

SUBSCRIPTION

Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

THULHIJJA 8, 1437 AH

NO: 16989

Hajj in realtime as the spiritual goes virtual



US, Russia tussle over Syria



Serena loses in US Open semis again



150 Fils

TWO MILLION CONVERGE ON MAKKAH FOR PILGRIMAGE

IRANIANS PROTEST EXCLUSION FROM HAJJ



Min 23°
Max 43°



HOLY MAKKAH: A general view of pilgrims from all around the world circling around the Kaaba at the Grand Mosque in the holy city of Makkah. — AFP

HOLY MAKKAH: Close to two million pilgrims have converged on western Saudi Arabia for the annual Hajj where new measures aim to prevent a recurrence of last year's stampede which killed around 2,300. The stampede legacy has contributed to renewed tensions between Saudi Arabia and its regional rival Iran, which is not sending pilgrims for the first time in nearly three decades.

While the main rites of the six-day event begin today, pilgrims have already been swirling around the holy Kaaba at the Grand Mosque in holy Makkah, a procession that continues day and night. It is one of the first rites of the pilgrimage, which is among the largest religious gatherings in the world. The Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam, which capable Muslims must perform at least once, marking the spiritual peak of their lives.

Rich and poor alike come dressed in the same white garments. "We don't come here with fear in our hearts," said Naouri Abdelkarim, 50, of Casablanca, Morocco. Death can come at any time, pilgrims say, and for Lawan Nasir, 45, that meant there was no reason to avoid the hajj even though he lost a cousin in last year's stampede.

"The pains have not dulled a bit," but it would be "silly" to stay away, the Nigerian said. In one of several safety measures implemented after the stampede, access to the Kaaba is suspended during prayers, and the walk around it is stopped to avoid overcrowding.

The Kaaba is a black cubic structure that Muslims across the globe face while they pray. Security has also been reinforced around Islam's holiest site, where officers in red berets and camouflage uniforms man green plastic barricades to control the crowd.

During the main weekly Friday prayers, the white-clad throng made the area around the Kaaba resemble a snow-dusted field from above. Worshippers overflowed into surrounding streets shut to allow access for hundreds of thousands of people as a helicopter monitored the scene. Pilgrims have also been told to follow the rules. "They said not to stray from our group, not to linger when buses arrive and depart, and to properly respect the designated routes," said Rasha Mohammed, 36, of Alexandria, Egypt. With temperatures of 43 Celsius (109 Fahrenheit) as they marched, some pilgrims seemed faint. They carried water and tried to help each other under the unyielding sun.

'Absence of transparency'

The kingdom has begun issuing pilgrims with identification bracelets, after some foreign officials expressed concern about difficulties in identifying the stampede dead. Each bracelet carries a bar code readable by smartphone. It holds data including the pilgrim's identity, nationality, and place of lodging in Makkah, the vice secretary of the ministry of hajj and umrah, Issa Rawas, said.

"The aim is to equip all pilgrims" from abroad, who are expected to number more than 1.4 million, he said. Local media say close to 300,000 faithful from inside Saudi Arabia were also expected.

Zakou Bakar, 50, a pilgrim from Niger, said the bracelet was reassuring. "If I die or if there are problems of course we hope not-but if it does happen I know I will be identified," he said. Despite the Saudi steps, the head of Iran's Hajj Organisation, Said Ohadi, yesterday asked how the kingdom could invite the world's Muslims and not allow questions to be raised about the security measures. Absent from this year's Hajj are tens of thousands of Iranians after talks between Tehran and Riyadh on logistics and security fell apart in May.

Thousands in Tehran yesterday protested their country's absence from the pilgrimage. Iran said 464 nationals died in last year's crush, the largest number of deaths reported by any country. Jane Kinninmont, deputy head of the Middle East and North Africa program at Chatham House, a London think tank, said the stampede exposed "clearly some big organisational failings, to say the least". — Agencies

US HOUSE ALLOWS 9/11 FAMILIES TO SUE SAUDI

WASHINGTON: The US House of Representatives passed legislation by voice vote yesterday that would allow the families of victims of the Sept 11, 2001, attacks to sue Saudi Arabia's government for damages, despite the White House's threat to veto the measure.

The US Senate passed the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act," or JASTA, unanimously in May. Opponents of the bill said it could strain relations with Saudi Arabia and lead to retaliatory laws targeting US citizens or corporations in other countries.

The vote's timing was symbolic, passing two days before the 15th anniversary of the hijacked-plane attacks on New York and Washington. Its passage was greeted with cheers and applause in the House chamber. The White House yesterday reiterated that President Barack Obama would veto the bill.

If Obama carries out his veto threat and the required two-thirds of both the Republican-majority House and Senate still support the bill, it would be the first time since Obama's presidency began in 2009 that Congress had overridden a veto. The House passed the measure by voice, without recorded individual votes, which is not technically considered unanimous. That could make it easier for Obama's fellow Democrats to uphold his veto later without officially changing their positions. — Reuters

EXPAT GIRL BEATS HER MOTHER TO DEATH

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: In a bizarre incident highlighting filial ingratitude towards parents, a Lebanese girl beat her 60-year-old mother to death, security sources said. The girl was arrested. According to case papers, the Lebanese girl living in an annex in Kaifan with her elderly mother called the police reporting that her aging mother died of natural causes. However, crime scene investigation (CSI) revealed that the mother's corpse had some marks of injuries indicating that she had been severely assaulted and that she had been fighting for her life before passing out.

While cross examining the woman's acquaintances, the girl fainted and later confessed to committing the crime. She reportedly hit and kicked her mother for more than ten minutes until she succumbed to her wounds. The alleged killer justified her action by claiming that her mother was ungrateful to her late father and she always refused to visit his grave in Kuwait.

In a similar incident, a citizen was arrested for beating up his own daughter in her twenties to death. The father reportedly assaulted the daughter to death over her alleged disobedience.

Photo

o f t h e d a y



KUWAIT: Photo shows a heron hunting for food. Herons are long-legged freshwater and coastal birds in the family Ardeidae, with 64 recognized species, some of which are referred to as 'egrets' or 'bitterns' rather than herons. The Heron finds shelter at Kuwait Bay. — KUNA

ARAB FMS LAUDS KUWAIT

FMS CONDEMN IRANIAN HOSTILE REMARKS AGAINST ARABS

CAIRO: Arab foreign ministers have commended Kuwait's plans to host international conferences on suffering of rights of Palestinian children (due next October) and education in Somalia. The foreign ministers praised OIC's decision to open an office in Ramallah, and urged the UNSC to condemn anew Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Palestinian lands and called for forcing the occupying authority to end the illegal and systematic settlement expansion. They welcomed all international efforts to end Israeli occupation to ultimately establish independent Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

They called for providing an international protection for the Palestinian people, welcomed the EU's condemnation of the Israeli illegal settlements, called for documenting the Israeli violations against the Palestinian people and called on Palestine to join international agreements and organizations.

The foreign ministers supported all PLO's resolutions, and the struggle of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation, urged the international community to hold Israel responsible for the crimes committed against the Palestinians, and said they were committed to the right of return

of the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, the foreign ministers urged Arab countries and organizations to actively participate in Kuwait-hosted conference on education in Somalia. They welcomed the Somali national reconciliation process and efforts of rebuilding the state institutions, condemned all criminal and terrorist acts against the Somali people and AU mission. The ministers, on the other hand, expressed solidarity with the government of Sudan and rejected interference in its affairs as well as US sanctions.

Iranian hostilities

Also, Arab Foreign Ministers condemned the repeated Iranian officials' hostile remarks against Arab countries. The remarks were made during the 146th session of the Arab League Council with regard to Iranian meddling in Arab countries affairs. The council called on the Iranian government to end hostile and instigating remarks and put an end to media campaign against Arab countries, which the council considers blunt interference into Arab internal affairs.

The ministers also called on the importance of cooperation between Arab countries and Iran based on the good neighboring principals and put an

end to using force or threat. The ministers also considered Iran's meddling into Arab internal affairs a violation to international law and countries' sovereignty. Meanwhile, on a different topic, the Arab ministers renewed their condemnation to all type of terrorist action, form, and practices regardless of the perpetrators or motives. The ministers also refused to connect terrorism with any religion, nationality, or any civilization, and the need to work to combat terrorism.

The ministers also called on all Arab countries to sign Arab combating terrorism agreement, and Arab related agreements in this regard. The statement also noted on the Arab League' general secretariat efforts in preparing Arab countries needs in building the legal and international formation, including providing a legal assistance to improve employee work in the judicial field and those responsible for implementing the law.

The ministers mentioned support cooperation between Arab League countries, regional, and international organizations with regard to combating terrorism, calling as well on all countries to stop all forms of support to groups or individuals accused of terrorism work. — Agencies

ARAB MINISTERS AGREE TO ESTABLISH A COMMON MARKET FOR ELECTRICITY

CAIRO: The Arab Foreign Ministers have approved in their 146th session a MoU for establishing an Arab common market for electricity, a senior Arab League official said yesterday. The approval is based on a desire of the Arab countries to make more progress in electricity trading among the Arab power link groups, the League's Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs Dr Mohammed Bin Ibrahim Al-Tuwaijri added in a press statement.

These groups are the Arab Maghreb (Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco), Eight Country Interconnection Project (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Turkey) and the Interconnection Project and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Power Grid Interconnection Project. The proposed market aims to obtain the utmost results of power supply on the short and long terms, he noted.

The timetable for establishing the market includes a founding stage, in cooperation with the World Bank and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. It will be devoted for the preparation of a technical and economic feasibility study. It also covers developing the founding and legislative frameworks. Four stages will then follow for the period 2019-2038 to design the market and expand it in order to achieve an integrated Arab interconnection grid.

Meanwhile, the price of Kuwaiti crude oil went up Thursday \$1.31 to \$42.48 per barrel after it was at \$41.17 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. Oil prices shot upward on Thursday after weekly data showed a sharp and surprising decline in US stockpiles of crude oil and fuel. The unexpected drop in US oil supplies was due to bad weather that kept cargoes of oil and fuel from reaching US ports. In the US, federal data showed crude-oil stockpiles fell by 14.5 million barrels last week, the biggest drop since 1999 and the second-biggest decline on record in weekly data going back to 1982, according to the US Energy Information Administration. — Agencies

GOVERNORS CONGRATULATE 'HUMANITARIAN LEADER'



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

KUWAIT: Kuwait state governors yesterday congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the second anniversary of his designation by the United Nations as a "Humanitarian Leader" and the State of Kuwait as a "Humanitarian Center. Hawally Governor Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, in a statement, said the international honoring of Sheikh Sabah was a result of his humanitarian services and aid worldwide.

Al-Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Sabah noted that His Highness the Amir's approach to aid nations in need has become much more necessary and urgent in view of spreading violence, sabotage and terrorism. Al-Assima Governor Thabet Al-Muhanna noted that it was unprecedented that nations of the globe came together to name His Highness as the Humanitarian Leader and Kuwait as the Humanitarian Center. The UN, at a grand ceremony held at its headquarters on September 9th, 2014, granted the titles to Sheikh Sabah and Kuwait in appreciation for the major humanitarian activities throughout the world.

Landmark in Kuwait history

The UN honoring of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a "Humanitarian Leader" has been a landmark in Kuwait's history - an occasion renewed annually which reflects elevated values and principles, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday.

His Highness the Amir was honored in a grand ceremony held at the UN headquarters in New York on September 9, 2014. This was an honor to all Kuwaitis and the good people and benefactors in the country's "blessed land" who felt for the afflicted around the globe and contributed to alleviating their sufferings, the minister said. It was a worthy honoring, that came in recognition from the world's leading organization of Kuwait's boundless humanitarian role worldwide, he added.

The honoring was also a high appreciation of the UN of the State of Kuwait and His Highness the Amir who set the brightest model for the elevated values his country and people strongly believe in.

Minister Sheikh Salman recalled various examples of Kuwait's copious humanitarian record, giving hand to the afflicted and the people in need all over the world. He said that Kuwait had hosted the First, Second and Third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria Donors in 2013, 2014 and 2015. In addition, the country co-chaired the fourth donors conference held in London last February.

The outcome of the four events was billions of dollars to meet the needs of the Syrian refugees in their plight. The minister referred to Kuwait's support and relief efforts to Gaza, the Sudan, Yemen and Iraq, as well as African and Asian countries. He highlighted the term "humanitarian diplomacy," a special attribute of Kuwait, which was used by His Highness the Amir, embodying an abundant long history of philanthropic work. Kuwait, under its wise leadership, will carry on with its noble message to alleviate people's sufferings and pains, and support their humanitarian issues, through official and private institutions, Sheikh Salman concluded. — Agencies



Hawally Governor Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah



Al-Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Sabah



Al-Assima Governor Thabet Al-Muhanna

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The Young Person's Unit at Harley Street at UCH is the only private teenage cancer unit in Europe, treating any form of cancer in 13-19 year olds and further establishes the relationship with UCLH. The 6 bedded Unit treats all kinds of cancers and provides high quality care. All rooms are private and en-suite with views across central London. There are facilities in each room for a parent or guardian to stay with patients throughout their treatment and international entertainment packages, including internet access to keep in touch with friends and family abroad. Patients also have access to educational facilities and an entertainment lounge. 5* catering is provided with specially adapted menus to suit international patient requirements.

State-of-the-art technology includes the revolutionary TrueBeam STx™, the latest radiotherapy and radiosurgical equipment which the most advanced linear accelerator in the world and is the first of its kind to be installed in the UK.

Harley Street at Queen's is a joint partnership with Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals Trust, based at Queen's Hospital Romford, offering advanced cancer, neurosurgical and general surgery treatment. It is the only centre of its kind in Essex and includes a dedicated High Dependency Unit, Chemotherapy Day Care Unit and advanced radiotherapy through a dedicated linear accelerator including

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The Christie Clinic is the latest HCA NHS Venture and a partnership with The Christie NHS Foundation Trust in Manchester. The £35million development houses a state-of-the-art cancer clinic with 34 inpatient rooms, 10 chemotherapy chairs, advanced radiotherapy, sophisticated operating theatres and private patient pharmacy. This impressive facility takes the HCA standard of care outside of London to Manchester and the North of England. Located in the heart of Manchester The Christie Clinic offers light and airy private en-suite rooms, with international entertainment packages and is in close proximity the city centre.



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KUWAIT URGES END TO THEFT OF ARAB CULTURE

'CULTURE UNDER THREAT'

AMMAN: Secretary General of the Kuwait National Council for Culture, Art and Letters (NCCAL) Ali Al-Yoha has stressed on the need for increased efforts to repel all attempts to plunder Arab culture and civilization. Al-Yoha made those remarks during a regional conference entitled, "Culture Under Threat" held in the Jordanian capital with several international officials in attendance, including Kuwait's Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom Dr Hamad Al-Duaij.

Moreover, the NCCAL Secretary General said that Kuwait is committed to enhancing

regional cooperation to combat cultural racketeering, as he pointed out that around 20 to 30 thousand cultural entities worth \$10 billion have been stolen. This pivotal conference builds upon the Cairo Declaration issued in 2015, in which ministers from 10 Arab nations agreed to take steps to fight cultural crimes, as Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh cited, "malicious gangs who seek to sow seeds of acrimony around the world."

Furthermore, Jordan's Minister of Tourism Lina Ennab underscored that cul-

tural racketeering has become a chief concern in recent years, as she highlighted the need for further action to put an end to such dastardly deeds. The conference, hosted by the Jordanian government, the Antiquities Coalition and Middle East Institute (MEI), will bring together ministers from 17 Arab League nations as they seek to address the mounting threat of cultural destruction at the hands of looters and terrorist groups. A delegation from Kuwait's NCCAL is partaking in the conference, with Al-Yoha at the helm. — KUNA



TWO POLICEMEN ARRESTED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Mol's Relation and Media Security Department recently announced that the Correctional Facilities Directorate has arrested two policemen. The suspects were trying to smuggle banned electronic devices into Kuwait Central Prison, security sources said. In another development, as part of its plan to train its staff according to the latest development and technologies, Ministry of Interior Mol's Training Department recently concluded a training course titled 'Investigating computer and itinerant human trafficking related crimes'. The course was organized in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the period of September 4-8 at the UN's headquarters.



Firemen battle blaze

Five fire teams were dispatched yesterday morning to

battle a huge fire that broke out at a metal industry headquarters in Amgra. The fire teams said the fire started in the waste dump. Firemen managed to control the fire and prevented it from spreading to adjacent buildings. No casualties were reported. Another fire broke out in a Jabriya apartment. Security sources said that firefighters from Hawally and Shohada rushed to the scene and evacuated the building. Firemen managed to control the fire and prevented it from spreading to other floors.

Massive security campaign

In a massive security campaign in all the governorates recently, security forces arrested a total of 150 people. According to Mol's Relations and Media Security Department, the campaign included checking IDs and legal statuses of pedestrians and motorists. The report explained that 17 people who had been wanted for various cases were arrested, 43 absconders were arrested, 50 were arrested for not holding any ID, 34 were arrested for holding expired residency visas and 4 were arrested for drug related cases. The sources added that 315 traffic tickets were issued.

KAC - technical problems

A KAC flight heading to Istanbul yesterday returned to Kuwait International Airport 30 minutes after takeoff due to some technical problems. On detecting the malfunction, the pilot reported to Kuwait Airport and was given permission to land. A substitute plane was provided and the passengers resumed their flight safely.

News

in brief

Kuwait General Consul denounces aggression

BERLIN: Kuwait General Consul in the German city of Frankfurt has denounced aggression by members of a security company on Kuwaiti nationals, which occurred last night. In a statement, the General Consul said the aggression by "members of a security company working at Kuwait Health office in Germany on Kuwaiti nationals was completely rejected and also was unacceptable." The statement added that the consul's and Kuwait health office roles were to care for Kuwaiti patients and meet their needs during their treatment in Germany. The statement said Consul General Dherar Al-Tuwaijri called on the five injured Kuwaitis and acquired about their health status, confirming that the injured received treatment in a nearby hospital and all are in good condition. The statement concluded that the Kuwaiti Health Office contacted the security company calling for replacement of the security crew.

Kuwait MoH to provide heart pacemakers in public places

KUWAIT: Health Ministry and Municipality have been collaborating to make heart pacemakers available in public places, as a move to reduce the number of fatal heart attack cases. This move is part of a national program that aims at saving lives; the collaboration was announced during a visit made by the Health Ministry Undersecretary for supporting medical services Dr Jamal Al-Harbi to the Municipality. The idea is to make heart pacemakers available in commercial buildings, public spaces, schools, sporting clubs and government buildings, he told the press yesterday. Emergency units should also be setup close to these venues for quick medical intervention.



Kuwait's new Ambassador to Romania Talal Mansour Al-Hajri submitted his credentials to State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania Daniela Gitman. — KUNA

New envoy to Romania submits his credentials

KUWAIT: Kuwait's new ambassador to Romania Talal Mansour Al-Hajri has submitted his credentials to State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania Daniela Gitman. Following the ceremony on Thursday, Al-Hajri lauded the deep-rooted ties between Kuwait and Romania, reiterating mutual keenness to push them to broader horizons in all fields, political, economic, cultural and humanitarian, according to a statement to KUNA yesterday. For her part, Gitman voiced relief over the level of bilateral ties and expressed eagerness to develop them. Kuwait enjoys a distinguished status in Romania, she said, wishing Al-Hajri success in his mission.



KUWAIT'S PILGRIMS ARRIVE IN HOLY LAND

MAKKAH: The 6,400 pilgrims from Kuwait have all arrived in the holy land as a prelude to begin performing the annual hajj rituals, the expedition chief Khalifa Al-Uthaina said yesterday. Al-Uthaina confirmed, in remarks to KUNA that the expedition management was prepared to provide

all possible services for the faithful, who have come in 48 groups. Meanwhile, the chief of the medical team, accompanying the expedition, Dr Mubarak Al-Ajmi said 204 pilgrims had been treated at the expedition's makeshift clinics so far. — KUNA

Crime

Report

Kidnap attempt

KUWAIT: An Egyptian in Farwaniya reported that someone, of whom he managed to capture a picture while standing outside his house, had tried to kidnap his six year old daughter twice but failed because the girl screamed loudly. A case was filed and a search is on for the suspect.

6 arrested for gambling

Six Asians were recently arrested in Salhiya for gambling. The suspects had a total of KD 1097, playing cards in their possession, said security sources. According to the case papers, detectives had been tipped off concerning the suspects' activities. They were caught red-handed.

'Under the influence'

A Kuwaiti (under the influence of drugs) was recently arrested in Jabriya after he lost control over his vehicle and collided with two parked vehicles. On searching the suspect, detectives found some illicit drugs and an Air Pressure Rifle in the vehicle. In another development, three 'wanted' citizens were arrested in Rejee and Andalus areas, security sources said, noting that one of the suspects was wanted for a KD 70,000 financial claim, while the other suspect was wanted for KD 9000. The third suspect has a 3-year prison sentence on him.

Briton kidnapped

A female British citizen reported that a citizen had kidnapped her from her doorsteps in Ahmadi. She claimed the suspect pulled her by the hair and pushed her into his vehicle. The lady added that the suspect drove into the desert area where he threatened her with a knife and hit her in the face. She also provided a medical report of her injuries. A case has been filed.

Debauchery and immorality

An Iraqi recently filed a case accusing a 23-year-old Kuwaiti of inciting his wife to commit debauchery and immorality. However, the citizen denied the charges. He claimed the Iraqi man was only making up the stories because of some old disputes they had. Investigation is ongoing.

HAJJ IN REALTIME - THE SPIRITUAL GOES VIRTUAL

MAKKAH: Hajj has gone high-tech. A religious ritual performed 1,400 years ago by Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and which drew believers arriving on foot and on camels for centuries is today broadcast live through cyberspace. "Technology is now part of hajj," the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina in present-day Saudi Arabia, said Kamel Badawi, an engineer from Makkah who invented an "intelligent umbrella" with Palestinian colleague Manal Dandis.

Among its features, the umbrella uses solar energy to cool the user. Pilgrims are also walking around with arms outstretched to broadcast their hajj live to family and friends by mobile phone. Others have their eyes fixed on prayers they have downloaded. It's a change that seems irreversible and dramatic. Until recently, cameras were not even allowed into the Grand Mosque, Islam's holiest site which draws close to two million faithful for the hajj, which this year starts formally today.

The annual rite is one of the five pillars of Islam, which capable Muslims must perform at least once, marking the spiritual peak of their lives. If they need clothing advice, or even diabetic information, that and all sorts of other support is available on Internet sites and applications. The spiritual is also the virtual, affecting all aspects of hajj. Air tickets can be bought online. Souvenir photos are uploaded, and imams, or prayer leaders, dispense guidance via the Internet.

As soon as Abdelhadi Zuraan, 27, and his wife had set foot in Saudi Arabia, home of

Islam's holiest sites, they downloaded an official Saudi hajj application. The Jordanian couple, based in South Korea, have been regularly using the app during the initial steps of their pilgrimage. They spoke to AFP after photographing themselves near the Grand Mosque, Zuraan wearing all-white and his wife covered in a black veil. They sent the pictures directly to their families. Hazem Hamdi, 39, of Cairo, never lets his cellphone leave his hand. "We learned the rituals before leaving home but, at any time, we can retrieve them with different applications," he said.

A cacophony, distractions

For researcher Shahed Amanullah, "the hajj is often likened to a personal conversation with God." Technology has allowed pilgrims "to share this conversation with family and friends in realtime", he said. Modern conveniences, however, could be seen to have their drawbacks. "Pilgrims of the past were exhorted to exhibit patience in response to the hajj's physical ordeals," including long marches under an overwhelming sun, Amanullah wrote in an essay. Today, the interior of the Grand Mosque is air conditioned. Giant fans with water sprays cool the exterior.

Pilgrimage routes through steep mountains are now eased with escalators. There is even a train to move hajjis from site to site. Amanullah said a modern pilgrim's patience is now tested by "a constant cacophony of ringing mobile phones and visual distractions with familiar signage for Western brands". It can

prove difficult to pass through the groups of pilgrims as they pose for photos on their mobile phones.

At each sacred stop, uncountable photos, videos and hashtags are shared on social media. Technology, for its part, can also have clear benefits, such as the umbrella developed by Badawi and Dandis. To the simple parasol they added buttons, USB ports and solar cells.

The result is what they call the first umbrella to turn the sun into fresh air. Solar energy powers a fan to refresh the pilgrims, while the umbrella handle can also serve to charge a telephone and provide GPS data. Identifying their location is one of the pilgrims' main concerns, said Badawi. He has spent decades volunteering to accompany Muslims from the four corners of the world around the city of his birth. — AFP



MAKKAH: Saudi engineer Kamel Badawi (left) shows his invention, the smart umbrella, which among its features uses solar energy to cool the user, in the Saudi holy city of Makkah. — AFP



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International

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

Morocco's selfie king causes an online stir

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4 dead as train derails in Spain

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Trump's Mexico trip haunts president

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DOUMA: A wounded Syrian boy comforts another young victim at a makeshift hospital following reported government air strikes on the rebel-held town. — AFP

US, RUSSIA TUSSLE OVER SYRIA

‘REBELS ARE NOW BACK TO SQUARE ONE’

GENEVA: The United States and Russia yesterday grappled over plans to halt the fighting in Syria, as resurgent Moscow-backed regime forces tightened the noose around the beleaguered city of Aleppo. In Geneva, Secretary of State John Kerry was once more locked in talks with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, but US officials warned that negotiations could not go on forever without a breakthrough.

Washington wants Moscow to help clinch a ceasefire, get humanitarian aid to civilians and eventually set the stage for political talks to end a five-year war that has killed more than 290,000. The two powers back opposite sides in the civil war, with Moscow supporting Bashar Al-Assad's Syrian regime and Washington behind a coalition of rebel groups it regards as moderate.

Senior officials travelling with Kerry said he would not have flown out once again to new face-to-face talks with Lavrov unless he thought there was a chance of progress. A US official described the talks as “crisp and businesslike”, focused on

specific technical details of how the ceasefire would be observed. In a break in proceedings, the US delegation was to update Washington on progress. But officials warned there was no guarantee of a final agreement before both men return home later yesterday, just four days after the pair met in China and failed to narrow their differences.

The ministers met in the familiar confines of a hotel on the shore of Lake Geneva and made brief remarks to reporters about North Korea's latest nuclear test before beginning closed-door talks on Syria. UN envoy on Syria Staffan de Mistura said a successful outcome from the talks could provide a major boost towards resolving the conflict. “(It) would have a major impact on humanitarian access, and in turn would have a positive impact on the way the political process would be relaunched,” de Mistura said in Geneva.

‘Back to square one’

Washington wants concrete steps from Russia to force Assad to stop bombing his own people,

respect a ceasefire and lift the siege of Aleppo. “We need to see a situation where it's clear within whatever is being agreed with the Russians that there won't be a siege of Aleppo,” a senior US official told reporters.

Pro-regime forces have taken back a strategically important district on Aleppo's southern outskirts, rolling back nearly every gain from a month-long rebel offensive there. The government advance further sealed off Aleppo's opposition-held eastern districts and regime troops backed by the Russian air force have completely encircled opposition-held neighborhoods. And in another major blow to the rebels, the military commander of the Army of Conquest, the largest rebel alliance, was killed in an air strike, Islamist sources said Thursday.

The former Al-Nusra Front, an Al-Qaeda affiliate recently renamed Fateh Al-Sham Front, announced “the martyrdom” of Abu Omar Sarakeb, the biggest setback to the group since it formed early last year. “Rebels are now back to

square one, under an even more ruthless siege,” Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the observatory, told AFP.

In the besieged city, desperate civilians described a hungry battle for survival. “This siege is much harder than the first one. During the first one, there were at least some products still in the market now there's nothing at all,” said one shopper, Omar Al-Beik. “No products, no vegetables, no sugar. Nothing. We came to buy a few things to cook and we couldn't find a thing,” he told AFP.

In the nearby Al-Sakhr district, Abu Omar said he was bracing himself for more shortages. He and his three children are surviving on rice, bulghur wheat and lentils, and have not had bread in three days. “There's a risk that we'll be starving in two weeks,” he said. The Syrian war began as a pro-democracy revolt in 2011 but morphed into a multi-front conflict after the regime unleashed a crackdown. It has killed more than 290,000 people and forced more than half the population to flee their homes. — AFP

PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 21

RAMALLAH: The top Palestinian court is to decide on September 21 on the fate of keenly anticipated local elections after the latest attempt to hold polls was suspended, a minister said late Thursday. Municipal elections had been scheduled for October 8 but were suspended by the high court on Thursday following disputes between the rival Fatah and Hamas movements. It now remains to be seen if a new date will be set or if the vote will be shelved indefinitely.

"The Supreme Court will consider (the case) in a session on Wednesday 21 September and make a definitive and final decision," local government minister Hussein al-Araj told the official Palestinian news

agency Wafa. "We will implement any decision of the court in accordance with the applicable laws." Islamist movement Hamas, which runs the Gaza Strip, boycotted the last Palestinian municipal elections in 2012, but had been due to participate this year. Hamas has rejected the suspension, calling it a "political decision."

Fatah and Hamas have not contested an election since 2006 parliamentary polls, which Hamas won-sparking a conflict that led to fierce fighting in Gaza the following year that saw Fatah forces ousted. An attempt to hold local elections in 2010 was abandoned. This year's vote was planned with 81-year-old president and Fatah leader Mahmud Abbas

under heavy political pressure as opinion polls have suggested most Palestinians would like him to step down.

There has been no Palestinian presidential election since 2005 and Abbas has remained in office despite the expiry of his term in 2009. The high court said it had suspended the elections after an appeal by lawyer Nael Al-Houh. Houh said his appeal was based on the fact that the elections were not being held in Jerusalem and over concerns related to polling in the Gaza Strip.

In Gaza, a court run by Hamas cancelled Fatah candidate lists in several municipalities for "violating the election law", according to a judicial source and a spokesman for Fatah.

Jamal Dajani, a spokesman for the prime minister in the Fatah-run government in Ramallah, downplayed suggestions of political pressure to cancel the elections. "We look at it as a judicial decision and not a political decision," he told AFP, saying the court had made its decision independently. "The president, the prime minister and the central elections committee were proceeding with organizing the elections for October 8." Arif Jaffal, head of the Marsad elections monitoring group NGO, called Thursday's announcement a "sad day for Palestinians." He said the electorate was "expecting the local elections to move towards (ending) the political stalemate between the West Bank and Gaza." — AFP



ANKARA: European Union's Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini, second left, EU Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn, left, Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, second right, and Turkey's EU Minister Omer Celik speak to the media after their talks. — AP

TURKEY AND EU AGREE TO EASE TENSIONS AFTER FAILED COUP

'WE MUST WORK TOGETHER BECAUSE THERE ARE PROBLEMS'

ANKARA: Turkey and the European Union yesterday agreed to ease tensions that had darkened Ankara's prospects of joining the bloc in the wake of the failed July 15 coup. EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn-making the highest-level EU visit to Turkey since the coup-said that new chapters in Ankara's long-running accession process should be opened and that visa liberalization was still on the table.

Several Turkish and EU officials had engaged in a war of words after the attempted putsch, with Brussels slamming the ensuing crackdown and Ankara unhappy with an apparent lack of solidarity from the bloc. "The key element which we agreed to was that we talk more to each other and a little bit less about each other, showing full respect," Mogherini said after talks with Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu and EU Minister Omer Celik. Mogherini unequivocally condemned the coup aimed at ousting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, saying: "There is no space whatsoever... for any attempt

at a coup." She said the sides had an "in-depth discussion" about ensuring the rule of law was protected following criticism of the crackdown in which tens of thousands of people have been arrested or dismissed over alleged links to the putsch. She said the main outcome of the meeting was "a strong recommitment to dialogue and common work on all strands of our cooperation." Cavusoglu added: "We must work together because there are problems that emerge that affect all our people. If there is a problem, we must mutually solve it."

'A candidate country'

Hahn acknowledged there had been "many irritations" on both sides following the coup, emphasising that Turkey had to behave in a manner befitting of a candidate member. "Turkey was, is and will be a candidate country. And as a candidate country we have to apply higher standards." Turkey's bid to join the EU dates back to the 1960s with formal talks starting in 2005 but the duration of the process has caused

severe rancor in Ankara. After the attempted coup, Erdogan mulled bringing back capital punishment, a move which would spell an end to the bid. The issue of the death penalty was not raised at the press conference. Hahn emphasized that visa liberalization for Turks travelling to the EU-which Ankara wants completed this year-was still on the agenda. He said chapters 23 and 24 of the accession process-covering justice and rights and freedom and security-should be opened as soon as possible and that a settlement to end the division of Cyprus would help this. Celik said Ankara was ready to open all 35 chapters of the EU accession process. So far, only 16 chapters have been opened. "Turkey is a European country, a European democracy. Europe's future is our future," he said. The unresolved situation in Cyprus-which is divided between the Greek-ruled, internationally-recognized south and the Turkish north-remains a huge obstacle to Turkey's membership bid, with the Republic of Cyprus blocking the opening of several new chapters. — AFP

IS FAMILIES EXPELLED FROM COMMUNITIES

TIKRIT: Iraqi authorities are expelling the families of suspected Islamic State members from their homes as the jihadist group loses ground, raising fears of communal violence if people seek to settle old scores. Relatives of more than 200 militants are being forced to leave Dhuluiya, 70 km north of Baghdad, and Hit, 130 km to the west, government and security officials said.

