerber or CiCi Bellis for a place in the quarter-finals today. — Agencies



NEW YORK: Simona Halep of Romania hits a return to Tímea Babos of Hungary during their 2016 US Open women's singles match at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center yesterday in New York. — AFP



HANGZHOU: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and wife Sophie Gregoire wave as they and daughter Ella-Grace arrive in Hangzhou yesterday. — AP

CANADA WARNS AGAINST DANGEROUS PROTECTIONISM

CENTRAL BANKS NEARING LIMITS OF ABILITY TO STIMULATE GROWTH: OECD

HANGZHOU, China: World leaders need to push back against a tide of “rampant” protectionism and nationalism, Canadian premier Justin Trudeau said yesterday, warning that “building walls” was not the solution. The global economy is not working for too many people, Trudeau said, fuelling anger among voters left behind by decades of unequal growth and “taking us in the wrong direction in many places in the world”. “There’s a sense the forward march of progress has stalled,” he told a business forum in the Chinese city of Hangzhou which is hosting the G20 summit.

“That anxiety is exactly what is leading to the kind of anti-trade, anti-globalization protectionism that is running rampant, whether in Brexit, or in protectionist rhetoric in election campaigns,” he said. “We have to push back against that,” he said. “It’s very tempting to fall into divisive, fearful rhetoric. That’s one of the things we have to be strongly compelling in standing against.”

Trudeau did not explicitly reference Donald Trump’s populist campaign for the US presidency, but alluded to the Republican nominee’s platform as he argued for the benefits of free trade. “We know that isolationism, that building walls, that

closing in on oneself, does not create opportunity, does not create growth, does not create benefits for the middle class,” he said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping-whose country is regularly accused of dumping and other trade violations by the US and EU-also warned against protectionism at the same forum. “The path of world economic development shows that openness brings progress and isolation leads to backwardness,” he said in a speech.

“The beggar thy neighbor approach will not help any country to get out of the crisis or recession,” he said. “In the age of economic globalization, countries are closely linked in their development, and they all rise and fall together.” China is not part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the US-led effort to create a giant free trade area around the Pacific Ocean.

The two leaders’ comments came after IMF chief Christine Lagarde warned this week that the world’s economies faced a potentially toxic mix of low long-term growth and rising inequality, creating political temptations to populism and raised trade barriers.

She warned of a “low-growth trap”-high debt, weak demand, eroding work forces and labour

skills, weakening incentives for investment and slowing productivity. But analysts say the G20 summit is unlikely to achieve a breakthrough, as it is not taking place at a time of acute crisis which could prod governments to take action.

Central banks warning

Meanwhile, the world’s central banks are “pretty close” to the limits of their ability to stimulate economies, Angel Gurría, head of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), said yesterday. In the absence of “breakthrough, collective” policies, global growth is likely to remain weak, Gurría said in an interview with Reuters ahead of a meeting of leaders of the world’s 20 biggest economies, the G20, in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou.

“We have left our good central bankers to do all the heavy lifting,” said Gurría. “It has to be like a relay. Continued accommodative monetary policy, and then you get to the second relay like in the four-by-100s and the baton passes.

“Now you need to get to the finance ministers, to the economy ministers, to the trade ministers, to the technology ministers, the science ministers, the education ministers, the competition

ministers. Now is the big time for structural change.”

Echoing remarks by China’s vice finance minister on Friday, Gurría emphasized that a combination of coordinated monetary, fiscal and structural adjustment policies are now necessary to revive growth worldwide, including in China. Nonetheless, he was relatively upbeat on the outlook for China’s growth, despite a rising debt burden and mixed progress on tackling low efficiency and overcapacity in key state-owned sectors.

Gurría said that China likely could continue growing at around 6.5 to 7 percent during its current five-year plan period (to 2020) without major distortions in the structure of the economy.

MULTINATIONAL TAX POLICY

In separate remarks to Reuters, Pascal Saint-Amans, the director of the OECD’s Center for Tax Policy and Administration, addressed the thorny issue of multinational corporate tax liability, which the European Commission’s recent decision against Apple Inc has brought back into sharp relief.

The European Commission said this week that Apple owed up to 13 billion euros (\$14.50 billion)

of back taxes to Ireland based on existing regulations, a decision that both Apple and Ireland, which relies on low taxes to attract investment, have vowed to fight.

Apple employs a hybrid tax structure in Ireland for its overseas profits, Saint-Amans said, which enables it to dramatically reduce its tax burden by avoiding full tax residency in either the US or Ireland. Many other multinationals use similar strategies to reduce their global taxation.

“You end up having hundreds of billions of profits in the middle of the Atlantic,” said Saint-Amans. “This type of aggressive tax planning is outrageous and it’s precisely because of this type of planning that we launched BEPS.” BEPS refers to tax “base erosion and profit sharing,” and the OECD has launched an aggressive initiative to crack down on it.

US lawmakers have also raised concerns that the case represents an attempt by Europe to encroach on the potential US tax base. Nonetheless Saint-Amans, a leading force behind the OECD’s push to rationalize international tax policy, said that he did not believe the case was likely to serve as a precedent for tax treatment of future multinational profits. — Agencies

NEW BRAZIL PRESIDENT WOOS BUSINESS ALLIES IN CHINA

HANGZHOU, China: New Brazilian President Michel Temer insisted Friday his country has turned a page on years of crisis as he wooed businesses in China after replacing Dilma Rousseff in a bitter impeachment fight. “Even though we suffered from political and economic upheaval, as well as economic downturn, this page has been turned,” Temer said in a speech in the Chinese commercial hub Shanghai.

“Brazil has put all the economic and political instability it suffered in the past few years behind us,” Temer, 75, was seeking to consolidate his position after senators in Brasilia voted Wednesday to convict Rousseff on charges of having illegally manipulated government accounts. She rejected the effort as a “coup.”

Temer was promptly sworn in and came to China for the G20 summit which starts in nearby Hangzhou today. On his international presidential debut in Brazil’s biggest export market, he oversaw the signing of billions of dollars’ worth of contracts by Brazilian companies. His Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping called him an “old friend” when they met on the shores of Shanghai’s landmark West Lake, adding: “China and Brazil make up together the East and West’s two biggest developing countries.”

Temer said it was an “honour” that his

first presidential trip was to China, adding: “I am even more honoured to hear you say that we are friends.”

Steel, food, aviation

Earlier, with Shanghai mayor Yang Xiong, Temer witnessed the signing of nine agreements covering projects from infrastructure to agriculture and said that China was now “Brazil’s most-needed cooperative partner.”

Brazilians “need China’s support, we need China’s cooperation,” he added. Newspapers reported that Brazilian companies signed \$4.6 billion worth of contracts with Chinese firms during Temer’s visit.

Those included investments by Chinese companies such as CBSteel, China Communications Construction Company and agriculture firm Hunan Dakang, the Brazilian press reports said.

Brazilian aircraft-maker Embraer said in a statement it signed a deal to sell up to five of its E190 passenger jets to Colorful Guizhou Airlines for \$249 million. The new Brazilian leader faces multiple difficulties at home, with the country deep in recession. Rousseff has filed a Supreme Court challenge against her impeachment. Temer’s bid to shore up his authority will face strong opposition from her Workers’ Party and allied leftist organisations. — AFP

FED MAY STAY COOL ON SEPTEMBER HIKE

US JOB MARKET GLOWS HOT AMID NEW SIGNS OF COOLING ECONOMY

SAN FRANCISCO: Even if the report Friday showed US companies kept up their rapid pace of hiring in August, there is still enough resistance among policymakers at the Federal Reserve to delay an interest-rate hike at the bank’s September meeting.

Reuters polling forecasts that 180,000 jobs were added last month, well above the 100,000 Fed Chair Janet Yellen says is needed to absorb newcomers to the labor market. At that rate, 2016 would be on pace for more than 2 million new jobs. Despite those strong gains that have pushed the unemployment rate down to 4.9 percent, some at the Fed are not convinced of the need to move yet. Among them is Fed Board Governor Lael Brainard, who has warned of downside risks to the economy and said the rate hike path needs to be “shallow.”

Governor Jerome Powell, who last week called for “caution” on rate hikes, and Governor Daniel Tarullo, who has signaled he wants to see more evidence that inflation is on the rise, are also skeptical of the need to move soon. And even Yellen, who said last week that an improving labor market and signs that inflation are firming have strengthened the case for a rate hike, has said nothing on the timing, even though her more hawkish Vice Chair Stanley Fischer ignited rate hike expectations when he spoke after Yellen.

Despite the strong labor market gains, the economy’s performance by other measures has been tepid. The most recent estimates put growth in the second quarter at just 1.1 percent, far less than the

2 percent in the quarter prior to last December’s rate hike. The Fed’s preferred inflation measure remains stuck at 1.6 percent, well below its 2-percent target.

Weakness in productivity persists as well, an increasing concern for the Federal Reserve as lower productivity will crimp the future potential rate of growth for the economy as a whole. — Reuters



MIAMI LAKES: Raisa Rickie waits in line to apply for a job with Aldi at a job fair in Miami Lakes, Florida on Friday, the US government issued the August jobs report. — AP

5 WAYS TO RETAIN TOP CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYEES IN GCC

Bayt.com weekly report

Against a backdrop of falling oil prices and continued economic uncertainty, the construction sector is one of the main pillars of the GCC industrial development and a key engine for growth, economy diversification and job creation. A recent survey by Bayt.com, and consultancy YouGov, found that the GCC's infrastructure industry is believed to hire the best local talent. But given the impressive number of projects underway, and the increasing strain to meet demands of recent times, there's no shortage of challenges in this sector, especially when it comes to retaining the quality workforce companies need to achieve their business goals.

Bayt.com believes that keeping your brightest talents doesn't have to be a hassle. Here, the experts at Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 job site, suggest a few tips to help you hire (and retain) top talent in the construction sector:

1. Promote diversity

Diversity at work is a way of thinking and operating that encourages an entirely new and positive outlook in a company. In fact, the Bayt.com 'Diversity of Thought in the Middle East and North Africa Workplace' poll (September 2015) shows that 80% of employees in the Middle East and North

Africa (MENA) region feel that their company encourages diversity. The infrastructure sector in the GCC attracts expatriate and local labor forces alike. Given such a mixture of different nationalities, striving to mitigate the recurring 'clash of civilizations' is no waste of time. As an employer, the use of surveys, workshops, interdisciplinary teams, etc. will help overcome linguistic barriers and cultural constraints which stem from working in a 'melting pot,' promoting multicultural awareness, acceptance and respect.

2. Nurture a teamwork culture

Fueling a collaborative spirit is imperative within a workplace. Although an effective use of team-building can bring to significant project execution and result in any type of industry, this aspect plays a particularly crucial role in the construction sector. Indeed, the role of teamwork in construction projects has a profound impact on the overall project performance, and eventually on employee morale. Feeling part of a 'winning team,' and being aware of working with other capable individuals, will keep motivation high, and lead your projects to great productivity.

3. Leave room for improvement

The Bayt.com 'Learning in the Workplace in the

Middle East and North Africa' poll (March 2015) shows that 97 percent of professionals in the MENA region are very dedicated to lifelong learning. The construction industry provides employment opportunities to job seekers with few academic qualifications.

Yet, continual professional development is as important there as in any other field. A diverse array of training offerings, construction and real estate seminars, along with the introduction of cutting-edge methods to apply to everyday activities, will help your employees sharpen a diversified professional skillset to best master their craft. Bayt.com, for example, provides an array of online courses and tests that can help your employees learn new skills or hone old ones.

4. Assure safety

While excavating or engineering a highway, construction employees are particularly exposed to danger. Indeed, statistics suggest that construction sites are the most accident-prone workplaces, and the majority of injuries and fatalities occur right there. In such a work environment, assuring health and safety is an absolute priority. One of the best ways to accomplish this goal comes with the use of protective gear, the adoption of safe distance, and

other precautionary measures, or safety guidelines, set by the company. If you want to have the biggest impact possible on your employees' lives, all the interested parties - from coworkers to construction site managers, to architects and engineers - should be involved in this process. Remember, it's always better to be safe than sorry.

5. Define and reinforce purpose

Last but not least, there is one important thing you can do to retain skilled employees in construction. Clearly defining and continuously reinforcing the purpose of work is a good strategy to help your employees remain focused and willing to work hard to achieve a common goal. In this way, employees will develop a sense of ownership and take pride on every little step toward the realization of the whole project.

About Bayt.com:

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RETAILERS SCRAMBLE AFTER SHIPPER BANKRUPTCY CRISIS

HANJIN SHIPPING LINE CRISIS THROWS PORTS, RETAILERS INTO CHAOS

NEW YORK: Some major retailers are scrambling to work out contingency plans to get their merchandise to stores as the bankruptcy of the Hanjin shipping line has thrown ports and retailers around the world into confusion.

They don't have a lot of time. Giant container ships from the South Korean-based Hanjin shipping line are marooned with their cargo of what experts say are lots of TVs and printers, but also loads of home furnishings and clothing. Hanjin, the world's seventh-largest container shipper, filed for bankruptcy protection Wednesday and stopped accepting new cargo. With its assets being frozen, ships from China to Canada were refused permission to offload or take aboard containers because there were no guarantees that tugboat pilots or stevedores would be paid. It's also been a factor in shipping rates rising and could hurt some trucking firms with contracts to pick up goods from Hanjin ships.

The South Korean giant represents nearly 8 percent of the trans-Pacific trade volume for the US market. While some retailers may already have merchandise for the holiday season affected, experts say what's most important is that the issue be resolved before the critical shipping month of October.

"Retailers always have robust contingency plans, but this degree of uncertainty is making it challenging to put those plans in place," said Jessica Dankert, senior director of retail operations for the Retail Industry Leaders Association, a trade alliance with members including companies like Best Buy, Wal-Mart and Target.

J C Penney said Hanjin is one of several ocean freight carriers that it uses and when it learned there might be an issue it began to divert and reroute its containers. It said it uses "a variety of transportation methods and ports" and right now does not expect a significant effect on the flow of merchandise.

Target Corp. said it is watching the situation closely and Wal-Mart said it is waiting for details about Hanjin's bankruptcy proceedings and the implications to its merchandise before it could assess the effect. As of Friday, 27 ships had been refused entry to ports or terminals, said Hanjin Shipping spokesman Park Min. The Seoul-based company said one ship in Singapore had been seized by the ship's owner.

At the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the nation's busiest port complex, three Hanjin container ships ranging from about 700 feet to 1,100 feet (213 meters to 304 meters) long were either drifting offshore or anchored away from terminals on Thursday. A fourth vessel that was supposed to leave Long Beach on Thursday morning remained anchored inside the break-



LONG BEACH: South Korea's Hanjin Shipping Co containers are seen in the Port of Long Beach, California. — AP

water. "Hanjin called us and said: 'We're going bankrupt and we can't pay any bills - so don't bother asking,'" said J. Kip Louttit, executive director of the Marine Exchange of Southern California, which provides traffic control for the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

That's meant cargo headed to and from Asia is in limbo, much to the distress of merchants looking to stock shelves with fall fashions or Christmas toys. "Someone from the garment industry called earlier today asking: 'How long is this going to go on, because I've got clothing out there,'" Louttit said.

Chris Rogers, a research analyst at Panjiva, which tracks international imports to the United States, said the situation isn't yet dire but could become so. October is the busiest month for cargo from South Korea to the US, accounting for about 11.5 percent of the annual total.

But South Korea's maritime ministry said Hanjin's troubles would affect cargo exports for two to three months, given that August-October is a high-demand season for deep-sea routes.

The Retail Industry Leaders Association wrote to US Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and Federal Maritime Commission Chairman Mario Cordero on Thursday, urging them to work with the South Korean government, ports and others to prevent disruptions. It said the bankruptcy is rippling through the global supply chain and could cause significant harm to consumers and the US economy.

"There (are) millions of dollars' worth of merchandise that needs to be on store shelves that

could be impacted by this," said Jonathan Gold, the National Retail Federation's vice president for supply chain and customs policy. The confusion might also sink some trucking firms that contract with Hanjin to deliver cargo containers from ports to company loading bays. "They've got bills to pay - they could literally close their doors over this," said Peter Schneider, Fresno-based vice president of T.G.S. Transportation Inc.

Other shipping lines may take on some of Hanjin's traffic - but at a price. Since many vessels already are operating at high capacity, shippers may wind up paying a premium to squeeze their containers on board, said Jock O'Connell, international trade adviser to Los Angeles-based Beacon Economics.

The price of shipping a 40-foot container from China to the US jumped up to 50 percent in a single day, said Nerijus Poskus, director of pricing and procurement for Flexport, a licensed freight forwarder and customs broker based in San Francisco. The price from China to West Coast ports rose from \$1,100 per container to as much as \$1,700 on Thursday, while the cost from China to the East Coast jumped from \$1,700 to \$2,400, he said. Hanjin's bankruptcy was a major factor, he said. Global demand and trade have suffered since the 2008 recession, but steamship lines continued to build more and larger vessels. That weaker trade and overcapacity have sent ocean shipping rates plunging in recent years. A few months ago, Poskus said, prices hit historic lows globally - down to as much as \$600 per container from Shanghai to Los Angeles. — AP

AUSTRALIA INFLATION GOES DOWN AS HIGH-RISE APARTMENTS GO UP

SYDNEY: Australia has successfully used historically low borrowing costs to spark a boom in home building that has helped shepherd the economy through the dog days of a global mining downturn. Yet the rush of new homes has also compressed rental yields to record lows and put downward pressure on already tepid inflation - an alarming trend rate cuts were supposed to remedy.

Rents were the single biggest factor behind the marked inflation slowdown this year that prompted a reluctant Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) to further cut rates to a record low of 1.5 percent, jouncing up the housing market even more. "It's ironic. They cut rates to boost housing supply, but that's turned into a material drag on inflation," said George Tharenou, an economist at UBS.

The drag on inflation is likely to be protracted, given UBS now believes the building boom will not peak until 2018, and seemingly argues for even more stimulus. "But there's a limit here. Easing would only push inflation down further," said Tharenou. "With all this housing activity adding to GDP growth, the economy just does not need more cuts."

Australia completed 190,000 new homes in 2015, 20 percent more than 10 years ago. Housing starts have since surged to an annualized 229,000, well above estimates of fundamental demand. Approvals to build new homes surged over 11 percent in July, led by a 23 percent jump in apartments. Residential construction directly added 0.4 percentage points to gross domestic product growth in the year to March, and bolstered by spending to furnish new homes, helped the economy boast overall growth of 3.1 percent.

IT'S ALL ABOUT CAPITAL RETURNS

All this supply has led to a sharp rise in vacancies. Investors in Australia typically

buy for capital gains rather than rental returns - understandable given Sydney home prices have climbed around 60 percent in the past four years.

An added wrinkle is that investors who buy to let get a "negative gearing" tax break which allows them to offset rental losses against their other income, and there is also a capital gains tax discount on homes held for more than one year. The result has been a flood of rental properties and a drop in rental yields to record lows. This matters because rents are a major component of consumer price inflation (CPI). Rents make up around 7 pct of the CPI basket, more than either health or education. They also comprise an even larger 10 percent share of the core price measures the RBA focuses on. Rental inflation was just 0.7 percent in the year to June, the weakest since the recession of the early 1990s and a world away from the 8 percent-plus seen as recently as 2008.

That was a major reason CPI inflation braked sharply to a 17-year low of 1.0 percent in the year to June, while core inflation stood at a record low of 1.5 percent. Both were below the RBA's target band of 2 to 3 percent and directly triggered rate cuts in May and August.

Even after that easing, the RBA conceded inflation would likely not reach even the bottom of its target until late 2018 - with rents fingered as a leading culprit. "The significant increase in apartment supply in train is likely to weigh on rental growth further, so the RBA will find it difficult to return inflation to its target band in the near term," said Tapas Strickland, an economist at NAB. "Interestingly, seeking to return inflation more quickly to the target band by repeatedly cutting rates could be counter-productive as it could risk encouraging additional housing supply in a market where fears of oversupply are emerging." — Reuters

KCB OFFERED 566 REAL ESTATE LOANS WORTH KD 16.33M IN AUG

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) offered 566 real estate loans in August, worth KD 16.335 million, it said yesterday. Total portfolio loans last month hit 30 ones worth KD 293,000 the KCB added in a statistical report.

Up to 22 loans, worth KD 1.201 million, were presented for building on private plots of land. Similar government loans

were 81, worth KD 5.619 million. According to the report, the KCB provided 42 loans worth 2.876 million to buy houses.

People with special needs were offered 254 loans amounting to KD 2.230 million. Referring to the portfolio loans, total property expansion loans stood at 24, worth KD 238,000, while a total of six renovation loans amounted to KD 55, 000. —KUNA

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.912
Indian Rupees	4.535
Pakistani Rupees	2.899
Srilankan Rupees	2.085
Nepali Rupees	2.838
Singapore Dollar	223.640
Hongkong Dollar	39.033
Bangladesh Taka	3.859
Philippine Peso	6.503
Thai Baht	8.738

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.763
Qatari Riyal	83.194
ani Riyal	786.642
Bahraini Dinar	804.300
UAE Dirham	82.457

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	29.550
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.475
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	137.900
Jordanian Dinar	427.360
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	2.0158
Morocco Dirham	31.466

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.700
Euro	340.230
Sterling Pound	404.470
Canadian dollar	234.110
Turkish lira	103.050

Swiss Franc	310.780
Australian Dollar	231.570
US Dollar Buying	301.500

GOLD

20 Gram	267.310
10 Gram	136.570
5 Gram	69.130

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer

US Dollar	302.900
Canadian Dollr	231.725
Sterling Pound	397.795
Euro	338.920
Swiss Frank	298.565
Bahrain Dinar	800.735
UAE Dirhams	82.700
Qatari Riyals	83.910
Saudi Riyals	81.495
Jordanian Dinar	426.815
Egyptian Pound	34.013
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.081
Indian Rupees	4.513
Pakistani Rupees	2.886
Bangladesh Taka	3.854
Philippines Peso	6.502
Cyprus pound	159.645
Japanese Yen	3.955
Syrian Pound	2.405
Nepalese Rupees	3.815
Malaysian Ringgit	75.510
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.675
Thai Bhat	9.730
Turkish Lira	102.445

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY BUY SELL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
	Europe	
British Pound	0.389705	0.404705
Czech Korune	0.004466	0.016466
Danish Krone	0.041251	0.046251
Euro	0.0331946	0.0340946
Norwegian Krone	0.032268	0.037468
Romanian Leu	0.075610	0.075610
Slovakia	0.009018	0.019018
Swedish Krona	0.031427	0.036427
Swiss Franc	0.301266	0.312266
Turkish Lira	0.097608	0.107908
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.219217	0.231217
New Zealand Dollar	0.212884	0.222384
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.225725	0.234725
Georgina Lari	0.136691	0.136691
US Dollars	0.298550	0.303250
US Dollars Mint	0.299050	0.303250
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003289	0.003873
Chinese Yuan	0.043702	0.047202
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036926	0.039676
Indian Rupee	0.004259	0.004648
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024

Japanese Yen	0.002852	0.003032
Kenyan Shilling	0.002978	0.002978
Korean Won	0.000261	0.000276
Malaysian Ringgit	0.071019	0.077019
Nepalese Rupee	0.002809	0.002979
Pakistan Rupee	0.002699	0.002989
Philippine Peso	0.006307	0.006607
Sierra Leone	0.000051	0.000057
Singapore Dollar	0.216485	0.226485
South African Rand	0.014836	0.023336
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001641	0.002221
Taiwan	0.009414	0.009594
Thai Baht	0.008417	0.008967

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.796216	0.804716
Egyptian Pound	0.023748	0.028866
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.422712	0.431712
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019618	0.043618
Nigerian Naira	0.001248	0.001883
Omani Riyal	0.779684	0.785364
Qatar Riyal	0.082319	0.083769
Saudi Riyal	0.079620	0.080920
Syrian Pound	0.001283	0.001503
Tunisian Dinar	0.133987	0.141987
Turkish Lira	0.097608	0.107908
UAE Dirhams	0.080975	0.082675
Yemeni Riyal	0.001368	0.001448



Exceptional Fuel Efficiency with Al Mulla & Behbehani Vehicles

91 Octane (the cheapest fuel) suit all our engines

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) continues to develop and integrate - as standard across its model ranges be it a Jeep, Dodge, Chrysler or even the super RAM trucks - a wide range of advanced features that combine to maximise fuel economy without ever compromising performance, ofcourse FIAT and Alfa Romeo products known for best in class Fuel efficiency and being environmentally conscious, are equipped with engines suitable to run on 91octane fuel.

Highly efficient aerodynamic vehicle designs, linked to new fuel-efficient technologies, lightweight materials, highly efficient transmissions and ever more advanced engines.

Class-exclusive standard TorqueFlite eight-speed automatic transmission balances V8 performance with segment-leading 7.59 L/100km (31 mpg) highway fuel efficiency

Once limited to vehicles costing far more, the majority of the latest Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep models now feature the innovative TorqueFlite eight-speed automatic transmission as standard.

The state-of-the-art TorqueFlite eight-speed automatic transmission provides world-class shift quality, refinement and fuel efficiency.

Mr. Oscar Rivoli General Manager of Al-Mulla & Behbehani Motor Co. the Exclusive Distributer for FIAT Chrysler automobiles in Kuwait assured that 91 Octane (the cheapest fuel) suit all our engines and elaborated on the fuel economy of 5.7-litre HEMI V8 powered models is FCA's Fuel Saver Technology with cylinder-deactivation, which seamlessly alternates between smooth, high-fuel-economy four-cylinder mode, when less power is needed, and V8 mode when more power is in demand. This optimises fuel economy when V8 power is not required, without sacrificing vehicle performance or capability.

Chrysler 200, Fiat 500X and Jeep Renegade models available with 2.4-litre Tigershark engine with MultiAir2

The all-new Chrysler 200, Fiat 500X and the Jeep Renegade (the first vehicle available in the small SUV class with a nine-speed automatic transmission) also feature the 2.4-litre Tigershark engine with MultiAir2. Paired with this engine, the nine-speed transmission delivers numerous benefits customers will appreciate, including aggressive launches, smooth power delivery at highway speeds and improved fuel efficiency versus competitive six-speed automatic transmissions - the Chrysler 200, for example, delivers more than 6.53 L/100km (36 mpg) on the highway.

The 2.4-litre engine's MultiAir technology uses a column of oil in place of the traditional mechanical link between the camshaft and intake valves to maximise intake manifold pressure and significantly reduce pumping losses. MultiAir2 takes the innovation further by simultaneously controlling both valve opening and closing events to more effectively manage combustion quality and compression ratio, all to improve fuel economy and performance. For fuel-efficient drivers an Eco Mode is also available on many models across the FCA brand ranges.

Award-winning Pentastar 3.6-litre V6 further enhanced for improved fuel economy

Already unique among V6 engines for its refinement, power, efficiency and adaptability, FCA's award-winning 3.6-litre Pentastar engine has been remade for 2016 models.

Depending on the application, the redesigned V6 delivers fuel-economy improvements of more than 6% while increasing torque by more than 14.9%. This occurs at engine speeds below 3,000 rpm, where elevated torque has its most profound impact on the driving experience.

Enhancements such as two-step variable valve lift (VVL), cooled exhaust-gas recirculation (EGR) and innovative weight-reduction strategies boost the engine's efficiency and performance, all while preserving the smoothness that remains a hallmark of the Pentastar brand.

"With more than five million Pentastars on the road, we have clearly struck a chord in the marketplace," said Bob Lee, FCA North America Vice President - Engine, Powertrain and Electrified Propulsion and Systems Engineering. "Such success brings enormous responsibility. Accordingly, we focused our efforts on improving efficiency and providing greater customer satisfaction in a package that delivers superior value."

