

SUBSCRIPTION

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EID GREETINGS

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan wishes HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Cabinet members, heads of states around the world, and all our valued readers Eid Mubarak. Kuwait Times will not be published from Sept 13 to 15. Our next issue will be published on Friday, Sept 16.



EID MUBARAK

عيد مبارك



150 FILS
NO: 16991
40 PAGES

PILGRIMS ASCEND MOUNT ARAFAT FOR HAJJ CLIMAX

SAUDI ARABIA LAUNCHES PERSIAN HAJJ TV



Min 25°
Max 45°
High Tide 06:20 & 21:31
Low Tide 00:44 & 14:40

KUWAITI ATHLETE WINS 100M GOLD AT PARALYMPICS

AMIR LAUDS VICTORY

RIO DE JANEIRO: Kuwait's Ahmad Al-Mutairi came first in the men's 100 m athletics race at the Rio 2016 Paralympics on Saturday, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah announced.



Ahmad Al-Mutairi

With this win in the competitions that started on Thursday, Mutairi, from the Kuwait Disabled Sport Club (KDSC), has made a national achievement for Kuwait at the international sports events, the minister told KUNA. Sheikh Salman congratulated HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on the gold medal secured by Mutairi.

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah yesterday sent a cable to Mutairi lauding his victory, which reiterated that Kuwaiti youth, especially people with special needs, have the abilities to overcome all hardships and realize such historical achievements for Kuwaiti sports.

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MOUNT ARAFAT: Pilgrims join the high point of the hajj rituals on Mount Arafat near Makkah yesterday. — AFP

MOUNT ARAFAT, Saudi Arabia: The hajj reached its high point yesterday when Muslims from across the world converged on a stony hill in Saudi Arabia, a year after the worst tragedy in the pilgrimage's history. More than 1.8 million gathered from sunrise at the hill and a vast surrounding plain known as Mount Arafat, about 15 km from Makkah. They are spending the most important day of the annual hajj in prayer and reading from the Holy Quran.

Arafat is the site where Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) gave his last sermon about 14 centuries ago after leading his followers on the pilgrimage. "I have the impression of standing exactly in front of God, said Khadem Ndyaye, 47, of Senegal. "Muslims came here from everywhere and we are all the same. If all the world was like that, there wouldn't be any war. Here, we feel that Islam is a religion of peace." Indian pilgrim Mohammed Arafan, 40, said he feels "chosen by God" for being able to perform the hajj. "It's beautiful to see the Muslims of the world pray together here."

"I have prayed to God to have mercy on us, give us relief and resolve Syria's crisis," said Um Fadi, wearing a traditional long black embroidered dress and head scarf native to her home in southern Syria. "From the bottom of my heart, I pray that God will lift this agony from Syria and its people," she added.

At midday prayer hundreds of thousands prostrated themselves, men and women side-by-side, in wide alleys that run between prefabricated pilgrim lodgings. For the first time in years, Saudi Arabia's Grand Mufti Abdul Aziz Al-Sheikh did not give his traditional Arafat sermon. Okaz newspaper cited health reasons but Sheikh still attended the sermon given in his place by Abdul Rahman Al-Sudais, imam of Makkah's Grand Mosque.

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US MOURNS 9/11 VICTIMS

UNWELL CLINTON LEAVES CEREMONY EARLY

NEW YORK: America commemorated the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks yesterday with emotional services of remembrance in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania to honor those who perished in the world's deadliest terror strikes. On Sept 11, 2001, 19 Al-Qaeda operatives crashed four passenger jets into the Twin Towers in Manhattan, the Pentagon and a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania - killing nearly 3,000 people and changing the world forever.

This year's anniversary comes with the United States

locked in a bruising White House election battle between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, who both attended the New York service, although Clinton left early after feeling unwell.

Even 15 years later, the long shadow cast by the attacks lives on in wars being fought today in Iraq and Afghanistan, and conflict tearing apart countries from Libya to Syria, allowing Al-Qaeda affiliates and the Islamic State (IS) terror group to breed and prosper.

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NEW YORK: Police officer Eloy Suarez holds an American flag with the names of the people who died during the attacks on the World Trade Center during the 15th anniversary ceremony at the Sept 11 memorial yesterday. — AP

IRAQI-AMERICAN DESIGNER STUNS NY FASHION WEEK

NEW YORK: Oday Shakar is still young but he has already lived through more than your average American fashion designer: Childhood bullying, two years in Iraq after the Gulf War and cancer. But he's back stronger than ever to relaunch his label after a two-year hiatus with full-skirted gowns of breathtaking grace and elegance that would look right at home in a James Bond movie. His stunning collection for spring/summer 2017 inspired by Middle Eastern art, Arabic calligraphy and geometric prints aroused an outpouring of oohs, aahs and raucous applause at New York Fashion Week.

"I realized I needed to find beauty in my own story

so that's where I grabbed inspiration for this, so I mix contemporary Middle Eastern art with beautiful simple silhouettes for everyday (wear)," Shakar told AFP. And what a story. Born in southern California to a Harvard-educated Iraqi father and impeccably stylish mother, Shakar grew up riding horses. But his world was upended when he moved to Iraq as a 12-year-old.

It was after the 1990-1 Gulf War when US-led forces expelled Saddam Hussein's troops from Kuwait. He did not speak Arabic and suddenly found himself in the very different world of Baghdad. "It was a bit of a culture shock," he admitted.

Continued on Page 13

Authentic Italian Taste!

Don Mario's Italian Restaurant

For Delivery
1847847

@Donmarioskw

Gulf Road, Dhiafa Village near Kuwait Towers



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

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

AMIR RECEIVES EID AL-ADHA GREETINGS FROM TOP OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday received Eid Al-Adha greetings from His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, National Guard Chief His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

In the cables, the top leaders expressed their loyalty to the dear homeland and the people of Kuwait, wishing His Highness the Amir lifelong good health, so Kuwait can achieve further progress and prosperity under his wise leadership. His Highness the Amir reciprocated, expressing identical sentiments to the officials, and also good wishes to the Arab and Muslim nations.

His Highness the Amir also exchanged cables of congratulations with Arab and Muslim leaders on the advent of Eid Al-Adha. His Highness the Amir expressed sincere wishes of prosperity, security and stability for the Arab and Muslim nations.

Security and prosperity

In his cable to His Highness the Amir, His

Highness the Crown Prince wished him good health, and success in achieving the expectations of the Kuwaiti people in security and prosperity. His Highness the Crown Prince prayed for security, stability and welfare for the Arab and Muslim nations, and the entire world. In response, His Highness the Crown Prince received a cable of thanks and congratulations from His Highness the Amir.

Also, His Highness the Crown Prince received greetings from National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, on behalf of MPs. His Highness the Crown Prince sent a cable of thanks and congratulations to Ghanem on the occasion.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince sent cables of congratulations to the National Guard Chief His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah and Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on the Eid. His Highness the Crown Prince received cables of thanks and congratulations from the National Guard Chief and Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince received greetings on the occasion from Senior Sheikhs, Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime

Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on the occasion of the Eid.

His Highness Sheikh Nawaf received Eid greetings from ministers, governors, senior officials, diplomats and a large number of Kuwaiti citizens and residents. In response, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf sent congratulatory cables to well-wishers thanking them for their warm sentiments.

Greetings from Bahrain

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received a telephone contact from Bahraini Prime Minister Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa on the blessed Eid Al-Adha. The Bahraini Premier, in the phone contact to His Highness the Crown Prince, expressed good wishes to Sheikh Nawaf, the State of Kuwait and the brotherly people of Kuwait.

His Highness Sheikh Nawaf expressed gratitude to the Premier Khalifa for the brotherly sentiments, wishing that Bahrain would continue witnessing progress, development and prosperity. He also wished security, safety, progress and prosperity for the Arab and Muslim nations. — KUNA

DISABLED CLUB DEDICATES PARALYMPIC GOLD TO KUWAITI LEADERSHIP

KUWAIT: Kuwait Disabled Sports Club (KDSC) yesterday dedicated the Rio Paralympic gold medal won by its athlete Ahmad Al-Mutairi on Saturday to the Kuwaiti leadership and people. Mutairi's victory in the 100-meter wheelchair race "would not have been possible if not for the immense support of Kuwaiti sports officials," President of the KDSC Shafi Al-Hajeri said. Moreover, the KDSC President noted that Mutairi has set an Olympic record with a finish time of 16 seconds, as he continued to stockpile victories in his impressive career.

Meanwhile, KDSC official Anwar Al-Mutawa underscored the enormity of this victory, which has placed Kuwait in the upper echelons of the ongoing Rio Paralympics. "Support by the country's leadership has had a tremendous impact on our athletes," he added.

Mutawa also vowed that KDSC will continue to work diligently to bring



Shafi Al-Hajeri

Kuwait to the forefront of the international sporting arena. A total of six Kuwaiti athletes are contesting the Rio Paralympics, which kicked off last Wednesday. — KUNA

KUWAITI INFO MINISTER'S VISIT BOOSTS SPORTS COOPERATION WITH BRAZIL: ENVOY

RIO DE JANEIRO: Kuwaiti Ambassador to Brazil Ayada Al-Saidi emphasized that Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Minister of State for Sports Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah's visit to Brazil has given greater incentive for the two countries to cooperate in the fields of sports and culture.

Saidi said yesterday that Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud left Brazil after he had held a number of meetings with Brazilian officials, most importantly with the Minister of Justice and Citizenship Alexandre de Moraes, who is also head of the disabled sports federation in the South American country. On Kuwait-Brazil relations, the envoy pointed out that the two countries enjoy good ties and are always striving to boost them at all levels: politics, economy, culture and sports.

Saidi added that the trade volume exchange between Kuwait and Brazil has exceeded \$1.2 billion, encouraging the Kuwaiti Government to learn from the



Kuwaiti Ambassador to Brazil Ayada Al-Saidi

Brazilian experience in food security and renewable energy. He also noted that Kuwait and Brazil will activate in the foreseeable future a cultural treaty that has been in effect since 2010; another treaty in sports will be actualized soon as well. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Government officials, VIPs and guests celebrated the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Sept 9 at a reception held at the Crown Plaza hotel. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



AHLI UNITED BANK VISITS CHILDREN AT AMIRI HOSPITAL

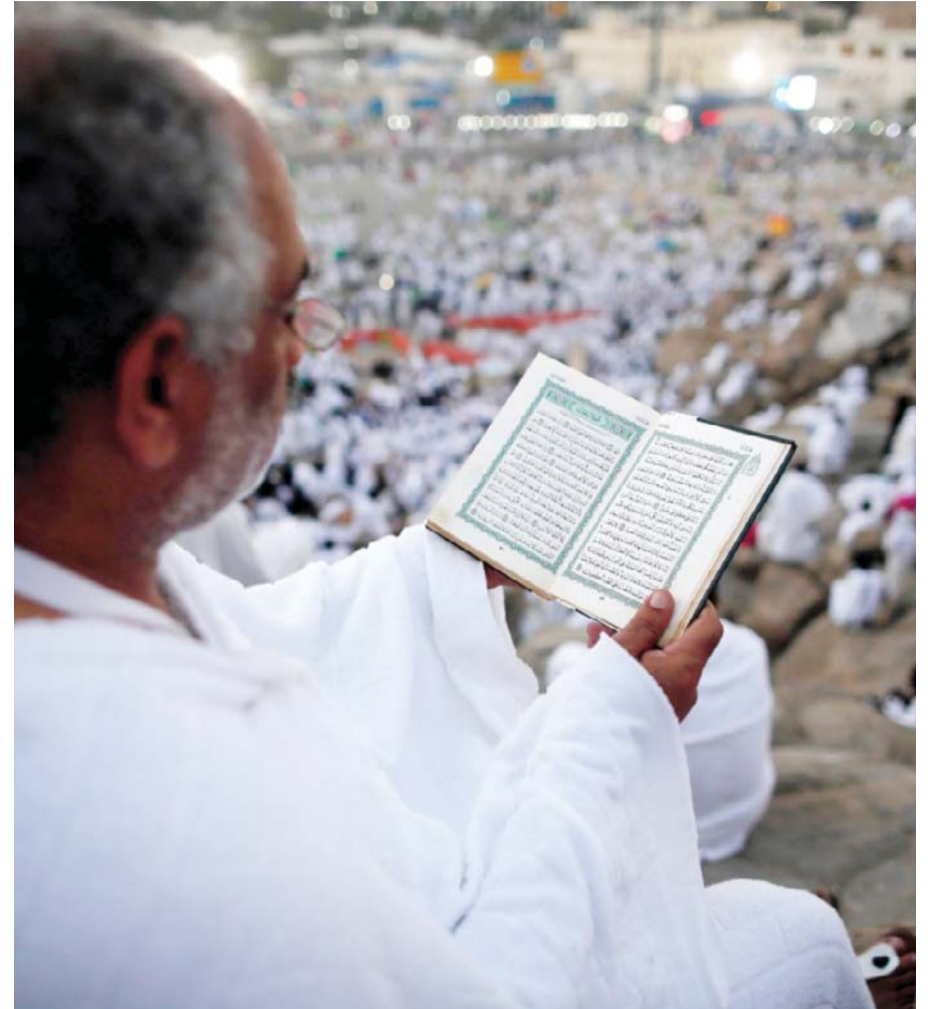
KUWAIT: In the spirit of Eid Al-Adha, and as part of Ahli United Bank's (AUB) corporate social responsibility framework that includes a wide range of initiatives and humanitarian as well as social events, the Bank's team visited children at the Amiri Hospital to celebrate the Eid. During the visit, the Bank's team members distributed gifts and games to the children that are in line with their health condition and age group. AUB's latest initiative has left children and their families with smiles and a lasting positive impact.

Richard Groves, AUB's CEO Said, "The Bank's visit reflects its keen interest to consistently communicate

with all members of society, and share with them the joyful moments of Eid, especially children who may be poorly and in hospital, wishing them that they get well soon. The Bank's volunteers who visited Amiri Hospital were able to connect and communicate with children with the objective of sharing happy moments with them, reflecting our values. The visit was successful and children have reacted positively with the Bank's team," Groves added. The Amiri Hospital's Public Relations team have commended AUB's visit and thanked the Bank's management for their staff's efforts.



MAKKAH: Muslim pilgrims gather to perform noon and afternoon prayers at Namira Mosque in Mount Arafat, southeast of the Saudi holy city of Makkah yesterday. — AFP



A Muslim pilgrim reads a copy of the Holy Quran, Islam's holy book, as he joins one of the Hajj rituals on Mount Arafat near Makkah yesterday.

KUWAITI PILGRIMS SAFE AND SOUND: OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC BRACELETS TRACK PILGRIMS' WHEREABOUTS

MAKKAH: Kuwaiti pilgrims are safe and sound and no incidents have been recorded, Kuwait's Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yagoub Al-Sanea reassured yesterday. Minister Al-Sanea said that Kuwaiti pilgrims have smoothly completed their transition from Mina valley to Mount Arafat where they climbed the mount and spent some time in supplication.

The Minister pointed out that Kuwaiti Hajj campaigns are well-experienced and well-organized to take on this huge task of keeping Kuwaiti pilgrims safe. The newest addition of this year's Hajj campaigns is the introduction of 'electronic bracelets' that were given to all Kuwaiti pilgrim to track their movements and whereabouts by GPS technology, he added. The bracelets are an added safety measure.

Later yesterday, legions of Hajj pilgrims from around the world performed en masse brief noon and afternoon prayers in Mount Arafat, as they subsequently listened to a sermon delivered by famed Imam of the Grand Mosque Dr Abdulrahman Al-Sudais.

In his speech, Sudais called on leaders of Islamic nations to further cooperate with one another in a time of profound upheaval. "It would behoove us to work together to uphold the security and stability of our Islamic nation," he said. He also highlighted the need of urgent solutions to conflicts pervading the region, naming Palestine, Syria, Iraq and Yemen in particular.

Moreover, the Imam of the Grand Mosque noted that "the safety of Hajj pilgrims is a red line that will not be crossed to further political agendas." Furthermore, Sudais pinpointed the mounting threat of terrorism as a global concern, saying that "Islam has always espoused the virtues of justice and peace, while eschewing all forms of social ills." — KUNA



Muslim pilgrims join one of the Hajj rituals on Mount Arafat near Makkah yesterday.



Muslims pray as they join one of the Hajj rituals on Mount Arafat near Makkah yesterday.



Muslim pilgrims arrive at Mount Arafat where the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) is believed to have given his final sermon, near the holy city of Makkah yesterday.

KUWAIT UTTERLY DENIES REPORTS ON FM STATEMENTS

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Foreign Ministry Saturday utterly denied recent reports by Iran's Fars News Agency and other media sources, in which they claimed that First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah talked to his Saudi counterpart Adel Al-Jubeir about changing the Kingdom's policies toward the crisis in Yemen.

As a member of the Saudi-led Arab and international coalition to restore stability in Yemen, Kuwait is in full coordination with the Saudi government's efforts, an official source at the foreign ministry said. It reiterated Kuwait's firm stand in supporting the Kingdom's efforts to establish peace and stability in Yemen, calling media sources to pursue accuracy before

publishing such tampered news items. Meanwhile, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) denied the allegations, circulated by some mass media, that attributed to it a report on a phone call between foreign ministers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. "The allegations, that Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said that Saudi Arabia changed its stance on the crisis in Yemen, are pure fabrica-

tions," KUNA said in statement, affirming that it issued no news in this regard. KUNA reserves its right to take the appropriate legal measures against the mass media or wire services the promulgated such groundless news. KUNA urges the mass media to commit themselves to accuracy and authenticity while attributing any reports to it. —KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Colorful fountains at Al-Shaheed Park in Sharq. —KUNA

EUROPEAN FOOD JOSTLES FOR MORE POSITION IN IRAN

By Fawaz Al-Otaibi

TEHRAN: European and other foreign restaurants have been jostling for a position in the Iranian market, and have relatively managed to attract many Iranians who seem to be eager to try different food. Foreign eateries seem to have made a way for themselves amid the well-established local restaurants, and traditional dishes.

Iranians go to new shopping malls, where branches of foreign restaurants are found, offering different dishes, and more important, high-level services, Farzad Dusten, owner of an Italian eating house in Tehran told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA). Italian dishes top list of foreign foods preferred by the Iranian people, he said. Their taste and flavor are similar to oriental dishes.

No change

According to Dusten, the menu of the local foods has been fixed for decades and no significant change has taken place on them. French restaurants, with their high prices and different taste, once had the lead in Iran, but they have lost the position for the Italian ones, that also come ahead of the American eateries, he said.

The ability of Italian restaurants to "change and to adapt" has helped them avoid faults of fellow European ones, Dusten said, noting that they do not offer Iranian guests all the dishes they offer at home for social and religious reasons.

Burger, Pizza, Pasta and steak are the ones

that mostly attract clients. Dusten said that the European and foreign eating houses in Iran are generally few. These are mainly found in northern Tehran, where people have "broader culture" and many of them have visited European countries, he noted.

Due to the rise in Iranians who have travelled abroad recently, they have come to like foreign foods offered at home, Wali Rahmati, a director of another foreign restaurant in Tehran. He added that foreign restaurants take the lead in the capital, with Iranians who are open to foreign cultures. But in other provinces and cities, local ones are the ones visited by customers.

Variety

An Iranian, Nader Drniqa, who lives in Tehran, said that he prefers going to foreign eateries in the city for the variety of dishes they offer. Local ones have not changed their menus "for ages," he said. Drniqa added that many go to these restaurants to satisfy a desire to cope with progress and developments in the world around them.

Another Iranian, Mira Jameel, said she likes going to foreign eating houses, but in the meantime, believes that local ones still enjoy far wider popularity. It is no aversion of local dishes or restaurants that push many Iranians toward foreign ones. They deeply love their local dishes which are part of their culture, she said. They just feel some change with different foods and cultures. —KUNA



Legalese

EID HOLIDAYS

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

Eid Mubarak to everyone and I hope you are all enjoying your holidays. Eid is a Muslim holiday that means festival. There are two Eids - one that falls right after Ramadan - Eid Al-Fitr, and the second Eid that we are celebrating now called Eid Al-Adha. Religious celebrations can be a lovely time for friends and families to spend their holidays together, sharing food, music, fashion, playing games, and more importantly bonding over quality time.

Last week I spoke about women's rights in my column and I am very grateful over the feedback that I received, I know I promised to continue the discussion, but since it's Eid today, I thought I will discuss matters related to the Eid holidays that should be helpful to my readers. I know I have a large expat readership that might not get to celebrate Eid with the family or might not be Muslims and therefore do not celebrate Eid, and therefore I wanted to make things clear for them.

Days off

Question: How many days off am I entitled to for Eid? My boss says I only get three days and I should be grateful that I am even getting days off since I am not a Muslim. Is this true?

Fajer: The religion that a person practices has no legal implications on the days off that a person is entitled to. With that said, according to the Kuwait labor law, all employees of the private sector are entitled to three days off for Eid Al-Adha, but are also entitled to one day off for Waqfat Arafat, which is a day right before Eid Al-Fitr (Sunday).

Therefore, Sunday to Wednesday are the official holidays for the private sector, and since Thursday is a working day that falls between two holidays, as Friday is a day off for the majority of people, many companies are giving Thursday off as well. The public sector officially has Sunday to Thursday off as well.

Please note that this is a fully paid holiday by law. In accordance to Article 68 of the Kuwait labor law, the official paid holidays are as follows:

- a- Hegira New Year: 1 day
- b- Isra' and Mi'raj day: 1 day
- c- Eid Al-Fitr: 3 days
- d- Waqfat Arafat: 1 day
- e- Eid Al-Adha: 3 days
- f- Prophet's (PBUH) Birthday (Al-Mawlid Al-Nabawi): 1 day
- g- National Day: 1 day
- h- Gregorian New Year: 1 day

Working on Eid

Question: I am working on Eid for the whole week. Do I get paid overtime and how much do I get paid for it? My boss says since I work in the food and beverage industry, we have to stay open and I am forced to work on the holidays.

Fajer: Article 68 says the following about all paid holidays: "In the event where the worker is required to work during any of the above mentioned holidays, he shall be entitled to double remuneration and an additional day off." This means that you should not only get an extra day off, but be paid twice your daily pay for working on Eid. For example, if your monthly salary is KD 500, that means you get paid KD 19.3 a day (that is KD 500 / 26 working days a month), and if you work on Eid, then you should get an extra KD 19.3 this month for every Eid day you have worked.

Christmas

Question: I understand that because we live in a Muslim country, we are entitled to days off for Muslim holidays, but I am a practicing Christian and would really enjoy to have a few days off for Christmas instead.

Fajer: As I mentioned above, by law you are entitled to the holidays mentioned in Article 68 and not for Christmas Day. But as I mentioned above as well, you get paid overtime as well as an extra day off for working on a holiday, so I suggest you talk to your boss and/or HR department and request a day off for Christmas. Many companies are understanding about their employees' needs and do give days off for Christmas. Hopefully that works out for you.

I wish you all a festive holiday regardless of your religious beliefs. Please remember to enjoy your time and respect those around you. Stay safe and legal.

For any legal questions or queries, email: ask@fajertelawyer.com.

LAWMAKER DECRIES LOSS OF COURT CASES

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: MP Abdullah Maayouf strongly criticized the number of court cases lost by the state in various governmental bodies. "It is unacceptable that the state loses all these cases and wastes public funds to pay for ministers' and advisors' mistakes," he underlined, calling for holding those responsible for such losses accountable.

Sharia college
Minister of Justice and Awqaf and



MP Abdullah Maayouf

Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane said that the total number of judiciary members holding degrees from the sharia college is 84. Responding to an inquiry made by MP Ahmed Mutee, Sane stressed that the performance assessment report is a judicial concern and that the judiciary is the only body responsible for it. Commenting on proposed amendments of the judiciary law that call for excluding sharia graduates from working as prosecutors, Sane stressed these are still being reviewed by the parliament.



KUWAIT: Abu Mohammad, a Kuwaiti shepherd walks in front of his camels at a camel market in the Erhaiya desert area, South of Kuwait City yesterday, ahead of the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha or the 'Feast of Sacrifice' Eid al-Adha marks the end of the annual pilgrimage or Hajj to the Saudi holy city of Makkah and is celebrated in remembrance of Abraham's (PBUH) readiness to sacrifice his son to God. Cows, camels, goats and sheep are traditionally slaughtered on this holy day. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

MP CRITICIZES EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN THAILAND

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: MP Abdullah Al-Turajji said that Kuwait's embassy in Thailand was very inconsiderate with a citizen on vacation there and that this resulted in the death of the citizen's son.



MP Abdullah Al-Turajji

Al-Khaed to investigate the matter and hold those responsible accountable.

Assistant engineers

The head of the Kuwaiti Assistant Engineers and Technicians Syndicate Adel Al-Doukhi stressed that the syndicate helps all assistant engineers and technicians of all specialties, namely those working for the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR). Doukhi added that a meeting would be held

with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) officials after the Eid Al-Adha holiday to discuss the problems assistant engineers are facing and to demand their rights.

HCA NHS Ventures

HCA International Hospitals

Committed to collaboration

HCA NHS Ventures is a subsidiary of HCA International which was set up in 2006, the HCA NHS Ventures division leads on private partnerships with NHS Trusts across the country.

Harley Street at UCH is a joint partnership with top teaching hospital University College London Hospital, formed in 2006. Based on level 15 in the tower at UCLH, the 18 bed acute facility is a specialist cancer centre for complex and rare conditions. Patient rooms are private and en-suite offering panoramic views across London. We offer medical and surgical care including day case chemotherapy and a comprehensive JACIE accredited bone marrow and stem cell transplant service one of only a few in the UK. The centre offers the pioneering cord blood transplant; this treatment significantly widens the opportunity to find a suitable unrelated donor particularly beneficial for international patients.

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 STxTM, 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

www.harleystreetatuch.co.uk

HCA - London's No.1 private hospital group

Kuwait Digest

EGYPT INTO SPACE

By Labeed Abdal



local@kuwaittimes.net

The fact that Egypt is rapidly progressing in the process of launching its space agency and mobilizing all possible potentials to enhance national interest in space sciences and studies is very promising for future generations and deserves support for a better future that had been farfetched for long.

Taking into consideration that legislation is the base of mega national projects jointly carried out by both executives and legislators, it has become very imperative now to focus on passing a bill on establishing the Egyptian Space Agency and the Space Sciences City, appointing technicians according to agency regulations and needs and to immediately work on issuing the required construction licenses for such a huge national project.

The Egyptian state has realized the necessity to establish the agency as a gateway into the age of gigantic space cartels as well as the importance of cooperating with local and international scientific research and technological application centers as a vehicle to serve its development goals.

Though establishing a space agency has always been a dream for Egyptian space scientists as a means to launch Egypt's space projects and provide enough funding to take it on par with other international agencies, more efforts ought to be exerted to avoid obstacles prevailing in the Arab world, such as bureaucracy, corruption and fighting Arab intellectuals or forcing them to immigrate.