Iraqi forces backed by a US-led coalition have recaptured more than half the territory seized in 2014 by Islamic State, also known as ISIL and Daesh, and are gearing up for an offensive on the jihadists' de facto capital of Mosul later this year. But the expulsions raise the spectre that the ultra-hardline group's anticipated demise could trigger yet more conflict, if Iraqis seek to root out sympathizers and pursue retribution outside the law for Islamic State crimes they say include massacre, rape and enslavement.

Government forces and allied Shi'ite Muslim militias kicked Islamic State out of Dhuluiya nearly two years ago, but late last month police forced relatives of suspected insurgents, identified through intelligence and neighbours' testimonies, to leave 52 houses in the town, a local police officer said. "After the liberation of Dhuluiya, tensions started to surface among the residents, especially people who lost relatives because of Daesh's extreme rules," said tribal leader Sheikh Ibrahim al-Jabouri. "We fear a fissure in society. Vengeance against Daesh families will only lead to more death."

Last week, a Reuters photographer observed members of the Samarra Operations Command, which handles security in Salahuddin province where Dhuluiya is located, marking the walls of shuttered houses with graffiti that said "Locked down by order of the Samarra Operations Command," and "There is no place for you among us". Most of the families have moved in with relatives in nearby districts, said Jasim Al-Jibarra, head of Salahuddin provincial council's security committee. Others may have slipped into neighboring Kirkuk province.

Collective punishment

An official at Iraq's Ministry of Migration and Displacement condemned forced expulsions as "oppressive" but could not confirm they were happening. "The Iraqi constitution guarantees the right to freedom of living and settlement for each and every citizen," he said, declining to be named. The United Nations warned that the expulsions, which it said are becoming widespread, endanger civilians' lives and undermine efforts at reconciling the country's minority Sunnis and Shi'ite majority. "People who may have nothing to do with ISIL are effectively being punished for what a family member may or may not have done," said Francesco Motta, representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Iraq. "There are no legal standards applied to the family member who's supposed to be suspected or accused of participating or supporting ISIL and ... the family members are being punished collectively." In the western city of Hit, 170 families have been given until the Eid Al-Adha holiday, which begins on Sept. 12, to leave, a police official and an international aid worker told Reuters. Hit, which spent a year and a half under the extremists' control, was retaken in April by Iraqi forces who quickly returned most residents to their homes. Mayor Muhannad Zbar said he was willing to empty the city of half its population if they were shown to have links with Islamic State. With neighboring districts refusing to host them, the exiles may have no choice but to return to territory controlled by the jihadists. — Reuters



RABAT: A Moroccan man looks at a computer screen displaying pictures of King Mohammed VI of Morocco. — AFP

MOROCCO'S SELFIE KING CAUSES AN ONLINE STIR

A FAR CRY FROM THE TRADITIONAL POMP

RABAT: Smiling and relaxed, Morocco's King Mohammed VI wears a psychedelic T-shirt and jeans as he poses with an admirer in Paris. It's a far cry from the traditional pomp of Morocco's royal court, but pictures of the king casually posing with his subjects are doing the rounds on social media. One shot, shared on Facebook on September 1, received 19,000 "likes" in a week.

"We were on a family shopping trip on the Champs Elysees when I saw the king in a 4x4," wrote "Momo", an anonymous Facebook user who appears in the picture. "I called out emotionally-'Sidna' (your majesty). He was kind enough to stop, come and say hello and take my little girl in his arms for a photo." In other pictures posted on a dedicated Facebook page, the king talks with a fan in a Paris Saint-Germain football club cap. In another, an admirer in overalls kisses his shoulder in a sign of respect. There is no sign of a bodyguard in the photos, many of which are taken overseas and have the air of casual holiday snaps taken by friends.

'Communications policy'

The Moroccan royal family have no

official pages on the social networking site. But the photos posted on a popular unofficial Facebook page appear to be part of a carefully engineered strategy, said French historian Pierre Vermeren. "These images come from a well thought-out communications policy," he said. "There's a clear desire to show how close the king is to his people." The 53-year-old king's habit of posing with the public contrasts with his approach to the traditional media, which he keeps at arm's length.

It also marks him out from other heads of state, particularly in the Arab world, who stay behind imposing security barriers. Judging by comments on social media, it is a strategy that is working with Moroccans—apart from a few criticisms of the cost of his clothes. "The most beautiful picture with the children, it's a sign of humility and love for the new generation... best king in the world," Jomana Naji wrote in one comment. Like the photo of "Momo", many of the shots-taken during the king's private trips—are posted on a Facebook page, "Roi du Maroc: Mohammed 6".

'Opposite course'

The page, which has 3.5 million sub-

scribers, is administered from a town near the capital Rabat by Soufiane el-Bahri, a 25-year-old playboy with gelled hair and a broad smile. A well-known member of Morocco's super-elite, Bahri keeps his distance from the media. He did not respond to an AFP request via Facebook for comment. He administers three other unofficial pages of members of the ruling family, along with his own page full of pictures of himself.

Many in Morocco wonder how he obtains the photos and comments from the people posing in them—as well as the reaction from the royal court, habitually prickly when it comes to the king's private life. In a recent interview with CNN Arabic, Bahri said that while he "madly admires" the king and "works in coordination with his cabinet," he had never actually met the monarch. It was almost certain the palace approved the publication of the photos, said Vermeren. Many Moroccans remember the king's father and predecessor, Hassan II, who would never have allowed such photos, he said. "Hassan II sowed fear and was himself afraid of his people. Since he took the throne, his son has tried to take the opposite course." — AFP

TAJIKISTAN PRESIDENT SAYS HIS OPPONENTS PLANNED 'ISLAMIC STATE'

DUSHANBE: Tajikistan's President Emomali Rakhmon accused a jailed opposition group of attempting to build an "Islamic state" and triggering civil war in the secular country, in a speech shown on state TV yesterday. In the address marking the ex-Soviet country's 25th independence anniversary, Rakhmon blasted the "destructive plans" of an Islamic party recently banned as a "terrorist" group by the government. "Malicious forces and misguided people working to the plans and instructions of their foreign masters...planned to build an Islamic state, and dragged Tajikistan into the vortex of a fratricidal war," Rakhmon said.

The Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan which styled itself as moderate was declared a "terrorist" group following lethal political violence in the country last year. Tajikistan in August said it had jailed 170 people over a purported mutiny led by a deputy defense minister last September that the government said the IRPT organized. At least 26 people died in the fighting that ensued, according to the country's interior ministry. Earlier this month Rakhmon said the civil war that raged from 1992 to 1997 and cost tens of thousands of lives "came from the mosques of that era...by the initiative of the IRPT." Ex-collective farm boss Rakhmon, who has been impoverished since 1994, has publicly stated his dislike of Islamic dress. Reports of police forcibly shaving believers' beards in the country of 8 million are widespread. The US, European Union and an array of rights groups have aired concerns about the imprisonment of a dozen members of the IRPT leadership. — AFP

HUNDREDS FLEE HONDURAS GANGS' KILLINGS, THREATS

SAN PEDRO SULA: Nelson fled Honduras for the United States to escape a murderous gang that was trying to force him to sell drugs. Just 23, he was deported back to his homeland, his 46-year-old mother Marina says. He was soon dead. They are two of countless ordinary victims of an extraordinary tragedy: the gang violence terrorizing Honduras, possibly the most dangerous country in the world. Poor families like theirs are fleeing home for their lives. Honduras's National Human Rights Commission says more than 74,000 people in this country of eight million moved or emigrated between 2004 and 2014.

Pistol in the mouth

A gang murdered Geraldina's three sons and now she fears for her daughter. "She saw when they killed her brother," Geraldina says. "They came into the house and put a pistol in her mouth to tell her not to talk." Like other witnesses of gang violence interviewed by AFP, she asked not to be identified by her full name. The Megalocos gang killed two of her sons, aged 19 and 22, for disobeying warnings not to wear the shirt of their football team Olimpia, Geraldina said. The third, aged 23, was killed because he refused to join the gang.

The head of the country's human rights commission, Roberto Herrera, said that last year more than 16,000 Hondurans applied to the commission to be relocated abroad. That was a 99 percent increase from the previous year, he added. They flee their home neighborhoods, driven out by murders, kidnappings, extortion, assaults and threats. Many of them seek to move to Costa Rica or Canada, Herrera says. Many others don't wait, but flee straight to the United States—as Geraldina's daughter did. She, too, was deported back to Honduras. Now she and her mother live in a neighborhood far away from the gang.

'Shooting every day'

Honduras has one of the highest homicide rates in the world: more than six times the world average, according to the World Health Organization. Officials blame gangs and drug-traffickers. Groups such as the Salvatrucha Gang and District 18 rule the poor outskirts of Honduras's main cities. Before it was torn apart by the murders, Geraldina's family lived in San Pedro Sula, Honduras's second-biggest city—and one of the world's most violent. "There is shooting every day. It goes for an hour or more," says one local woman there, Petronila. Young gang members cruise around in luxury vehicles toting guns. "A lot of weapons end up scattered in the street" after a battle, she says. The US government's development agency USAID runs "community-based efforts to prevent crime and gang activity" in Honduras. — AFP

ITALY'S POPULIST SURGE STALLED BY WEEK OF CAPITAL IN CHAOS

ROME: It was supposed to be the start of something big. When the Five Star Movement won the keys to Rome's City Hall in June, all the talk was of the anti-establishment movement founded by comic Beppe Grillo starting to look like Italy's government in waiting. Two months later the party is in crisis, its credibility on the line because the beleaguered new mayor, Virginia Raggi, has still not finalised a team to run the city she vowed to start cleaning up from day one.

Fed up with chaos and corruption in their public services, Romans swept Raggi into power to chants of "Onesta, Onesta" (Honesty, Honesty), Five Star's rallying cry. But the themes that dominated the election have come back to haunt the political novice who became the first female leader of the Eternal City. After a week of turmoil, Raggi, 37, now stands accused of being anything but honest. She has scored a string of political own goals and, despite hopes to the contrary, has failed to tame what many regard as an ungovernable city.

Her woes started last month when rubbish began to pile up on the streets

of Rome's neglected outlying suburbs, providing a smelly reminder of endemic problems at the city's corruption-tainted refuse collection agency AMA. Simultaneously, Raggi came under fire for putting a former AMA insider, Paola Muraro, in charge of cleaning up the agency.

'I'm not giving up'

Worse was to follow. Muraro, it quickly emerged, is under criminal investigation linked to her time as an AMA consultant and the mayor knew that. Raggi told a parliamentary hearing this week that she had informed her own party hierarchy but had not felt compelled to make the information public. Political opponents and much of the media smelt blood: was the squeaky clean party of transparency exposing itself as just like all the others?

Raggi maintains she did not deliberately mislead the public. "I'm not giving up," she vowed. But her handling of the issue has angered M5S activists and increased tensions between Raggi and Grillo. The pair are reportedly no longer

on speaking terms as the mayor resists the party founder's desire to keep her on a tight rein. Luigi Di Maio, the Grillo protegee seen as the movement's likely candidate for prime minister, has also been damaged, having been forced into an embarrassing confession that he had not grasped the severity of the allegations against Muraro. "I made a mistake," he told a rally of party faithful.

Hit in the polls

Raggi's cause was not helped by her decision to appoint a chief of staff on a reported salary of 193,000 euros, twice that of his predecessor. Despite the generous stipend, he resigned last week, along with the city finance chief and three senior staff at AMA and ATAC, the company that runs the city's much-maligned public transport. A replacement finance chief had not even started work before he too was forced to step aside because of his own legal problems.

Analysts say the fiasco in Rome is bound to damage the national standing of a party that had overtaken the ruling Democratic Party in the opinion

polls with around 30 percent of voters pledging to back them in national elections. "M5S has blundered every step of the way and it is paying the price for thinking practically anyone could run Rome: (Raggi's) three years' experience as a city councilor were never going to be enough," said Gianfranco Pasquino, a professor of political science at the John Hopkins School in Bologna.

"What has happened will have an effect on public opinion and some people who were planning to vote M5S could change their minds," Pasquino told AFP. Pollster Antonio Noto said the fiasco in Rome had affected the movement's national standing but that it was too early to say if a hit of around three percentage points would be long-lasting.

"For the first time since the movement was created, half its supporters are very critical of how this affair has been handled - that is something new," Noto, of IPR Marketing, told daily *Il Messaggero*. "But that does not necessarily mean voters will abandon them, they'll see how the situation develops." — AFP

4 DEAD AS TRAIN DERAILS IN SPAIN

FRONT COMPLETELY CAVED IN AND MANGLED

O PORRINO: At least four people died and around 50 were injured yesterday when a train came off the tracks in north-western Spain on its way to Portugal, just as it was approaching a station. The Portuguese driver was among the dead in the accident, which saw the train hit the wall of a bridge and smash into a pillar, according to the mayor of the nearby town of O Porrino. Pictures posted online and in local media showed one carriage of the train, which was carrying at least 65 people, lying on its side, the front completely caved in and mangled.

Helicopters, ambulances and fire engines rushed to the scene to attend to the victims, some of whom were thought to be seriously injured. A passenger said in a video posted on local daily *La Voz de Galicia* that the train suddenly started wobbling. "It wouldn't stop. I was sitting down and I fell to the ground," she said. "And then the train stopped. It was that quick." Ramon Gonzalez, a witness interviewed by Spanish television who works in the station cafeteria near the accident, said there was a "very strong bang." "It was full of black smoke ... It's a straight line, the train was due to stop in 50 metres (164 feet), so this isn't normal. "There are still some injured here but not very serious, the seriously injured were quickly evacuated."

'Very straight line'

The train was travelling from the Galician town of Vigo to the city of Porto in Portugal when the accident happened near O Porrino. Manuel Carrera, deputy mayor of O Porrino, said four people had died in the accident. Adif, the company



O PORRINO: Firefighters and rescuers inspect the wreckage of the train. — AFP

that manages railways in Spain and is in charge of the tracks, said the accident happened around 9.30am local time (0730 GMT) just before arriving into the station. "It's a very straight line," a spokeswoman said. "There isn't bad visibility there, it emerges from a curb," Eva Garcia de la Torre, Mayor of O Porrino, told the *Cadena Ser* radio. She added that the train looked old. But the reason of the derailment has yet to be determined.

Spain's railway company Renfe said the train and the driver were both Portuguese, adding that railway traffic had been suspended in the area. Galicia was also the scene of one of Spain's worst rail disasters in 2013, when around 80 people were killed and another 144 injured after a train slammed into a concrete wall on the outskirts of Santiago de

Compostela. The train was approaching a curve at more than twice the speed limit on that piece of the track in Galicia. A pre-trial investigation of the July 24, 2013 crash carried out by a court in Galicia concluded the accident was caused by a lapse in attention by the driver, who was on the telephone at the time of the crash with another rail employee.

He has been charged with negligent homicide, and a Spanish court said earlier this year that an investigation into the crash would be reopened to determine if Adif was also partly responsible. As regional elections near in Galicia at the end of the month, several political parties including the ruling conservative Popular Party and the Socialists announced they had suspended their campaign, which had only just kicked off. — AFP

SWEDEN TO BEGIN AGE CHECKS FOR REFUGEES

STOCKHOLM: Sweden will next year begin medical testing to determine the age of unaccompanied child refugees, officials said yesterday over fears adults are trying to pass themselves off as minors to up their chances of getting asylum. The National Board of Forensic Medicine told reporters it would begin age tests in early 2017. Forensic examiners will determine whether an asylum seeker is over or under the age of 18 based on dental assessments of wisdom teeth and magnetic imaging of the knee joint.

"There's no method to medically determine the exact age of an individual... but by studying which phase a person is in, you can draw approximate conclusions," forensic examiner Elias Palm said. The tests will be conducted when an asylum seeker claiming to be under the age of 18 is unable to prove his or her age, and the case handler is in doubt. The tests will be voluntary, meaning that an individual can refuse to undergo them.

A spokesman for the Migration Agency, Fredrik Bengtsson, told AFP that minors wanting to prove their real age would welcome the tests. Those who refuse run the risk of having case handlers determine that they are adults. Sweden has taken in more unaccompanied child asylum seekers than any other country in Europe. In 2015, the Scandinavian country took in more than 35,000 unaccompanied children, 90 percent of whom were boys and many of whom do not have identification papers.

Sweden has since tightened its asylum regulations, and this year the number has fallen to 1,700 as of the end of August. According to the Migration Agency, there are age doubts in 70 percent of cases where asylum seekers claim to be between the ages of 15 and 17. Swedish officials have also expressed concern that some adults passing themselves off as children are being placed in housing centres for children, putting the younger children at risk.

In one case that garnered nationwide attention, a 12-year-old boy from Afghanistan was raped by two other self-proclaimed "boys" living in the same housing centre for children. The perpetrators had claimed to be 15 years old on their arrival in Sweden, but were later determined to be adults. The National Board of Forensic Medicine, which will outsource the testing, said that there would likely be between 4,000 and 18,000 tests carried out overall. — AFP

CHARITY TARGETS FACTORIES IN INDIA AND BANGLADESH

NEW DELHI: One of the most effective ways to curb forced labor in the garment industry is to target cotton spinning mills, where workers can provide valuable information about the source of material in the fashion supply chain, an anti-slavery charity said yesterday. The apparel industry has come under pressure to improve factory conditions and workers' rights, particularly after the collapse of the Rana Plaza complex in Bangladesh more than three years ago, when 1,136 garment workers were killed.

Following the tragedy, numerous initiatives were launched by global brands and charities to promote openness and safeguard employees, from ensuring the safety of buildings to providing better pay and working hours. But while most projects

focused on farmers growing cotton in the fields or factory workers stitching clothes, few work with the spinning mills in the middle of the supply chain. Run by the California-based charity As You Sow, the Responsible Sourcing Network (RSN) on Sept 1 launched a project focusing on mills in India and Bangladesh that altogether employ hundreds of thousands of workers.

"Located in the middle of the supply chain, spinning mills are uniquely positioned to identify cotton produced with forced labour and prevent it from entering corporate supply chains," Patricia Jurewicz, RSN's director, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Our initiative targets the most opaque place in the supply chain, where yarn spinners blend different types of cotton

together," she said. "They are the key to knowing if the cotton that gets spun and woven into our clothes was harvested under forced labor conditions."

Also, Jurewicz said thousands of young women are kept in bonded labor in spinning mills in southern India, where they have been lured from their homes with the promise of a good job but in reality work in appalling conditions. A 2014 report by the Dutch Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO) found women in mills were forced to work long hours for low wages with no contracts, no paid leave and little freedom of movement. The United States and Britain have adopted laws that ban the import of goods produced by forced labor or require companies to report action

taken to address slavery and trafficking. As consumers and investors become more socially aware, they are demanding ethical manufacturing and weighing companies on human rights records. RSN said its initiative, the Yarn Ethically and Sustainably Sourced (YESS), will train workers at spinning mills to identify forced labor and trafficking. It also will help mills implement policies to improve worker conditions, assess their compliance and provide certification. Major brands such as Adidas, Hudson's Bay Co, BJ's Wholesale Club and Woolworths Holdings Ltd have expressed support and less than a week after the launch of YESS, a mill in India got in touch to ask how to become certified, she said. "This demonstrates there is industry demand for this type of verification," she said. — Reuters



PHNOM PENH: Cambodia's main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party Deputy President Kem Sokha, left, gestures as he speaks at the party headquarters. — AP

CAMBODIAN OPPN LEADER GETS 5-MONTH SENTENCE

PHNOM PENH: A Cambodian opposition leader was sentenced to five months in jail yesterday in the latest faceoff between the government and opposition as political tensions over challenges to Prime Minister Hun Sen's longstanding autocratic rule show no signs of easing. Sam Sokong, a defense lawyer for Kem Sokha, deputy leader of the Cambodia National Rescue Party, said they will appeal the verdict, which followed a trial that lasted only several hours. "The trial conducted today did not comply with procedures," he said.

Kem Sokha, who was not in court, was convicted of twice ignoring a summons to answer questions related to a case involving his alleged mistress. He refused, saying the legal moves were part of the ruling party's attempt to cripple the opposition. Riot police were outside the court, and nearly 1,000 opposition supporters gathered in front of their party headquarters, with riot police watching them from about 500 meters (yards) away. There were no reports of violence.

Opposition lawmaker Ou Chanrith said the party was not surprised by the verdict, and urged supporters to continue challenging government suppression. The case is one of several hanging over opposition leaders in what is generally seen as an attempt to disrupt their organizing efforts ahead of local elections next June. The next general election is not until the middle of 2018, but holding power at the local level is an advantage when national polls are held.

Atmosphere of intimidation

Before the verdict, Kem Sokha appeared before his supporters and

accused the government of using the courts to stop him from speaking out and prevent him from taking part in the elections. A statement issued this week by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed concern "about the escalating atmosphere of intimidation of opposition politicians, their supporters, civil society, and peaceful demonstrators in Cambodia."

It noted "a host of legal charges" faced by Kem Sokha and 29 other opposition supporters. It said 14 of them had been given heavy prison sentences despite raise serious concerns about the fairness of the proceedings. "We urge the authorities to adhere strictly to international fair trial standards during the criminal proceedings," it said. One victim of the legal moves has been opposition leader Sam Rainsy, who did not return from a trip abroad last November when an old conviction for defamation was restored and his parliamentary immunity was stripped by the government's legislative majority. It had been generally assumed that the conviction, carrying a two-year prison sentence, had been lifted by a 2013 pardon which allowed Sam Rainsy to return from a previous period of self-exile. He also faces a stack of separate charges that could put him away for 17 years. Activists and non-governmental organizations, which are generally critical of the government, have come in for similar kinds of legal pressures. Physical force has also been applied. Two opposition lawmakers were beaten up by a pro-government mob last year, and the murder in July of a prominent social critic, Kem Ley, allegedly by a man to whom he owed money, is widely regarded with suspicion. — AP

BRITISH PM RIDES ROW OVER SCHOOL SELECTION

LONDON: British Prime Minister Theresa May set out bold plans yesterday for more selection in schools, raising a deeply divisive issue two months into a premiership that has so far been defined by Brexit. The Conservative leader announced the end of a two-decade ban on new grammar schools, which only accept the brightest pupils, as part of a package of reforms intended to build a "truly meritocratic Britain". Her proposals, described by the press as an "education revolution", delighted many Conservatives but are opposed by Labour, and there are questions about whether they will get through parliament.

The campaign ahead of Britain's vote in June to quit the European Union exposed divisions within the Conservative Party, which only has a small majority in the House of Commons. May took over in July and her first two months have been dominated by questions over how and when she will implement Brexit. But she has vowed to use her office to make Britain a fairer country, and laid out yesterday her first steps to address what she said was a widespread desire for change. In her first major domestic policy speech, she said she wanted to "give ordinary, working-class people the better deal they deserve".

She added: "In a true meritocracy, we should not be apologetic about stretching the most academically able to the very highest standards of excellence." Grammar schools had their heyday in the 1950s, but were phased out from the mid-1960s and a ban was introduced on new schools in 1998. Some 163 survive in England, and most are oversubscribed. Supporters say such schools offer poor, bright students an academically rigorous education. But critics say they are divisive and take far fewer poor pupils than other schools.

The chief inspector of schools, Michael Wilshaw, said the proposals risked two decades of progress in education. "We will fail as a nation if we only get the top 15 to 20 percent of our children achieving well," he told BBC radio. Labor education spokeswoman Angela Rayner said the plan would "entrench inequality and disadvantage". May said new grammars would be required to take a proportion of children from poorer backgrounds. — AFP

PHILIPPINES' DUTERTE SAYS HE NEVER CURSED OBAMA

JAKARTA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday he told President Barack Obama during their encounter in Laos that he never cursed him. On a visit to Indonesia, Duterte told the Filipino community there that he told Obama: "President Obama, I'm President Duterte. I never made that statement, check it out." He said that Obama responded: "'My men will talk to you,' and he replied 'OK.'"

Duterte blamed the media for distorting his words, saying he did utter "son of a bitch" but it was not directed at Obama. Before traveling to Laos for regional summits, Duterte said Monday that Obama should not question him about the rising death toll in his war on drugs, which has been criticized abroad and by Duterte's opponents in the Philippines. More than 2,800 suspected drug dealers and users have

been killed since Duterte took office. Asked how he would explain the killings to Obama, he said in a long answer that the Philippines has long ceased to be a colony of the United States and he did not have a master except the Filipino people. "I do not care about him. Who is he?" Duterte said. "You must be respectful. Do not just throw questions and statements. Putang Ina, I will swear at you at that forum," he added, using the Tagalog phrase for "son of a bxxxh."

Obama then canceled a meeting with Duterte in Laos but the two met informally on Wednesday in a holding room before attending a gala dinner. Duterte, who assumed the presidency in June, has had an uneasy relationship with the US, his country's longtime treaty ally. He has said he is charting a foreign policy not

dependent on the US, and has moved to reduce tensions with China over rival territorial claims. He also said he showed a picture of an atrocity during the US pacification campaign in the southern Philippines at the beginning of the last century at the East Asia Summit in Laos that included Obama, in order to stop criticism over human rights violations in the war on illegal drugs. The photograph showed about 200 dead Filipino Moros stacked in a common pit, with an American soldier holding a rifle while stepping on the breasts of a naked Moro woman. He said he told the leaders, "This is human rights, what do you intend to do?" and "Human rights violations whether committed by Moses or Abraham, is still violation of human rights." The whole room was silent and he waited for Obama to respond but he remained quiet, Duterte said. — AP

HOW DOES ONE SOLVE A PROBLEM LIKE N KOREA?

ANOTHER NUCLEAR TEST DRAWS GLOBAL OUTCRY

BEIJING: North Korea's fifth nuclear test is yet more evidence of how ineffective sanctions are in deterring Pyongyang while China is unwilling or unable to intervene, analysts say, with some arguing a new approach might be necessary—engagement. Since Pyongyang's first nuclear test sent tremors worldwide, it has been hit by five sets of United Nations sanctions over its atomic and missile programs.

The carrot has been tried as well as the stick, with offers of food aid if Pyongyang abandons its weapons. It has pursued them regardless, even as its own people have regularly suffered crippling food shortages over the years, under both Kim Jong-Il and his son and successor Kim Jong-Un. His rule—the third reign of the Kim dynasty—has seen former top officials executed, including his own uncle, and blood-curdling threats of war against the South and the US, interspersed with appeals for peace.

At the same time he has yet to visit Beijing to pay his respects to China's rulers, his country's key diplomatic protector and provider of trade and aid. Even so, and despite yesterday's new test, Beijing is unlikely "to opt for significantly greater pressure on the DPRK", said Bonnie Glaser, senior adviser for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington. China prefers "diplomatic engagement with Pyongyang that results in a peace treaty and an eventual decision by the DPRK to give up its nuclear weapons in exchange for economic assistance and US diplomatic recognition," she said.

Each successive test has been met with greater outrage and hand-wringing from the international community, to no avail. Washington has long pushed the Asian giant to up the pressure on its unruly neighbour, but it is not clear how rigorously Beijing has enforced sanctions and tensions between the world's top two economies have risen. Without Beijing's help, analysts agree, sanctions are a lost cause.

Yesterday's test "shows that our approach to North Korea has failed, we haven't managed to deter their nuclear ambitions," said Jenny Town, managing editor of 38 North, a website focusing on North Korea analysis. "Without China, this is a losing battle, we need cooperation and collaboration to find solutions," she said. John



South Korean amphibious vehicles fire smoke shells during a re-enactment of the Incheon landing to mark the 66th anniversary of the start of Operation Chromite, the battle that turned the tide in the Korean War, in the western port city of Incheon. — AFP

Carlson of the Lowy Institute in Sydney took a similar stance. "The only way to change the DPRK's behavior is to engage with it and see if there are incentives that can persuade it to freeze its nuclear and missile programs," he said. But prospects for engagement look dim. US President Barack Obama has his hands full with conflict in Syria, and South Korean president Park Geun-hye has held a hard line against the North.

Driving a wedge

While China has been increasingly frustrated by the North's defiance, Beijing fears both a flood of refugees if its neighbor is plunged into turmoil, and the presence of US troops on its border in a unified Korea. Relations have improved recently, with top North Korean party official and former foreign minister Ri Su Yong making a rare visit to China and meeting Xi in May—just months after Pyongyang's fourth nuclear test. The North may have even informed China of its intention to stage Friday's blast, said Adam Cathcart an expert on Sino-North Korean relations at the University of Leeds in the UK.

"North Korean diplomat Choe Son-hui went to Beijing on Tuesday, and slipped out sometime thereafter—it is quite possible that the purpose of that visit was to

privately inform Chinese comrades of the planned test," he said. A recent agreement between Washington and Seoul to station a missile defense system known as THAAD in the South has infuriated Beijing, which says the hardware poses a significant threat to regional security. "THAAD brought China and North Korea closer by driving a wedge between China and South Korea," said John Delury, a historian at Yonsei University in Seoul.

Beijing's foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Friday that "unilateral" actions taken by "relevant parties" had made the situation "more tense and complicated", in remarks apparently directed at South Korea and the US. "To some degree, North Korea is using its nuclear plan to manipulate China's relationship with South Korea and the US," said Zhang Liangui, a professor at the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee school.

Without Chinese action, Cathcart said, "there is very little that can be done to retaliate or otherwise make the North Korean leadership feel more pain as a result of the test". "North Korea has done very thorough work in insulating itself from intrusive global systems generally, and the people are well accustomed to outside sanctions." — AFP

ON MAO ANNIVERSARY, XI MAKES NO MENTION

BEIJING: Chinese state media yesterday marked the 40th anniversary of the death of the founder of modern China, Mao Zedong, with articles praising him, but President Xi Jinping visited a school and did not mention the day. Mao, who died in 1976, remains a divisive figure. His image adorns banknotes and his embalmed body attracts hundreds, if not thousands, of visitors a day to Beijing.

While the ruling Communist Party has acknowledged Mao made mistakes, there has yet to be an official accounting for the chaos of the Cultural Revolution when Mao declared class war, or the millions of deaths from starvation during the 1958-61 Great Leap Forward, a failed attempt at rapid industrialization.

The Hunan Daily, the main party paper in Mao's home province in the south of China, carried a small article on its front page proclaiming "Chairman Mao, the people cherish your memory", but banished to its fifth page a longer article about him. The party's official People's Daily carried several pictures of him on its Weibo microblog along with a collection of some of his most well-known quotes and asked people to name their favorite. However it disabled the comments section.

Xi, who doubles as party and military chief, made no mention of Mao in his main activity for the day as reported by state media, going to a Beijing school ahead of China's Teachers Day, which falls today. While there he "underscored the importance of better basic education", according to Xinhua news agency, and watched students playing football, Xi's favorite sport. Xi suffered personally during the Cultural Revolution when his father was imprisoned. Xi was sent to the countryside to live with peasants, like millions of other urban Chinese youth.

Mao has become a potent symbol for leftists within and without the party who feel three decades of market-based reform have gone too far, creating social inequalities like poverty and graft. In lauding Mao, they sometimes seek to put pressure on the current leadership and its market-oriented policies. A day earlier, a small group of Mao fans attended the opening of a calligraphy and art exhibition about him in Beijing. "Chinese people, the broad masses of the Chinese people, in their hearts, have never forgotten Mao Zedong. They will remember him forever. And they still promote his principles," artist Yao Weidong told Reuters. "So if there are corrupt officials, we use Mao Zedong Thought to defeat them. We all remember very clearly. Most of us have not forgotten Chairman Mao." —Reuters

TRUMP'S MEXICO TRIP HAUNTS PRESIDENT

CHANGE IN CABINET PROVES TRIP WAS A DISASTER

MEXICO CITY: Donald Trump may have visited Mexico for only a few hours, but President Enrique Pena Nieto is still feeling political pain from last week's ridiculed meeting with the White House hopeful. Public anger over the trip continues to flare even after felling Pena Nieto's close confidant, Luis Videgaray, who stepped down Wednesday as finance minister following reports he orchestrated the sit-down with the Republican candidate who referred to Mexican migrants as "rapists."