Increased fuel-efficiency was a key impetus in the development of the redesigned 3.6-litre Pentastar V6 engine. FCA US LLC powertrain



The highest standards of engineering and aerodynamic tests



8 Speed Rotary



E-Shift

engineers evaluated multiple technologies, accumulating more than 4.7 million customer-equivalent miles using computer simulation and physical tests.

Improvements were measured right down to the component level. And no improvement was too small to chase. Ultimately, the team identified the combination of features that deliver the greatest benefits in the widest operating range.

Arguably the most compelling enhancement is two-step VVL. The system is designed to remain mostly in low-lift mode until the customer demands more power; then it responds by switching to high-lift mode for improved combustion.

The result is less overall pumping work, which on its own, accounts for a fuel-economy improvement of up to 2.7%, compared with the 3.6-litre Pentastar's previous version, which was named three times on the prestigious annual list of Ward's 10 Best Engines.

The addition of cooled EGR firmly establishes the redesigned Pentastar among the V-6 elite. In addition to the obvious emissions-reduction benefits, the system further cuts pumping losses and enables knock-free operation at higher, real-world loads. This translates to a fuel-economy improvement, on its own, of up to 0.8%.

The redesigned 3.6-litre Pentastar V-6 engine benefits from numerous upgrades that better harness the combustion event. The result is improved efficiency and account for a 1.5% improvement in fuel economy.

Multiple friction-reduction strategies contribute to an additional 1% fuel-economy hike, compared with the engine's previous iteration. Particularly notable is the use of HG-R1 on the timing drive guide-faces. The new Pentastar is the first production engine to feature this low-friction material. Also contributing to friction reduction are new valve springs, low-tension piston rings and piston pins that feature diamond-like carbon coating.

Just as refinement is a defining trait of the Pentastar V6 engine family, so is component design. Its integrated exhaust manifold contributes to packaging efficiencies that enable plug-and-play-type integration across a formidable range of vehicle segments and drivetrain configurations.

The new 3.6-litre Pentastar debuts on the 2016 Jeep Grand Cherokee, the world's most-awarded SUV. The new intake manifold improves airflow, which benefits volumetric efficiency and enables a boost up to 295 horsepower, from 290 horsepower.

Clever component redesign produced an engine that weighs as little as 147.87 kgs (326 pounds), depending on the application. That's 1.81 kgs (4 pounds) less than the previous 3.6-litre Pentastar, despite the addition of new content weighing 5.9kgs (13 pounds).

Windage-tray weight was slashed by 19% and front-cover weight was cut by 5%. Two-piece oil pans were eliminated, with the exception of Trail Rated vehicles. The engine's crankshaft also went on a diet. Its main bearings and pins were trimmed, which contributed to an overall block-assembly weight reduction of 2.72 kgs (6 pounds) that generates additional friction-reduction.

FCA has also developed a proprietary all-wheel drive system that disconnects a vehicle's front or rear axle when all-wheel drive capability is not needed. This feature significantly reduces the number of rotating components in the driveline and enhances fuel economy. The new Jeep Renegade and Fiat 500X are equipped with rear-axle disconnect.

FCA has made great strides in improving the efficiency of the internal combustion engine - its focus on transmissions - moving from 4, 5, and 6 speeds - to 8 and 9 speeds, will continue to increase gains in efficiency, performance and refinement.

Power, efficiency and value are an essential part of every vehicle that FCA makes. From new transmissions and engines to the battery-electric drive system, FCA checks all three boxes - with authority.

This is shown by FCA's aggressive support for advanced powertrain development. It began as soon as the company was established in 2009. From model-year 2011 to the present, FCA has introduced 15 new transmissions, 18 new engines and the battery-electric drive system featured in the acclaimed Fiat 500e all-electric vehicle.



Pentastar Engine 3.6L

2016

300

Overview

Design

Efficiency

Technology

Safety

Models

Gallery

Brochure

Shopping Tools

BUILD & PRICE

SEARCH INVENTORY

LOCATE A RETAILER

GET A QUOTE

Fuel-Efficient Performance

The 2016 Chrysler 300 delivers impressive fuel economy as efficient as 7.7 L/100 km (37 mpg) highway²⁵.

The federal government implemented a new 5-cycle test method to replace the 2-cycle method. It now takes into account air conditioner usage, cold temperature operation, and higher-speed driving with more rapid braking and acceleration for more realistic numbers.

While the 5-cycle fuel efficiency ratings are different than the 2-cycle ratings, actual fuel efficiency has not changed – the way it is calculated has.

3.6L

VVT V6 RWD

CITY

12.4

L/100 KM

23

IMP. MPG

HWY

7.7

L/100 KM

37

IMP. MPG

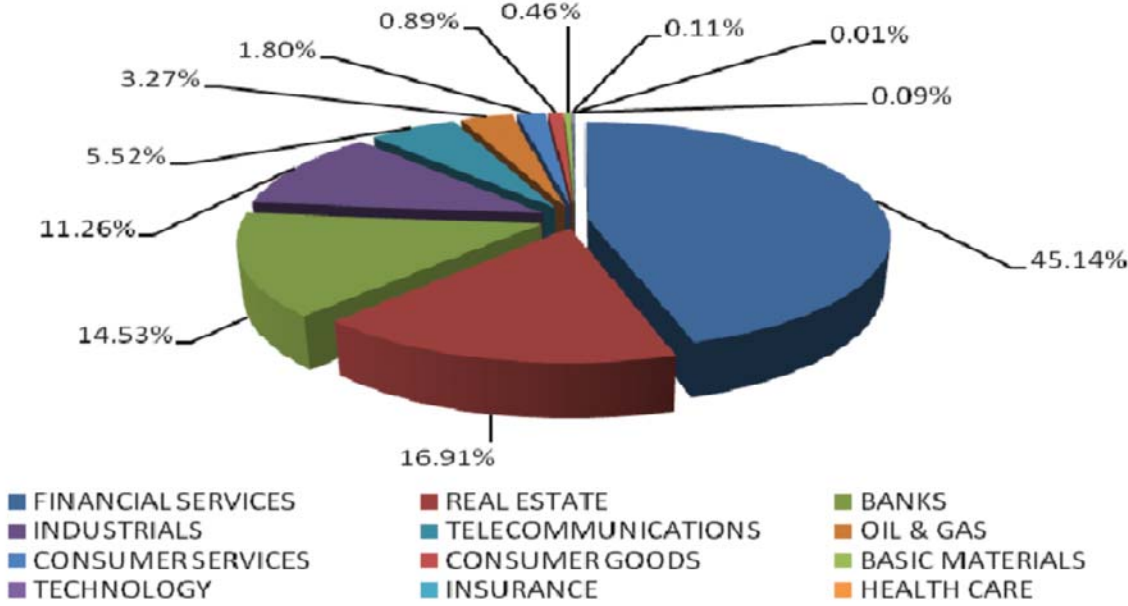
2016 Chrysler 300			5-CYCLE Official EnerGuide Label Ratings - 2016 Model Year			
			CITY**		HIGHWAY**	
Engine	Transmission	Avail. Models	L/100 KM	IMP. MPG	L/100 KM	IMP. MPG
3.6L VVT V6 RWD	8-speed	View	12.4	23	7.7	37
3.6L VVT V6 AWD	8-speed	View	12.8	22	8.6	33
5.7L HEMI V8 RWD	8-speed	View	14.8	19	9.3	30

The best in Class in Fuel Consumption

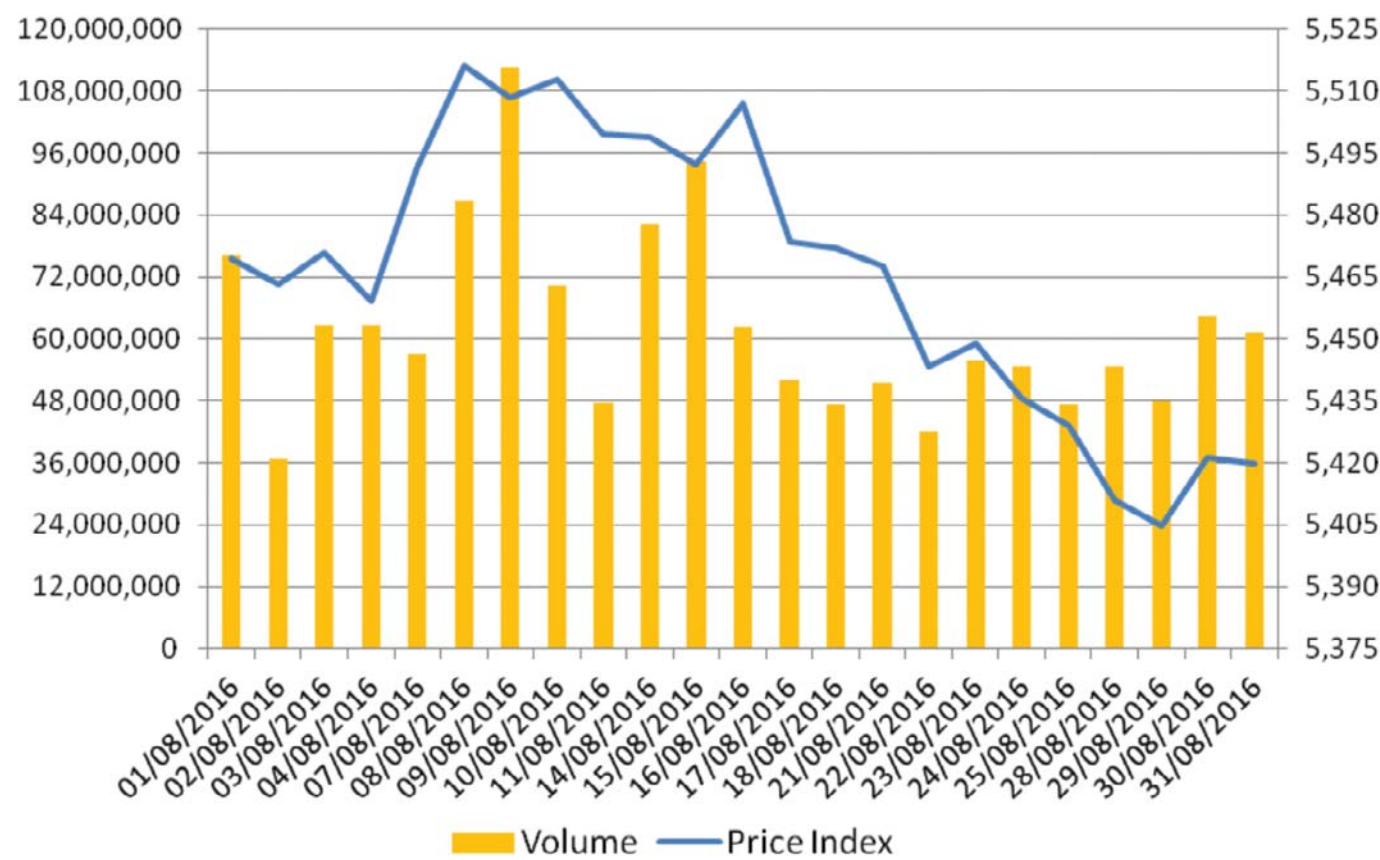
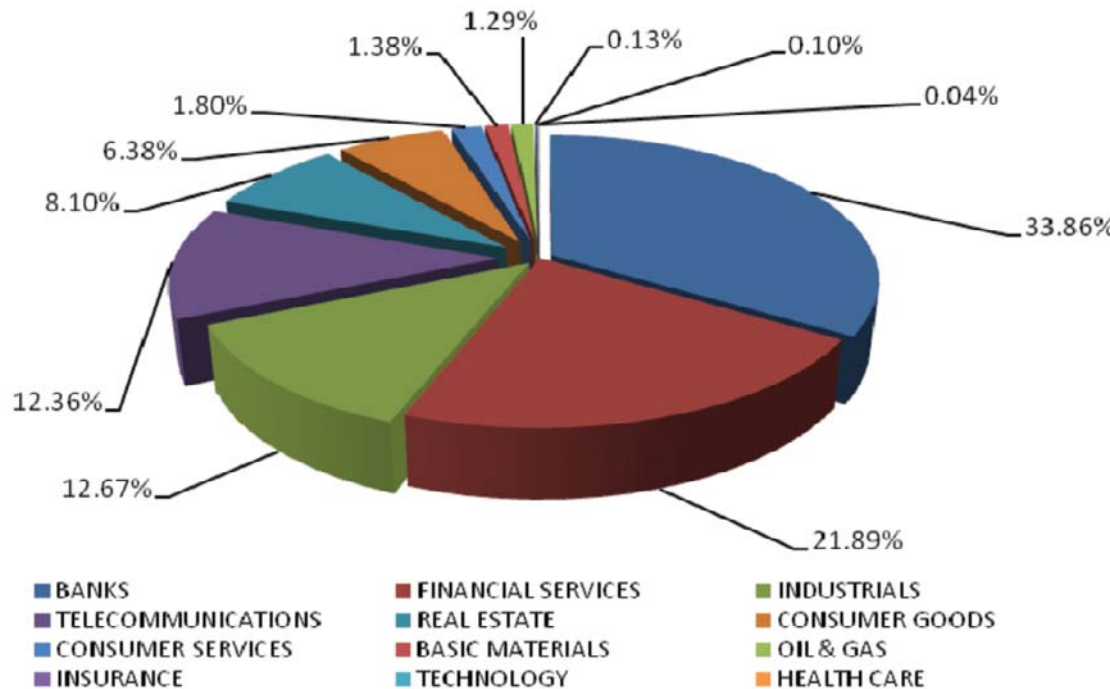
KUWAIT STOCKS END AUGUST IN RED ZONE

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

Monthly Trading "Volume"



Monthly Trading "Value"



KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended August in the red zone. The Price Index closed at 5,419.68 points, down by 0.57 percent compared to the closings of the month before, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.96 percent after closing at 347.34 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 801.83 points decreasing by 1.09 percent. Furthermore, last month's average turnover decreased by 9.80 percent, compared to the preceding month, reaching KD 6.59 million, whereas trading volume average was 62.18 million shares, recording a decrease of 15.62 percent.

The market performance was generally weak during the month, whereas the decline recorded by the three indices by the end of the month was accompanied by the continued noticeable decrease in the trading levels, amid an increased selling operations on some idle stocks of market value below its book and par values. Also, the market was subject during the last month to some profit collection operations executed on a number of listed stocks during some of the daily sessions, and were concentrated on some leading and operational stocks, especially the ones that realized previous price increases.

Moreover, the delay of many listed companies in disclosing its first half of 2016 financial results caused many investors to refrain from trading, waiting for such companies to disclose its data, fearing of suspending some companies that may not be able to disclose its results before the end of the disclosure period, which caused the liquidity to drop relatively, especially in the first half of the month.

Furthermore, the legal disclosure period for the listed companies to disclose its first half of

2016 results have ended, and the total profit recorded by the listed companies declined by 9.37 percent compared to the same period of last year, as it dropped from KD 980.19 million to reach KD 888.36 million. The companies that disclosed its financial results reached around 92.97 percent of the total listed companies in the primary market, as at end of the last month, the number of disclosing companies reached 172 out of 185 company, and the number of companies that recorded a growth in its earning per share reached 78 company, while 88 company recorded a drop in its EPS, and 39 company recorded loss for the first six months period of the current year.

On the other hand, the market capitalization for Kuwait Stock Exchange lost during the month of August around KD 183 million, where it reached by the end of the month KD 23.32 billion, down by 0.55 percent from its level in last July, where it was KD23.45 billion. On an annual level, the market cap at end of August recorded a loss of 7.69 percent compared to the total market cap at end of 2016, where it was then KD25.27 billion.

For the annual performance, the Price Index ended last month recording 3.48 percent annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the Weighted Index decreased by 9 percent, and the KSX-15 Index recorded 10.95 percent loss.

Sectors' Indices

Eight of KSE's sectors ended last month in the red zone, while the other four recorded increases. The Telecommunications sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 3.51 percent to end the month's activity at

587.04 points. The Basic Materials sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 2.57 percent, closing at 930.71 points, followed by the Consumer Goods sector, as its index closed at 1,169.89 points at a loss of 1.83 percent. The Consumer Services sector was the least declining as its index closed at 913.08 points with a 0.32 percent decrease.

On the other hand, last month's highest gainer was the healthcare sector, achieving 1.90 percent growth rate as its index closed at 1,063.60 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Industrial sector's index closed at 1,149.79 points recording 1 percent increase. The Banks sector was the least growing as its index closed at 788.20 points with a 0.09 percent increase.

Sectors' activity

The financial services sector dominated total trade volume during last month with 645.58 million shares changing hands, representing 45.14 percent of the total market trading volume. The real estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 16.91 percent of last month's total trading volume, with a total of 241.91 million shares. On the other hand, the banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of KD 51.35 million or 33.86 percent of last month's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last month turnover of KD 33.19 million representing 21.89 percent of the total market trading value.

—Prepared by the Studies & Research Department, Bayan Investment Co.

STOCKS RISE, TEPID JOBS REPORT STOKES HOPES FOR LOW RATES

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

NEW YORK: US stocks rose on Friday as investors found some positive aspects in a middling employment report. Job growth slowed in August, and traders hope that will convince the Federal Reserve to wait before raising interest rates.

Stocks started the day with big gains following the Labor Department's job report. Energy companies rose more than the rest of the market as oil prices broke out of a four-day slump. The gains were broad, but the stocks that rose the most were utilities, which would stand to benefit if interest rates remain low. Kate Warne, investment strategist for Edward Jones, said the jobs report was good but not great. That actually helped send the market higher because a very strong report could have pushed the Fed to raise interest rates as early as this month. Some investors fear that could jeopardize an uneven economic recovery.

"It falls right in the sweet spot of what the market wanted," she said. "It wasn't so strong as to make (higher interest rates) seem necessary but it wasn't so weak as to make a rate increase this year unlikely."

The Dow Jones industrial average added 72.66 points, or 0.4 percent, to 18,491.96. The Dow rose as much as 125 points in the morning. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 9.12 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,179.98. The Nasdaq composite gained 22.69 points, or 0.4 percent, to 5,249.90.

Consistent

Compared to the last few months, job gains slowed in most major industries in August and wages only rose a little. While the US is on a long streak of job growth, reports over the last few months have been inconsistent. Growth was weak in April and May, but picked up in June and July and seems to have slowed again last month.

The Federal Reserve raised interest rates slightly in December and wants to gradually bring them back closer to where they were before the financial crisis of 2008. But most investors didn't expect rates to rise this month, and the jobs report appeared to confirm that.

US benchmark crude oil rose \$1.28, or 3 percent, to \$44.44 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the benchmark for international oil prices, added \$1.38, or 3 percent, to \$46.83 a barrel in London. US crude had fallen 9 percent over the last four days. Anadarko Petroleum added \$2.95, or 5.5 percent, to \$56.49 and Chevron picked up 72 cents to \$100.93.

Utilities made even bigger gains. They're seen as steady investments, and their high dividends make them more appealing when bond yields are low. NextEra Energy

gained \$2.13, or 1.8 percent, to \$123.13 and American Electric Power rose 83 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$65.24.

Household goods makers also traded higher. Colgate-Palmolive, which makes toothpastes, soaps, and pet foods, rose 62 cents to \$74.89. Tyson Foods, the largest meat and poultry processing company in the world, gained 96 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$76.44. Cigarette makers also did well, as Reynolds American and Altria Group gained ground.

Carnival Corp and Royal Caribbean Cruises both skidded. Morgan Stanley analyst Jamie Rollo said demand for cruises seems to have gotten weaker in August and bookings for late 2016 and early 2017 have slowed down. He downgraded Carnival shares to "Underweight," and the company took the biggest loss on the S&P 500. It fell \$2.31, or 4.7 percent, to \$46.39 while Royal Caribbean lost \$2.70, or 3.7 percent, to \$70.01.

Healthcare companies missed out on the gains as drugmakers fell. Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton announced a plan Friday that's intended to give the government more power to resist increases in the price of older drugs. Mylan fell \$1.95, or 4.7 percent, to \$39.97 as legislators questioned the company's rebate payments to Medicare. Mylan stock has dropped 18 percent in the last two weeks as the company has been criticized for repeatedly raising the price of its EpiPen allergy injection. Elsewhere, Mallinckrodt fell \$3.17, or 4.2 percent, to \$72.42.

Athletic apparel maker Lululemon fell after it reported disappointing sales. Its forecast for the rest of the year also failed to inspire investors. The stock tumbled \$8.09, or 10.6 percent, to \$68.57.

Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year US Treasury note rose to 1.61 percent from 1.57 percent. The dollar rose to 103.94 yen from 103.32 yen and the euro edged down to \$1.1159 from \$1.1197.

In other energy trading, wholesale gasoline rose 3 cents to \$1.30 a gallon. Heating oil also gained 3 cents to \$1.41 a gallon. Natural gas remained at \$2.79 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Gold rose \$9.60 to \$1,326.70 an ounce. Silver added 42 cents, or 2.2 percent, to \$19.37 an ounce. Copper edged up less than 1 cent to \$2.08 a pound. The FTSE 100 in Britain jumped 2.2 percent and France's CAC 40 rose 2.3 percent. In Germany, the DAX climbed 1.4 percent. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index finished practically unchanged while South Korea's Kospi edged 0.3 percent higher. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.5 percent. —AP

EASE NOW OR LATER, ECB PONDERERS

GLOBAL ECONOMY WEEKAHEAD

FRANKFURT: Facing dimming growth and inflation prospects, some of the world's top central banks will contemplate further stimulus measures next week, having to decide between immediate action and waiting just a bit longer.

Britain's decision to leave the European Union has so far dented global growth prospects only slightly but that may still be enough to trigger action since there isn't much growth to begin with and the recovery now looks even more distant. It will be looking at Monday's purchasing managers index to see whether the improvement in manufacturing in the past week carries through to the larger services sector.

But it is likely to be the European Central Bank's rate decision that will dominate the week's agenda, with most economists expecting a steady hand, even if a sizable minority reckon there could be an extension of asset buys.

The bank has provided extraordinary stimulus for years, cutting rates deep into negative territory, buying 80 billion euros (\$89.7

billion) worth of assets a month and offering banks free loans, all to revive growth after nearly a decade in the doldrums.

Stubbornly low inflation is at the root of the problem. Fresh quarterly forecasts will show price growth well below the bank's 2 percent target even in 2018, and the numbers may even show slightly lower forecasts for core inflation or price growth excluding volatile food and fuel prices.

"It's clear that the ECB will have to announce additional measures before the end of the year in order to fulfill its monetary objective," Nannette Hechler-Fayd'Herbe, head of strategy for wealth Management at Credit Suisse said.

"We think it is going to extend the asset purchase program, probably 6 months beyond next March, but it will probably will not adjust the size because it is already having difficulty accessing assets," Hechler-Fayd'Herbe said. "They will try to get a broader universe of assets but probably not including equity just yet."

Low inflation is nothing new since the

ECB has missed its target for more than three years. But any suggestions that long-term expectations are drifting lower could trigger action since that would put the bank's credibility and inflation-targeting mechanism on the line.

Still, hints from the bank suggest it was not in a hurry. Peter Praet, the ECB's chief economist, recently argued for a flexible interpretation of the inflation target while French central bank chief Francois Villeroy de Galhau said the ECB should stick to its current monetary policy. But its asset purchase program is set to run out in March, so a decision is needed by December on whether to continue or wind it down. "Indicators of underlying inflation and inflation expectations remain lifeless and it seems unlikely that a major change would occur before March," UniCredit economist Marco Valli said. "Therefore, another dose of monetary stimulus is just a matter of time."

Yet, the vast majority of analysts polled see no further rate cuts with negative rates showing their clear limits, taking a toll on bank profitability. — Reuters

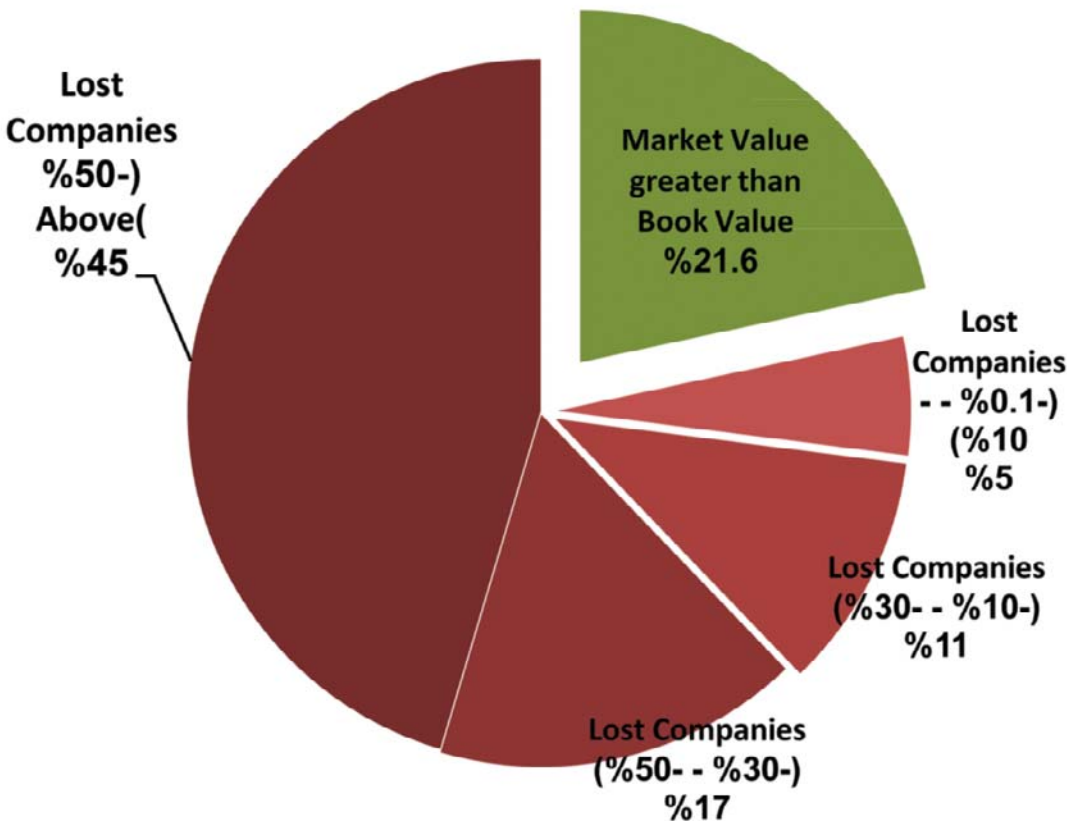


NEW YORK: People pass a Wall Street subway stop, in New York's Financial District. Stock markets were modestly higher on Friday in the run-up to monthly US jobs data that could go a long way to determining whether the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates later this year. —AP

DROP IN LIQUIDITY OF KSE: PROBABLE REPERCUSSIONS

AL-SHALL WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

Differences between Market Value and Book Value of listed companies



KUWAIT: In a paragraph of one of our previous reports, we stated Kuwait stock exchange share and position in terms of its liquidity among the region's seven markets. We also mentioned that its share in the first half of 2016 formed 2.3 percent of the total region's markets liquidity. We can ignore liquidity scarcity, if its position confirms the beginning of its escalation, but unfortunately it lost about -34.2 percent of its amount in a year from the first half of 2015 until the first half of 2016. Liquidity daily average in last July scored KD 7.3 million losing about -41.4 percent of the daily average value of the liquidity for the first half of the current year. Liquidity daily average in August scored KD 6.6 million losing about -9.6 percent of the very weak liquidity of July, indicating a trend for more recession.