Establishing a space industry in Egypt to follow UAE's steps and use it for peaceful purposes actually match 21st century needs. Building the suitable basic technological and scientific infrastructure needed for the space industry is something that calls other Arab countries to follow the same pattern and use and manage their financial resources well with such huge projects that would help put an end to unemployment and give youth more hope instead of despair. Such projects will also encourage partnerships with other advanced countries.



KUWAIT: The suspect pictured with the rifle he used in a shooting reported in Qusour recently.



This photo released by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows a man arrested for practicing medicine illegally.

DIWANIYA SHOOTER ARRESTED

KUWAIT: Mubarak Al-Kabeer detectives managed to arrest a citizen who shot his friend in the shoulder in a diwaniya in Qusour, the Ministry of Interior's relation and media security department announced. Security sources added that the shooter confessed, saying he did so to settle old scores. The shooter also led police to the weapon he had hidden in the Kabd desert.

Fake doctor caught

Jahra detectives arrested a fake Asian doctor who had been illegally practicing medicine, said security sources, noting that a large quantity of medicines were found in the suspect's house.

A case was filed and the suspect was referred to relevant authorities.



Al-Anbaa

EIDIYA IN THE OLD DAYS

By Saleh Al-Ojairi

Eidiya is money given as a gift to children during Eid. However, eidiya used to be the target of many opportunists in the past, who usually came up with bright ideas to sell kids some sort of temporary joys and games to get their money.

These people included the owners of 'dairefas', composed of a wooden box hung with two ropes to swing the kids inside back and forth. Children also used to take their eidiya and spend them to get a donkey ride, and many donkey owners used to prepare their donkeys by dyeing them with henna, giving them a reddish look for Eid.

During those times, vehicles were scarce. So, many children found joy in giving away their eidiya to truck owners in return for a ride. Children also used to spend their eidiya purchasing candy, nuts and fizzy drinks from the vendors of such items, who usually found a great opportunity to sell their goods during Eids.

Many children found joy in giving away their eidiya to truck owners in return for a ride

Another terrible way of consuming eidiya was the 'balla al-baiza' (swallower of paisa - the Indian coin circulated in Kuwait in the past). It was a statue with a man's head, and after a kid pushed a coin into its mouth, the statue would produce a spark from its eyes and a sound from the mouth, and that was it. Kids usually liked what the statue did, and when they would ask about their money, the man in charge would tell them that the Balla Al-Baiza swallowed it!

—Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Anbaa

YOU ARE NO SHAME TO ME

By Saleh Al-Shayegi

Man's age starts with seconds that soon turn into a minute, which then turns into hours, days, months and years, then decades. It has been a few days now since the anniversary of my birth many decades ago. Throughout these years, to which I yearn and look back, my life has not always been full of joys. I did not have honey for breakfast every morning. I have not been through endless worries all the way either. I believe the same applies to all or most us.

Life can smile sometimes, while it can come to us with mourning flowers on others. I will never hate my birthday and curse its annual anniversary like some Arab poets said. On the contrary, I consider it as a happy day. I annually wait to celebrate it and wish it keeps recurring to renew my existence in this life that I have never hated or felt bored of.

So, thanks to that happy day that introduced me to life, to my father and mother, to my children, siblings, friends and loved ones. The day that intro-

duced me to the woman who became my support, ears and eyes in this life. You have introduced me to male and female friends who have become my oxygen and the river I drink from until satiation. You have introduced me to myself with its pros and cons and ups and downs; to its nobleness, generosity and overwhelming love.

I will not do like others and start criticizing myself. I will not curse time as they do. I will never feel sorry for the past and describe it as the 'good old days', as they all say. The real good time is that I have lived, still live and will live in the future. I have enough ammunition of reason and writing that prevents me from feeling sorry for the past, because those who do are actually sorry for their own selves because they have lost their fuel and juice. They keep mourning what they have lost while I have enough love to keep on living each and every day. So, thank you my age - I am very proud of you. You are my pride and you are no shame to me! —Translated by Kuwait Times

Life can smile sometimes, while it can come to us with mourning flowers on others

News

in brief

Petrol prices reviewed Oct

KUWAIT: The government's subsidies committee is set to meet with members of the parliament's financial committee next October to review an assessment to the general situations following the increase in petrol prices that went into effect on September 1. A final decision on the matter would be announced in November following preliminary studies, sources said. The same committee will send a report to the cabinet after the Eid holiday, and based on that report the government will make its future decisions on the matter, the sources added. —Al-Anbaa

Unemployment

KUWAIT: The number of Kuwaitis waiting for a job reached 21,243 while the number of jobs available at state departments reached 11,768, according to statistics released by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) as of last Thursday. Those who are waiting for a job out of the total number of people who registered in CSC's automatic employment system since it was released fifteen years ago reaches only 10 percent, the statistics show. —Al-Qabas

Construction projects

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Public Works' Construction Projects' Department is currently executing 23 projects, Undersecretary Awatef Al-Ghunaim said. They include 14 projects classified under the 'special projects' category, including the laborers' city in Shadadiya which was already delivered, the National Assembly Guard's building which was finished, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Complex building which is 66 percent complete, and others. Furthermore, Ghunaim said that the tender for the Maternity Hospital's KD 221 million expansion project has been awarded. —Al-Qabas

GBK'S RED CUSTOMERS ENJOY LATEST MOVIES DURING EID

KUWAIT: As part of the Eid Al-Adha celebrations, Gulf Bank is announcing an exclusive offer for its red customers to watch the latest films at Kuwait National Cinema Company (KNCC) cinemas between 12-16 September 2016. New red customers, who open an account at The Avenues Mall, will receive a free ticket to watch the latest movies. During the period of the promotion, Gulf Bank will have a red booth present at the KNCC cinema in The Avenues Mall to showcase its products and services to potential and existing customers

Gulf Bank continuously looks for new and interesting initiatives to reward its loyal customer base over the year. Gulf Bank is committed to providing its red customers with the right promotions that are tailored to meet their specific needs and to better enjoy their holidays. Gulf Bank is pleased to celebrate this occasion with the people of Kuwait.

Gulf Bank's red program is for high school, college and university students aged 15 to 25 years old. There is no minimum deposit required to open the account or minimum balance charge. There is no minimum deposit required to open the account or minimum balance charge.

To join Gulf Bank's red program or to find out more of its benefits, visit one of the Bank's 56 branches, contact the Customer Contact Centre on 1805805 for assistance and guidance or log on to www.e-gulfbank.com, Gulf Bank's website.

Al-Anbaa

Crime

Report

MOTHER'S KILLER REENACTS CRIME

KUWAIT: Following up the case of a Lebanese woman who beat her elderly mother to death in Kaifan, Al-Rai local daily interviewed her grandmother in Lebanon, who she said the suspect had always been beating her mother, although she suffered from diabetes and hypertension. The grandmother also said that her late daughter was married at the age of 18 and that she gave birth to her eldest daughter (the killer) 39 years ago when she and her husband came to Kuwait. She also said that the last time she saw her daughter was four years ago on a visit to Lebanon. Meanwhile, the murderer reenacted her crime in the presence of detectives, added security sources, noting that the suspect was crying and denied any intention to kill her 'dear' mother, but stressed that she loved her father (who died a year ago) more because he was closer to her. However, interrogating the maid working for the family, she stressed that the daughter had always assaulted her mother and that the mother feared her.

Drug possession

Narcotics detectives arrested an Asian man with 14 packs of marijuana, said security sources, noting that the suspect was also under the influence on arrest. Case papers indicate that a police patrol stopped the suspect in Salhiya and found that acted strangely. On searching him, the drugs were found.

Man beats wife

A Syrian woman reported that her ex-husband, Kuwaiti, assaulted her after inadvertently seeing her in a shopping mall. "What are you doing here?" the man allegedly asked her, so she told him it was none of his business. The woman said her reply angered him and he charged at her. He also threatened to assault her if he saw her shopping again. A case was filed and the suspect is being summoned for further investigations.

Sexual assault

A young man was arrested for sexual assault, said security sources, noting that man was arrested while chasing women in crowded shopping malls. The sources added that the suspect will most probably spend the Eid holiday in custody pending legal measures against him.

Drunk driver caught

A citizen was recently arrested while driving along Abdaly highway with a bottle of whiskey in his hand, said security sources, noting that a highway patrol suspected him. The strange thing is that the man insisted on drinking even after his arrest. "I am away from people and not doing harm to anybody," he said, justifying his actions, but he was arrested and taken to Qashaniya police station. —Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa

Al-Qabas

THE DNA LAW

By Khalid Al-Tarrah

The DNA law 78/2015 will be in effect soon. It is an exceptional law, as it is considered, according to media reports, that Kuwait is the first country in the world that will apply the DNA law on all citizens, expats and visitors. The law deals with the inherited biological gene map, which indicates the individual's personality and distinguishes him from others. The biological characters or the genetic line of the non-coded sites are very clear in the chromosomal nucleic acid, that results from analyzing the nucleic acid in biological samples in order to decide personality and identity.

The law, which will be applied on nearly four million citizens and expats, headed the sites of embassies and foreign official establishments including immigration and travel sites in order to introduce the Kuwait law, because it is new and concerns all those who have a job or family affiliation in Kuwait. The DNA print plays a major role in identifying the individual's identity through deoxyribonucleic acid, and there are countries that benefited from the DNA print, including Argentina in the '70s and '80s in order to establish a database that helps those searching for their missing friends and relatives.

Canada is among the countries that relied on a DNA acid database of immigrants who were unable to submit documents proving their place of birth, while other countries relied on similar data in tracking criminals and identifying victims. As for the DNA database that will go with the application of the law in Kuwait, the state will have, from day one, a very important database of a very sensitive nature, some of which will help in identifying lineage and determining identity, and some of it may contribute to solving nationality issues and forgery, legally and scientifically.

Such data has security, social and political dimensions, so there must be transparency in details related to the law, as much as the law allows, of course. There are related questions that need clarification from the interior ministry, most notably the department that will collect the data, keep and analyze them, and if this department is inside Kuwait or abroad, and it is abroad, then it is a must to know its location and details. The data that will be available are not simple, and it is important to guarantee the safety and secrecy of information, and all that protects the constitutional and legal rights of the individual.

It is important to know all the details, because as it is known some global banks and intelligence agencies were electronically hacked, besides having the interior ministry being penetrated at the borders, along with nationality forgery. While it is true that the gangs were arrested, but a repetition of such crimes remains possible, so there must be transparency in implementing the law and societal cooperation in the first place for its success.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

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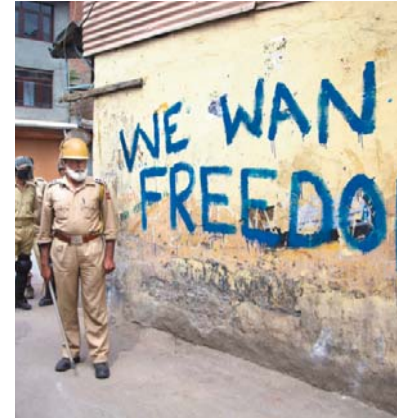


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BULLETS TRUMP REHAB: ASIA FAILING IN ITS WAR ON DRUGS

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Kashmiri police face public wrath amid rebel uprising

Page 11



ALEPPO: Syrian rescue workers and volunteers carry a body following a reported air strike on the rebel-held Salihin neighbourhood. — AFP

SYRIA OPPOSITION WEIGHS TRUCE DEAL

AIR STRIKES KILL DOZENS IN REBEL-HELD AREAS

BEIRUT: Syria's opposition was weighing whether to take part in a truce brokered by Russia and the United States due to start today, after air strikes killed dozens in rebel-held areas. Brokered after marathon talks by the Russian and US foreign ministers, the ceasefire has been billed as the best chance yet to end Syria's five-year civil war. Key regime ally Iran welcomed the plan yesterday and called for "comprehensive monitoring" of the truce, particularly along Syria's volatile borders. But even as world powers threw their support behind the agreement, scores were reported dead from a barrage of unidentified raids in two key northern cities in opposition-held territory.

At least 62 people, including 13 women and 13 children, were killed in Saturday's bombardment on Idlib city, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said yesterday. The strikes hit several areas in the rebel-held city, including a market full of shoppers preparing for the Muslim holiday of Eid Al-Adha, which begins today.

Britain's special representative for Syria, Gareth Bayley, called the attacks "barbaric." "Bring on the #SyriaCeasefire," he tweeted yesterday. Fresh bombardment also hit the battleground city of Aleppo yesterday, the Observatory said, a day after 12 civilians were killed in unidentified raids there. No information on casualties from yesterday's bombardment was immediately available. "We hope there will be a ceasefire so that civilians can get a break. The shelling goes on night and day, there are targeted killings, besieged cities," said Abu Abdullah, who lives in Aleppo's rebel-held east. "Civilians have no hope anymore." In a major blow to the opposition, pro-regime forces re-imposed a devastating siege on the city's eastern districts last week.

Assad regime approves truce

State news agency SANA on Saturday reported that Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's government "approved the agreement". Lebanese Shiite militia Hezbollah,

which has intervened militarily on behalf of Assad, said late Saturday it supported the deal. Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi said yesterday that Tehran, a key Assad supporter, also backed the agreement. But Ghasemi said its success relied on the creation of "a comprehensive monitoring mechanism, in particular control of borders in order to stop the dispatch of fresh terrorists" to Syria.

Syria's main opposition group the High Negotiations Committee—which brings together political dissidents with armed rebel factions—had yet to formally respond. Leading rebel figure Mohammad Alloush yesterday said the agreement was "still being studied". HNC member Bassma Kodmani told AFP on Saturday that her group "cautiously welcomed" the deal but was skeptical that Damascus would comply.

Ahmad Saoud, head of the US-backed Division 13 rebel group, wrote on Twitter he was "starting to feel that the truce is a military trap to kill us even more." And headline Islamist group Ahrar al-Sham, which works closely

with former Al-Qaeda affiliate Fateh Al-Sham Front, said yesterday it was "still discussing the points of the truce." The agreement was reached after talks between US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Geneva.

It would see fighting and indiscriminate air attacks halt across the country, starting at sundown on Monday for a period of 48 hours, which could then be renewed. To get aid into the battered second city of Aleppo, a "demilitarized zone" would be established around the Castello Road into the city. If the ceasefire holds for one week, the US and Russia could start joint operations against jihadists from the Islamic State group and Fateh Al-Sham, formerly known as Al-Nusra Front.

Syrians 'have lost faith'

On the ground, residents were split on whether a truce could hold, saying they were exhausted after several rounds of failed ceasefires, most recently in February. "The Syrian people—whether in areas controlled by the

regime or the opposition—have lost faith in both sides," said Safwan Badawi in east Aleppo. Abu Hasan, who works with a local civil society group, laughed off the ceasefire plan as "a joke".

Pro-government Syrian newspaper Al-Watan's front page yesterday said the deal would pave the way for renewed peace talks in Geneva. "More importantly, Washington has finally agreed to joint military action" against jihadist groups, it wrote, as Kerry had been "forced to present a number of compromises to the Russian negotiator."

Several attempts at peace negotiations have faltered since Syria's war erupted, with talks earlier this year in Geneva fizzling after the opposition walked away in protest at the humanitarian situation. Damascus resident Taher Ibrahim told AFP he did not expect the new deal to play out any differently than February's tattered truce. "Nobody among the Syrian population accepts this agreement... (the opposition) are all the same and none of them will commit to this truce," he said. — AFP

'SHOCK AND AWE' RESPONSE TO 9/11 HELPED JIHAD'S SPREAD

PARIS: While 9/11 failed to bring America to its knees as Al-Qaeda hoped, it ushered in an era of instability, especially in the Middle East, that Islamic extremists have skillfully exploited, analysts say. By reacting with a doctrine of "Shock and Awe" and invading Iraq in 2003, the US committed a series of missteps that indirectly helped foment jihadism, say critics.

Founded in the 1980s, Al-Qaeda was gravely weakened after being expelled from Afghanistan in 2001 by the US-led invasion of the country that had harbored the terror group's leader Osama bin Laden. But the occupation of Iraq offered them a new opportunity, underlining how jihadist groups have resisted attempts to vanquish them and have now expanded into franchises in the Middle East, Asia, the West and parts of Africa.

"September 11 was the culmination of several years of planning by Al-Qaeda of 'the big one,'" Didier Le Bret, who recently resigned as France's national intelligence coordinator to run in next year's parliamentary election, told AFP. "Above all it marked the start of a realization (by the Americans) of their vulnerability on home soil. And that is something they cannot bear."

He said the invasion illustrated the dangers of acting first and worrying about the conse-

quences afterwards. Among the consequences was the damage done to America's reputation by the torture of prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, the camp opened by George W. Bush at a US base in Cuba to hold "enemy combatants" captured around the world. For Le Bret, the conflict in Iraq was "an unfinished war, built on a lie" that ended up destabilizing the whole region.

Jean-Pierre Filiu, professor of Middle East studies at Sciences-Po University in Paris, said it also squandered support for the US among its allies. "The US enjoyed unprecedented international solidarity in its campaign against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda (in Afghanistan)," he said. "But after that campaign, which was crowned with success within a few weeks, the Neo-conservatives imposed a strategy of a 'global war on terror' which reignited global jihad," Filiu said.

Tai chi terror tactics

The US presence in Iraq made it a magnet for jihadists, with Al-Qaeda in Iraq becoming a major force in the post-war insurgency that later morphed into the Islamic State (IS) group. IS extremists, seeing power vacuums created through weak governance in Iraq and a civil

war in Syria, grabbed territory in both countries after declaring their "caliphate" for Muslims in 2014.

Spurred by social media and the forces of globalization, they have since encouraged Muslims to take up arms against the West which they see as an ideological enemy. While conducting a campaign of mass murder and terror in territories under their control, they have spread their tentacles worldwide, inspiring or carrying out attacks in France, Germany, the United States, Turkey or Bangladesh.

"Daesh, or the so-called Islamic State, was born out of the alliance of two totalitarianisms, that of Al-Qaeda and the ousted regime of Saddam Hussein," Filiu said. "Instead of taking the measure of this new threat, Barack Obama was for a long time in denial, allowing the emergence of a 'terror caliphate' that has spread around the world," he argued. Obama's reticence to commit the US to a new battle in the Middle East reflected the caution of a nation scarred by Iraq, where thousands of US troops and tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians died during the post-invasion insurgency.

Bin Laden's son said 9/11 was aimed at setting up a grand showdown with America in Afghanistan where the Soviet army had been defeated by US-backed mujahedeen. "I was



NEW YORK: A group walks with an American flag in Lower Manhattan. — AFP

surprised the Americans took the bait", Omar bin Laden, one of 11 sons, told Rolling Stone magazine in 2010, a year before his father's death at the hands of US special forces. By forcing Washington out of its isolationism and luring it into Iraq, bin Laden was using what historian Yuval Noah Harari calls the "tai-chi masters method."

"The terrorists hope that even though they

can barely dent the enemy's material, power, fear and confusion will cause the enemy to misuse its strength," the author of Sapiens, a history of humanity, wrote in The Guardian newspaper last year. "Terrorists calculate that when the enraged enemy uses its massive power against them, it will raise a much more violent military and political storm than the terrorists themselves could ever create." — AFP

SYRIA CEASEFIRE DEAL: MAJOR DIPLOMATIC WIN FOR RUSSIA

COORDINATION DESPITE POWERS BACKING OPPOSING SIDES

MOSCOW: The ceasefire deal that could see coordinated US-Russia military action in war-torn Syria comes after months of Moscow calling on Washington to join its bombing campaign against jihadists. The agreement, which is also meant to end hostilities and ensure aid deliveries, saw Washington yield to Russia's calls for military coordination despite the two powers backing opposing sides in the war—a concession analysts say is a victory for Moscow.

Coordinated action

Moscow had for months made the case for the United States to join forces against jihadist groups like the Islamic State, proposals Washington had dismissed until now. The Pentagon previously argued that the goal of Russian operations—bolstering the forces of Moscow's ally President Bashar al-Assad—was at odds with its focus on defeating IS.

Coordinated Russia-US military action can only happen if Moscow and the Assad regime fully meet commitments to cease violence for seven days, but even securing the prospect is a diplomatic win for Moscow. "This is a success for Russia because it had insisted on signing (this agreement) and worked on it for a long time," political analyst Fyodor Lukyanov told AFP, adding that the American negotiators had been in a "vulnerable" position. The West has accused Moscow of propping Assad up by targeting rebels fighting the regime, in strikes that Moscow said were aimed against "terrorist" organizations. Moscow has in turn repeatedly slammed the US-led coalition that is also carrying out strikes in Syria, saying that these have been ineffective against jihadist groups.

Assad remains

Washington, which backs a coalition of

rebels it regards as moderate, has repeatedly said that Assad must step down to ensure an enduring peace deal, although its calls for him to go have been less frequent in the past few years. The deal reached in Geneva on Friday did not touch on Assad's fate, but it calls on Moscow to exert its influence on the regime—highlighting the fact that Syria's post-war leadership remains key to resolving the conflict.

"The fact that the Syrian government is indirectly taking part in this deal because Russia is being asked to pressure it—this is indirect acknowledgement that this factor (Assad's presence) exists and there is nothing to do about it," Lukyanov said. "It shows that it is impossible to do get around Assad."

Doubts endure

Russia has welcomed the deal as a step toward resolving the brutal five-year war and has pledged to pressure the regime to respect the ceasefire, but Moscow has been cautious not to build up expectations. This is not mark the first time Moscow and Washington have brokered a Syria peace deal—there was the truce agreed in February and endorsed by the United Nations Security Council, but this has been repeatedly violated.

Washington had pushed for concrete steps from Moscow to force Assad to stop bombing civilians, respect the truce and lift the siege of the northern city of Aleppo. But Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has cautioned that Moscow cannot "100 percent guarantee" that all parties will obey the new ceasefire.

The Syrian government has agreed to the truce but it remains unclear whether it will last long enough for the beginning of coordinated US-Russia military action. Analyst Ruslan Pukhov told TASS news agency that although the Assad regime has endorsed the deal, the beleaguered Syrian leader "is unable to completely control all of his supporters" who might be tempted to violate the truce. — AFP



GENEVA: US Secretary of State John Kerry, left, and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov shake hands at the conclusion of a joint press conference following their meeting. — AP



AS SIDRAH: This file photo taken on January 8, 2016 shows smoke billowing from a petroleum storage tank after a fire was extinguished following fighting at Al-Sidra oil terminal, near Ras Lanuf in the so-called "oil crescent" along Libya's northern coast. — AFP

LIBYAN TROOPS RECAPTURE OIL TERMINALS FROM MILITIA

BENGHAZI: Libyan forces loyal to a powerful general yesterday recaptured two key oil terminals from militias in a surprise attack, according to officials familiar with the operation, a move that adds a new layer to the turmoil gripping the North African nation since 2011. They said forces led by Gen. Khalifa Hifter, who heads the Libyan National Army, took over the Ras Lanuf and al-Sidra terminals on Libya's Mediterranean coast and were battling militias at a third terminal, Al-Zueitina.

The majority of Libya's oil exports went through the three terminals before a militia known as the Petroleum Facilities Guards seized them more than two years ago. "Zero hour has arrived, so march forward like wolves and charge like lions," Hifter told his forces as they prepared for yesterday's dawn attack. In a radio message, he urged the troops not to harm civilians or damage the facilities.

The militia driven out of the facilities is allied with the recently-formed, UN-backed government headquartered in the capital, Tripoli. That government does not recognize Hifter as commander of the national army. The Petroleum Facilities Guards' leader, Ibrahim Jedran, struck a deal in July with the UN envoy to Libya, Martin Kobler. The details of that pact were never disclosed, but critics have speculated that it involved billions of dollars, sparking charges that Kobler and the United Nations were empowering the warlord viewed by many as having held Libya's oil hostage.

Militia abandon weapons

The officials said there were no casual-

ties among the attacking forces and that the militiamen at the three facilities did not offer much resistance. The attack took place on the eve of a major Muslim holiday, Eid Al-Adha, which begins today. "Many of them (militiamen) abandoned their weapons to escape or turned themselves in," said Brig. Gen.

Ahmed Al-Mosmary, a spokesman for Hifter's forces. "We will continue to move till we secure the whole area." Hifter's forces also moved against two areas in the eastern city of Benghazi that remain under militia control. Al-Mosmary said there was also little confrontation from the militiamen there, but that land mines were slowing down the advancing troops. Hifter enjoys the support of several Arab nations, including Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan, as well as others in the West, but he is also viewed by many as an obstacle to peace. He is allied with the parliament based in eastern Libya, which refuses to recognize the UN-backed government in Tripoli. He is widely viewed as the savior of Libya's eastern region, which had long suffered from marginalization under the rule of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

Libya has been split between rival parliaments and governments, each backed by a loose array of militias and tribes. Western nations view the UN-brokered government as the best hope for uniting the country. If the terminals are operational again and oil exports resume, the revenues, together with a continuing political impasse, could provide the eastern region with a strong temptation to declare self-rule. — AP

REVIVING TRADITIONS, ARAB BREWERS MAKE THEIR MARK

FUHEIS, Jordan: It took gumption to pour millions of dollars into starting a brewery in an overwhelmingly Muslim country where many frown on consuming alcohol. Jordanian beer pioneer Yazan Karadsheh is now taking his next risky step, sending a first shipment of his Carakale to the US, where it will compete with thousands of brands in a \$22 billion-a-year craft beer market.

The 32-year-old Karadsheh is part of a small but growing brotherhood of Arab brewers in the Levant who want to nurture local beer-drinking cultures and compete against the brews of large companies, some of them multi-nationals that dominate the region's beer market. Carakale is the first craft beer in Jordan. The West Bank already has three independent breweries—well-established veteran Taybeh, newcomer Shepherds and tiny Wise Men's Choice, made in a basement near biblical Bethlehem. Lebanese brands include Colonel, made at a large brew pub in the coastal town of Batroun, and 961,

named after the country's international dialing code.

Region revival

Small breweries also sprang up in Israel over the past decade. It's a modest revival in a region where beer-brewing traditions go back to ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, but lay dormant for centuries. Demand is also up. Regional beer consumption increased by 44 percent over the past decade—though the close to 4 million hectoliters guzzled in nine Arab countries and Israel last year amount to a drop compared to US consumption of 234 million hectoliters (6.1 billion gallons), according to industry figures and IWSR, an alcoholic drinks research company.

Karadsheh believes there's room for expansion. "Obviously, they drink," Karadsheh, a member of Jordan's Christian minority, said of his compatriots. "Alcohol might be taboo, but you can find alcohol and buy alcohol easily in the market. Jordan is a very liberal place, com-

pared to surrounding countries." Karadsheh and other up-and-coming brewers—Shepherds founder Alaa Sayej in the West Bank and Colonel creator Jamil Haddad in Lebanon—stumbled onto their career-changing passion by chance.

Karadsheh studied engineering in Boulder, Colorado, a decade ago, but then got a second degree in brewing. Sayej, 27, earned a master's degree in finance, but began brewing in his UK dorm room. Haddad, 33, quit a job in advertising to turn his long-time beer brewing hobby into a business. In liberal, diverse Lebanon, getting a brewing license was a simple procedure unfettered by social taboos, said Haddad. By contrast, Karadsheh and Sayej battled red tape and religious backlash.