Adding insult to injury, Trump later bragged during a televised forum that Videgaray's resignation proved his lightning visit on August 31 was a success. "I let them know where the United States stands," said Trump, who has angered Mexicans by demanding that the government pay for a border wall. "And if you look what happened, the aftermath today, people that arranged the trip in Mexico have been forced out of government. That's how well we did," he said, before tweeting on Thursday that Videgaray was a "brilliant finance minister."

'Vomited in your house'

"The cabinet change was a recognition that the visit was a disaster," political analyst Jose Antonio Crespo said. "Otherwise they wouldn't have changed President Pena Nieto's right-hand man." The controversial meeting is dogging a president whose approval ratings have plummeted, with the economy underperforming, drug violence claiming more lives every day and a report last month that he had plagiarized parts of his law school thesis. The government "commits mistake after mistake



US President Barack Obama tours Midway Atoll in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the Pacific Ocean on Thursday. —AFP

after mistake and doesn't consult people who know about these things, so they invite someone (Trump) at a completely inadequate time," said Jesus Velasco, a specialist on US-Mexico relations at Tarleton State University in Texas. Pena Nieto came under fire for not being hard on Trump during a joint news conference and failing to challenge him when the New York billionaire said they had not discussed the wall during their meeting. It was only later that Pena Nieto said he had privately told Trump that he would not pay for the barrier. Carlos Marin, editorial director general of the Grupo Milenio media outlet, put it this way when he interviewed Pena Nieto this week: "This miser-

able man vomited in your house." Pena Nieto defended the get-together saying it was important to open a dialogue with someone who could be the next US president instead of confronting Trump with "insults" that "would make me very popular here in Mexico." That decision has clearly not helped his popularity, with a survey by pollsters Mitofsky showing that 88 percent of Mexicans were not pleased with the meeting.

Cooler US-Mexico ties?

Acknowledging the "very heated rhetoric" that often occurs in US elections, US Ambassador Roberta Jacobson said "there

may be rough times ahead for each country" but "in the end we get back to business." "So I tend to not 'catastrophize' even some of the things that are happening in this election," she said at a forum in Mexico City. But analysts said Trump's visit could hurt Mexico's relations with the next US president, whether Trump or Democratic rival Hillary Clinton, who declined Pena Nieto's invitation to visit Mexico.

Pena Nieto gave Trump a platform to look presidential just as Clinton was seeking to paint him as unfit for office. "Whoever wins (the US election), the relationship, at least with Pena Nieto until there's a new (Mexican) president, will already be cooler than it should have been before Trump's visit," Crespo said. But Christopher Wilson of the Mexico Institute at the Wilson Center think-tank said the meeting could end up useful if Trump wins-despite their discord over what they said at their meeting.

"They got to know each other and it opened lines of communication and that's probably a good thing," he said. "If Hillary Clinton wins, maybe this is a bit of stain on what she would hope to be a strong relationship from the get-go," he added. "But at the same time, you'd be dealing with Hillary Clinton, who is someone who understands the importance of a strong relationship with Mexico." Although the scandal is hurting Pena Nieto, Wilson said, ultimately, what matters to Mexicans is "kitchen table" issues such as the economy, public security and fighting corruption. "His record on those, both for good and for bad, will be the most important part of his legacy." — AFP

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KANSAS CITY: Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton poses for a photo after speaking during the 136th Annual Session of the National Baptist Convention at the Kansas City Convention Center. — AFP

CLINTON SLAMS 'DANGEROUS' TRUMP AFTER PUTIN PRAISE CALLS RIVAL UNPATRIOTIC AND UNFIT TO LEAD

CHARLOTTE: Hillary Clinton portrayed herself Thursday as a steely stateswoman ready to fend off the dangers facing the United States, as she denounced Republican rival Donald Trump as "unpatriotic" and unfit to lead. With just 61 days before America chooses a new commander in chief, the Democrat went on the offensive highlighting the risk of electing a political novice who praises Russia's leader while dismissing the US president, and who has no real plan to combat IS jihadists.

Trump pushed back just as hard, accusing Clinton of being a failed and "trigger-happy" secretary of state whose policies triggered mayhem across the world. Clinton, 68, and Trump, 70, have clashed repeatedly over foreign policy, but their battle rose to a new level Wednesday night when the two were separately grilled over their national security credentials at a New York forum.

"One thing you didn't hear from Donald Trump last night is any plan to take on ISIS, one of the biggest threats facing our country," Clinton said, using an acronym for the Islamic State group. "He says his plan is still a secret, but the truth is he simply doesn't have one. And that's not only dangerous, it should be disqualifying." Instead of laying out a Middle East strategy at the forum, she said, Trump praised Putin and suggested the strongman is "far more" of a leader than US President Barack Obama. "Even I was shocked by this," Clinton said later at a rally in Charlotte, in the battleground state of North Carolina. "That is not just unpatriotic, it's not just insulting to the office and to the man who holds the office. It is scary, it is dangerous."

Hunt down IS chief

Clinton invoked one of the nation's most popular Republican presidents in driving home her point. "What would Ronald Reagan say?" Clinton asked, "about a Republican nominee who attacks America's generals and heaps praise on Russia's president? I think we know the answer." The senior most elected US Republican, House Speaker Paul Ryan, distanced himself from Trump's praise of Putin just one day after returning to Congress after a seven-week break. "Vladimir Putin is an aggressor that does not share our interests," Ryan said, citing US authorities who believe Moscow is conducting cyber-attacks on the US political system.

Seeking to strike a commanding tone, Clinton called for the United States to track down and kill Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, as it did Osama bin Laden. "Getting Al-Baghdadi will require efforts at the top levels, but it will send a resounding message that nobody directs or inspires attacks against the United States and gets away with it," she said. With the campaign now in the final two-month stretch, Clinton was wasting no opportunity to harangue Trump over his missteps, accusing him of having "trash-talked" US generals. "We've never seen anything like this," she said, highlighting Trump's call to bring back interrogation techniques deemed to be torture, and to kill relatives of terrorists.

'Trigger-happy'

Clinton pointed to the US military code of honor, saying "that, Donald Trump, ... is what we're going to stand up and defend in the face of your outrageous, disgraceful attacks on the men and women of our armed forces." The

bitter back-and-forth was likely to be on display for the campaign's duration. Trump joined the fray Thursday with attacks on Clinton, whom he accused of having "raced to invade, intervene and topple regimes."

"Hillary Clinton is trigger-happy," with policies that "produced ruin" in Libya, Iraq and Syria, Trump said in Cleveland, Ohio in a 10-minute anti-Hillary riff before delivering planned remarks on education. "Her policies unleashed ISIS, spread terrorism and put Iran on a path to nuclear weapons." Trump has gained on Clinton over the past 10 days, but the former secretary of state still maintains an advantage of 2.8 percentage points, according to the RealClearPolitics poll average.

A new Quinnipiac Poll of battleground states shows Clinton ahead 48 percent to 43 percent in Pennsylvania and ahead 47-43 in North Carolina. But Trump leads in Ohio, 46-45, while the two are tied in Florida, 47-47, according to the poll. A Suffolk University poll shows a different story in North Carolina, with Trump ahead by three points. Clinton's tarmac address to reporters marked the first podium press conference in nine months for the candidate, who broke a long media drought by speaking to journalists at length on her campaign plane this week. She also rebuked an "undisciplined" Trump for discussing elements of a recent classified intelligence briefing during Wednesday's commander-in-chief forum, in which he said he learned that Obama and other US leaders "did not follow" the advice of US national security experts. "I would never comment on any aspect of an intelligence briefing that I received," Clinton said. — AFP

15 YEARS AFTER 9/11 ATTACK, TERROR NOW 'HOME-GROWN'

WASHINGTON: Fifteen years after the September 11 attacks, US anti-terror officials say the country is hardened against such well-developed plots but remains as vulnerable as ever to small and especially home-grown attacks. Counter-terror operations are under huge pressure to ferret out and disrupt plots by sympathizers of the Islamic State group and Al-Qaeda hidden by less centralized networks and new communications technologies, they say. "Our job is getting harder," said Nick Rasmussen, the powerful director of the National Counterterrorism Center, at a stock-taking this week in Washington.

The explosion of ways extremists can communicate with each other, many of them via popular smartphone apps and easy access to powerful encryption, "gives them the edge" against the US intelligence community, he said. The 9/11 attacks gave birth to the US War On Terror, which initially focused on Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. But 15 years later, the target is a different group, the Islamic State, which has seized territory in Syria and Iraq and shown the ability to plan and inspire home-grown attacks in Europe and the United States, smaller-scale than 9/11 but nevertheless deadly and demoralizing.

Meanwhile, Al-Qaeda still exists without former leader Osama bin Laden, with affiliates, spinoffs and rivals of both groups operating from the Philippines to West Africa, posing a more complex threat. "The reality is that it has metastasized" from the Iraq-Syria region, said Frank Cilluffo, director of the Center for Cyber and Homeland Security at George Washington University. "The threat persists and is in some cases more complex." A series of surprise attacks have placed "HVEs"—homegrown violent extremist—as much in the focus of intelligence agencies as threats from abroad. Among them, a 29-year-old American of Afghan descent believed to hold radical Islamic sympathies shot dead 49 people in an Orlando gay nightclub in June.

And in December, a US-born man and his wife, both with Pakistani roots, killed 14 at a Christmas party in San Bernardino, California. The George Washington University Program on Extremism counts 102 people who have been charged in the United States with offenses related to the Islamic State group, many of them lured online. US intelligence is strained by the more than 1,000 cases of possible extremists it is following, Rasmussen said. Moreover, plots are now developed and carried out much more rapidly, and in smaller networks, making it much harder for counter-terror operations to discover them. — AFP

MARINES FACE ACTION IN MUSLIM RECRUIT'S DEATH

WASHINGTON: The US Marine Corps is weighing criminal or administrative charges against as many as 20 personnel at a recruit training depot following the death of a Muslim trainee, officials said Thursday. Investigators opened a probe into the March death of Raheel Siddiqui, 20, who reportedly fell three stories to his death at the recruitment depot in Parris Island, California.

The Marines have classed the death as a suicide but, according to the Wall Street Journal, investigations suggest Siddiqui leaped from a third-story balcony after a drill instructor slapped him in the face. Citing anonymous Marine officials, the Journal said the drill instructor had referred to the Pakistani-American as a "terrorist." According to a Marine Corps statement, investigations revealed "departures" from the policies and procedures established for Marine Corps recruit training.

"Commanders and senior enlisted advisers at the series, company, battalion and regimental level were relieved in the wake of Recruit Siddiqui's death, and a number of drill instructors have been suspended," the statement reads. "Currently, 20 Recruit Training Regiment personnel have been identified for possible military justice or administrative action." Investigators uncovered a slew of allegations of physical and verbal abuse of recruits by drill instructors.

Commanders have implemented changes including the mandatory suspension of personnel who are being investigated for recruit abuse. "I fully support and endorse these initial actions," Marine Corps Commandant General Robert Neller said in a statement. "When America's men and women commit to becoming Marines, we make a promise to them. We pledge to train them with firmness, fairness, dignity and compassion." — AFP

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ATHENS: (L-R) Malta's Prime Minister Joseph Muscat, Italy's Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, France's President Francois Hollande, Greece's Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, Cyprus' President Nicos Anastasiades, Portugal's Prime Minister Antonio Costa and Spain's State Secretary for European Union (EU) Fernando Eguidazu pose for a photo during the EU MED Mediterranean Economies Summit in Athens yesterday. — AFP

MASTERCARD SUED FOR \$19BN IN DAMAGES

46 MILLION BRITONS COULD EACH GET MORE THAN 300 POUNDS

LONDON: Some 46 million people in Britain could potentially benefit from a legal case brought against Mastercard demanding 14 billion pounds (\$19 billion) in damages for allegedly charging excessive fees, according to court documents filed in London. The case brought by a former chief financial services ombudsman alleges the payments company charged unlawfully high fees to stores when shoppers swiped their debit or credit cards and these were passed on to consumers in higher prices. Mastercard is alleged to have done this for 16 years between 1992 and 2008, in more than 600 pages of documents filed at the Competition Appeal Tribunal on Thursday.

"This was almost an invisible tax," Walter Merricks, who is bringing the case, told the BBC. "Mastercard has behaved disgracefully in this. They have not had the reasonableness to accept that what this was doing was damaging UK consumers."

Mastercard said in a statement it denied any wrongdoing. "We continue to firmly disagree with the basis of this claim and we intend to oppose it vigorously," the world's second-largest payments network said.

The lawsuit comes after the European Union's antitrust regulator found in 2014 Mastercard's fees to store owners to process international payments within the EU were excessive.

Law firm Quinn Emanuel said the lawsuit was the largest damages claim in British history and would be brought under a



LONDON: A detail of a Mastercard credit card showing the logo of the card in London yesterday. — AP

law meaning consumers would automatically be claimants unless they opt out. Any person living in Britain who used a credit card, cash or cheques and was over 16 years old in the period covered by the lawsuit will automatically be part of the claim.

If the 14 billion pound claim was shared equally between the number of eligible claimants, each person could receive more than 300 pounds each, according to a Reuters' calculation. A lawyer working on the case said Mastercard charged shops fees in excess of 1 percent for card use on international transactions between 1992 and 2008.

Although the EU's anti-trust regulator only ruled Mastercard's international fees were illegal, this impacted British consumers as it was the default fee used in Britain. Two years ago, the European Union capped the fees retailers pay at 0.2 percent for debit cards and 0.3 percent for credit cards.

Merricks in a statement said the case is a watershed moment for consumer compensation in Britain. Merricks was head of Britain's financial services ombudsmen for ten years until 2009, helping to settle disputes between consumers and financial services companies.

Britain's banks have been caught in a range of mis-selling cases in the last five years. They have paid 24 billion pounds in compensation for mis-selling loan payment insurance, making it Britain's costliest scandal in financial services. Consumers no longer living in Britain, but who lived in the country between 1992 and 2008, can opt in to the collective claim against Mastercard. Any hearing on the case is not expected until early 2018, unless MasterCard settle it out of court. — Reuters



JAKARTAS: Indonesians shop at a textile market in Jakarta yesterday. Indonesian President Joko Widodo came to power almost two years ago on a pledge to boost growth in the G20 economy, but has struggled to get key projects off the ground due to the dim global outlook and Indonesia's notoriously difficult business environment. —AFP

US CRUDE STOCKS PLUNGE AS TANKERS DELAY ARRIVAL

REFINERY PROCESSING RATES RISE, SHARP SLOWDOWN IN CRUDE IMPORTS

LONDON: US crude oil inventories plunged by more than 14.5 million barrels in the week ending on Sept 2, the largest weekly drop since 1999. The reasons for the drawdown are not hard to find with a modest acceleration in refinery processing rates and a sharp slowdown in crude imports.

Crude imports fell from an average of 8.9 million barrels per day in the week ending Aug. 26 to just 7.1 million bpd in the week ending Sept. 2, according to the US Energy Information Administration. Crude imports fell by a total of almost 13 million barrels compared with the previous week, accounting for most of the reported decline in inventories.

TANKER ARRIVALS

Crude imports have been trending higher since early 2015 as domestic production has fallen and refiners have turned to foreign crudes to help meet strong demand for gasoline and diesel. Crude imports of 8.9 million bpd in the week ending Aug. 26 were the highest for nearly four years and imports have been above 8.4 million bpd in six out of the last 12 weeks. By contrast the 7.1 million bpd of imports in the week ending Sept. 2 were the lowest for 10 months, according to EIA data. Changes in the weekly volume of imports are the single most important source of week to week volatility in the stock numbers so the import slowdown produced a predictably sharp drop in inventories.

Crude oil imports exhibit significant week to week volatility but most of the changes are "noise" related to the timing of tanker arrivals and customs clearances. Crude importers must notify the Energy Information Administration about the amount of oil imported before 7am Eastern Standard Time on Friday each week.

But crude is reported only once it has cleared US customs, a paperwork transaction rather than a physical movement. Until then it is considered "in transit" and remains outside the reporting framework. While crude from Canada arrives by pipeline most other crude arrives by tanker, much of it in very large crude carriers carrying around 2 million barrels at a time.

In general, crude cargoes are cleared in a single entry with US Customs, which creates significant "lumpiness" in the data. Weekly import data is therefore very sensitive to the timing of tanker arrivals and customs clearances. In many cases a sharp rise or fall in imports is reversed the following week.

HERMINE WARNING

Ship arrivals and customs clearances can be impacted by bad weather and logistical problems as well as ordinary bunching, which seems to have been what occurred during the week ending Sept. 2.

Crude imports to both the US East Coast (Maine to Florida) and the Gulf Coast (Texas to Alabama) were both sharply lower in the week ending Sept. 2.

East Coast imports fell to less than 600,000 bpd from over 1.2 million bpd the week before. Gulf Coast imports dropped to less than 2.5 million bpd, from 3.2 million bpd the week before, and the lowest level on record. Imports to other areas also fell but by much less. Pipeline imports into the Midwest fell marginally but remained within the recent range. Seaborne imports to the West Coast also fell but remained within range.

The fact that the slowdown in imports was concentrated on the eastern seaboard points to weather and other local logistical problems as the most likely cause.

One likely explanation is tropical storm Hermine, which moved through the Gulf of Mexico and started to move up the East Coast during the week ending Sep. 2.

The National Hurricane Center started issuing warnings about Hermine on Aug 28. In most cases tankers will respond to the warning of a hurricane by attempting to divert away from it, remaining at sea and delaying arrival, which is consistent with the slowdown in imports reported last week.

The confluence of weather warnings on both the Gulf and East Coasts, a small slowdown in imports to the West Coast and an even more modest slowdown into the Midwest produced a very large drop in nationwide imports. The result was an unusually sharp drop in both imports and inventories but it seems to have been more a statistical effect than a sign of a fundamental shift.

In the past, sudden slowdowns in imports have often been followed by a sharp rebound the following week as delayed tankers arrive and discharge. If that pattern is repeated, both imports and crude stocks are likely to rise again over the next couple of weeks. — Reuters

EGYPT RECEIVES FIRST \$1BN TRANCHE OF WB LOAN

CAIRO: Egypt received yesterday the first \$1 billion tranche of a \$3 billion three-year loan from the World Bank aimed at supporting the government's reform program, the international cooperation ministry said in a statement. Egypt has been negotiating billions of dollars in aid from various lenders to help revive an economy battered by political upheaval since the 2011 revolt and to ease a dollar shortage that has crippled import activity and hampered recovery.

The turmoil has seen foreign reserves more than halve from some \$36 billion before the uprising to \$16.564 billion in August. The World Bank had agreed to provide the first \$1 billion in December but was waiting for the government's economic program, which outlines the broad strokes of its reform plans, to be passed by parliament. A long-delayed Value-Added Tax (VAT) was one of the reforms agreed to as part of the first tranche. Parliament approved the tax in August.

"We are happy to partner with Egypt in implementing its economic program which helps create job opportunities, attracts investment and strengthens growth," Asad Alam, the World Bank's Country Director for Egypt, said in the statement. Egypt reached a preliminary agreement with the International Monetary Fund in August for a \$12 billion three-year lending program to help it plug its funding gap and stabilise markets.

But the deal requires Egypt to secure a further \$6 billion in bilateral financing from other countries. The government is in advanced talks with Saudi Arabia to secure a new deposit worth \$2-3 billion that would go towards that requirement. The United Arab Emirates agreed in August to provide the Egyptian central bank with a \$1 billion deposit for a duration of six years. The \$3 billion World Bank loan does not count as part of the required \$6 billion, neither does an agreed \$1.5 billion loan from the African Development Bank of which Egypt has already received a \$500 million tranche. — Reuters

OIL FALLS BELOW \$49 BUT SET FOR WEEKLY RISE ON OPEC HOPES

LONDON: Oil prices edged lower yesterday but were still set for their first weekly gain in three weeks after Russia and Saudi Arabia agreed to work together to help rebalance the markets and after a surprisingly large drawdown in US crude stocks.

Brent and West Texas Intermediate crude futures were on course to gain about 5 percent this week following two consecutive weeks of declines.

The Brent crude benchmark for November delivery was down \$1.20 cents at \$48.79 a barrel as of 1234 GMT after rising above \$50 for the first time in two weeks on Thursday. NYMEX crude for October delivery was down 1.03 cents at \$46.59, with both contracts pressured by a stronger dollar index amid concerns over the health of the EU economy. The International Energy Agency has said it expects oil demand to finally exceed supply in the third quarter of 2016, meaning record global crude stockpiles should start falling.

But analysts from Morgan Stanley said in a note yesterday there were risks the market might not rebalance until later. "Once again, we see an increasing probability for several unexpected bearish developments to come together, which could push off rebalancing (seasonally-adjusted demand exceeding supply) to late 2017, or even 2018," Morgan Stanley said. Bank of America Merrill Lynch said it saw prices picking up towards the end of the year, with WTI prices reaching \$54 per barrel, and any dip in prices would be a buying opportunity.

If OPEC and non-OPEC producers agree to implement measures to limit supply when they meet next month in Algeria, it should help the markets rebalance. Algeria's oil minister said yesterday two separate agreements could be required between OPEC members and non-OPEC, highlighting the difficulties of clinching such deals. The oil options market indicates traders are not betting big on OPEC and rival Russia clinching a meaningful deal this month. BAML said it did not expect the OPEC gathering in Algiers to take any decisions. Iran's steep oil output growth has stalled in the past three months, new data showed, suggesting Tehran might be struggling to fulfil its plans to raise production to new highs. — Reuters

EU RISKS TRADE IMPOTENCY AS CRITICS TARGET CANADA DEAL

BRUSSELS: A deal that would allow Canada to sell maple syrup duty free in the EU and Europeans to ship more cheese to Canadian shops has become the focus of a battle with anti-globalisation groups that is key to the future of Europe's free trade agreements.

Supporters of the huge deal say it would increase trade between the EU and Canada on a range of products, from cars to investment and farm products, by nearly a quarter, boosting the EU economy by 12 billion euros. But anti-globalisation and other groups emboldened by France's call to suspend EU trade talks with the United States, have turned their attention to the deal already reached with Canada which has not yet been approved.

There is a growing public backlash in the West against free trade and globalisation, which critics blame for factory closures, depressed wages and a widening gap between rich and poor. Britain's decision to leave the European Union was partly seen as a protest by some voters against globalisation.

"CETA (EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement) is the little brother of TTIP (EU-U.S. Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) and needs to be buried alongside it," said Fabio De Masi, a German member of the European Parliament (MEP) for the leftist Die Linke party. Canada is not impressed. "If the EU cannot do a deal with Canada, I

think it is legitimate to say who the heck can it do a deal with," Canadian Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland said in June. Other supporters say CETA is the most modern trade deal ever made and that the new Canadian government bent over backwards to accept EU demands for a new way of settling investor claims.

"There are no deals that are comparable in their quality with CETA," said Artis Pabriks, a member of the European Parliament. "I would say it is a gold standard." The deal would eliminate tariffs on almost 99 percent of goods. The beneficiaries would include, for example, carmakers or the EU textile sector, for which Canadian duties can be up to 18 percent.

Service companies could also benefit and EU companies would be able to tender for public contracts at Canadian provincial and municipal level, the first time Canada has offered this.

VOTERS IN MIND

The deal, agreed by negotiators two years ago after five years of talks, should get the green light from EU member states next month before it is signed during Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's visit to Brussels on Oct. 27. However, there are risks it will not. Austrian Chancellor Christian Kern said last week he would start a "conflict" over CETA, while toning down his opposition a day later.

Observers say Kern and others are responding to public mistrust of the planned TTIP in particular what critics call a "race to the bottom" in environmental and food standards. CETA, say opponents, is just a mini-TTIP and indeed more advanced, given TTIP is simply under negotiation and not yet a deal.

France and Germany hold elections next year and politicians are curbing their enthusiasm for trade deals. Germany's Social Democrats will vote on CETA at a party meeting on Sept 19, a year before Germans chose a chancellor. "I am confident that the closer to election days we come, more politicians will think twice whether to pass these agreements or not," said De Masi. Trade is unusual in the EU because it is one of the few policy areas where the European Commission negotiates on behalf of national governments, rather than each country doing it individually. The deal will still need backing from the European Parliament, with a vote possible in December, as well as ratification from up to 30 national and regional parliaments, which could take up to five years or more. The Belgian regional parliament of Wallonia has already voted to reject CETA. "There is the sense that globalisation is the thing that's at fault," said Jeffrey Bergstrand, finance professor at Notre Dame University in Indiana. "There is clearly this momentum towards a protectionist attitude, back to what we had in the Great Depression." — Reuters



BATISLAVA: President of European Central Bank Mario Draghi (left) and Chair of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee of European Parliament Roberto Gualtieri (right) attend a round table during an Informal Meeting of Ministers for Economic and Financial Affairs (Informal ECOFIN) in Bratislava, Slovakia yesterday. — AFP

BRITAIN CHARGES 3 EX-TESCO EXECUTIVES OVER ACCOUNTS

LONDON: Britain's Serious Fraud Office yesterday charged three former executives of Tesco with fraud and false accounting in a criminal probe into an accounting scandal at the supermarket giant.

Carl Rogberg, Chris Bush and John Scouler-Tesco's former UK finance chief, UK managing director and food commercial head respectively—were charged with one count of fraud by abuse of position and one count of false accounting. The three men will appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on September 22, the SFO said in a statement, adding its investigation was still ongoing.

The SFO launched a criminal probe into Tesco in October 2014 after the company revealed it had overstated profits by an amount which has since risen to as much as £326 million (\$435 million, 386 million euros). The alleged activity occurred between February 2014 and September 2014, according to the SFO. Tesco, which is Britain's biggest retailer, said it will continue to cooperate with the probe. "We note the decision of the SFO to bring a prosecution against former colleagues in relation to historic issues and acknowledge the investigation into the company is ongoing. Tesco continues to co-operate with the SFO's investigation," it said in a brief statement. "The last two years have seen an extensive program of change at Tesco, but given this is an ongoing legal matter, we are unable to provide any further comment at this time." — AFP

TURKISH GROWTH SLOWS TO 3.1% IN SECOND QUARTER

SLOWER GROWTH COMES AMID RATING DOWNGRADE FEARS

ANKARA: Turkey's economy grew a less-than-expected 3.1 percent in the second quarter, data showed yesterday, putting the government's year-end target seemingly beyond reach, with a further slowdown expected after a failed coup in July hit sentiment. Growth in the quarter was heavily consumption-led, with domestic demand accounting for 5.2 percent but external demand wiping off 2.1 percent, Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek said in a statement. That showed the importance of government efforts to increase domestic saving, he said.

The second-quarter number was below a Reuters poll forecast of 3.4 percent growth, and down from a revised 4.7 percent in the first quarter. Government ministers had already said Turkey would miss its year-end target of 4.5 percent.

"Meeting the 4.5 percent this year seems almost impossible and achieving even 4 per-

cent growth will mean success," a senior economy official told Reuters. A second official said growth in the third quarter could slow to around 2 percent. Credit rating agency Fitch lowered its outlook on Turkey to negative from stable last month, while Moody's said on July 18 it was putting its rating on review for a possible downgrade to junk status.

Timothy Ash, a strategist at Nomura, said the latest numbers may not be enough to swing the balance. "Sub 3 percent and I think there would be more focus/expectations of Moody's using that as the smoking gun for them to pull the trigger on a downgrade. Not sure this number is decisive from a rating perspective," he said in emailed comments.

Finance Minister Naci Agbal said global conditions had contributed to the loss in economic momentum and that reforms would support growth in the coming

months. But Turkey faces considerable headwinds. A July 15 coup attempt knocked investor confidence, already battered by a series of bombings, the resumption of a Kurdish insurgency in the southeast, and a volatile election cycle last year.

Simsek said the coup had weakened economic conditions but that the effect would not be lasting. Still, inflation remains high, and uncertainty over the timing of a US Federal Reserve interest rate hike and possible credit rating downgrades are also hanging over markets.

"We are seeing domestic demand continues to contribute to growth but is losing momentum. Public spending stands out as limiting the fall in growth," Is Investment economist Muammer Komurcuoglu said in a note to clients. Output grew 0.3 percent in the second quarter on a seasonally and calendar-adjusted basis, the Turkish Statistical Institute said. — Reuters



BANGKOK: Workers suspended on cables clean the exterior of a building in central Bangkok yesterday. — AFP

PATCHWORK OF STATE LAWS HURTS US EFFORT TO REFORM MORTGAGES

NEW YORK: As Chuck DeBonis was wrapping up his stint as a civilian paramedic at a military base in Kuwait earlier this year, he found a home he wanted to buy in the Virginia town of Bristow for his return. The problem? His mortgage lender wanted him to sign paperwork, in person, in front of a notary public. So the 30-year-old flew 6,500 miles to sign on the dotted line. "It was ridiculous and unnecessary," DeBonis said in recounting his 14-hour trip. His problem may be unusual in its scope, but it is one that millions of US homeowners and buyers face every day - and one some US lenders and state lawmakers are now trying to solve. As it stands, nothing is official in mortgage documents until there's a face-to-face meeting with a notary public, a person who

verifies borrowers' identities. Lenders have long recognized notarization as a critical anti-fraud measure. But the practice - which dates back at least to Ancient Rome - is becoming passé in an era of FaceTime, Skype and live-streamed social media.

The financial industry is pressing for change in the form of "remote notarization." The service, available through companies like Notarize Inc and NotaryCam Inc, uses secure webcams to link borrowers and notary publics. Before their virtual meeting, borrowers must answer random questions from their credit histories to prove who they are. But adoption has been limited because a patchwork of laws in most states does not allow for the practice, and city and county govern-

ments are slow to change. Investors who buy the loans also impose restrictions, such as requiring original signatures to avoid fraud.

Some big players in the mortgage industry want to bring notarization into the 21st Century. Quicken Loans Inc, the nation's third-largest mortgage lender, is one of the biggest advocates for digital notarization because face-to-face meetings clash with its online business model.

For USAA, which lends to US military, remote notarization could help customers who move frequently, the company said. Government-backed mortgage companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are also supporting remote notarization because they say it has better safeguards against fraud, among

other things. Broadly speaking, webcam notarizations could cut expenses for lenders, notaries and borrowers. Even without webcam notaries, signing the documents electronically can save the industry on average up to \$1,100 per mortgage, according to Fannie Mae.

But as it stands, more than half of the 3,600 local clerk offices across the US only accept paper copies, according to the Property Records Industry Association. Many counties go a step further in requiring original ink signatures. Although the vast majority of state laws allow for some form of electronic real-estate documentation, only two states - Virginia and Montana - expressly approve remote notarization. — Reuters



REIMS: Former French Economy Minister and candidate for the left-wing primary ahead of the 2017 presidential election Arnaud Montebourg (L), Member of Parliament for the French green party EELV and candidate for the 2017 presidential election Cecile Duflot (C) and French political party Debout la France (DLF) and candidate for the right-wing primary ahead of the 2017 presidential election Nicolas Dupont-Aignan (R) attend a meeting called "Assises du Produire en France" to promote the increased production of, and reliance on domestic produce in Reims, yesterday. — AFP

GREECE URGED TO SPEED UP REFORMS TO GET BAILOUT CASH

CONCERNS OVER ATHENS FALLING SHORT OF COMMITMENTS

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia: European creditors urged the Greek government yesterday to speed up the implementation of a series of economic reforms so it can get its hands on the next batch of bailout cash before the end of October. Greece, which depends on the money due from the bailout to stay afloat, has recently fallen short of its commitments to reform its economy, stoking some concerns of a renewed flare-up in the country's debt crisis. Because it hasn't delivered on the reform promises it has made, it can't yet get hold of the 2.8 billion euros (\$3.2 billion) that is next due from this current phase of its bailout program.

"Summer is over, we really need to restart and pick up on the time lost and the Greek minister, our Greek colleague, was I think convinced there's a joint interest for all of us to keep this on track," Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the eurozone's top official said at a meeting of European finance ministers in the Slovak capital of Bratislava.

As part of last year's third bailout agreement, which is potentially worth up to 86 billion euros, Greece promised to meet a series of reforms to such things as pensions and labor markets, in return for the money that it needs to prevent going bankrupt and possibly exiting the euro currency.

The latest release of cash will only come after Greece has met 15 "milestones" relating to such things as privatization, energy sector reform, bank governance and the establishment of the revenue agency. So far, Greece has only met two of those conditions, with the remainder at varying degrees of implementation. Though Greek Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos told his counterparts from the 19-country eurozone that the government intends to complete the milestones in a timely manner, the country is unlikely to meet a Sept. 15 deadline. And while the European ministers do not appear concerned about stretching that deadline, there are limits - the disbursement of the money has to

happen by October at the latest.