The comparative weak liquidity position becomes clearer, if calculated by the share of each listed company. In the first half of 2015, the share per company in the KSE scored US\$ 49.1 million, but the share dropped to US\$ 28.3 million in the first half of 2016. While this share in the four major markets in the region in the first half of 2016 scored US\$ 105.3 million for Abu Dhabi, US\$ 228.8 million for Qatar, US\$ 315.4 million for Dubai, and US\$ 1.048 billion for Saudi Arabia. This means the share of one company in the first half of the current year scored 3.7 times its share in Kuwait for Abu Dhabi, 8 times in Qatar, 11 times in Dubai, and 37 times in Saudi Arabia. Liquidity recession caused a drop in prices. According to the latest financial data available for listed companies on June 30, 2016 data or the most recent date for the companies with different fiscal years, it transpires that 4 out of every 5 listed companies are sold by different discounts to their book value: less than 10 percent for 10 companies, from 10 percent-30 percent for 20 companies, and 31 companies for those with a discount between 30 percent-50 percent. This discount however ranges from 50 percent-90 percent for 84 companies, 45.4 percent of all listed companies. As Shown in the attached graph.

The liquidity drop is still continuing and the losses of the official weighted index increased from -7.9 percent on June 30, 2016 to 9 percent on August 31, 2016, which means the situation is worse than what the graph shows.

The above is certainly a serious confidence crisis and an advanced ailment case. But it is more serious to bet on time for its remedy with a high cost, or curing it with an affordable cost becomes impossible. The inevitable development of the sickness, its movement through the usual stages. The start will be the transfer of weak liquidity to the real estate market, pressing prices downwards. Banks will move to protect themselves, i.e. to press customers to compensate the lost value of their mortgages, or offer assets for sale either directly or by banks' decision. This means more offers of assets with continued fear and weakness on the supply side and more pressure on reduced prices forming an endless whirlpool. The successful remedies are the preventive policies which contain a forthcoming crisis, but not wait and then deal with unwarranted crisis when the treatment cost becomes unbearable. Those policies have been too late with high costs. However, there is still some-time, but it will not be too long before its cost becomes unbearable.

Oil and public Finance

By the end of August 2016, the fifth month of the current fiscal year 2016/2017 ended and average price for Kuwaiti oil for August scored US\$ 41.7 per barrel, up by US\$ 0.7 per barrel (1.7 percent) from the average of July which was at US\$ 41 per barrel. It is also higher by US\$ 6.7 per barrel, 19.1 percent, than the new hypothetical price estimated for the new budget at US\$ 35 per barrel. Therefore, the average Kuwaiti oil price for the first five months of the current fiscal year scored about US\$ 40.9 per barrel, which is less by US\$ -13.9 per barrel, -25.4 percent, than the average price for the first five months of the last fiscal year at US\$ 54.8 per barrel. The past fiscal year 2015/2016 which ended on March 31, 2016 scored an average of US\$ 42.7 per barrel for Kuwaiti oil. This means the average price of oil for the first five months of the current fiscal year is lower by about -4.2 percent than the

average price of the barrel of oil for the past fiscal year. Kuwait is supposed to have achieved actual oil revenues in August in the amount of KD 1 billion. Assuming that production and prices would continue at the current levels -an assumption which may not be realized-Kuwait would achieve about KD 12.8 billion in oil revenues for the entire current fiscal year, which is KD 4.2 billion higher than the amount estimated for the entire current fiscal year budget at KD 8.6 billion. Adding an amount of KD 1.6 billion in non-oil revenues, projected budget total revenues would score KD 14.4 billion for the entire current fiscal year. Comparing this figure with KD 18.9 billion as expenditures allocations, it is likely the budget would achieve a deficit by KD 4.5 billion in the FY 2016/2017; however, this figure depends mainly on the average oil prices and its production quantity in the remaining part of the current fiscal year (7 forth coming months).

KSE performance

KSE performance during last August of 2016 was negative compared with July performance. Despite the rise in the indexes of both traded volume, value, and the number of

closed at 801.8 points (810.7 points in the end of July 2016). The weighted index closed at 347.3 points (350.7 points in the end of July 2016) with -1 percent drop. Likewise, the price index scored 5419.7 points (5451 points in the end of July 2016), a drop by 0.6 percent.

Value of traded shares rose (during 23 working days) to KD 151.7 million (US\$ 503.9 million), an increase by KD 20.1 million, 15.2 percent, above July's value which scored the lowest trading value at KD 131.6 million, because of Eid Al-Fitr Holiday which decreased the working days. It remained lower by -49.5 percent than its value in the same month of 2015. The highest trading value in one day during the month was at KD 10.6 million on August 15, 2016 and the lowest trading value in one day was recorded on August 2, 2016 at KD 3.7 million.

The daily average value of the traded shares scored KD 6.6 million (KD 7.3 million in July 2016), a drop by 9.6 percent. Total volume of traded shares scored 1.430 billion shares, up by 7.8 percent when compared with 1.327 billion shares in July 2016. The daily average approached 62.2 million shares down by 11.5 million shares, 15.6 percent. Number of deals

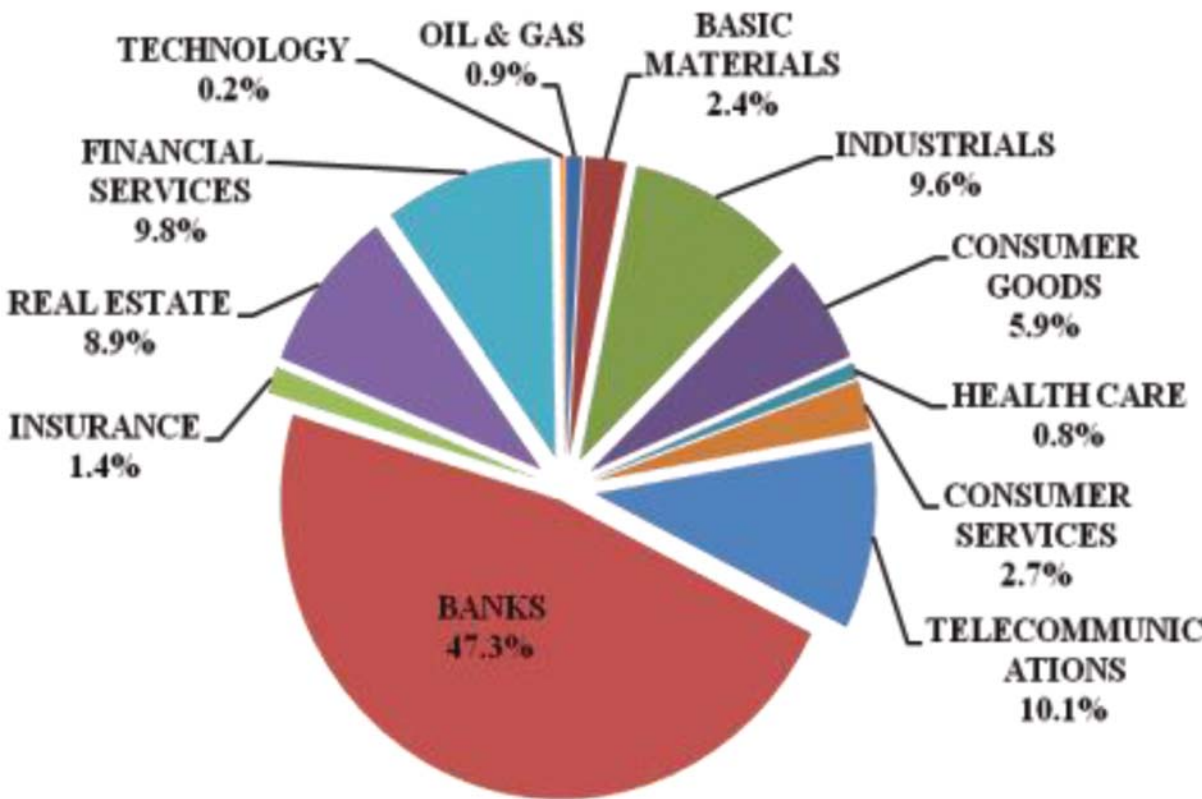
	30/06/2016 (Thousand KD)	30/06/2015 (Thousand KD)	Change Value	%
Total Assets	17,029,624	17,469,873	(440,249)	-2.5%
Total Liabilities	14,983,859	15,346,736	(362,877)	-2.4%
Total Equity attributable to the equity holders of the bank	1,769,419	1,723,832	45,587	2.6%
Total Operating Incomes	321,765	308,119	13,646	4.4%
Total Operating Expenses	155,561	162,763	(7,202)	-4.4%
Provision	52,973	59,772	(6,799)	-11.4%
Taxation	11,935	10,259	1,676	16.3%
Total profit from continuing operations	101,296	75,325	25,971	34.5%
Total profit from discontinued operations	(30,307)	12,822	(43,129)	-336.4%
Net income	70,989	88,147	(17,158)	-19.5%
Ratios				
**Return on Average Assets Relevant To The Bank Shareholders (ROA)	0.8%	0.7%		
**Return on Average Equity Relevant To The Bank Shareholders (ROE)	8.0%	7.2%		
**Return on Average Capital Relevant To The Bank Shareholders (ROC)	28.3%	27.4%		
Basic and diluted earnings per share -attributable to the equity holders of the bank (EPS) - (Fils)	13.7	12.1	1.6	13.2%
Closing price - (Fils)	455	640	(185)	-28.9%
* Price to Earnings Per Share Multiples (P/E)	16.6	26.4		
Price to Book Value Multiples (P/B)	1.2	1.4		

deals, value of the general index dropped. AlShall index reading in the end of Sunday, August 31, 2016 scored 322.3 points down by 1.8 percent compared with 328.2 points on July 31, 2016. The highest index reading during the month was at 333.4 points on August 16, 2016. All main stock exchange indexes dropped. Kuwait 15 index lost -1.1 percent of its value at the end of August, 2016 when it

scored 40.1 thousand deals (35.7 thousand deals in the end of July 2016), a daily average of 1,743 deals vis-à-vis 1,984 deals in July 2016 reflecting a drop by -12.1 percent. Market value of all listed companies -185 companies- during August scored about KD 24.013 billion, less by -0.9 percent vis-à-vis the end of July 2016. But if their value on the end of August 2016 is compared with that in the

	THU 01/09/2016	THU 25/08/2016	DIFF %	CLOSE 2015	DIFF %
1 The National Bank Of Kuwait	327.8	327.8	0.0	401.1	(18.3)
2 The Gulf Bank	183.7	185.3	(0.9)	211.3	(13.1)
3 Commercial Bank Of Kuwait	260.1	272.9	(4.7)	402.3	(35.3)
4 Al-Ahli Bank Of Kuwait	209.5	209.5	0.0	245.5	(14.7)
5 Kuwait International Bank	198.0	198.0	0.0	235.5	(15.9)
6 Ahli United Bank	339.0	343.4	(1.3)	424.2	(20.1)
7 Burgan Bank	302.4	302.4	0.0	359.6	(15.9)
8 Kuwait Finance House	976.4	976.4	0.0	1052.0	(7.2)
Banking Sector	340.5	341.9	(0.4)	409.7	(16.9)
9 Commercial Facilities Co	122.7	125.6	(2.3)	125.6	(2.3)
10 International Financial Advisors	251.3	263.4	(4.6)	235.1	6.9
11 National Investments	130.9	128.4	1.9	110.7	18.2
12 Kuwait Investment Projects	1225.6	1225.6	0.0	1292.5	(5.2)
13 Coast Investment & Development	56.0	56.0	0.0	43.7	28.1
Investment Sector	340.0	341.6	(0.5)	347.4	(2.1)
14 Kuwait Insurance Company	57.3	58.4	(1.9)	67.3	(14.9)
15 Gulf Insurance Company	387.8	387.8	0.0	427.7	(9.3)
16 Al-Ahleia Insurance Company	174.6	174.6	0.0	199.0	(12.3)
17 Warba Insurance Company	90.1	90.1	0.0	88.5	1.8
Insurance Sector	145.2	145.7	(0.3)	162.9	(10.9)
18 Kuwait Real Estate Company	83.7	83.3	(1.9)	88.6	(5.5)
19 United Realty Company	212.1	203.9	4.0	193.7	9.5
20 National Real Estate Company	176.6	178.9	(1.3)	187.8	(6.0)
21 Salhiyah Real Estate Company	1473.8	1473.8	0.0	1494.0	(1.4)
Real Estate Sector	182.9	182.3	0.3	184.3	(0.8)
22 The National Industries	103.6	101.9	1.7	112.6	(8.0)
23 Kuwait Cement Co	565.3	572.9	(1.3)	595.5	(5.1)
24 Refrigeration Industries Co	110.5	110.5	0.0	104.9	5.3
25 Gulf Cable & Electrical Industries	147.9	153.9	(3.9)	149.9	(1.3)
26 Contracting & Marine Services Co	56.2	55.6	1.1	64.8	(13.3)
Industrial Sector	163.8	165.1	(0.8)	172.4	(5.0)
27 Kuwait National Cinemas	590.1	615.2	(4.1)	577.5	2.2
28 Kuwait Hotels Company	165.0	165.0	0.0	115.5	42.9
29 The Public Warehousing Co	1804.6	1824.0	(1.1)	1862.8	(3.1)
30 Mobile Telecommunications Co - ZAIN	275.8	291.4	(5.4)	353.8	(22.0)
31 Safat Energy Co	35.5	12.6	181.7	11.7	203.4
Services Sector	549.2	563.1	(2.5)	598.6	(8.3)
32 Livestock Transport & Trading Co	201.7	203.3	(3.2)	106.7	89.0
33 Danah Aalsafat Foodstuff Company	99.2	126.8	(21.8)	81.8	21.3
34 Kuwait United Poultry Co	58.7	63.3	(7.3)	65.3	(10.1)
35 Kuwait Food Co	2404.3	2404.3	0.0	1970.7	22.0
Food Sector	841.9	848.2	(0.7)	681.5	23.5
36 Sharjah Cement Co	333.3	333.3	0.0	362.5	(8.1)
37 Gulf Cement Co	306.4	302.4	1.3	322.6	(5.0)
38 Umm Al-Qiwayn Cement Industries	551.8	551.8	0.0	588.6	(6.3)
Non Kuwaiti Companies	220.1	219.4	0.3	228.6	(3.7)
General Index	324.1	326.1	(0.6)	365.9	(11.4)

Sector capitalization distribution for the end of July 2016



end of December 2015, we note they dropped by KD 2.068 billion, -7.9 percent, from KD 26.082 billion to KD 24.013 billion. It is worth mentioning that the number of gainers compared with the last trading day in 2015 was 59 companies out of 185 common companies. 121 companies recorded varying drops in their value while value of 5 companies did not change. After excluding the companies whose capitals were either increased or reduced, "Kuwait Bahraini International Exchange Co" scored the highest rise in value in the past part of the year by 1053.9 percent. "MHF Group Co" came next by 115.8 percent rise. On the other hand, "Kuwaiti Teeba Holding Co" scored the highest loss in its value by 75 percent drop and "Zeema Co" came next in losses by -65.5 percent of its value. Eight sectors, out of 12, decreased in value with the Oil and Gas sector achieving the highest loss by -17.1 percent. The banking sector scored the second highest drop by -13.7 percent and the Insurance Sector score the third drop by -9.9 percent. But the Technology Sector rose by 17.6 percent.

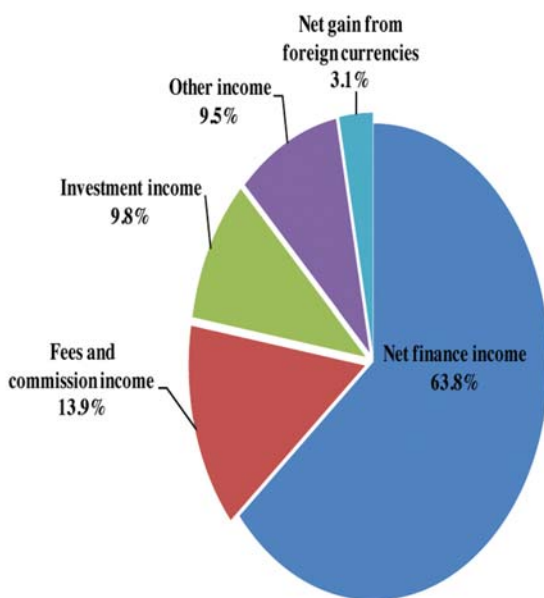
KFH financial results

In the first half of 2016 Kuwait Finance House (KFH) achieved net profit for its shareholders by KD 70.9 million, up by KD 8.5 million, (13.7 percent) compared with KD 62.3 million in the same period of last year. Operational incomes increased by about KD 20.8 million and scored KD 166.2 million vis-à-vis KD 145.4 million due to increase in total operational incomes against drop in total operational expenditures. Total operating

income (52.8 percent in the same period of last year). Total provisions and impairment dropped by KD 6.8 million (11.4 percent) and scored KD 53 million vis-à-vis KD 59.8 million.

This explains, the rise in the net profit margin from continued operations to 31.5 percent versus 24.4 percent. But the net profit margin from continued and suspended operations dropped to 22.1 percent (28.6 percent in the same period last year). KFH's total assets rose by KD 534.9 million, or by 3.2 percent, to KD 17.030 billion (KD 16.495 billion in the end of 2015). But if we compare total assets now with their value in the same period of 2015, there will be a drop by KD 440.2 million, or by 2.5 percent, when they scored KD 17.470 billion. Item of finance receivables rose by KD 354.6 million, or by 4.4 percent, and scored KD 8.450 billion (49.6 percent of total assets) compared to KD 8.095 billion (49.1 percent of total assets) in the end of 2015. They rose by KD 214.2 million compared to the same period of last year, when they scored KD 8.236 billion (47.1 percent of total assets). Percentage of finance receivables to depositors' accounts scored about 75.5 percent (73.4 percent). Figures indicate that the bank's liabilities excluding equity attributable- rose by KD 544.7 million, or by 3.8 percent, and scored KD 14.984 billion (KD 14.439 billion in the end of 2015). If we compare total liabilities with their value in the same period of last year, there will be a decrease by KD 362.9 million, or by 2.4 percent, when they were at KD 15.347 billion. Percentage of total liabilities to total assets scored 88 percent (87.8 percent). Analysis of

Total operating income in the first half 2016



income in the first half 2016 million for the same period of 2015) as a result of the drop in the total profit from suspended operations (due to the bank's approval to sell its share in an affiliate company, or AREF Investment Group Company, on June 30, 2016) by KD 43.1 million compared with the same period of 2015. In details, total operational incomes rose by KD 13.6 million, or by 4.4 percent, and scored KD 321.8 million (KD 308.1 million in the same period of last year). This resulted from the rise in the item of net investment income by KD 11.2 million to about KD 31.4 million (9.8 percent of total incomes), compared with KD 20.1 million (6.5 percent of the total). Likewise, item of fees and commissions rose by KD 4.6 million to KD 44.7 million (KD 40.1 million). But the item of net financing income dropped by KD 2.6 million to about KD 205.2 million (KD 207.9 million).

On the other hand, total operational expenditures decreased by KD 7.2 million, or by 4.4 percent, from KD 162.8 million to KD 155.6 million as the item of depreciation and amortization decreased by KD 15.8 million and scored KD 19.8 million (KD 35.5 million). Item of staff costs, general and administrative expenses increased by KD 8.6 million, or by 6.7 percent, to KD 135.8 million (KD 127.3 million). Percentage of operations expenses to the total operations incomes scored 48.3 per-

centage of total incomes scored 48.3 percent (52.8 percent in the same period of last year). Total provisions and impairment dropped by KD 6.8 million (11.4 percent) and scored KD 53 million vis-à-vis KD 59.8 million.

Weekly performance of KSE

The performance of Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) for last week was mixed compared to the previous one, where, the traded value index and the general index showed a decrease, while the traded volume index and the number of transactions index showed an increase, AlShall Index (value weighted) closed at 324.1 points at the closing of last Thursday, showing a decrease of about 2 points or about 0.6 percent compared with its level last week and it decreased by 41.8 points or about 11.4 percent compared with the end of 2015.

INFINITI GEARS UP FOR ENGINEERING ACADEMY UAE FINAL

ABU DHABI: After a three-month global search for the best up-and-coming engineering talent, ten finalists from the UAE have been selected to progress to the INFINITI Engineering Academy Regional Final, to be held in Dubai on 25 September. Now entering its third edition, the INFINITI Engineering Academy provides students with the opportunity to secure a year-long placement to work with the INFINITI Motor Company and the Renault Sport Formula One Team.

Following a comprehensive recruitment process, the very best student engineers from the United Arab Emirates have been carefully chosen to attend the final selection event.

The Regional Final event, a high pressure assessment judged by senior engineers from both INFINITI and the Renault Sport Formula One Team, will see the finalists evaluated on both their technical knowledge and practical skills. The judging panel for the UAE final includes, Rene Torcato - Lead R&D Engineer with Renault Sport Formula One Team(tm); a representative from INFINITI Middle East; and David Moss, Vice President, Vehicle Design & Development, INFINITI Technical Centre Europe.

Juergen Schmitz, Managing Director INFINITI Middle East said: "This unique automotive-to-motorsport training program for brilliant young engineers, possible thanks to INFINITI's Technical Partnership with



the Renault Sport Formula One Team, has attracted a record number of entries. The INFINITI Engineering Program received 4,108 global registrations, from 44 different countries - a 100 per cent increase from the 2015 edition and almost a 300 per cent increase from its inaugural year in 2014."

"The extraordinary level of interest in this year's INFINITI Engineering Academy has been absolutely fantastic. UAE students have had the opportunity to enter the Academy for the first time this year and have shown that they want to use the Academy to gain vital engineering experience and launch their careers. This is due to the

unique nature of the placement, which combines work experience in both Automotive and Formula One" said Tommaso Volpe, Global Director, INFINITI Motorsport.

"We are absolutely delighted with the Academy winners that we have working with us at Enstone this year," said Bob Bell, Chief Technical Officer,

Renault Sport Formula One Team(tm). "The students have taken on real jobs with the team and have been a big asset to us as we continue to strengthen our technical resource. We are looking forward to welcoming a UAE student to the Team for the first time this year following the final in Dubai," concluded Bell.



FLYDUBAI'S NETWORK MATURES WITH INCREASED PASSENGER GROWTH

TOTAL REVENUE INCREASED 5.4% FOR SIX-MONTH PERIOD

KUWAIT: Flydubai yesterday announced its Half-Year Results for 2016 and has reported total revenue of AED 2,302 million (\$627 million) an increase of 5.4 percent compared to the first six months of last year and a loss of AED 89.9 million (\$24.5 million) 39 percent lower than the same period last year.

Passenger numbers have increased to 4.9 million demonstrating sustained strong growth; an increase of 16.5 percent compared to the first six months of 2015. The number of Business Class passengers carried, per departure, saw an increase of 19 percent compared to same period last year.

In the first half of its financial year, flydubai has seen an increase in the flight frequency to existing destinations on its network including Bahrain, Baku, Belgrade, Bucharest, Muscat and Salalah as it grows the demand for travel and passengers recognize the benefits of direct air links.

Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer of flydubai, com-

menting on the Half-Year Results for 2016, said: "flydubai's network continues to mature offering our passengers enhanced connectivity as we meet the growing demand for travel in the region. Looking ahead to the second half of the year, we have started to receive the first deliveries from the order for 111 aircraft placed in 2013 with a total of 8 aircraft scheduled to join our fleet between May and December."

Reflecting on the tragic loss of FZ981, Ghaith Al-Ghaith, said: "Saturday 19 March brought news you never hope to hear and all those who lost loved ones remain upper most in our thoughts. Our Long Term Family Assistance Team remain available to all families for as long as they require."

Mukesh Sodani, Chief Financial Officer of flydubai, said: "We have seen continued pressure on yields due to the uncertain international economic situation set against a backdrop of lower oil prices and adverse currency exchange rates.

We maintain a sharp focus on cost improvement while pursuing our broader goal of expanding our network and our service offering."

Lower fuel prices, together with a reduction in its hedging position from 41 percent last year to 22 percent this year, saw fuel account for 23.5 percent of total operating cost down from 30.6 percent last year.

In the first half of 2016, flydubai's average fleet age was 3.7 years. During the same period, flydubai has issued three Sale and Leaseback mandates for a total of eight Next-Generation Boeing 737-800 aircraft. One aircraft joined the flydubai fleet in May and a second in June. The closing cash and cash equivalents position, including pre-delivery payments for future aircraft deliveries, remained robust at AED 2.4 billion.

Outlook - July to December 2016 flydubai has received positive feedback from its passengers about its services from Al Maktoum

International (DWC) which provides further opportunities for growth in 2017 beyond the services it is already operating.

The six aircraft deliveries planned during the second half of 2016 will enable 77 flights per week to be added to services from Dubai International to Almaty, Asmara, Astana, Bahrain, Bangkok, Bishkek, Bratislava, Colombo, Dar es Salaam, Entebbe, Erbil, Kiev, Male', Moscow, Odessa, Prague, Tbilisi, Yerevan, Yekaterinburg and Zanzibar. Flights from DWC to Kathmandu will increase to 14 per week from 10 October. Ghaith Al-Ghaith, commenting on the outlook for the remainder of the financial year, said: "Our Results have shown the same trend as last year and we expect a stronger second half. From our robust platform, we will continue to drive sustainable growth and operational performance to meet the demand for affordable travel from our passengers. Supported by the new aircraft deliveries, we will expand our convenient services across our network and see the start of double daily flights to Bangkok."

Dubai-based flydubai strives to remove barriers to travel and enhance connectivity between different cultures across its ever-expanding network. Since launching its operations in 2009, flydubai has:

- Created a network of 90 destinations in 44 countries, with 19 new routes launched in 2015.
- Opened up 59 routes that did not previously have direct air links to Dubai or were not served by a UAE national carrier from Dubai.
- Operates a single fleet type of Next-Generation Boeing 737-800 aircraft and will take delivery of more than 100 aircraft by the end of 2023.

In addition, flydubai's agility and flexibility as a young airline has enhanced Dubai's economic development, in line with the Government of Dubai's vision, by creating trade and tourism flows in previously underserved markets.



Waleed Mandani speaking to Sky News TV.

KFH'S REAL ESTATE PORTFOLIOS STABLE, IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY

INTERVIEW WITH SKY NEWS TV

KUWAIT: Group General Manager Private Banking at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Waleed Khaled Mandani said that Kuwaiti Banks are the best regionally and globally in setting aside high levels of precautionary provisions, which ensures immunity of the banking sector, while constitutes solid cushion against any risk. "This comes in line with the instructions and directives of the Central Bank CBK and the full compliance with the international regulations such as Basel III accord" he added.

Speaking to Sky News TV, he stated that the Kuwaiti Banks have enough precautionary provisions to hedge the exposure to the real estate market that will not lead the banks to set aside any additional provisions in the coming period.

Mandani affirmed the stability and quality of KFH's real estate portfolios in light of the pace of decline in the real estate market, indicating that KFH continues its methodology of offering a vast array of high-end services to clients including the real estate assessment, management, supervision and construction work, yet it diversifies the channels of services to encompass banking, financial and real estate services.

He said that the banks' exposure to the real estate sector have become more prudent in line with the CBK's requirements and in accordance with the Capital Adequacy Ratio CAR Basel III accord that requires larger capital, especially in light of the intention to exclude the real estate collateral from Basel III accord.

He illustrated that offering credit facility is based now on assessing the cash flow of the client, his solvency and his obligation to pay rather than the value of the property he possesses, which contributes in mitigating risk in KFH's real estate portfolios.