Sayej said officials in the Palestinian self-rule government initially rejected his label featuring the drawing of a shepherd, insisting it was a depiction of Jesus and thus blasphemous on a beer bottle. Sayej, a Christian, said it took him three months to persuade the authorities otherwise. There was also trouble in his home village of Bir Zeit, where he set up his brewery. Once predominantly Christian, the village has a growing Muslim population. At a recent Bir Zeit heritage festival, Shepherds decided to remove its booth after a local Muslim preacher railed against the brewery at the local mosque, saying it's "haram," or religiously forbidden. Sayej said he withdrew because he didn't want to disrupt community relations, but that Shepherds later staged its own festival in Bir Zeit.

Karadsheh's initial land deal for his brewery fell through because the owner didn't want to be linked to alcohol production. Karadsheh found another plot near Fuheis, a predominantly Christian community close to Amman. During construction, a tile layer walked off the job, feeling it was wrong to work in a brewery. Still, they managed to start brewing—Karadsheh in 2013, Haddad in 2014 and Sayej last year.

Middle Eastern flavors

All three feel passionate about what goes into their different styles of beers, including seasonal brews for the summer and for Christmas, as well as staples like blond ale,

wheat and stout beer. Karadsheh and his onsite brewer, Jordan Wambeke, hope to break into the US market with beers infused with distinctly Middle Eastern flavors, such as a coffee porter with a pinch of cardamom and a hint of date molasses.

"In general, people go to imports looking for something different, something they absolutely can't get locally, and something that is going to last the trip overseas," said Wambeke, 28, who is from Cody, Wyoming, and joined Carakale six months ago. The first shipment of about 7,000 liters is to leave the Fuheis brewery in the coming weeks for a warehouse in New Jersey, for further distribution along the East Coast, said Karadsheh.

Carakale will be competing with products from more than 4,500 craft beer breweries in the U.S., where two more microbreweries open each day, said Bart Watson, chief economist at the Brewers Association, which represents independent brewers. Watson said it's a challenge to break into the competitive US beer market, worth more than \$100 billion a year, but that consumption of craft beers and imports is growing. "Any company that can differentiate itself and offer something new has an opportunity," he said.

Sayej, who teamed up with younger brothers Khalid and Aziz—the company slogan is "brewed by brothers for friends"—also hopes to export. He said he has pre-orders from Italy, the UK, Sweden, Belgium and the US, but is waiting to install pasteurization equipment this fall. Pasteurization helps beer survive a long journey, he said. Sayej banks on the beer's origins for his marketing strategy. "We have the best ingredient in the world to distinguish us," he said jokingly. "It's Holy Land water." Veteran brewer Nadim Khoury, who launched Taybeh beer in the West Bank in 1994 and now makes 600,000 liters a year, takes pride in being the first to put Palestinians on the global beer map. "We don't have a country," Khoury said of decades of failed efforts to set up a Palestinian state. "But we have our own beer." Karadsheh wants the same for Jordan—to create the first internationally recognized Jordanian beer. — AP

6 KILLED IN YEMEN SUICIDE BOMBING

ADEN: Six soldiers were killed yesterday in a suicide bombing in a part of southern Yemen where jihadist groups are active, a security official said. A further 18 soldiers were wounded when the bomber drove an explosives-laden car into an army position in Abyan province, said the official. Jihadist groups including Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and the Islamic State group have carried out numerous attacks in the region.

Yemen's army is simultaneously fighting Houthi rebels who control the northern capital Sanaa and jihadist groups in the south. A Saudi-led Arab military coalition that backs the Yemeni government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi has also turned its sights on AQAP, targeting it with air strikes. The United States has carried out numerous drone strikes against AQAP operatives in Yemen.

AQAP and IS have escalated their attacks in recent months, notably in the southern port city of Aden. That is despite efforts by government forces to stabilize urban areas they have controlled since ousting Houthi forces from Aden last year. A suicide car bombing targeting young army recruits in Aden killed some 71 people on August 29. It was claimed by IS.

The Saudi-led coalition launched its military campaign in March 2015 as Houthi rebels closed in on Hadi in his refuge in Aden, forcing him into exile. Backed by the air power and ground support of the coalition, government forces pushed the rebels out of five southern provinces last summer. The conflict in Yemen has left 6,600 people dead since the Saudi-led intervention, according to the United Nations. — AFP

TURKEY SLIDING INTO REGIME OF TERROR: NOBEL-WINNER PAMUK

ROME: Nobel-winning Turkish writer Orhan Pamuk yesterday lashed the arrest of a leading journalist and warned Turkey was heading towards "a regime of terror." "In Turkey, we are progressively putting behind bars all people who take the liberty of voicing even the slightest criticism of the government," Pamuk said. The crackdown is being driven by "the most ferocious hatred," he added. "Freedom of thought no longer exists. We are distancing ourselves at high speed from a state of law and heading towards a regime of terror," Pamuk said bluntly.

His front-page opinion piece was published by La Repubblica newspaper a day after the dawn detention of prominent journalist Ahmet Altan and his brother Mehmet Altan, a renowned academic and economist. Pamuk, who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 2006, was a known critic of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan before the attempted coup against the Turkish strongman in July.

He called for all detained intellectuals to be released "as soon as possible" and to

stand trial on the basis of free individuals. Police arrested the two Altan brothers on Saturday as part of an investigation into the failed July 15 coup, the state-run Anadolu news agency reported. Ahmet Altan was for years a columnist with top dailies like Hurriyet and Milliyet before in 2007 founding the opposition daily Taraf. He resigned his post as Taraf editor-in-chief in 2012 and has also written several novels.

Mehmet Altan, an economist by training, is the author of several books on politics in Turkey. The Hurriyet daily said the Altan brothers were investigated over comments in a talk show on the Can Erzincan TV channel on July 14, on the eve of the coup. Erzincan is seen by the authorities as being staunchly in favor of US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen, whom they blame for the attempted putsch. The channel has since been shut down. Other arrests include veteran journalist and writer Nazli Illicak, who also appeared on the same talk show with the Altan brothers. The content of the talk show has not been publicized in Turkish media. — AFP



ISTANBUL: This file photo taken on February 2, 2015 shows Turkish Nobel laureate author Orhan Pamuk posing during an interview at his house. — AFP

TURKEY OUSTS 28 MAYORS OVER PKK OR GULEN LINKS

ISTANBUL: Turkey yesterday ousted 28 mayors accused of links to Kurdish militants or US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, replacing them with state-appointed trustees in a major shake-up under emergency powers after a failed coup. The mayors have been suspended from their posts on suspicion of links to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) which is waging a deadly insurgency in the southeast or Gulen, who is blamed for the July 15 failed coup, an interior ministry statement said.

They have been replaced by state-appointed trustees, similar to how administrators are appoint-

ed to head a company that goes into bankruptcy. Twenty-four of the outgoing mayors are accused of links to the PKK and four of links to Gulen, the ministry said.

The reclusive cleric denies charges of masterminding the coup. The move is the most important step yet taken by new Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu since he took over from Ekan Ala in a surprise reshuffle earlier this month.

Soylu said the move meant that local municipalities would no longer be controlled by "terrorists or those under instructions from Qandil", referring to

the PKK's mountain base in northern Iraq. The move was taken within the three-month state of emergency imposed after the coup. The incumbents had been elected in 2014 local polls.

The municipalities affected—mainly in the Kurdish-dominated southeast—include hugely important urban areas known as centers of PKK activity such as Sur and Silvan in the Diyarbakir region and Nusaybin in the Mardin region. The mayors of the cities of Batman and Hakkari in the southeast have also been replaced. The interior ministry said 12 of the mayors suspended are already under

arrest. The pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), whose regional politicians were among the chief targets of the move, denounced the reshuffle as a "coup".

In a statement, it said the move was reminiscent of the military takeover of 1980 and "ignored the will of the voters". But Justice Minister Bekir Bozdogan denied the authorities had ridden roughshod over democracy, accusing the suspended mayors of funneling revenues to "terror" groups. "Being elected does not grant a right to commit a crime," he wrote on Twitter. — AFP

SEYCHELLES OPPOSITION WIN PARLIAMENT VOTE

VICTORIA: The Seychelles opposition yesterday hailed its "historic" victory at parliamentary polls after gaining control of the Indian Ocean nation's parliament for the first time in more than two decades. Before the result was announced, President James Michel pledged to work with the newly elected legislature, which had been expected to slip from his party's control. "The results just announced by the electoral commission are historic for our country and I feel somewhat proud," said Roger Mancienne, head of the opposition coalition of the Seychellois Democratic Alliance (known by its Creole acronym LDS).

The LDS won 15 seats, with the Parti Lepep (meaning People's Party in the local Seychellois Creole language), which has been in power since 1977, taking the remaining 10. In percentage points it was a slim victory, with 48.37 percent for the LDS and 48.01 percent for Lepep. This means each party will also be allocated four parliamentary seats under an additional proportional system.

The National Assembly has a maximum 35 seats, 25 of them elected at the ballot box and the remainder attributed proportionally, with one seat for every 10 percent of the vote. The main opposition Seychelles National Party (SNP)

partnered with four smaller opposition parties-together known as The Seychellois Alliance and made up of former leaders from the dominant Parti Lepep-to strengthen its bid for power. In a recent sign of growing opposition popularity, the SNP's leader Wavel Ramkalawan came a close second in presidential elections in December 2015, losing to the incumbent James Michel by just 193 votes. It marked the first time a candidate from Lepep had been forced into a second round.

'Work for the common good'

As both head of state and government, the president will now have to

rule without a parliamentary majority. "My hope is that this spirit of consultation continues in the new National Assembly, where we all work together for the common good of our nation," said Michel. The results were announced in the early hours yesterday morning, and just a few scattered groups of opposition supporters took to the streets of the capital Victoria to celebrate the victory, an AFP journalist at the scene said.

The vote in the tourism-dependent archipelago nation of 115 islands took place over three days, ending Saturday. Voting began on the islands furthest away from the main island of Mahe, and

its capital Victoria. Mahe voted on Saturday, along with the two other main islands Praslin and La Digue. The three account for 98 percent of the Indian Ocean nation's 90,000 people. Turnout was 87 percent.

The SNP, which had refused to take part in the 2011 elections claiming they would not be fair, won 11 of the opposition's 15 seats. Lepep has maintained a majority in parliament since the return of multiparty politics in 1993. There is little political difference between the two, but the Parti Lepep claimed to offer a guarantee of economic stability while the SNP argued the ruling party suffered from an erosion of power. — AFP



SANTIAGO: In this Sept 5, 2016 photo, Violeta Zuniga, 83, performs Chile's national dance, called the cueca, wearing around her neck a photograph of her partner who disappeared during the country's military dictatorship, at a school. — AP

DANCING IN CHILE TO PROTEST DICTATORSHIP DISAPPEARANCES

SANTIAGO: Violeta Zuniga gets around with a cane because of her knee problems, but nothing can keep the 83-year-old from performing Chile's national dance to protest her partner's disappearance during the country's military dictatorship. The cueca dance is performed by couples during Chile's national holidays, a source of celebration and pride for many in the South American country. But Zuniga has danced alone for nearly 40 years to mourn and protest the forced disappearance of her partner, Pedro Silva Bustos, during Gen. Augusto Pinochet's 1973-1990 rule.

Zuniga is among the women British pop singer Sting told of in his 1987 protest song, "They Dance Alone." "Why are there women here dancing on their own?" Sting asked in the song. "Why is there this sadness in their eyes?" Sting invited Zuniga and other women from her group to dance on stage during an Amnesty International concert in Argentina in 1988. They also performed with singers Peter Gabriel and Sinéad O'Connor before more than 70,000 people in Chile's National Stadium in 1990.

Zuniga will dance alone to the cueca yesterday, the 43rd anniversary of the Sept. 11, 1973 bloody coup that brought Pinochet to power. She'll wear a picture of her partner around her neck and wave a white handkerchief embroidered with one word: "Justice." "You never want to give up

the search," Zuniga said of Silva Bustos, a mason and Communist Party member who was disappeared in 1976.

In all, 40,018 people were killed, tortured or imprisoned for political reasons. The government estimates that 3,095 were killed during Pinochet's dictatorship, including about 1,200 who were forcibly disappeared. The performance of the cueca by women without partners was first performed in public in 1978 to commemorate International Women's Day. The handkerchief, traditionally used in the courtship dance, has become a symbol of mourning for the women who continue to search for their disappeared loved ones.

Today, Zuniga lives alone but for her dog "Garzon," named after Spanish jurist Baltasar Garzon, who gained a global reputation for going after Pinochet in the 1990s. Pinochet died in 2006 under house arrest, never tried on charges of illegal enrichment and human rights violations. Just a handful of women are left in the folkloric dance group; most have died or retired.

But Zuniga keeps marching with the families of the disappeared in front of the presidential palace. Despite her aches and age, she is determined to dance until her last breath. "I'm here because we have to keep searching for truth," she said. "We have to keep searching for justice." — AP

CLINTON SEEKS TO RECOVER AFTER 'DEPLORABLE' GAFFE

CLINTON FENDING OFF OUTRAGE OVER REMARKS

WASHINGTON: Hillary Clinton seeks to recover yesterday from a major campaign blunder with just over two weeks to go before the first debate in her bitter battle with Donald Trump for the White House. Both the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates are set to be at a 9/11 ceremony in New York marking the 15th anniversary of the deadly terror strikes. Neither of them have scheduled campaign events for the day.

With less than two months to go before Election Day, and the race still tight, Clinton is fending off outrage over remarks made at a New York fundraiser late Friday in which she said many Trump supporters belong in a "basket of deplorables." "To be grossly generalistic, you could put half of Trump's supporters into what I call the basket of deplorables," Clinton told a crowd at the "LGBT for Hillary" gala. "The racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic - you name it. And unfortunately there are people like that."

She added that those people are "irredeemable, but thankfully they are not America." Trump on Saturday slammed the remarks as "INSULTING," "disgraceful," a "grotesque attack on American voters," and "the worst mistake of the political season." Trump's running mate Mike Pence, rhetorically addressing Clinton, said that these people "are Americans, and they deserve your respect." Clinton admitted in a statement that her remarks had been "grossly generalistic" - as she said at the time. "I regret saying 'half' - that was wrong," she said.

Clinton then listed a number of "deplorable" things about Trump, which include a campaign based "largely on prejudice and paranoia," attacking "a federal judge for his 'Mexican heritage,'" and bullying the family of a slain army soldier "because of their Muslim faith." Said Clinton: "I won't stop calling out bigotry and racist rhetoric in this campaign."

Clinton's '47 percent'?

Trump compared Clinton's remarks to Republican Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign gaffe, when he was caught saying that 47 percent of the people would vote for Barack Obama's re-election because they are "dependent upon government," and "believe that they are victims." "Hillary Clinton just had her 47% moment," Trump tweeted. "What a terrible thing she said about so many great Americans!"

Romney's remarks likely hurt him with independent voters, but it's unclear if Clinton's 'deplorable' gaffe will have such an impact. A Washington Post-ABC News poll out yesterday shows that 70 percent of the electorate has already decided who to vote for, and only 30 percent are undecided or could switch. Clinton leads Trump 46 percent to 41 percent lead among likely voters, according to the poll. The enthusiasm level however is low, especially for Clinton: 46 percent of Trump supporters say they are "very enthusiastic" about the real estate mag-

Questions over Trump foundation

In another potential scandal, The Washington Post reported that nearly all of the money in Trump's charity foundation comes from people other than Trump, but is often donated through the charity in Trump's name. An investigation into the 17 years of tax filings of The Donald J. Trump Foundation and more than 200 interviews concluded that Trump rarely gave money to his own charity. Tax records, according to the Post, show that the last gift from Trump to the foundation was in 2008.



NEW YORK: US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton arrives for a memorial service at the National 9/11 Memorial. — AFP

nate's candidacy, while only 33 percent of Clinton supporters are so excited.

Sixty-one percent of Trump supporters say they are following the campaign very closely, and 93 percent say they will definitely vote. Among Clinton supporters, that drops to 45 percent and 80 percent respectively. Clinton's "narrower advantage among likely voters, just beyond the poll's 4.5 percentage-point margin of error, could reflect weaker engagement among her supporters," according to the newspaper.

"In two cases, he has used money from his charity to buy himself a gift. In one of those cases - not previously reported - Trump spent \$20,000 of money earmarked for charitable purposes to buy a six-foot-tall painting of himself," the Post said. Trump Foundation money has also been used for political purposes, breaking US tax laws. Trump has refused to release his tax returns - which would show how much he gives in charity - though his campaign said that he "plans to release his tax returns upon completion of a routine audit." — AFP

CONSERVATIVE PUSH TO INDICT IRS CHIEF

WASHINGTON: A campaign-season drive by conservative House Republicans to impeach the IRS commissioner won't succeed. With solid Democratic opposition and resistance from many in the GOP, there simply aren't enough votes to oust John Koskinen from his post. Members of the conservative House Freedom Caucus are pushing it anyway, and it could come to a head over the next week or two. A look at the effort:

Q: Why do conservatives want to impeach Koskinen?

A: They accuse him of lying to Congress, not answering subpoenas and overseeing an agency that destroyed documents. They say those actions hindered the House GOP's long-running investigation of how the Internal Revenue Service unfairly treated tea party groups that sought tax exemptions several years ago, before Koskinen was with the agency. Two months to the election, going after Koskinen and the IRS is popular with many conservative voters, for whom the IRS has long been a dirty word. They've not forgiven its handling of tea party organizations. And Koskinen was appointed by President Barack Obama, another favorite conservative target.

Q: What do Koskinen and Democrats say?

A: They say the accusations are unfounded. While the IRS acknowledged it subjected tea party groups to unfairly harsh treatment, the Justice Department and the IRS inspector general found no evidence the agency was motivated by political bias, and it's not been proved that documents were purposely destroyed. Democrats say the effort is aimed at stirring up conservative votes and campaign donations. Koskinen's term runs until Nov. 12, 2017. He's said publicly he considers himself to serve at the pleasure of the president - which suggests he'd leave if a president asked.

Q: How does impeachment work?

A: Under the Constitution, Congress can remove officials for "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors." That last phrase is generally considered to reserve impeachment for the most serious offenses. The House needs a majority vote to impeach, or formally charge, an official. The Senate then holds a trial on whether to convict and remove the person from office, which requires a two-thirds majority.

Q: What do other Republicans think of impeaching Koskinen?

A: Not much. Congressional GOP leaders have shown little passion for it and noted it divides their own party. House Republicans meet this Thursday to discuss it. The reason for GOP discomfort: support impeachment and we could lose moderate voters who view impeachment as partisan and excessive and don't care much about Koskinen; oppose it and we could alienate conservatives. Why force that choice on ourselves two months before elections? "That sort of action would not be helpful at this point in the campaign," said Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., who heads Senate GOP campaign efforts. Some prefer to send the effort to the House Judiciary Committee - punting it until after the elections.

Q: Why don't House GOP leaders simply block the vote?

A: The proposal's sponsors introduced it under a procedure that requires a House vote within two days of calling it up on the House floor. Besides, Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., who's taken a neutral public stance, doesn't want to anger conservatives whose support he'll need to be re-elected to the speakership next January should the GOP retain House control. Some conservatives say they'll wait until after Thursday's GOP meeting before forcing a vote. Others say they could call it up Tuesday for a vote later in the week. — AP



PUEBLA: Activists march against the gay marriage proposals of Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto. — AFP

PROTESTS IN MEXICO AGAINST GAY MARRIAGE LEGALIZATION

MEXICO CITY: Thousands of people marched throughout Mexico Saturday to protest President Enrique Pena Nieto's initiative to legalize gay marriage. The National Front for the Family - a coalition of conservative religious groups-called for the protests, and is also planning a mass march for September 24 in Mexico City.

"Long live the family, in the image of the Virgin Mary, the baby Jesus and Saint Joseph," read one sign at the protest in the city of Puebla, the capital of a central Mexican state with a strong Catholic presence. "Papa + Mama = Happy Family," read another sign at that protest, where many of the protesters dressed in white and carried pink, blue and white-colored balloons.

Some 5,000 people marched in Veracruz, where some engaged in verbal clashes with gay rights counter-protesters. Thousands of people of various religious denominations also turned out to protest in the streets of the northern border city

Ciudad Juarez. In May Pena Nieto announced a constitutional reform that would legalize same-sex marriage across Mexico. Several other Latin American countries already allow such unions.

The announcement followed a Supreme Court ruling last year declaring that a ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. Currently only a handful of the country's 31 states and Mexico City allow such weddings. The National Front for the Family group strongly opposes same-sex couples adopting children, and also opposes teaching about homosexuality and transsexuality in school sex education classes. A gay rights advocacy group said that homophobia has surged in Mexico since Pena Nieto's proposal. The Citizen Commission against Homophobic Hate Crimes said at least 26 people from the LGBT community were killed so far this year. The group reported 44 anti-gay murders in 2015, down from 72 in 2014. — AFP

IN PEACE STEP, KIDS LEAVE REBEL CAMPS IN COLOMBIA

BOGOTA: Eight youths left FARC rebel camps in Colombia on Saturday, as the insurgents began relocating children and teenagers as part of a historic peace agreement, the Red Cross said Saturday. The government of President Juan Manuel Santos and the Marxist guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the country's largest rebel group, concluded a final peace accord last month to end a 52-year war. The hard-fought agreement took nearly four years of negotiations in Cuba.

As part of the agreement, both sides announced Tuesday the exit and transition plans for minors in FARC camps. It calls for the children to undergo a preliminary health examination and identification by the Red Cross and their transfer to a reception team from UNICEF, the UN children's fund. "ICRC medical personnel who are part of the humanitarian mission verified that the minors were healthy enough to be transferred," the Red Cross said.

Without giving specific details about the children or where the transfer took place, the organization said that "boys, girls and adolescents" began to be moved to a temporary reception area, where a UNICEF team would begin the process of integrating them into Colombian society. In February 2015, the FARC announced it was halting the recruitment of soldiers as young as 17 years old, and would raise the age to 18.

In May this year, the two sides announced the imminent departure of these minors from the camps, but the process foundered because of problems the rebel group saw with the plan's execution. "The number depends on each camp," Colombia's high commissioner for peace Sergio Jaramillo said Friday. "They are going to gradually leave the camps in different regions of the country. It's not going to be all at once - it is a process and this is the first phase."

Colombia's defense minister, Luis Carlos Villegas, said in May that about 170 minors had joined the FARC's ranks. At the time, the rebels had not indicated their own count of child soldiers. In the past 14 years, about 4,500 minors from rebel groups have been demobilized, with 65 percent of them belonging to the FARC, according to official data. The conflict with the FARC, which has drawn in various left- and right-wing rebel groups as well as criminal gangs over the decades, has killed 260,000 people and left 45,000 missing. Colombians are set to vote on ratification of the peace plan in an October 2 referendum. Recent public opinion polls have shown a solid majority supporting the agreement. — AFP

WOMAN CHARGED OVER FAILED JIHADIST ATTACK

PARIS: French anti-terror judges charged a woman Saturday over a failed jihadist attack near Paris's Notre Dame cathedral, where a car full of gas canisters was found last weekend. The mother of three, named as 29-year-old Ornella G, is one of several women detained in the past week on suspicion of planning new attacks in France, a country on high alert after a string of jihadist assaults in the past 18 months.

According to investigators, her fingerprints were found in the Peugeot car that was abandoned last yesterday a few hundred meters from Notre Dame in an area thronging with tourists. The car contained five gas cylinders, three bottles of diesel and a lit cigarette. Ornella G was remanded in custody after being charged with association with a terrorist group and attempted murder by an organized group, prosecutors said.

Known to authorities for previously planning to

go to Syria, she was arrested in southern France on Tuesday with her boyfriend, who has since been released. Three other women, named as 19-year-old Ines Madani, 23-year-old Sarah H and Amel S., 39, were detained on Thursday before they could carry out an attack, investigators said. The trio was looking at train stations in Paris and south of the capital as potential targets, as well as the police, according to sources close to the investigation. Madani, the daughter of the car's owner, had allegedly pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group. She was also known to authorities for seeking to travel to Syria. Ornella G told police that she and Madani tried to set the car alight but "fled when they saw a man they believed to be a plain-clothes policeman."

Jihadist fiancé

Investigators are seeking to determine whether Sarah H was with the pair at the time. She

was the fiancée of Larossi Abballa, a jihadist who knifed to death a senior policeman and his partner at their home in a Paris suburb in June before himself being shot dead. Sarah H had since become engaged to Adel Kermiche, one of two jihadists who killed an elderly priest in July near the northern city of Rouen and was subsequently killed by police.

Anti-terrorism prosecutor Francois Molins said Friday that the women were inspired by IS, which has called on its followers to attack France in revenge for air strikes on the group's bases in Syria and Iraq. "A terrorist cell made up of young women totally receptive to the deadly ideology of Daesh has been dismantled," Molins said at a news conference, using another name for IS.

The extremist group claimed responsibility for the Paris attacks in November that killed 130 people, among a series of recent assaults attributed to

its followers including the Nice truck attack. Security is a hot issue in early campaigning for next year's presidential elections. Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said that police had arrested 293 people this year for "links to terrorist networks." "This amounts to networks that have been dismantled and attacks that have been prevented," Cazeneuve said, giving no further details about the arrests. "We are involved in an extremely intense, round-the-clock mission to protect the French public, and we are getting results," Cazeneuve said.

He added that 17 foreigners had been expelled this year for posing a "serious threat to public order." The latest was a Russian national, Mansur Kudusov, who was extradited to Russia on Friday after being jailed for breaching house arrest. Kudusov's lawyer said he was a Chechen born in 1991 who had arrived in France as a child and had been placed under house arrest in 2012. — AFP

DEADLOCKED CROATIA HOLDS UNCERTAIN SNAP ELECTION

A GROWING CLIMATE OF INTOLERANCE

ZAGREB: Croatians were voting yesterday in a snap election whose outcome might prolong political uncertainty in the EU's newest member, which had shifted to the right under the previous conservative government. The election comes as the former Yugoslav republic faces economic struggles and at a time of strained ties between neighbors in the volatile Balkans, notably with former enemy Serbia.

At 0930 GMT, four-and-a-half hours after polling stations opened, turnout was nearly 19 percent, the electoral commission said. It was some three percentage points less than at the same time in the November elections. Some 3.8 million Croatians are eligible to cast ballots after a November election produced no absolute winner. Polling stations close at 1700 GMT.

A barely-functioning coalition government, led by the conservative HDZ party, took power

after that vote before collapsing in June over a conflict of interest scandal. The coalition's five-month rule was marked by a shift to the right amid a growing climate of intolerance, including attacks on independent media and minorities, notably ethnic Serbs. Authorities have appeared to turn a blind eye to the far-right surge, but it has sparked global concern and brought already frosty ties with Serbia to their lowest level since Croatia's 1990s independence war.