"We have to tell them clearly that they need to stick with their commitments, we need to be really demanding, but at the same time let's not dramatize," said Pierre Moscovici, the EU's top economy official. "We all want it, there's a political will."

Moscovici wasn't alone in seeking to dampen down on any fears that Greece was heading for another standoff with creditors. Even some of the country's biggest skeptics showed few, if any, sign of any annoyance. Slovak Finance Minister Peter Kazimir, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency, praised Greece's efforts to put its economic house in order but said Athens' job is not done. "They did a lot, but a lot of homework is ahead of them," he said at the start of a two-day meeting of European finance ministers. Echoing that message, German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said that "there is still time" for Greece to meet its commitments. — AP

EU TO STEP UP TAX AVOIDANCE FIGHT WITH COMMON TAX BASE

BRATISLAVA: The European Commission will step up its campaign against corporate tax avoidance with proposals in the coming weeks on a common tax base for multinationals operating in the European Union, the commissioner for economic affairs said yesterday.

Brussels has been seeking for some time to toughen up its approach, in part to ward off the threat of eurosceptics who could pull the EU apart if it fails to show alienated voters it can act in their interests. The recent shock multi-billion euro tax demand on Apple was part of that trend.

The 28 EU countries apply a wide range of tax exemptions and deductions to companies, making it difficult for corporations operating in more than one country to calculate their tax base, which is the amount of net profits subject to taxation.

The bloc's complex tax system also allows companies with bigger accounting departments to exploit the differences between countries and reduce their final bill. To close this loophole, the Commission will propose in the coming weeks a single system of tax deductions, such as for wages or other costs, for all the 28 countries. States will maintain the power to decide tax rates.

"I will relaunch this semester a plan for a CCCTB (Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base)," the EU commissioner for economic and tax affairs Pierre Moscovici told reporters on his arrival to an informal meeting of EU finance ministers in Bratislava, which will address tax issues.

A proposal on CCCTB is on the Commission's agenda for a meeting on Nov. 9, an EU executive document shows. An initial attempt by the Commission in 2011 to set up a CCCTB failed as member states could not agree on the proposal, for which a unanimous consensus is needed. The outcry caused by revelations on tax avoidance schemes used by multinationals and rich individuals to cut their tax bills, such as the Panama Papers or the so-called LuxLeaks, have emboldened the Commission and increased support for anti-tax dodging measures in several member states, including the largest of the bloc.

"The politics of reducing the excessive use of diverse tax regulations is a common policy, which we in Europe are pushing for with energy," German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said.

But some smaller countries may remain reluctant to changes. "There was a proposal on a common consolidated tax base some years ago and got very little traction among members," Irish Finance Minister Michael Noonan said before the meeting. "Commissioner Moscovici said he was withdrawing the paper but he would come back with a new paper based on the areas on where it seems to be emerging consensus. We are awaiting that paper," Noonan added.

Ireland has decided to appeal against a 13-billion-euro back tax demand that the European Commission imposed on Apple in August, fearing it could undermine the country's long-established policy of attracting multinationals with low taxes. Moscovici also said that in the coming days the Commission will present to member states a "scoreboard" on foreign countries' tax regimes with the aim to set up an EU blacklist of tax havens which may be subject to sanctions. — Reuters

FRENCH GOVT MOVES TO CUT TAXES AS ELECTION NEARS

TAXES MAY COME DOWN ON HOUSEHOLDS, COMPANIES

PARIS: France's government unveiled yesterday plans to lower taxes on households and companies as the ruling Socialists line up their budget for the 2017 election year. The gesture to households would "take the form of a reduction in income taxes by 20 percent for the middle class," Finance Minister Michel Sapin said.

France votes in presidential elections in April and May next year and President Francois Hollande's popularity is so low that he would probably not make it past the first round, according to opinion polls. He has not said whether he intends to run for re-election.

Around 5 million households would benefit from the 1-billion-euro (\$1.1 billion) reduction in income taxes, worth about 200 euros per family, Sapin said. He also said that the headline tax rate for small and medium-sized companies would be reduced to 28 percent—the European average in 2017 and 2018 — and for all companies from 2020. That is a drop from the current headline rate of 33 percent, although small companies benefit from a lower rate on a certain

amount of profits. However Sapin said that despite the tax cuts France would honor its pledge to the EU to reduce its public spending deficit to 2.7 percent of gross domestic product in 2017.

Keep deficit promise

"We've made that promise to parliament and EU authorities and we're going to keep it," said Sapin. The announced cuts to income tax, coming just over seven months from the presidential election, would take the total reduction since 2014 to six billion euros.

Criticized for sharp tax hikes at the start of his five-year term in the face of a huge budget gap in the dark days of the eurozone crisis, Hollande has since turned towards a gradual reduction in tax rates, although the French economy has posted only modest growth and unemployment remains near record highs. According to data from the French Economic Observatory, the tax bill of French taxpayers has gone up by 35 billion euros during Hollande's term in office, with average spending power down by 350 euros from 2010.

Sapin also announced a change allowing all retirees to deduct expenses for at-home services, a change which should benefit 1.3 million households at a cost of a billion euros.

In addition, Sapin announced an increase in the tax credit for companies with low-wage employees, which he said would put an extra 3.3 billion euros in their accounts. The CGPME, an association representing small and medium-sized companies, was cautious in its response. The proposals "are very uncertain given the electoral calendar and at this point cannot be considered as money in the bank", the group said.

It added a more ambitious proposal would be to push the corporate tax rate below the European average to 25 percent, and eliminate preferential rates for small companies. "After having given companies and households, the middle class in particular, a tax drubbing, voila, the good news arrives as the election approaches," said former prime minister and conservative presidential candidate Alain Juppe of the government proposals. —AFP



TOKYO: A truck driver looks at an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. Asian markets were mostly lower yesterday on disappointment about the European Central Bank's decision to keep policy unchanged. —AP

EUROPEAN STOCKS SWIRL LOWER ON ECB DISMAY

LONDON: Europe's equities sagged yesterday, a day after the European Central Bank failed to deliver new stimulus measures, while Asian markets were marred by concerns over North Korea's nuclear test.

Frankfurt stocks dropped 0.4 percent, Paris lost 0.5 percent and London was down 0.3 percent in value in afternoon deals. "It looks like the markets are in for a rather uninspired end to the week," concluded Spreadex analyst Connor Campbell. The ECB opted against more stimulus Thursday, with president Mario Draghi calling for "patience" to see the effect of vast amounts of cash already injected into the system. "Markets continue to digest disappointment that ECB President Draghi did not offer more," said Mike van Dulken, head of research at Accendo Markets.

"This likely stems from a combination of his hands being tied for now—things not markedly worse, but not better either—and wanting to see what peers do (Bank of England, Bank of Japan, Federal Reserve) over the next couple of weeks." Policymakers made no changes to the ECB's ultra-loose monetary policy, keeping its so-called quantitative easing (QE) asset-buying policy steady at 80 billion euros per month and holding eurozone interest rates at record lows. "Investors were left disappointed as Mario Draghi didn't come up with the expected goods, failing to announce further monetary stimulus for the eurozone economy," added dealer Davide Ugolini at trading firm CurrenciesDirect. "As widely expected, the European Central Bank left interest rates unchanged at record lows and left the door open for more cuts in the months ahead, as growth and inflation remain worryingly low.

"Leaving quantitative easing unchanged... proved controversial, and has divided opinions in the market. "Investors were even more puzzled when Draghi admitted the ECB didn't have any discussion as to an extension of the asset-purchase plan." London equities fell Friday despite official data showing that Britain's trade gap narrowed in July, as exporters were boosted by a post-Brexit slump in the pound. In Asia, South Korean stocks and the won led most Asian markets lower yesterday after the North conducted another nuclear test, while trading was also hit by worries over global central bank easing. — AFP



BATISLAVA: German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble (L) speaks to journalists as he arrives for an Informal Meeting of Ministers for Economic and Financial Affairs (Informal ECOFIN) in Bratislava, Slovakia yesterday. — AFP

GOLD DRIFTS LOWER BUT STILL SET FOR WEEKLY GAIN

LONDON: Gold slipped for a third day as buyers cashed in on a recent rally to near three-week highs, but it stayed on track for a second successive weekly gain driven by fading expectations of an imminent hike in US interest rates. The metal is up 0.7 percent so far this week, holding on to nearly half the sharp gains it made on Tuesday after downbeat US data fuelled talk that the Federal Reserve will hold off raising rates at its September policy meeting.

Spot gold was down 0.25 percent at \$1,334.60 an ounce at 1152 GMT yesterday, while US gold futures for December delivery were \$3.40 lower at \$1,338.20. Gold peaked at \$1,352.65 an ounce after rallying 1.8 percent on Tuesday. "Tuesday's rally was to be expected in light of the weak numbers out of the US, but the current more subdued tone, not so much," Capital Economics analyst Simona Gambarini said.

"There is... maybe some profit-taking among

some people who got in \$30 lower. (Now) it's all about the Fed meeting in a couple of weeks. That's what investors are looking at." Expectations that the Fed would stand pat on interest rates after hiking for the first time in nearly a decade in December have helped push gold 26 percent higher this year.

Gold is highly sensitive to rising US interest rates, as these increase the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion, while boosting the dollar, in which it is priced.

Markets remain uncertain over the outlook for rates, allowing the dollar to claw back some ground it lost against the euro after a European Central Bank statement on Thursday. It remained lower, however. The ECB kept the door open to more stimulus but gave few hints about its next move, disappointing those who had priced in a dovish tone. The euro bounced in response, though gold

prices shrugged off dollar weakness to fall. "The ECB's decision to leave policy unchanged may have refocused market participants on the possibility that the Fed sends a hawkish signal in the coming days before its pre-meeting quiet period begins next Tuesday," BNP Paribas said in a note. Holdings of the world's largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, SPDR Gold Shares, fell 0.13 percent to 950.62 tons on Thursday.

Gold demand in Asia remained subdued this week as higher prices kept buyers at bay, but upcoming festivals following a good monsoon in India may stimulate demand, analysts said.

Silver was down 0.7 percent at \$19.45 an ounce, while platinum was 0.3 percent lower at \$1,079.50 an ounce. It was however on track for its first weekly gain in six, up 1.7 percent. Palladium was down 0.1 percent at \$681.55. — Reuters



HANGZHOU: A Chinese customer selects vegetables at a supermarket in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang province yesterday. China's producer prices fell at their slowest rate for more than four years in August, the government said yesterday, another sign of stabilization in the world's second-largest economy. — AFP

SPAIN'S CONSTRUCTION FEELS THE CHILL OF POLITICAL VOID

GOVT UNABLE TO SIGN OF NEW PROJECTS

MADRID: Spain's convalescing construction sector was hoping to move on from a national economic crisis which at its height saw abandoned building sites and bankrupt infrastructure projects littering the landscape. But a political paralysis that has left the country without a settled government for all this year could stall a return to better times.

Industry figures from builders and designers to material suppliers are expressing concern that no administration is now able to sign off on new projects, compounding years of cuts in public spending.

"It's difficult to distinguish whether the fall in activity comes from the lack of government or because we still haven't pulled out of crisis," said Jose Maria Carbajo, manager at Acento Ingeniería.

His small Madrid-based company had a good run in recent months, winning contracts to repair a Metro line in Madrid and reinforce a bridge in the central region of Castilla-Leon. But like others in the sector, Carbajo expects the ripple effects from the political paralysis will become clearer in the weeks ahead.

Following two inconclusive national elections, Spaniards could be heading to the ballot box for the third time in a year after acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy last week lost a parliamentary vote of confidence for a second term. The industry is one of the most vulnerable to the lack of leadership which appears to have done little until now to hinder a three-year rebound from recession. Spain posted growth nearly three times the eurozone average in the second quarter.

While a flood of foreign funds has jolted the housing sector back to life, public works spending has slumped by more than three-quarters in the past six years as the state slashes costs to trim its public deficit, industry figures show. Cement consumption has fallen to its lowest levels since 1965, according to building materials lobby group Oficemen.

Rajoy's acting government called an end to new spending on all but essential items such as pensions in July, four months ahead of schedule, in a bid to try and keep the deficit in check, and industry players expect the situation to worsen as plans to draw up next year's national budget stall.

"The impact from the budget will be felt from now on," said Eduardo Sanchez, head of projects at Sistema Ingeniería, a Canary Islands-based designer of large-scale projects like roads, bridges and ports. "Everything that hasn't been signed off so far won't go ahead - that's between a third and a quarter of what they were going to do this year," he said.

Though half of the designer's business came from Spain last year, revenues are holding up thanks to expansion abroad to countries like Senegal and Panama, he added.

BUDGET IN SPOTLIGHT

Low oil prices and inflation, robust exports and a turnaround in Spain's ailing job market, thanks in part to a record tourism season, have put the economy on course to expand by close to 3 percent in 2016. Yet with a fully-functioning government, Spain might have posted even higher growth rates, economists

say, while it will not be best-placed to ride out the slowdown expected as of 2017 when the recovery moves into a lower gear, closer to 2 percent.

Spain is unlikely to be able to present a new budget for 2017 by a mid-October deadline set by the European Commission, and the economy ministry has said it would instead file an extended version of this year's plan.

Builders are the ones most likely to feel the pinch as a result going into next year. "It does not allow you to plan new infrastructure projects, so it means construction companies will feel the paralysis a little longer," said Juan Jose Toribio, professor of economics at the IESE business school.

The sector makes up some 5 percent of gross domestic product, versus over 10 percent before a construction crash that began in 2008.

Firms linked to construction, from glass providers to cement suppliers, are clinging on to contracts awarded months ago and overseas markets they branched into after demand at home collapsed during a long recession. Some builders, including larger ACS, have warned that even with a new budget, deficit constraints mean state-funded infrastructure projects will remain scarce, with maintenance contracts providing the bulk of activity.

But even these need to be signed off. "The sooner a government is in place, the sooner we'll get some activity," ACS's director general Angel Garcia Altozano told analysts in July, when it reported a 15 percent drop in Spanish construction revenues for the first half. More than 80 percent of its sales now come from overseas. — Reuters

GLOBAL AIRPORT TRAFFIC GREW 6.4% FASTEST RATE SINCE 2010

MONTREAL: Global airport traffic grew at its fastest rate last year since 2010, rising 6.4 percent to 7.2 billion passengers, according to data published yesterday by an international trade association representing airports. But passenger growth this year could be tempered by the threat of militant attacks, geopolitical unrest and potential bottlenecks for passengers lining up to clear security checks, said the report by Montreal-headquartered Airports Council International, or ACI.

"It is important to maintain cautious optimism as we navigate through 2016," ACI World Director General Angela Gittens said in a news release. "There are several impediments that could curtail the continued rise in demand, which could potentially encumber growth prospects over the short and medium terms." While the highest number of passengers, 2.46 billion, went through the Asia-Pacific region in 2015, up 8.6 percent from a year earlier, Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson remained the world's busiest airport, the report said.

Passenger traffic in emerging markets and developing economies soared 8.1 percent in 2015, compared with a 5.2 percent rise in slower-growing mature markets, said ACI, which collects data for over 2,300 airports in 160 countries.

Passenger traffic generated by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa grew 8.2 percent on an annual basis. Globally, there were 37 large airports with over 40 million passengers, more than double the number in 2005. "This level of growth is unprecedented, particularly since a majority of the airports in this category are from the typical mature markets of North America and Europe," the release said.

It said North America experienced a resurgence in air transport demand, especially at many of its large hubs, following years of consolidation and capacity discipline by US airlines. Large airports are benefiting from capacity shifts where flights are being directed through major connecting hubs. — Reuters

EU REGULATORS POISED TO SEEK DEEPER CUT IN ENERGY USE

LONDON: EU regulators are poised to propose a binding target to cut energy use by 30 percent by 2030, a more ambitious goal than previously discussed, according to a draft document seen by Reuters. The draft law, which the European Commission is expected to publish next month, is part of a set of proposals to implement 2030 goals on cutting emissions, increasing renewable energy use and preventing energy waste.

A preliminary agreement was reached in October 2014 when the 28 member states agreed to increase energy savings by at least 27 percent compared with business as usual.

Since then, political momentum for a deeper cut has grown as using less energy curbs dependency on imports from nations such as Russia, while creating jobs in construction and insulation. Following Britain's vote in June to leave the European Union, the EU executive has also been keen to promote the social benefits of its policies.

Climate and Energy Commissioner Miguel Arias Canete has said every 1 percent improvement in energy efficiency could lift 7 million people out of energy poverty because their homes would be better insulated with lower energy bills.

A draft seen by Reuters refers to a 2030 30 percent binding headline target on energy efficiency. The document has yet to be agreed formally by the EU Commissioners.

The 30 percent compares with an existing target of 20 percent for 2020, which initially was not binding and the bloc was far from achieving until a law in 2012 forced progress.

The European Commission said it could not comment on an unpublished document. EU sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there was broad support in the Commission for the 30 percent binding target, which had the related benefit of cutting emissions because less energy would be burnt.

They said the Commission was keen to use the target as a step towards implementing the Paris Agreement on climate change, especially as the United States and China have beaten the European Union to ratifying the deal.

A proposal to share out a 2030 target to cut greenhouse gases by at least 40 percent was published in July. It has to be debated by member states and the European Parliament before it can become law. Non-governmental organisations have pushed for an efficiency goal of 40 percent, which is supported by the building insulation industry and efficiency campaigners. — Reuters

Weekender

Model and acid attack victim Reshma Querishi models the Archana Kochhar collection during Fashion Week in New York, Thursday. — AP

**Indian acid attack survivor
wows New York runway**

SEE PAGE 22



Model and acid attack victim Reshma Querishi models the Archana Kochhar collection during Fashion Week in New York, Thursday. — AP/AFP photos



Model and acid attack victim Reshma Querishi, left, and actress Sunny Leone pose for photos backstage after modeling in the Archana Kochhar collection.

Acid attack

survivor walks runway, Cunningham honored, Selman takes the runway from sunrise to sunset



Model and acid attack victim Reshma Querishi has her makeup and hair done before walking the runway.

New York Fashion Week kicked off in earnest on Thursday, with highlights including a colorful journey from sunrise to sunset by Adam Selman, and an emotional appearance by an acid attack survivor from India, walking the runway to send a message of courage to other survivors of such attacks in her country.

There were lots of shiny beads, little white

sneakers, and attractive bare backs crossed only by the skimpiest of straps on Adam Selman's whimsical runway Thursday, a colorful journey from sunrise to sunset. For sunrise, there was the lightest of pastel pinks, whether in a casual pinstriped overall dress or a fancier beaded party dress.

For sunset, things got appropriately darker, with smoky blues and dusty denim. And of

course, there's always some black - just because. "I love black," Selman says.

The latest collection gave Selman, who famously designed Rihanna's totally see-through beaded gown, a chance to ramp up the beading on his garments.

"There's beading that you don't even see there - sort of secret beading," he said. But you could certainly see the shiny, glassy look

on some of Selman's more dressed-up beaded numbers. He was inspired, he said, by the late artist Aaronel DeRoy Gruber, a painter and sculptor who liked to work with Plexiglas and Lucite. Many of Selman's models wore white sneakers, even with a splashy evening number. That mix is something Selman himself lives by. "I just like it - it's the way I dress," he said.



Fashion show photographers pay tribute to Bill Cunningham by wearing his signature blue jacket look to kick off New York Fashion Week: The Shows inside The Dock, Skylight at Moynihan Station in New York City.



Model and acid attack victim Reshma Querishi, center, rehearses before walking the runway for the Archana Kochhar collection.



The Archana Kochhar collection is modeled during Fashion Week in New York.



From the runway, a message of empowerment

Most fashion shows have beautiful clothes on display. Not many have an important social message behind them, and fewer still have a powerful spokesman walking the runway. Thursday's show by Indian designer Archana Kochhar had all three. Its very first model, Reshma Quereshi, is the survivor of an acid attack in India; she walked the runway to send a message of courage and empowerment to other victims of such attacks in her country.

"This walk was important to me because there are so many girls like me who are survivors of acid attacks, and this will give them courage," Quereshi said in an interview, speaking through a translator. "And it will also go to show people who judge people based on their appearance that you shouldn't judge a book by its cover - you should look at everyone though the same eyes." Quereshi suffered severe burns to her face at age 17 in an acid attack in 2014 by several male assailants as she was walking with her sister. She lost her left eye, and her face was deeply scarred.

She said Thursday that she was thrilled to participate in the runway show; she wore a long ivory dress embellished with colorful embroidery in pink, red, green and other hues, and a sparkly tiara in her hair. "I never thought in my wildest dreams that something like this would happen to me," Quereshi said, "and that I would be coming to such a big place to walk on such a big stage."

The collection, called "A Tale of Two Cities," was "inspired by the breathtaking Taj Mahal and the rich, buoyant colors of magnificent India," according to the designer. The prints evoked not only the Taj Mahal but the lotus flower and royal elephants. Silhouettes included bellbottom trousers, cropped tops, capes, and jumpsuits. To offset the colorful embroidery there was a lot of ivory - evoking the ivory marble of the Taj Mahal.

Honoring one of their own

Usually the photographers aren't the ones dressing up at Fashion Week. On Thursday, though, IMG, which owns NYFW: The Shows, outfitted more than 75 photographers and videographers with simple blue work jackets like those worn by the celebrated New York Times fashion

photographer Bill Cunningham, who died in June at 87.

The tribute to the much-loved Cunningham took place at the Nicholas K show, according to a statement from Catherine Bennett, senior vice president and managing director of IMG Fashion Events. "Though he's no longer with us, Bill Cunningham's legacy lives on," she said. "We see his influence every day on the streets of New York, and we miss him." — Agencies



Models walk the runway during the Adam Selman presentation at New York Fashion Week.



New York Fashion Week



Models display the fashion of Nicholas K during New York Fashion Week.



Models display the fashion of Nicholas K during New York Fashion Week.



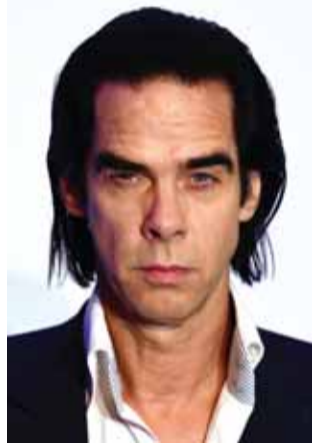
Cave album and film reveal raw pain of son's death

Australian alternative rocker Nick Cave yesterday released the first album since the death of his teenage son last year, with an accompanying documentary laying bare his trauma. Arthur Cave died after falling from a cliff in his hometown of Brighton, south England in July 2015, as his singer father was recording with his band "Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds" for the album "Skeleton Tree". Following the accident, Cave called in film director Andrew Dominik to film the remaining sessions and capture some of the singer's poetry and philosophical reflections.

The resulting black-and-white 3D film, "One More Time With Feeling", premiered to the public in cinemas worldwide on Thursday, including at a showing in the intimate surroundings of the Curzon Cinema in Victoria. "It affected me in a way I don't understand," Cave said of his 15-year-old son's death. "I don't have any handle on anything, it's frightening." The film begins in the studio with the recording of the album's first track, "Jesus Alone," a

hypnotically intense scene-setter driven by Cave's spirit-summoning vocals.

Cave's lyrics continue to deal with dark religious imagery and death, common throughout his previous 15 albums with the Bad Seeds, uniting the celestial with the mundane and the poetic with the profane. But Cave admitted that a new-found "helplessness" had taken over, heard most



Nick Cave

clearly on album track "I Need You," whose uplifting piano chords and melody mask the bleak refrain "nothing really matters".

'Anxiety, anguish and dread'

The 58-year-old also talked about becoming "diminished" in older age, particularly during a studio session in which he worries about forgetting chords and losing his voice. The theme of loss runs throughout the album, and is heard starkly in the line "all the things we love, we love, we lose" on the apocalyptic "Anthocene", while title track "Skeleton Tree" laments a modern world where "nothing is for free". The former "Birthday Party" singer also revealed on camera feelings of "anxiety, anguish and dread" since the accident. "You have to renegotiate your position in the world, you change from a known person into an unknown person, overnight," he explained, adding he would never normally have allowed cameras to follow him around.

Cave doesn't mention the death of his son in the album, but directly broaches the issue of mortality on "Girl in Amber", whose sustained strings are overlaid by Tom Waits-sounding vocals. His son's name is mentioned only a handful of times during the film, although his death is poignantly explored through interviews with Cave's wife Susie and the appearance of Arthur's twin Earl.

However, there are moments of lightness and dark humor in both the film and the album, particularly through the bright piano on "Rings of Saturn", and the lullaby vocals on "Distant Sky". But the singer told director Dominik that relief was temporary. "Time is elastic," he said. "We can go away from the event but at some point the elastic snaps and we always come back to it." — AFP



Chris Pratt, from left, Denzel Washington and Antoine Fuqua participate in "The Magnificent Seven" press conference on day 1 of the Toronto International Film Festival at the TIFF Bell Lightbox.

Denzel, Fuqua debut a more modern 'Magnificent Seven'

The 41st Toronto International Film Festival got underway Thursday with Antoine Fuqua's remake of "The Magnificent Seven," an old-school Western with more modern faces. The film's Thursday night premiere kicked off North America's largest film festival, which is set to unspool some 300 films over the next 10 days. On tap are premieres of many of the fall's top films, including the Los Angeles musical "La La Land," the oil rig explosion docudrama "Deepwater Horizon" and Oliver Stone's "Snowden."

"The Magnificent Seven," starring Denzel Washington and Chris Pratt, is a remake of the John Sturges' 1960 Western, which itself was a remake of Kurosawa's "Seven Samurai." For Fuqua, who grew up loving Westerns, it was important for him to cast a diverse group of actors to welcome moviegoers to a genre not known for inclusiveness. "For me, being black, I didn't see anyone that really looked like me," Fuqua said in an interview. "But I still loved the Westerns

because as a kid, I wasn't identifying color. I was just identifying my heroes, John Wayne and those guys."

In Fuqua's "Magnificent Seven," the hero is unquestionably Washington, who plays a fearsome black-clad bounty hunter. It's the actor's first Western, and if nothing else, "The Magnificent Seven" unites one of today's true movie stars with Hollywood's most iconic, if somewhat out of favor, genres. "I had a vision of him on that horse," said Fuqua, whose "Training Day" and "The Equalizer" starred Washington. "That's what made it fun for me. Right away, when we were talking about the different cast members, I said, 'You know, I'd love to see Denzel on a horse.' Everybody in the room got quiet. They said, 'Do you think he'll do it?' I said, 'Well, I'll fly to New York and find out.'"

Speaking to reporters Thursday, Washington said he never saw Sturges' film, but he did watch "Seven Samurai." "I didn't know how it would help me," said Washington. "It allowed me to do whatever I wanted to do instead of trying to not

do what maybe somebody else did." For Fuqua, watching the Western morph over time, particularly with Sergio Leone's spaghetti Westerns, was what most enthralled him: "I fell in love with them watching them change." He hopes his film - which also stars Ethan Hawke, Byung-hun Lee, Manuel Garcia-Rulfo and Vincent D'Onofrio - helps open up the genre to others, and more accurately reflects the diversity of the Old West.

"People say, 'Oh, Westerns are hard to sell.' Well, they're hard to sell if everybody in the Western looks one way," says Fuqua. "You're not going to get the Asian market excited about it if all the Chinese guy does is work on the railroad. And I won't get black people to see it if it is the slaves. Even white people get tired of seeing the same guy over and over as well. Everyone wants something to make it fresh. It's a great genre and I thought it was dying for no good reason." "I hoping if this is successful, we'll get to see more Westerns - more diverse and interesting Westerns," he said. — AP

Ukraine names Kiev as Eurovision 2017 host city

Ukraine announced yesterday that Kiev would host the Eurovision 2017 song contest after its singer Jamala won this year's competition. After a month-long battle between three semifinalists - Kiev, Odessa and Dnipro - the National Television Company of Ukraine (NTU) lifted the veil of secrecy at a press conference that had been rescheduled several times. "Kiev was selected to be the host city of the Eurovision 2017", NTU chief Zurab Alasania announced. Jamala won with a tribute to her Tatar people's deportation from Russian-annexed Crimea in 1944 - a song that incensed Russia. Culture Minister Yevgen Nyshchuk said security concerns influenced the jury, who gave 19 votes to Kiev, two to the Black Sea port of Odessa, but none to Dnipro, which is less than 100 kilometers (60 miles) from Ukraine's eastern war zone.

"The issue of security in Trans-Dniester affected Odessa, and its proximity to the frontline affected Dnipro," Nyshchuk said. Trans-Dniester is a pro-Russian breakaway region of Ukraine's southwestern neighbor, Moldova. Cash-strapped Ukraine



Representatives of Organizing Committee of "Eurovision-2017" in Ukraine Zurab Alasania (left), Head of the Ukrainian National Television Company, and Minister of Culture of Ukraine Yevhen Nyshchuk give a press conference in Kiev. — AFP

intends to spend at least 1.2 billion hryvnias (\$45 million, 33 million euros) on the show itself and to upgrade the Kiev arena at which the globally-televised event will be held. — AFP



File photos shows director James Cameron speaks at a news conference announcing a new show by Cirque du Soleil based on his movie "Avatar" in Montreal. — AP

Cameron talks 'Avatar' sequels, Cirque du Soleil show

The first "Avatar" sequel is still years away from hitting movie theaters, but fans of the blue-hued Na'vi can get their fix at a touring Cirque du Soleil show that James Cameron helped create - without his having to reveal too much of what's up his cinematic sleeve. Cameron, who plans four sequels starting in 2018, served as a consultant on "Toruk - The First Flight," a stadium show that opened in Montreal in November and has since toured North America. The writer and director suggested to the Cirque team things that the Na'vi might do or how they might think about certain things, but said he largely let writer-directors Michel Lemieux and Victor Pilon create freely.

"I was just a cheerleader on the side with some pom-poms," Cameron said this week when the show stopped in Brooklyn. "Interestingly, left to their own devices, the Cirque guys creatively wound up resonating very, very closely to the overall arc of the four-sequel saga." The Cirque show's upcoming stops include Newark, New Jersey; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Minneapolis; Winnipeg, Canada; Fresno, California; Ontario, Canada; Los Angeles; Phoenix; San Diego, California; Sacramento, California; and Portland, Oregon.

The original 2009 film centered on the conflict between humans and the blue-skinned alien race Na'vi of Pandora. "Toruk" is named after the massive, dragonlike creatures from the film and tells the story of two Na'vi warriors finding a series of sacred objects. The action takes place on the planet before humans make contact, thereby sidestepping the problem of how to depict the 10-foot Na'vi. Now Cirque gymnasts, no matter how tall, can shine. "If you want to see that explosive celebration of human movement, they're not going to be tall people," said Cameron.

Cameron, always on the cutting edge of tech, will shoot his sequels partially using a high 48 frame rate format and said he appreciated the Cirque show employing 40 digital projectors to show everything from lava to water. He said that after seeing the stage show, he might swipe some of the hairstyles and costumes for his films. He also said the Cirque team never asked what was coming up in the sequels, afraid of leaks.

Successive movie

The filmmaker has a history with Cirque that includes being an executive producer and camera operator for the 2012 fantasy film "Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away." He said he admires the way the company promotes talent and keeps creative lines open. "They empower and celebrate creativity and empower the artist. It's the exact opposite of Hollywood," he said. "It's like the anti-Hollywood. If Hollywood were just more like that, I think movies would be a whole lot better." Cameron said he hopes the first film sequel can open at Christmas 2018 and then he'll roll out each successive movie every year after that. But Cameron said he would tweak the timetable to ensure each film is released as closely as possible so there are no lengthy delays. "Once you're on that ride, you don't want to get off," he said.

The original 3-D "Avatar" film has netted over \$2.7 billion and Cameron pointed to its beauty and its overall theme of protecting nature as reasons for its success. He noted that more than half of all humans now live in cities and that we're paving over all the green. — AP

'Heat' at 21: Pacino and De Niro in rare reunion

Twenty-one years ago Michael Mann's iconic crime opus "Heat" paired Hollywood legends Al Pacino and Robert De Niro for the first time, delighting moviegoers and inspiring a generation of filmmakers. The sprawling 1995 epic, which pits the actors against one another as kindred spirits on opposite sides of the law, has become a benchmark in neo-noir cinema, lauded for its melancholic but visually stunning depictions of Los Angeles. The stars and their director reunited this week for the first time to share memories of an intense 107-day shoot, debunk myths and reveal an aspect of Pacino's acclaimed performance kept secret for two decades.