"The decline in the real estate trading in

Kuwait comes on the back of the drop in oil prices, the geopolitical circumstances, and the predictions of the global interest rates. The Kuwaiti market relies on two major sectors; the stock and the real estate markets" he continued, indicating that the economic cycle of real estate is long and might take years unlike the cycle of the stock market. 2016 witnessed slower pace of real estate trading compared to 2015, yet investors' appetite is up as this sector records high returns ranging between 6.5-8.5 percent according to the category of the property.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 446 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.

KFH's values include cementing leadership through all its businesses, including leadership in the Islamic banking services worldwide, through innovation and in client service and the development of its employees. In addition, KFH is committed to all its procedures, and to setting up long-life partnerships with the concerned authorities.



GULF BANK PARTNERS WITH QATAR AIRWAYS

KUWAIT: In line with the Qatar Airways 'Travel Festival', Gulf Bank recently announced its participation in the campaign, presenting its customers with exceptional discounts when booking their flights with Qatar Airways.

Customers are granted a 10 percent discount upon booking their flights on market fares, and a 5 percent when booking their flights on promo fares for travel dates between 15 September, 2016 and 30 June 2017. The offer is valid until 5 September, 2016.

To take advantage of this exciting new offer, Gulf Bank customers must use their Credit Cards when purchasing their tickets online, on any travel classes (First - Business - Economy), and enter the unique promotional code to get additional discounts.

Gulf Bank is committed to providing customers with exceptional value and

exciting offers that meet their needs, in addition to presenting them with one of the widest selections of financial products and banking services currently available in Kuwait.

To find out more about Gulf Bank's promotions and offers, visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, or log on to www.e-gulfbank.com, Gulf Bank's bilingual website.



ABDULLAH SALEH AMEEN WINS KD 125,000 IN NBK'S AL-JAWHARA MONTHLY DRAW

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announces the winner for August's KD 125,000 Al-Jawhara monthly prize, Abdullah Saleh Ameen. The draw was held in NBK Head Office Branch under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The winner's name was announced live on Marina FM.

NBK has doubled customers' chances to win in the weekly, monthly and quarterly draws when they do not withdraw or transfer from their accounts. NBK customers have chances to win KD 5,000 weekly, KD 125,000 monthly and a grand prize of KD 250,000 quarterly. Each KD 50 in a customer's account entitles them one entry into the draw, thus more money

in an account means more chances into each draw. This new added feature enables al Jawhara Account holders' to double their chances when maintaining their balance without withdrawing.

Al-Jawhara is the most popular prize-giving account in Kuwait. Al-Jawhara account entitles account holders to enter the weekly, monthly and quarterly Al-Jawhara draws. All prizes are automatically credited to the winners' accounts the day after the draw.

Al-Jawhara account is available for both Kuwaitis and expats and can be opened at any of NBK's numerous branches around Kuwait, or safely and easily through NBK's website for existing customers.



CISCO MIDDLE EAST APPOINTS SHUKRI EID MD FOR ITS EAST REGION

DUBAI: Cisco Middle East has announced that Shukri Eid has been appointed Managing Director of its East Region effective immediately. In his new role, Shukri will lead the Cisco's business in the UAE, Oman, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Yemen and work closely with partners to support private and public sector customers in their efforts to digitize and transform their operations.

Shukri is a Cisco veteran of nearly 10 years and has worked in multiple leadership capacities across the organization. Over his 20-year career he has led high-profile strategy, business and technology transformational engagements, working with senior officials and executives across emerging markets.

Commenting on Shukri's appointment, Mike Weston, Vice President for Cisco Middle East said, "This is a dynamic time where we are experiencing fast-paced changes and evolving trends across industries. As a technology leader, our focus is on accelerating our ability to respond to our customer and partner needs in support of their aspirations. Shukri Eid is a passionate leader with an extensive

track record of achievements under his belt, and I am confident of our ability to capture the tremendous opportunities that exist across our markets with him at the helm of the East Region. His management expertise and profound appreciation for the opportunities presented by digitization position us ideally to execute against our strategic priorities and drive continued growth."

In addition to his focus on developing and delivering on business strategy, Shukri will champion people development and build on the momentum achieved in making Cisco one of the most attractive places to work for top talent in the technology sector.

"I look forward to my new role during what is an exciting time for Cisco and the region. The time is ripe to harness the power of digitization and there is greater need from our partners, customers and governments across our markets to help accelerate their journeys towards becoming smarter, more competitive and more connected in the new economy," said Shukri Eid, Managing Director - East Region, Cisco Middle East. "Our talented team and



Shukri Eid

expanding portfolio of solutions place us at the forefront of their efforts to capture this immense potential."

A Cisco Leadership Pipeline Program alumnus, Shukri most recently held the position of Senior Director of Country Digitization Acceleration (CDA)

in Cisco's EMEAR region, working with government and industry leaders to accelerate national digitization strategies. Prior to that he was the Director managing Cisco Consulting Services in the same region, where he led a team advising large customer organizations across public sector and enterprise as well as telecom service providers.

Prior to joining Cisco, Shukri held a number of senior consultancy roles at leading blue chips, including IBM Global Business Services and PricewaterhouseCoopers, with engagements involving local and federal government, education, financial services, and defence. He holds a master's degree in business administration from Strathclyde University and a bachelor's degree in electrical and computer engineering from Jordan University of Science and Technology.

Cisco is the worldwide technology leader that has been making the Internet work since 1984. Our people, products, and partners help society securely connect and seize tomorrow's digital opportunity today. Discover more at newsroom.cisco.com and follow us on Twitter at @Cisco.

HAVE PHONE, WILL TRAVEL TO VALLEY'S TECH TOUCHSTONES

SAN FRANCISCO: There's a quirky twist on tourism emerging amid the Silicon Valley whirlwind of innovation that has tethered everyone to their smartphones. Those omnipresent devices are being used to track down technological touchstones scattered around the San Francisco Bay area so selfies can be taken, videos can be recorded and the experience can be celebrated in a Facebook post, Snapchat or tweet.

Here's a tourist's guide to nerd nirvana for those more interested in seeing the suburban home where The Woz built the first Apple computer alongside Steve Jobs than the spooky prison in the Bay where the Birdman of Alcatraz once served time alongside Machine Gun Kelly.

GROWING UP IN A GARAGE

Silicon Valley startups have a history of humble beginnings, dating to 1939 when Hewlett-Packard Co. was founded in a Palo Alto, California, garage. It still stands at 367 Addison Ave., considered by many to be the birthplace of Silicon Valley. HP now owns the place. Jobs was one of many entrepreneurs influenced by the HP legacy as a teenager, eventually inspiring him and his engineering friend, Steve "The Woz" Wozniak, to begin working on Apple's first computer in the home of Jobs' parents. That ranch-style house at 2066 Crist Drive in Los Altos, California, is now owned by Jobs' sister, Patricia. After they started Google in 1998, co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin built what would become the world's dominant search engine in a garage and room they rented from Susan Wojcicki, whom they later hired (she now runs YouTube for them). The Menlo Park, California, house, at 232 Santa Margarita Ave., is now owned by Google. Shortly after starting Facebook in his Harvard dorm room in 2004, Mark Zuckerberg and a few friends moved to Silicon Valley for what they thought would be just one summer. Zuckerberg never returned to Harvard, and the world hasn't been quite the same since then.

The Palo Alto, California house where Zuckerberg did a lot of computer coding and threw some wild parties, if you believe the movies, is located at 819 La Jennifer Way. The place is still rented out by young entrepreneurs hoping some of Zuckerberg's magic will rub off on them.

TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY TEMPLES

The headquarters of Apple, Google and Facebook have turned into must-see shrines to products that have become part of culture's lifeblood. None of the companies offers public tours, but that doesn't mean you can't steal glimpses at these factories of innovation.

SEARCH STARTS HERE

Google is the most accessible of the three headquarters. The hub of its Mountain View, California, campus is at 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, with other Google offices sprawling almost all the way down to the nearby NASA Ames Research Center, where Page and Brin keep personal jets in a hangar. Walk down Charleston Road and you are bound to see

one of the company's employees (also known as "Googlers") cruising on yellow, green, blue and red bikes placed outside all the offices to get to meetings more quickly.

While strolling around, make sure to swing into the office at 1981 Landings Drive, where you can take a selfie with Android statues memorializing different versions of the operating system that powers most of the world's smartphones. Each statue represents a dessert because Google has nicknamed each version after something sweet. The menu includes "Cupcake," "Donut," "Eclair," "Froyo," "Gingerbread," "Honeycomb," "Ice Cream Sandwich," "Jelly Bean," "KitKat," "Lollipop" and "Marshmallow." The latest serving of Android, called "Nougat," has just started rolling out. Finally, in the Google store on the main campus, you can buy company-branded merchandise, including shirts, hats, mugs, pens and even notebooks (the kind with paper).

A PLACE EVERYONE LIKES

The giant thumbs-up sign replicating Facebook's symbol for liking a post has become one of the most photographed spots in Silicon Valley since the social networking company moved its headquarters from Palo Alto to 1 Hacker Way in nearby Menlo Park five years ago. Unless you happen to be in a plane or have a camera-equipped drone, you won't be able to see what's on top of another Facebook building across the street (an underground tunnel connects the offices). That building, designed by famed architect Frank Gehry, features a 9-acre park atop the roof.

ONE MORE THING

Apple, founded in 1976, has had a fiercely loyal following for decades, so its Cupertino, California, headquarters has long drawn tourists looking to get a picture of its famous logo and the 1 Infinite Loop sign denoting its address.

There is, of course, an Apple store at the headquarters, where people can buy company-branded merchandise not sold in most of its other stores. But you can't get help fixing your iPhone, iPad or Mac here. You'll have to go to another store for an appointment at the Genius Bar that serves as Apple's customer-help desk. The current headquarters will be overshadowed next year when Apple plans to open a nearby 2.8 million-square-foot, circular office that has been likened to a huge spaceship sitting on a 176-acre site. Known as "Campus 2," the new building is designed to accommodate about 12,000 workers. Before Jobs died in 2011, he stipulated that the campus should be surrounded by about 7,000 trees.

WHAT ABOUT THE HOUSE ON TV?

The HBO comedy "Silicon Valley" has won many accolades over three seasons, so fans may want to see the house that serves as headquarters for the fictional startup, Pied Piper. The location has been given as 5230 Newell Road in Palo Alto in the series, but that address doesn't exist. The house is actually in southern California, at 5230 Penfield Ave. in Woodland Hills. So put it on the sightseeing list for your next visit to Hollywood. —AP



MOUNTAIN VIEW: People pose by Android lawn statues at Google's headquarters in Mountain View, Calif. Fans of tech culture will find a variety of places to visit and take a selfie around Silicon Valley. —AP



CUPERTINO: Alejandra Vicuna (left) and Andres Ballesteros, of Miami, Florida, take a selfie in front of the Apple campus in Cupertino, California. —AP



TRA TO DISPLAY 12 INNOVATIVE PROJECTS AT GITEX 2016

ICT APPLICATIONS FOR HEALTH, EDUCATION, SECURITY IN FOCUS

KUWAIT: The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) is set to showcase a range of innovative information and communications technology (ICT) projects that aim to serve various life needs as part of its participation in GITEX 2016. The TRA aims to provide a complete view of ICT - a vital link for various sectors - and its role in social development.

At GITEX, which will be held from October 16 to 20, 2016, the TRA will display its most recent innovations - including 12 projects employing the most advanced technologies for various purposes, including human and social development, health, education, and security, among many others. These projects help improve people's quality of life and enable them to experience happiness, satisfaction and comfort - all while hastening the nation's smart transformation process.

Hamad Obaid Al-Mansoori, TRA Director General, said: "GITEX week is a platform to display distinctive government initiatives which shape and add value to various services for society. It is an ideal venue to exchange experiences and provides valuable insights on recent practices in other sectors. GITEX presents an opportunity for development and a serious effort to help push our smart transformation initiative, promote a competitive spirit in innovation and excellence, and serve the society."

He added: "As usual, the platform of the TRA is being held under the banner of smart government of the UAE and will include a large number of entities coming from the Federal government-showcasing the embodiment of the principle of a single government that provides services in a complementary manner to various audiences. Visitors to the podium will be able to view what other sectors provide in various areas of intelligent switching."

Mohammad Al-Kitbi, Acting Deputy Director General for Support Service Sector at the TRA, stated that they have completed preparations for participating at the region's biggest ICT platform. The TRA's presence in GITEX's latest edition aims to spread the innovation culture in the IT sector, utilize all technological capabilities to improve people's daily life, as well as communicate with all segments of society and motivate them to adopt a smart lifestyle, he explained.

The TRA's booth at GITEX will present a

smart engineering building model through a virtual reality device and will demonstrate ways to operate green buildings that run on clean energy, in a bid to reduce consumption of non-renewable energy sources and improve health by reducing pollution and carbon dioxide emissions.

The TRA will display the 'Our Future' project, which helps high school graduates to choose a suitable undergraduate course based on the country's current demand for human resources and the students' personal abilities. The TRA will also showcase IT gadgets for sports to help trainers and trainees improve their skills using sensors embedded in their clothing, which allow them to check the accuracy of players' movements benchmarked against global sports personalities.

The virtual reality technology section at the TRA's booth will also feature a game area for GITEX visitors to play with virtual reality capabilities and help them train on correct behaviors during disasters and crises. A simulation of earthquakes and fires allows a gamer to use all available methods to act on real circumstances, monitor behaviors and guide people on the correct and safe response.

Initiative

The TRA will also display the second phase of the 'Taghtia' initiative which aims to measure the quality of network coverage in developing areas of the country to address consumer complaints concerning weak signals and fulfill their expectations. It will also showcase a new initiative which classifies the quality of ICT services in the country's most visited tourist attractions through a set of standards that evaluate the services in tourism-related venues such as hotels and shopping malls, in addition to 'Erteqa', another index which classifies operators' service centers according to specific standards and evaluates the provided services. All of these initiatives aim to increase customer's happiness and satisfaction through integrated services.

The TRA will also present the Drones for Good Award and the UAE Artificial Intelligence and Robotics for Good Award, which aims to encourage innovation through an open competition for anyone who could create innovative services to improve people's quality of life

using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and robots. The award gives AED 1 million for the winner in each competition for the national category and \$1 million for international winner. The TRA is currently accepting entries from participants interested in the competitions.

The TRA will feature augmented reality techniques such as reading a book in a projector and browsing through the book's pages without lifting or moving them physically through an 'Optic Center' which if for Khalifa University. As well as, The Mohammed Bin Rashid Smart Learning Program, Future Schools Lab Project and the Future Jobs Program, a software program which simulates the reality of a desired job, allowing a student to experience working, but in virtual reality, will also be exhibited. The latter program aims to help a student understand the real nature of work and the efforts involved before embarking on a degree, as well as guide the student accordingly on the appropriate field following an evaluation.

The TRA is participating under the smart government umbrella with various government entities. Participants will be able to exchange experiences and meet with TRA authorities as well as connect to the TRA's IT services.

GITEX Technology Week is the largest regional IT exhibition held in Dubai every year and the most widely recognized market for ICT, receiving more than 120,000 visitors from around the world.

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was established to help further develop the telecommunications and information technology industries and support efforts aimed towards creating a knowledge-based economy in the country. The authority focuses on strengthening the development of the telecommunications and information technology sector, which are important drivers for social and economic growth and one of the main pillars of UAE Vision 2021.

TRA is responsible for supporting the telecommunications and information technology sector through the enforcement of a regulatory framework that stimulates healthy competition; maintains the rights of the beneficiaries; improves readiness of e-services; encourages investment, innovation and development and develops human capital.

CLIMATE PACT: AFTER TALK, FOCUS SHIFTS TO ACTION

PARIS: Eight months after 195 nations concluded a hard-fought climate rescue pact, pressure is mounting to put its carbon-cutting promises into action as world leaders gather at G20 and UN meetings this month. The historic deal reached in Paris in December has been signed by 180 countries, but will only take effect after 55 nations responsible for 55 percent of greenhouse gas emissions have ratified it-making it binding.

China and the United States, jointly responsible for about 38 percent of global emissions, ratified the pact yesterday, on the eve of a meeting of G20 leaders meeting in Hangzhou, China-considerably boosting efforts. Until Beijing and Washington joined the club, only 24 nations emitting just over one percent of global gases had officially acceded, according to the UN climate body overseeing the deal to cap global warming at two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-

Industrial Revolution levels.

"As 2016 heads into the record books as likely the hottest year ever recorded in history, it is a reminder that we have precious little time left to act to keep global temperature rise well below 2 C," said Pascal Canfin of environmental group WWF. "We have the Paris Agreement to guide our way. Now we need governments to implement it," he said in a statement. US President Barack Obama said the pact represented "the moment we finally decided to save our planet", and UN chief Ban Ki-moon said he was "optimistic" of its taking effect before the end of the year.

Patricia Espinosa, executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, thanked the US and China for ratifying the pact she said held the key to a sustainable future for all. "The earlier that Paris is ratified and implemented in full, the more secure that

future will become," she said, and urged other nations "to join this wave of ambition and optimism towards a better and sustainable world."

The Hangzhou gathering brings together world leaders representing 85 percent of the world's GDP, two-thirds of its population, and some 75 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. This will be followed on September 21 by UN chief Ban Ki-moon hosting a leaders on the sidelines of the General Assembly to beat the drum for ratification.

Getting rid of coal

The pact sets out to curb warming by replacing atmosphere-polluting fossil fuels with renewable sources-an ambitious goal towards which most UN nations have already pledged emissions curbs. This is meant to stave off the worst-case-scenario effects of

violent droughts, storms and sea-level rise threatened by excessive planet warming. Only by ratification, however, does a country agree to be bound to an international agreement of this kind, explained the World Resources Institute (WRI), a climate think tank.

Depending on constitutional provisions, many countries need to pass domestic legislation to do so. Greenpeace senior policy adviser Li Shuo said accession by the US and China brought the possibility of the Paris Agreement entering into force early much closer to reality. "But this moment should be seen as a starting point, not the finale, of global action on climate," he said. France, which hosted the UN huddle dubbed COP 21 (21st Conference of Parties) which yielded the climate pact, is pushing hard for it to enter into force before the next meet in Marrakech, Morocco from November 7 to 18. — AFP



MUMBAI: Indian boys sit on a scooter surrounded by smoke rising from fumigation to check the spread of mosquito-borne diseases, outside a train station. — AP

WHERE'S ZIKA GOING NEXT? MAYBE INDIA OR PHILIPPINES

THE SPREAD OF ZIKA A GLOBAL EMERGENCY

LONDON: Scientists trying to predict the future path of Zika say that 2.6 billion people living in parts of Asia and Africa could be at risk of infection, based on a new analysis of travel, climate and mosquito patterns in those regions. Some of the most vulnerable countries include India, China, the Philippines, Indonesia, Nigeria, Vietnam, Pakistan and Bangladesh, according to the research.

Experts caution that the study could overestimate the number of people at risk because they don't know whether Zika had already landed in some of these countries in the past and allowed people to develop immunity. More than two-thirds of people infected with Zika never get sick, and symptoms are mild for those who do, so surveillance systems may have missed cases. Although Zika was first identified in 1947, the virus wasn't considered a major health threat until a major outbreak in Brazil last year revealed that Zika can lead to severe birth defects when pregnant women are infected.

In February, the World Health Organization declared the spread of Zika a global emergency, and epidemics have been sparked in at least 70 countries. In the last few weeks, it has sickened more than 100 people in Singapore and started spreading in Florida. Zika is mostly spread by a specific species of tropical mosquito, but it can also be

spread by sex and through blood transfusions. Researchers hope their new study will help officials plan ahead to possibly avoid some of the worst effects of Zika.

Resources limited

"For countries with a finite amount of resources, this may help them use those resources as efficiently as possible," said Dr Kamran Khan, an infectious diseases physician and scientist at St Michael's Hospital in Toronto, the study's senior author. To figure out where Zika might gain a future foothold, researchers examined patterns of people traveling from infected regions in the Americas to Africa and Asia and combined that with an assessment of local conditions, including mosquito populations. They used the spread of a related virus, dengue, as a model for Zika since the same mosquito species transmits both diseases. Dengue is not spread by sex, like Zika, but mosquitoes are responsible for the vast majority of Zika cases globally. The study was published online Thursday in the journal, Lancet.

Some experts pointed out that the expected impact of Zika will depend largely on whether people have any previous exposure to the virus - and that is unknown. "No one has ever looked, so we don't know if there is any pre-existing immunity to

the virus," said Dr Abraham Goorhuis of the University of Amsterdam, an author of a commentary that accompanies the Lancet study. The virus in the Americas is an Asian strain that was responsible for a large outbreak in French Polynesia and other Pacific Islands in 2013 and 2014.

"If there was broad circulation of this virus in Asia, then it could be that the risk of Zika spreading to Asia won't be as bad as we think," Goorhuis said. He said another big unknown was whether people who might have been exposed to the African strain of Zika might be protected once the slightly different Asian version arrives. It's unclear how widely the original 1947 strain found in Africa may have spread. Goorhuis also noted it was possible Zika might eventually burn itself out after about a year or so of circulation, the way a related virus, chikungunya, recently did.

Others said scientists should seize the chance now to prevent Zika from becoming entrenched elsewhere. Ben Neuman, a virology professor at the University of Reading, said that once the virus has started to spread by mosquitoes locally, and not just by travelers, it can become entrenched in animals as well as people and be extremely difficult to eradicate. "We have the opportunity right now to prevent (Zika's) spread and by doing so, halting the spread of unnecessary suffering," he said. — AP

FLORIDA FINDS ZIKA IN LOCAL MOSQUITOES

MIAMI: Florida has found the Zika virus in three groups of mosquitoes trapped in Miami Beach - the first time this has happened in the continental US - and authorities are blaming a particular flower for making mosquito control much more difficult. One of the traps that tested positive was at the Miami Beach Botanical Gardens, where bromeliads bloom. The plants trap standing water in their cylindrical centers, providing excellent breeding areas for mosquitoes amid their colorful flowers and pointy leaves. "Everyone should know by now that bromeliads are really problematic for us. These are probably the number one breeding area for mosquitoes," said Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez.

He said Miami Beach is removing all bromeliads from its landscaping, and urged residents across the county to either pull them out or rinse them after every rain. Earlier this week, officials removed two truckloads of bromeliads from the botanical gardens, which remains closed. And with Hurricane Hermine bringing much more rain to Florida, Gov Rick Scott on Thursday ordered the county to immediately conduct aerial spraying by helicopter as recommended by the CDC.

The Zika-carrying mosquitoes were trapped in a touristy 1.5-square-mile area of South Beach identified as a zone of active transmission of the virus, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services said in a news release. "This is the first time we have found a Zika virus positive mosquito pool in the continental United States," confirmed Erin Sykes, a CDC spokeswoman. Finding the virus in mosquitoes has been likened by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to finding a needle in a haystack, but the testing helps mosquito controllers target their efforts, and it confirms that the insects themselves, in addition to infected humans, have begun transmitting the virus inside the

mainland United States.

The illness spreads from people to mosquitoes to people again through bites, but the insects do not spread the disease among their own population, and their lifespan is just a few weeks. A poll released Thursday suggests nearly 48 percent of Americans are wary of traveling to US destinations where people have been infected with Zika through mosquito bites. The Kaiser Family Foundation survey also found 61 percent felt uneasy about traveling to Zika zones outside the US mainland, including Puerto Rico.

Tourist Mecca

Most of the Zika infections from Florida mosquitoes have been in the Miami area, not the tourist Mecca of Orlando and its Walt Disney World, Universal and SeaWorld theme parks. But Miami is a major tourism draw, with more than 15.5 million people making overnight visits to the city and its nearby beaches last year. Florida in general has a lot to lose as Zika spreads: The state set a new record for tourism with more than 105 million people from out of state and other countries visiting in 2015.

Officials said they are not considering asking restaurants and bars in the area to temporarily close outdoor dining areas, but they will increase spraying, trapping and testing. "This is a very, very difficult mosquito to control," said Gimenez. "The CDC director once told me this is the cockroach of mosquitoes, that it will find a way somehow to breed." Since July, authorities have linked a couple dozen Zika cases to transmission in small areas of Miami's Wynwood district and the popular South Beach neighborhood of Miami Beach. Other isolated cases not linked to travel outside the U.S. also have been confirmed elsewhere in Miami-Dade county, as well as in neighboring counties and in the Tampa Bay area, totaling 49 for the state. — AP



MIAMI: Miami-Dade mosquito control inspector Carlos Varas checks a sample of water taken from bromeliads. — AP

US BANS ANTIBACTERIAL SOAP CHEMICALS OVER HEALTH RISKS

WASHINGTON: The US Food and Drug Administration on Friday banned several key chemicals in antibacterial hand soap, warning of health risks and saying they were not more effective than ordinary soap. The FDA move took aim at 19 ingredients including the two most common, triclosan and triclocarban, which are widely included in liquid and bar antibacterial soaps despite fears they damage the immune system.

"Consumers may think antibacterial washes are more effective at preventing the spread of germs, but we have no scientific evidence that they are any better than plain soap and water," said Janet Woodcock, director of the FDA's drugs division. "In fact, some data suggests that antibacterial ingredients may do more harm than good over the long-term." The ban does not include hand disinfectant products used in hospitals and other medical centers, the FDA said.

Theresa Michele, who works with the personal care side of the agency, said most non-medical products on the market contain at least one of the banned ingredients. Manufacturers have a year to comply with the ban, and some are already working to remove the ingredients in question from their products, the FDA said. "Washing with plain soap and running water remains one of the most important

steps consumers can take to avoid getting sick and to prevent spreading germs to others," an FDA statement said.

If soap and water are not available, a hand sanitizer "that contains at least 60 percent alcohol," could be used instead, it added. Not all parties are convinced of potential harm from the personal care products, with the American Cleaning Institute (ACI) arguing that the soaps were safe. "Antibacterial soaps are critical to public health because of the importance hand hygiene plays in the prevention of infection," an ACI statement said.

"Washing the hands with an antiseptic soap can help reduce the risk of infection beyond that provided by washing with non-antibacterial soap and water." The Environmental Working Group hailed the bans as progress. "This decision by the FDA is a huge victory on behalf of human health and the environment," said Ken Cook, co-founder and president of EWG. "EWG has been conducting research and advocating for this exact federal government action for nearly a decade, and our work, as well as that of other public interest groups and many of our supporters, has finally paid off." Cook, whose group assesses some products for safety concerns, called the FDA decision overdue. — AFP

NIGERIA'S POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGN TARGETING 25M

MAIDUGURI: An emergency polio vaccination campaign aimed at reaching 25 million children this year has begun in parts of Nigeria newly freed from Boko Haram Islamic extremists, with fears that many more cases of the crippling disease will likely be found. Two toddlers discovered last month were Nigeria's first reported polio cases in more than two years, putting the world on alert just months after the African continent was declared free of the disease.

'End Polio Now'

One member of the Rotary Club's "End Polio Now" drive said he almost cried when he got the news. It was a major blow to global efforts to stamp out polio, which persists in only two other countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Associated Press joined the vaccination drive in northeastern Nigeria, a campaign going to extraordinary lengths to fight the disease in areas still threatened by Boko Haram extremists who violently

oppose Western medicine. Health workers using military helicopters, all-terrain vehicles and even tricycle taxis vaccinated about 1.5 million children in the past week alone, starting in the refugee camps where the new cases surfaced. The World Health Organization has said the two new cases indicate the wild polio virus has been circulating for five years in northeastern Borno state, where Boko Haram began its uprising in 2009.