No absolute winner

Polls and analysts have given a slight lead to a coalition led by the main conservative Social Democrats (SDP) of former prime minister Zoran Milanovic, who was in power for four years until November. "SDP seems set to win but without an absolute majority" in the 151-seat parliament, political analyst Zarko Puhovski told AFP. The

likeliest outcome is a similar scenario to that of the previous vote-prolonged talks on forming a government and potentially another election.

HDZ is banking on staying in power with a new and more moderate leader, Andrej Plenkovic, who has pledged to move it away from populism and extremism. "I'm changing the HDZ... My mission is to position it in the centre-right," said the 46-year-old former member of the European Parliament. HDZ's former junior government partner—the "Most" party (meaning "Bridge" in Croatian) — is likely to play kingmaker once again. With Plenkovic's moderate agenda, HDZ could also count on the backing of minorities, notably Serbs, as well as Croatians living abroad, its traditional supporters.

Rival Milanovic, 49, has been stressing his experience as premier and has pledged a "government of progress and tolerance." However, he has sharpened his populist rhetoric after disappointing voters with scant reforms while in power. After voting in downtown Zagreb, Milanovic said he was expecting the results feeling the "most relaxed ever." "We showed that we are more competent, have more courage" to lead a new government, he told reporters.

Economic woes

But Marko Tomic, a 39-year-old administrator, said he backs HDZ due to its "conservative stance" adding that with Plenkovic "it has got the needed modern, European perspective." SDP is a "traditional choice" for Maja Markovic, but the 66-year-old pensioner warned that "Croatia is dealing too much with the past." "The economy should be our priority and how to keep young people here," she added.

Almost a year of political deadlock has blocked reforms badly needed in Croatia, which emerged from a six-year recession in 2015. The economy, relying largely on tourism along the country's Adriatic coast, remains one of the European Union's weakest despite some recent positive indicators attributed to membership of the bloc. The central bank has forecast growth of 2.3 percent this year. Unemployment stands at more than 13 percent, public debt has reached 85 percent of GDP, while the investment climate remains poor. — AFP



ZAGREB: Andre Plenkovic, leader of the conservative Croatian Democratic Union casts his ballot during voting in general elections. — AFP

OUST ANC: JOHANNESBURG MAYOR MAKES HIS MARK

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's biggest city Johannesburg is now run by a mayor who describes himself as an "unapologetic capitalist", after local elections that transformed the country's political landscape. For the first time since apartheid, the city's mayor is not from the African National Congress (ANC), but instead from the pro-business Democratic Alliance (DA) opposition party. And Herman Mashaba, a millionaire who made his fortune in black hair products, has set himself the ambitious goal of transforming South Africa's economic capital.

Mashaba, 56, was elected last month after the ANC failed to win an outright majority in the August municipal polls, and the DA and other smaller parties joined forces to wrestle it from power. The change of control in Johannesburg dealt a humiliating blow to the ANC, the celebrated anti-apartheid party once led by Nelson Mandela and which still holds power at national level. Speaking to AFP from his mayoral office in the bustling city centre, Mashaba pledged to run an investor friendly administration, and scrap the "socialist" policies of his predecessors. "The problem with the previous administration is that they created a culture of dependency," he said. "I am an unapologetic capitalist... I want people to take ownership of their lives."

Rapid rise

Mashaba only entered politics in 2014 when he joined the DA and began a rapid rise to power that has attracted criticism over his lack of experience in both politics and local government. "I know that the ANC would like us to fail," he said in his defense. "I have been called a political novice... people said to me I had no chance of becoming mayor of Johannesburg (but) here I am now, 15 days into this office."

Mashaba, who founded his hugely successful Black Like Me hair company in 1985, said he would draw on his years in business to improve lives in the city. "Local government is about everyday issues—water, electricity and housing. We need to get that right," he said. Johannesburg is home to major international companies and boasts the country's best infrastructure, including its first high-speed train. But about half of its five million people live in poverty, according to official data that defines poverty as households with a monthly income less than 2,300 rand (\$162).

Mashaba, who calls himself a "committed civil servant", has set himself a target of five percent annual economic growth in stark contrast to the national GDP rate predicted to be zero percent this year. And he admits that his survival

depends on the intricacies of dealing with other parties, including the revolutionary socialist Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF). But he said that strong economic growth was achievable, and that the EFF had committed to support the DA "for as long as we run an accountable government".

Mashaba belonged to no political party until two years ago, and says he voted for Mandela and the ANC in South Africa's first multi-racial elections in 1994 and later for Mandela's successor Thabo Mbeki. "In 1994 I was excited, I thought I was going to see an explosion of entrepreneurs coming out of South Africa," he said. "Today, people are unemployed, people are living in squalor, people are failed dismally by the ANC government which is self-serving."

DA dreams

The DA, which is widely seen as being dominated by middle-class whites, won 27 percent of the vote in the local elections and is keen to further broaden its appeal ahead of presidential elections in 2019. Mashaba's strong capitalist

message may threaten its attempts to appeal to the poor who rely on state support and often live in appalling conditions in apartheid-era townships without water or toilets. "It's no doubt that the poor should come first, that is a human rights issue," Mashaba, whose mother was a domestic worker, said.

"The problem with the previous city mayor was that he was more about style than substance. This city can be business friendly and pro-poor at the same time." Whatever the political approach, the lack of jobs is a national crisis facing all politicians in South Africa.

At least 25 percent of the adult population in Johannesburg is out of work. "By 2021, if unemployment in this city is still over 20 percent, then I expect people not to vote me back," Mashaba said in a typically bold pledge. His performance in Johannesburg could be a test case for the DA, which now also rules Cape Town, Pretoria and Port Elizabeth, and hopes to eventually topple the ANC from power. It is not a challenge that overawes him. "Come elections in 2019, the DA will be ruling this country," he said. — AFP



JOHANNESBURG: South African main opposition party Democratic Alliance newly elected Johannesburg Mayor Herman Mashaba gives an interview to Agence France-Presse on September 7, 2016 at his office. — AFP



BARCELONA: A girl with an Estelada (pro-independence Catalan flag) painted on her face smiles before a pro-independence demonstration during the National Day of Catalonia 'Diada'. — AFP

CATALAN SEPARATISTS TO HOLD MASS RALLY TO PUSH FOR BREAK FROM SPAIN

BARCELONA: Hundreds of thousands of Catalans were expected to rally yesterday to demand their region break away from Spain, as leaders of the pro-independence movement try to iron out differences over a secession plan. Over 340,000 people have signed up to join demonstrations for Barcelona and four other cities, scheduled to coincide with Catalonia's national day, "Diada." But the runup to the long-expected protest day has coincided with a rift between separatist parties just as they are supposed to launch steps to achieve independence for the wealthy northeastern region in mid-2017.

This year's Diada is crucial, the head of the regional government of Catalonia, Carles Puigdemont, said on the eve of the rallies. In the coming months, "decisions will have to be taken that ensure Catalonia can freely choose its path," he said. Catalan separatists have tried in vain for years to win approval from Spain's central government to hold an independence referendum like the one held in 2014 in Scotland in Britain which resulted in a "no" vote.

After winning a clear majority in Catalonia's regional parliament for the first time ever last year, secessionist parties changed tactics and approved a plan to achieve independence in mid-2017. But the plan ran into trouble in June when Puigdemont's coalition government lost the support of the tiny anti-capitalist party CUP which has a hard line on independence. As a result it lost its clear majority in the assembly. The pro-independence camp hopes yesterday's mass protest will reunite and breathe new life into the independence drive, which is moving along more slowly than many of its supporters would like. Since 2012, major demonstrations in favor of independence have been held in Catalonia every year on its national day on September 11. The date marks the conquest of Barcelona by Spain's King Philip V in 1714 after a 13-month siege and the loss of Catalan autonomy. In 2013, hundreds of thousands of Catalans draped in blue, red and yellow separatist banners

held hands in a 400-kilometre human chain across the region while in 2014 and 2015 demonstrators held massive rallies in Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia.

'Chronic immobilism'

The demonstration this year will be held in the southern city of Tarragona, in Berga in the centre, Salt in the north and Lleida in the east as well as Barcelona. At 17:14 (1514 GMT), protestors will hold up yellow cardboard signs to simulate the beating of giant heart. Among those scheduled to attend are separatist leaders Puigdemont, his vice president, Oriol Junqueras and also Barcelona's popular mayor, Ada Colau, who is ambiguous about independence, her far-left allies, Podemos, are the only large national party which backs a referendum but campaigns against independence.

Colau criticised the "chronic immobilism" of the acting conservative government of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy when it comes to addressing Catalonia's concerns. Catalans have nurtured a separate identity for centuries, but an independence movement surged recently as many became disillusioned with limitations on the autonomy they gained in the late 1970s after the Francisco Franco dictatorship, which had suppressed Catalan nationalism.

Spain's recent economic downturn exacerbated the situation, leaving many resenting the amount of taxes they pay to the central government in Madrid to subsidize poorer regions. The central government is unlikely to address these concerns any time soon. Spain has been without a fully functioning government following two inconclusive general elections in December and June. Puigdemont faces a confidence vote in the parliament on September 28, just weeks after the planned demonstrations across the region seen as a test of the unity of the separatist drive. The CUP is willing to back his government again, most likely if he agrees to call an independence referendum in 2017. — AFP

EU LEADERS PUSH SECURITY IN POST-BREXIT RE-LAUNCH

BRUSSELS: EU leaders will try to reboot the struggling bloc this week, focusing on security and defense to provide a new sense of purpose after the Brexit vote revealed deep fears over globalization, terrorism and migration. European Commission head Jean-Claude Juncker is first expected to rally the troops on Wednesday in his annual State of the Union address, restating his conviction that Europe alone can provide the answers. European Union leaders, 27 without Britain, then meet in the Slovak capital Bratislava on Friday to plot a new course with security concerns top of the agenda, according to EU council president Donald Tusk.

"I have no doubt that the three main challenges are uncontrolled irregular migration, terrorism and the fears of globalization," Tusk said in Stockholm Friday as part of a tour of European capitals before the summit. "The union and its member states must demonstrate our strong determination and ability to address the major concerns and worries of its citizens," he said. "For me it is clear that our first priority must be to secure our external borders," he added.

'Detached from reality'

Britain's shock June 23 vote to leave

the EU has plunged the bloc into crisis. The EU has been on the defensive since the 2008 global financial crash threw millions out of work and tough austerity policies undercut its key claim that it alone can guarantee a better economic future for its 500 million citizens. A newly assertive Russia took advantage in Ukraine while turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa sent migrants flooding into southern Europe, straining the bloc's much vaunted solidarity to the limit.

Adding to the sense of chaos, deadly Islamic State group claimed attacks in France and Belgium left people asking how the jihadis could strike at the very heart of Europe with such apparent ease. Against this backdrop, there can be "no taboos" in discussing the EU's future, Tusk said, adding: "Bratislava needs to show that the political elites in Europe are not detached from reality." Brexit itself is however off the summit menu, with EU leaders first waiting for British Prime Minister Theresa May to say what she wants out of the new relationship. Defense will also be a key theme with France and Germany expected to push a plan to enhance cooperation across the bloc, while falling short of the "EU army" that some eastern states have called for. — AFP



TONGI: Bangladeshi people and firefighters work to put out a fire at a packaging factory in the Tongi industrial area. — AP

BANGLADESH STRUGGLES TO SEARCH FACTORY AFTER FIRE

DHAKA: Bangladesh firefighters were struggling Sunday to search a packaging factory following a major blaze that killed 25 people amid fears more bodies could still be inside the destroyed building. Around 100 people were working at the factory on Saturday when the fire caused by an explosion in the boiler room tore through the four-storey structure on the outskirts of the capital Dhaka.

Senior firefighting official Anis Mahmud said his workers toiled through the night to douse the blaze but the structure was still too dangerous to enter properly to search through the debris. "The building is still standing on its skeleton but most of the walls have collapsed. There are small pits of fire inside therefore we have not managed to go in," Mahmud told AFP.

Some 70 people were also injured, some critically, in the blaze at the Tampaco Foils Limited factory, which packages food and cigarette products for local and foreign brands. Another firefighter said he feared more bodies were still inside the factory in the industrial town of Tongi. "There might be more bodies underneath the rubble as many people were working inside during the accident," he told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The blaze is the latest in a series of deadly accidents to hit impoverished

Bangladesh, whose \$27-billion garment industry is the world's second largest behind China's. The accident is the worst since the collapse of the Rana Plaza garment complex in 2013 that killed more than 1,100 people in one of the world's worst industrial disasters.

That tragedy triggered international outrage and successfully put pressure on US and European clothing brands to improve deplorable safety conditions at the factories that supply them. Bangladesh factory inspector general Syed Ahmed said an investigation would occur into the cause of Saturday's accident. "We will find out the responsible people behind this disaster and will take all necessary and legal actions," Ahmed told AFP.

According to the company's website, the packaging factory supplies multinational and domestic brands including British-American Tobacco Bangladesh Limited and Nestle Bangladesh Limited. Labor rights groups urged the Bangladesh government and Western companies to work harder to protect the safety of workers in their supply chains. "The boiler explosion and resulting fire ... demonstrates the ongoing dangers to industrial workers in that country," a statement from a consortium of groups, including the International Labor Rights Forum, said. — AFP



DHAKA: Police and medical staff carry a suspected wounded militant on a stretcher for treatment at a hospital. — AFP

MILITANT SUSPECTED IN BANGLADESH CAFE ATTACK KILLED HIMSELF: POLICE

DHAKA: A suspected militant believed by Bangladesh police to have been among the planners of a July cafe attack that killed 22 people killed himself during a police raid on a hideout in the capital, police said yesterday. The July attack in Dhaka's diplomatic quarter was claimed by the jihadist group Islamic State and was one of the most brazen in Bangladesh, hit by a spate of killings of liberals and members of religious minorities in the past year.

The government has pinned the blame on domestic militant groups, but security experts say the scale and sophistication of the incident suggest links to a trans-national Islamist network. National police chief Shahidul Hoque said the dead man, Shamshe Hossain, was suspected to be one of the planners of the cafe attack, and to have rented a flat for the militants who carried it out. "He killed himself inside the flat so that we can't collect information from him through interrogation," another official, Sanwar Hossain, told reporters yesterday. An autopsy report confirmed that the militant committed suicide by slitting his throat, doctors said yesterday. Police had earlier said they shot the man during

Saturday's raid on the hideout. Three women who were wounded and arrested in the raid also tried to kill themselves, Hossain added. Five officers from the police counter-terrorism unit were wounded when women militants attacked them with chili powder, explosives and knives, police have said.

One of the women could have been the wife of a man killed last week in a shootout with police and believed to have trained the cafe attackers, police said. Police have killed more than two dozen suspected militants in shootouts since the July attack, including its presumed mastermind, Bangladesh-born Canadian citizen Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury.

The United States believes elements of Islamic State are "connected" to operatives in Bangladesh, US Secretary of State John Kerry said during a visit to Dhaka last month. The targeting of foreigners - nine Italians, seven Japanese, an American and an Indian were among those killed - could hurt foreign investment in the poor South Asian economy, whose \$28-billion garments export industry is the world's second largest. — Reuters

PAKISTAN POLIO OFFICIAL SHOT DEAD IN PESHAWAR

PESHAWAR: Gunmen on a motorbike shot dead a senior member of the country's polio eradication campaign in northwest Pakistan, police said Sunday, in the latest attack on immunization teams by extremists. Attempts to eradicate polio in Pakistan have been hit by militant attacks on inoculation teams that have claimed more than 100 lives since December 2012.

Doctor Zakauallah Khan, a seasoned member of Peshawar's polio vaccination campaign near the country's restive tribal belt, was killed late Saturday when gunmen on a motorbike opened fire near his house, a senior police official told AFP. Imtiaz Ahmad, a provincial spokesman for the immunization campaign, also confirmed the killing. A faction of the Pakistani Taliban, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, on Sunday claimed responsibility for the

attack. In a statement, sent to AFP, the group's spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan vowed to carry out more attacks.

Islamist opposition to all forms of inoculation grew after the CIA organized a fake vaccination drive to help track down Al-Qaeda's former leader Osama Bin Laden in the Pakistani garrison town of Abbottabad. He was killed there by US forces in 2011.

Despite the attacks, Pakistan hopes to be removed from the list of polio-endemic countries by 2018 by achieving its goal of no fresh cases for a year. Pakistan is one of only two countries in the world where polio, a crippling childhood disease, remains endemic. In April gunmen shot dead seven policemen guarding a polio vaccination team in Pakistan's southern port city Karachi. — AFP

KASHMIRI POLICE FACE PUBLIC WRATH AMID REBEL UPRISING

POLICE CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF FAMILY AND GOVT

SRINAGAR: Before the crack of dawn and before the protesters hit the streets to resume demands India leave Kashmir, he dressed like an ordinary man and made sure not to carry anything identifying him as police. He joined six passengers in a shared taxi outside his village in a lush pine forest near the militarized boundary that divides the Himalayan region between India and Pakistan. A young woman asked if he was a policeman, warning that it could mean trouble for all of them if he was found out by the anti-India protesters who regularly check IDs at highway road-blocks.

"I couldn't lie," the officer said. He managed to convince them he could pass undetected. "But deep down I was shattered, and scared, given how hard it is to hide one's identity in this place." As Kashmir enters a third month of tense conflict marked by violent street clashes and almost daily protests, Indian government troops backed by local police are maintaining a tight security lockdown throughout the region.

That's left the local Kashmiri police, tasked with patrolling the streets, gathering intelligence and profiling anti-India activists, feeling demoralized, afraid and caught in the middle between the Indian authorities who employ them and the friends and neighbors who question their loyalties. The plainclothes officer in the taxi - one of 12 police officials who spoke with the Associated Press on condition of anonymity for fear of both public reprisal and official retribution - managed to avoid detection until he reached his precinct in the main city of Srinagar. But a few days later, he said, his colleague wasn't so lucky. He was slapped and beaten, his clothing torn, at one of the protesters' ad-hoc checkpoints, "let go only after some elders intervened."

Suspicion by locals

Many of Kashmir's 100,000 or so police officers say they are facing increasing suspicion by locals since the July 8 killing of charismatic rebel leader Burhan Wani by Indian government forces sparked the latest unrest. An ongoing curfew, a series of communication blackouts and the deployment of tens of thousands of Indian soldiers has so far failed to stop the protests against Indian rule. More than 70 civilians have been killed and thousands wounded, mostly by government forces firing bullets and shotgun pellets. Two local policemen have also been killed and hundreds other injured during the clashes. In recent weeks, Kashmir's separatist leaders have begun calling the police out - naming individuals as having betrayed the Kashmiri community. When one officer was publicly accused of firing a shotgun at a protest rally last month, his family showed up at the home of separatist leader Syed Ali Geelani and pleaded for forgiveness. The family of another officer accused of fatally shooting a protester fled their Srinagar home after it was covered with graffiti reading "Killer" along with the officer's name. Police stations are being attacked with stones and gasoline bombs. At least a dozen stations have been damaged, including four burnt down. Officers' families are facing harassment including public jeering and verbal abuse. "We get panic calls from our families about our well-being," said a senior police official who commands some 4,000 officers in the region. "The situation is quite grim, and we're caught between the devil and the deep sea. It takes a lot of effort to keep my men motivated." More than 20 have seen their own sons detained for participating in anti-India protests, according to a senior officer who said he facilitat-

ed their release. "Orders flow from the top, from Indian officers who have no stakes here," the officer said. "We're just earning a living. We are hostages to our livelihood." For some, the stress of being in a position deemed traitorous has proven to be too much. At least two counterinsurgency cops have resigned in recent weeks. One of them, Waseem Ahmed, said he was afraid for his family in the southern town of Sopore after local protesters had gathered outside their home. A video showing Ahmed apologizing to the crowd and chanting the slogan "We want freedom" along with them has gone viral.

The discomfort Kashmiri police face in their work has existed to some extent since the late 1940s, when India and Pakistan won independence from the British empire and began fighting over rival claims to the Muslim-majority region. Many Kashmiris on the India-controlled side see local police as tools of an Indian government bent on suppressing a widespread public demand for the region's independence or merger with neighboring Pakistan.

highly militarized and remote mountain regions near the de-facto border with Pakistan. The dreaded force has been widely accused by Kashmiris and human rights groups of some of the worst violations reported during the last two decades of conflict, from summary executions, torture and rape to holding suspects as well as civilians for ransom.

Still, the legacy of the Special Operations Group is something Kashmiris find hard to forgive. And deep grudges have turned into open hostilities, especially during public uprisings against Indian rule. "They are traitors and suppress their own brethren to win rewards and promotions from their masters," said a civilian man who would only give his middle name, Nabi, for fear of police reprisals. "The police have turned into India's cutting-edge weapon against Kashmiris. They are their eyes and ears on the ground." Meanwhile, the size of Kashmir's police department has swelled from just 18,000 officials in early 1990s to more than 100,000 today. And despite public suspicion, many eagerly joined for



SRINAGAR: In this Aug 12, 2016, file photo, Indian policemen stand guard during a curfew. — AP

Political movements

In the 1950s and 60s, police routinely detained people for listening to Radio Pakistan. Later, they worked to scuttle anti-India political movements and break up armed rebellions by infiltrating their ranks and locking up agitators. When the latest armed insurgency erupted in 1989, police initially fought against it. Within a few years, as rebels began targeting their families, many abandoned the task and stayed at their posts and barracks. Some also began sympathizing with and supporting the rebel demands as the campaign morphed into a full-fledged rebellion backed by massive public support. Dozens even joined the rebel ranks, rising to become militant commanders including one of Wani's close lieutenants - former police constable Naseer Pandit, killed in a gunbattle in April. The Indian army deployed a special contingent along with tanks to Srinagar in 1993 to quash a so-called "police mutiny," ending with the arrest of hundreds of officers.

But two years later, India formed a new counterinsurgency police called the Special Operations Group, drawing most of its members from among Kashmiri police officials from the

the steady paycheck in a region beset by high unemployment. The police force says it is carrying out its duties and working to keep Kashmir safe. That has included launching raids in residential neighborhoods in hunting down rebels, ransacking homes and even beating protesters who are out of line. The harassment "doesn't deter us from doing our job," said the region's top officer, Syed Javaid Mujtaba Gillani. "We'll do what we have to do." Some say their job is to keep the situation from getting worse, and to keep more protesters from getting killed.

"We act as a buffer. Otherwise these (paramilitary) men will end up shooting dozens in an average protest," one officer said, pointing to Indian soldiers on patrol in front of a shuttered storefront painted with the words "Go India, Go Back." But another working beside him last week, enforcing a nighttime curfew in Srinagar, said that no matter what good they do, they are still being exploited by India and punished at home. "A police job means pitting one Kashmiri against another," said another policeman. "At the end of the day, a Kashmiri policeman is also a hostage of the occupation." — AP

3 PEOPLE ON FISHING BOAT KIDNAPPED OFF MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR: Three crew members on a Malaysian fishing trawler have been kidnapped in waters where militants from the Abu Sayyaf group have previously taken hostages, a security official said yesterday. The incident is believed to have occurred late Saturday off Pom Pom Island, a popular scuba diving location in the eastern state of Sabah. "The boat is Malaysian registered," Wan Abdul Bari Abdul Khalid, head of Malaysia's Eastern Sabah Security Command, told AFP, without providing further details.

Authorities did not directly link the kidnapping to the Abu Sayyaf but Deputy Prime Minister Zahid Hamidi said a "kidnap-for-ransom" group was responsible. "The kidnap-for-ransom group operates near the

southern Philippines, near Malaysian islands, and although the authorities monitor the waters closely, this group moves under the radar," he was quoted as saying by the New Straits Times. Zahid added that the three people kidnapped were not Malaysian citizens but permanent residents.

In May, the Abu Sayyaf released 14 Indonesian sailors who had been kidnapped in two high-seas raids, attacks that prompted Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines to launch joint patrols. In July, Malaysian police said five Malaysian tugboat crew were abducted by Abu Sayyaf off the coast of Sabah. The Abu Sayyaf is a loose network of a few hundred Islamist militants, formed in the 1990s with seed money from Osama bin

Laden's Al-Qaeda network that has earned millions of dollars from kidnappings-for-ransom.

Although its leaders have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group, analysts say they are mainly focused on lucrative kidnappings. In April and June the group beheaded two Canadian tourists after ransom demands were not met, and a Malaysian man was beheaded last year.

Malaysian security forces in Sabah have been on high alert and on the lookout for militants fleeing the southern Philippines after Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the military in August to ramp up its offensive against the extremist group. — AFP



LAHORE: A vendor feeds their sheep while people visit a small cattle market set up for the upcoming Muslim holiday of Eid Al-Adha. — AP

N KOREA: FLOODS DAMAGED THOUSANDS OF BUILDINGS

SEOUL: Floods have damaged tens of thousands of buildings in northeastern North Korea after the worst downpour there for decades, state media said yesterday, urging all soldiers and civilians to join a drive to help victims. The report on the official KCNA news agency gave no death toll or exact figure for damage. A UN report last week, citing Pyongyang government data, said 60 people had been killed and over 44,000 were homeless along the Tumen River, which partially marks the border with China and Russia.

"Tens of thousands" of homes and public buildings had collapsed and railways, roads, power supplies, factories and farmland had been destroyed or submerged, according to yesterday's report, citing the central committee of the ruling Workers' Party. People in North Hamgyong province were suffering "great hardship", it added. The main thrust of an

ongoing nationwide 200-day mass mobilization campaign aimed at boosting the economy would be redirected to helping flood victims, it quoted the central committee as saying.

The objective was to "direct all efforts to the construction of dwelling houses to provide flood-hit people with warm cradles and turn the flood-battered region into a fairyland in the era of the Workers' Party within this year." The mobilization campaigns have been condemned by Human Rights Watch as exercises in forced labor using political coercion to extract economic gain. But the state news agency, in a report later yesterday, said the response had been impressive.

"All the people of the DPRK (North Korea) have turned out in a struggle for reconstruction of disaster areas in the northern part of North Hamgyong province recently hit hard by stormy heavy rainfalls,"

it said. Many construction units including soldier-builders and shock brigade members were rapidly moving into the disaster areas from other construction sites where they had been waging the 200-day campaign.

Vulnerable to disasters

Officials and employees of the government, industrial establishments and cooperative organizations nationwide had "zealously" volunteered to take part in the flood damage rehabilitation drive. "The railway transport sector is now striving to ensure the fast transport of building materials and equipment as well as groups of builders to the flood-hit areas," KCNA said.

Impoverished North Korea is vulnerable to natural disasters, especially floods. At least 169 people were killed by a massive rainstorm in the summer of

2012. Its territory is largely composed of mountains and hills that have long been stripped bare for fuel or turned into terraced rice fields. This allows rainwater to flow downhill unchecked.