"I knew it would be special when I read the script so I'm happy that it got the attention it did," De Niro, 73, told a panel at the Academy in Beverly Hills, moderated by Oscar-nominated British filmmaker Christopher Nolan. "Heat" follows Pacino's LAPD detective Vincent Hanna over almost three hours as he and his team chase a gang of robbers led by De Niro across Los Angeles. It is lauded for its striking cinematography, taut action and a meeting in a diner between the two leads that marked their first scene together after appearing separately in "The Godfather: Part II" 21 years earlier.

Pacino, 76, revealed for the first time that he deliberately played his famously brash detective-a role which has come to define his later career-as a drug addict who regularly "chips cocaine." Mann never filmed the character taking drugs but Pacino said much of his motivation for the over-the-top, erratic detective came from thinking of him as constantly strung out on coke.

"I've always wanted to say it, just so



Al-Pacino revealed for the first time he deliberately played his famously brash detective in iconic crime opus "Heat" as a drug addict who regularly "chips cocaine". — AFP

you know where some of the behavior comes from," Pacino said. Nolan, who drew inspiration in his portrayal of Gotham City in the "Dark Knight" films from "Heat," rebuffed a long-held conspiracy theory about the movie-that Pacino and De Niro didn't actually act opposite one another. Their paths cross on several occasions but they appear separately in close up shots, and an urban legend asserting that they were never together at the same time has grown popular over the years.

Nolan pointed out, however, that after moving to LA he had seen a picture of the acting legends on set together, hung for years above a door at the now closed Kate Mantilini diner in Beverly Hills, where the scene was filmed. The famous exchange, mostly taken from the 11th take, revealed something of De Niro's meticulous acting method, Pacino said, recalling that his co-star didn't want to rehearse. Pacino said the

dynamic between the two actors was helped in part by the fact that De Niro was in a bad mood when the cameras rolled due to a production delay.

"I loved the scene, and I really wanted it to be the best it could be. I was a little unhappy that we started so late, in the middle of the night, but anyway we did it," De Niro shrugged sheepishly. Mann was inspired to write the script by the experiences of his friend, a real-life detective in Chicago called Charlie Adamson, who shot dead criminal Neil McCauley in 1963 after the pair had enjoyed an amiable dinner. Mann said the real-life pair shared "the kind of intimacy only strangers can have," even though Adamson didn't hesitate for a second when he had to kill McCauley. "It was one of those things where the contrapuntal nature of it really fascinated me, that both are true, it wasn't a contradiction. That's the real germ of the film." — AFP

'Taxi' star Danny DeVito eyes Broadway bow early next year

Danny DeVito will make his Broadway debut next year as a wily furniture dealer in Arthur Miller's "The Price." The Roundabout Theatre Company said Thursday the Emmy Award-winner from "Taxi" and "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" will star alongside John Turturro, Tony Shalhoub and Jessica Hecht. Performances begin Feb 16 at the American Airlines Theatre.



File photo shows Danny DeVito arrives at the 5th Annual Reel Stories, Real Lives Benefit in Los Angeles. DeVito will make his Broadway debut next year as a wily furniture dealer in Arthur Miller's "The Price." — AP

DeVito began his career in off-Broadway shows, including Shakespeare in the Park. In 2012, he starred with Richard Griffiths in a West End production of Neil Simon's "The Sunshine Boys." In "The Price," an embittered New York City police officer feels that life has passed him by while he took care of his now dead father.

He and his estranged brother, who left to become a successful doctor, must reunite to sell off dad's possessions. — AP

Tony Award winner Ben Vereen divorcing wife



File photo shows Ben Vereen participates in the panel for "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" during the Fox television Critics Association summer press tour in Beverly Hills, Calif. — AP

Tony Award winner Ben Vereen is divorcing his first wife - again. The New York Post reports Vereen claims he divorced his first wife, Andrea, in the 1970s but she's saying the divorce was never official and she only learned about it when she filed for Social Security. The two were in a Brooklyn court Thursday to hash out the details. After leaving his first wife, the Post says court records show Vereen married Nancy Bruner in 1976 and filed to divorce her in 2012.

Andrea's lawyer, Harold Mayerson, said the second marriage wasn't legal because Vereen was still married to Andrea, who's asking that Vereen pay for the divorce. Vereen's attorney, John DiMascio, says nothing has been proven yet. Vereen won best actor in the 1973 musical "Pippin." — AP



An exotic mansion that was the home of artist Frederic Edwin Church, is framed by trees on the Olana property in Greenport, NY. — AP photos

Artists' homes tell the story of the Hudson River School



The Hudson River can be seen beyond the treetops surrounding Olana, the home of artist Frederic Edwin Church.



A visitor to Olana, the home of Hudson River School artist Frederic Edwin Church, relaxes on a bench looking out onto a field on the property of the artist's estate, in Greenport, NY.

On either side of the Hudson River, two artists' homes tell the story of that famous genre of American landscape painting known as the Hudson River School. In the village of Catskill, New York, you can visit the house where Thomas Cole, considered the founder of the Hudson River School, lived until his death in 1848. Across the river in Greenport sits Olana, a 250-acre landscape with an elaborate 1870s mansion designed by Cole's star student, Frederic Edwin Church.

Autumn is the perfect season to visit the sites, and the 2-mile Rip Van Winkle Bridge connects Catskill with the small city of Hudson, located 5 miles from Olana, making it easy to see both in one day. You can even walk across if you're trying to up your step

count. Just remember that tours sell out, so book ahead, and note that the Cole house closes for the season on Oct 30.

Thomas Cole national historic site

It's hard to imagine today, but in the early 19th century, "the concept of being an American was not very well-defined," says Elizabeth Jacks, director of the Thomas Cole site. Cole, along with other artists and writers, helped define America's cultural identity "with a new style of art that celebrated the beauty all around us as something that was a unique American treasure."

Cole captured the Hudson River and Catskill Mountains on canvas "in a way that called upon people to appreciate it, care for it

and preserve it," Jacks said. That philosophy contrasted with the conventional sensibilities of his era, which saw the wilderness as something to be "developed and exploited." Cole burst onto the art scene in 1825, when three of his works were shown in New York and he was "hailed as a genius. It was an overnight success story."

Cole moved into the house in 1836. The Federal-style yellow brick house, built in 1815, offers a lovely view of the Catskills from a columned porch.

A copy of a painting Cole did of the view is displayed on the porch, lined up with the scene it depicts. The comparison shows that the landscape is virtually unchanged in nearly two centuries. Inside the home, you'll find

artifacts like Cole's guitar along with exhibitions of contemporary art.

Olana state historic site

Cole's paintings depicted the natural world as grand and majestic, and that influenced an entire generation of 19th-century artists. One of those students was Church. "Cole introduced Church to the hill where Church would later build his home, Olana, so the two are very intertwined," Jacks said. Church and the second generation of Hudson River painters romanticized their landscapes even more than their elders, filling their canvases with light and drama. The Church site, Olana, is also quite dramatic, very different from Cole's spare and simple house.



Cedar Grove, the home of artist Thomas Cole, considered the founder of the famous genre of American landscape painting known as the Hudson River School, is seen in Catskill, NY.



The view from the porch of Cedar Grove, the home of artist Thomas Cole, considered the founder of the famous genre of American landscape painting known as the Hudson River School, is seen in Catskill, NY.

The contrast is part of what's interesting about visiting both attractions. Olana was named for an ancient Persian fortress. The exotic, elaborate mansion that serves as its centerpiece features arches and towers, stonework, bricks and tiles, and colorful inlaid designs and patterns on an

asymmetrical exterior. Works by Church are displayed inside, along with paintings he collected, original furnishings and souvenirs from his world travels, including carpets, folk art, ceramics and costumes.

Church first sketched from the property in 1845 as a student of Cole's. He later bought a

farm there and built a cottage where he lived with his wife. Following an 18-month trip to Europe and the Middle East, Church returned to design Olana with Calvert Vaux (famed for his work on Central Park with Frederick Law Olmsted). The main house was built in the early 1870s. The property includes Church's studio, woods, gardens, orchards and a visitor center.

Nearby attractions

The Hudson Valley offers many options for great food and places to stay overnight. About a two-hour drive from New York City, the area has seen a revival in recent years, with city residents relocating or buying second homes there. The farm-to-table movement has also spurred food-related businesses and projects. Among them, great restaurants like Swoon Kitchenbar in Hudson; the working farm and eateries at Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture in Pocantico Hills and Buttermilk Falls, an inn, spa, restaurant and farm in Milton. Other major attractions include the Franklin D Roosevelt National Historic Site in Poughkeepsie, the Dia:Beacon art museum in Beacon and the Storm King Art Center in New Windsor. Many destinations are reachable by bus or train from New York City. — AP



Chairs line the porch of Cedar Grove, the home of artist Thomas Cole, considered the founder of the famous genre of American landscape painting known as the Hudson River School, in Catskill, NY.



The master bedroom in the exotic mansion at Olana, the property where artist Frederic Edwin Church and his wife Isabel lived.



The dining room in Cedar Grove, the home of artist Thomas Cole, considered the founder of the famous genre of American landscape painting known as the Hudson River School.



Cabbage grows in a field at the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, in Pocantico Hills, NY.



Tenciled designs decorating arches in the Court Hall of the mansion that is the centerpiece of Olana, where Hudson River School artist Frederic Church lived, show the influence of his travels in the Middle East, in Greenport, NY.

INDONESIAN POLICE WANT GAY DATING APP BANNED

JAKARTA: Indonesian police said yesterday they want a ban on gay dating apps in the world's most populous Muslim-majority country after a pedophile ring allegedly used popular service Grindr to pimp boys.

It was the latest move by Indonesian authorities against homosexuals, who have faced a sudden backlash this year, with the government recently declaring there is "no room" in the country for the gay community in response to criticism

from activists. Authorities last week busted an online pedophile ring they said allegedly linked adult men to mostly teenage boys, and arrested three suspects. Police said they discovered Grindr on one of the suspects' iPads, and believe he had used it to pimp boys. Users of Grindr, generally gay men, are able to locate and view photos and brief profiles of other users in their immediate vicinity and arrange to meet them. Agung Setya,

the police's director of economic and special crimes, said police had now found 18 other apps similar to Grindr in use in Indonesia, and are asking the communications ministry to ban them. He said police "hope that, with the authority the communications ministry has, it will make the right decision and impose a ban".

There was no immediate comment from the ministry or from Grindr. At the height of the backlash against the gay

community in February, the government had also demanded that all instant messaging apps remove same-sex emoticons or face a ban. Indonesia's Constitutional Court is also considering a petition from Islamic activists to make gay sex a crime. Being gay is not illegal in Indonesia and, prior to the backlash, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community had been able to quietly get on with their lives. — AFP

SOPHOS PLACED IN THE LEADER'S QUADRANT OF GARTNER'S 2016 UNIFIED THREAT MANAGEMENT MAGIC QUADRANT FOR FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

KUWAIT: Sophos yesterday announced that it has once again been positioned in the "Leaders" quadrant of Gartner, Inc.'s Aug. 30, 2016, "Magic Quadrant for Unified Threat Management." The quadrant is based on an assessment of a company's ability to execute and completeness of vision. Sophos is one of three vendors to be placed in the Leaders quadrant in this latest report, and the only IT security company to be positioned as a Leader by Gartner in these three security Magic Quadrant reports: Sept. 2015 Magic Quadrant for Mobile Data Protection Solutions, Feb. 2016 Magic Quadrant for Endpoint Protection Platforms, and once again, the Magic Quadrant for Unified Threat Management (UTM).

"Network security is a critical pillar in protecting against today's sophisticated and persistent threats - and is one of the fastest growing market segments in IT security. Our continued recognition as a Leader in this Magic Quadrant validates our position at the forefront of this important and growing market," commented Bryan Barney, senior vice president and general manager, Network Security Group at Sophos.

"As a recognized leader in both endpoint and network security, and with



Bryan Barney, senior vice president and general manager, Network Security Group at Sophos

over 100,000 customers in each segment, Sophos continues to deliver on our vision for a synchronized security platform that directly shares threat intelligence and the health status of all security products. This strategy achieves more advanced levels of protection for enterprises of all sizes - while at the same time being easier to manage."

According to Gartner, "the Leaders

quadrant contains vendors at the forefront of making and selling UTM products that are built for midsize-business requirements. The requirements necessary for leadership include a wide range of models to cover midsize-business use cases, support for multiple features, and a management and reporting capability that's designed for ease of use.

Vendors in this quadrant lead the market in offering new safeguarding features, and in enabling customers to deploy them inexpensively without significantly affecting the end-user experience or increasing staffing burdens. These vendors also have a good track record of avoiding vulnerabilities in their security products. Common characteristics include reliability, consistent throughput, and products that are intuitive to manage and administer."

The Sophos network security business continues to grow faster than the market. In Sophos' fiscal year ending March 31, 2016 reported billings growth was 27.5 percent in Network security business which is well above the reported market growth of 7 percent. For the same period, the UTM and next-generation firewall (NGFW) business represented approximately half of Sophos billings worldwide.

UBER PERFORMS U-TURN ON MACAU EXIT PLAN

HONG KONG: Global ride-hailing company Uber Technologies has aborted plans to pull out of Macau, citing support from residents in the Chinese-ruled gambling hub. Uber launched in Macau less than a year ago but announced at the end of August that it would withdraw from the former Portuguese colony because its drivers faced total fines of 10 million patacas (\$1.25 million).

The Macau government has taken a firm stance against Uber, with Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak stating that the service violated local laws. "After much deliberation, Uber will continue to serve the riders and drivers of Macau, the company said in a statement on its website.

"The unprecedented amount of support we received over the past few weeks has been overwhelming." The statement said the company had received 23,000-plus online signatures in support of its service and also thanked riders, drivers, residents, visitors and legislators who had championed the company's cause. "We hope the Government will follow the example set by progressive, pro-innovation policymakers around the region and the world in recognizing the role ride-sharing can play in moving Macau forward," Uber said.

Macau government officials were not immediately available to comment. Uber has about 2,000 full-time and part-time drivers in the territory and though Macau isn't a large market Uber's exit would have been another blow to the fast-growing US company's ambitions in the region.

Its costly two-year battle to break into the potentially lucrative Chinese market was brought to a close this month with the sale of its operations in the country to Didi Chuxing, though the US company has retained a 5 percent stake. Uber could also be forced out of Taiwan after authorities demanded that the company pay a sales tax bill and it has also come under legal scrutiny in Hong Kong. — Reuters

SO LONG CABLE BOX: NEW RULES MAY ALLOW YOU TO BYPASS THE BOX

NEW YORK: You may soon have more options for a cable box than renting one from your cable company. The Federal Communications Commission has a plan to make cable companies provide apps that could be used on devices made by tech companies like maybe Roku or Apple. It says Americans spend billions each year renting boxes and believes there is a better way.

The FCC says the new rules mean more choices and will make it easier for TV lovers to search for and find video they want.

Its January proposal was opposed by the TV and cable industries, criticized by the US Copyright Office and dozens of lawmakers. A revised plan released Thursday adopts some cable-industry suggestions.

The FCC's five commissioners will vote on the plan later this month. If approved, most cable customers could choose another device to watch cable within two years. The changes would succeed the CableCard, which consumers were supposed to stick into another box like a TiVo to get

cable channels. But the CableCard proved to be unpopular with consumers and it largely flopped.

Other devices

You can use a cable box to watch TV today, but you usually also need another device, like a Roku, Xbox or Apple TV, to watch video from Netflix, Hulu, HBO's app or other internet-based services. The FCC wants popular gadgets to also have access to the cable channels you pay for. That would mean you could search for "Seinfeld" in one of those devices and see what video you could watch from cable channels, other services you subscribe to, like Hulu, and free versions available online.

Initially, the FCC wanted to force cable and satellite TV companies to provide feeds of video and channel information to such gadgets, but that led to fears that device makers wouldn't respect agreements between cable operators and entertainment companies on terms like channel lineups. There were also worries that



WASHINGTON: In this March 17, 2015, file photo, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler testifies before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing on net neutrality on Capitol Hill. — AP

device makers could insert their own advertising.

The cable industry suggested a plan that would have operators instead develop apps,

which they also control, and the FCC agreed. The agency made some changes, though, including a technical tweak that addressed complaints about the expense of supporting such apps from Roku, which makes streaming boxes.

It will also oversee an industry group that develops the standards for how the apps will work on devices. The FCC could change the terms of agreements if it thinks they are damaging to competition. Cable operators don't like the idea of the commission's oversight of the group's work. A cable-industry backed group, the Future of TV Coalition, said in a statement Thursday that the FCC's revised approach interferes with industry agreements, "micromanages" video apps and will slow innovation.

A group of entertainment conglomerates, including 21st Century Fox, Walt Disney Co. and Time Warner Inc., had also expressed concern with the search capabilities allowed under the revised plan before it was officially announced. — AP



SAN FRANCISCO: In this April 19, 2016 file photo, Airbnb co-founder and CEO Brian Chesky speaks during an announcement. — AP

AIRBNB APOLOGIZES FOR RACISM COMPLAINTS, OUTLINES CHANGES

NEW YORK: Airbnb on Thursday apologized for its slow response to accusations of racism and outlined new policies to combat the problem, including reducing the prominence of photos in the booking process.

The company also plans to automatically block future reservations for dates where a host has told someone that a property was unavailable. Numerous anecdotes on social media with the hashtag #AirbnbWhileBlack recounted incidents in which African-American guests were told listings were unavailable for the dates they wanted, only to see those same listings re-advertised later for the same dates. "We have been slow to address these problems, and for this I am sorry," said Airbnb co-founder and CEO Brian Chesky in a message published on the vacation rental website's blog.

Battling discrimination

The new calendar-blocking policy, being implemented in the first half of 2017, is designed to stop hosts from discriminating against guests by falsely claiming that a property is booked, then re-renting to others.

Airbnb did not bow to critics' requests that they remove profile photos entirely so that hosts can't reject guests based on appearance. The company has said that photos are an important security features so hosts can recognize guests when they check in. But the report published on the company's website Thursday, titled "Airbnb's Work To Fight Discrimination and Build Inclusion," said new policies will "experiment with reducing the prominence of guest photos in the booking process." Among other things, new policies will expand Airbnb's "Instant Book" program, which allows hosts to offer homes without approval of specific guests, as long as they meet basic qualifications, with a goal of 1 million listings by Jan. 1. Users had also said their complaints of discrimination were ignored when they reported them to Airbnb. The report says the company has developed "new tools" to "reliably route concerns" to specialists.

In addition to expanding Instant Book and blocking calendars from accepting reservations for a given time period once hosts state their property is unavailable, Airbnb will:

Require all users to agree, beginning Nov. 1, to a "stronger, more detailed nondiscrimination policy." Chesky said the new "Airbnb Community Commitment" wouldn't just be checking a box on a long legal document, but would involve agreeing to treat others without bias.

Find comparable accommodations, starting Oct. 1, for any guest who reports discrimination in booking a listing, having a booking canceled or in interacting with a host. The policy will apply retroactively to guests who reported discrimination in the past, and all of those guests will be given help booking their next trip.

Provide anti-bias training by Jan. 31 to all Airbnb employees. Improve technology to "root out bias" with a team of dedicated engineers. The company brought in former US Attorney General Eric Holder and Laura Murphy, former head of the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington, DC, to review complaints and develop new policies.

Accusations that Airbnb has been ignoring complaints of racism have led several black entrepreneurs to create two new vacation rental websites where they say racism will not be tolerated. The new sites include Innclusive.com and Noirbnb.com. — AP

APPLE IS BETTING BIG ON A WIRELESS WORLD

STRATEGY HAS SOME RISKS

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple wants to push consumers further into a wireless world. Its tactics: eliminate the standard headphone jack in its newest iPhones and market new "AirPods" - tiny wireless earbuds that the company claims greatly improve on standard Bluetooth technology. But that strategy has some risks.

Airpod angst

Start with the AirPods themselves. These are a pair of earbuds, each with an inch or so of protruding plastic, and nothing else - no wires to hold them together, no dangling cords. If they live up to Apple's claims, they're a technological marvel, tiny and expensive. And, perhaps, also easily dislodged or misplaced.

Analysts at IHS Technology say that Apple used a smooth-surfaced design that doesn't conform to the shape of the ear, and note that having AirPods fall out while running or biking "is less forgivable at the \$159 cost level." Or as Bob O'Donnell, a veteran consumer tech analyst at Technalysis Research, puts it: "You start losing those things at \$160 a pair, you're going to go crazy."

The alternative - plugging a headphone cord into the iPhone's power port - has plenty of downside as well. Older headphones that aren't compatible with Apple's "Lightning" power port will need an adapter. Those will come standard with new iPhones, but many consumers could find it annoying to use the extra "dongle." And they won't be able to plug in headphones if there's a power cord in the Lightning port.

Apple cuts the cord

Apple Senior Vice President Philip Schiller made it clear Wednesday that the company sees a future where its sleek gadgets are no longer encumbered by cords at all. "It makes no sense to tether ourselves with cables to our mobile devices," he said during the company's annual fall product event.

Eliminating the standard analog jack freed up some space inside the new iPhones, allowing Apple to increase the battery size and add another speaker as it redesigned the interior of the device. Despite some earlier rumors, Apple didn't use the extra space to make the iPhone 7 or 7 Plus any slimmer than last year's models, the 6S and 6S Plus.

Apple did make an effort to improve on standard Bluetooth technology, which can be unreliable and obstinate when used to "pair" wireless headsets with phones or other devices. The new AirPods are based on Bluetooth standards. But in addition to special sensors, a microphone and noise canceling technology, they have a processor chip designed by Apple, combined with software that Apple says will make it simple to sync them with an iPhone, Apple Watch and other Apple gadgets.

The result allows a "seamless connection between you and your devices," said Apple Chief Design Officer Jony Ive in a promotional video. "We're just at the beginning of a truly wireless future we've been working towards for many years."

Apple says the new "AirPods" will work for five hours before their batteries need re-charging; they come with a small charging case that's supposed to provide 24 hours of additional juice before the case itself needs to be recharged.

The "AirPods" will work with Bluetooth-enabled devices made by Apple's rivals, but they won't have the ease-of-pairing that comes with Apple's software. Schiller didn't mention rival devices during his presentation, nor did he even use the word "Bluetooth."

Bound by wireless

Analysts say Apple clearly wants to promote its own brand of wireless listening gear, including new headphones from its own "Beats" division, since the market for such accessories is growing at a time when sales of iPhones - and other smartphones - are slowing.

Countering the iPhone slump

Apple is hoping its new iPhone and an updated Apple Watch, known as Series 2, will help reverse a recent decline in sales. While the company sold nearly 92 million iPhones in the first six months of this year, that's about 15 percent fewer than the same period last year.

Industry analysts say the iPhone 6S and 6S Plus, which Apple introduced last fall, didn't offer many compelling new features over the previous year's models. With the iPhone 7 and 7 Plus, Apple may face a similar challenge.

O'Donnell, for instance, considers the changes from last year's iPhones "modest" overall. A new dual-lens camera in the iPhone 7 Plus may be impressive, he said, but it's only available in the larger and more expensive phone, limiting its appeal.

"Smartphone advancements are slow-



SAN FRANCISCO: Phil Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of worldwide marketing, talks about the features on the new iPhone 7 earphone options during an event to announce new products on Wednesday. — AP

Some early reviewers are already captivated by the AirPod. "They fixed Bluetooth headsets," said tech analyst Patrick Moorhead, of Moor Insights & Strategy, after trying a pair. "I think Apple has a real winner here."

But mobile tech analyst Carolina Milanesi of the Creative Strategies firm thinks Apple has a bigger goal in mind - to make it easier for consumers to use one set of wireless earpieces with a variety of Apple's products.

"It's not just about your iPhone anymore," she said. "It's about getting consumers thinking more about that ecosystem of Apple products - and how they all play nicely together."

It's an expensive ecosystem: Buying a new iPhone 7, Apple Watch and a set of AirPods will cost over \$1,000. But Apple has never been shy about marketing its products at a premium price.

ing down as the market is maturing, so minor things like look and feel get more attention," O'Donnell said, noting that Apple spent several minutes of its presentation extolling the virtues of an optional "jet black" finish for the new phones.

Other smartphone makers are also having trouble dazzling consumers with new advances. But Forrester Research analyst Julie Ask figures consumers will appreciate the faster chip and other improvements once they try the new iPhones. And she's not worried about any backlash over elimination of the hardware jack.

"Apple has a very long history of removing features we all thought were necessary, and then convincing us that we didn't need them," said Ask, noting that Apple paved the way in phasing out the use of floppy discs and optical drives in computers. "Three months later, it will be, 'Why did we ever have that?'" — AP



09:25 Hunderby
09:50 Father Brown
10:40 Doctors
13:45 Eastenders
15:45 The Musketeers
19:25 Casualty
20:15 Doctors
21:15 Death In Paradise
00:00 Doctors
00:30 Eastenders
01:00 New Tricks
02:00 Death In Paradise
03:00 Death In Paradise
03:55 Unforgotten
04:45 Thirteen
05:40 Doctors

03:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
03:30 South Park
03:54 Broad City
04:18 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show
05:05 Inside Amy Schumer
05:30 The Daily Show - Global Edition



09:00 Destroyed In Seconds
09:50 Ultimate Survival
10:40 How It's Made
11:30 World's Toughest Jobs
12:20 Mythbusters
13:00 Kids vs Film
13:50 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
14:40 My Cat From Hell
18:50 Mythbusters
23:00 Redesign My Brain
23:50 Invent It Rich
00:40 World's Funniest
01:30 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
01:55 Outrageous Acts Of Psych
02:20 The Willis Family
03:10 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
04:00 Destroyed In Seconds
05:40 Track Me If You Can



09:00 I Killed My BFF
10:00 The Haunting Of...
11:00 My Haunted House
12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
13:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
14:00 Nightmare In Suburbia

15:00 Gangs Of Britain...
17:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
18:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
19:00 The First 48
23:00 Monster In My Family
00:00 Diabolical Women
01:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
04:00 Campus Nightmares
05:00 Evil Up Close



09:15 The Hive
09:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
09:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
10:10 Hank Zipzer
10:35 Binny And The Ghost
11:00 Violetta
11:45 The Hive
12:00 Jessie
12:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
13:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
13:20 Liv And Maddie
13:45 Bunk'd
14:10 Austin & Ally
14:35 Backstage
15:00 Alex & Co.
15:25 Girl Meets World
15:50 Austin & Ally
16:15 Disney Cookabout
16:40 Full Out
18:05 Star Darlings
18:10 The 7D
18:20 Liv And Maddie
20:25 Jessie

20:50 Jessie
21:15 Dog With A Blog
22:05 Descendants Wicked World
22:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
22:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
23:00 Gravity Falls
23:25 Jump In
01:00 Star Darlings
01:05 Disney Cookabout
01:30 Jessie
01:55 Liv And Maddie
02:20 Best Friends Whenever
02:45 Good Luck Charlie
03:10 H2O: Just Add Water
04:00 Binny And The Ghost
04:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
05:10 Hank Zipzer
05:35 Binny And The Ghost



9:10 Henry Hugglemonster
09:20 Calimero
09:35 Zou
09:45 Loopdidoo
10:00 Art Attack
10:25 Henry Hugglemonster
10:35 Calimero
10:50 Zou
11:00 Loopdidoo
11:15 Art Attack
11:35 Henry Hugglemonster
11:50 Calimero
12:00 Zou
12:20 Loopdidoo
12:35 Art Attack
13:00 The Hive
13:10 Zou
13:25 Loopdidoo
13:40 Gummi Bears
14:05 Sofia The First
14:30 Goldie & Bear
14:55 PJ Masks
15:20 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
15:35 Doc McStuffins
16:00 Sofia The First
16:30 The Lion Guard
16:55 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
17:25 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
17:50 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
18:15 Miles From Tomorrow
18:30 Doc McStuffins
18:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
19:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
19:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
22:00 Doc McStuffins
22:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
23:00 Sofia The First
23:30 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
23:55 The Lion Guard
00:20 Goldie & Bear
00:35 Miles From Tomorrow
01:00 PJ Masks
01:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse



12:00 Booster
12:10 Super Matrak
12:35 Super Matrak
13:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
13:25 K.C. Undercover
13:50 Guardians Of The Galaxy
14:15 Supa Strikas
14:40 Kirby Buckets
15:10 Mighty Med
15:35 Lab Rats Elite Force
16:00 Lab Rats
16:25 K.C. Undercover
17:20 Supa Strikas
17:45 Supa Strikas
18:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
09:50 Living In Space
10:45 Breakthrough
11:40 I Wouldn't Go In There: WW2 Special
12:35 Mygrations
13:30 Untamed Americas
14:25 Dog Whisperer
16:15 Monster Fish
17:10 Hooked
18:05 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
19:00 Hacking The System
20:00 Machine Impossible
21:00 Science Of Stupid
22:00 World's Most Extreme
23:00 Mega Factories
00:00 Monster Fish
01:00 Hooked
02:00 World's Most Extreme
02:50 Mega Factories
03:40 Monster Fish
04:30 Hooked
05:20 World's Most Extreme
Nat Geo Wild HD
09:45 Wild Scotland: Highlands
10:40 Japan's Wild Year
11:35 Hunter Hunted
12:30 Monster Fish
13:25 Salmon Wars
14:20 Animal ER
15:15 Baby Animals In The Wild
16:10 Make You Laugh Out Loud
17:05 Fish Tank Kings
18:00 Shark Nicole
18:55 Wild Indonesia (2015)
19:50 Ultimate Animals
20:45 Wild Scotland: Highlands
21:40 1000 Days For The Planet
22:35 Caught In The Act
23:30 Dangerous Encounters
00:25 Animals Gone Wild
01:20 Wild Scotland: Highlands
02:10 1000 Days For The Planet

18:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
19:00 Brother Bear 2
20:20 Phineas And Ferb
20:45 Danger Mouse
21:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
21:15 Supa Strikas
21:40 Supa Strikas
22:05 K.C. Undercover
23:50 Annedroids
00:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
00:40 Danger Mouse
01:05 Counterfeit Cat
01:10 Gravity Falls
01:35 Pickle And Peanut
02:00 Lab Rats Elite Force
02:25 Supa Strikas
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22:35 Caught In The Act
23:30 Dangerous Encounters
00:25 Animals Gone Wild
01:20 Wild Scotland: Highlands
02:10 1000 Days For The Planet



09:40 EJ NYC
11:30 Fashion Bloggers
12:00 LA Clippers Dance Squad
12:55 E! News
15:05 LA Clippers Dance Squad
15:55 WAGs
19:15 E! News
19:45 Fashion Bloggers
20:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
01:00 E! News
02:00 EJ NYC
03:00 EJ NYC
04:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
05:00 EJ NYC



09:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
09:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
09:55 Lucky Chow