More cases are expected to surface as Nigeria's military forces Boko Haram out of more towns and villages, said Dr Tunji Funsho, head of Rotary's polio eradication drive. Just 20 years ago, this West African nation was considered the world's epicenter of polio, recording 1,000 cases a year. Men and women with twisted limbs crawling along the roadside to beg are still a common sight. A global drive to end polio began in 1988, when the highly contagious disease was endemic in 125 countries. Though progress has been made, wiping out polio probably will not be possible without ending the unrest tied to Islamic extremism that prevents vaccination in the three countries where the virus still is endemic, according to a new report from US-based risk analysis group Stratfor.

"Boko Haram is largely responsible for the insecurity that has hamstrung vaccination efforts in Nigeria," the report said. "Though the group has weakened since the start of 2015 ... as long as this security risk remains, so, too, will the risk that Nigeria's latest run-in with polio will not be its last." Boko Haram is in retreat but remains deadly. In July, militants attacked a humanitarian convoy near Maiduguri, the region's largest city, leading the United Nations to suspend aid to newly liberated areas where it says half a million people are starving. Boko Haram's opposition to all things Western reached new heights in 2013 when militants shot and killed nine women vaccinating children against polio in northern Kano, Nigeria's second largest city. — AP



MAIDUGURI: In this photo taken on Saturday, Aug 28, 2016, a child cries after she was administered with a polio vaccine during a house to house vaccination exercise. — AP



This Aug 27, 2016 image provided by NASA provides a new perspective on Jupiter's south pole, seen when the Juno spacecraft was about 58,700 miles (94,500 kilometers) away. Unlike the equatorial region's familiar structure of belts and zones, the poles are mottled by clockwise and counterclockwise rotating storms of various sizes, similar to giant versions of hurricanes on Earth. — AP

NASA UNVEILS PHOTOS OF JUPITER'S POLES

WASHINGTON: NASA published Friday the first-ever images of Jupiter's North Pole and its southern aurora, taken during the Juno spacecraft's first orbital flyby of the gaseous giant. Juno came within 2,500 miles of Jupiter on August 27 during a six-hour transit from the North Pole to the south.

"It looks like nothing we have seen or imagined before," said Scott Bolton, principal investigator of Juno from the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio. "The largest planet in our solar system is truly unique. We have 36 more flybys to study just how unique it really is." A camera dubbed the "JunoCam" took the high-definition images. It is one of the nine instruments onboard the spacecraft. Juno notably sent the first infrared close-ups of the planet's north and south poles.

"These first infrared views of Jupiter's north and south poles are revealing warm and hot spots that have never been seen before," said Alberto Adriani, of the Istituto di Astrofisica e Planetologia Spaziali in Rome. Adriani is one of the researchers who developed the Jovian Infrared Auroral Mapper (JIRAM) that allowed scientists to acquire the images. "While we knew that the first-ever infrared views of Jupiter's South Pole could reveal

the planet's southern aurora, we were amazed to see it for the first time," he said.

Auroras are streamers of light in the sky caused by energy from the sun and electrically charged particles trapped in the magnetic field. Another Juno instrument recorded sounds from Jupiter—"ghostly-sounding transmissions emanating from the planet," said NASA. Scientists have known about Jupiter's radio emissions since the 1950s, but had never analyzed them from such a close distance. "Jupiter is talking to us in a way only gas-giant worlds can," said Bill Kurth, co-investigator from the University of Iowa.

Juno's main mission began in July and is scheduled to end in February 2018, when the probe will self-destruct by diving into the planet's atmosphere. The \$1.1 billion project aims to peer beneath the clouds around Jupiter for the first time to learn more about the planet's atmosphere. Scientists want to know how much water the planet contains, because it can tell them a lot about when and how the planet formed. Juno will also probe how the planet's intense magnetic field is generated, and study the formation of auroras. — AFP

ITALY'S 100 CLUB TO REVEAL ITS SECRETS

81 MEMBERS OF TINY VILLAGE PASS CENTURY MARK

ACCIAROLI: Some of the secrets of an Italian village that has long fascinated scientists because of its high number of active centenarians are set to be revealed this weekend. Scientists have spent the last six months looking into why residents of Acciaroli and nearby tiny communities enjoy such extraordinary longevity—while also seeming to be largely immune from dementia, heart disease and other chronic conditions associated with ageing in most of the Western world.

Scientists from Rome's Sapienza University and the San Diego School of Medicine will unveil their findings at a conference in the village today. Acciaroli is part of the Cilento coast, a largely industry-free area of outstanding natural beauty that now has national park protected status. It was in the Cilento that the late US nutritionist Ancel Keys first established convincing evidence of the health benefits of a

Mediterranean diet based on olive oil and rich in fresh fruit, vegetables and fish. Sixty years later, it is not hard to find supporting evidence for Keys' core thesis in Acciaroli itself.

More than one in 10 — 81 at the mayor's last count-of the village's population of 700 has passed the century mark. Among them is Antonio Vassallo, 100. "We only eat healthy stuff," he confirmed to AFP on a visit this week. Antonio's wife Amina Fedollo, a sprightly 93-year-old, develops the point. "We eat a lot of fish, fresh produce from the countryside that we grow ourselves. "We have our own rabbits, our chickens. Only local products. And olive oil: we consume what we produce."

Alan S Maisel, the San Diego cardiologist heading up the project, says the explanation for the longevity and sprightliness could lie in any number of factors—from the villagers' high consumption of the pungent herb rosemary to the

active lifestyles imposed by their home's steep streets, which means everyone has to do a little bit of tough walking every day.

Sexual activity rampant

"Is there something in their genes that may, along with something that they do make them live longer and healthy?" he said. "They eat rosemary almost every day, and they grow it—maybe this does something that helps. We know that rosemary improves brain function." "They are also all physically active. Whether it is fishing, walking or gardening, everyone does something every day."

One find that surprised the scientists on the project concerned the subjects' capillary blood vessels, which tend to degenerate in older people. But the Cilento seniors had decidedly youthful capillaries of the sort found in much younger people, even those in their 20s. The study focused on 80 elderly people including 25 centenarians.

Sapienza University's Salvatore Di Somma said the goal was to identify what Acciaroli has to offer the rest of the world. "What we would like to create is a sort of clinical score sheet, a tool that says that someone who wants to live well for a long time should have a certain type of diet, a certain level of physical activity, a certain type of social life and a certain way of thinking," Maisel said. Acciaroli was unusual in that the numbers of very old people were split evenly between men and women.

"Usually a significantly higher number of women live longer than men," he said, adding that some important lifestyle factors could be every bit as important as the anti-inflammatory properties of rosemary. "It may have something to do with the fact the older men do nothing but sit around all day outside cafes and are less stressed," he said. And there could be another very important ingredient in the recipe for a long and happy life. "Sexual activity among the elderly appears to be rampant," Maisel said. "Maybe living long has something to do with that, it's probably the good air and the joie de vivre." — AFP



ACCIAROLI: Antonio Vassallo, 100, and his wife Amina Fedollo, 93, pose for a photo at their house. — AFP



CAPE CANAVERAL: Smoke rises from a SpaceX launch site. — AP

SPACEX SCOURING FOR CLUES ON LAUNCH PAD EXPLOSION

CAPE CANAVERAL: SpaceX is scouring computer and video data for clues to the devastating launch pad explosion that destroyed a rocket and satellite. Thursday's accident occurred during a prelaunch test, eight minutes before the engines on SpaceX's Falcon rocket were supposed to briefly fire. The rocket was being fueled when a huge fireball erupted. On Friday, SpaceX said it has begun reviewing 3,000 channels of computer and video data, covering a time period of just 35 to 55 milliseconds. The trouble appears to have originated somewhere near the liquid oxygen tank in the upper stage.

SpaceX said it's unclear how badly the pad was damaged at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. But the company pointed out that it has two other pads, one at neighboring Kennedy Space Center that was formerly used to launch NASA's shuttles, and another in California. SpaceX said these two pads can support the company's upcoming launches, until the damaged complex can be fixed.

The Kennedy pad should be ready to handle Falcon launches as early as November, according to SpaceX. That's the site where the company plans to launch

NASA astronauts to the International Space Station in another year or so, a schedule now in jeopardy. Upgrades at the SpaceX pad at California's Vandenberg Air Force Base are close to completion.

Both locations will be able to accommodate Falcon 9 rockets, like the one lost Thursday, and the newer, bigger Falcon Heavy rockets. The company said it has about 70 launches lined up, worth more than \$10 billion. NASA is a major customer, relying on SpaceX to send supplies to the space station and return science experiments. The space agency also is looking for SpaceX and Boeing to begin crew transport from Cape Canaveral, in order to reduce its reliance on Russian rockets.

"Our number one priority is to safely and reliably return to flight for our customers, as well as to take all the necessary steps to ensure the highest possible levels of safety for future crewed missions," SpaceX said in a statement. SpaceX expressed deep regret for the loss of the communications satellite that was on board the rocket. Facebook had intended to use the Israeli-made satellite to expand internet service in Africa; liftoff was supposed to be Saturday. No one was injured in the accident. — AP

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LULU HYPERMARKET PRESENTS THAILAND FIESTA 2016



Lulu Hypermarket, the leading hypermarket chain in the region, launched the Thailand Fiesta 2016 at all their outlets in Kuwait on 31 August. The eleven-day long festival, running from 31 August to 10 September, was inaugurated on 1 September at the Al-Qurain outlet by Ambassador of Thailand to Kuwait Prasas Prasavinitchai in the presence of the Hypermarket's top management, as well as a large crowd of patrons and well-wishers.

Following the opening ceremony, the ambassador was led on a tour of the vast hypermarket, during which he got to view the various fresh and branded products from Thailand that are available during the festival. Attractive displays of traditional monuments of Thailand, as well as other aspects of its ancient heritage, highlighting the country's diverse and colorful culture, will draw the attention of shoppers to the festival.



During the promotion period, the hypermarket is offering up a taste of Thailand that is unique and exciting. Shoppers can take advantage of a range of special offers on branded Thai food products, as well as fruits, vegetables and other delicacies specially imported from Thailand. Popular Thai food brands such as Blue Elephant, Blue Dragon, Palm Fresh and Siam Rich, as well as Simply Asia, Cocofina, Mai Siam, Amoy and Asian, are among the many brands that are on special

offer during the fiesta. The LuLu Thailand Fiesta 2016 is part of the Hypermarket's commitment to craft family-friendly shopping experiences for their customers, while providing a range of quality products at affordable prices. The hypermarket has in the past undertaken various customer-centric initiatives and special promotions all aimed at underlining the fact that at Lulu, the customer comes first.



THE KNOWLEDGE CLUB 2ND SEASON LAUNCHES WITH LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

ONE OF MOST EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

After concluding the first season of the Knowledge Club(tm) 2016 which focused mainly on the most required competency of "Leadership", Vigor Events announced that the second season will launch with the highly demanded seminar by award winning author - Jim Kouzes - followed by an enriching workshop by the Certified Master Facilitator of The Leadership Challenge(r) - Graham Moore.

The Leadership Challenge(r) is an intensive program based on the award-winning book - The Leadership Challenge(r) - by Jim Kouzes and Barry Posner. A seminar held by author Jim Kouzes under the same title will be brought to Kuwait as the opener of the second season of Knowledge Club 2016 on September 25th.

In this one-day seminar, Jim Kouzes will present his evidence-based research on leadership practices. Attendees will be able to explore these findings from over 30 years of research which proves leadership makes a significant and meaningful difference in people's engagement at work and in the performance of their organizations. The seminar is a unique opportunity to work on one's own leadership practices and behaviors with one of the world's most prominent thought leaders on the topic.

In addition, the seminar will provide attendees with the enrichment of being able to assess the extent to which they currently demonstrate in leadership practices, to identify the factor that rules innovation, brand image, acceptance of leaders' influence, commitment and also to create a context that supports the long-term development of the attendees' leadership competencies.

It is also worth noting that Jim Kouzes is a bestselling author, an award-winning speaker, and one of the twelve best executive educators in the United States

according to the Wall Street Journal. In 2010, Jim received the Thought Leadership Award from the Instructional Systems Association, the most prestigious award given by the trade association of training and development industry providers. He was listed as one of HR Magazine's Most Influential International Thinkers for 2010 and 2011, named one of the 2010 and 2011 Top 100 Thought Leaders in Trustworthy Business Behavior by Trust Across America, and ranked by Leadership Excellence magazine as number sixteen on its list of the Top 100 Thought Leaders. In 2006, Jim was presented with the Golden Gavel, the highest honor awarded by Toastmasters International.

Following the seminar, a highly interactive and stimulating two-day workshop by the only Certified Master Facilitator of The Leadership Challenge(r) in the Middle East - Graham Moore - will be held on the 26th and 27th of September 2016 during which participants will experience and apply The Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership(r) through video case studies, workbook exercises, group problem-solving tasks, facilitated sessions and experiential learning.

Both events are part of the Knowledge Club(tm) 2016 series which is organized by Vigor Events and Co-Organized by ALGAS Events Company. Members of the Knowledge Club(tm) this year include Hadi Clinic as Gold Sponsor, Gulf Bank and Warba Insurance as Silver sponsors, Platinum Gym, Dar Alshifa Hospital, Warba Bank, and Beyout Investment Group as Event Sponsors, Corporate Sponsor Kuwait Oil Company, Success Partner Equate, Strategic Partner Ahli Bank of Kuwait, Executive Education Partner IE Business School and media support from the International Advertising Association Kuwait Chapter.

HOME CENTRE TO INTRODUCE CATEGORY BASED OFFERINGS FOR FIRST TIME

LEADING RETAILER TO REVEAL NEW LIVING, SLEEPING RANGES



Home Centre, the largest home retailer in the Middle East, is set to launch 'Living' and 'Sleeping' categories this September across the region,

offering customers a holistic home shopping experience. Each new category will house a complete range of distinctive furniture and home accessories for cus-



tomers to choose from to style their interiors, all within reasonable prices.

With a pallet of more than 300 new living room styles, Home Centre's Living Showcase which will be launched on 1st September, will enable customers to rejuvenate their homes with a selection of eclectic furniture and accessories, to create designer spaces that integrate high quality products at competitive prices.

The Living Showcase will also highlight the Signature sofa, amongst a range of new furniture. This contemporary modular sofa that enables limitless furniture combinations will be available in nine distinctive colours, making it a versatile choice for any living space. Moreover, every week, kiosks in select malls will feature new inspiring living room set-ups curated by Home Centre's team of stylists - giving visitors a glimpse of the wide range of choices the brand has to offer.

On the other hand, Home Centre's Sleeping Showcase which will be launched on 23rd September, will pay tribute to the significance of bedrooms in relieving the stress of a long day. The day starts and ends in the bedroom, and this showcase is all about enabling customers to personalize their bedrooms with all the

elements of comfort needed to help them relax, rejuvenate and create a soothing space for themselves at home.

Mederic Payne, CEO of Home Centre, said: "We are pleased to announce the launch of the new Living and Sleeping showcases, which we are confident will provide our customers with a holistic solution for their spaces. The introduction of category themed offerings is a testament of our commitment to consistently innovate in delivering best-in-class products at competitive prices."

Speaking on the introduction of the new categories, Nancy Ajram, brand ambassador of Home Centre, said: "I am delighted to be associated with Home Centre, a brand that constantly puts their customers first, as it continues to evolve and grow. Each category offers a complete solution for their homes, and will allow customers to create a whole new look and feel. I am confident that shoppers will enjoy Home Centre's wonderful new offering." Home Centre will also roll-out exclusive offers during the launch which will be available across all Home Centre outlets located at Al Rai, Shuwaikh, The Avenues, Kuwait City, Fahaheel and Sama Mall.





GUST President Donald Bates



GUST, PUC WELCOME FRESHMEN AT ANNUAL ORIENTATION

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) hosted its annual student orientation at its conference center on Wednesday. Organized by the Office of Student Life (OSL) before the start of every fall semester, the orientation allows new students to get all the information they need to start their academic year with confidence to ensure a smooth transition into university life, and get a feel for what their new academic journey will entail.

GUST President, Professor Donald Bates said, "The students we welcome today are the future of this country. It is our responsibility to take care, guide, and nurture them. With this orientation, we send a clear message that even before Day 1, we are by their sides and ready to help them achieve any dream they want to realize."

The program began with speeches from University President, Professor Donald Bates, followed by the GUST Student Association. This was followed by sessions in which the students were introduced to the different members of GUST's Top Management, and one headed by the Private Universities Council (PUC). Students were also given briefs on the various support departments they can make use of during their time at GUST, such as the Student Success Center, the Foundation Program Unit, and the Admission and Registration Department.

Head of OSL, Anwar Al-Sabah, said, "It invigorates me to see so many young and eager students join our university every year.



They come with such energy and enthusiasm, and it is absolutely paramount that we provide them with everything we can to ensure that none of their talent goes to waste, and that they can accomplish any goal they set their minds to."

The event was also attended by Dr Salah Al-Sharhan, Vice President of Academic Affairs and distinguished PUC representa-

tives: Asmaa al Mutairi, Head of the Office of Media and Public Relations, and Adel Al Bader, the Head of the Office of Professional and Technical Development.

Dr Habib Abul, Secretary General of the PUC said, "Our main target is to establish a nurturing yet challenging environment that is conducive to learning that is in line with the international standards required for



tomorrow's job market."

Among the PUC's responsibilities are determining accreditation requirements for all private universities, reviewing performance to ensure commitment to the provisions of the universities' founding decree and providing scholarships to students within standards set by the council. During the orientation, PUC representatives discussed the roles

and procedures of the PUC Scholarship Office as well as the processes and timelines for the social allowance.

The orientation concluded with a campus tour where students visited lecture theatres, computer labs, science labs, the sports center, the TV and radio studios, and the university's new state of the art Gulf Financial Center.



JOYOUS EID AL-ADHA CELEBRATIONS AT MARINA HOTEL KUWAIT

In celebration of Eid Al-Adha, Marina Hotel invites residents and guests to experience leisure and fun filled activities with a rich choice of culinary flavors, entertainment and special room packages to make the upcoming Eid holiday truly memorable. The comprehensive hotel facilities combine elegance with the warmth of an opulent Arabian hospitality.

Marina Hotel offers a relaxed Eid break. Guests can experience the hotel's service in luxurious rooms while taking in the charm of genuine Arabian hospitality. They will have access to the state of the art Coral Reef Health Club and can avail of the superior room inclusive of daily breakfast for two persons with a minimum stay of three

nights, in which advance reservation is required.

While parents and family members relax, children can participate in various activities organized by the hotel, which include games for adults and kids, movie viewing, beach soccer, bouncy castles, trampoline, face painting and much more.

Nabil Hammoud, General Manager of the hotel said, "We wish our guests a joyous Eid and look forward to warmly welcoming and providing them with our highly acclaimed service that will surely make their Eid holidays unforgettable."

Enjoy the relaxed setting of the Six Palms Restaurant and start your morning with steaming coffee and deli-

cious breakfast buffet featuring international cuisine. In the evening, indulge yourself with the finest dinner buffet with an amazing spread of traditional Arabic and international dishes along with tempting selection of Arabic sweets and mouthwatering desserts while listening to the Oriental band and enjoying your Shisha.

Watch authentic innovations spring to life inside the Atlantis Restaurant while relishing the International lunch buffet. Families and friends are invited to enjoy the panoramic views and idyllic mood while savoring the flavors of local cuisine and international specialties. Children will be taken care of at the kid's corner with and will have their own buffet with a wide variety of special-

ties. The package also includes a 20% discount on buffet lunch and dinner for guests dining at the Atlantis Restaurant.

In close proximity to Marina Mall, which is among the best shopping malls in Kuwait and the Crescent which houses a variety of international restaurants and coffee shops, Marina Hotel is an ideal location for family leisure.

Along with its world-class features and amenities as well as a selection of recreational and relaxation facilities, Marina Hotel Kuwait is the place to be for the entire family as well as groups of friends to share and spend the Eid holidays together. For more information, please visit our website: www.marinahotel.com.

NEW VICE-PRINCIPALS JOIN ICSK KHAITAN, ICSK JUNIOR

The Indian Community School Kuwait is happy to announce the induction of two highly qualified and competent Vice-Principals, Ravi Ayanoli and C Sheeja, to the ICSK fraternity. Ravi Ayanoli has joined ICSK Khaitan and C Sheeja has joined ICSK Junior. Vice-Principal of ICSK Khaitan, Ravi Ayanoli, is a chemistry education post graduate (M.Sc.Ed) in first division from prestigious Regional Institute of Education (under NCERT), Mysore. He has rendered his services as Vice-Principal, Academic and Administrative Supervisor, Coordinator, resident house warden and Teacher at popular residential and Day boarding schools. Being

a founder member, his contribution in bringing up DPS Kuwait (FAIPS), since its inception, is well known to the Kuwait parent community. He has also taught in ICSE and Vocational higher secondary schools. Having a certification by CIE, he also taught IGCSE Chemistry students. He had the privilege of receiving guidance from eminent personalities like Padmabhushan awardee Shyama Chona and Director IIM, Calicut Debashish Chatterjee. Ravi strongly advocates the holistic approach in education. He believes that if a student cannot understand the way in which a teacher teaches, the teacher should be able to adopt a method

where the pupil is able to understand what is being taught. He reinforces the fact that teachers should not degrade themselves into tutors.

Vice-Principal of ICSK Junior, C Sheeja, born and brought up in Chennai, is a first class post graduate in physics from prestigious Presidency College, Chennai. She also possesses her bachelor degree in education from the Madras University. Starting her career with DPS, Damanjodi, Orissa, she has acquired vast experience in training young minds. She underwent training in various aspects of education organized by DPS Society, Delhi and AUK, Kuwait. Sheeja, a

founder member of DPS Kuwait (FAIPS), has a commendable role in its growth. In order to inculcate leadership skills in students at a younger age she introduced primary school students' council at DPS, Kuwait. She also enjoys immense popularity as a seasoned physics teacher and possesses excellent organizational skills. Education being the most powerful weapon that can change the world; she strongly believes that educating the mind without educating the heart is no education. ICSK welcomes Ravi and C Sheeja and hopes their vast experience and abilities will contribute in taking the School to greater heights of glory.



Ravi Ayanoli



C Sheeja

BBC
FIRST

04:05 Doctors
04:35 Eastenders
05:05 The Musketeers
06:00 Eastenders
06:30 Death In Paradise
07:30 Death In Paradise
08:25 Call The Midwife
09:25 The Musketeers
10:20 Doctors
10:55 Eastenders
11:25 Death In Paradise
12:20 Call The Midwife
13:15 The Musketeers
14:10 Doctors
14:45 Eastenders
15:15 Death In Paradise
16:10 Call The Midwife
17:05 The Musketeers
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 Holly City
21:00 Friday Night Dinner
21:30 Rev.
22:00 Stag
22:55 Hebburn
23:25 Doctors
00:00 Eastenders
00:35 Holly City
01:35 Friday Night Dinner
02:00 Rev.
02:35 Stag



03:00 Nathan For You
03:25 Nathan For You
03:50 Impractical Jokers
04:15 Impractical Jokers
04:40 Ridiculousness
05:05 Ridiculousness
05:30 Tosh.0
05:55 Tosh.0
06:20 Tattoo Disasters
06:50 Tattoo Disasters
07:15 Hungry Investors
08:05 Ridiculousness
08:30 Ridiculousness
08:55 Nathan For You
09:20 Nathan For You
09:45 Impractical Jokers
10:10 Impractical Jokers
10:35 Key And Peele
11:00 Workaholics
11:25 Lip Sync Battle
11:50 Lip Sync Battle
12:15 Nathan For You
12:40 Nathan For You
13:05 Impractical Jokers
13:30 Impractical Jokers
13:55 Ridiculousness
14:20 Ridiculousness
14:45 Tattoo Disasters
15:10 Tattoo Disasters
15:35 Lip Sync Battle
16:00 Lip Sync Battle
16:30 Nathan For You
16:55 Nathan For You
17:25 Workaholics
17:50 Impractical Jokers
18:15 Impractical Jokers
18:39 Key And Peele

18:30 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
19:20 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
20:10 Storage Hunters
20:35 Dallas Car Sharks
21:00 Dark Woods Justice
21:50 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
22:40 Mega Shippers
23:30 Fast N' Loud
00:20 Kindig Customs
01:10 Dark Woods Justice
02:00 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
02:50 Mega Shippers



03:00 Mega Engineering
03:48 Smash Lab
04:36 Secret Space Escapes
05:24 How The Universe Works
06:12 How Do They Do It?
06:36 Food Factory
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Smash Lab
08:14 How The Universe Works
09:02 Mega Engineering
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Secret Space Escapes
11:26 Smash Lab
12:14 How The Universe Works
12:42 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Mega Engineering
14:38 Secret Space Escapes
15:26 Smash Lab
16:14 How The Universe Works
17:02 Mega Engineering
17:50 Smash Lab
18:40 How The Universe Works
19:30 Battle Factory
19:55 Battle Factory
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Industrial Junkie
21:35 Industrial Junkie
22:00 Battle Factory
22:25 Battle Factory
22:50 How The Universe Works
23:40 Smash Lab
00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Battle Factory
01:45 Battle Factory
02:10 How The Universe Works



03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Jessie
06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse



03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopedoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopedoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopedoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopedoo
07:40 Jungle Cubs
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:40 PJ Masks
09:10 Doc McStuffins
09:40 Doc McStuffins
09:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Sofia The First
11:00 The Lion Guard
11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
12:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
12:30 Gummi Bears
13:00 Sofia The First
13:30 Doc McStuffins
14:00 The Lion Guard
14:30 Aladdin
14:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
15:05 Goldie & Bear
15:30 Miles From Tomorrow
16:00 Doc McStuffins
16:25 Doc McStuffins
16:55 Sofia The First
17:25 Sofia The First
17:50 The Lion Guard
18:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:45 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
19:00 PJ Masks
19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
20:00 Doc McStuffins
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 PJ Masks
21:30 Aladdin
22:00 Jungle Cubs
22:25 Gummi Bears
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopedoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopedoo
01:30 Art Attack
01:00 Calimero
02:15 Zou
02:30 Loopedoo
02:45 Art Attack



LAGGIES ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

06:00 Fashion Bloggers
06:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
07:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
08:20 E! News
09:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
10:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:05 E! News

Feasts
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Iron Chef America
00:00 Ace Of Cakes
00:30 Ace Of Cakes
01:00 Andy Bates Brazilian Street
Feasts
01:30 Andy Bates Brazilian Street
Feasts
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives



03:40 Last Days Of The Nazis
04:30 Blood And Glory: The Civil War In Color
05:20 Ancient Aliens
06:10 The Universe
07:00 Dogfights
08:00 Cities Of The Underworld
09:00 The Universe
10:00 World War II: Lost Films
11:00 World War II: Lost Films
12:00 Ancient Aliens
13:00 Dogfights
14:00 Cities Of The Underworld
15:00 The Universe
16:00 World War II: Lost Films
17:00 World War II: Lost Films
18:00 Ancient Aliens
19:00 Patton 360
20:00 Cities Of The Underworld
21:00 The Universe
22:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
23:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
00:00 Ancient Aliens
01:00 Patton 360
02:00 Cities Of The Underworld
02:50 The Universe

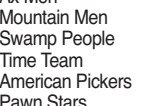
12:10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
12:35 Emmerdale
13:50 Coronation Street
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 Murdoch Mysteries
15:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
16:30 Don't Tell The Bride
17:25 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Coronation Street
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
20:30 Don't Tell The Bride
21:25 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
22:50 Coronation Street
23:15 Emmerdale
23:15 Murdoch Mysteries
00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
01:00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
02:30 Murdoch Mysteries