A series of floods and droughts was partially responsible for a famine that killed hundreds of thousands between 1994-98, with economic mismanagement and the loss of Soviet support exacerbating the situation.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization said in April that North Korea's chronic food shortages were expected to worsen this year, given the tight food supplies last year and this year when "most households were already estimated to have poor or borderline food consumption levels". The United Nations Security Council is planning fresh sanctions on the nation after it staged its fifth nuclear weapons test Friday. — AFP

BULLETS TRUMP REHAB: ASIA FAILING IN ITS WAR ON DRUGS

INDONESIA DECLARES 'NARCOTICS EMERGENCY'

BANGKOK/YANGON: The Philippines has launched a bloody "war on drugs" that has killed at least 2,400 people in just two months, while neighboring Indonesia has declared a "narcotics emergency" and resumed executing drug convicts after a long hiatus. In Thailand and Myanmar, petty drug users are being sentenced to long jail terms in prisons already bursting at the seams.

The soaring popularity of methamphetamine - a cheap and highly addictive drug also known as meth - is driving countries across Asia to adopt hardline anti-narcotics policies. Experts say they are likely to only make things worse. Geoff Monaghan has seen it all before. He investigated narco-trafficking gangs during his 30-year career as a detective with London's Metropolitan Police, then witnessed the impact of draconian anti-drug policies as an HIV/AIDS

was North America, where the booming trade inspired the popular television series "Breaking Bad". Meth was the "primary drug of concern" in nine Asian countries, the UNODC said, including Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Japan and South Korea.

Playing catch-up

A rising chorus of experts blame this surge in production and use of meth in Asia on ineffective and even counterproductive government responses. They say national drug-control policies are skewed towards harsh measures that criminalize users but have failed to staunch the deluge of drugs or catch the kingpins behind it. They also want a greater emphasis on reducing demand through more and better quality drug rehabilitation. "There is so much scaremongering and hysteria surrounding the issue of drugs,"

along the Mekong River for distribution throughout Southeast Asia and China.

Meth is sold in cheap pills called "ya ba", a Thai name meaning "crazy medicine", or in a more potent, crystalline form known as "crystal meth", "ice" or "shabu". Contraband is effectively hidden amid rising volumes of regional trade, leaving law enforcement to play catch-up, said Jeremy Douglas, the UNODC's Asia Pacific chief. "We need to start thinking about big-time regional engagement, up to the highest level. It's impossible to deal with the problem on a country-by-country basis," he said. "I can't recall the last time a major trafficking kingpin was caught."

Social cost

The meth explosion carries huge social consequences: Overburdened health services, overcrowded prisons, families and communities torn apart. Small-time users and dealers bear the brunt of unsparing law enforcement that is popular in crime-weary communities. In mid-July, as drug war killings escalated in the Philippines, one survey put President Duterte's approval rating at 91 percent.

Thailand launched an equally popular "war on drugs" in 2003 that killed about 2,800 people in three months. But figures show it had no lasting impact on meth supply or demand in Thailand. "The world has lost the war on drugs, not only Thailand," the country's justice minister Paiboon Koomchaya told Reuters in July. Paiboon hinted at a radical shift in policy, saying he wanted to reclassify meth to reduce sentences for possessing and dealing the drug. For now though, Thailand continues to jail thousands of petty drug users, with about 70 percent of its 300,000 or so prisoners jailed on drugs offences, according to government data.

Tough to treat

Meth addiction is tough to treat, ideally requiring costly and time-consuming counseling. Long-term use can cause changes in brain structure and function. In March, US President Barack Obama said drug dependency should be seen as "a public health problem and not a criminal problem", part of a bid to roll back a "war on drugs" begun in the 1970s and now widely seen as a failure. Policy in Asia is largely moving in the opposite direction, with drug rehabilitation underfunded and inadequate. Less than 1 percent of dependent drug users in Indonesia got treatment in 2014, said the UNODC. Lacking alternatives, desperate Indonesians resort to herbal baths, Islamic prayer and other remedies of unproven efficacy. "Rehab" in many countries often means detention at a state facility. In Thailand, thousands of users are held at army camps for four months. Relapse rates at drug detention centres range from 60-90 percent, says the World Health Organisation. — Reuters



PAJU: South Korean army's armored vehicles conduct an annual exercise near the border with North Korea. — AFP

US MUST RECOGNIZE N KOREA AS NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATE: KCNA

SEOUL: A defiant North Korea yesterday restated its demand for recognition as a "legitimate" nuclear-armed state, as world powers pondered ways to punish Pyongyang for its latest and largest atomic test. The North also vowed to increase its nuclear strike force "in quality and in quantity", two days after its fifth test in a decade sparked international condemnation and moves for tougher UN sanctions. In Japan, a visiting senior US envoy said Washington and Tokyo were seeking "the strongest possible" measures in response.

North Korea insists that its missile and nuclear tests are necessary to counter what it says is a US nuclear threat to its independence. A statement yesterday from a foreign ministry spokesman in Pyongyang mocked President Barack Obama's "totally bankrupt" policy on the country. "Obama is trying hard to deny the DPRK's (North Korea's) strategic position as a legitimate nuclear weapons state but it is as foolish an act as trying to eclipse the sun with a palm," said the statement quoted by the official KCNA news agency. Friday's test came only eight months after the previous one and was almost twice as powerful, at an estimated 10 kilotons. Most worryingly for the international community, the North claimed it had been a miniaturized warhead that could be mounted on a missile. The UN Security Council agreed Friday to start work on new measures-even though five sets of UN sanctions since the first nuclear test in 2006 have failed to halt the North's nuclear drive. Sung Kim, the US State Department's special representative for North Korea policy, said Washington and Tokyo would work closely in the Security Council and beyond "to come up with the strongest possible measure against North Korea's latest action". He also suggested the US may launch its own unilateral sanctions in response to "the provocative and unacceptable behaviour by the North Koreans".

Retaliation

KCNA insisted yesterday that North Koreans were delighted by Friday's detonation. "The test demonstrated the dignity of the country guided by the iron-willed commander as well as the strength of the Korean people," scientist Choe Kwang-Ho was quoted as saying. The government in Seoul will take "all diplomatic and military efforts to counter North Korea's continued provocation", senior presidential secretary for foreign affairs Kim Kyou-Hyun told reporters yesterday.

Referring to Friday's phone conversation between President Park Geun-Hye and Obama, he said the United States had vowed to defend Seoul using "all means available"-including the nuclear umbrella and conventional forces. The South's military has said it would launch a retaliatory strike at Pyongyang's military leadership if it deemed the country was under nuclear threat.

Dubbed the Korea Massive Punishment and Retaliation system, the countermeasure would "directly target" key North Korean sites-including its war command post-if any sign of a nuclear attack was detected. "We will deploy strike forces with precision-guided missiles and elite special forces," Leem Ho-Young, chief director of strategic planning at Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters Friday.

The South has no atomic weapons of its own and shelters under the nuclear "umbrella" of its US ally, which stations 28,500 troops in South Korea. But there are growing voices calling for the South to have its own nuclear weapons, despite government opposition. A group of ruling Saenuri Party lawmakers, whose membership is now 24 and growing, was launched last month to push for the country to start preparations for its own nuclear development. — AFP



JAKARTA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, right, walks with his Indonesian counterpart Joko Widodo as school children in traditional dress wave the national flags of the two countries during a welcome ceremony at Merdeka Palace. — AP

expert in Russia. "We have plenty of data but often we forget the history," said Monaghan. "That's the problem."

He believes President Rodrigo Duterte's anti-drugs campaign in the Philippines will fuel more violence and entrench rather than uproot trafficking networks. "I'm very fearful about the situation," he said. Reflecting the regional explosion in use, the amount of meth seized in East and Southeast Asia almost quadrupled from about 11 tons in 2009 to 42 tons in 2013, said the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The only region seizing more meth

says Gloria Lai of the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), a global network of 154 non-governmental groups. "That's a disincentive for challenging old ways of thinking."

Meth is a transnational business, worth around \$15 billion in mainland Southeast Asia alone in 2013, the UNODC says. Much of the production takes place in laboratories in lawless western Myanmar. Ingredients such as pseudoephedrine and caffeine are smuggled across porous borders from India, China and Vietnam. Laos and Thailand are major trafficking routes, with the finished product travelling by road or

MAN CHARGED WITH AUSTRALIA ATTACK WAS 'INSPIRED BY IS'

SYDNEY: A man "inspired by" the Islamic state group was yesterday charged with committing an act of terror over a stabbing attack that Australian police called the "new face of terrorism". The alleged stabbing by the 22-year-old in Sydney came two days after a teenage boy was charged with making threats at the Sydney Opera House, and both incidents followed an IS call to target high-profile Australian sites.

The man, named in local media as Ihsas Khan, was charged with committing a terrorist act and attempted murder after the alleged attack on a 59-year-old man in the southwest Sydney suburb of Minto yesterday. "We know that this person has strong extremist beliefs inspired by ISIS (Islamic State)," New South Wales state police Deputy Commissioner Catherine Burn told reporters in Sydney, adding that investigators had seized a "large knife".

Federal Attorney-General George Brandis said investigators established the alleged IS link after seizing material related to the militant group, without giving further details. The stabbing left the victim, who police believe did not know his attacker, with serious wounds to his hands and body. He remains in hospital in a serious condition. Burn said that when police were called to a road in Minto where the victim was, the young man allegedly tried to stab officers through a window. "What made him actually act yesterday, we don't know. But hopefully, our further investigations will uncover that. It was deliberate. It was violent," she added. "There was clearly some planning and preparation... we will allege down the track that he was going to

attack (police) also," she said. Brandis told reporters in Brisbane yesterday that the victim could have died if locals had not rushed to help him after he was stabbed, saying they "acted heroically".

'Real' threat

The attacker-who was refused bail after a court appearance yesterday-was not believed to be connected to any terrorist groups known to police, Burn said, but stressed that the type of threat he posed was a new challenge to authorities. "This is the new face of terrorism. This is the new face of what we deal with," Burn said. "There is an individual who, known to police for some matters, decides or for whatever reason, becomes inspired to act; they are able to get some basic capability and act." The case is due to be heard again in a Sydney court Wednesday.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull last week said the threat of a terror attack in the nation was "real" after IS' call to followers to target prominent Australian locations. He added yesterday it was not yet known if the Minto incident had been inspired by the IS call, but said there were no plans at this stage to raise the terror threat level, which is currently at "probable". Officials had said they have stopped 10 terror attacks in Australia in the past two years. Canberra is set to table two new counter-terrorism bills in parliament this week. They involve the options of keeping high-risk jihadists in detention beyond the completion of their sentences, and lowering the age threshold to 14 for control orders that aim to prevent an attack by limiting a person's activities. — AFP

BRIDGE TO NOWHERE SHOWS CHINA'S FAILED EFFORTS TO ENGAGE N KOREA

DANDONG: Towering above the murky waters, the New Yalu River Bridge was supposed to symbolize a new era in relations between China and North Korea, helping bring investment to landmark free trade zones jointly run with the impoverished and isolated state. Costing 2.2 billion yuan (\$330 million) and partially completed last year, the dual-carriageway bridge today sits abandoned, the impressive border post on the Chinese side deserted and locked, not a soul to be seen. On the North Korean side the unfinished bridge ends abruptly in a field, with little sign of infrastructure work happening. Launched with great fanfare at a five-star Beijing hotel in 2012, the free trade zones close to the Chinese border city of Dandong were meant to be part of China's efforts to coax its erstwhile diplomatic ally into cautious, export-oriented economic reforms, rather than sabre rattling and nuclear tests. China's anger at North Korea for carrying out its fifth and biggest nuclear test last week means the bridge looks unlikely to open any time soon, especially as Pyongyang is already under wide-ranging UN sanctions China has promised to uphold.

The lonely streets of the Dandong New Zone stand testimony to the failure of those engagement efforts. Apartment complexes with fancy names like "Singapore City" lie bare or half-finished, and shopping malls empty or at very low capacity. At the Guomen Wanjia Home & Life Square Mall, Sun Lixia sits waiting for customers at a lighting store. "North Korea hasn't opened their end of the bridge and we can't really do anything about it. It's been bad for the local economy here. Who knows when they'll open it?" Sun said. "Apartments haven't been selling quickly, a lot of people aren't willing to move here," she added. "There isn't even a proper hospital here, it's only been half completed." It's far cry from



A woman looks out to the China-North Korea Friendship Bridge between the North Korean town of Sinuiju (rear) and Dandong (foreground), in northeast China yesterday. — AFP

what one Dandong official told state media in 2012: That the development would resemble Causeway Bay, one of Hong Kong's busiest commercial areas, and the bridge handle 50,000 people and 20,000 vehicles a day to North Korea.

Abundant resources

The Hwanggumphyong and Wihwa Islands economic zones, along with one at the other end of the border at Rason, had high level support. Late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il inked an agreement for them during a trip to China in 2010. The Rason zone has been more successful, though, with much more development, including a Chinese-built road into town and a new

bridge being built at its border crossing.

Kim's son, the youthful current leader Kim Jong Un, has yet to visit China, and seems unlikely to be invited any time soon as he pursues an accelerated nuclear weapons and missile testing programme to the increasing alarm of the outside world. A glossy promotional booklet from 2012 shows an artist's rendering of gleaming tower blocks in Hwanggumphyong and wide, tree-lined avenues. "North Korea has not only abundant, high-quality human resources, but also rich capital resources and enormous land to develop," the bilingual Chinese-English booklet reads, promising legal protection for investors and tax breaks. — Reuters



KUWAIT: A shepherd feeds his camels at the camel market in Rehaya yesterday, ahead of Eid Al-Adha or the "Feast of Sacrifice", which marks the end of the annual pilgrimage or hajj. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

US MOURNS 9/11 VICTIMS

Continued from Page 1

US President Barack Obama said no words or deeds could ever truly erase the pain of loss, but urged Americans to stand true to the nation's ideals and not allow groups like Al-Qaeda and IS to divide the country. "It is so important today that we reaffirm our character as a nation," he told a remembrance service at the Pentagon. "Our diversity, our patchwork heritage, is not a weakness. It is still and always will be one of our greatest strengths."

In New York, relatives fought back tears, clasped onto each other and bowed their heads at the September 11 Memorial on the site of the destroyed World Trade Center, which was closed to the general public. The emotional service - in the shadow of the newly built Freedom Tower - observed six moments of silence to honor the four attacks and the moments each of the Twin Towers collapsed. Each year, family members spend hours reading out the names of all the dead at the memorial, an increasing number of them young adults who never or barely knew lost parents, uncles, aunts and grandparents.

Mourners sobbed and laid flowers in the grooves of their loved ones' names, carved into the walls of two reflecting pools in the footprint of the towers overlooked by the Freedom Tower, the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere. The US government says the country is now better protected against a 9/11-style terror attack, but the new threat is the lone-wolf assailant. "Our government has become pretty good at detecting something hatched from overseas," Homeland Secretary Jeh Johnson told Fox News. "Where we're challenged, however, is with the lone-wolf style attack, the self-radicalized actor. Terrorist organizations have the ability to (get) into our homeland through the internet and recruit and inspire."

The United States, but more increasingly Europe, have been hit by such attacks, including the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings and the 2015 San Bernardino killings in California. "We'll never forget the horror of September 11, 2001. Today, let's honor the lives and tremendous spirit of the victims and responders," tweeted Clinton, who was a US senator from New York at the time of the attacks.

Trump called the anniversary "a day of sadness and remembrance" but also "a day of resolve". It was the country's "solemn duty," he said in a statement, "to work together as one nation to keep all of our people safe from an enemy that seeks nothing less than to destroy our way of life." George W Bush, who was president at the time of the attacks, spent the morning at church in Dallas, Texas, his home state. He was due to attend the Dallas Cowboys home opener against the New York Giants, where he was to take part in the ceremonial coin toss with two New York police officers who were at Ground Zero on 9/11. Yesterday marked the start of the NFL season in the United States, and those attending the American football games and watching on television watched video messages from both Obama and Bush.

Meanwhile, Clinton's presidential campaign - already scrambling to recover from her gaffe about Trump's supporters - was dealt another headache yesterday after the Democratic nominee left the 9/11 memorial ceremony in New York after feeling unwell. The former secretary of state was at the ceremony at Ground Zero in Manhattan for 90 minutes and greeted some family members of those killed in the deadly terror strikes 15 years ago, her campaign said in a statement. "During the ceremony, she felt overheated so departed to go to her daughter's apartment, and is feeling much better," the statement said.

An AFP journalist at the ceremony saw Clinton, dressed in a navy suit, leave the event but noted that she was greeting people as she left and did not appear to be rushing out. She walked out accompanied by an aide at her elbow. A few hours later, she smiled for the media and posed for pictures with a young girl as she walked out of her daughter Chelsea's home into a waiting vehicle. "I'm feeling great, it's a beautiful day in New York," Clinton said.

The episode was sure to fuel critics' claims that Clinton, 68, has serious health problems. Just last week, she coughed her way through portions of a speech in Cleveland, her voice reduced to a crackling whisper at times. The former first lady has dismissed "conspiracy theories" about her health, saying the coughing was brought on by seasonal allergies and pointing to a detailed report from her doctor declaring her fit to serve as president. —Agencies

IRAQI-AMERICAN DESIGNER STUNS NY FASHION...

Continued from Page 1

But it was in Iraq that Shakar realized he wanted to be a designer. "My aunt studied fashion design and wasn't able to pursue it, so in a way I'm doing all of this because she didn't get the chance and I have the opportunity, being an American," he said.

Shakar first launched his label in 2009 aged just 25 and has dressed the likes of Oscar-winning actress Sandra Bullock, but his New York show was the first of his career. "A little nervous," he giggled backstage when asked how he felt. The Oday Shakar woman is a woman of the world, he explains. Elegant, timeless, conservative and yet cutting-edge, his designs could be worn by devotees from across cultural and geographical divides. "She is well travelled, she's educated, she is very bold, she knows what she wants," he told AFP. "She also likes to feel glamorous but doesn't want to be wearing a fully beaded gown anymore... to me that's a thing of the past."

From the first twangs of Middle Eastern music,

Shakar transported the crowd into a world with a simple yet sophisticated silhouette. There were the full skirts for day and evening, cinched at the waist in delicate geometric patterns, or two-tone skirts in purple and violet, or black and gray that shimmered in the light. Capes billowed behind, necklines were high and cut-outs on the sleeves. There were also tight pencil skirts in suede, wide-legged pants with pleated front panels and jodhpur-style pants with a strap under the foot.

Moving to New York only six months ago, Shakar hit the ground running, developing and producing everything in the Big Apple. "It's definitely had its ups and downs," he said. "But it's been actually one of the more inspiring times of my life." He was diagnosed with stage four thyroid cancer in 2009, but has been in remission since 2011. Shakar just sees it as part of life. "It's how you overcome those things and not so much what you're going through at the moment, but looking further and growing beyond it and seeing how you can grow stronger," he said. — AFP

PILGRIMS ASCEND MOUNT ARAFAT FOR HAJJ...

Continued from Page 1

Under multicolored parasols to protect against the burning sun, the mass of people move through broad streets which are closed to traffic around Mount Arafat. Throughout the day the faithful chant a traditional hajj incantation, "God, here I am." From a distance, the hill appeared a snowy white from the seamless two-piece white garment, ihram, worn by male pilgrims. They come from every corner of the globe, but Indonesia - the most populous Muslim nation - has the largest contingent.

In stifling heat, trucks loaded with bottled water were stationed throughout, and pilgrims doused themselves. Empty bottles and leftover meals littered the ground as ambulances patrolled. After sunset they moved to Muzdalifah, halfway between Arafat and Mina, to gather 49 pebbles for a symbolic stoning of the devil which begins today, in the last major rite of hajj.

During that ritual in Mina last year a stampede killed roughly 2,300 people who were on their way to throw their stones at the Jamarat Bridge. Saudi Arabia issued a death toll of 769 but figures compiled from foreign officials in more than 30 countries gave a tally almost three times higher. Authorities announced an investigation into the tragedy but no results have ever been released, although a number of safety measures have been taken.

Among these is the distribution of a bracelet which stores pilgrims' personal data. Roads have also been widened in the Jamarat area, newspapers reported. Pilgrims have told AFP they feel safe and noticed organizational improvements. Yesterday, helicopters monitored the crowd flow from the skies, while on the

ground, police on foot, motorbike, and all-terrain vehicles directed pedestrian movement. At the sacred hill itself, police sometimes had to use their bodies to block the flow of pilgrims and avoid bottlenecks. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, the interior minister and chairman of the hajj committee, was in Mina to help supervise "the services being provided to the pilgrims," the official Saudi Press Agency said.

Saudi Arabia yesterday said it launched a television channel to broadcast the hajj rituals in the Persian language, also known as Farsi, spoken in Iran. Minister of Information and Culture Adel Al-Turaifi said the 24-hour satellite channel would cover hajj rituals and prayers from the Grand Mosque in Makkah. "The channel aims to broadcast the message of the hajj, the eternal meanings of Islam and to show what is being provided by the kingdom" during the pilgrimage, the Saudi Press Agency quoted Turaifi as saying. It targets "Persian-language speakers, whose number is estimated at 130 million all over the world," he said. Farsi is primarily spoken in Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

For the first time in nearly three decades, 64,000 pilgrims from Iran are not participating in the hajj, after the regional rivals failed to agree on security and logistics. The Persian-language channel also has radio and internet services, Turaifi said. With 60 staff, the channel began broadcasts on Saturday evening and will continue until Wednesday, officially the last day of the hajj, which has drawn more than 1.8 million faithful. Iran operates its own Arabic-language news channel, Al-Alam, which is available by satellite and through a terrestrial transmitter in parts of neighboring Iraq. — Agencies

KUWAITI ATHLETE WINS 100M GOLD...

Continued from Page 1

HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar congratulatory cables to Mutairi.

National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem also addressed a cable to Mutairi, hailing the athlete for making

a new achievement for national sports and lauded the national champions who "continue to place the name of Kuwait aloft at continental and international sports events." Besides Mutairi, the Kuwaiti squad to the event includes Mohammad Al-Odwani, Nasser Saleh, Mohammad Mejbel, Abdullah Al-Saif and Atef Al-Dousary. The Paralympic games are being held at the Maracana stadium from Sept 7-18. — KUNA

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Issues

15 YEARS AFTER
9/11, US IN
PERPETUAL WAR

By Nicolas Revise

The 9/11 attacks of 2001 forever changed America and upended its foreign and national security policy, leaving the country for the past 15 years in a war against jihadists - without ending the upheaval in the Middle East. Barack Obama, who will leave the White House in January, is the president who tried to get the US military out of the quagmires in Iraq and Afghanistan - devastating "war on terror" conflicts launched by his predecessor George W Bush in the wake of the suicide plane strikes that killed nearly 3,000 people.

But Obama's legacy on that front is mixed, with US forces still present in both countries. And while he worked hard to bring America closer to the Muslim world, he will leave office with the United States bogged down in a seemingly endless conflict against Islamists at home and abroad, experts say. "The evolving threat of Islamist terrorism compelled President Obama, against his own inclinations, to engage militarily in Iraq once again, and since then in Syria and Libya as well," said Tamara Coffman Wittes, director of the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

"The wars in the Middle East, the metastasis of ISIS, online radicalization and a series of attacks in European and American cities have made the paradigm of a 'global war on terror' very hard to set aside, even 15 years after 9/11," she wrote on the World Economic Forum website. The US is also still engaged militarily, in limited form or on a purely logistical basis, in Afghanistan, Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen to counter myriad threats.

"The thinking of the Obama administration is that big wars make things worse," Hussein Ibish, a senior resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute, told AFP. So instead, Obama launched a new era in American warfare - one dominated by drones, special forces and training for local fighters. The human and financial costs of such engagements are more limited - a significant fact, after the 5,300 US military personnel killed, 50,000 wounded and \$1.6 trillion spent from 2001-2014 in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to Congressional data.

Obama's strategy had its best success in May 2011, when US special forces killed Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, who masterminded the 9/11 attacks, at his home in Pakistan. But for Ibish, such a use of "limited resources... looks like a continuous war." "It is even more than a permanent war because the limited resources cannot change the instability. It accepts the current chaos as being unsolvable," he added.

Evolving Threats

In Syria, a lasting peace is still not at hand, though a fresh truce brokered by the United States and Russia - both now involved militarily in the deadly conflict - is due to begin today. And a US military re-engagement in the Middle East is not in the plans of either of the candidates looking to succeed Obama - Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. Fifteen years after the Twin Towers fell, forever changing New York's skyline, Obama said the terror threat facing America had "evolved," referring to lone-wolf attacks in the United States like the nightclub massacre in Orlando in June. "So in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and beyond, we'll stay relentless against terrorists like Al-Qaeda and ISIL. We will destroy them. And we'll keep doing everything in our power to protect our homeland," he said Saturday in his weekly address.

Mass Surveillance

As Amy Greene - an American researcher at the prestigious Institute of Political Studies in Paris (Sciences-Po) - pointed out, "there has not been an attack on US soil of the same scale" as the carefully planned 2001 attacks. Of course, Washington still fears more small-scale attacks carried out by homegrown attackers, like the Orlando shooting that left 49 people dead or the San Bernardino attacks last December that left 14 dead. Faced with ongoing threats, the United States has built up a massive surveillance apparatus in the post-9/11 era both at home and abroad. The budget for the CIA, FBI and National Security Agency has nearly doubled since 2001. "The threat that I think will dominate the next five years for the FBI will be the impact of the crushing of the caliphate, which will happen," Comey said this past week, referring to the Islamic State group. Since the passage of the Patriot Act after 9/11, legislation maintained by Obama, "Americans have accepted the idea of giving up some of their freedoms," Greene said.

According to a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, 40 percent of Americans fear that "the ability of terrorists to launch another major attack on the United States is greater than it was at the time of the 9/11 attacks". That is the highest share expressing that fear since 2002. On Saturday, the US State Department warned in its regular "worldwide caution" note to travelers on terror risks that the IS group had "called on supporters to attack US citizens and coalition partners wherever they are". —AFP

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SYRIA DEAL OFFERS HOPE, BUT RUSSIA CALLING SHOTS

By Bradley Klapper and Matthew Lee

Saturday's deal to renew a nationwide truce in Syria, open aid routes and establish a US-Russian military partnership may be the best hope yet to end the brutal five-year civil war. It is also full of potential pitfalls and leaves Moscow with far more power than Washington to determine if there can be lasting peace. Careful to note the possibility for failure, Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov were nevertheless upbeat as they announced the agreement after a marathon negotiating session in Geneva that culminated dozens of one-on-one conversations over the past several months.

Spurred on by the violence that has enveloped the Syrian city of Aleppo - intense airstrikes were reported there Saturday - the two diplomats forged a pact they say departs from previous unsuccessful attempts to halt the bloodshed. Yet the new blueprint appears to suffer from a fundamental imbalance common to the earlier efforts. If US-backed or other rebels fighting Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad break the ceasefire, Russia could threaten to respond militarily or allow his forces to retaliate.

But if Assad breaks the ceasefire, the US has no clear enforcement stick. Washington is unlikely to attack Syrian forces, given President Barack Obama's longstanding opposition to entering the war, even after Assad famously crossed Obama's "red line" by using chemical weapons in 2013. Allowing the opposition to launch attacks would only risk reopening a fight that the rebels were losing to Assad's Russian-backed military.