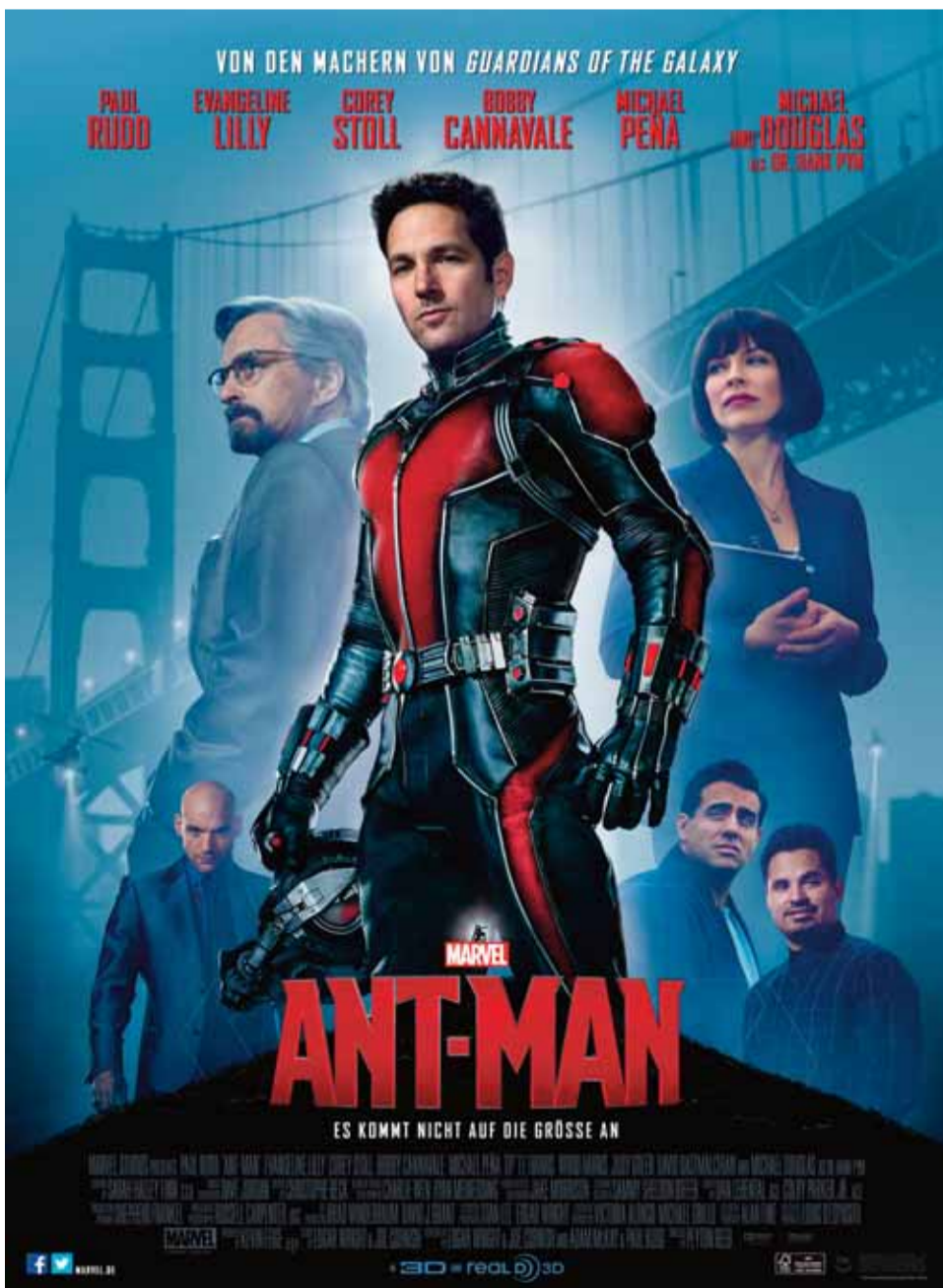
10:20 Rustic Adventures Italy
10:45 Rustic Adventure Argentina
11:10 Glamour Puds
11:35 What's For Sale?
12:00 Places We Go
12:25 Places We Go
12:50 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
13:15 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
13:40 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
14:05 Miguel's Feasts
14:30 A Marriage Of Flavours
14:55 Tales From The Bush Larder
15:20 What's For Sale?
15:45 What's For Sale?
16:10 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
17:00 Gok's Chinese Takeaway
17:50 Confucius Was A Foodie
18:40 East Bites West
19:05 Trekking Malaysia
20:00 Raw Travel
20:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
21:25 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
21:50 Lucky Chow
22:20 Eat Street
22:45 Rustic Adventure Argentina
23:15 Glamour Puds
23:40 What's For Sale?
00:35 Places We Go
01:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
01:30 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
02:00 Lucky Chow
02:25 Eat Street
02:50 Rustic Adventure Argentina
03:15 Glamour Puds
03:40 What's For Sale?
04:30 Places We Go
04:55 East Bites West
05:20 Trekking Malaysia



OSN Movies Drama HD
09:15 The Kings Of Summer
11:00 Odd Thomas
13:00 Shanghai Calling
15:00 Mood Indigo
17:15 Odd Thomas
19:00 Escape (2012)
21:00 Don't Wake Mommy
22:45 Mood Indigo
01:00 Eden (2015)
03:00 October Gale
05:00 One Last Look



09:00 Superstore
09:30 The Goldbergs
10:00 Hank
10:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
11:30 Better With You
12:00 Mad Love
12:30 \$#! My Dad Says
13:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
14:00 Hank
14:30 Better With You
15:00 Superstore
15:30 The Goldbergs
16:00 New Girl
16:30 \$#! My Dad Says
17:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
18:00 Mad Love
18:30 Hank
19:00 Better With You
19:30 \$#! My Dad Says
20:00 The Goldbergs
20:30 The Goldbergs
21:00 New Girl
21:30 Modern Family
22:00 Modern Family
22:30 Mad Love
23:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
00:00 The Mindy Project
00:30 The Mindy Project
01:00 Baby Daddy
01:30 Hot In Cleveland
02:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
03:00 Modern Family



ANT-MAN ON OSN MOVIES HD

03:30 Modern Family
04:00 Saturday Night Live
05:00 The Last Man On Earth
05:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



09:00 Outlander
10:00 Good Morning America
12:00 Grey's Anatomy
13:00 Bones
14:00 Once Upon A Time
15:00 The Amazing Race
16:00 Chicago Med
17:00 Bones
18:00 Once Upon A Time
19:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
20:00 Minority Report
21:00 Live Good Morning America
22:00 Grey's Anatomy
23:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
00:00 Once Upon A Time
01:00 The Amazing Race
02:00 Grey's Anatomy
03:00 Chicago Med
04:00 The Last Kingdom
05:00 Mad Dogs



10:00 Faster
12:00 Grosse Pointe Blank
14:00 Reclaim
16:00 Into The Storm
18:00 The Package
20:00 Faster
22:00 Grosse Pointe Blank
00:00 Reclaim
02:00 Unstoppable
04:00 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes



09:30 Ghost Squad
11:30 Toy Story
13:00 Open Season: Scared Silly
15:00 Oz The Great And Powerful
17:15 The Princess And The Frog
19:15 Dr. Seuss' The Lorax
21:00 The Book Of Life
23:00 Max
01:00 Bedtime Stories
03:00 Wreck-It Ralph
05:00 The Book Of Life



09:00 Vinyl
10:00 Tell Me You Love Me
11:00 A Number
12:30 Hostile Waters
14:30 The Life And Death Of Peter Sellers
16:45 Iron Jawed Angels
19:00 Too Big To Fail
21:00 Bette Midler: The Showgirl Must Go On
22:30 Iron Jawed Angels
01:00 American Crime Story: The People vs O.J. Simpson
02:00 The Bastard Executioner
04:00 Quarry
05:00 Angry Boys
05:30 The Brink



03:45 Pirates Of The Caribbean: At World's End
06:30 The Lone Ranger
09:00 Into The Woods
11:00 Dr. Seuss' The Lorax
13:00 Ratatouille
15:00 Diary Of A Wimpy Kid
17:00 Gulliver's Travels
19:00 Bedtime Stories
21:00 The Rookie



DAWN OF THE PLANET OF THE APES ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

23:00 Diary Of A Wimpy Kid
01:00 Gulliver's Travels



11:00 Prefontaine
12:45 Philomena
14:30 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine
16:45 Ed Wood
19:00 The Railway Man
21:00 The Signal
22:45 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine
01:00 Foxcatcher
03:30 Birdman
05:30 Lost River



10:45 Peter Pan Live!
13:00 The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
15:00 Pixies
17:00 Minions
19:00 Ant-Man
21:00 The Longest Ride
23:15 Big Game
01:00 The Walk
03:00 Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation
05:15 Mad Max: Fury Road



10:45 Miffy The Movie
12:00 Rugrats Go Wild
13:30 Bolts And Blip
15:00 Zafra
16:30 Scooby-Doo! Moon Monster Madness
18:00 The Tale Of The Princess Kaguya
20:15 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
22:00 Alpha Dogz: Pups United
00:00 Zafra
02:00 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory
04:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
05:30 Alpha Dogz: Pups United



10:00 Foodfight!
11:45 Breathless

13:30 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
15:30 Upside Down
17:30 Interstellar
20:30 Life Of A King
22:15 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
00:15 Miss You Already
02:15 A Royal Night Out
04:00 Annabelle



10:00 Green Card
12:00 Spy Hard
14:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
16:00 Green Card
18:00 Spy Hard
20:00 Bubble Boy
22:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
00:00 Passed Away
02:00 Thank You For Smoking
04:00 Tammy



09:05 Emmerdale
09:55 Coronation Street
12:00 When Ant & Dec Met The Prince
13:15 Victoria
14:40 The Chase
16:30 Murdoch Mysteries
18:15 Grantchester
19:10 Tonight At The London Palladium
20:05 Royalty Close Up
21:00 Royal Stories
21:30 Victoria
22:50 When Ant & Dec Met The Prince
00:05 The Chase
01:00 Grantchester
01:55 Tonight At The London Palladium
02:50 The Chase
03:45 The Chase
04:40 Coronation Street



00:00 Mega Builders
09:48 Mythbusters
10:36 Race To Escape
11:24 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
12:12 How Do They Do It?
12:36 Food Factory
13:00 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
15:26 Moon Machines
16:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
17:02 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
17:50 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
18:38 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
19:26 How Do They Do It?
21:26 Extreme Engineering
22:14 Strip The City
23:02 Super Skyscrapers
23:50 Alaska Mega Machines
00:40 Mega Builders
01:30 Mythbusters
05:40 Extreme Engineering



09:00 Eureka
09:45 Eureka
10:30 Killjoys
11:15 Face Off
12:00 Stargate SG-1
16:05 Smallville
20:15 The Exterminators
21:45 Dark Matter
22:35 Face Off
23:25 Sanctuary
00:15 Sanctuary
01:05 The Incredible Hulk
03:00 Village Of The Damned
04:45 Rage Of The Yeti



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

12:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
13:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
13:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
13:48 Winx Club
14:12 Harvey Beaks
14:36 Breadwinners
15:00 Get Blake
15:24 Rabbids Invasion
15:48 Henry Danger
16:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
16:36 The Haunted Hathaways
17:00 Winx Club
17:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
17:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
18:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
18:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
19:00 Breadwinners
19:24 The Loud House
19:48 Harvey Beaks
20:12 Rabbids Invasion
20:36 Henry Danger
21:00 Game Shakers
21:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
21:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
22:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
22:36 The Loud House
23:00 Sanjay And Craig
23:24 Harvey Beaks
23:48 Breadwinners
00:12 Henry Danger
00:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
01:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
01:24 Game Shakers
01:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
02:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:24 Breadwinners
03:48 Breadwinners
04:12 Sanjay And Craig
04:36 Sanjay And Craig
05:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
05:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
05:48 Henry Danger



9:23 Paw Patrol
09:46 Paw Patrol
10:10 Wanda And The Alien
10:19 Wanda And The Alien
10:30 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
10:53 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
11:16 Blaze And The Monster

Machines
11:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
12:00 Paw Patrol
12:13 Paw Patrol
12:36 Dora The Explorer
13:00 Wanda And The Alien
13:11 Zack & Quack
13:22 Dora And Friends
13:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
14:10 Paw Patrol
14:35 Shimmer And Shine
14:58 Dora The Explorer
15:21 Paw Patrol
15:45 Little Charmers
15:57 Bubble Guppies
16:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
16:40 Zack & Quack
16:52 Team Umizoomi
17:15 Louie
17:22 Louie
17:30 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
17:53 Olive The Ostrich
17:58 Olive The Ostrich
18:03 Max & Ruby
18:26 Wanda And The Alien
18:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
18:48 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
19:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
19:22 Blaze And The Monster Machines
19:45 Zack & Quack
19:55 Zack & Quack
20:05 Team Umizoomi
20:28 Louie
20:35 Louie
20:42 Louie
20:48 Paw Patrol
22:10 Wanda And The Alien
22:19 Wanda And The Alien
22:30 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
22:53 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
23:16 Blaze And The Monster Machines
23:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
00:00 Paw Patrol
00:13 Paw Patrol
00:36 Dora The Explorer
01:00 Wanda And The Alien
01:11 Zack & Quack
01:22 Dora And Friends
01:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
02:10 Bubble Guppies
02:58 Dora The Explorer



TEACHERS DAY CELEBRATION IN ICSK AMMAN

Special assembly was organized by class X students of ICSK Amman to celebrate Teachers Day on 5th September 2016. Students narrated the significance of celebrating the birthday of Dr. S Radhakrishnan, the former President of India, as Teachers

Day. Melodious songs were rendered by the students in honor of their dear teachers. Principal Mr. Rajesh Nair, in his address, mentioned that the best way to make the teachers proud of their students is by obeying them and by carrying out their responsibilities.

Vice Principal Dr. Mary Isaac also thanked the students and inspired them to do well in the upcoming examinations. Harini Mahadevan of Class VI has contributed a pencil sketching of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan to the school on the occasion of Teachers Day.

FOUR AUK STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE DARTMOUTH-AUK INTERNSHIP EXCHANGE PROGRAM DURING SUMMER 2016

Since 2006, AUK students have travelled to Hanover, New Hampshire, USA to immerse themselves in true American academic college experiences at Dartmouth College. This opportunity comes as a result of the Dartmouth-AUK Internship Exchange which was a component of the Dartmouth-AUK Memorandum of Understanding that was signed in 2003. The student exchange program offers students internships in various disciplines and promotes professional and personal growth in academia and labor productivity.

This summer, four AUK students participated in the exchange program; Budour Al-Ansari, Vincent Puyat, Hadeel El-Liethy, and Omar Khalil. Each student interned in departments and programs that ranged from Budour's internship at Dartmouth's Office of Communications, Hadeel and Vincent's internship at the TUCKGO-office that enabled MBA students to have first-hand experiences of different cultures through travel to Omar's intensive two-week Secure Information Systems Mentoring and Training (SISMAT) program that explored the ins and outs of hacking, including ethics and creative techniques.

Each student gave a detailed account of their month-long experience at Dartmouth. Their tales included many anecdotes involving several aspects of their lives that would undoubtedly be affected when one delves into a new environment and culture. The following sections detail some of their experiences that would shed light on what future exchange students could look forward to and expect during their time at Dartmouth:-

Culture, Environment & Activities

The students who participate in this program not only represent AUK, but Kuwait as a whole. Therefore, they have the opportunity to represent one culture, while exploring another in ways that would bridge cultural gaps and stereotypes. Bedour Al-Ansari says, "Not only is the environment friendly in Hanover, but the people are too. Once, while I was eating my lunch alone in the diner, two Dartmouth students asked if they could join me at the table, which gave me an idea of how friendly the students are." The ability to communicate with locals initiates a mutual understanding of customs and tradition.

While most of their time is spent on the

Dartmouth campus, the students did have the opportunity to explore their surroundings. Led by program manager for the Dartmouth-AUK Program, Elizabeth Hindmarsh, many outdoor activities were planned to immerse the students in their new surroundings. Hiking beside the Connecticut River and the Gile Mountain Tower Trail, kayaking and paddle boarding are a few that the students experienced during their stay. They were also able to attend the 4th of July Hanover parade, which made for a well-rounded cultural experience between nature and history.

Academics

There was something to be learned in every aspect of the students' time at Dartmouth; through this experience, they learned lessons and acquired skills that can not only be beneficial for their professional careers, but can also be utilized in their academic careers as well. While Budour audited a history class she found herself inspired by the other students to participate in a class debate, "Some of the students who contributed were very energetic, ready to share their ideas with everyone. I hope that this taught me a lesson to always speak up in class and to never be afraid to participate in future classes." Omar Khalil signed up for Dartmouth's two-week intensive SISMAT program; he claims, "I feel that my cognitive ability and problem solving skills are now in a state that is much more developed than it used to be before undertaking the SISMAT program, which I believe was the aim all along."

Work Experience

A part of the internship at Dartmouth is to work in an office environment, which provides the students with a glimpse of what is to come after they graduate. Hadeel El-Liethy and Vincent Puyat both interned at the TUCKGO office which involved sending MBA students abroad to learn about other cultures. The office consisted of three teams and the students had the opportunity to work for all of them which gave them a deeper understanding of how the department operated. Hadeel said, "Working and researching for all three teams was beneficial not only to the team but to myself too. I learned how to deal with ambiguity in instructions that were given to me at work. I was able to research and use their library database (which was HUGE by the way) and accommodate my own needs." Self-sufficiency and effort are important

attributes for anyone entering the workforce, and the students were able to acquire these skills through their internship.

Personal Growth

For several of the students, it was their first time travelling alone for a long period of time. This gave them courage to rely on themselves and prompted them to organize their schedules to be efficient with their time. They faced chal-

lenges from delayed flights, figuring out local bus routes, to encouraging themselves to speak up in class, and living up to the responsibilities they were entrusted with.

This summer marks 10 years since Dartmouth has welcomed AUK students for the purpose of this program. Students have returned with confidence, drive and knowledge which would undoubtedly serve them greatly in their future endeavors.



INDIAN EMBASSY THANKED BY THE COMMUNITY

The event became glorious when the Indian community thanked His Excellency Sunil Jain, the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait and his team - during the recent visit of the Indian Minister Gen. V.K. Singh - for the moral support extended irrespective of seasons and situations. Pani J. Anthony, a UN honored literary figure and a renowned social worker requested the minister to do the needful for

conducting the NET (National Educational Test) in Kuwait also. This test, an eligibility to get into the lectureship / research conducted by UGC (University Grants Commission) in India. The minister replied encouragingly. Also, he requested the minister the need of fisheries grievance day in the embassy premises (exclusively for the fishermen). The genuine request would be looked into, the minister said.

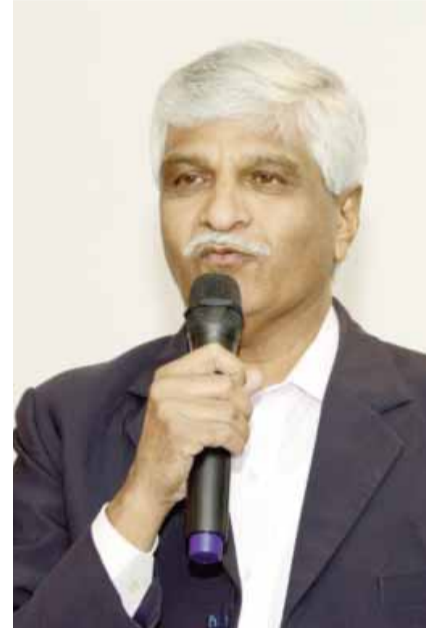
NBTC CELEBRATES EID AND ONAM 2016

NBTC celebrated Onam, Kerala's harvest festival and Eid, in its traditional passion on Thursday. Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain was the chief guest of honor. Chairman Mohammed Al-Baddah and Managing Director K G Abraham addressed the gathering and conveyed greetings

and wishes of the festivals.

Onasadya' was the highlight of the Onam celebration that consisted of pure vegetarian dishes and is traditionally served. Maveli, the symbolic representation of King Mahabali blessed all of the members and was present throughout to cherish the

celebrations. The Onam gathering included dignitaries from various walks of life and representatives from NBTC clientele. The traditional Onam festive hosted at NBTC Corporate office auditorium, was a reflection of its value, 'One Team, One Family'.



K. G. Abraham



Ambassador Sunil Jain

'AMITABH AUR MAIN' CONCERT TO BE HELD ON 23RD SEPT 2016

Amitabh Aur Main, which has been staged successfully in India, is being organized by Kuwait's leading brand name for quality event Indian Youth Society in Kuwait on September 23 at the American International School, Maidan Hawally.

The program, Amitabh Aur Main, which is an event conceptualized by playback singer Sudesh Bhosale has received a great response at all venues it has been performed so far.

Playback Singer Sudesh Bhosale is the only multi-talented and versatile artist in the Film Industry who is known as "The Voice of Amitabh". He has given many super hit songs as playback for Amitabh Bachchan and per-

formed live in many of his stage shows in India and abroad. In this three hours program, Sudeshji will be rendering some of the most popular songs and iconic dialogues of Amitabh Bachchan which would capture the essence of all his performances till date in a capsule, apart from sharing his experience about working with Amitabh Bachchan during the recordings and live concerts. He will be accompanied by singer Amol Yadav who has given Playback in quite a few films and Arpita Thakkar an accomplished singer from Mumbai who has also given playback. International Artists of Melody Makers who are well known in the field of Entertainment

for the last 53 years will be providing the music with Orchestration by Pravin Saraf.

Shabbir Qamar, President of Indian Youth Society said, "We are pleased to bring this special event to Kuwait. Our last few events were very well received where we hosted few very famous performers like Kapil Sharma, Prabhu Deva, Udit Narayan & Sugandha Mishra etc.

Amitabh Aur Main is based on the memorable charisma created by Amitabh Bachchan on screen. "Sudesh Bhosle and team will be rendering some of the popular songs and iconic dialogues of Amitabh Bachchan. Sudesh aims to capture the essence of all Amitabh's performances till date through this concert. "He will be sharing his experience about working with Amitabh Bachchan during the recordings and live concerts too."

He added, "It is a much-awaited show that fans cannot afford to miss and special arrangements are being made for this first of

its kind event to be staged in Kuwait." Some of the songs Bhosle and team are expected to perform are Intehaan Ho Gayi Intezaar Ki, Jumma Chumma, Kajraare, Meri Makhna and My Name is Anthony Gonsalves among many others, interspersed with Big B's hit dialogues.

Indian Youth Society of Kuwait fondly known as IYS is a non-profitable organization registered with Indian Embassy of Kuwait by the initiative of a like-minded young Indians with the vision of honouring, encouraging, supporting and celebrating the Indian social & cultural values amongst the people of Kuwait.

IYS has been successful in gaining popularity and remains a strong and fast growing organization in Kuwait led by its founder members. IYS welcomes all individuals to join and serve the community.

Website: www.indianyouthkuwait.com; E-mail: iyskuwait@gmail.com
Mob : 66361912, 69030422, 69030423, 69030425, 66367438, 66620780.

EMBASSY OF INDIA PRAVASI BHARTIYA DIVAS CONVENTION-2017

The 14th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention will be held from 7-9 January 2017 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. All those interested to attend the Convention may please log on to (bdindia.gov.in) for registration. The programme for this mega event is available on the portal. Please register online and

pay required registration fees through the payment gateway on this portal.

All Indian nationals and OCLs in Kuwait interested to participate in the PBD-2017, are cordially invited to register themselves for the event at the earliest. The last date for registration is 7th December 2016.

WHY THE ZIKA VIRUS IS CAUSING ALARM

RACING TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE ZIKA

How do people become infected?

Zika is transmitted to people through the bite of infected female mosquitoes, primarily the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the same type that spreads dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) said *Aedes* mosquitoes are found in all countries in the Americas except Canada and continental Chile, and the virus will likely reach all countries and territories of the region where *Aedes* mosquitoes are found.

How do you treat Zika?

There is no treatment or vaccine for Zika infection. Companies and scientists are racing to develop a safe and effective vaccine for Zika, but the World Health Organization (WHO) had said early in 2016 that it would take at least 18 months to start large-scale clinical trials of potential preventative shots.

A vaccine is not expected to be ready for widespread use for at least two or three years but US government researchers said they started the first clinical trial of a Zika vaccine.

How dangerous is it?

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concluded that infection with the Zika virus in pregnant women is a cause of the birth defect microcephaly, a condition defined by unusually small heads that can result in developmental problems, and other severe brain abnormalities in babies. The CDC said that since the causal relationship had been established, several important questions must still be answered with studies that could take years.

The WHO in an updated assessment said the "most likely explanation" is that virus infection during pregnancy is a cause of congenital brain abnormalities including microcephaly. In addition, the agency said infection is a trigger of Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS), a rare neurological disorder that can result in paralysis. The update from the WHO came after considering months of research. Its previous statement, based on a rapid assessment of evidence, said there was strong scientific consensus that Zika virus caused GBS, microcephaly and other neurological disorders.

Brazil recently reported 1,835 confirmed cases of microcephaly. Suspected cases under investigation had declined to 3,257. Current research in Brazil indicates the greatest microcephaly risk is associated with infection during the first trimester of pregnancy, but health officials have warned an impact could be seen in later weeks. Recent studies have shown evidence of Zika in amniotic fluid, placenta and fetal brain tissue.

What are the symptoms of Zika infection?

People infected with Zika may have a mild fever, skin rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain and fatigue that can last for two to seven days. But as many as 80 percent of people infected never develop symptoms. The symptoms are similar to those of dengue or chikungunya, which are transmitted by the same type of mosquito.

How can Zika be contained?

Efforts to control the spread of the



KUALA LUMPUR: A pest control worker fumigates school grounds on the eve of the annual national Primary School Evaluation Test in Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia reported its first locally transmitted Zika case on September 3, a 61-year-old man who has died of heart-related complications, the government said. —AFP

virus focus on eliminating mosquito breeding sites and taking precautions against mosquito bites such as using insect repellent and mosquito nets. US and international health officials have advised pregnant women to avoid travel to Latin American and Caribbean countries, sections of Miami, Florida in the United States and Singapore where they may be exposed to Zika.

How widespread is the outbreak?

Active Zika outbreaks have been reported in at least 58 countries or territories, most of them in the Americas, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Brazil has been the country most affected.

Africa (1): Cape Verde

Americas (48): Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Bonaire, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saba, Puerto Rico, Saint Barthelmy, Saint Lucia, Saint Martin, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Eustatius, St. Maarten, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Cacos, United States, US Virgin Islands and Venezuela.

Asia (1): Singapore

Oceania/Pacific Islands (8): American Samoa, Fiji, Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tonga.

What is the history of the Zika virus?

The Zika virus is found in tropical locales with large mosquito populations. Outbreaks of Zika have been recorded in Africa, the Americas, Southern Asia and the Western Pacific. The virus was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in rhesus monkeys and was first identified in people in 1952 in Uganda and Tanzania, according to the WHO.

Can Zika be transmitted through sexual contact?

The WHO said sexual transmission is "relatively common" and has advised

pregnant women not to travel to areas with ongoing outbreaks of Zika virus. It also advised women living in areas where the virus is being transmitted to delay getting pregnant.

The US CDC is investigating several cases of possible sexual transmission. Those cases involved possible transmission of the virus from men to their sex partners. On July 25, the CDC warned that the virus can be transmitted through unprotected sex with an infected female partner.

A reported case of female-to-male sexual transmission in New York City, and limited human and non-human primate data indicating that Zika virus RNA can be detected in vaginal secretions, led to the new warning, the agency said. CDC's expanded warnings on sexual exposure to Zika cautioned against sex without a condom or other barrier method of protection with any person, male or female, who has traveled to or lives in an area with Zika, including female to female transmission with a pregnant partner.

Recent new Zika research found that the virus may spread sexually from a man to a woman even if the man had no symptoms of Zika infection.

The WHO said that men and women returning from where the Zika virus is actively spreading should practice safer sex or abstinence for six months, regardless of whether they are trying to conceive or showing symptoms. The guidance was a change from the WHO's interim recommendation on June 7, which referred only to men and had a shorter timeframe of at least eight weeks. British health officials reported Zika was found in a man's semen two months after he was infected, suggesting the virus may linger in semen long after infection symptoms fade.

The PAHO said Zika can be transmitted through blood, but this is an infrequent transmission mechanism. There is no evidence Zika can be transmitted to babies through breast milk.

The WHO has identified Zika cases in Argentina, Chile, France, Italy and New Zealand as likely caused by sexual transmission. — Reuters

IVORY COAST RE-OPENS WESTERN BORDERS CLOSED DURING EBOLA EPIDEMIC

ABIDJAN: Ivory Coast has re-opened its western borders with Liberia and Guinea two years after they were closed to prevent the spread of an Ebola epidemic that killed thousands across West Africa, an Ivorian government spokesman said yesterday.

Around 29,000 people contracted the haemorrhagic fever during the more than two-year long outbreak, the worst on record. Over 11,000 died before it finally ended in June, nearly all of them in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. "We had to take these measures to protect our country. And the fact we didn't have a single case must be considered a real success," Bruno Kone said, referring to the border closure measure.

Ivory Coast, French-speaking West Africa's largest economy, shut its borders in August 2014. It came under criticism at the time from some health organizations that argued the closure risked aggravating the epidemic and would worsen hardship in countries already struggling with the economic fallout from Ebola.

Several other regional nations, including Mali and Senegal, also shut their borders temporarily as a precaution. —Reuters

BIDEN ASKS US CONGRESS TO ALLOW UNENCUMBERED ZIKA FUNDING VOTE

WASHINGTON: Vice President Joe Biden on Thursday called on the Republican-led US Congress to allow an up-or-down vote on funding to combat the Zika virus without other provisions attached, calling the health threat posed by the pathogen a national emergency.

Congress has failed to approve any funding to fight the mosquito-borne virus since President Barack Obama asked for \$1.9 billion in February. Lawmakers have been deadlocked for months over a \$1.1 billion funding bill. Democrats have accused Republicans of attaching controversial provisions related to abortion and Obama's healthcare law that they cannot accept and have called for new legislation.

Republicans in turn have accused Democrats of blocking the bill to gain political advantage by portraying Republicans as obstructionists on Zika funding. "Give us an up-or-down vote, straight, on Zika," Biden, a former Democratic senator from Delaware, said at an event on Capitol Hill with fellow Democrats from the Senate and House of Representatives.

"I understand attaching controversial issues to important legislation ... but this is a national emergency," Biden added. "People's health, the well-being of unborn children, the health of the country at large, is at stake. Act."

Republicans and Democrats have huddled separately in closed meetings this week to see if they could reach a compromise during September's 19-day legislative work session. A main issue is Democrats' opposition to language, backed by Republicans, that they say would prevent Zika funds for abortion providers like Planned Parenthood, mainly in Puerto Rico.

US health officials have concluded that Zika infections in pregnant women can cause microcephaly, a birth defect marked by small head size that can lead to severe developmental problems in babies.

There is no vaccine or treatment for Zika. The virus, first detected in Brazil last year, has spread rapidly through the Americas. Florida is the only US state so far where local mosquitoes are known to be transmitting Zika. —Reuters



WASHINGTON: Vice President Joe Biden gestures while speaking at the Center for American Progress' meeting on middle-class economic security, Sept. 8, 2016. —AFP



LONDON: The benefits of statins - cholesterol-busting drugs that can dramatically reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes - have been underestimated and their harms exaggerated, scientists said on Thursday in a major review of research. —AFP

STATINS' BENEFITS UNDERSTATED AND HARMS EXAGGERATED

LONDON: The benefits of statins - cholesterol-busting drugs that can dramatically reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes - have been underestimated and their harms exaggerated, scientists said on Thursday in a major review of research.

In an effort to counter what they said were misleading reports of high levels of side effects, the scientists said in the Lancet medical journal there was a "serious cost to public health" in such claims, which can dissuade people from taking beneficial medicines. "Our review shows that the numbers of people who avoid heart attacks and strokes by taking statin therapy are very much larger than the numbers who have side effects," said Rory Collins, a professor at the Clinical Trial Service Unit at Britain's Oxford University.

He also said that those who experience side effects-which include muscle pain, nausea and liver problems-could reverse them by stopping the statin, while the effects of a heart attack or stroke "are irreversible and can be devastating".

Biggest generators

Once among the biggest revenue generators for drugmakers such as Pfizer and AstraZeneca, most statins are now off-patent and available as cheap generics. US health guidelines recommend aggressive statin therapy for high-risk patients. In Britain, they are taken by an estimated 7 million people and health authorities have said they should be prescribed more widely as preventatives. Cardiovascular diseases such as heart attacks and strokes are the world's number one killers, accounting for an estimated 31 percent of all deaths and claiming 17.5 million lives a year worldwide, according to the World Health Organization. — Reuters

MISTRUST OF VACCINES IS GREATEST IN FRANCE

PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN VACCINES VARIES WIDELY

LONDON: Public confidence in immunization varies widely across the world with the French the most skeptical about the safety of vaccines, according to a survey published yesterday.

With outbreaks of measles, whooping cough and other infectious diseases occurring in recent years in places where the take-up of vaccinations has been low, the scientists behind the survey said its insights could help policy-makers tackle such problems.

The study took views from almost 66,000 people across 67 countries about whether they consider vaccines important, safe, effective and compatible with their religious beliefs. France - the birthplace of immunology pioneer Louis Pasteur - was the country least confident of vaccine safety, with 41 percent of those surveyed disagreeing that vaccines are safe, more than three times the global average of 12 percent. Europe had six other countries among the 10 least trusting - Bosnia & Herzegovina, Russia, Ukraine, Greece, Armenia and Slovenia.

Publishing their findings in the journal EBioMedicine, researchers led by Heidi Larson of the Vaccine Confidence Project at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine said negative attitudes may be due to controversies over suspected side-effects and hesitancy among some family doctors. Public trust in immunization is an important global health issue, with lack



NICE: A nurse vaccinates a patient as part of the start of the seasonal influenza vaccination campaign on October 21, 2015. —AFP

of trust leading people to turn down potentially life-saving vaccines.