03:45 Zoo Confidential
04:40 Expedition Wild
05:35 Asia's Deadliest Snakes
06:30 Planet Carnivore
07:25 Zoo Confidential
08:20 Expedition Wild
09:15 Animal Armory
10:10 Planet Carnivore
11:05 Dangerous Encounters
12:00 Shark Men
12:55 Top Cats
13:50 Animal Intervention
14:45 Sharkatraz
15:40 Expedition Wild



03:40 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
04:05 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Time Team
06:00 Shipping Wars
06:25 Shipping Wars
06:50 Swamp People
07:40 Mountain Men
08:30 American Restoration
08:55 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
09:20 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
09:45 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
10:35 Alone
11:25 Time Team
12:15 American Pickers
13:05 Storage Wars
13:30 Storage Wars
13:55 Counting Cars: Best Of
14:20 Car Hunters
14:45 American Restoration
15:10 American Restoration
15:35 Shipping Wars
16:00 Ax Men
16:50 Mountain Men
17:40 Swamp People
18:30 Time Team
19:20 American Pickers
20:10 Pawn Stars
20:35 Pawn Stars
21:00 Criss Angel: Mindfreak
21:25 Criss Angel: Mindfreak
21:50 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
22:40 Britain's Bloody Crown: War Of The Roses
23:55 Criss Angel: Mindfreak
00:20 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
01:10 Lespu And Pitbull
02:50 Swamp People
03:00 Mountain Men



03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Man Fire Food
06:30 Man Fire Food
07:00 Chopped
08:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
08:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
09:00 The Kitchen
10:00 The Pioneer Woman
10:30 The Pioneer Woman
11:00 Chopped
12:00 Guy's Big Bite
12:30 Guy's Big Bite
13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:00 Man Fire Food
14:30 Man Fire Food
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 The Pioneer Woman
17:30 The Pioneer Woman
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
20:00 Ace Of Cakes
20:30 Ace Of Cakes
21:00 Andy Bates Brazilian Street
Feasts
21:30 Andy Bates Brazilian Street



03:25 Vera
05:15 Eggheads
05:45 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
07:05 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
08:00 Vera
09:50 Murdoch Mysteries
10:45 Eggheads
11:15 The Chase: Celebrity Specials



COMEDY

04:00 Life In Pieces
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
06:30 The Bill Engvall Show
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Life In Pieces
10:30 The Bill Engvall Show
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:30 Life In Pieces
13:30 The Bill Engvall Show
15:30 Fresh Off The Boat
16:00 Grandfathered
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Two And A Half Men
18:30 Two And A Half Men
19:00 Angie Tribeca
19:30 Angie Tribeca
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Fresh Off The Boat
21:30 Grandfathered
22:00 South Park
22:30 South Park
23:00 Family Guy
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
00:30 Fresh Off The Boat
01:00 Grandfathered
02:30 Family Guy



05:00 Good Morning America
07:00 Bones
08:00 Once Upon A Time
10:00 Chicago Med
11:00 Bones
12:00 Once Upon A Time
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
15:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Shark Tank
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Once Upon A Time
19:00 Containment
20:00 The Family
21:00 Chicago Med
22:00 Heartbeat
23:00 The X-Files
00:00 Bones
01:00 Chicago Med
02:00 Heartbeat



ACTION

04:00 Justice League: Gods And Monsters
06:00 The Package
08:00 Legendary: Tomb Of The Dragon
10:00 Non-Stop
12:00 Reclaim
13:45 Edge Of Tomorrow
15:45 The Package
17:45 Non-Stop
19:45 The Expendables 3
22:00 The Equalizer
00:15 Turkey Shoot
02:00 Non-Stop

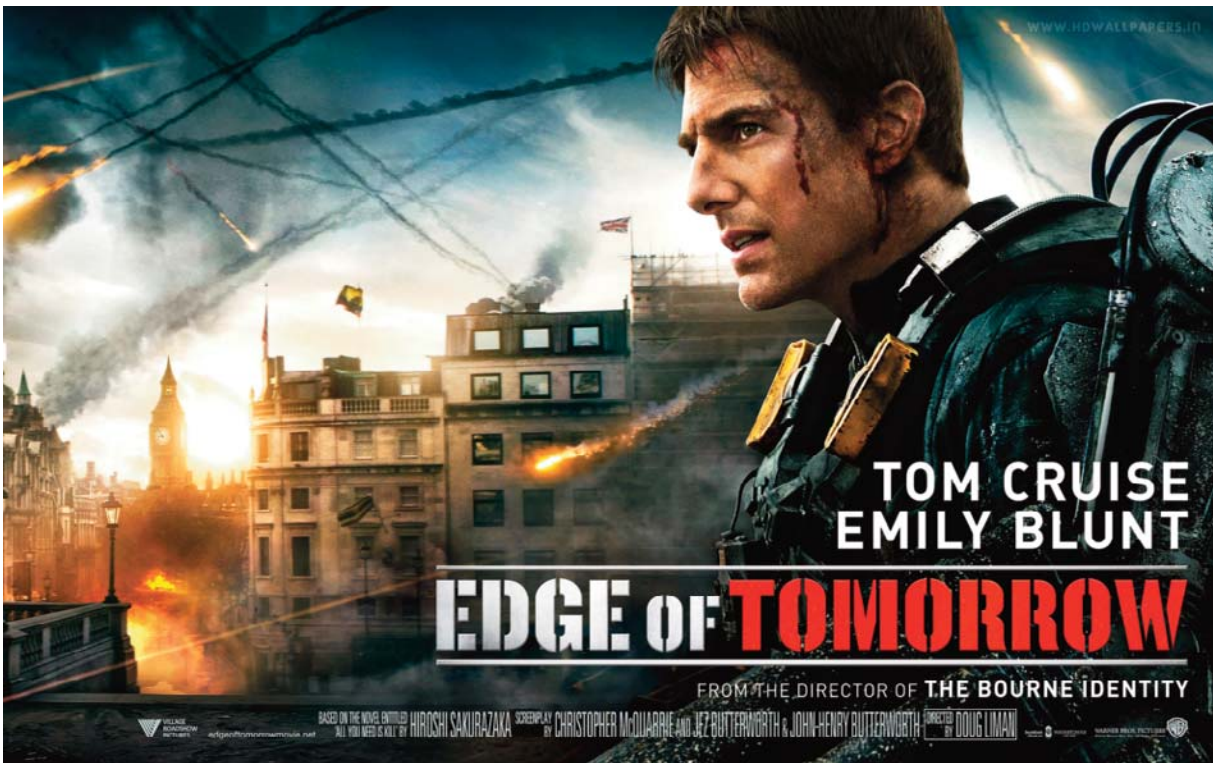


COMEDY

04:00 Spy Hard
06:00 Indian Summer
08:00 Father Hood
10:00 Spy Hard
12:00 The Bounty Hunter
14:00 Space Dogs
16:00 Father Hood
18:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
20:00 Laggies
22:00 A Fantastic Fear Of Everything
00:00 Adult World
02:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!



04:45 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes
07:00 Pixels
09:00 The Walk
11:00 Divergent
13:15 Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
15:00 Jupiter Ascending
17:15 Paper Towns
19:00 Insurgent
21:00 Final Girl
23:00 Trainwreck
01:15 Project Almanac



EDGE OF TOMORROW ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

19:03 Workaholics
19:27 TUT
20:13 TUT
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Patton Oswalt: Tragedy Plus Comedy Equals Time
22:18 Inside Amy Schumer
22:42 South Park
23:05 Underground With Dave Attell
23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
00:00 TUT
00:50 TUT
01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
02:05 John Mulaney: New In Town



03:15 Wheels That Fall
03:40 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition
04:05 Storage Hunters
04:30 Dallas Car Sharks
05:00 How Stuff's Made
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Alaska: The Last Frontier
06:50 Kindig Customs
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition
08:55 Storage Hunters UK
09:20 Dallas Car Sharks
09:45 How Stuff's Made
10:10 How Do They Do It?
10:35 Mythbusters
11:25 World's Top 5
12:15 World's Top 5
13:05 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition
13:30 Storage Hunters
13:55 Dallas Car Sharks
14:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier
15:10 Kindig Customs
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 How Stuff's Made
17:15 How Do They Do It?
17:40 Dark Woods Justice

06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:20 Dog With A Blog
07:45 Bunk'd
08:10 Austin & Ally
08:35 Shake It Up
09:00 Hannah Montana
09:25 Hannah Montana
09:50 Wizards Of Waverly Place
10:15 Wizards Of Waverly Place
10:40 Good Luck Charlie
11:05 Good Luck Charlie
11:30 Jessie
11:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
12:00 The 7D
12:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:40 Hank Zipzer
13:05 Star Darlings
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 Liv And Maddie
14:50 Dog With A Blog
15:15 Hank Zipzer
15:40 Bunk'd
16:05 Star Darlings
16:10 Gravity Falls
16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
17:00 Backstage
17:50 Girl Meets World
18:15 Bunk'd
18:40 Mako Mermaids
19:05 Austin & Ally
19:30 Jessie
19:55 Violetta
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta



06:00 Boyster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak
07:00 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 Danger Mouse S1
08:40 Camp Lakebottom
09:05 Counterfeit Cat
09:10 Gravity Falls
09:35 Lab Rats
10:00 Rocket Monkeys
10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
10:50 Boyster
11:20 Boyster
11:45 Pair Of Kings
12:10 Pair Of Kings
12:35 Lab Rats
13:00 Lab Rats
13:30 Phineas And Ferb
13:55 Phineas And Ferb
14:20 Kickin' It
14:45 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Supa Strikas
15:40 Supa Strikas
16:05 Lab Rats
16:30 Danger Mouse S1
16:55 Kirby Buckets
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 Annedroids
18:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
18:40 K.C. Undercover
19:05 Counterfeit Cat
19:10 Gravity Falls
19:35 Pickle And Peanut
20:00 Lab Rats
20:25 Supa Strikas
20:55 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
22:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse



03:15 WAGs
04:10 WAGs
05:05 WAGs

CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2016



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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (01/09/2016 TO 07/09/2016)

SHARQIA-1		JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	1:30 PM
MORGAN	11:30 AM	KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS	4:45 PM
SKIPTRACE	1:30 PM	BLOOD FATHER	7:00 PM
MORGAN	4:00 PM	BLOOD FATHER	9:00 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND	6:30 PM	BLOOD FATHER	11:00 PM
MORGAN	8:30 PM	BLOOD FATHER	1:00 AM
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	10:45 PM		
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	3:30 PM	FANAR-1	
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	6:30 PM	AKIRA- HINDI	12:45 PM
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	9:45 PM	AKIRA- HINDI	3:45 PM
MORGAN	1:00 AM	JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	3:30 PM
		JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	6:45 PM
		JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	10:00 PM
		AKIRA- HINDI	10:00 PM
		BLOOD FATHER	1:15 AM
		FANAR-2	
		MORGAN	11:30 AM
		MORGAN	1:45 PM
		MORGAN	4:00 PM
		SKIPTRACE	6:00 PM
		MORGAN	8:15 PM
		JAHEEM FI ILHIND	10:15 PM
		MORGAN	12:30 AM
		FANAR-3	
		KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS	11:45 AM
		KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS	2:00 PM
		KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS	4:15 PM
		KUBO AND THE TWO STRINGS	6:30 PM
		MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	8:45 PM
		MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	10:45 PM
		MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	12:45 PM
		FANAR-4	
		BLOOD FATHER	11:30 AM
		BLOOD FATHER	1:30 PM
		BLOOD FATHER	3:30 PM
		BLOOD FATHER	5:30 PM
		BLOOD FATHER	7:30 PM
		BLOOD FATHER	9:45 PM
		BLOOD FATHER	12:05 AM
		MARINA-1	
		MORGAN	12:00 PM
		SKIPTRACE	2:00 PM
		MORGAN	4:15 PM
		SKIPTRACE	6:45 PM
		MORGAN	9:00 PM
		MORGAN	11:00 PM
		MORGAN	1:00 AM
		MARINA-2	
		BLOOD FATHER	12:15 PM



NOTICE
August 24, 2016



Mr. Jason Alexander son of Mr. Alexander Mathew, Indian national, resident of Puthenpurackal House, Kadammanitta PO, Pathanamthitta, Kerala and Miss. Madelyn Dumapit Acero daughter of Orpiano Acero, Philippines national, resident of Central Poblacion, Kalilangan, Bukidnon, Philippines, both presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

(Krishan Kumar Pahal)
First Secretary (Consular)
and Marriage Officer

Embassy of India, Kuwait.
Ph.00965-22533315

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sivachandiran S/o Arjunan, holder of Indian Passport No. L6182781 & Civil ID No. 291012302869, has changed my name from Sivachandiran to Imran, hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of Imran. (C 5210)
3-9-2016

Old name: Shaikh Imam Saheb, sur name: Shaikh Madar, Passport No: P0377626, date of birth: 01-01-1954, place of birth: Bhagam Palli, A.P., Civil ID No. 254101101142. Change of name, surname: Pathan, given name: Haroon Khan, S/o Pathan Azeez Khan. Door No: 28/83, Bhavani Nagar, Bethol Colony, Rayachoty, Cuddapah (Dt), A.P. (C 5209)
1-9-2016

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Australian Embassy Kuwait Job Vacancy

POLITICAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT (LE3)

(Closing date for applications is 17 September 2016)

The Australian Embassy Kuwait is looking for a Political Research Assistant. The position provides support for the Ambassador at the Australian Embassy in Kuwait and the political section, supporting closer ties between Australia and Kuwait.

In addition to a strong knowledge of Kuwait and ability to conduct research, the applicant should be able to develop a network of contacts and liaise with other foreign missions and local institutions, accompany staff to meetings (including translation services when required), and provide general administration support. They should be fluent in English and Arabic.

For the full position description, including salary and application details, please visit the Australian Embassy website at http://kuwait.embassy.gov.au/kuwt/Current_Vacancies.html



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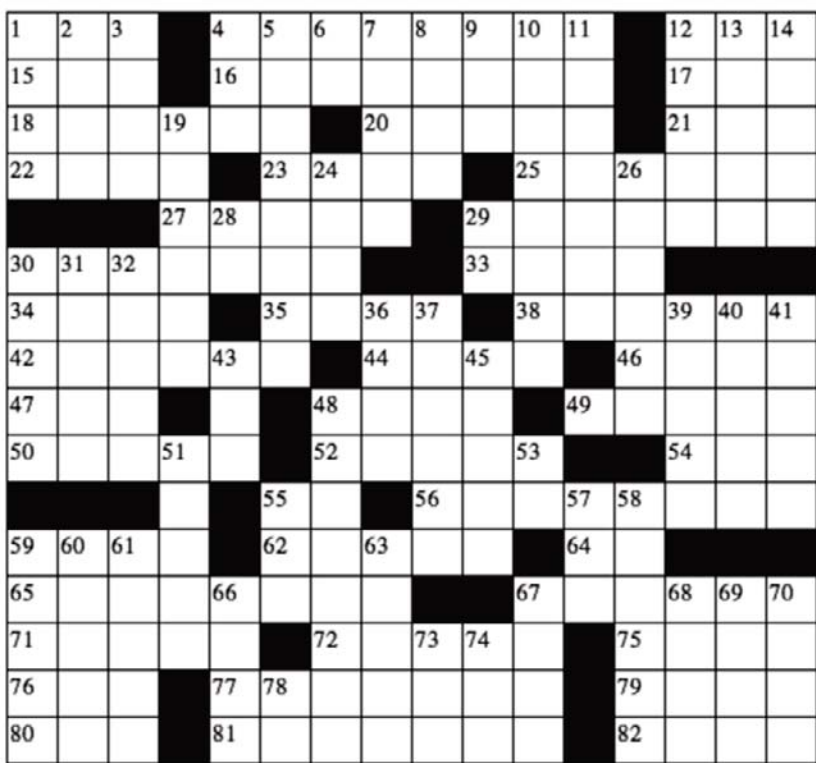


Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 4/9/2016				Departure Flights on Sunday 4/9/2016			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	SVB	5721	Madinah	12:55
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
FDK	803	Damascus	00:35	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:50	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	SAW	702	Damascus	13:35
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
MSC	403	Asyut	01:30	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:45
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	KAC	617	Doha	15:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	KAC	513	Tehran	15:40
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	SVB	503	Madinah/Jeddah	15:45
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
LZB	7779	Burgas	03:30	ABY	128	Sharjah	17:05
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
MEA	406	Beirut	04:10	SYR	342	Damascus	18:00
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	SVB	511	Riyadh	18:11
ETH	3403	Addis Ababa/Riyadh	04:30	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
THY	1414	TZX	05:05	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	1801	Amman	18:45
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	QTR	1081	Cairo	18:55
QTR	8511	Doha	05:15	KAC	1801	Doha	19:05
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
BAW	157	London	06:40	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	MSR	619	Alexandria	20:30
SVB	512	Riyadh	07:50	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	283	Dhaka	20:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05	KAC	353	BLR	20:55
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
MSC	411	Asyut	08:45	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	KAC	1901	Jeddah	21:30
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:10	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:50
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
SAW	703	Damascus	09:45	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	THY	1403	ATY	22:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
SVB	4721	Jeddah	11:25	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	RBG	552	Alexandria	23:10
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35	KAC	155	Istanbul	23:15
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	JZR	528	Asyut	23:15
				QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
				KAC	781	Jeddah	23:20
				KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25

CROSSWORD 1363



ACROSS

1. A communist nation that covers a vast territory in eastern Asia.
4. (medical) An absence of normal pigmentation especially in the skin (as in albinism) or in red blood cells.
12. A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.
15. An informal debt instrument.
16. Long-lived tropical evergreen tree with a spreading crown and feathery evergreen foliage and fragrant flowers yielding hard yellowish wood and long pods with edible chocolate-colored acidic pulp.
17. A branch of the Tai languages.
18. A thoroughfare (usually including side-walks) that is lined with buildings.
20. An emblem (a small piece of plastic or cloth or metal) that signifies your status (rank or membership or affiliation etc.).
21. A spring-flowering shrub or small tree of the genus Crataegus.
22. A book of the New Testament.
23. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
25. The amount that a container (as a wine bottle or tank) lacks of being full.
27. A unit of weight for precious stones = 200 mg.
30. Of or relating to the Quechua people or their language.
33. A town in north central Oklahoma.
34. An ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure equal to about a bushel.
35. Showing self-interest and shrewdness in dealing with others.
38. One of 7 to 12 sons of Aditi.
42. A republic in the Asian subcontinent in southern Asia.
44. (archaic or Scottish) Faithful and true.
46. A river that rises in northeastern Turkey (near the source of the Euphrates) and flows generally eastward through Armenia to the Caspian Sea.
47. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
49. A small cut.
50. God of wealth and love.
52. A river in southeastern France.
54. (informal) Of the highest quality.
56. Not ionic.
59. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
62. One of the proteins into which actomyosin can be split.
64. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
65. Order of mammals having few or no teeth including.
71. A river of southwestern Africa that rises in central Angola and flows east and then north (forming part of the border between Angola and Congo) and continuing northwest through Congo to empty into the Congo River on the border between Congo and Republic of the Congo.
72. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
75. The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
76. Used of a single unit or thing.
77. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
79. The universal time coordinated time on board the spacecraft.
80. Take in solid food.
81. Pain in the gums.
82. English pianist (1890-1965).

DOWN

1. A city in Tuscany.
2. A training program to prepare college students to be commissioned officers.
3. Marked by rude or peremptory shortness.
4. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
5. Clouding of the natural lens of the eye.
6. A metric unit of length equal to 100 meters.
7. The capital of Morocco.
8. Toward the mouth or oral region.
9. Used in combination to denote the middle.
10. Of or relating to or near the groin.
11. Any of various insects that feed and form galls on conifers.
12. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
13. A Bantu language spoken by the Chaga people in northern Tanzania.
14. A rectangular piece of absorbent cloth (or paper) for drying or wiping.
19. A dry scab formed on the skin following a burn or cauterization of the skin.
24. (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
26. A Baltic-Finnic language.
28. A soft yellow malleable ductile (trivalent and univalent) metallic element.
29. A heavy ductile magnetic metallic element.
31. An ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure equal to about a bushel.
32. Green algae common in freshwater lakes of limestone districts.
36. Type genus of the Gliridae.
37. Of or relating to or characteristic of Yemen or its inhabitants.
39. Of the nature of or undergoing an experiment.
40. West Indian evergreen with medium to long leaves.
41. Someone who asks a question.
43. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
45. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
48. Pearl oysters.
51. A republic in West Africa on the Gulf of Guinea.
53. Half the width of an em.
55. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
57. Seed of a pea plant.
58. Ill-mannered and coarse and contemptible in behavior or appearance.
60. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
61. annoy continually or chronically.
63. Of or relating to a speaker of the Tamil language or the language itself.
66. Semi-evergreen South American tree with odd-pinnate leaves and golden yellow flowers cultivated as an ornamental.
67. A small cake leavened with yeast.
68. The front of the head from the forehead to the chin and ear to ear.
69. The sediment from fermentation of an alcoholic beverage.
70. Informal terms for a meal.
73. A graphical recording of the cardiac cycle produced by an electrocardiograph.
74. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
78. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Friendships are in a state of transformation-old ones are either revitalized or else they come to an end; new ones are formed. You are independent, confident and ready to form fun relationships. You love attention and somehow manage to gravitate to the center of almost any group or happening. A relationship that temporarily went off the track can now be restored. Accept a game challenge today-lots of laughter is available. Over the last few weeks you may have heard someone talk about what they were doing to create some energy-saving techniques. You may begin to think along this same path of thinking. This could mean the purchase of a solar panel or the careful planning of the way you use electricity or gas. Your friends may have some ideas.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may be able to enjoy and value your own life situation this day or you could feel especially kind toward a friend or loved one. You always find the resources you require at hand plus the necessary instruction on how to use them. You may find yourself as a go-between with others. You could even have a special gift for spanning the generation gap, bringing older and younger spirits together. Quick answers, great wit and a surplus of insights and solutions are easy to find. This is a good time to write and communicate with real originality. Inventions and breakthroughs are possible. All sorts of creative activities are possible-fishing, camping, etc. Close relationships take on more depth. You are happy to make this an attitude-of-gratitude weekend.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You enjoy life yourself and can go one better when it comes to teasing, perhaps too far at times. Your friends may have plans that include you today so you might be attentive in your need to tell a joke or tease ... Wait until asked or invited by the friend that winks. You will enjoy activities from garage sales to some form of indoor sports. Your appetite for high activity is probably well known and well noted. Sports, outdoor activities and everything physical are high on your list of favorites. Feelings are something you express easily and you appreciate others doing the same. This is a creative period for you, a time to take a chance and a time to be appreciated. An evening with a loved one now can bring new understandings.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a good day for money ... An old debt will be paid and new opportunities are available. Put work aside, or be willing to take interruptions today. Your dreams and ideals are very important to you and you methodically go about putting them into practice. A young family member needs your attention this afternoon. You may be asked for your advice regarding some very personal and perhaps emotional issues surrounding this person. Try not to be too quick with your answers-this person may just want to talk. You will be able to be understanding and clever with new ideas that will be helpful. Tonight is for entertaining. Show off your cooking talents with healthy and fun finger foods that are easy and enjoyable.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

New means of self-expression and communication are possible. You may find yourself changing your appearance, moving toward the more unconventional and less traditional. A shopping expedition with a young person can be fun today, especially if you do not try to accomplish everything in one day. Careful-you appreciate tradition and your value system is dead set against anything new or out of the ordinary; however, this young person may have some out of the ordinary ideas about purchases. There is a chance to understand and have some special time with him or her. General good feelings and a sense of support and harmony make this a happy time. There is a strong drive to unify and simplify.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are ready for some sort of change in your appearance-an update, maybe. This could mean a new hairstyle, new clothes, etc. Cutting through the unessential and superficial you can seek and find some important nutritional changes that you would like to make for yourself. You are determined to conserve and take care of yourself. This is a good time to plan your path to better health. This whole month is good for beginning a diet or an exercise program. There could be encouragement from others today in the way you think, speak or write. Communications of all kinds are enjoyed. Enjoy yourself in a social situation. When you love, you love with energy and passion. Someone you love expresses appreciation for you this evening.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You can easily entertain a group of people if you are called upon to do so. Today you could be entertaining young people. At the very least, the gift of gab is highlighted. Working with or teaching others and communicating via the mind in general are fun for you and you have a special way of presenting most any subject matter in the most unique of ways. As a natural storyteller, you are at home in the world of myths and dreams. Your sense of discernment when it comes to matters of literary and intellectual taste is very refined. You could write poetry or prose and you put a very high value on the written word. You enjoy nothing more than a good conversation and may be very adept at speaking. When extra money is needed, communication is your tool.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is an easy, calm day that should find everything running smoothly. You can demonstrate great understanding and sensitivity about the needs of others and may find that today is a good opportunity to volunteer or encourage a volunteer attitude. You can help others learn problem-solving techniques. You may find yourself intervening and smoothing out negative situations. You are able to handle delicate matters without ever breaking stride. Emotional and tender areas of the human psyche do not slow your progress. You enjoy getting beneath the surface and you have an innate savvy for handling touchy subjects and people. You love social life and relationships of all kinds: partnerships, marriages, teacher-student, etc.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You have a natural sense of what others want and you will try your best to please. Your loved ones have shown great patience toward you lately and you want to show them your appreciation now. In-depth discussions and probing conversations find you at your mental best. Your ability to discern a proper outcome is very good. This is a great time to be with others in some fun activity. There could be an interest in group sports, hobbies, movie, dinner out, etc. Information that you have been examining and thinking about will now begin to take shape and prove useful to you. This next period is one of action and embarking on new projects. You will feel more and more confident and outgoing with a sense of confidence that grows stronger each day.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You enjoy working with your mind and your sharp perceptions make finding new solutions easy. Today your occupation seems to be with puzzles. This afternoon you may be expected to do your share in helping with some family project. You always bring an unexpected twist or insight to anything you set your mind to do. You are able to teach or help others to be more original when it comes to the words or thoughts they use. Be careful not to correct others too often. You can use the mind in original ways and probably have excellent eye-hand coordination. Your laser-like mind makes conversations fast-paced and illuminating. Dinner out with family or friends could bring much laughter. The opera, a concert or some other similar entertainment is engaging.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You have a natural sense for communicating with others, especially young people. Clear thoughts about the past may also be flowing in at this time. You and a family member may find some fun time to work on a photograph book or bring an old scrap-book up to date. This afternoon you may be attending a shower, wedding or some celebration that involves friends or family. A reunion of sorts is in the forecast today and there is much celebration. This is a vital day with much enthusiasm and lots of action. You may feel focused and even a bit radiant. You could find that you can really communicate and get your ideas across to others. A well-planned life can help you avoid stress, but occasionally, like today, you may enjoy a bit of impulsiveness.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Spending money may pacify you, but it can get out of control. Dealing with money in sound, well-balanced ways is an important lesson to master at this time. You will soon be exposed to new ideas in the area of finances-take notes but no action just yet. Plan to stash some of your cash in a safe place for a "rainy day" be wise in your choice of words if you are teaching-stay away from criticisms. Your intuition rings true. Focus on plans for travel later today. This is a time for imagination and creativity when it comes to ideas. This, together with the ability to put your thoughts into words, allows you to enchant most listeners. A good book or movie would be appreciated by you this evening. Relax and enjoy someone else's story tonight.