As a result, the US strategy seems to rest almost entirely on Russia's good faith. Moscow can punish Assad by withdrawing the military support that has shored up his position. But if Russia acquiesces to Syrian government violations or breaks the deal itself by hitting US-backed rebels, the only recourse the United States may have is to abandon the ceasefire scheduled to start at sundown Monday and the military cooperation arrangement supposed to take effect seven days thereafter.

Suspicion that Moscow won't live up to its word has

fueled Pentagon skepticism of Kerry's plan. Sustainability is another potential problem, given the Syrian opposition's rejection of any settlement that leaves Assad in power. Kerry said the breakthrough could lead to an undefined political transition. He made no mention of Assad leaving power.

Instead, Kerry stressed the importance of Assad's government living "up to its obligations and to work with us," suggesting the Syrian leader could transform himself from international pariah to potential peace partner. After Lavrov said the Syrian government pledged to abide by the cease-fire, Kerry said Assad must be "prepared to live by these agreements, which is critical."

For Washington, the fighting's brutality and the Islamic State group's rise now trump any larger gain it might have seen in Assad's departure. "The suffering that we have witnessed in Syria over the course of more than five years now is really beyond inhumane," Kerry told reporters early Saturday. "People have all seen the pictures - women, children tortured; barrel bombs, gas."

Military Partnership

To secure Russia's cooperation, the US hopes the new military partnership is enough of a carrot. For one, it gives Russian President Vladimir Putin a potential "out" of the military intervention he launched in Sept 2015, without which Syrian government gains could evaporate. If calm emerges in a Syria that leaves Assad in power, Putin could legitimately claim victory, a pill the US would have to swallow for the sake of peace.

But many mechanics of the ceasefire remain unexplained. When the ceasefire begins Monday, Assad's air force can still fly combat missions against IS and Syria's Al-Qaeda affiliate, the Nusra Front, for seven more days. That poses problems because various US-backed rebels intermingle with the Al-Qaeda-linked militants, a symbiosis the US must break. A Syrian strike against Nusra can easily be perceived as one against the "moderate opposition," confusion that has regularly undermined past truces.

After a week of compliance with the deal, Assad's forces would then be restricted to fighting only IS. But

even IS territory isn't always clear. Its fighters, too, mix with other militants sharing the goal of defeating Assad. Kerry said Assad's air forces will be restricted to an "area that we have agreed on with very real specificity." The map wasn't shared publicly, even though Kerry said these restrictions are the "bedrock of this agreement". Enforcement in Aleppo, once Syria's largest city, is especially difficult. Both sides must withdraw from various arteries and communities to allow aid to reach civilians and commercial activity to resume.

Yet much of Aleppo remains under siege - Assad's forces captured several significant transit points in recent days - and intense airstrikes were reported on Saturday just hours after the US-Russian agreement was reached. The Aleppo Media Center, an activist collective, said at least 45 people were killed while the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 30 people were killed in Aleppo province and another 39 were killed by airstrikes in neighboring Idlib province.

Alongside Russia, Assad has received critical military assistance from Iran and its Lebanon-based proxy group, Hezbollah. Although neither Kerry nor Lavrov mentioned them, their compliance will be needed, too. Iran and its allies often have proved a spoiler to Middle East peace efforts. Underlying the entire process is US-Russian mistrust. Obama spoke of it a week ago after meeting Putin in China. Lavrov used the word Saturday. As an aside, Lavrov delivered a sharp indictment of what he labelled "arrogant" new US sanctions against Russia over the crisis in Ukraine. Nevertheless, he said, Russians "are not offended easily" and want to settle Syria's conflict.

But some of Lavrov's particulars didn't quite match Kerry's, a problem compounded by the lack of a publicly available, written document. While American officials highlighted the initial, weeklong phase of the truce, Lavrov said it starts with a two-day period and then requires a 48-hour extension. He said the US-Russian arrangement that comes into force after a week still allows Syrian air forces to be "functional in other areas outside those that we have singled out for Russian-American military cooperation." He didn't outline those areas. —AP

LIVE LONG AND ENDURE: HOW MAO WAS PRESERVED

By Tom Hancock

'Experimental Technique'

Days after Communist China's founding father Mao Zedong died 40 years ago the problem of what to do with his corpse was becoming increasingly heated - literally. Mao himself had requested cremation, but powerful officials including his mercurial widow Jiang Qing decided he would join the likes of Vladimir Lenin and Ho Chi Minh in being embalmed and put on display. Before the natural processes of decay could take hold, Xie Piao, an official overseeing an experimental thermo-electric cooling project, was summoned in the middle of the night and tasked with cooling the corpse.

"No one expected that Chairman Mao would die, so there were no preparations at all," said Xie, now 75, who said he then felt "quite proud" to be involved in preserving the Great Helmsman's body. He arrived at the cavernous Great Hall of the People four decades ago on Sunday to find the prostrate body of the man who led the Communist party to victory, founding the People's Republic before plunging it into chaos, in a hastily-constructed glass and wood coffin, at room temperature beneath hot electric lights.

"Our aim was to get the temperature down to 4 or 5 degrees Celsius (39-41 degrees Fahrenheit)," he told AFP, adding that some 400 people were involved in the entire project. "We couldn't freeze him - that was his doctors' order," Xie told AFP. At the time Chinese refrigeration systems were basic. With Soviet relations still on a war footing, asking Moscow for help was unthinkable and its ally Hanoi rebuffed calls from Beijing for assistance, Xie said. "I thought the technology was very reliable, it was very simple," he said in what is believed to be his first interview with foreign media. "The fear came later."

Within hours nitrogen gas surrounding the corpse had been bought down to a cool eight degrees Celsius. But that did not prevent Mao's anointed successor Hua Guofeng berating Xie for using "experimental" techniques. Senior leaders arrived day and night to bow before the body, adding to the seven-strong refrigeration team's tensions. "Once I was so tired I fell asleep in the middle of work. We had no time to sleep for five, seven days," he said.

Mao's death on Sept 9 1976 is seen as bringing to an end the destructive decade of "Cultural Revolution" he unleashed on

his nation. But the period's intense political atmosphere still permeated the corridors of the Great Hall. "It was very serious, no one chatted," Xie said. When Jiang arrived to pay respects to her husband, Xie hid among the floral tributes for fear of becoming a focus for her notorious temper, according to an account he published for the first time this year.

Eight days after arriving at the Great Hall, Xie's work was declared complete. He knows little of the embalming, said to have involved draining the corpse of fluids and injecting it with the chemical preservative formaldehyde.

Mao's former doctor Li Zhisui published a ghoulish account of the process, describing the former ruler's head swelling up "like a football". Xie dismisses it as "unreliable", but whatever the details, Mao was put on permanent display in 1977 in a monumental pillared memorial hall in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Waxy Face

Mao lies in a dim chamber, garbed in a grey suit, his sallow waxy face framed by thick black hair bathed in a patch of orange light. With debate about his legacy stifled by Communist authorities, he still retains a powerful hold over some sections of Chinese society and receives hundreds, sometimes thousands of visitors a day. No detailed official account of the preservation efforts has been published. The editorial staff of liberal intellectual magazine Yanhuang Chunqiu, or Great The Yellow Emperor, was purged in August, shortly after it published Xie's account, in a sign of further tightening under current President Xi Jinping.

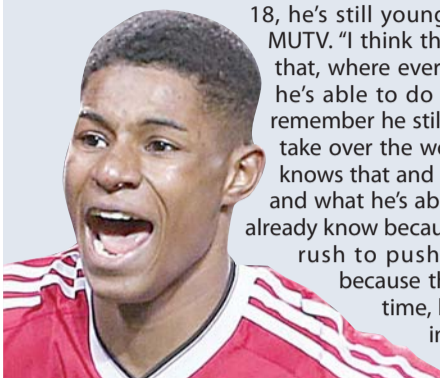
Xie, the son of a first generation Communist who himself suffered in the Cultural Revolution, only visited the corpse once again - in the 1980s - and said he was "too busy" to pay any respects this week. Top leaders also stayed away. While still celebrating Mao, the ruling party has acknowledged the "gross mistakes" of a man whose Great Leap Forward resulted in a famine which killed tens of millions of people in the early 1960s. Intellectuals have periodically called for his body's removal from the square. But Xie said: "Although there is controversy, I think that Mao's corpse has been somewhat useful to China over the decades. The spirit of the Chinese people finds a focus on Chairman Mao's body." —AFP



This photo taken on Sept 10, 2016 shows Xie Piao displaying a book with a photo of the embalmed body of late communist leader Mao Zedong, in Beijing. —AFP

RASHFORD WILL BE MAN UTD STAR

LONDON: Manchester United striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic has predicted that his teenage team-mate Marcus Rashford will one day "take over everything", in comments broadcast yesterday. Rashford, 18, made a stunning breakthrough last season, scoring eight goals in his first 18 United appearances and earning a berth in England's Euro 2016 squad. Ibrahimovic's arrival has cost Rashford his first-team place, but he made a big impact off the bench in Saturday's 2-1 loss to Manchester City and his Swedish team-mate believes the future will be his. "First of all, he's 18, he's still young. He has a lot of time," Ibrahimovic told MUTV. "I think the way you have to approach a player like that, where everyone is talking about the talent and what he's able to do and what kind of potential he has, is to remember he still has a lot of time. "It's not like he needs to take over the world today. The club knows that, the coach knows that and the team knows that. "We know his quality and what he's able to do. What the world is seeing now, we already know because we see it every day. "There is no need to rush to push him and put a lot of pressure on him because that can have the opposite effect. "Time by time, he will take over everything. It's about having patience." —AFP

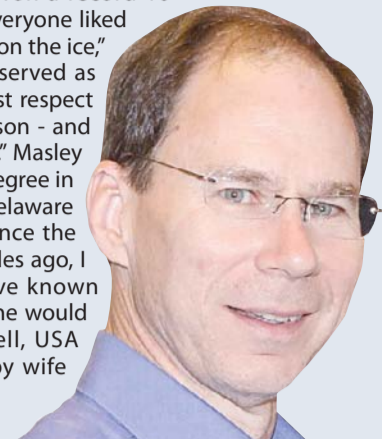


ALBERTS REPLACES INJURED DE JAGER

BRISBANE: Springbok flanker Willem Alberts was yesterday called up after Lood de Jager was ruled out of next weekend's Rugby Championship Test against New Zealand with a knee injury, team officials said. The lock will be sidelined for two weeks with a bruised knee suffered during South Africa's 23-17 loss to the Wallabies in Brisbane. The team said following recent injuries to Siya Kolisi and Sikhumbuzo Notshe it was decided to call on Alberts to join the touring party. Alberts plays for French club Stade Francais and will join the squad in Christchurch today. Faf de Klerk and Johan Goosen, who both underwent scans after Saturday's match, will remain with the squad. Scrum-half De Klerk received a blow to the chest while fullback Goosen landed awkwardly on his ankle after he contested a high ball. The Springboks left for New Zealand yesterday and will take on the All Blacks in Christchurch on Saturday. A loss to New Zealand would put South Africa at the bottom of the Rugby Championship standings, having already lost to Argentina and the Wallabies. —AFP

FRANK MASLEY, 3-TIME US OLYMPIAN IN LUGE, DIES

WILMINGTON: Frank Masley, a three-time Olympian and the first Olympic flagbearer in US luge history, died Saturday after a fight with cancer. He was 56. USA Luge said Saturday that Masley died at his Wilmington home. Masley raced in 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid, was voted the U.S. flagbearer in the 1984 Sarajevo Games, and also competed in Calgary in 1988. He won a record 10 national championships. "Frank was the guy everyone liked and respected, even when he was beating you on the ice," said Ron Rossi, a former teammate who also served as USA Luge's executive director. "I had the utmost respect for him as a competitor, but more so as a person - and that was affirmed by the life he led after luge." Masley graduated from Drexel in Philadelphia with a degree in civil engineering. He was inducted into the Delaware Hall of Fame in 1997. "Having known Frank since the beginning of his luge career almost four decades ago, I am personally humbled and honored to have known him, and most grateful that he chose luge so he would become part of our family," said Dwight Bell, USA Luge's board president. Masley is survived by wife Donna and three children. —AP



PANTHERS OUTCLASS BULLDOGS TO ADVANCE IN NRL FINALS

SYDNEY: Penrith Panthers unleashed a dazzling second half to end the Canterbury Bulldogs' National Rugby League season with a 28-12 victory to march on in the finals series yesterday.

The young Panthers stormed home with a 24-point second half after trailing the Bulldogs 6-4 at half-time to set up an enthralling semi-final with the Raiders in Canberra on Saturday.

Last season's grand finalists Brisbane Broncos will face defending champions North Queensland Cowboys in the other semi-final in Townsville on Friday. Penrith finished full of running to outscore the Bulldogs five tries to two with skipper and roving fullback Matt Moylan their outstanding performer.

While the Panthers were celebrating their stylish win the Bulldogs join the Gold Coast Titans as the first teams eliminated from this season's eight-team play-offs.

Melbourne Storm and Cronulla Sharks are one game away from playing in the grand final after gripping victories on Saturday.

The Storm, who finished top of the regular season standings, ground out a 16-10 win over the Cowboys in Melbourne and will have next week of the finals off along with Cronulla.

In Saturday's other qualifying final, the Sharks fought back from 12-0 down to clinch a 16-14 victory over the Raiders in

Canberra with James Maloney kicking the winning penalty goal five minutes from time.

The Broncos knocked out the Titans 44-28 in Brisbane on Friday. It was part revenge for the Storm, who were beaten in last season's preliminary final by the Cowboys at home.

Melbourne's fast-moving defence kept the Cowboys in check, while their Fijian winger Suliiasi Vunivalu collected his 23rd try of the season.

New Zealand Test prop Jesse Bromwich barrelled over to stretch Storm's lead to 14-6 before the Cowboys Test ace Johnathan Thurston set up winger Kyle Feldt's try in the corner with a superb catch and pass.

But Cameron Smith made the game safe for the Storm with a late penalty goal. Maloney kept alive dreams of a maiden premiership title for Cronulla when he broke a 14-14 deadlock in the final minutes.

It was a brave effort from the Sharks, who had influential captain Paul Gallen ruled out on game day with a back injury and also lost State of Origin second-rower Wade Graham early in the game with an injury.

The Sharks fell behind to two converted tries but held the home side to just two points for the final hour to take the match. —AFP

HAMLIN WINS AT RICHMOND, NEWMAN STEALS SPOTLIGHT

RICHMOND: It was yet another Denny Hamlin runaway for Joe Gibbs Racing on Saturday night in what turned out to be an anticlimactic end to NASCAR's regular season.

The fireworks came off the track at Richmond International Raceway, where Tony Stewart intentionally wrecked Ryan Newman before Newman angrily chided his former boss for the accident that officially ended Newman's chances to make the playoffs.

The verbal beat down from Newman came with 37 laps left, before Hamlin finished off his third career Sprint Cup win at his home track while giving JGR its third consecutive victory at the track and ninth in the last 15 races.

Newman called Stewart "bipolar," said the retiring race car driver had anger issues, and all but outright referenced the 2014 incident in which Stewart fatally struck a sprint car driver.

"I guess he thought he was in a sprint car again and didn't know how to control his anger," Newman said after the two made contact three times before finally wrecking. Dylan Lupton couldn't avoid the accident and his car ended up wedged between the wall and on top of Newman's car when the crashing finally ceased.

Stewart admitted to wrecking Newman. "He's right, that was the third time he had driven into me. How many times is he supposed to hit you before you say, 'I've had enough of it?'" Stewart said.

The wreckage caused a stoppage of just over 20 minutes and sent Newman's tem-

perature soaring. Newman's team was penalized 15 points this week by NASCAR for failing post-race inspection at Darlington, and the punishment made his task of trying to race his way into the Chase extremely difficult.

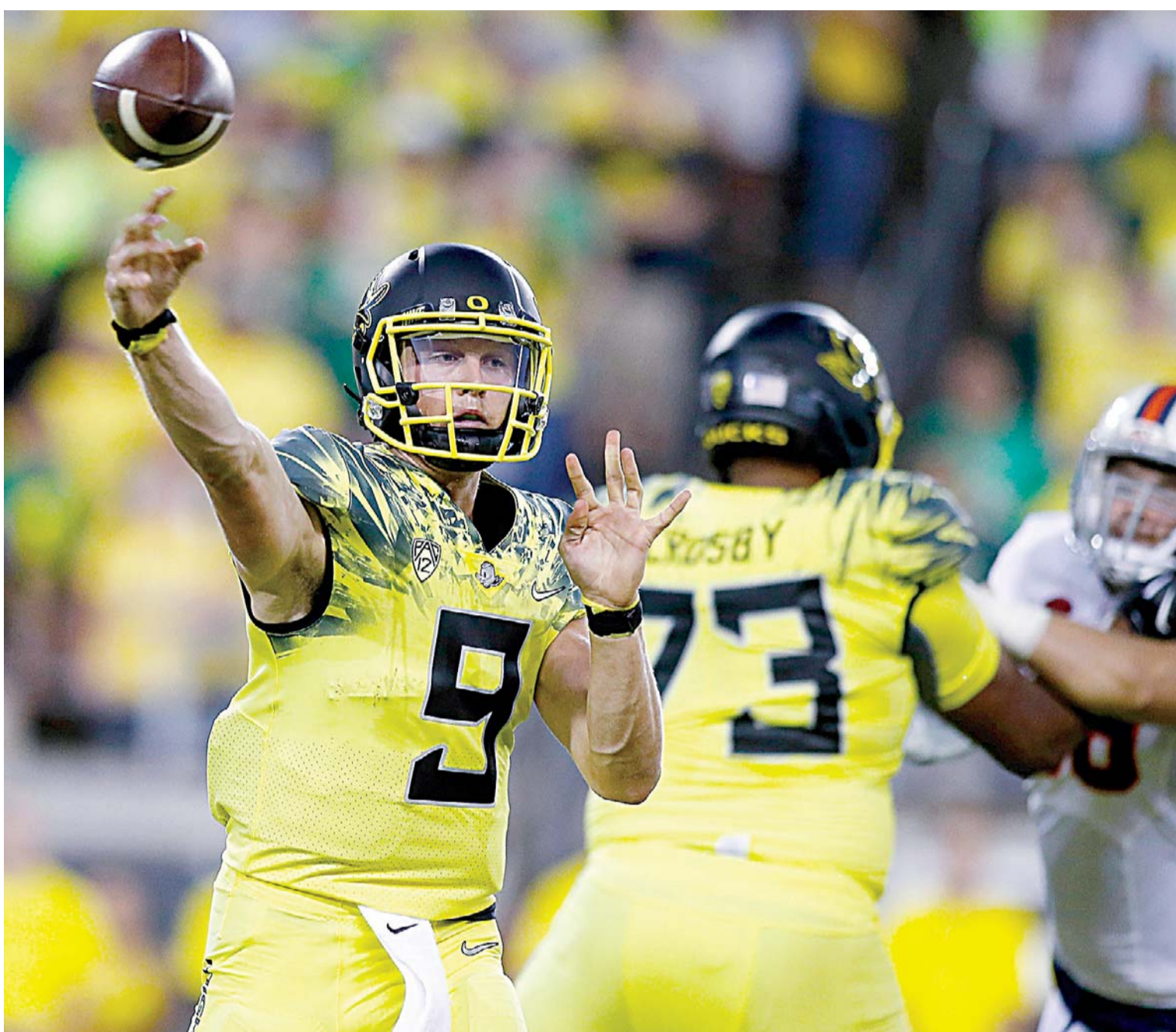
But few expected him to be so harsh toward Stewart, who employed Newman for five years until Newman was let go from Stewart-Haas Racing at the end of the 2013 season.

"Just disappointing that you have somebody old like that that should be retired the way he drives. It's just ridiculous," Newman said. "I don't think there was any reason other than him just being bipolar and having anger issues. Google Tony Stewart, you'll see all kinds of things he's done. Look it up on YouTube, everything else. Quite the guy."

Stewart, who last week intentionally wrecked Brian Scott, is retiring at the end of the season and already had his spot in the Chase secure headed into Richmond. He'd had time to cool down before addressing the incident and Newman's comments, joking Newman will get "his wish in 10 weeks" for Stewart to retire.

"He's got to do his part, too, to race for a championship," Stewart said. "This night didn't dictate it for him." He didn't get it, and the remaining playoff positions in the 16-driver field went to rookie Chase

Elliott, Austin Dillon and Jamie McMurray. Chris Buescher also made the Chase by virtue of his win at a rain-shortened race and by maintaining a spot in the top 30 in points. —AP



EUGENE: Dakota Prukop #9 of the Oregon Ducks throws the ball against the Virginia Cavaliers at Autzen Stadium yesterday in Eugene, Oregon. —AFP

PRUKOP PASSES FOR 3 TDs AND DUCKS BEAT VIRGINIA 44-26

EUGENE: Dakota Prukop threw for 331 yards and three touchdowns, Royce Freeman ran for 207 yards and two scores, and No. 24 Oregon defeated Virginia 44-26 on Saturday night.

Olympic hurdler Devon Allen caught four passes for 141 yards and a touchdown, which he celebrated by pretending to clear hurdles in the endzone, and the Ducks got their second win to start the season before next Saturday's game against Nebraska at Memorial Stadium.

Oregon was coming off a 53-28 victory over UC Davis in its opener, Prukop's debut. The graduate transfer showed creativity in the first half against Virginia, escaping from the Ducks' own 1-yard line with a 9-yard run and a pitch to Dwayne Stanford, who scampered 14 yards to get the ball out to the 24.

On the same drive, Prukop hit Allen with a 55-yard pass and the Ducks went on to score on a 2-yard pass to Stanford for a 20-6 lead. Prukop found Allen with a 77-yard pass for a

touchdown in the third quarter that put the Ducks up 37-13.

Allen finished fifth in the 110-meter hurdles last month in the Rio Games, becoming just the fourth active college player in the modern era to compete in the Olympics.

Albert Reid rushed for 126 yards and a touchdown for Virginia. The Cavaliers fell 37-20 to Richmond in the team's opener last weekend, spoiling Bronco Mendenhall's debut as coach.

THE TAKEAWAY

Virginia: The Cavaliers again struggled with mistakes. Mendenhall said last week the rebuilding project would take time, "Lots and lots of work ahead, steep learning curve still to come."

Oregon: The Ducks are seeing mixed results in the new 4-3 defense installed by coordinator Brady Hoke, the former Michigan coach. Last week the Ducks gave up

392 yards and four touchdowns to lower-tier UC Davis. The Ducks ranked last in the Pac-12 for touchdowns allowed with 37.5 points per game. Virginia also managed four touchdowns.

UP NEXT

Virginia: On the road again next week, this time to face UConn. The Huskies rallied from a 21 point deficit but ultimately fell to Navy 28-24 on Saturday. The series is even at 1-1, with UConn winning the last meeting 45-10 in 2008.

Oregon: Takes to the road for the first time this season to face Nebraska at Memorial Stadium. The Cornhuskers beat Wyoming 52-17 on Saturday.

"Oregon, they're no joke," said Nebraska receiver Jordan Westerkamp, who caught a pair of touchdown passes. "They're a top program in the entire nation. This will be our first big test." —AP



LA ROCHELLE: La Rochelle's Leandro Cedaro (C) is tackled during the Top 14 rugby union match La Rochelle vs Lyon yesterday at the Marcel Deflandre stadium in La Rochelle, southwestern France. —AP

WALLABIES BOOST SCRUM FOR PUMAS CHALLENGE

BRISBANE: The Wallabies, lifted by an overdue victory, bolstered their tight five options yesterday ahead of next weekend's scrummaging Test against the Argentina Pumas in Perth. Coach Michael Cheika called props Toby Smith and Tom Robertson into his Rugby Championship squad following news that front-rower Allan Alaalatua was out with a knee injury.

Alaalatua was injured in the Wallabies' 23-17 win over South Africa in Brisbane, which broke a six-Test losing run and eased mounting pressure on Cheika. Alaalatua wore a brace on his left knee as he returned home yesterday and did not travel with the squad to Perth for Saturday's Test against the Pumas. Wallabies defence coach Nathan Grey said Alaalatua's injury was disappointing, given his progress this year.

"It's unfortunate but it's good to have those guys ready to roll," Grey told reporters in Brisbane. "He's been among a number of the new guys

who have come into the Wallaby set-up and really performed well.

"That's what we want from all the guys coming in is to deliver their strengths and I think our scrum was very consistent last night and quite dominant.

"Having those new blokes at the forefront of that is critical." Cheika was a relieved man after Australia clawed back from 14-3 down early in the Test before overhauling the Springboks for their first win in this year's Rugby Championship after two heavy defeats to New Zealand. "We've been getting a fair bit of heat and everyone stayed really solid. No one's looked sideways," Cheika told reporters after Saturday's victory. "We've got stuck in, enjoyed our training, trained hard and we'll continue to do that no matter what."

Wallabies captain and hooker Stephen Moore said the feeling was one of pride rather than relief after their first home win of the season. "I

suppose a bit of relief but I think just proud of the team and everyone involved with the team because it's been tough," he told reporters. "There's been plenty of people outside the group giving their two bob on everything and I think I'm just really proud the way that everyone's hung tight and worked hard and kept preparing as best they possibly can. "Of course it's nice at the end of the week to get a result like that. "The way we've stuck at it throughout the campaign is probably the most pleasing thing, when it's been tough."

Cheika has raised the likelihood of more players making their international debuts before the November tour to Europe.

"We've got a lot of young guys and we've got to get them the experience they need," he said. "There'll probably be a couple more (playing) before the Rugby Championship is out, as well, so we've got to get them up a level." —AFP

FARAH WINS THIRD STRAIGHT GREAT NORTH RUN

LONDON: Britain's Mo Farah claimed an unprecedented third consecutive victory in the Great North Run half-marathon in northeast England yesterday.

The four-time Olympic champion pulled clear of America's Dathan Ritzenhein to complete the course between Newcastle and South Shields in a time of one hour and four seconds. Kenya's Vivian Cheruiyot won the

women's race in her first half-marathon, edging out compatriot Priscah Jeptoo. "I knew it was going to be a hard race today," Farah told BBC television.

"To be honest, I'm knackered. I can hardly talk. It's good to finish on a high here. What a year I've had. I just have to go home now and chill out and see the kids." Farah's victory in the world's biggest half-marathon came after he

completed a second consecutive Olympic double in the 5,000 metres and 10,000 metres in Rio de Janeiro.

Farah, 33, endeared himself to the large crowds watching by mimicking the goal celebration of former Newcastle United striker Alan Shearer as he finished, raising his right hand in the air.

Shearer tweeted his approval, writing: "Love it @Mo_Farah!" Farah's triumph fol-

lows accusations made by his wife, Tania, who also ran in the race, that he was "humiliated" by an airline attendant in the United States.

She told the Sunday Telegraph a Delta Airlines official "yelled" at her husband and sent him to the back of a queue. Other reports said the Farah family had arrived late for first-class boarding.

The family were reportedly travelling

home from Rio and were about to embark on the final leg of their journey from Atlanta to Portland, Oregon. A Delta Airlines spokesperson, quoted by the BBC, said the company was investigating and "will be working directly with the Farah family".