Vaccine refusal has been linked to outbreaks of diseases such as measles in the United States, Europe, Asia, the Pacific and Africa in recent years, and has also caused serious setbacks to global ambitions to eradicate polio. "It is vital to global public health that we regularly monitor attitudes towards vaccines so we can quickly identify countries or groups with declining confidence," Larson said. "This gives us the best chance of preventing possi-

ble outbreaks of diseases." The survey found southeast Asia was most confident in safety, with fewer than 1 percent in Bangladesh thinking vaccines were not safe. It also found that some countries including France had much greater confidence in the importance of vaccines than in their safety. "This ...shows that vaccine acceptance is precarious," said

Larson, adding that scientists and public health authorities need to "do much better at building public trust". —Reuters

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Kuwait Times

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Kuwait CINEMA			KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (08/09/2016 TO 14/09/2016)		
SHARQIA-1			BLOOD FATHER		4:15 PM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:45 PM		BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)		6:15 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	3:00 PM		LIGHTS OUT		8:30 PM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	5:15 PM		LIGHTS OUT		10:15 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	7:30 PM		LIGHTS OUT		12:15 AM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	9:45 PM				
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:05 AM		MARINA-2		
			ASHAN KHARGEN 12:45 PM		
SHARQIA-2			ASHAN KHARGEN	3:00 PM	
PETE'S DRAGON	11:30 AM		ASHAN KHARGEN	5:15 PM	
PETE'S DRAGON -3D	1:45 PM		ASHAN KHARGEN	7:30 PM	
ASHAN KHARGEN	4:00 PM		ASHAN KHARGEN	9:45 PM	
PETE'S DRAGON -3D	6:15 PM		ASHAN KHARGEN	12:05 AM	
ASHAN KHARGEN	8:30 PM				
ASHAN KHARGEN	10:45 PM		MARINA-3		
ASHAN KHARGEN	1:00 AM		SULLY	11:30 AM	
			PETE'S DRAGON	1:30 PM	
SHARQIA-3			PETE'S DRAGON	3:45 PM	
SULLY	11:30 AM		PETE'S DRAGON	6:00 PM	
SULLY	1:30 PM		PETE'S DRAGON	8:15 PM	
SULLY	3:30 PM		SULLY	10:30 PM	
SULLY	5:45 PM		SULLY	12:45 AM	
SULLY	8:00 PM				
LIGHTS OUT	10:15 PM		AVENUES-1		
LIGHTS OUT	12:05 AM		ANTBOY 3	12:00 PM	
			ANTBOY 3	2:15 PM	
MUHALAB-1			ANTBOY 3	4:15 PM	
PETE'S DRAGON	11:30 AM		ANTBOY 3	6:15 PM	
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	2:15 PM		ANTBOY 3	8:15 PM	
ASHAN KHARGEN	4:30 PM		MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	10:15 PM	
PETE'S DRAGON	6:45 PM		MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	12:15 AM	
LIGHTS OUT	9:00 PM				
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	10:45 PM		AVENUES-2		
LIGHTS OUT	1:00 AM		PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX	12:15 PM	
			PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX	2:30 PM	
MUHALAB-2			PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX	5:00 PM	
SULLY	12:30 PM		PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX	7:15 PM	
SULLY	2:45 PM		PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX	9:30 PM	
BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	5:00 PM		PETE'S DRAGON -3D-4DX	11:45 PM	
NO MON+TUE					
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	5:00 PM		AVENUES-3		
MON+TUE			BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:45 PM	
SULLY	8:00 PM		BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	3:00 PM	
SULLY	10:15 PM		BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	5:15 PM	
SULLY	12:30 AM		BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	7:30 PM	
			BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	9:45 PM	
MUHALAB-3			BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:05 AM	
PETE'S DRAGON	12:45 PM				
PETE'S DRAGON -3D	3:00 PM		AVENUES-4		
PETE'S DRAGON	5:15 PM		ASHAN KHARGEN	12:30 PM	
ASHAN KHARGEN	7:30 PM		BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	2:45 PM	
ASHAN KHARGEN	9:45 PM		ASHAN KHARGEN	5:00 PM	
ASHAN KHARGEN	12:05 AM		ASHAN KHARGEN	7:15 PM	
			ASHAN KHARGEN	9:30 PM	
FANAR-1			BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	11:45 PM	
PETE'S DRAGON	11:30 AM		BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:05 AM	
PETE'S DRAGON	1:45 PM				
PETE'S DRAGON	4:00 PM		360°- 1		
PETE'S DRAGON	6:15 PM		ANTBOY 3	11:30 AM	
SULLY	8:30 PM		PETE'S DRAGON -3D	1:30 PM	
SULLY	10:45 PM		PETE'S DRAGON -3D	3:45 PM	
SULLY	1:00 AM		PETE'S DRAGON -3D	6:00 PM	
			PETE'S DRAGON -3D	8:15 PM	
FANAR-2			PETE'S DRAGON	10:30 PM	
KILL ZONE 2	11:30 AM		PETE'S DRAGON	12:45 AM	
ANTBOY 3	2:00 PM				
ANTBOY 3	4:00 PM		360°- 2		
ANTBOY 3	6:00 PM		ASHAN KHARGEN	12:00 PM	
ANTBOY 3	8:00 PM		ASHAN KHARGEN	2:15 PM	
KILL ZONE 2	10:00 PM		ASHAN KHARGEN	4:30 PM	
KILL ZONE 2	12:30 AM		ASHAN KHARGEN	6:45 PM	
			ASHAN KHARGEN	9:00 PM	
FANAR-3			ASHAN KHARGEN	11:15 PM	
ASHAN KHARGEN	12:15 PM		LIGHTS OUT	1:30 AM	
ASHAN KHARGEN	2:30 PM				
LIGHTS OUT	4:45 PM		360°- 3		
BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	6:30 PM		BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	11:30 AM	
LIGHTS OUT	9:30 PM		BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	2:30 PM	
LIGHTS OUT	11:15 PM		BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	5:30 PM	
LIGHTS OUT	1:00 AM		BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	8:30 PM	
			BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	11:30 PM	
FANAR-4					
SULLY	11:30 AM		AL-KOUT.1		
SULLY	1:30 PM		ASHAN KHARGEN	11:30 AM	
ASHAN KHARGEN	3:30 PM		ASHAN KHARGEN	1:45 PM	
ASHAN KHARGEN	5:45 PM		ASHAN KHARGEN	4:00 PM	
ASHAN KHARGEN	8:15 PM		ASHAN KHARGEN	6:15 PM	
ASHAN KHARGEN	10:30 PM		ASHAN KHARGEN	8:30 PM	
ASHAN KHARGEN	12:45 AM		ASHAN KHARGEN	10:45 PM	
			ASHAN KHARGEN	1:00 AM	
MARINA-1			AL-KOUT.2		
PETE'S DRAGON	11:45 AM		PETE'S DRAGON	11:45 AM	
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	2:00 PM		PETE'S DRAGON	2:15 PM	

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	04:08
Shorook	05:29
Duhr:	11:46
Asr:	15:18
Maghrib:	18:02
Isha:	19:21



Kuwait Times
THE FIRST PAGE IN THE ARABIAN GULF

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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



Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION
In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers use seats

Arrival Flights on Saturday 10/9/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
CLX	852	Luxembourg	00:35
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50
MSC	501	Alexandria	02:00
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05
RJA	644	Amman	03:10
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40
KAC	514	Tehran	03:50
THY	1416	Bursa	04:05
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15
SYR	341	Damascus	06:00
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20
RJA	648	Amman	09:30
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
SAW	703	Damascus	09:45
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:10
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:55
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30
JZR	241	Amman	12:30
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
RJD	132	Abu Dhabi	13:05
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10
BON	101	Sarajevo	13:55
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20
JZR	779	Jeddah	14:25
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:30
MSC	507	HRG	14:45
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00
KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05
KNE	683	Madinah	15:05
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50
RJA	640	Amman	16:00
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
JZR	257	Beirut	16:25
KNE	531	Jeddah	16:35
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45
KAC	562	Amman	16:55
KAC	680	Muscat	16:55
KAC	118	New York	17:00
SAW	705	Damascus	17:05
IRA	669	Mashhad	17:10
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30

KAC	792	Madinah	17:45
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50
SVA	500	Jeddah	17:55
QTR	1080	Doha	17:55
KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35
KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35
KAC	502	Beirut	18:35
IRM	1180	Mashhad	18:45
KAC	742	Dammam	18:50
CLX	856	Luxembourg	18:50
KAC	542	Cairo	18:55
KAC	618	Doha	18:55
KAC	104	London	19:00
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15
JAV	621	Amman	19:25
JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35
KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
FDB	059	Dubai	19:50
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05
ABY	121	Sharjah	20:10
KNE	381	Taif	20:10
MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30
QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
KAC	174	Munich	20:55
FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05
UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25
THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
KAC	676	Dubai	21:35
FDB	8053	Dubai	21:40
QTR	1082	Doha	21:55
GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00
KAC	564	Amman	22:05
NIA	151	Cairo	22:10
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15
AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
KNE	533	Jeddah	22:45
JZR	185	Dubai	22:55
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:05
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30
MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
JAD	301	Amman	23:45
ETH	3612	Addis Ababa	23:59

Departure Flights on Saturday 10/9/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:10
JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20
MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40
KLM	413	Amsterdam	01:05
MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
CLX	852	Sharjah	02:05
SAI	442	Lahore	02:30
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
THY	769	Istanbul	03:45
RJA	645	Amman	03:55
MSC	502	Alexandria	04:00
OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
FEG	934	Sohag	06:00
RJA	643	Amman	06:25
QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	240	Amman	06:55
SYR	342	Damascus	07:00
FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
BAW	156	London	08:25
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	173	Munich	08:35
KAC	511	Mashhad	08:40
KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
JZR	778	Jeddah	08:50
SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
JZR	256	Beirut	09:05
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
JZR	534	Cairo	09:30

ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	101	London/New York	10:00
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05
RJA	649	Amman	10:15
QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
SAW	704	Damascus	10:45
KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
KAC	561	Amman	11:20
KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
KAC	679	Muscat	11:25
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	356	Mashhad	11:40
KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
IRM	1189	Mashhad	12:20
IAW	158	Al Najaf	12:55
KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
KAC	791	Madinah	13:00
JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
JZR	786	Riyadh	13:20
MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
RJD	133	Abu Dhabi	13:50
FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
KNE	382	Taif	14:55
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
KAC	617	Doha	15:15
QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
MSC	508	HRG	15:45
JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KNE	684	Madinah	16:00
KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05
OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	563	Amman	16:30
NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
RJA	641	Amman	16:55
FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
KNE	532	Jeddah	17:25
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
IRA	666	Esfahan	18:10
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
SAW	706	Damascus	18:20
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
JZR	238	Amman	19:15
JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
SVA	505	Jeddah	19:25
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
IRM	1181	Mashhad	20:00
CLX	856	Hong Kong	20:20
JAV	622	Amman	20:25
FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
DLH	634	Doha	20:50
ABY	122	Sharjah	20:50
KAC	353	BLR	20:55
KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
MSR	607	Luxor	21:30
QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
THY	1413	TZX	22:25
KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
KAC	205	Islamabad	

Word Search Puzzles

Hanukkah

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 42 letters spell a secret message.

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

- BIMUELOS
- BLESSINGS
- CANDLES
- CHANUKIAH
- CHARITY
- CUSTOMS
- DAIRY FOODS
- DREIDEL
- EIGHT DAYS
- FAMILY
- FEAST
- FESTIVAL
- GAMES
- GELT
- GIFTS
- HALLEL
- HANEROT HALALU
- HEBREW
- HOLIDAY
- HOLY TEMPLE
- JERUSALEM
- KISLEV
- LATKE
- LEVIVOT
- LIGHTS
- MA'OZ TZUR
- MACCABEES
- MATTSYAHU
- MENORAH
- MIRACLE
- OLIVE OIL
- PONTSHKES
- PRAYERS
- PSALMS
- SEVIMON
- SHAMASH
- SONGS
- SUFGANIYOT
- TALMUD
- TORAH
- TRADITION
- YEARLY
- YEHUDIT

Yesterday's Solution

Old West 2

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

- ASSAY OFFICE
- BANK ROBBER
- BARN
- BLACKSMITH
- BOOTS
- BUCKBOARD
- BUNKHOUSE
- CALAMITY JANE
- CHAPS
- COAL OIL
- COWPOKE
- DAVY CROCKETT
- DOCTOR
- DRESSMAKER
- FENCE
- GENERAL STORE
- GOLD NUGGET
- GUNSLINGER
- HATS
- HIRED HAND
- HORSES
- ICE HOUSE
- LIASSO
- MARSHALL
- MINE SHAFT
- OUTLAWS
- PELTS
- PIGS
- PIONEERS
- POST OFFICE
- RANCH HAND
- REVOLVER
- RUSTLER
- SADDLER
- SALOON GIRL
- SCHOOLHOUSE
- SCOUTS
- SHOOTOUT
- SHOTGUN
- SPURS
- STIRRUP
- TOWN HALL
- TRADING POST
- TUMBLEWEED
- WAGON
- WANTED POSTER
- WHISKEY
- WILD BILL HICKOK

The hidden message is: ALWAYS DRINK UPSTREAM FROM THE HERD

CROSSWORD 1369

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
 15 16 17
 18 19 20
 21 22 23 24 25
 26 27 28 29
 30 31 32 33
 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
 41 42 43
 44 45 46 47
 48 49 50 51 52 53
 54 55 56
 57 58 59 60
 61 62 63 64 65 66 67
 68 69 70 71 72
 73 74 75 76
 77 78 79

ACROSS

1. What you can repeat immediately after perceiving it.
4. Shod or cased with iron.
12. A byproduct of inflammation.
15. Someone who is morally reprehensible.
16. Providing no shelter or sustenance.
17. 10 hao equal 1 dong.
18. A human limb.
19. The academic world.
20. A hotel providing overnight lodging for travelers.
21. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
23. A state in northwestern North America.
24. (prosody) Of or consisting of dactyls.
26. Strike with disgust or revulsion.
29. A member of a seafaring group of North American Indians who lived on the Pacific coast of British Columbia and southwestern Alaska.
30. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
33. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
34. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
41. Anneal or toughen by a process of gradually heating and cooling.
43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
44. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
45. The sixth month of the civil year.
46. 30 to 300 kilohertz.
47. Electronic warfare undertaken to prevent or reduce an enemy's effective use of the electromagnetic spectrum.
48. Treated with contempt.
51. A river in northwestern Russia flowing generally west into the Gulf of Finland.
54. Fragrant resin obtain from trees of the family Burseraceae and used as incense.
56. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
57. Realistic Norwegian author who wrote plays on social and political themes (1828-1906).
59. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
61. Capital of the state of South Dakota.

DOWN

1. A fraudulent business scheme.
2. A village in eastern Ireland (northwest of Dublin).
3. Designer drug designed to have the effects of amphetamines (it floods the brain with serotonin) but to avoid the drug laws.
4. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
5. A summary that repeats the substance of a longer discussion.
6. Port city on southern Honshu on Osaka Bay.
7. A sign of assent or salutation or command.
8. A vehicle mounted on runners and pulled by horses or dogs.
9. The character flaw or error of a tragic hero that leads to his downfall.
10. Of or relating to near the ear.
11. Having the physical appearance of death.
12. (Mexican) Ground beef and chili peppers or chili powder often with tomatoes and kidney beans.
13. Insectivorous usually semiaquatic web-footed amphibian with smooth moist skin and long hind legs.
14. A member of the Siouan people of the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
22. Tall perennial herb of tropical Asia with dark green leaves.
25. A name for the Old Testament God as transliterated from the Hebrew YHVH.
27. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
28. A chronic inflammatory collagen disease affecting connective tissue (skin or joints).
31. Diffusing warmth and friendliness.
32. (biology) Of unlike parts or organs.
35. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
36. (Roman mythology) Goddess of agriculture.
37. Herbs of temperate regions.
38. Conforming to an ultimate standard of perfection or excellence.
39. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
40. Hard red wheat grown especially in Russia and Germany.
42. A language group of the Hokan family.
49. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
50. A metrical unit with unstressed-unstressed syllables.
52. Fail to agree with.
53. Russian country house.
55. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
58. Spanish missionary who founded Franciscan missions in California (1713-1784).
60. Eliminate from the body.
62. A republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
63. A very light brown.
64. A coffin along with its stand.
65. (British) Traditional jazz as revived in the 1950s.
66. An inactive volcano in Sicily.
67. East Indian tree bearing a profusion of intense vermilion velvet-textured blooms and yielding a yellow dye.
70. Belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself).
71. A digital display that uses liquid crystal cells that change reflectivity in an applied electric field.
75. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

Daily SuDoku

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very hard

Yesterday's Solution

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hard

Yesterday's Solution

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KIWI GOLD ADDS GILT TO WORLD SERIES STRUGGLE

TOULON: The America's Cup World Series welcomes back Kiwi Rio gold medallists Peter Burling and Blair Tuke for what will be a hotly-contested penultimate leg at the French port of Toulon this weekend.

With the pair absent for the last leg in Portsmouth Emirates Team New Zealand dropped from first to third as superstar sailor Ben Ainslie's British Land Rover BAR took a slender one point edge on Jimmy Spithill's Team USA. So as the six 13.45m catamarans get ready to compete in perfect conditions Burling and Tuke's return from Rio is a massive boost for New Zealand. "We're really looking forward to getting back into it and getting back into that fast racing," Burling said, as he arrived in Toulon from Brazil having helmed the Olympics class

skiff and is preparing to get back to the Cup catamaran.

There are ten points for a win of each of this weekend's six races and the Kiwis trail by just 12 and the current leader Spithill is looking over his shoulder.

"We had the edge in Portsmouth but in New York and Chicago, both Ben and I were off the podium," said Spithill. "We came into this a long way off Emirates Team New Zealand and now they have dropped back and we are one point away with Toulon and Japan still to go so we are really happy with how the guys are sailing." Groupama Team France led by skipper Franck Cammas knows the waters best. He will need a faultless weekend to get back from sixth place but has been training on a new boat.

"Let's see what happens in Toulon," he said.

"We will get good support from the crowds there and Toulon is a very good venue with good winds sometimes so hopefully we will put on a good show." There is a practice session Friday ahead of an opening ceremony in the evening before three races on Saturday and three more on Sunday.

Standings:

1. Land Rover BAR (GBR/Ben Ainslie) 367 points
2. Oracle Team USA (USA/Jimmy Spithill) 366 pts
3. Emirates Team New Zealand (NZL/Glenn Ashby) 357
4. SoftBank Team Japan (JPN/Dean Barker) 328
5. Artemis Racing (SWE/Nathan Outteridge) 315
6. Groupama Team France (FRA/Franck Cammas) 292. — AFP



SEMONKONG: Horse riders race through the fields on July 16, 2016 in Semonkong. Horseracing in the mountain kingdom of Lesotho is not like at Ascot or Longchamp, but it is still highly competitive, involves lots of gambling and is a major social occasion. The course at Semonkong, in the centre of the landlocked nation, hosts races once a month in the winter, with the most prestigious days marking King Letsi III's birthday in July and independence day in October. — AFP

EPSOM HERO AND HEROINE BATTLE FOR CHAMPION TAG

DUBLIN: Harzand and Minding gave Ireland a classic double at Epsom in June and today at Leopardstown they will clash in the appropriately titled Irish Champion Stakes. Veteran trainer Dermot Weld for whom globetrotting has become second nature saddling two Melbourne Cup winners and a Belmont Stakes victor-runs Epsom Derby winner Harzand whilst record-breaking compatriot Aidan O'Brien pitches his Oaks champion Minding against the colts for the first time. Aside from the these two stars of the turf there will be the French Derby victors Almanzor (2016) and New Bay (2015), O'Brien's King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes winner Highland Reel, and Godolphin's Eclipse Stakes winner Hawkbill.

Weld will be hoping Harzand can do what he did at Epsom-giving him his first win in flat racing's blue-riband classic-and deliver him his first ever Champion Stakes.

"Harzand is in great order," said Weld, who will also field a pacemaker for the Aga Khan-owned stable star in the shape of Ebediyin. Harzand's jockey Pat Smullen, who like Weld has yet to win Ireland's premier all-aged middle distance race, is delighted at the rain that has poured down this week. "The more rain that comes the better for Harzand," said Smullen. "I was glad we got all the rain we got-Leopardstown is a very good draining track so we need to keep getting those showers," added the prematurely grey 39-year-old. O'Brien, who also has high hopes of landing the last English classic of the season the English St Leger at Doncaster with warm favourite Idaho, knows Minding faces a tough challenge. However, having seen her sweep aside her fellow fillies in four of her five starts this term-her one defeat, in the Irish 1000 Guineas, was put down to her banging her head on the stalls-the time was right to take on the colts. — AFP

HOME RACE ROSSI PRESSURES MARQUEZ

MISANO ADRIATICO: Local hero Valentino Rossi can count on partisan support at tomorrow's San Marino MotoGP as the Yamaha star looks to keep chipping away at Marc Marquez's championship lead. Rossi, born in Urbino less than an hour's drive from the Misano circuit, trails Marquez by 50 points with six races remaining and is relishing his homecoming after claiming a hard-fought third place at Silverstone. "Misano will be the most special weekend of the season, because Misano is 'my race', it's my home. Usually we are quite good there, so we hope to be competitive," said the Italian, a three-time winner at this weekend's track. "There will be a great atmosphere: a lot of fans, a lot of people around and also a lot of pressure, so we have to try to give 20 percent more than the maximum."

Rossi's team-mate and defending world champion Jorge Lorenzo hopes a return to the Misano Marco Simoncelli circuit, renamed in honour of the late Italian rider, can revitalise his season, with the Spaniard having finished just once on the podium in the last six races.

Lorenzo, a winner in Qatar, France and Italy this term, has plummeted from first to third in the championship since his triumph at Mugello and trails Marquez by 64 points.

"Silverstone was another disappointing race where we could have gotten a good result. However now it's time to forget about what happened in the past and focus on the next Grand Prix in Misano," said Lorenzo. "This is one of my favourite tracks, so let's see if we can turn the tide," he added, conceding his bid to retain his crown had been heavily compromised by recent results.

'TWISTY AND SLOW'

However, Lorenzo has traditionally excelled at this venue, recording three successive wins from 2011 to 2013 and earning a top-three spot on every occasion prior to crashing out of last

year's race. Marquez, world champion in 2013 and 2014, won at Misano last season, and the 23-year-old is fully confident of competing for another victory on a track he describes as "twisty and slow".

"In San Marino I expect to fight again for the podium if we work well during the weekend," said Marquez, who came fourth at the British Grand Prix. "All in all we got an okay result in England, as even though we didn't make the ideal choice with the front tyre, in the end we lost just three points."

Spanish youngster Maverick Vinales claimed his maiden MotoGP win last time out, Suzuki's first victory in the category since 2007, and will aim to push on this weekend follow-

ing his breakthrough performance. He is fourth overall, 85 points adrift of Marquez but just ahead of three-time runner-up Dani Pedrosa on the second Repsol Honda. Cal Crutchlow, who became Britain's first MotoGP winner since Barry Sheene 35 years ago at Brno last month, will try to maintain his impressive form of late which has seen also him finish second at both the Sachsenring and Silverstone.

In Moto2, Frenchman Johann Zarco is bidding to put back-to-back poor performances behind him with Alex Rins now just 10 points adrift. South African Brad Binder can move a step closer to the Moto3 title as he holds a seemingly insurmountable 86-point lead over nearest rival Jorge Navarro. — AFP



MISANO: Movistar Yamaha MotoGP's Italian rider Valentino Rossi rides his bike during the second practice session of the San Marino Moto GP Grand Prix race in Misano, yesterday. — AFP

PATRICK KANE SELECTED US ALTERNATE CAPTAIN

COLUMBUS: A year after Patrick Kane's career appeared in jeopardy because of a sexual assault claim, the Chicago Blackhawks star was named one of the alternate captains for the United States for the World Cup of Hockey.

"It's a huge honor for sure," Kane said. "It's one of those things I don't know if I was expecting to receive that, but at the same time, I still think it's a responsibility I can handle and hopefully take somewhat of a leadership role and take charge."

The sexual assault case in his hometown of Buffalo, New York, was dropped Nov. 5 for what the prosecutor said was a clear lack of evidence, and Kane quickly put the off-ice troubles aside. He had an early 26-game points streak and became the first American-born player to win the Art Ross (top scorer) and Hart (most valuable player) trophies.

"Sometimes you look back, it's almost like a blur, it went by so quick," he said. "It didn't seem like it at the

time but it was a really fun year." He had 106 points (46 goals, 60 assists) to become the first player to crack the 100-point mark in four seasons, and finished 17 points ahead of runner-up Jamie Benn of the Dallas Stars.

"He was on a roll early, got his confidence going and never looked back," said David Backes, the Boston center and US teammate. Along the way Kane might have grown up as well. The incident in Buffalo was the latest of several brushes with the law in his career.

"I'm 27 years old. I'm going to be 28 later this year; you want to maximize your potential," he said. "You want to get all you can out of your prime while you're still young, maybe advance that prime into your later years too. That's where my thinking is now."

US and Columbus Blue Jackets coach John Tortorella knew Kane's reputation but did not know him before the Americans' training camp opened Monday in the Ohio city.

"He has matured. We all see that," the coach said. "A lot of things have gone on with him obviously. Just talking to with him one-on-one here in the past couple of days you can see the maturity."

That's why Kane was named an alternate captain, along with the Minnesota Wild's Ryan Suter, to captain Joe Pavelski of the San Jose Sharks.

MORE RESPONSIBILITY

"I want (Kane) to take more responsibility now," Tortorella said. "He's ready for more responsibility as a leader of a US team where before it was 'Kane, go play' and he's really good at it. I think he's ready for more responsibility and I'm ready to give it to him because he deserves it." The game has always come easy for Kane, who has won Stanley Cups with the Blackhawks in 2010, 13 and '15 and a silver medal at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. But last season he went to a different level. — AP

CASTRO GRABS LEAD AT PGA PLAYOFF EVENT

CHICAGO: Roberto Castro fired a seven-under par 65 to grab a one-stroke lead over fellow American Brian Harman after darkness halted Thursday's opening round of the US PGA BMW Championship. Castro, seeking his first PGA title, birdied the second and fourth holes and added another at the par-5 ninth for a solid start, then birdied six of the final nine holes only to take a bogey at 18 to halve his edge. "I started off pretty well," Castro said. "Got going coming back and was thinking about birdies."

Lightning and heavy rain in the Indianapolis area stopped play for three hours and 31 minutes, leaving the late threesomes in the field of 70 no hope of finishing before sunset.

"There have been a lot of delays this year so we are used to it," Castro said. "I'm glad we got to get the round in." In all, 36 players were forced to conclude their first rounds yesterday before an early start to the second round in hopes of completing play before storms return to the 7,516-yard Crooked Stick layout.

All players completed the front nine except Australia's Aaron Baddeley, who has a 13-foot eagle putt at the ninth when play resumes. US major champions Dustin Johnson and Jason Dufner shared third on 67 with compatriot Chris Kirk, who had the back nine yet to play. Argentina's Fabian Gomez was in the clubhouse on 68 with Japan's Hideki Matsuyama at four-under with six holes to play and England's Paul Casey and Australian Adam Scott on four-under with eight holes remaining. Top-ranked Aussie Justin Day opened on 73 with six bogeys and five birdies. Third-ranked Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland was three-under after 10 holes. He opened with a birdie and had tap-in birdies at the par-5 fifth and ninth. He made a five-footer for birdie at the par-3 sixth but missed a six-footer for par at eight.

Castro has a pair of runner-up PGA finishes for his top showings, at Congressional in 2013 and this year at Quail Hollow. Castro sank a 17-foot birdie putt at the second and drained a



CARMEL: Roberto Castro hits his tee shot on the second hole during the first round of the BMW Championship at Crooked Stick Golf Club on Thursday in Carmel, Indiana. — AFP

stunner from 54 feet to birdie the fourth, but the highlight shot of his round was a 41-foot chip-in birdie at the 14th. He missed an eagle chip-in at the par-5 15th by inches then sank a 15-foot birdie putt at the par-3 17th only to miss the green with his approach at 18 and suffer his lone bogey. "Those greens were firm and really gettable after the delay," Castro said.

"To make a lot of birdies was a great

way to start." Harman made a 34-foot birdie chip at the seventh and birdied three of the last five holes on the front side. He followed with a 15-foot eagle putt at the 15th and a clutch 21-foot par putt at 16th.

World number two Johnson could have shared second but closed with a bogey after finding water off the tee while Dufner birdied three of the last four holes to stand on 67. — AFP

UNDER-FIRE TOULON FACE TOUGH TOULOUSE TEST

PARIS: Under-fire Toulon will undergo a true test of their mettle when they host Toulouse in Top 14 action this weekend, while defending champions Racing 92 face a daunting trip to Clermont. Brive, surprise leaders after the opening three rounds of the new season, travel to rock-bottom Grenoble tomorrow aiming to leave their hosts with four defeats from four.

Toulon might boast an expensively-assembled star-studded line-up and a bench that most clubs can but only dream, but outspoken president Mourad Boudjellal did not hold back after last week's 25-21 home defeat by Brive. "The reality is that we should have had three losses," blasted Boudjellal, his side having scraped a second round victory over Pau, having gone down to newly-promoted Bayonne in their opening games. "Up against three teams who say they're playing to stay up, we should have had three defeats, that's what's most worrying."

"I concluded from that, that we're not at the level of staying up. "We have four matches ahead of us. You can't dream. It's going to be heavy and the team I saw here will pay badly."

"The players need to take responsibility. It's not the coaches who make mistakes on the pitch. We're nearing the end of my patience. "Training is over. Now we have to move on to serious things. "That doesn't necessarily mean I'm going to fire the coaches. I can fire myself."

"That we can muck up almost eight years in one match, it's shameful. From what we've seen, we're playing to stay up. A team with 800 international caps that's playing to stay up, that's the reality. Quite simply, I think we're awful."

"Luckily, and I've thanked him, we have (goal-kicking Wales full-back Leigh) Halfpenny. I've rarely seen my team play so badly." Toulon received further bad news when one of their star players, South African flanker Juan Smith, was ruled out of action for four months after rupturing his left biceps against Brive.

His absence follows that of Australian wing Drew Mitchell and South African Bryan Habana, away on international duty, with the injury list already including James O'Connor, Anthony Etrillard, Matt Giteau, Ayumu Goromaru, Duane Vermeulen and Jean-Charles Orioli.

Toulouse playmaker Toby Flood, the former England fly-half, suggested that his team needed to move the ball around against Toulon, the three-time European champions. "We've only scored three tries this season, it's something we have to improve on," he said, warning not to underestimate Boudjellal's team. "It's complicated at Toulon at the moment, they might change manager after three matches, but that changes nothing, it's Toulon, the best team over the last four or five years."

"They're really strong, they can play anywhere and have talented players. If we think they're going to be trembling, that they're already beaten, we've already lost the match." — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Handout image supplied by OIS/IOC showing France's Marie-Amelie le Fur posing next to a screen showing her new world record set in the Women's Long Jump - T44 Final during the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games at the Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, yesterday. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil's Alan Fonteles Cardoso Oliveira (L) and Germany's Johannes Floors compete during a heat of men's 100 m (T44) of the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games at Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Thursday. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil's Ricardo Costa de Oliveira competes in the final of the Men's long jump (T11) event during the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games at the Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, yesterday. — AFP

BELARUSIAN BOOTED FROM PARALYMPICS GAMES FOR CARRYING RUSSIAN FLAG

RIO DE JANEIRO: The Paralympic Games already has its first political protest, right at the beginning with the opening ceremony.

A Belarusian sports ministry employee who marched in with a Russian flag on Wednesday has been booted out of the games.

The International Paralympic Committee banned Russia from the games because of the country's part in a state-sponsored doping system, and identified the flag-carrier as Andrei Fomachkin. The IPC said he was waving the Russian flag and marching as a guest of the Belarusian Paralympic committee.

"The fact he was a guest of the president rather than an athlete or coach makes it easier for us to take this action," IPC spokesman Craig Spence said.

Spence added the Belarusian delegation was being warned about staging political protests. As with the Olympics, Paralympic officials do not allow political protests in the games.

"If they continue to break the rules, we will look at some other form of action," Spence said. Natalya Eismont, a spokeswoman for Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, said it was not a spontaneous gesture, and hinted there might be more to come. "It was the Belarusian delegation's idea to take the Russian flag to the opening ceremony," Eismont said. "I would like to stress that this is the stance of our government, of the president and the president of our Paralympic committee. We stand with Russian Paralympians."

The Belarusian foreign ministry said it was aware that there could be consequences for the stunt.

"If we have to bear responsibility for this, we will," Belarusian foreign ministry spokesman Dmitry Mironchik said.

Spence said the Belarus team was searched before entering the stadium. "We check all teams before they go out into the stadium, at every single games," he said. "That flag was pretty well hidden on the person last night because all of the Belarus team was searched before they went out, and the flag was somewhere on the person we didn't notice." — AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: United States' Jessica Long stands by the pool after competing in the women's 400-meter freestyle S8 final swimming event at the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Thursday. — AP

US SWIMMER JESSICA LONG OPENS WITH A SILVER AT PARALYMPICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: US swimmer Jessica Long hugged Australian Lakeisha Patterson when the women's 400 freestyle final was over and offered congratulations. Long had a medal in her fourth Paralympics, but Patterson took the gold and the world record.