WORD SEARCH

Baby

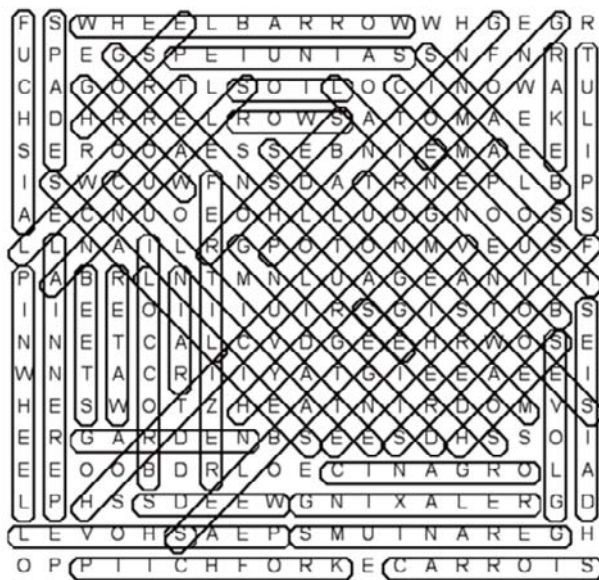
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining 50 letters spell a secret message.



ALERT	DADDY	LULLABY	RUBBER DUCK
AWAKE	DIAPER	MILK	SIPPY CUP
BLANKET	DROOL	MOBILE	SKIN CARE
BODYSUIT	FEED	MOMMY	SLEEP
BOOSTER SEAT	FORMULA	MONITOR	SMALL
BOTTLE	GIGGLE	NURSERY	SMILE
BOWL	GRIN	ONESIE	SPOON
CAR SEAT	HIGHCHAIR	PACIFIER	STROLLER
CARRIER	HOODIE	PARENTS	SWING
COLIC	INFANT	PLAY	TEDDY BEAR
CREAM	INNOCENT	POWDER	TEETHER
CRIB	JUMPER	RASH	TIRED
CRYING	LAUGH	RATTLE	WIPES

Yesterday Solution

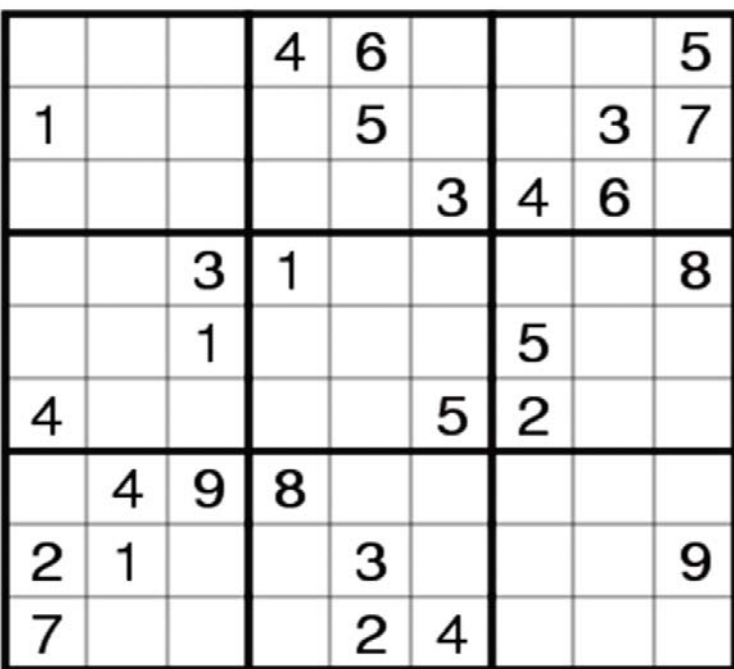
Gardening



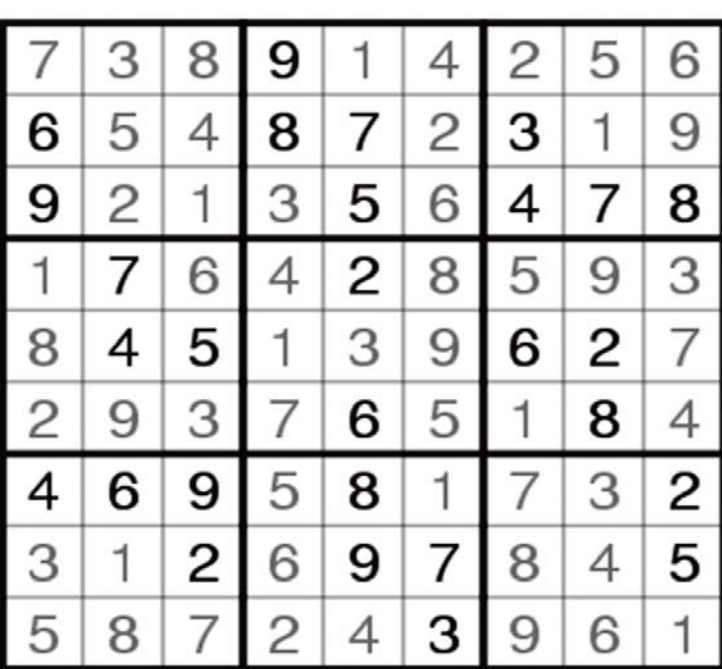
ANNUALS	GARDEN	ORGANIC	SEEDS
BEANS	GERANIUMS	PEAS	SHOVEL
BEETS	GLOVES	PERENNIAL	SOIL
BIENNIAL	GNOME	PETUNIAS	SPADE
BROCCOLI	GREENHOUSE	PINWHEEL	SUNSHINE
CARROTS	GROW	PITCH FORK	TOMATOES
COMPOST	HOES	PLANTING	TROWEL
CULTIVATE	HORTICULTURE	RAIN	TULIPS
DAISIES	HOSE	RAKE	VEGETABLES
DIGGING	HYDRANGEA	RELAXING	WATER
FERTILIZER	LILACS	ROSES	WEEDS
FLOWERS	LILIES	ROWS	WHEELBARROW
FUCHSIA	MARIGOLDS		

The hidden message is: WHERE FLOWERS BLOOM SO DOES HOPE

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries
and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlās Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

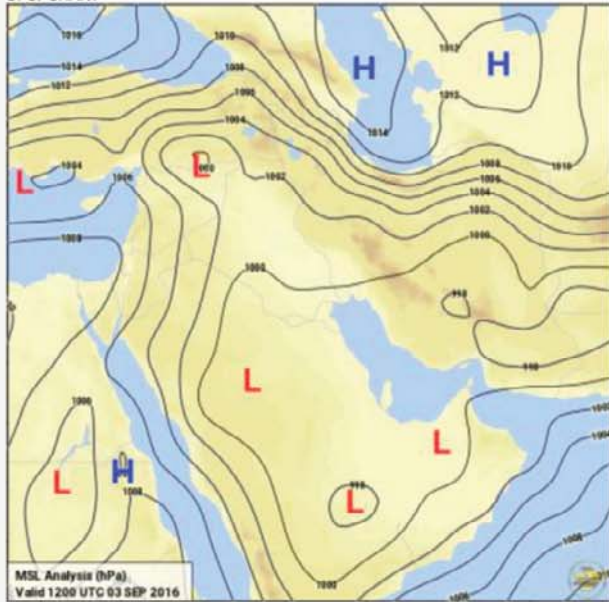
Issued 03/09/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 30 °C

By Night :Relatively hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate north easterly to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 22 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

By Day : Very hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.

SFC. CHART



MTL Analysis (RPA)
Valid 1200 UTC 03 SEP 2016

Four-Day Forecast

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Expected Weather	very hot +relatively humid over coastal areas+ scattered clouds	very hot + raising dust over open areas	very hot + blowing dust	hot + raising dust
Min Temp °C	30	31	32	33
Max Temp °C	49	48	47	46
Wind Direction	variable wind changing to south easterly	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 28	20 - 45	25 - 50	25 - 50

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	35	46
KUWAIT AIRPORT	30	48
ABDALY	29	48
BUBYAN	29	40
JAHRA	34	49
FAILAKA ISLAND	32	42
SALMIYAH	34	42
AHMADI	34	43
JAL ALIYAH	31	48
QAROH ISLAND	33	37
UMM AL-MARADEM	33	38
NUWAISIB	30	45
WAFRA	29	48
MANAGISH	32	48
SALMY	31	48
MUTRIBA	30	51

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	49
Min Temp (°C)	32
Max Rel Hum (%)	56
Min Rel Hum (%)	08
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	28 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

	Sunrise	05:27
	Sunset	18:07

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:05
Sunrise	05:27
Zuhr	11:47
Asr	15:20
Sunset	18:07
Isha	19:27

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tone	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor 25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea 25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner 24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali 25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel 25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah 25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory 25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary 22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz 25651426
General Practitioners
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi 24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar 24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaazem 22636920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi 25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadad 25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoubi 24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae 25333501
Urologists
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy 22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul 22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi 22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C) 25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph 66703427

Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari 22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60
Family Doctor
Dr Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians
DrAdrian arbe 23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin 2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan 22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami 25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272
Dr. Salem soso 22618787
General Surgeons
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart
Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan 25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub 24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3

Paediatricians
Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof 25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujar 23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282
Dermatology
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955
Dentists
Dr Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer 22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan 22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash 22525888
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan 25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111
Neurologists
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875
Gastrologists
Dr. Sami Aman 22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali 22633135

Endocrinologist
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924
Physiotherapists & VD
Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees 22666288
Rheumatologists:
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart
DR.Mohammes Akkad 24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667
Consultant Cardiologist
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC 2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123

Psychologists
/Psychotherapists

Soor Center
Tel: 2290-1677
Fax: 2290 1688

info@soorcenter.com
www.soorcenter.com

Kaizen center
25716707

Noor Clinic
23845955

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677
Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

G O S S I P

Colin Firth does not understand unusual attraction

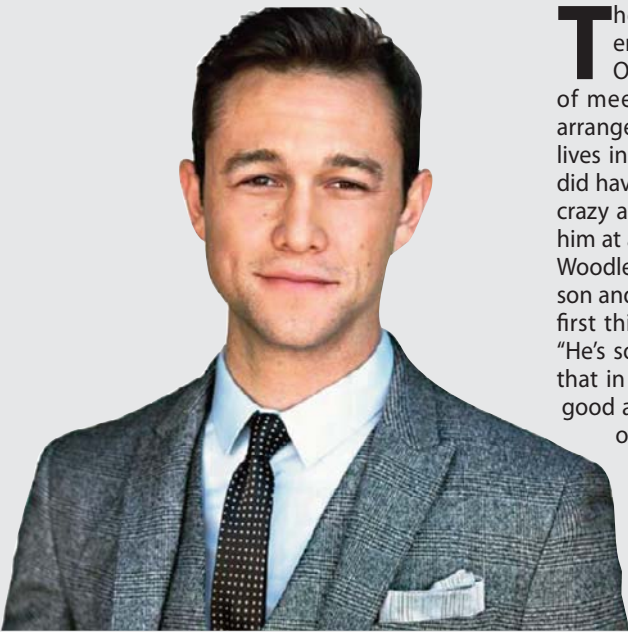


The 55-year-old actor famously played the iconic Jane Austen character in a 1995 TV adaptation of the novel - but remains bemused by Mr Darcy's popularity among women. He confessed: "Women being attracted to him took me by surprise. "Jane Austen writes very well about women, but she doesn't really write about men from their perspective, and when I took on the role of Darcy it seemed to me that he was imperious and stiff and forbidding, and I didn't know what there was to play apart from him scowling all the time." The role proved to be a land-

mark moment in Firth's career, but he still cannot explain the allure of the character. The Oscar-winning star told the Daily Mail newspaper: "I thought it would be quite fun and liberating to play someone who was completely and utterly dislikeable, unsympathetic, judgemental and snobbish. "I didn't have to think about bringing charm to the role - the way I saw it, I just had to stand there and make everyone hate me ... then this weird thing happened where people liked him, which wasn't what I was expecting at all! We're 20 years on and I still don't understand it." Firth stars

as Mr Darcy in the 'Bridget Jones' franchise - and he considers that character to be considerably more likeable. But he added: "I know people who are as introverted as he is, but there are very, very few people who are quite as emotionally constipated. "I'm not, myself. I mean, when I'm on my best behaviour and in public, I do revert to a kind of English politeness. And when I'm in Italy, where my wife is from, I do feel very English. But I'm not as repressed as Mark Darcy."

Gordon-Levitt travelled to Russia to meet Edward Snowden



The 35-year-old actor stars as the controversial former CIA employee, who leaked classified information in 2013, in a new Oliver Stone-directed movie, and has recalled his experience of meeting the US political exile. Joseph - whose visits were arranged by Snowden's attorneys in the US and Russia, where he lives in exile - shared: "A few months before shooting the movie, I did have a chance to sit with him in person. "It was honestly not as crazy as you would imagine. "I flew to Moscow and went and met him at an office." Joseph, who stars in the movie alongside Shailene Woodley, admitted he relished the chance to study Snowden in person and learn more about his character. He told People: "One of the first things I noticed actually was, he's got really good manners. "He's sort of old-fashioned, in a way. You don't necessarily expect that in today's world, or when you think of someone who's really good at computers. "You don't necessarily equate that with someone who's got a lot of social grace. But what can I say? He's from North Carolina."I think they put a lot more emphasis on good manners there than they do where I'm from in Southern California. I really noticed that. I wanted to incorporate it into my performance of him." Snowden, meanwhile, previously appeared in the Academy Award-winning documentary 'Citizenfour', although he insisted he had no commercial interest in the film.



Rory Feek can't buy wife's headstone

The 51-year-old singer-songwriter lost his wife to cervical cancer in March this year and Rory admitted he is still struggling to come to terms with her death. Discussing the emotional turmoil caused by Joey's death, Rory told CBS: "I don't know why, I just can't. "I don't know if it's that she's so simple, and a wooden cross is part of what she would like. It probably has something to do with permanence. So, for now, I can sit out here and feel like it's - it's maybe just temporary. Although I know it's not." Rory - who shared daughter Indiana, two, with Joey - revealed he has built a bench and placed it next to where his ex-partner is buried. He said: "I got a place for my coffee and hers. And we still have coffee together." Joey + Rory were nominated for the Best Country Duo/Group award at this year's Grammy Awards, but Rory admitted he has

found it difficult to return to music since Joey's passing. He shared: "I don't want to go on stage without her. "That's what I'm thinking about right now. I just don't want to make music without her. But I also know time changes things. So I won't say never. It's just where I am today." Rory previously admitted he couldn't find the words to express how much his beloved wife had meant to him at her funeral. He explained: "When it came my time to speak, I walked up on the stage and stood looking at my wife's sweet picture ... and words were not enough to let her know how much she meant to me - how much she still means to me."

RYDER STILL GETS FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS

The 44-year-old actress stars in the supernatural series 'Stranger Things' and although she does not follow the reaction of online critics, she is aware of the show's popularity courtesy of her parents. In response to the fan reaction to her latest on-screen role, she said: "It was definitely overwhelming. "I have a pretty good system, I'm not on the internet that much, but my parents are, and they forward me the good stuff. They've always sort of been like that." Indeed, Winona claimed the reaction to 'Stranger Things' has been more positive than she usually witnesses, admitting it has been "humbling." Winona - who plays the part of Joyce Byers, the emotional mother of a young boy who goes missing - told 'Jimmy Kimmel Live': "It's always like, 'Oh, Winona Ryder gave a good performance', or something like that, but with this, it was different. "It's been incredible. It's been amazing, overwhelming, humbling." 'Stranger Things' is available via Netflix, and Winona has become the face of a recent price hike from the streaming service. She said: "The day that the show was coming out, I got an email from [Netflix] saying the price was going up to \$12.99. "And it was like, there was an ad for the show with my face. It's dangerous but great! I binge watch." In the show, Winona's character spends the much of the series in tears - but the actress still enjoyed the shoot. Winona said: "It was a very fun shoot, but it was a weird fun because I'm strike old school in my approach. "I'm allergic to the stuff they blow in actor's eyes sometimes when they're out of liquid in their body. You have to really be hydrated to be able to cry that much."



Madonna has blasted Donald Trump's sons

The 58-year-old pop star has taken to Instagram to post a now-infamous photo of the duo posing with a dead leopard they are believed to have killed during a hunting expedition to Zimbabwe in 2012, saying it is "one more reason" she will be voting for Trump's US Presidential rival Hillary Clinton. Alongside the controversial photograph, Madonna wrote: "How Big of P****y Do you have to BE to kill this Noble Animal for sport? Just ask Donald Trump Jr and his brother Eric. One more reason to vote for Hilary! (sic)" This comes shortly after Madonna visited Africa as part of her own philanthropic efforts. During her trip, the chart-topping singer met with the First Lady of Kenya, Margaret Kenyatta, with whom she discussed "eliminating" mortality among mothers and babies. The 'Ray of Light' singer shared a picture of herself alongside Margaret on her Instagram account, which she captioned: "Meeting with Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta, the first lady of Kenya! Learning about her Beyond Zero Campaign which targets eliminating maternal and child mortality in Kenya and hoping to join forces to promote Female Empowerment! (sic)." The mother-of-four also visited Kibera, Africa's biggest slum, during the trip to raise awareness of the poor living conditions in the country. Alongside one picture of young children, she simply wrote: "Striking a Pose in Kibera! Rebel Hearts (sic)." Madonna also posted a picture of a litter-strewn river and wrote: "Imagine this is where your water comes from! @shofco is working to change this in Kibera, Africa's largest slum.(sic)"

Zellweger found returning to the spotlight to be 'scary'

The 47-year-old actress took a six-year break from the industry, but recently returned to star in the much-discussed 'Bridget Jones's Baby' - and Renee admits to initially harbouring a few nerves about her comeback. The actress - who first starred as Bridget in 2001 - confessed: "It was scary coming back. "Especially since I love this character and didn't want to disappoint anybody. I always feel a slight twinge of impostor syndrome when I go to work - it's an ever-present sentiment for me that I'll be thinking, 'OK, this is the time I'm going to be discovered and fired' - and after being away for so long, it was strong this time. "But from the moment I read the script, I was reminded of how much I love Bridget and how much I love her family and her friends, so once I'd gotten past my fear, it was a very happy experience." Meanwhile, Renee revealed she relished the experience of pretending to be pregnant for the new movie. She told the Daily Mail newspaper: "The prosthetic baby bump was a substantial number, and it took a long time to put on and - importantly - take off, so I wasn't drinking a lot of water because if I needed to go to the bathroom, everyone would have to wait a good 20 minutes for me to get back! "But it was beautifully built. Kind of like a swimsuit, but with a tank top underneath to keep the weepy rubbery material off my skin, and then a couple of tank tops on top to smooth it out, and then whatever the wardrobe was on top of that. "It was heavy, which was essential to look realistic. I had advice from friends who had been pregnant and one said to me, 'You shouldn't put your hands on your back like that, pregnant women don't really walk around with their hands on their backs.' "But it's my back that really hurt while I was wearing the prosthetic, and I say kudos to the ladies who have been through it in real life!"





Rihanna ‘loves’ Drake

The 29-year-old rapper confessed his feelings for the ‘Diamonds’ hitmaker on stage in front of the world as he presented her with the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award at the MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs) at Madison Square Garden in New York last weekend, and she has now thanked him for his touching speech. In a post on Instagram, she expressed her gratitude to supermodel Naomi Campbell, singer Mary J Blige and actress Tracee Ellis Ross before praising her rumoured boyfriend’s introductory speech. Sharing a video of her own acceptance speech, she wrote: Thank you to the beautiful @iamnaomi-campbell @therealmaryjblige @traceeellisross for your kind words! @champagnebabi (Drake) your speech was so touching and I love you for that! “All in all...Best night ever!!! I’m a lucky girl!!! To God be the Glory!”The ‘Work’ singer also praised her family and friends for their support and thanked MTV for assisting her in making her “challenging” performance a success.She wrote: “#VMA2016 night was one that I would never forget!! I have the most incredible people in my life! My family, friends, loved ones, my

fans, my team!!! All gifted beautiful spirits! And I’m so grateful that God has precisely and flawlessly arranged our paths to meet at each other! It’s because of you that I was able to reach this moment in my career! And it’s also because of you that I was able to pull off a night like this one, with 4 medley performances, 4 set productions, 4 outfits, 4 hair and makeup looks, and all in 4 days of rehearsals! It was a challenge but I wanted nothing more than to give my fans a true representation of all the colors that I’m made of as an artist! My journey has been filled with growth and people who continue to inspire me! Forever grateful to everyone involved creatively, from choreography all the way to wardrobe and production! @MTV team you were a dream to work with! (sic)” In his introductory speech, Drake - who hasn’t officially confirmed his relationship with Rihanna despite months of speculation - said he’d been in love with the ‘Work’ singer for years.

MICHAEL J. FOX PUTS FAMILY VACATION HOME ON THE MARKET

The 55-year-old actor, who is best known for his starring role in the ‘Back to the Future’ franchise, has decided to put the property he and his wife Tracy Pollan built in 1997 up for sale, despite previously describing it as his “fantasy” and “the best therapy possible”. The spectacular-looking estate in Sharon, Connecticut, boasts five bedrooms and is situated next door to Tracy’s parents and her brother. The decision to sell the property comes as something of a surprise too, as Michael has previously spoken of how much he has loved spending time there. Reflecting on what he likes about the property, he said: “The word that comes to mind - not to sound pretentious - is honest. “Though there are things in the house that are purely for the eye, that please us - I have an affection for folk art, though not to excess - everything has a purpose. “There’s

no hyperbole, nothing that’s there for its own sake, which creates a flow that’s relaxing and easy.” Michael, who has four children - Sam, 27, twins Schuyler and Aquinnah, 21, and 14-year-old Esme - also previously said the property was where he went when he wanted to escape his everyday stresses. He explained: “It’s a fantasy, a place we go to on weekends where everything else falls away. “To have the project realized the way it was is a real luxury.” Michael was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease in 1991, at age 29, and said the house has provided him with a “wonderful escape”. He shared: “A lot of people working on it didn’t know about my health ... yet they created for me the best therapy possible: this wonderful escape where I can be with my family.”



Amy Schumer felt responsible for the 2015 killings

The 35-year-old comedian has revealed she blamed herself in the immediate aftermath of the murders of Mayci, 21, and Jillian, 33, who were watching a screening of Amy’s hit movie ‘Trainwreck’ in Lafayette when they were fatally injured by gunman John Russel Houser. Amy admitted: “It’s like yes, of course, yes, you connect to that, two women were murdered. But knowing it was my movie, and ... that they went and they bought tickets and wanted to go see this movie, it just crushed me. I felt so powerless. “And it felt a little bit like something that I had done, that there was a connection to me actually hurting people. “I didn’t really know how to react. I was so upset. [Then] I got really angry, and I was like, this is not OK. I want to really do something.” In response to the incident, Amy threw her support behind the campaign to introduce tighter gun controls in the US. And the Hollywood star said the issue is one she remains passionate about to this day. She told the ‘Lenny Letter’ series: “I started going to events and meeting all these families of victims. “I am a lifer, I am in this. I really hope I don’t have to die for it, but I would.” Indeed, Amy - who wrote and starred in ‘Trainwreck’ - acknowledged that her position on the issue of gun control has made her an obvious target. She explained: “Security is up. I’m really trying to protect myself. I am not being an idiot.”



Dunham has accused Odell Beckham Jr of ignoring her

The 30-year-old actress, who was sat next to the sports star at the glitzy event at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, claimed Odell ignored her because he did not consider her to be attractive. Lena shared: “I was sitting next to Odell Beckham Jr., and it was so amazing because it was like he looked at me and he determined I was not the shape of a woman by his standards. “He was like, ‘That’s a marshmallow. That’s a child. That’s a dog.’ It wasn’t mean - he just seemed confused.” Lena, who attended the Gala in a smart-looking tuxedo, said that Odell spent more time on his phone than he did talking to her. She told the ‘Lenny Letters’ series: “The vibe was very much like, ‘Do I want to f*** it? Is it wearing a ... yep, it’s wearing a tuxedo. I’m going to go back to my cell phone.’ “It was like we were forced to be together, and he literally was scrolling Instagram rather than have to look at a woman in a bow tie. “I was like, ‘This should be called the Metropolitan Museum of Getting Rejected by Athletes.’” Odell - who is one of the biggest-name players in the NFL in America - has been linked with numerous celebrities in recent months, including Khloe Kardashian and Demi Lovato. Earlier this year, photographs emerged of Odell and Khloe supposedly flirting at a party hosted by rapper Drake. Subsequently, however, Odell claimed the images almost destroyed a relationship he had with another woman. At the time, he said: “Things go like that and then some other girl that I may have been talking to hears about it, and now it’s more drama, more commotion in my life. “And I’m sitting here trying to explain my situation to somebody, and it’s not even a situation.”



ALICIA KEYS FINDS GOING WITHOUT MAKE-UP ‘REALLY EMPOWERING’

The 35-year-old singer has made a string of public appearances recently without any cosmetic enhancement and she finds her bare-faced look “really freeing” and thinks it spreads a similar message to her music. Speaking on ‘Today’, she said: “[It’s] really freeing. The thing is... it kinda came from because we put so many limitations on ourselves, we put limitations on each other, society puts limitations on us, and in a lot of ways, I’m sick of it, I’m over it.” And that’s in a lot of ways, what the music is about, it’s about being our own unique selves, because we each have something that no one else has and it would be so amazing to embrace each other, how we are.” Though the ‘Empire State of Mind’ singer “loves” her cosmetics, she doesn’t want to feel obliged to paint her face whenever she goes out in public. She explained: “I love make-up! I love my lip gloss, I love my blush, I love my eyeliner.” It’s not about that. But at the same time, I don’t want to feel beholden to have to do it.” While Alicia - who has sons Egypt, five, and Genesis, eight months, with hus-

band Swizz Beats - is happy with her decision, she insists she isn’t planning to urge other women to follow in her footsteps. She said: “I just wanna be honest to myself, and all of us should be honest to ourselves.” Just be yourself and have a great time, and do what makes you feel good as opposed to trying to please every damn body.” The ‘No One’ singer made her decision after arriving for a photoshoot and the photographer insisting on taking her picture before she had begun getting ready. She previously recalled: “I was shocked. “Instantly, I became a bit nervous and slightly uncomfortable. My face was totally raw. I had on a sweatshirt! As far as I was concerned, this was my quick run-to-the-shoot-so-I-can-get-ready look, not the actual photoshoot look.” But after seeing the pictures, Alicia had never felt more “honestly beautiful”. She admitted: “I swear it is the strongest, most empowered, most free, and most honestly beautiful that I have ever felt.”



Amber Rose doesn’t know why she’s famous

The 32-year-old model - who previously dated Kanye West and has a three-year-old son, Sebastian, with ex-husband Wiz Khalifa - insists she never wanted to be “a celebrity” and had a “very hard time” with people criticizing her even though they didn’t really know her. Asked who she admires, she singled out Madonna and her mother and added: “And myself. Because I came such a long way. “I didn’t really want to be a celebrity. It just kind of happened to me. Without even asking, the paparazzi is following me around and I’m like, ‘I’m just a regular girl from Philly. I don’t know why you guys are following me. This is really weird.’ “And then the entire world is ridiculing me for things I’ve never even done. It really sucked and it was a very hard time in my life.” But these days, Amber - who will compete on the upcoming season of ‘Dancing With the Stars’ doesn’t care about people’s opinions as she has no time for negativity, and hopes her outlook

inspires others. She told America’s Harper’s Bazaar magazine: “Now I still see those things but I’m completely over it. I threw negativity out the window and just live my life for me and my baby. Hopefully I inspire women to do the same in life, with whatever makes them happy.” And Amber admits her own experiences have taught her to be less judgemental. She said: “I think you need a very strong mind to be on social media because people are mean and ignorant out there. And I was one of those people. I remember back in Philly and I was poor and TMZ just came out and Paris Hilton was everywhere like, ‘People don’t understand how hard I work. I work really, really hard.’ And I was like, ‘Is this b***h serious right now? She’s an heiress.’ “But when I got this fame and I met Paris and she’s super sweet and she works really, really hard. It’s not easy. I had to live that and understand that life to not pass judgment.”