Neither Delta Airlines nor Mo Farah's management company could be reached by AFP. —AFP

UFC CHAMP MIOCIC SURVIVES KNOCKDOWN, WINS BY KO

CLEVELAND: Stipe Miocic wouldn't let his hometown down. The heavyweight champion kept his title with another Cleveland comeback. Dropped by an early punch, Miocic recovered and knocked out Alistair Overeem at 4:27 of the first round to conclude UFC 203 on Saturday night in front of more than 20,000 delirious fans.

Miocic, whose title in May set off a run of championships in a city that didn't celebrate one for 52 years, was in big trouble after Overeem caught him on the jaw with a short left. Overeem pounced on Miocic, a Cleveland fire fighter, and put him in a guillotine hold as

he tried to choke him out. But the 6-foot-4, 240-pound Miocic, urged by the crowd chanting "Stee-pay, Stee-pay," escaped the hold and quickly pressed the action.

In the final minute of the round, Miocic stunned Overeem with a punch and then held him down and delivered four devastating right-handed punches to the challenger's head to finish him off. "He hit harder than I thought, he knocked me down but I wasn't hurt," Miocic said. "I said I would keep this belt for a long time and I did it. I wanted to shut him down, turn the mother board off."

When the fight was stopped,

Miocic climbed on top of the octagon's chained fencing and straddled the cage in triumph. Moments later, he took the microphone and yelled "O-H" to the crowd, which responded "I-O," to its local champ, whose knock out of Fabricio Werdum this spring was followed by the Cavaliers overcoming a 3-1 deficit to beat Golden State in the NBA Finals.

GREAT ATHLETE

"Stipe was the better man today," said Overeem, one of UFC's most experienced fighters. "He's a great athlete, he's tough. He won the fight. I thought he tapped." Before Miocic's stunning comeback, former WWE

superstar CM Punk could have used a folding chair or a tag-team partner.

Out of pro wrestling's scripted ring, his first trip into the octagon didn't last long. Punk, who was one of WWE's biggest stars when he left it two years ago to try his hand in ultimate fighting, tapped out just 2:14 into the first round after he was pummeled and choked by welterweight Mickey Gall on the 203 undercard.

The 38-year-old Punk was on his back less than 10 seconds into the fight. Pinned up against the fencing, he was unable to get out from under Gall, who landed numerous blows to both sides of Punk's head.

Looking confident and mugging for the sellout crowd, Punk, whose debut had been delayed by injuries, entered Quicken Loans Arena to "Cult of Personality" by Living Colour, the song he used for years on the WWE circuit.

After stepping into the eight-sided arena for the first time, Punk smiled as he looked across at Gall, an up-and-coming welterweight from New Jersey who had called out the famous wrestler and pledged to "destroy" him.

Gall made good on his promise, quickly shooting a double-legged takedown on Punk, who seemed in shock as he laid flat on his back. With Punk lying prone, Gall smashed a right hand into his temple and then knelt on top of him and swung both arms like a pendulum, connecting with one hard shot after another.

CHALLENGES

Punk nearly got free, but Gall regained a dominant position and squeezed his opponent's head like he wanted to snap it off. Punk had no choice but to tap his hand on the mat, ending the fight the way many inside UFC predicted.

"Yeah you know in life you go big or you go home," Punk said afterward. "I just like to take challenges. It was a hell of a climb, I didn't get to the summit tonight but it doesn't mean I'm going to give up it doesn't mean I'm going anywhere, it doesn't mean I'm going to stop."

Prior to Miocic's bout, former heavyweight champ Fabricio Werdum won a unanimous decision over Travis Browne. Following the heated bout, Werdum put his gloved hands to his face and was pretending to wipe away tears when he was confronted by Browne's coach Edmond Tarverdyan. Werdum tried to kick Tarverdyan and security rushed into the ring as both corners jawed at each other.

Just climbing the steps into the octagon was something of a victory for Punk, who became a villain of sorts inside UFC circles as fans, wrestlers and fellow fighters questioned his motives for taking up a new sport with no experience.

He was accustomed to the outside distractions - media requests, fans and travel - for years. But despite working with Duke Roufus and other top trainers at the Roufusport Martial Arts Academy in Milwaukee for the past year, he wasn't ready for Gall.

Still, Punk intends to stick with his new love. "Obviously, Mickey's a hell of a fighter. I will be back, believe it or not," Punk said. "This was the most fun I've had in my life, second best night of my life after marrying my wife. I know there's a lot of doubters but listen, life's about falling down and getting back up. Doesn't matter how many time you get knocked down, get back up." —AP



CLEVELAND: Mickey Gall looks to take down CM Punk during the UFC 203 event at Quicken Loans Arena yesterday in Cleveland, Ohio. —AFP

FORMER WRESTLING SUPERSTAR PUNK POUNDED IN UFC DEBUT

CLEVELAND: CM Punk could have used a folding chair or a tag-team partner. Out of pro wrestling's scripted ring, his first trip into the octagon didn't last long. Punk, who was one of WWE's biggest stars when he left it two years ago to try his hand in ultimate fighting, tapped out just 2:14 into the first round after he was pummeled and choked by Mickey Gall on the UFC 203 undercard Saturday night.

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doesn't mean I'm going to stop."

Punk's first foray into mixed martial arts was on the undercard of heavyweight Stipe Miocic's title defense against Alistair Overeem, who will have to battle both the 6-foot-4, 240-pound Cleveland and a sellout crowd of more than 20,000 rooting against him.

Before Miocic fought, former champion Fabricio Werdum won a unanimous decision over Travis Browne. Following the heated bout, Werdum put his gloved hands to his face and was pretending to wipe away tears when he was confronted by Browne's coach Edmond Tarverdyan. Werdum tried to kick Tarverdyan and security rushed into the ring as both corners jawed at each other.

Gall said Punk rushing at him in the opening seconds set the tone. "He came in hot so I took him down," Gall said. "I wasn't surprised he got through those early chokes because I was only half committing, almost playing a game with it in a way." Just climbing the steps into the octagon was something of a victory for Punk, who became a villain of sorts inside UFC circles as fans, wrestlers and fellow fighters questioned his motives for taking up a new sport with no experience.

He was accustomed to the outside distractions - media requests, fans and travel - for years. But despite working with Duke Roufus and other top trainers at the Roufusport Martial Arts Academy in Milwaukee for the past year, he wasn't ready for Gall.

Still, Punk intends to stick with his new love. "Obviously, Mickey's a hell of a fighter. I will be back, believe it or not," Punk said. "This was the most fun I've had in my life, second best night of my life after marrying my wife. I know there's a lot of doubters but listen, life's about falling down and getting back up. Doesn't matter how many time you get knocked down, get back up." —AP

GONZALEZ BECOMES FOUR DIVISION WORLD CHAMPION

LOS ANGELES: Unbeaten Roman Gonzalez won the World Boxing Council super flyweight title with a 12-round unanimous decision over previously undefeated champion Carlos Cuadras on Saturday. The 29-year-old Gonzalez became the first fighter from Nicaragua to win world titles in four weight divisions, surpassing his hero and mentor Alexis Arguello.

Gonzalez improved to 46-0 by holding on in the late rounds for the win in an entertaining showdown between the two unbeaten champions at The Forum arena in Los Angeles.

"This was the most difficult fight I have had," said Gonzalez. "It was complicated and we both were in very good condition." Mexico's Cuadras proved to be a surprisingly difficult opponent for Gonzalez, who some consider to be the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world. Cuadras looked to be the fresher of the two in the 12th round as the boxers traded punches in the center of the ring right up to the final bell. Gonzalez, who moved up in weight class to fight for the title, won on all three judges' cards by scores of 117-111, 116-112 and 115-113. "I have never fought at this weight before. But the important thing is we won the fight," he said.

The 28-year-old Cuadras had defended his title seven times before losing for the first time in his pro career. His record fell to 35-1-1. Gonzalez can credit his victory to a superb start as he dominated the first half of the fight with a relentless forward attack

accompanied by a variety of punches.

But Cuadras proved to be a very difficult opponent, giving Gonzalez the most formidable test of his 11-year career.

He landed straight jabs, combinations and took the heaviest punches that Gonzalez could dish out in the 12-round slugfest. Gonzalez's face showed the marks of the battle, especially around his swollen eyes. He said Cuadras hurt him with some head shots. "I caught some blows to the cheeks and I felt those," he said. "I am always thinking about my family, my children."

Until Saturday, no Nicaraguan had ever won a world title in four weight classes and that includes the late legend Arguello. Arguello took Gonzalez under his wing and mentored him after his boxing career ended. He trained him as both an amateur and pro prior to his death in 2009.

"I will never be better or above him. He will always be number one. I am just following his legacy," said Gonzalez.

Arguello lost a pair of junior welterweight title fights to Aaron Pryor in 1982 and 1983 in a failed bid to capture his fourth world title. This victory also moves Gonzalez another step closer to challenging for Manny Pacquiao's record as an eight division champion.

But seeing how he struggled somewhat Saturday in the heavier super flyweight division might leave some in his camp wondering if another jump in weight might prove to be too much for Gonzalez. —AFP



CLEVELAND: Alistair Overeem, left, from the Netherlands, punches Stipe Miocic during a heavyweight title bout at UFC 203 yesterday, in Cleveland. —AP



CLEVELAND: Jessica Eye exchanges punches with Bethé Correia during the UFC 203 event at Quicken Loans Arena yesterday in Cleveland, Ohio. —AFP

LEE RETAINS CROWN AT KOREA OPEN

CHEONAN: Defending champion Lee Kyoung-Hoon fired a final-round 68 to win the Korea Open title for the second time yesterday.

He carded 16-under-par 268 for a three-stroke victory over countryman Choi Jin-Ho at Woo Jeong Hills Country Club in Cheonan. Choi mounted a strong challenge on the front nine before three straight bogeys from the 10th derailed his glory bid.

One shot behind was Kang Kyung-Nam, who was looking to re-ignite his career after completing his mandatory military service last year. Choi, two strokes behind after the third

round, drew level with Lee after birdies at the first and the fourth, turning the contest into an engrossing duel.

Lee shot four straight birdies from the par-five fifth hole as Choi picked up three shots in the same stretch.

But Choi's challenge crumbled after the turn with three bogeys on the trot. Thailand's Namchok Tantipokhakul shot a 69 to finish as the highest-placed overseas challenger in equal 12th spot, 11 shots behind Lee.

Leading scores after the last round (par 71, South Korean unless stated):

268 - Lee Kyoung-Hoon (65-67-68-68)

271 - Choi Jin-Ho (65-69-68-69)

272 - Kang Kyung-Nam (68-66-67-71)

274 - Lee Chang-Woo (70-63-69-72)

275 - Kim Do-Hoon (73-64-68-70), Kim Yeong-Su (65-68-71-71)

276 - Song Young-Han (71-66-70-69), Hwang Jung-Gon (65-68-71-72),

277 - Lee Seung-Taek (72-70-66-69), Park Sang-Hyun (69-69-69-70)

278 - Kim Tae-Woo (69-70-71-68)

279 - Namchok Tantipokhakul (THA) (69-70-71-69), Hwang In-Choon

(67-72-70-70), Ryu Hyun-Woo (70-68-71-70), Kim Gi-Hwan (70-67-70-72). —AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: France's Thomas Bouvais, left, and Sweden's Linus Karlsson, compete in a match of Table Tennis men's singles, class 8, round 1, during the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games at Riocentro Arena, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, yesterday. — AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Handout image supplied by OIS/IOC showing USA's Brian Bell toppling during the United States of America vs Iran game in the Men's Group B Preliminary, Match 26 during the Paralympic Games, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Saturday. — AFP

ALGERIAN TEAM FACES POSSIBLE EXPULSION FROM PARALYMPICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: An Algerian women's goalball team could be expelled from the Paralympics for failing to show up for two matches. IPC officials said the absence could be a form of political protest, which is banned in the Paralympics as it is in the Olympics.

The International Paralympic Committee said the team did not appear for a Friday match against the United

States, and would also miss a match on Saturday against Israel.

"In terms of political protests, there are a range of actions we could take," IPC spokesman Craig Spence said. "It could be a slap on the wrist. It could be as easy as that. It could be that the team is removed from the competition."

Spence said Algerian officials "claim they suffered multiple delays, cancelled

flights and missed connections" attempting to board a flight Sept. 5 from Warsaw, Poland en route to Rio de Janeiro.

Spence said the rest of the Algerian delegation was in Rio. Algerian officials told the IPC that the goalball team arrived yesterday.

"Even if you caught a boat from Poland to Brazil, you probably could

have got here in time," Spence said. "So we're still working with the Algerians as to whether they can give us a sensible explanation."

Goalball is a Paralympic sport for the blind or visually impaired. Three players on each side occupy a small court and try to maneuver a ball into the opposing net, getting directional clues from bells inside the soccer-size ball.

During last month's Olympics, Middle East politics also spilled over when an Egyptian judo athlete was sent home after refusing to shake the hands of an Israeli opponent.

The IOC acknowledged the rules of judo did not oblige players to shake hands, but said the Egyptian's behavior went against Olympic "rules of fair play" and "spirit of friendship." — AP

PARALYMPICS: PODIUMS OF THE DAY

RIO DE JANEIRO: Rio de Janeiro 2016 Summer Paralympics podiums of the day on Saturday:

ATHLETICS	Bronze: Dartanyon Crockett (USA) Bronze: Shukhrat Boboev (UZB)
100m - T52	Gold: Gianfranco Iannotta (USA) Silver: Raymond Martin (USA) Bronze: Salvador Hernandez Mondragon (MEX)
Discus Throw - F54/55/56	Gold: Claudiney Batista Dos Santos (BRA) Silver: Alireza Ghaleh Nasserli (IRI) Bronze: Leonardo Diaz (CUB)
Long Jump - T12	Gold: Hilton Langenhoven (RSA) Silver: Kamil Aliyev (AZE) Bronze: Doniyor Saliev (UZB)
400m - T52	Gold: Michelle Stilwell (CAN) Silver: Marieke Vervoort (BEL) Bronze: Kerry Morgan (USA)
Shot Put - F20	Gold: Ewa Durska (POL) Silver: Anastasiia Mysnyk (UKR) Bronze: Sabrina Fortune (GBR)
1500 m - T12/13	Gold: Somaya Bousaid (TUN) Silver: Najah Chouaya (TUN) Bronze: Izaskun Osés Ayucar (ESP)
Shot Put - F54	Gold: Liwan Yang (CHN) Silver: Hania Aidi (TUN) Bronze: Fadhila Nafati (TUN)
CYCLING - TRACK	
Individual C1-2-3 1km Time Trial	Gold: Alyda Norbruis (NED) Silver: Amanda Reid (AUS) Bronze: Zhenling Song (CHN)
JUDO	
81 - 90 kg (middleweight)	Gold: Zviad Gogotchuri (GEO) Silver: Oleksandr Nazarenko (UKR)
+70 kg	Bronze: Mesme Tasbag (TUR) Bronze: Christella Garcia (USA)
63 - 70kg (middleweight)	Gold: Lenia Fabiola Ruvalcaba Alvarez (MEX) Silver: Alana Martins Maldonado (BRA) Bronze: Gulruh Rahimova (UZB) Bronze: Naomi Soazo (VEN)
POWERLIFTING	
50 kg Gold: Lidiia Soloviova (UKR)	Silver: Rehab Ahmed (EGY) Bronze: Thi Linh Phuong Dang (VIE)
55 kg	Gold: Amalia Perez (MEX) Silver: Esther Oyema (NGR) Bronze: Cuijuan Xiao (CHN)
SHOOTING	
Mixed R4-10m Air Rifle Standing - SH2	Gold: Veselka Pevec (SLO) Silver: Gorazd Francek Tirsek (SLO) Bronze: Geunsoo Kim (KOR)
Mixed R3-10m Air Rifle Prone - SH1	Gold: Veronika Vadovicova (SVK) Silver: Natascha Hiltrop (GER) Bronze: Jangho Lee (KOR)
TRIATHLON	
PT1	Gold: Jetze Plat (NED) Silver: Geert Schipper (NED) Bronze: Giovanni Achenza (ITA)
PT2	Gold: Andrew Lewis (GBR) Silver: Michele Ferrarin (ITA) Bronze: Mohamed Lahna (MOR)
PT4	Gold: Martin Schulz (GER) Silver: Stefan Daniel (CAN) Bronze: Jairo Ruiz Lopez (ESP). — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: David Brown of the United States, second from right, accompanied by his guide Jerome Avery, and Venezuela's Fernando Ferrer, left, accompanied by his guide Edison Medina, compete in the men's 100-meter T11, round 1, heat 5, during the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, at the Olympic Stadium, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Saturday. — AP

PARALYMPIANS TAKE ON JUDO AND DISABILITY

RIO DE JANEIRO: Being in a fight with an invisible attacker may sound like a nightmare. Christella Garcia, a medal-winning, blind Paralympian judoka, says it's "wonderful." "It makes perfect sense," Garcia told AFP right after defeating Brazil's Deanne Almeida for bronze in the over 70kg category in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday.

Garcia, who has been almost completely blind from birth, said that out on the judo mat, where opponents try to outwit, unbalance and throw each other, her disability no longer matters.

"You're gripping and you feel your opponent's body and the way they're moving," Garcia, 37, said. "It's about who wants it the most." Judo in the Paralympics is reserved for the visually impaired—some with limited eyesight, others like Garcia with virtually none. There are surprisingly few changes to the way the regular sport is played. Contestants unable to see the boundaries may unwittingly spill outside, so the referee has to guide them back. And unlike in regular judo, where the clock is visible, a loud buzzer goes off at the one minute warning before the bout ends.

Otherwise, the combatants in their white or blue kimonos fight as skillfully and fiercely as those with proper vision. It can be easy to forget they are blind at all—until the incongruously gentle scene of a referee leading a black belt fighter around by the hand.

'INTUITION'

Another US bronze medal win-

ner Saturday, Dartanyon Crockett, only took up judo when he left high school.

Learning a sport in which being propelled through the air or choked while lying on the mat are integral parts was not easy for a young man born blind. "Part of doing judo for the visually impaired is putting yourself in a scary, uncomfortable situation," said Crockett, now 25. "It's about stepping out of your comfort zone."

His coach, Eddie Liddie, said teaching is also a huge challenge in a sport involving scores of techniques, many of them only subtly different from each other. "I'm so used to demonstrating so that they can see it," he said of his normal coaching procedures. "What I learned to do was to put their bodies into certain positions and then have them doing it by repetition." But once beyond that steep learning curve, judo can become remarkably natural for the blind.

Probably the most important difference between Paralympic and regular judo is that judokas keep a grip on their opponent at all times, rather than breaking away and re-gripping as they would usually. This means the two blind athletes literally hold on to each other. And Venezuela's Naomi Soazo, who won gold in Beijing and bronze in Rio, says that connection is the starting point.

"When you hold them you feel their movements. Then it's intuition and feeling about where they're going," she said.

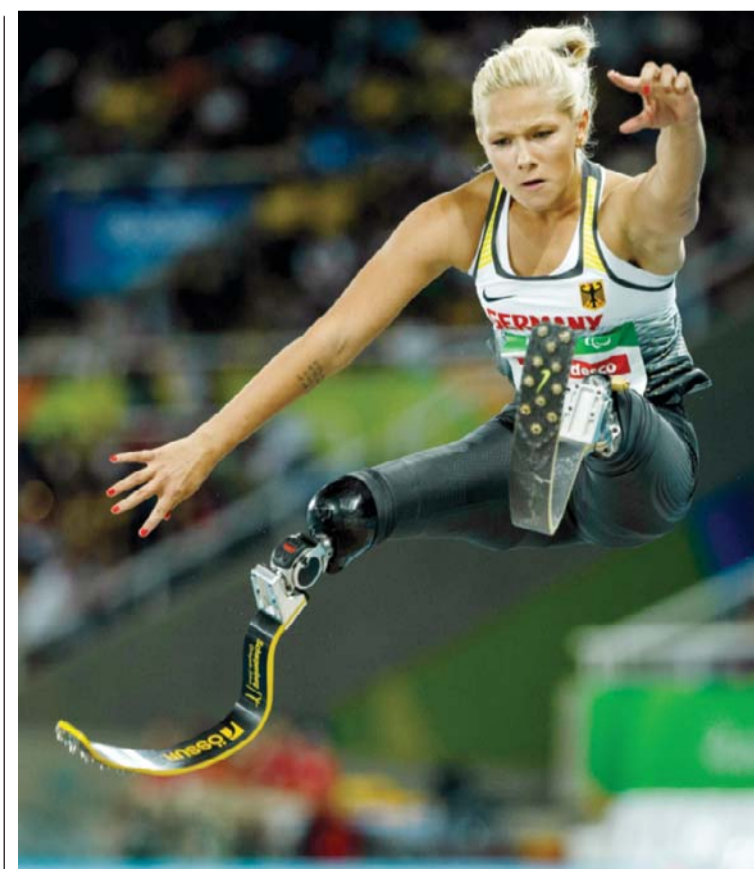
In fact, provided she's gripped

on to her opponent, she can match another black belt of her level with perfect eyesight. "There's no difference," she says.

And that self-confidence spreads far beyond the tatami, or judo mat. Garcia says that master-

ing judo has helped her win the fight of her own life.

Now "I don't consider being blind a disadvantage," she proudly proclaims. "It's just a characteristic: I'm a girl. I have black hair. I love cup cakes—and I'm blind!" — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: In this photo released by the IOC, Germany's Vanessa Low competes in the women's long jump - T42 final in Olympic Stadium, during the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, yesterday. — AP

PARALYMPICS: MEDALS TABLE

RIO DE JANEIRO: Medals table from day three of 2016 Rio de Janeiro paralympics on Saturday (Gold, silver, bronze, total)

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
China	26	24	19	69
Great Britain	15	8	12	35
Ukraine	12	10	15	37
United States	8	11	7	26
Brazil	5	9	5	19
Netherlands	4	7	9	20
Germany	4	6	4	14
Uzbekistan	4	4	11	19
Tunisia	4	3	1	8
Mexico	4	1	1	6
Australia	3	7	8	18
Canada	3	4	1	8
South Korea	3	2	5	10
New Zealand	3	2	2	7
Slovakia	3	1	0	4
Nigeria	2	2	0	4
Cuba	2	1	4	7
Spain	2	1	3	6
Greece	2	1	2	5
France	2	1	1	4
Belarus	2	0	1	3
Latvia	2	0	0	2
Malaysia	2	0	0	2
South Africa	2	0	0	2
Azerbaijan	1	3	1	5
Poland	1	3	0	4
Iran	1	2	0	3
Colombia	1	1	4	6
Egypt	1	1	1	3
Slovenia	1	1	0	2
Turkey	1	0	3	4
Argentina	1	0	1	2
India	1	0	1	2
Ireland	1	0	1	2
Kenya	1	0	1	2
Vietnam	1	0	1	2
Georgia	1	0	0	1
Kazakhstan	1	0	0	1
Kuwait	1	0	0	1
Singapore	1	0	0	1
Trinidad & Tobago	1	0	0	1
Italy	0	5	3	8
Algeria	0	4	3	7
Japan	0	1	4	5
Venezuela	0	1	2	3
Hungary	0	1	1	2
Morocco	0	1	1	2
Norway	0	1	1	2
Belgium	0	1	0	1
Finland	0	1	0	1
Jordan	0	1	0	1
Lithuania	0	1	0	1
Namibia	0	1	0	1
Thailand	0	1	0	1
UAE	0	1	0	1
Cap Verde	0	0	1	1
Croatia	0	0	1	1
Indonesia	0	0	1	1
Mongolia	0	0	1	1
Portugal	0	0	1	1
Romania	0	0	1	1
Saudi Arabia	0	0	1	1
Sweden	0	0	1	1

BODY CAMERAS, CLOCKS AMONG IDEAS IN PLAY FOR TENNIS' FUTURE

NEW YORK: What if they put tiny cameras on players to get more dramatic TV angles?

What if serves that dribbled over the net were fair game? What if servers were on a 20-second clock to start points? And how about scrapping the pre-match warmup so matches actually start on time?

These are among the possible tennis tweaks and changes a top US Tennis Association official says are being seriously discussed, in some cases actually being experimented with, as the game's leaders brainstorm ways to - someday - make play at the highest pro levels faster and more television-friendly.

And she says a changing of the guard underway at the top of the men's and women's games makes it a good time to do it.

"We want to innovate but we have to do it in such a way that we bring the players along," says Stacey Allaster, the USTA's chief executive of professional tennis, cautioning that any such changes should undergo deliberate "incubation" at that game's lower tiers rather than debuting on the game's top level.

That's the idea of experimenting with a 20-second serve clock this year at the US Open's junior and college invitational tournaments. While it's not clear yet whether matches have indeed moved along more quickly, it apparently has had an effect: Out of 260

matches so far, 24 serve clock warnings have been issued, and none resulted in a repeat violation that would have resulted in a penalty point.

"I love it," says Danielle Collins, a two-time NCAA singles champion at Virginia who won the Open's collegiate title Saturday. "Because in college tennis people stall really badly. It's crazy how long people are taking between points."

That's been a point of contention on the pro tours for years because instead of employing a clock, any warnings or penalty points issued over slow play are left entirely to the umpire's discretion. That tension was on full view during Friday's men's semifinals, when both Stan Wawrinka and Kei Nishikori were warned about slow play, as was Gael Monfils in his match against Novak Djokovic, responding to the umpire by essentially saying, if you want me to speed up, penalize me.

TIGHTER POLICING

Other ideas that have been discussed, according to Allaster: eliminating the service let, which would allow serves that hit the net and fall in to be playable; tighter policing of player bathroom and injury breaks; and reducing or eliminating the pre-match warmup hit, which can delay the scheduled start of

matches. The NCAA implemented that idea in its championships this year.

"If a fan tunes into ESPN for a 4 o'clock match and it doesn't start until 4:15, we probably would have lost them because they will start to click and they will click onto another sport," Allaster says. "So we have to be quicker in getting to the show."

Allaster, who came to the USTA recently after serving as chief executive of the Women's Tennis Association, said technology is another avenue of change. Allaster noted that shot-spotting technology to determine if balls are in or out, which has been a part of the Open since 2006, had the added benefit of helping fans get more engaged.

BEST-OF-THREE IDEA

The same could happen, she says, if tiny cameras are put on players' bodies or hats. "People could see what it's like to return one of these big serves."

Allaster noted that the Open is open to change, noting it remains the only Grand Slam tournament that decides the final set with a tiebreaker, and that its mixed doubles event now features no-ad scoring, meaning that at 40-40, one more point decides the game rather than one side having to win two in a row.

Also, all the other Grand Slam events with the exception of Wimbledon have gone to a best-of-three format for men's doubles instead of best-of-five. But going to no-ad scoring in more events or to best-of-three in men's singles at the Grand Slam level are not ideas that have gotten much serious discussion, Allaster said, even with the unusual case of the top-seeded Djokovic getting three walkovers or retirements because of injuries to opponents.