"I wish it went a little differently," said Long, the highly decorated U.S. Paralympian who is competing in nine races at the Rio Games.

"I think the only hard part about that is adding time in one of my best races. But at the same time, I've overcome some really bad shoulder injuries. So I'm really proud that I finished, and even signed up for the race."

Patterson's time of 4 minutes, 40.33 seconds nipped Long's previous record of 4:40.44. "Jess is an amazing person and a really great, fierce competitor," Patterson said. "She's achieved so much. To be able to have my idol come up to

me and say she's proud of me - it was really quite bittersweet. And that's going to stick with me for a long time."

The 24-year-old Long now has 18 medals overall, a dozen of them gold. But Patterson, a 17-year-old swimmer from Caboolture, Australia, who has cerebral palsy, steadily took control of the race after the first 100 meters. Long finished far back, in 4:47.82.

Long was born in Siberia with fibular hemimelia, a birth defect that left her without her fibulas, ankles, heels and most of the other bones in her feet. Shortly after being adopted at 13 months old, Long went through multiple surgeries, eventually having each of her legs amputated below the knee. Growing up in Baltimore, she took up swimming at age 10 and joined her first team.

Two years later, she became the youngest member of the US Paralympic

team and went on to win three gold medals at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens.

Long is just the third American swimmer to appear in four Paralympics. She may be rivaled only by U.S. wheelchair racer Tatyana McFadden, competing in seven events from the 100 meters to the marathon in Rio, as the best-known and busiest American Paralympian.

"Oh my goodness," Long exclaimed when asked after her qualifying heat about how she's handling her nine-event schedule. "Day by day. Literally, I can't even think about tomorrow. Just thinking about today, and basically what I can control which is today and just enjoying it. It's a lot of fun to be back."

It might have been a little less fun on the medal stand, but when Patterson embraced her again, Long just smiled, accepted the hug and lifted Patterson off her feet. — AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: United States' Tatyana McFadden slows to a roll after competing in the first heat of the women's 100-meter T54 athletics event of the Paralympic games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Thursday. — AP

PACQUIAO MADE RETIREMENT U-TURN TO CONTINUE HIS 'JOURNEY'

BEVERLY HILLS: While Manny Pacquiao's political career became a priority after he announced his "retirement" from the ring in April, he says the lure of continuing his journey in boxing ultimately led to his comeback. Seven months after defeating American Timothy Bradley in Las Vegas in his much trumpeted farewell to the sport, the Filipino southpaw will return to the same city in November to challenge World Boxing Organisation welterweight champion Jessie Vargas. Though Pacquiao is an eight-division world

challenge for me to get back in the ring again and to prove that I can still manage serving the people and also be a successful boxer." Pacquiao (58-6-2) was elected to the Philippines' senate in May. Asked what had prompted his decision to come out of retirement, Pacquiao smiled: "The main reason is because when I hung up my gloves, I realised that the sport that I loved, I was no longer active with that. "And then I realised that boxing still liked me and I liked boxing so why am I not continuing my journey in boxing? So

I changed my mind and decided to continue my journey. "I want to fight more fights after November. I am already satisfied and happy with what I have done in boxing. Now I want to continue and give honour to my country." For Pacquiao's experienced trainer, Freddie Roach, the Filipino's abrupt U-turn on his retirement decision was always likely.

"Manny still knows what he does best, and that's boxing so him making a comeback this quickly wasn't a big surprise to me," the bespectacled Roach told Reuters. — Reuters

champion and one of the greatest boxers ever, the whole experience of preparing for that Nov. 5 fight feels strange as he will be competing for the first time as an elected senator in his homeland. "This is very different," a smartly dressed Pacquiao, 37, told Reuters after holding a joint news conference with American Vargas in the chic surrounds of The Beverly Hills Hotel. "This is my first fight since I was elected as a senator and it's a big challenge for me to try to get the belt and become a champion again, to win the fight as a senator. "It's also a big



LONDON: Britain's Kell Brook, IBF welterweight champion, right, and WBA, WBC and IBF middleweight champion Gennady Golovkin of Kazakhstan pose during the weigh in at the O2 Arena in London, yesterday, ahead of their WBC and IBF middleweight title bout today. — AP

GOLOVKIN EYES MAYWEATHER MANTLE IN BROOK BOUT

LONDON: Gennady Golovkin's career has run a hypnotic and grimly relentless course for boxing fans worldwide and evidence suggests that will not change today.

Viewers in over 100 countries are expected to tune in live to see the Kazakhstan punching machine defend two of his three world middleweight titles against British challenger Kell Brook.

Despite Golovkin being heavily favoured to retain his WBC and IBF belts, there is still great interest in the fight at the O2 Arena in London. For many, the 34-year-old is the most exciting boxer in the world, who is rapidly becoming the sport's biggest global superstar following the retirement of Floyd Mayweather Jr.

This fight represents the biggest threat to Golovkin's run of 22 consecutive knockout wins, according to the champion himself. Brook, the reigning IBF welterweight champion from Sheffield with an unblemished record, is stepping up two weight divisions and Golovkin considers him his toughest test yet.

"I understand it's not an easy fight for us so I'm more serious and more focused," he said. "He's my biggest fight and my biggest challenge. It's my biggest step. I have a different plan and a more serious plan. Right now it's my biggest fight." California-based Golovkin is the biggest overseas boxer to fight in the United Kingdom since Russian-Australian Kostya Tszyu lost to Ricky Hatton in 2005.

Earlier this week, his presence at a public workout brought London's busy Covent Garden to even more of a standstill than usual. That is because Golovkin, known as 'Triple G', arrived in London with a reputation of producing exciting knockouts in an unbeaten career that has seen him stop 32 of his 35 opponents.

It has made him the most feared fighter in the world and none of his world title fights since 2010 have gone the distance.

Rival champions such as Mexican Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez have declined the chance to fight the world middleweight number one. The Kazakh's promoter, Tom Loeffler,

believes Golovkin's appeal is also down to his personality and friendly image outside the ring.

'BIGGER THAN TURPIN'

"It's the Mike Tyson effect. Fans just want to see him," Loeffler told AFP. "A lot of great boxers aren't that likeable, but Gennady is exciting inside the ring and he's likeable outside the ring."

"A big part of it, even if he doesn't speak perfect English, is his personality and respect for opponents and the sport. It's why people generally like to cheer for him."

The odds and statistics are stacked against Brook, who is unaccustomed to the role of underdog after stopping 25 of his 36 opponents and completing three low-risk defences of his IBF belt.

Brook, 30, believes beating Golovkin would surpass any achievement by a British boxer, including Randy Turpin's 1951 points win over the great Sugar Ray Robinson for the world middleweight title. — AFP

UFC CHAMP MIOCIC BEGINS CLEVELAND'S TITLE RUN

CLEVELAND: If not for the likable local hero who dethroned a champion a few months ago, Cleveland's sports title drought might not be over. Stipe Miocic beat LeBron James to the punch.

In May, Miocic went to Brazil and knocked out Fabricio Werdum in the first round to capture the UFC heavyweight title. The victory triggered a run of championships for Cleveland as the AHL's Lake Erie Monsters won the Calder Cup and James led the Cavaliers to an historic comeback over the Golden State Warriors in the NBA Finals, ending a title dearth stretching to 1964.

For Miocic, a Cleveland native who works as a fire fighter and paramedic, starting the string of titles for his hometown was special. "Cleveland needed it," he said. "For 52 years, man, we had nothing. It's something to be proud of. You can say I broke or I didn't break it, I really don't care. I'm just happy we have something to be proud of. Nothing is better than that." Miocic will now become the first Cleveland champion to defend a title as he'll face Alistair Overeem in the main event tonight in UFC 203, which will take place in sold out Quicken Loans Arena, giving the 34-year-old Miocic a distinct home-octagon advantage.

QUICK SMILE

Also on the card is the long-awaited UFC debut of former pro wrestling superstar CM Punk, who at 37 is attempting a transition few would dare attempt. Punk will take on Mickey Gall, a rising 24-year-old welterweight who wanted to fight Punk and will now get his chance. Werdum gets back in action as well for the first time since losing to Miocic against heavyweight Travis Browne, who had some salty words for his opponent during Thursday's news conference.

Miocic has gotten a sampling this week of what he'll experience today. The 6-foot-4, 240-pounder's workouts have drawn big crowds and hundreds of fans were at the news conference, with many of them shouting out encouragement to Miocic, who responded with a quick smile and clenched fist. It's been a whirlwind summer for Miocic, who in addition to taking batting practice with the Cleveland

Indians, riding in the Cavs' downtown parade attended by nearly one million people, got married. His engagement this weekend with Overeem has some parallels to his fight against Werdum. In front of 45,000 of his countrymen, Werdum came out aggressively and was off balance as he chased after Miocic, who landed a right-handed punch to the Brazilian's chin. Werdum may have been slightly overconfident on his home turf, and he paid for it.

Miocic promises he won't make the same mistake. "It doesn't matter where I fight," he said. "It could be Cleveland. It could be Brazil again. I'm here for business. I'll walk into the octagon and all I'll think about is me and Alistair, and that's all I care about. No one else is getting in there with us, so I'm going to come out the winner and that's the way it's going to be."

Overeem has spent the past few days saying he's hungrier than Cleveland's champ and feels Miocic may be distracted by being home. A former kickboxing champion, Overeem says fighting on familiar ground can be helpful - and a detriment.

"It does give you a little extra boost," the Dutchman said. "It does give you a little more shivers. On the other hand, there's the extra appearances you've got to do and everyone wants a piece of you. It depends on how you handle it. I think with my 86 fights and my 22 years of training, I've been able to handle it very well. It's going to be curious how Stipe handles it. Stipe seems very professional, but we'll see how he handles it today." — AP

LEADERS SPARTAK FACE TOUGH MOSCOW DERBY TEST

MOSCOW: Russian Premier League leaders Spartak Moscow will face a stern test of their title credentials when they face fierce city rivals Lokomotiv in a Moscow derby clash tomorrow. Spartak have got off to a superb start to the campaign as they look to win the title for the first time since 2001, winning four and drawing one of their opening five games.

A 2-0 win at Anzhi Makhachkala last time out-despite the second-half sending-off of Andrey Yeshchenko-ensured that they went into the international break two points clear of reigning champions CSKA Moscow at the top of the table.

"I was really happy with our performance in what was a very important match," said Italian coach Massimo Carrera.

"It wasn't easy at all after we were reduced to 10 men but we showed good fighting spirit to withstand the pressure. But I'm confident that we can play even better."

Former Juventus and Atalanta defender Carrera previously worked under Antonio Conte at Juve and with Italy before becoming assistant to Dmitry Alenichev this summer at Spartak.

However, he was promptly promoted to the role of coach when

Alenichev resigned after Spartak's shock elimination from the Europa League at the hands of AEK Larnaca of Cyprus a month ago.

Having no European commitments could help Spartak in the long run, especially with CSKA preparing for the start of a Champions League campaign. Lokomotiv, who are unbeaten but have drawn four of their five games, bolstered their squad before the transfer window closed with the signings of forward Igor Portnyagin and Russian international midfielder Igor Denisov. "We needed some fresh blood to boost competition for places throughout the squad," Lokomotiv

head coach Yury Semin told media. "And we've solved this problem."

CSKA travel to Germany to face Bayer Leverkusen in their opening Champions League group game next Wednesday, but first they entertain third-placed Terek Grozny on Saturday in the first official match at their new 30,000-seat CSKA Arena. "It's really nice to get your home ground at last," CSKA manager Leonid Slutsky said.

CSKA have scored just four times in five league outings but Slutsky is hopeful giant Ivorian summer signing Lacina Traore will soon start to make an impact as his fitness improves. — AFP

ALL EYES ON MANCHESTER AS JOSE, PEP LOCK HORNS

LONDON: The eyes of the world will be on Manchester this weekend as Jose Mourinho and Pep Guardiola bring their bitter feud to the Premier League for the first time.

Any derby between Manchester United and Manchester City is guaranteed to be an explosive affair, but the presence of sworn enemies Mourinho and Guardiola should ensure the animosity levels are higher than usual today.

With City top of the table and United just behind them in third after both won their first three league games, there was already more than local bragging rights at stake in a showdown between two sure-fire title contenders.

Even City midfielder Fernandinho's boast that "this game is big, man. It's a game that stops the city" doesn't do justice to a fixture reported to be the richest match in football history with over £600 million (\$790 million, 708 million euros) of world-class talent on parade. Yet, despite the presence of Paul Pogba, David Silva, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and a host of other stars, it's the action on the Old Trafford touchline that will be must-see TV for millions around the world as United manager Mourinho and City boss Guardiola lock horns for the first time in three years in the 17th instalment of their acrimonious rivalry.

The sight of Mourinho and Guardiola gesticulating and exhorting their players signals the resumption of a complicated relationship that has turned increasingly ugly since they first met at Barcelona two decades ago.

Mourinho's constant jibes at Barcelona boss Guardiola during his time at Real Madrid undoubtedly got under the Spaniard's skin, but the Portuguese coach's record of just three wins in their 16 meetings is a significant blemish on his otherwise glittering CV.

Although Guardiola has come out on top seven times against Mourinho, he goes into the derby at a significant disadvantage following City striker Sergio Aguero's three-match ban for elbowing West Ham United's Winston Reid.

Leroy Sane could deputise for Aguero, who had already scored six times this season, after the Germany winger returned from the hamstring injury that delayed his debut after his £37 million (\$48 million, 43 million euros) move from Schalke.

SUPER-FAST

Guardiola must also decide whether to give a debut to Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo, who arrived from Barcelona to replace the exiled Joe Hart, or stick with stand-in Willy Caballero.

"I've played in derby games in Germany but this should be a great match and one I'm really looking forward to, especially because Pep Guardiola is taking on Jose Mourinho," Sane said.

Aguero's absence will make it even harder for City to break a defence marshalled by Ivory Coast centre-back Eric Bailly, who has caught the eye of United goalkeeper David de Gea since his pre-season move from Villarreal.

"Bailly was a great signing, he's come in and surprised us all very quickly," De Gea said. "I remember when I first came to England and, trust me, it can be hard early on but he's flying."

"He is physical, strong, technically confident and super-fast."

At the Emirates Stadium, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger could give debuts to deadline day signings Shkodran Mustafi, a £35 million Germany defender from Valencia, and Lucas Perez, a £17 million Spanish forward from Deportivo La Coruna, as the Gunners face Southampton. — AFP

BLATTER UNDER NEW PROBE OVER SALARIES AND BONUSES

ZURICH: Former FIFA president Sepp Blatter and ex-secretary general Jerome Valcke, already banned from football for ethics violations, are facing a fresh investigation, this time over the salaries and bonuses they received in office.

FIFA's ethics committee said its investigators had opened formal proceedings against both men, along with former finance director Markus Kattner, for possible ethics violations which included "bribery and corruption".

The suspected violations were "in the context of salaries and bonuses paid to Mr Blatter, Mr Valcke and Mr Kattner as well as other provisions included in the contracts of these three individuals," it said.

They are also suspected of having breached rules on general conduct, loyalty, conflicts of interest and "offering and accepting gifts and other benefits." Blatter, Valcke and Kattner could not immediately be reached for comment. They have previously denied wrongdoing.

Blatter has said his earnings were in line with top officials from professional sports leagues around the world. Soccer's global governing body is attempting to recover from the worst graft scandal in its history which has seen 42 people, including former FIFA executive committee members, indicted in the United States since May last year.

Criminal investigations are also under way in Switzerland, where FIFA has its headquarters. FIFA said in June that an internal investigation revealed that the three officials had received 79 million Swiss francs (\$81 million) in compensation over five years, calling them "massive payouts".

FIFA's lawyers Quinn Emanuel, which conducted the investigation, said the evidence revealed a coordinated effort by the three to "enrich themselves through annual salary increases, World Cup bonuses and other incentives."

The sums received by the trio included 23 million Swiss francs in



JERUSALEM: File photo, FIFA President Sepp Blatter attends a press conference in Jerusalem. The FIFA ethics committee said yesterday it opened formal proceedings against Blatter, former secretary general Jerome Valcke and former finance director Markus Kattner over million-dollar payments in their contracts. — AP

"special bonuses" for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, while Blatter and Valcke got a total of 14 million francs in bonuses for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil and 15.5 million francs for the 2018 World Cup in Russia, the firm said.

Blatter, 80, who led FIFA from 1998 until 2015, has already been banned for eight years, later to be reduced to six following an appeal.

The ban was imposed for ethics violations related to a payment of 2 million Swiss francs that FIFA made to then European soccer boss Michel

Platini with Blatter's approval in 2011 for work done a decade earlier.

He has taken his case to sport's highest tribunal, the Court of Arbitration for Sport, and is awaiting a verdict. Valcke was fired in January and has since been banned for 12 years, reduced to 10 on appeal, for ethics violations which included using FIFA expenses for sightseeing trips and destruction of evidence.

Kattner, who took over as acting secretary general after Valcke's dismissal, was fired by FIFA in May. — Reuters

TRANSFER BAN 'ABSURD', CLAIMS ZIDANE AS COACH AND FATHER

MADRID: Coach Zinedine Zidane has slammed as "absurd" a one-year transfer ban imposed on Real Madrid by FIFA for irregularities in the signing of foreign players under 18. The Frenchman's own children are among those part of the case against the European champions.

FIFA dismissed Real and local rivals Atletico Madrid's appeals against a two transfer window ban on Thursday, meaning they won't be able to register any new players until January 2018 unless further appeals to the Court of Arbitration for Sport are successful.

Two of Zidane's four sons who play in the Madrid academy were among 39 players investigated by FIFA with the club eventually sanctioned for breaking the rules regarding the signing of foreign nation-

als under 18 in eight cases. "I don't understand it at all and it bothers me," Zidane said on Friday ahead of Madrid's clash with Osasuna.

"I can talk about my (sons) that have been born and lived their whole lives here. It is absurd that they can't play football. "What we are going to do now is wait and hope that this subject is fixed as quickly as possible."

Under international football rules, players under 18 cannot be transferred to another country, except in limited circumstances, and all transfers need the approval of a special FIFA committee.

However, Zidane's sons appear to meet that criteria as the former World Player of the Year's family has largely been based in the Spanish capital since he signed for Real as a player in 2001.

On the field, Zidane can continue his incredible first year as a senior coach as having lifted the Champions League in May, Real can match a club record of 15 consecutive La Liga wins at the Santiago Bernabeu on Saturday. Madrid will be massively boosted by the return of Cristiano Ronaldo for the first time since the Portuguese suffered knee ligation damage in the final of Euro 2016.

However, Zidane denied reports he had agreed to bed Ronaldo back into action gently in an attempt to prevent the 31-year-old suffering from knee problems towards the end of the season as he has in recent years. "He is happy, he is with us and there is no pact. It is his first game after 60 days so we need to give him time, but I am happy he is here and he will play tomorrow," added Zidane. —AFP

WENGER HOPES ARSENAL PLAY CATCH-UP IN TITLE RACE

LONDON: Arsenal's meeting with Southampton yesterday marks the start of important run of six games in 18 days as Arsene Wenger's side play catch-up in the Premier League.

The new league campaign is only three games old but Arsenal already lie five points behind Manchester City, Chelsea and Manchester United, who have all made perfect starts to the campaign.

And while Gunners boss Wenger is far too experienced to be overly concerned by the early league table, he knows the value of developing momentum in the title race before turning his attention to the club's opening Champions League game at Paris Saint Germain next week.

The visit of Southampton offers Arsenal the chance to get off the mark on home turf after they lost their opening league game at the Emirates Stadium against Liverpool.

And Wenger will have a much more comfortable afternoon if Chile forward Alexis Sanchez can live up to his claim he is now ready to be compared with Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

"I have reached a level where I can compete with great players," Sanchez said. "I do not feel inferior to anybody. I liken my qualities to Messi and Ronaldo. I have the same abilities as them." Wenger is able to call on Shkodran Mustafi and Lucas Perez, who both arrived shortly before the end of last month's transfer window.

But anything less than victory will turn the focus on Wenger's failure to once again bring in more world-class recruits, as well as the Frenchman's long-term future at the club, just days after Bournemouth boss Eddie Howe was linked as his successor.

Mustafi, the German defender signed from Valencia, is likely to come straight into the team, but Perez, a Spanish forward from Valencia, may start on the bench. Nacho Monreal, the Arsenal left-back, believes Mustafi will have no problem settling in.

TOUGH TO BEAT

"He will find it easy to adapt to the club," Monreal said. "He has already lived abroad, he speaks the language



MANCHESTER: Manchester City's Chilean manager Manuel Pellegrini waving to fans after the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Arsenal at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester. — AFP

and he knows Mesut Ozil.

"All those elements will lessen the impact of changing environments. Luckily for him, he will feel at home from the very first day. "Mustafi is a player I like. He is experienced and really tough to beat, which makes him very suitable for the Premier League's style."

"We really needed to bring a centre back to the club considering Per Mertesacker and Gabriel's injuries, as well as Calum Chambers' departure on loan.

"I hope he feels happy here from the very beginning so he can do for us what he does best."

Alex Iwobi is set to return after recovering from the hip injury he suffered against Liverpool, but Aaron Ramsey is expected to again miss out with a hamstring problem.

Claude Puel is still looking for his first

league win since taking charge at Southampton and is hoping it comes against Wenger-his former manager at Monaco.

"It's the first time that we can play one against one as I haven't met him in an international game or Champions League game so far," Puel said.

"It's the first time we can compete against each other and it's a pleasure of course because he was a very important person for me and he's a great manager.

"Arsene is an example for all the coaches because for so many years he's done really well in the Premier League, with Champions League secured every season.

"People don't sometimes realise how good his work with Arsenal has been, and I really think he's a good example for all the other trainers." — AFP

ONLY MATTER OF TIME TILL KANE FIRES: POCHETTINO

STOKE-ON-TRENT: Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino insists that he is not concerned by the stuttering start to the new campaign by his side and star striker Harry Kane.

The Argentine believes it is only a matter of time-perhaps starting with the tricky away trip to Stoke today-that Kane, who scored 32 goals in all competitions last season, will get off the mark. Spurs have won one and drawn two of their three league matches and Kane has not scored in 10 games since netting for England in a friendly against Turkey before the European Championships.

Pochettino's belief stems from last term and Kane's failure to score in his first eight matches of the season.

"I would sign (up) for the same as last season, for Harry to start scoring late and then score 25," said Pochettino, who steered Spurs to a Champions League spot last season.

"He needs to be calm, it's always difficult after the Euros and then the expectation on him is massive.

"Every ball he touches we wait for him to score a goal and it's difficult when you need to be fit, to give your best. It's about patience, time and working hard.

"Last summer the expectations with the England under-21s were to win the tournament and he didn't score, so it was the same. But he is more mature and has more experience and he will start to score again."

The signing of Vincent Janssen from AZ Alkmaar has helped, says the Spurs boss. "Now we have different alternatives, Harry and Vincent Janssen or just Harry," he said. "Starting Saturday we have seven games in 20 days and a crazy schedule until Christmas. We will rotate the squad and every player will have the chance to show his quality."

Tottenham have reinforced the centre of their midfield by bringing in Moussa Sissoko from Newcastle United and Kenyan enforcer Victor Wanyama from Southampton, while Christian Eriksen ended speculation about his future by signing a new contract.

"We have a squad to compete in different competitions," Pochettino said, mindful of the extra games that come when taking on Europe. "It will be tough for us this season, but I am happy with my squad." The 44-year-old former Argentina international defender expects to have France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris available again after injury, but England defender Danny Rose will miss the Stoke clash and the Monaco game next week.

BONY TO MAKE DEBUT

Stoke, who have made a poor start in failing to win in three games, are expected to hand a first start to Wilfried Bony after the Ivory Coast forward completed a loan move from Manchester City on the final day of the summer transfer window. Fellow new arrivals Dutch defender Bruno Martins Indi, who has moved on loan from Porto, and goalkeeper Lee Grant, who will provide back-up for veteran Shay Given while Jack Butland recovers from his ankle operation, have pleased the Stoke management team.

"The first thing that struck me with the three guys we've brought in is that we've brought in good characters, people who take responsibility," said assistant manager Mark Bowen. — AFP

KLOPP SEEKS DISPLAY FIT FOR EXPANDED ANFIELD

LIVERPOOL: Jurgen Klopp wants his Liverpool players to use the unveiling of Anfield's giant new Main Stand as the platform for a sustained assault on the Premier League.

Today's visit of champions Leicester City will see Liverpool officially open the redeveloped stand, which increases the capacity of their ground by 8,500 to over 54,000. The 115 million pounds (\$153 million, 135.9 million euros) project obliged Liverpool to play their first three fixtures away from home and they picked up only four points on their travels.

"Four points does not feel too good, but it's not really

bad. We are the only team in the Premier League with three away games," Klopp said.

"Now we start the season with a home game. We have to start the season and I think it's a wonderful opportunity for us. "The day before yesterday was the first time I had been inside Anfield since the Chelsea game (on the penultimate weekend of last season).

"It's really, really impressive, what they have done there. It's an outstanding job. "I have no idea how somebody could do something like this, but when you stand in front of it, it's really amazing."

Liverpool were one of only two teams to beat

Leicester in the league last season, Arsenal being the other, and Klopp thinks they will provide fitting adversaries for the occasion.

"This is a good place and a good opponent. The champions coming, we celebrate them all," said the German. "It was really well deserved, what they did last year. They are still good all that stuff.

"But I would say it now: it's another season. It's our first home game with 8,000 more in the stadium.

"That's more power and we should use this and start now with our first home game. It's a wonderful opportunity." — AFP



Matches on TV (Local Timing)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Man United v Man City	14:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
West Ham United v Watford	17:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Bournemouth v West Bromwich	17:00
beIN SPORTS 12 HD EN	
Middlesbrough v Crystal Palace	17:00
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	
Burnley FC v Hull City	17:00
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Stoke City v Tottenham	17:00
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Arsenal FC v Southampton	17:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Liverpool v Leicester City	19:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	

SPANISH LEAGUE

Celta v Atletico de Madrid	14:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Real Madrid v Osasuna	17:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Malaga CF v Villarreal	19:15
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
Sevilla FC v Las Palmas	19:15
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Barcelona v Deportivo Alaves	21:30
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

Juventus v Sassuolo	19:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Citta v SSC Napoli	21:45
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Bayer 04 Leverkusen v Hamburger	16:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
VfL Wolfsburg v FC Koln	16:30
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Ingolstadt 04 v Hertha Berlin	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Darmstadt 98 v Eintracht	16:30
beIN SPORTS	
Freiburg v Monchengladbach	16:30
beIN SPORTS 10 HD	
Leipzig v Borussia Dortmund	19:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	

FRENCH LEAGUE

Lyonnais v Girondins	18:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Bastia v Toulouse FC	21:00
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Guingamp v Montpellier	21:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Lorient v Nancy Lorraine	21:00
beIN SPORTS	
Lille OSC v AS Monaco FC	21:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Angers v Dijon	21:00
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	



SANT JOAN DESPI: FC Barcelona's Andre Gomes, center, heads the ball during a training session at the Sports Center FC Barcelona Joan Gamper in Sant Joan Despi, Spain, yesterday. — AP

BARCA TRIO REUNITED AS RONALDO RETURNS FOR REAL

MADRID: Barcelona's fearsome front three of Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar could join forces for the first time in four months against Alaves, while Cristiano Ronaldo will make his Real Madrid return today.

Neymar has missed Barca's 100 percent start to the season due to his efforts in leading Brazil to Olympic gold on home soil, but returned to Spain for the first time since May after more international duty in World Cup qualifying this week and is expected to start at the Camp Nou. Messi is a much bigger doubt after missing Argentina's clash with Venezuela in midweek due to a groin problem. The five-time World Player of the Year has played a limited part in training in recent days and coach Luis Enrique is likely to be cautious for the first of seven games in 22 days for Barca. Paco Alcacer is in line to make his debut after sealing a 30 million-euro (\$33 million) move from Valencia and the Spanish international striker is aware he will have to make the most of limited opportunities as fourth choice behind Messi, Suarez and Neymar.

"I will do everything I can to take advantage of the chances I have to the full," Alcacer said as he was presented on Thursday. Andres Iniesta has also returned to training

following a knee injury and will battle Arda Turan and Denis Suarez for a place in midfield as both have impressed early in the campaign.

Ronaldo makes his long-awaited return at the Santiago Bernabeu against Osasuna earlier on Saturday in what will be his first appearance since suffering ligament damage in his left knee during Portugal's Euro 2016 final win over France.

Real haven't suffered in Ronaldo's absence with two wins from their opening two La Liga games and victory over Sevilla in the European Super Cup. And after winning two Champions League titles in his first three seasons at Madrid, Gareth Bale insists the European champions have to put more emphasis on ending a four-year run without winning La Liga.

"It's important to try to win La Liga because it's been a few years since we have and it's normal that it's our focus," said Bale. "I'm looking forward to next weekend's game against Osasuna and I'm sure that they will make it difficult for us, but it'll be great to be able to call upon almost the whole squad."

Karim Benzema and Pepe have also returned from injury to leave Zinedine Zidane with a fully-fit squad bar the absence of goalkeeper Keylor Navas.

HEAT RISK

Champions League finalists Atletico Madrid desperately need to kickstart their season after back-to-back disappointing draws with Alaves and Leganes when they visit Celta Vigo in the first match in a new early Saturday kick-off time of 1300 (1100GMT) designed to compete with the English Premier League in Asian television markets.

Celta finished sixth last season, but have also endured a poor start with defeats in both their opening matches and the Galicians will be without influential playmaker Fabian Orellana for a month due to a muscle tear. Early season leaders Las Palmas have been on fire in scoring nine goals in their opening two games to shoot ahead of Barca and Madrid to the top of the table for the first time in 38 years. — AFP

However, the searing Spanish heat could get in their way this weekend with record temperatures for September registered across the country. League chief Javier Tebas has promised players' safety won't be risked and Las Palmas' visit to Sevilla is one of a number of games that could be delayed or even postponed if temperatures are deemed to be too high. — AFP

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

Kuwait Times

Sports



Blatter under new probe over salaries, bonuses

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NEW YORK: Karolina Pliskova, of the Czech Republic, returns a shot to Serena Williams during the semifinals of the US Open tennis tournament, Thursday, in New York. — AP

SERENA CRASHES OUT OF US OPEN

NEW YORK: Serena Williams crashed out of the US Open on Thursday, her semi-final defeat to Karolina Pliskova costing her a shot at a 23rd Grand Slam title and a record 187th straight week at number one.

Pliskova, the 10th-seeded Czech playing in her first Grand Slam semi-final, triumphed 6-2, 7-6 (7/5) and will face either Caroline Wozniacki or Angelique Kerber, the German who beat Williams in the Wimbledon final and who will supplant the American atop the summit when the new world rankings are released on Monday.

"I don't believe it," said Pliskova, who had never made it past the third round of a Grand Slam in 17 prior attempts. "I knew I had the chance to beat anyone if I played my game. I

am excited to be in the final and to beat Serena as she is such a great champion.

"Even when she was down a set and break she was still fighting. I had to fight hard to win." Pliskova's nerves nearly betrayed her as up 3-0 in the tiebreaker she produced three errors, including a double fault.

POWER-HITTERS

Williams led 4-3 and 5-4 in the decider but couldn't hang on, Pliskova taking it when Williams delivered her sixth double-fault of the match.

While Williams's serve has long been reckoned the most powerful weapon in women's tennis, 11th-ranked Pliskova came into the contest boasting a tour-leading 439 aces.

In a duel of power-hitters where protecting serve was crucial, Pliskova gained the upper hand with a break for 2-1 in the first set and Williams gave her a chance to serve it out with a shocking seventh game that started with a double-fault and continued with three errors to grant Pliskova a 5-2 lead.

Pliskova pocketed the set in 26 minutes without facing a break point. Williams was under pressure immediately in the second, fending off a break point in the opening game. When her booming opening serve in the third game was called a let she indulged in a verbal jab at the chair umpire, but steadied herself to hold.

She was on the ropes again, though, surrendering a break when her lunging forehand

found the net to give Pliskova a 3-2 lead.

Pliskova responded with a nervy service game of her own, a double fault and two forehand errors giving Williams a break back for 3-3. "In the second set she went full power on my second serve so I had to take risks," Pliskova said of the doubles. "The serve was key."

Williams survived two double faults to start the next game. Pliskova retrieved two massive shots from Williams to win a rally for a break point, but Williams reeled off the next three points to hold, and from there they duked it out to the tiebreak. "My goal today was to beat Serena," said Pliskova, not even thinking about today's championship match. "I don't care who I play in the final." — AFP