FEATURES



Women hold signs reading “Is it not a provocation, just my freedom of conscience” during a “headscarf march” organized by the Collective against Islamophobia “Respect Equality Dignity” in Avignon, southern France. — AFP photos

French uproar creates opportunity for Israeli burkini makers

France’s burkini controversy is boosting the bottom line for Israeli makers of modest women’s swimwear. The country, home to large populations of conservative Jewish and Muslim women, has cultivated a local industry of modest swimsuits, and the full-body outfits that have caused uproar in France have been a common sight on Israeli beaches for several years.

Marci Rapp was among the first to enter the industry after she moved to Jerusalem from Toronto in 2008. The warm Mediterranean climate presented a fashion challenge because she keeps her arms and legs covered, in keeping with Jewish rules of modesty. “I had nothing to wear,” she said. “I couldn’t find something that was suitable for me to feel comfortable when I was more covered.”

Rapp started the MarSea Modest swimwear company, which sells dresses, shorts, shirts and head coverings made of lightweight, chlorine-resistant Italian fabric, sewn in Tel Aviv. Business has grown at least 10 percent a year since she started, she said, in part due to her energetic sales tactics - such as handing out flyers to women wearing drenched long skirts at the beach. Only a few of her clients

are Muslim, Rapp says, because they require more conservative swimwear than she offers. The burkini, coined by an Australian-Lebanese designer about a decade ago, covers the head, torso and limbs with lightweight swim fabric. Rapp’s swimsuits do not include hoods, which most observant Muslim women prefer, and many of her styles do not reach to the wrists and ankles.

Bumped up sales

Nevertheless, Rapp said the burkini controversy has drawn attention to her company, which she runs out of her Jerusalem living room, and has bumped her sales by a few percentage points, though she declined to provide sales figures. Her swimsuits sell for about \$100. Rapp said she was baffled by the decision of several French towns to ban full-body swimwear. The ban was later overturned by France’s top court, the Council of State. As a result, the ban is likely to be lifted across France, but only once a legal challenge is brought to the local courts of each of the 30 or so French municipalities affected.

“What does a woman do in France who wants to cover

up for sun protection or who wants to cover up some scarring, or if she is a little overweight and she doesn’t want to wear a bikini?” she asked. “It doesn’t make any sense that they are banning a specific type of modest swimwear. It’s very racist to me.” Itay Yaacov, a journalist at the fashion site Xnet, estimated that over the last decade, about a dozen Israeli companies have begun making modest swimwear. The outfits have become a global trend, he added, saying even secular women have begun pairing long sleeved shirts with bikini bottoms. Most Israeli companies are small and cater to the local market, he said.

But some have greater reach. Anat Yahav started the SunWay company to make UV-protective clothing for children in 1998 with headquarters north of Tel Aviv. Then, she said, Muslim customers asked her to make an adult model with long sleeves, legs and hoods. Finally, Jewish women chimed in and requested short-sleeved and three-quarter length dresses and pants. Today, Yahav runs three company shops in Israel and exports worldwide via her site, Amazon and distributors in Greece, Germany, New Zealand and the United States.

Yahav said the uproar in France increased her sales and gave her a sense of pride at Israeli acceptance of the conservative swimwear. She boasted that she has never had a case where a customer was kicked out of a pool for covering up. “Finally we are the normal ones,” she said with a chuckle. Sahab Nasser sells SunWay burkinis at her lingerie shop in Tira, a mostly Muslim town in central Israel. She said she sold burkinis for four years before she finally bought one so she could accompany her three-year-old daughter in the pool. It has been life-changing for her and other Muslim women, she said, because previously they would stay out of the water while the men and children in their families would go swimming. “The burkini has let (Arab women) go to the beach, spend quality time with the family, to go to mixed gender pools, to swim with their families and feel comfortable, without criticism,” she said. “Who said the bikini is the right look for the beach?” — AP



These file photos taken on September 1, 2016 show a “Fire Garden”, designed by French fire masters Compagnie Carabosse, is performed outside of the Tate Modern in central London as part of the London’s Burning festival of events commemorating the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London in London. — AFP photos

BURNING REPLICA TO MARK GREAT FIRE OF LONDON ANNIVERSARY

A giant replica of 17th-century London will be set ablaze in the city this weekend to mark the 350th anniversary of the devastating Great Fire of London. The 1666 inferno destroyed most of the walled inner city dating back to Roman times-a bustling, congested maze of tightly-packed wooden houses. It forced London to rebuild anew from the ashes. Now the city is looking back to when it lay in ruins-with a few shuddering sights to remind Londoners of the peril faced by their predecessors. The London’s Burning programme of events commemorating the disaster culminates in Sunday’s torching of a 120-metre (394-foot) long wooden replica of old London-moored in the River Thames to prevent the fire from spreading again.

“It will look spectacular,” said Helen Marriage, director of creative events company Artichoke, which is staging the London’s Burning programme. The recreation was built by US

‘burn artist’ David Best and can be watched worldwide on a livestream from 8:25pm (1925 GMT) today.

City in ashes

The Great Fire of London broke out in Thomas Farrinor’s bakery on Pudding Lane shortly after midnight on September 2, 1666 and gradually spread through the city. The fire was finally extinguished on September 5, with around 80 percent of the walled city in ruins. It consumed 13,200 houses, 87 parish churches and Saint Paul’s Cathedral. Only six deaths were officially attributed to the fire, though an estimated 70,000 of the 80,000 residents were forced to flee, most to squalid camps outside the city walls.

Various scapegoats were blamed, chiefly Catholics and foreigners. Robert Hubert, a French watchmaker, confessed to starting the blaze and was swiftly hanged-though he was

actually at sea when the fire broke out. The London of today, with its characteristic English Baroque architecture in grey Portland stone, was built from the ashes of the wooden city, though the old street layout was retained to respect property rights. The Monument column commemorates the fire near where it started but Pudding Lane itself is now an unremarkable concrete-lined back road.

The new St Paul’s Cathedral, still the centrepiece of the city, was completed 44 years after the Great Fire. Nick Bodger, head of cultural and visitor development for the City of London, said the capital’s resilience-witnessed again during the 1940s Blitz-helped it rebuild and survive. “350 years ago, when embers from a baker’s oven sparked one of the most catastrophic events the capital has ever witnessed, London’s economic prowess almost came to a fiery end,” he told reporters. “A renewed sense of purpose saw the great city we enjoy today rise from those ashes, develop and thrive.”



This file photo taken on August 30, 2016 shows the final touches being made to a 120 metre-long wooden sculpture of London’s skyline from the seventeenth century as it is moored up on the river Thames in London.

Filmmaker Ava DuVernay conquers TV with ‘Queen Sugar’

The new family drama “Queen Sugar” follows three estranged siblings in a rural Louisiana town as they struggle to make sense of their lives while preserving a family legacy: a failing sugar-cane farm. Nova (Rutina Wesley, “True Blood”) is a fiery journalist and activist. Charley (Dawn-Lyen Gardner, “Unforgettable”) is the wife and no-nonsense manager of an NBA star. Ralph Angel (Kofi Siriboe, “Awkward”) is a devoted young father with a criminal past. The series, which premieres on OWN network Tuesday and Wednesday at 10 p.m. EDT, is based on the novel by Natalie Baszile, and is executive produced by Oprah Winfrey and Ava DuVernay (the acclaimed filmmaker of the Oscar-nominated “Selma” and a new documentary, “The 13th”), who is also the series’ creator as well as one of its writers and directors. Here, in edited remarks, is what DuVernay and her three stars had to say recently about “Queen Sugar”:

WHY THIS PROJECT?

“I love good family dramas,” said DuVernay. “Not super plot-driven, but character-driven stories. And I thought, ‘Gosh, I wish I could see that with some black folk.’” A while back, Winfrey handed her Baszile’s novel to read on holiday. “Oprah sent me to Maui,” DuVernay laughed, “and I ended up with work.” The book - up close and personal, yet broad in scope - sparked the series she had always wanted to see. “Charley is dealing with her family in the South while she’s pursuing a professional life in Los Angeles. With Ralph Angel, what a great opportunity to get to know a formerly incarcerated black man - the second-class citizens we make them. And in this incredible Black Lives Matter moment, which I think parallels in so many ways the civil rights movement, it’s incredible to have a character in Nova who embodies that spirit. I fell in love with the possibilities.”

GROWING POSSIBILITIES

DuVernay first envisioned “Queen Sugar” as an 8-episode limited series. Then it grew to 13 episodes. And then it was picked up for a 16-episode second season, with no end in sight. One challenge for DuVernay in adapting to open-ended series TV: keeping audiences hooked from week to week - or even during each commercial break. “Most people aren’t going to walk out of a theater, but it’s really easy for them to turn to another channel,” she noted. “I knew there had to be heightened moments which are probably bigger than I usually do. I had to find the humanity within the more melodramatic moments, and it was important to find actors that could bring reality to situations that might otherwise feel hyper-real. “But I’m really married to this project,” she added. “I have story ideas for Season 4!”

TRUTH FROM FICTION

“Ava is incredibly loyal and committed to story,” Dawn-Lyen Gardner said. “She really is interested not just in turning out episodes - she is dedicated to the truth of story, to the truth of character, to the truth of a world that our show is creating.” Rutina Wesley: “Ava’s very detailed in her work, as we see in her films, so she just brought that right to TV. She creates such a safe environment, and her intention - not just about the show, but the way that we’re gonna create it - is so strong that it guides everything.” —AP



Ava DuVernay



Miss Michigan, Arianna Quan reacts as she is introduced during Miss America Pageant arrival ceremonies. — AP photos



Miss Wyoming, Jordyn Hall is introduced during Miss America Pageant arrival ceremonies.



Miss District of Columbia, Cierra Jackson is introduced during Miss America Pageant arrival ceremonies.

Pet monkey, Rockette, Tebow dreams for Miss America hopefuls

Many of the 52 contestants in this year's Miss America pageant want to cure diseases, end bullying, succeed in business or launch careers that will make them famous. But the secret wish of one is to own a pet monkey, another's career goal is to work with penguins at a zoo exhibit, and a third wants to sit next to Anna Wintour at New York Fashion Week. One wants to be the first lady of her state, one wants to be a backup dancer for Beyoncé, one wants to be a Rockette, and still another wants to meet former NFL quarterback Tim Tebow and work at one of his orphanages in the Philippines. Then there is the woman hoping to become the first openly lesbian Miss America, and a contestant who can rattle off the names of all the US presidents in chronological order in under 20 seconds. Each contestant has an impressive background of accomplishment and ambition. With the preliminary competition set to begin Sept. 6 and end with the Sept. 11 nationally televised finale, a look at some lesser-known aspects of their stories:

HANG UP AND DRIVE

Miss Kansas, Kendall Ellen Schoenekase, was the victim of a car accident involving a driver who was texting, and is a registered nurse who often treats patients injured in similar accidents. She has made it her life's mission "to put an end to this preventable epidemic." She advocated for the implementation of legislation for uniform penalties for tex-

ting and driving in her state.

COMING TO AMERICA

Miss Michigan, Arianna Quan, was born in China and came to America at age 14. She lists her defining experience as "the moment I stepped off the plane in America from Beijing and saw a blue sky for the first time in my life." She is the first Asian-born Miss Michigan and naturalized citizen to win that state's title. Her platform is "Being American: Immigration & Citizenship Education."

THE TRAILBLAZER

Miss Missouri, Erin O'Flaherty, is the first openly lesbian contestant to win a state title in the Miss America pageant. Her platform is suicide prevention, an issue she says is particularly important with young gay people. "People should understand that my year as Miss Missouri and hopefully as Miss America will not be solely about the fact that I'm gay," she said. "While I honor the LGBT community and I am proud to be part of it, I have goals that have nothing to do with my sexuality. I encourage people to understand that this is who I am but it's not all that I am."

ME AND MY MONKEY

Miss California, Jessa Carmac, dreams of traveling the world, sampling cuisine from each corner of the globe. Her secret wish "is to have a pet monkey,"

BAKER'S DOZEN

Miss Arizona, Katelyn Niemiec, is known in her family as "The Cookie Monster"; her favorite way to spend the day is "baking cookies and then forcing myself to give them to people so I don't eat them all."

SAVVY CHOICES

Miss Arkansas, Savvy Janine Shields, is an art major who wants to help people make better food choices. Her secret dream is to be a backup dancer for Beyoncé.

BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

Miss Florida, Courtney Sexton, encourages young people to volunteer to help others. She wants to work with penguins at a zoological exhibit.

ALWAYS THERE

Miss District of Columbia, Cierra Jackson, never missed a day of school from the first day of kindergarten through high school graduation. She worked as a communications intern in the Obama White House and hopes for a career in music.

TRIPLE CROWN

Miss Ohio, Alice Magoto, has a three-pronged goal: to become an anchor on "Good Morning America," to become a world famous cake decorator, and to win the "American

Ninja Warrior" competition.

RAPID HISTORY

Miss New Mexico, Stephanie Michelle Chavez, can name all 44 U.S. presidents in chronological order in under 20 seconds.

TEBOW! TEBOW!

Miss South Dakota, Julia Caroline Olson, says her dad told her she had "lost puppy syndrome," always wanting to help someone in trouble. Her dream is to meet former NFL quarterback Tim Tebow and travel to the Philippines to serve at one of his orphanages.

SAVE ME A SEAT

Miss Wisconsin, Courtney Pelot, wants to promote literacy. Her secret wish is to sit next to Vogue editor Anna Wintour at New York Fashion Week.

KICK, TWO, THREE ...

Miss Nebraska, Aleah Peters, chose preventing cyberbullying as her platform. Her secret wish is to be a Radio City Music Hall Rockette dancer. — AP



Actress Ludvine Sagnier, actor Jude Law, director Paolo Sorrentino and actress Cecile de France attend the photocall of the movie "The Young Pope" presented out of competition at the 73rd Venice Film Festival on September 3, 2016 at Venice Lido. — AFP

Jude Law bewitches as Sorrentino's dangerous 'Young Pope'

It's Jude Law's first day as pope, and after dropping his nightgown to reveal the sort of toned backside to make nuns blush, he addresses the crowd in Saint Peter's Square on the pleasures of masturbation. Italian master Paolo Sorrentino's first foray into the world of television series has produced a 10-part wonder set at the heart of the Vatican state, where the college of cardinals has just elected its first-ever American pope.

Lenny Belardo, aka Pius XIII, is revealed in the first two episodes-premiered at the Venice film festival-as shrewd, ironical, doubting and ruthless, a boy who grew up in an orphanage who revels in his new power. The Vatican's secretary of state (Italy's Silvio Orlando) at first hopes to manipulate him, and is left flummoxed by his new cigarette-smoking, cherry-Coke drinking, Machiavellian boss, before vowing to up his game. Lenny's "adoptive mother", Sister Mary (Diane Keaton) arrives at the Vatican and is quickly appointed personal secretary to her former charge, leaving the cardinals to wonder whether she is puppet master or put upon.

'The Vatican's problem'

The visuals and music are lush and heavily cinematic and the set replicates down to the smallest detail key locations inside the Holy See, giving the viewer an exceptional look into a secretive world of grandeur. Asked by reporters at the beach-side festival whether he was worried the Vatican and Pope Francis may take offence at the clever, funny but biting tale, Sorrentino said it was "the Vatican's problem not mine".

"But if they watch to the end they will see it is a work that tackles with curiosity and honesty, not with a desire to provoke... the contradictions and difficulties, and fascinating lives of clergy, nuns and the pope,"

he said. While Francis insists on the Church opening its doors to the people, Pius XIII has but harsh words for his flock. "The pope we have created is diametrically opposed to the real one, because that could happen. It is possible for a liberal pope to be followed by someone very different," Sorrentino said. "I think it's illusory to believe that the Church has set off on a long journey towards liberalness. The pope (Francis) is not like ours, but it's not far-fetched to think there could be such a one in the future."

God and kangaroos

Law, who was expected to dazzle on the red carpet at the Venice Lido later Saturday, said he had been thrilled to work with Sorrentino, the man behind the Oscar-winning "The Great Beauty" (2013) and "Youth" (2015). "Paolo creates such a beautiful visual language, to find myself a colour in his paintbox was a joy". "I was attracted to the idea of playing a character so rich in contradictions," he said about Lenny, who appears to use the role of red-shoed pontiff as a mask and a means to working through his own issues. "I think more than anything what worried me was the idea of playing a pope, a title, a public role, and Paolo (Sorrentino) reminded me constantly that it was really about a man who happened to be a pope. "It's a complicated, multi-layered character, and on top of that, it's a character playing a character," he said.

There are hints of something mystical to come from Pius XIII-particularly in one scene with a kangaroo-but, for now at least, the audience is kept guessing as to whether the blue-eyed pontiff even believes in God.

"Whether you agree or not with the things he says and the stands he takes, he is an honest man," Law said. — AFP

'Birth of a Nation' star, rape survivor faces complex issues

As a rape survivor, victim's advocate and an actress in "The Birth of a Nation," Gabrielle Union has found herself in an impossible position. Union recently, along with the much of the world, learned that her film's director, writer, producer and star, Nate Parker, was accused and acquitted of rape 17 years ago. She collected her thoughts in a nuanced opinion piece for the Los Angeles Times Friday, writing that while she cannot take the allegations lightly, the film also addresses and raises important questions about this very matter.

It's also the latest high-profile complication for a film that just a month ago was presumed to be one of the year's most vital - a powerful awards contender and a possible antidote for the #OscarsSoWhite Hollywood diversity crisis. Yet the film, which fetched a record acquisition price at the Sundance Film Festival in January, is now in the shadow of persistent controversy just weeks away from its Oct. 7 release.

In the film, about Nat Turner's 1831 slave rebellion, Union's character is raped, though it's not depicted on screen. It's why the actress took the part, she writes. She wanted to give voice to women of history, especially black women, who have for so long been silenced on the matter. "I knew I could walk out of our movie and speak to the audience about what it feels like to be a survivor," Union wrote. Union, who was raped at gunpoint in the backroom of a Payless shoe store 24 years ago, says she's been "in a state of stomach-churning confusion" since learning of Parker's 1999 rape case.

The rape allegation came while Parker was a student and wrestler at Penn State University. Parker was acquitted, though his college roommate Jean Celestin (who co-wrote "The Birth of a Nation") was initially found guilty of sexual assault. That conviction was later overturned when the accuser declined to testify for a trial. The case garnered a lot of attention at Penn State. Parker and Celestin allegedly harassed the accuser on campus. The incident spawned a civil lawsuit by the woman against the college, with a settlement of \$17,500.

'Filled with profound sorrow'

The recently renewed focus on the case also brought to light the fact the accuser committed

suicide in 2012, which Parker, now married with five daughters, learned about from media reports. He wrote on his Facebook page that he was "filled with profound sorrow" and regretted that he didn't "show enough empathy." Parker also recently spoke to Ebony magazine about how he's taking steps to grow and educate himself. It remains unclear how all this might affect the release of the film, its public perception or even its awards chances. Distributor Fox Searchlight is proceeding with the October release and will still take the film, and Parker, to the Toronto International Film Festival this month. But things look very different from just a month ago when Parker was happily accepting a Sundance Vanguard Award and taking meetings in the White House.

Union's op-ed "is certainly bad news for Searchlight, in that it keeps the focus firmly on this issue going into Toronto," said David Poland, the editor in chief of MovieCityNews.com and a longtime industry observer. "I can't say that the film won't do business. It might. But half of what it might have. And its awards prospects are on their death bed." Yet Poland says one positive is that Union hasn't quit on the film or its promotion. "That's an implicit endorsement of Nate and the film, though with clear reservations," he said. "That the rest of the cast will stick with the film at TIFF is also critical for Searchlight, which is holding on by its fingertips on this."

Union, for her part, says that she has read the 700 pages of court transcript from the case and doesn't know for sure what happened that night. Instead of speculating on guilt or innocence, Union is using the platform to advocate for education and conversation on the topic of rape, consent and aggression, something she is also trying to do at home with her young son. "I believe that the film is an opportunity to inform and educate so that these situations cease to occur," Union wrote. "Sexual violence happens more often than anyone can imagine. And if the stories around this film do not prove and emphasize this, then I don't know what does. It is my hope that we can use this as an opportunity to look within." Representatives for Fox Searchlight and Parker did not immediately respond to requests for comment. — AP



In this June 26, 2016, file photo, Gabrielle Union, from left, Nate Parker and Aja Naomi King present the award for Dr. Bobby Jones best gospel/inspirational award at the BET Awards at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. — AP



French director Francois Ozon (C), actor Pierre Niney and actress Paula Beer attend the photocall of the movie "Frantz" presented in competition at the 73rd Venice Film Festival at Venice Lido. — AFP

Ozon's wake-up call for Europe in 'Frantz'

Acclaimed French director Francois Ozon brought a pacifist tale of reconciliation to the Venice film festival Saturday with his new melodrama "Frantz", a love story for an uneasy post-Brexit Europe. A take on German-American master Ernst Lubitsch's 1931 film "Broken Lullaby", itself an adaption of a Maurice Rostand novel, "Frantz" is shot mostly in black and white and set in the aftermath of World War I.

It is not the only film in competition to be rooted in this period: like Derek Cianfrance's "The Light Between Oceans", the story is one of traumatized people on the move-recalling those uprooted by wars and heading for Europe's shores today. "Frantz" opens in a small German town-the film is shot largely in German where Anna (played by sweet-faced Paula Beer) mourns daily at the grave of her fiance Frantz, killed in battle in France.

One day a mysterious young Frenchman, Adrien (Pierre Niney) also visits the grave. While Anna believes she has found a friend of Frantz's, he is spat at by the locals, hostile so soon after the German defeat. Among the scenes of "Broken Lullaby" replicated by Ozon is the speech by Frantz's father in which he admonishes his compatriots, reminding them of France's two million dead, each of whom was also someone's son. The film, premiering on the anniversary of the outbreak of World War II and as pro-Europe protesters organize anti-Brexit rallies, warns of the dangers of nationalism and closing the door on neighbors' or migrants.

Color of mourning

Ozon, who shot to fame with "8 femmes" (2002) and "Swimming Pool" (2003), told journalists in Venice it had been "important for me to tell the point of view of the Germans, who had lost the war". He chose to shoot largely in black and white because it brought a greater level of realism to the period drama. "All our references from the period, all our cultural images of it are in black and white. I love color though, and thought it could be a useful device in scenes where life interrupts the period of mourning," he said. The film differs sharply from Lubitsch's offering, not only because the second half of the work is invented, but because Ozon-known for complex female heroines-shifts the perspective to tell the story through Anna.

Adrien's story of how he knew Frantz is pictured in a series of flashbacks imagined by Anna-flashbacks which, however, reduced the emotional tension rather than increasing it, particularly in the weak violin scenes. And there is a homoerotic connection between the two men which screams from the screen but is never outwardly acknowledged. It is Ozon's love for Germany, the first foreign country he visited as a child, which shines through as he takes the viewer from squares to beer taverns in his exploration of melodrama's classic themes of guilt and forgiveness. — AFP

Lifestyle

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2016

French uproar creates opportunity for Israeli burkini makers

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In this picture taken Thursday, Aug. 18, 2016, an osprey sits in its nest above Main Creek in the Fresh Kills Park in the borough of Staten Island, New York. — AP photos

NYC GARBAGE DUMP WORLD'S LARGEST LANDFILL-TO-PARK



A display in Fresh Kills Park explains the layers under the ground where some of the park land was once a landfill.

Diverse wildlife habitat. Acres of hilly grasslands. Creeks for kayaking and meadow trails for hiking and biking. This vibrant landscape at the edge of New York City was once Fresh Kills, the massive, stinking dump for Gotham's garbage. Today, the 2,200-acre site on Staten Island is well on its way to becoming Freshkills Park, the largest landfill-to-park project in the world.

The park won't be fully complete until 2035, but some sections are already accessible on a limited basis to tour and school groups. Since 2010, it has hosted nature hikes, bird-watching groups, kite-flying excursions and kayaking tours. Later this month, 700 acres will temporarily open to the public for one of the park's triannual "Discovery Days." "We have something almost every weekend," said Cait Field, the park's manager for science and research development. Visitors who knew the old Fresh Kills said the transformation, while incomplete, is remarkable. New York City Audubon naturalist Clifford Hagen, who leads bird-watching tours through Freshkills, remembers the putrid smells growing up about five miles east of the landfill's 225-foot mountains of trash - now capped with a protective liner and a layer of clean soil.

'Natural smells'

Today, there are "just the natural smells of the marshes as the tides rise and fall," he said. "It's always a special moment for everybody when they first walk onto the site," said Hagen. "Then once you get on top of the mountains, you can look out at the industry of New Jersey and you can look at the Freedom Tower in Manhattan and all of the commercial development right outside in Staten Island and you realize you are in the middle of New York City." On a recent tour, the park was a tranquil place without a hint of fetid odor. The gulls that once fed on 150 million-tons of household trash have been replaced by nearly 200 species of birds. Osprey sat high on nests along the creeks and hawks flew overhead.

For five decades after its opening in 1948, Fresh Kills was the principal landfill for the city's garbage. The last barge of regular trash was delivered in 2001 when the site was closed by Mayor Rudy Giuliani, partly in response to Staten Island residents who had complained loudly about being the city's dumping ground. Today, the city's garbage is sent to landfills in South Carolina, Virginia and a waste-to-energy plant in New Jersey.

The landfill reopened for several months after 9/11 when more than 1 million tons of material from the World Trade Center site was screened and sifted there. Three of the landfill's four mountains of trash are capped; More than \$600 million has been spent cleaning and beautifying the place.

'Big sky county views'

Permanent public access to the park will be phased in, with 21-acres of a larger 233-acre section opening in 2019 that will include meadows, wetlands and creeks, a climbing tower, recreational paths, and a seed farm of native plants. Another 482 acres will open a year or two later and offer catch-and-release fishing among other activities.

Park Administrator Eloise Hirsh said the site offers "big sky country views," not found anywhere else in the city.

The landscape still bears some scars. The park is dotted with extraction wells that have been collecting gas from the decomposing waste.



With each passing year less landfill gas will be produced. Those wells will eventually be shut down and closed off. A treatment plant on site handles leachate that seeps from the capped landfill daily, although each year less liquid comes out because the cap keeps new rainwater from entering the waste. The cap's multi-layers include up to 15-to-20-inches of soil, a gas venting layer, an impermeable plastic liner to control runoff, protection material and erosion mats for planting soils. State regulatory requirements call for a 30-year post-closure monitoring by the sanitation department.

The land is safe for wildlife, officials said, providing resting and nesting areas for dozens of migrating birds, as well as the largest colony of grasshopper sparrows in the northeast. Blue grosbeak, diamondback terrapins and northern snapping turtles also are spotted regularly. The wildlife is "really a good opportunity to do public education and outreach to show people how actually productive a location this is," said Field. "It's become a habitat that's missing in the region so it has new value in its new life." — AP

A rough road will be used for biking and hiking when Fresh Kills Park is opened to the public.



A section of Fresh Kills Park that used to be landfill for garbage.



Equipment for the collection of landfill gases still dot some areas of the Fresh Kills Park in the borough of Staten Island.