"Could we say it will never happen? I wouldn't say that. Is it on the short-term horizon? I would say that is not something being discussed," Allaster said of the best-of-three idea. "But I would say everything needs to be on the table as it relates to the health and well-being of the athletes."

Rajeev Ram, who lost in the mixed doubles final with partner CoCo Vandeweghe, questioned the wear and tear that best-of-five takes on men in singles, and whether such long matches are really what plays best on television.

"I don't know who has six hours to watch a tennis match, I certainly don't," Ram says. "What these guys can do out there is unbelievable. But to watch five sets of some of these guys playing 40-ball rallies, it's just hard to think that that's going to be, from the business side of tennis, a good product." — AP

HILL PULLED AFTER SEVEN PERFECT INNINGS AS DODGERS TOP MARLINS

MIAMI: Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Rich Hill was removed after throwing seven perfect innings against the Miami Marlins in a 5-0 victory on Saturday night. Hill (3-0) had thrown 89 pitches and struck out nine when first-year manager Dave Roberts replaced the 35-year-old left-hander with Joe Blanton at the start of the eighth inning. Blanton struck out Christian Yelich and retired Marcell Ozuna on a groundout before Jeff Francoeur singled to left. Grant Dayton gave up Dee Gordon's two-out infield hit in the ninth that put two on, and Kenley Jansen retired Martin Prado on a groundout to complete the two-hitter. Joc Pederson homered twice for Los Angeles. Miami's Tom Koehler (9-11) allowed four runs and six hits in five-plus innings.

BRAVES 4, METS 3, 10 INNINGS

Adonis Garcia's tiebreaking single in the 10th inning drove in Dansby Swanson, and the Braves snapped the Mets' six-game winning streak.

Matt Kemp and Nick Markakis homered for Atlanta. Swanson led off the 10th with a single, advanced to second on a wild pitch by Erik Goeddel and moved to third on A.J. Pierzynski's single. After Goeddel struck out pinch hitter Tyler Flowers, Ty Kelly replaced Curtis Granderson in the field to give the Mets five infielders and Josh Smoker retired Ender Inciarte on a pop. Kelly then moved back into the outfield, and Garcia singled up the middle to end it. New York dropped one-half game behind St. Louis for the second NL wild card. Chris Withrow (3-0) faced the minimum in the 10th to earn the victory.

CARDINALS 5, BREWERS 1

Randal Grichuk made two key plays for St. Louis and Adam Wainwright pitched eight strong innings. Grichuk made a perfect throw to the plate to cut down Jake Elmore trying to score from second in the eighth. Then he doubled in the bottom half, helping clear the way for a five-run rally. Matt Adam drove in the tying run with a grounder to second and Grichuk scored on Kolten Wong's single, giving St. Louis a 2-1 lead.

The Cardinals won for the second straight night to move back into position for the second NL wild card, a half-game ahead of the New York Mets. Wainwright (11-8) struck out seven and allowed six hits in his most impressive outing since he shut out San Diego on July 21. Keon Broxton homered in the fifth for Milwaukee, and Corey Knebel (1-3) got the loss.

NATIONALS 3, PHILLIES 0

Bryce Harper hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning, lifting Washington to the win.

Harper struck out in each of his first three plate appearances, all against Philadelphia starter Jerad Eickhoff. He then provided the game's only scoring against Patrick Schuster, who threw a wild pitch, issued a walk and gave up the homer without recording an out after replacing Luis Garcia (1-1). Nationals ace Max Scherzer gave up four hits in 6 2/3 innings. He also struck out eight to increase his NL lead to 251. Shawn Kelley (2-2) recorded the final out of the eighth and Mark Melancon pitched ninth for his 40th save as Washington won for the fifth time in six games.

BLUE JAYS 3, RED SOX 2

J.A. Happ got his 18th win, Melvin Upton Jr. hit a two-run homer and the Blue Jays pulled within one game of the AL East-leading Red Sox. Toronto stopped a four-game losing streak and avoided matching its longest skid this season. Happ (18-4) allowed two runs and four hits in six-plus innings, ending a three-start winless streak. Upton connected against Eduardo Rodriguez (2-7) in the second for his 20th homer. Jose Bautista made it 3-0 with an RBI single in the third. Dustin Pedroia homered off Happ leading off the sixth and has a 28-game hitting streak against the Blue Jays. Roberto Osuna worked the ninth for his 31st save in 34 chances, striking out Jackie Bradley Jr. with a man on for the final out.

YANKEES 5, RAYS 1

Gary Sanchez homered and almost hit another while Tampa Bay was trying to intentionally walk him, leading the hard-charging Yankees to their season-best seventh straight win. The Yankees closed within three games of AL East-leading Boston and remained one game behind Baltimore for the second wild-card spot. The Orioles beat Detroit 11-3, leaving the Tigers with the same record as the Yankees. New York's Masahiro Tanaka (13-4) struck out 10 and took a shutout into the eighth inning. Chris Archer (8-18) tied the Tampa Bay record for losses in a season, set by Tanyon Sturtze in 2002.

ASTROS 2, CUBS 1

Rookie Alex Bregman homered and Collin McHugh pitched five effective innings, leading Houston to the victory. Bregman put the Astros ahead with an opposite-field home run to right-center against John Lackey (9-8) in a two-run third. After starting 1 for 34 following his July 25 promotion, Bregman has eight home runs - all since Aug. 16. He went 2 for 4 and raised his average to .274 with 31 RBIs. McHugh (10-10) won his third straight decision, allowing one run and two hits. Chris Devenski, Will Harris, Luke



MIAMI: Los Angeles Dodgers left fielder Yasiel Puig catches a ball hit by Miami Marlins' Martin Prado during the seventh inning of a baseball game, Saturday, in Miami. The Dodgers defeated the Marlins 5-0. — AP

Gregerson and Ken Giles combined for hitless relief. Giles survived a shaky ninth to earn his 10th save. Lackey gave up two runs and four hits in six innings.

MARINERS 14, ATHLETICS 3

Seattle ace Felix Hernandez pitched six scoreless innings to continue his dominance at the Oakland Coliseum. Nelson Cruz had three hits and three RBIs and Kyle Seager hit his 28th home run to help the Mariners to their seventh win in eight games against the A's this season. Seattle batted around twice and had seven players with two hits or more. Hernandez (11-5) allowed six hits, struck out two and walked one while improving to 12-3 at the 50-year-old Coliseum. Oakland's Kendall Graveman (10-10) allowed eight runs and a career-high 12 hits over five-plus innings.

ROYALS 6, WHITE SOX 5

Whit Merrifield hit a two-run double in Kansas City's three-run seventh inning, and the Royals held on for the road win. Royals closer Wade Davis gave up a single to Tyler Saladino and a double to Adam Eaton to lead off the ninth before Melky Cabrera's infield single cut the deficit to one.

With the tying run on third and one out, Davis struck out Jose Abreu and Justin Morneau for his 23rd save. The Royals remained four games behind Baltimore for the second AL wild card. Chicago's Chris Beck (2-2) recorded just one out and was charged with three runs. Kevin McCarthy (1-0) got the last out of the sixth for the win.

TWINS 2, INDIANS 1, 12 INNINGS

Joe Mauer's single off Joe Colon scored Brian Dozier from second in the 12th inning, lifting the Twins to the win. Dozier hit a two-out single and advanced to second when Colon (1-2) was called for a balk by plate umpire Vic Carapazza. That set up Mauer for his first hit of the long night, a sharp liner into right-center that allowed Dozier to score easily. J.T. Chargois (1-1) pitched a perfect 12th for his first major league victory, and the Indians failed to add to their six-game lead over Detroit in the AL Central.

GIANTS 11, DIAMONDBACKS 3

Hunter Pence had three hits, including a solo homer, and Johnny Cueto pitched seven solid innings to lead San Francisco to the road victory. Cueto (15-5) allowed two runs and three hits while improving to 6-1 in eight career games at Chase Field. He struck out six and walked two in his fifth start against Arizona this season. San Francisco jumped out to a 5-0 lead against Archie Bradley (6-9). Pence singled and scored on Joe Panik's double in the second, and Cueto helped himself with a two-out RBI single during the Giants' four-run third. Peter O'Brien and Yasmany Tomas homered for Arizona, which has dropped five in a row.

PADRES 6, ROCKIES 3

Christian Friedrich matched his career high with 10 strikeouts in seven brilliant innings, leading the Padres to a victory against the Rockies.

Friedrich (5-10), the Rockies' first-round draft pick in 2008, allowed two hits and walked one. His last victory was at Cincinnati on June 23.

Brandon Maurer pitched the ninth for his ninth save. The Padres piled on against Jon Gray (9-8), taking a 6-0 lead after two innings and chasing him after four.

ORIOLES 11, TIGERS 3

Matt Wieters hit two of Baltimore's four home runs, and the Orioles chased Jordan Zimmermann in the second inning and moved back ahead of the Tigers in the AL wild-card race. Adam Jones and Chris Davis homered in the first inning off Zimmermann (9-6), and Wieters connected in the second and sixth innings. Baltimore is two games behind first-place Boston in the tightly bunched AL East and one game back of wild-card leader Toronto. The Orioles are one game ahead of the Tigers and New York Yankees for the second wild card. Baltimore's Ubaldo Jimenez (7-11) allowed two runs, four hits and three walks in seven innings.

REDS 8, PIRATES 7

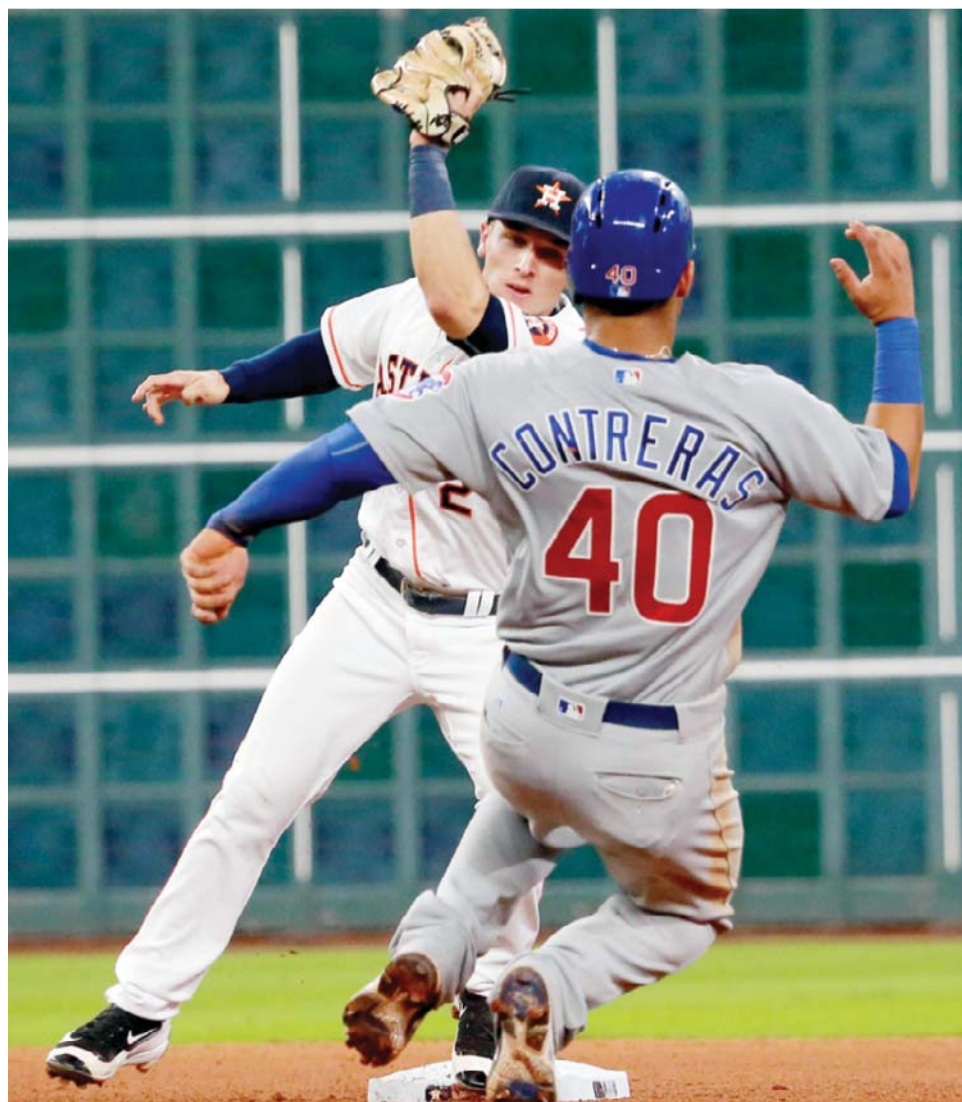
Cincinnati star Joey Votto celebrated his 33rd

birthday with four hits, including a home run. Votto led off the ninth inning with his 23rd homer, a drive to right off Juan Nicasio that gave the Reds a two-run cushion. The 2010 NL MVP is hitting .427 in 51 games since the All-Star break and could become the first major leaguer to hit .400 in the second half since Ichiro Suzuki had a .429 average in 2004 with the Seattle Mariners.

The Pirates' flickering hopes of a fourth consecutive postseason berth took another hit as they dropped 5 1/2 games behind St. Louis for the second NL wild card with their 10th loss in 12 games. Francisco Cervelli hit a two-out RBI single in the ninth for Pittsburgh, but Tony Cingrani held on for his 17th save. Josh Smith (3-1) got the win despite allowing two runs in 2 1/3 innings. Pittsburgh's Trevor Williams (1-1) was charged with three runs in one inning.

RANGERS 8, ANGELS 5

Jonathan Lucroy hit a two-run homer in the eighth to power Texas to the win. The Angels had taken the lead in the bottom of the seventh on a two-run homer from Kole Calhoun and a run-scoring double from C.J. Cron, overcoming a two-homer game from Rangers outfielder Carlos Gomez. Tanner Scheppers got one out for the win and Sam Dyson pitched the ninth for his 34th save. Angels reliever Jose Valdez (1-2) got two outs and was charged with two runs and two hits. — AP



HOUSTON: Willson Contreras #40 of the Chicago Cubs is caught stealing second base as Alex Bregman #2 of the Houston Astros takes the throw in the seventh inning at Minute Maid Park on Saturday in Houston, Texas. — AP

MLB results/standings

Houston 2, Chicago Cubs 1; Toronto 3, Boston 2; Seattle 14, Oakland 3; NY Yankees 5, Tampa Bay 1; Cincinnati 8, Pittsburgh 7; Washington 3, Philadelphia 0; Baltimore 11, Detroit 3; Minnesota 2, Cleveland 1 (12 innings); Kansas City 6, Chicago White Sox 5; LA Dodgers 5, Miami 0; Atlanta 4, NY Mets 3 (10 Innings); St. Louis 5, Milwaukee 1; San Francisco 11, Arizona 3; San Diego 6, Colorado 3; Texas 8, LA Angels 5.

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Boston	79	62	.560	-	Washington	84	58	.592	-
Toronto	78	63	.553	1	NY Mets	75	67	.528	9
Baltimore	77	64	.546	2	Miami	70	72	.493	14
NY Yankees	76	65	.539	3	Philadelphia	63	79	.444	21
Tampa Bay	59	82	.418	20	Atlanta	55	87	.387	29
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	82	59	.582	-	Chicago Cubs	90	51	.638	-
Detroit	76	65	.539	6	St. Louis	75	66	.532	15
Kansas City	73	68	.518	9	Pittsburgh	69	71	.493	20.5
Chicago White Sox	68	73	.482	14	Milwaukee	63	79	.444	27.5
Minnesota	53	89	.373	29.5	Cincinnati	59	82	.418	31
Western Division					Western Division				
Texas	85	58	.594	-	LA Dodgers	80	61	.567	-
Houston	75	67	.528	9.5	San Francisco	76	65	.539	4
Seattle	74	68	.521	10.5	Colorado	68	74	.479	12.5
LA Angels	62	79	.440	22	San Diego	59	83	.415	21.5
Oakland	60	81	.426	24	Arizona	58	83	.411	22

MOURINHO POINTS FINGER AFTER MAN UTD DERBY LOSS

MANCHESTER: Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho singled out some of his players for stinging criticism following their 2-1 loss to derby rivals Manchester City. The United manager hauled off Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Jesse Lingard at half-time and said it was only because he did not want to "destroy them" that he did not substitute them earlier.

But he saved his most trenchant remarks for centre-backs Daley Blind and, in particular, Eric Bailly, saying some players had shown signs they did not possess the requisite big-game temperament.

"We had problems with poor performances," Mourinho told reporters at Old Trafford on Saturday.

"We lost the ball very, very easy. Even our central defenders, that were really top class until today, they lost easy balls." Back-passes, first-station passes, from

Bailly to (Marouane) Fellaini, from Blind to (Paul) Pogba. "We lost the ball in these kinds of positions. So it was not (just) Mickey (Mkhitaryan) and Jesse, it was much more than Mickey and Jesse." Pep Guardiola's City took a deserved 15th-minute lead when Kevin De Bruyne beat Blind to Kelechi Iheanacho's flick-on before steering a shot past David de Gea.

The same pair combined to double City's lead, Iheanacho tapping in after De Bruyne's low shot came back off the post. An error from City's debutant goalkeeper Claudio Bravo, who flapped at a deep free-kick from Wayne Rooney, allowed Zlatan Ibrahimovic to pull a goal back.

But although United improved following the half-time introductions of 18-year-old Marcus Rashford and Ander Herrera, they could not find an equaliser.

'I RESPECT HIM'

"What I told them at half-time was that for some of you, it looks like you are trying to do what I told you not to do," said Mourinho. "I told Bailly 20 times, never play a first-station ball. Never. Because this is where they want to press. Never do that. He did it 20 times during the game."

"I think really some of the boys, they felt the dimension of the game. Everything around the game—the derby, the big game, Man United-Man City, the focus, the attention—some of the guys felt it."

"It has nothing to do with inexperience or age because you have the kid (Rashford) then in the second half and the kid looks like he was playing in the Under-18s against Salford City."

"So it's about the individual and every individual reacts to the dimension of the occasion in different

ways. It's difficult to predict. "It only gets easier when you know the players very, very well. So probably in the next big game in the Premier League, I know who can accept the dimension of the game, which is very important."

Mourinho blamed referee Mark Clattenburg for not awarding a penalty after a rash challenge on Rooney by Bravo. Guardiola said he had not seen the incident, but revealed that Aleksandar Kolarov had lost a tooth during the game.

The left-back appeared to be struck in the face by Fellaini at one point, but Guardiola said he did not know what had happened. The match had been billed as a showdown between Mourinho and Guardiola, who fought a ferocious running battle during their time as coaches of Real Madrid and Barcelona respectively. — AFP

LYON SUFFER FIRST HOME LOSS, MONACO STROLL

PARIS: Ten-man Lyon crashed to a "nightmarish" first home defeat at Parc OL as Bordeaux came from behind to claim a 3-1 victory, while Monaco are the early season pacesetters after crushing Lille 4-1. Aldo Kalulu marked his first appearance of the season for Lyon with the opening goal inside two minutes, but Brazilian teenager Malcom replied for Bordeaux on the half hour.

Lyon captain Maxime Gonalons was sent off for a reckless challenge on the Bordeaux goalscorer midway through the second half and the visitors took full advantage as Gregory Sertic headed the visitors in front. Jeremy Menez then sealed a third victory in four games for Jocelyn Gourvennec's side in the dying stages with his first goal for his new club. For Lyon, who were without Clement Grenier, Mathieu Valbuena and Nabil Fekir, it was their first loss at their new home since it opened in January and a second straight in the league following a shock 4-2 defeat at promoted Dijon last time out.

Last year's runners-up were then hit with the news that Alexandre Lacazette will miss Wednesday's Champions League group game against Dinamo Zagreb after he limped off.

"The result and the circumstances are nightmarish because we've lost our first game at Parc OL, we've lost Maxime Gonalons to a red card and Alexandre Lacazette who is injured," bemoaned Lyon coach Bruno Genesio. "I'm responsible for leaving (Lacazette) on the pitch, and I'll live with that. He's a player who has been injured and sometimes there can be a relapse." Lacazette, who hobbled off at half-time during the Dijon debacle, had originally shaken off a knee injury to feature in a front three that included Rachid Ghezzal for the first time this term after a summer of stalled contract extension talks and rumours of a move.

PSG SUFFER LATE DRAW

The hosts enjoyed a dream start as Kalulu was the beneficiary of a fortunate deflection, the youngster tapping in after Sergi Darder's attempted pass rolled invitingly into his path.

Mouctar Diakhaby, deputising in central defence, went close to doubling Lyon's lead on 22 minutes when Cedric Carrasso tipped the youngster's acrobatic effort onto the crossbar. But Malcom drove a left-footed strike from the edge of the area to draw Bordeaux level on 33 minutes.

The 19-year-old was then left writhing around in agony after Gonalons caught him badly with a poor challenge that prompted the Lyon midfielder's dismissal on 67 minutes.

And Bordeaux were ahead just four minutes later as Sertic glanced home a free-kick for his first goal in over two years, having missed most of the last campaign through injury. The afternoon lurched from bad to worse for Lyon when Lacazette, the league's leading scorer, limped off with more injury problems, and Menez completed a miserable afternoon for Lyon in the 90th minute as his deflected strike looped in.

Monaco go into their midweek Champions League tie with Tottenham Hotspur in buoyant mood as goals from Djibril Sidibe, Adama Traore, Fabinho and Kamil Glik powered them past Lille, for whom Julian Palmieri scored a late consolation. On Friday, Paris Saint-Germain conceded an injury-time equaliser as they warmed up for their European clash next week against Arsenal with a disappointing 1-1 home draw with Saint-Etienne.

The big-spending Parisians looked set for all three points thanks to a second-half Lucas penalty, but Robert Beric popped up in the second minute of added-on time to somehow eke out an unlikely point for the visitors. — AFP



ROME: As Roma's forward Francesco Totti kicks to score on a penalty during the Italian Serie A football match As Roma versus Sampdoria yesterday at Olympic stadium in Rome. — AFP

TOTTI SAVES ROMA AS ENGLAND KEEPER SUFFERS DEBUT HEART-BREAK

MILAN: Francesco Totti came off the bench to hit a late winner from the spot as Roma moved to within two points of Juventus after a rain-interrupted 3-2 win over Sampdoria yesterday. "That was the first time I've ever felt afraid of taking a penalty," the 39-year-old veteran, who is in his 24th and final season at the club, told Sky Sport minutes after being mobbed by teammates under the stadium's popular Curva Sud end.

"You just can't afford to miss under the Curva (sud)!" Roma looked to be heading for a difficult second half at the Stadio Olimpico after Sampdoria surged to a 2-1 half-time lead after goals from Fabio Quagliarella and Luis Muriel cancelled out Mohamed Salah's early opener for the hosts.

But Roma coach Luciano Spalletti was given extra time to consider his tactical options when officials delayed the restart by over 30 minutes to render the pitch playable again following a first-half deluge of rain and hailstones.

Totti replaced Diego Perotti and Edin Dzeko came on in place of Stephan El Shaarawy for the start of the second half, and the changes made an immediate impact.

After Kevin Strootman saw his drive palmed

away by Emiliano Viviano, Totti set Dzeko up for a shot that forced Viviano to parry for a corner. Two minutes later, Totti sent Dzeko through in the box and the Bosnian shimmied around Viviano before tapping home from close range to pull the hosts level.

Roma had the momentum, but Salah glanced a header wide from Strootman's deflected delivery and seconds later only the trailing foot of Viviano stopped Dzeko's goalbound shot from crossing the line.

Roma looked all set for a share of the spoils until Dzeko made the most of a Milan Skriniar's challenge in the area.

The referee pointed to the spot and Totti made no mistake, sending Viviano the wrong way to send the fans into raptures.

Roma are now two points behind champions Juventus, who claimed their third successive win with a 3-1 defeat of Sassuolo on Saturday. Napoli sit in second place, also two points behind Juve, following a 3-0 rout of Palermo on Saturday when Jose Callejon added a brace to Marek Hamsik's 47th minute opener.

Earlier, England goalkeeper Joe Hart conceded twice on his Torino debut as Atalanta secured

a 2-1 win in Bergamo.

Hart, deemed surplus to requirements by Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola, completed his move to unfashionable Torino on a season-long loan deal two weeks ago.

Despite missing strikers Andrea Belotti and Josef Martinez due to injury, Torino made light of the absences to take a 54th minute lead through Iago Falque.

But Atalanta were given a half-chance to pull level only two minutes later when Hart came off his line to palm a corner away with one hand, and Andrea Masiello punished the move by deftly volleying the loose ball into the net. When Alejandro Gomez was hauled down by Lorenzo Di Silvestri inside the penalty area with only eight minutes on the clock, Ivorian striker Frank Kessie stepped up to coolly send Hart the wrong way to seal the win. AC Milan, meanwhile, suffered a shock 1-0 defeat to Udinese at the San Siro, where influential defender Luca Antonelli was rushed off to hospital with a suspected serious head/neck injury.

As he lay on the ground, a teammate reached inside his mouth to make sure he did not swallow his tongue. — AFP



LILLE: Lille's French midfielder Eric Bouteac (2R) vies with Monaco's Italian goalkeeper Morgan De Sanctis (C) during the French L1 football match between Lille OSC (LOSC) and AS Monaco FC (ASMFC) at the Pierre-Mauroy Stadium in Villeneuve d'Ascq, near Lille, northern France, yesterday. — AFP

ENRIQUE TAKES BLAME FOR SHOCK BARCA LOSS

BARCELONA: Barca boss Luis Enrique admitted he must take responsibility for the Spanish champions' shock home defeat to newly promoted Alaves after starting Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez on the bench. Enrique made seven changes on Saturday after many of his squad returned to club duty after taking part in World Cup qualifiers around the world in the past week, whilst Messi was also struggling with a minor groin injury. "I am the one ultimately responsible for all the bad things that happen," said the Barca boss after suffering just his fifth home league defeat in three seasons in charge at the Camp Nou.

"Many of the changes came from the circumstances surrounding us, but we have 22 players and we are going to use everyone this season." As well as leaving out Messi and Suarez, Enrique changed his entire back four, whilst goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen and striker Paco Alcacer made their debuts.

Deyverson beat Cillessen from close range to hand Alaves a surprise lead before half-time, but Jeremy Mathieu brought Barca back into the game when he headed home Neymar's corner a minute into the second-half. Mathieu somehow then blasted wide when it seemed easier to score from another set-piece before Barca's makeshift defence was caught out once more when Ibai Gomez slotted home the winner.

Enrique called upon Messi, Suarez and Andres Iniesta from the bench, but even they couldn't break Alaves's resistance as Messi fired wide deep into stoppage time.

"We lacked fluidity, precision and we were fragile in defence, which is one of the things that normally makes us strong," added Enrique. "The one positive is it is a time to reflect on what this team has won over the years. Everyone makes us favourites for everything, but it is not easy to win any game."

Enrique is expected to revert back to his

strongest line-up for Celtic's visit to the Camp Nou to start their Champions League campaign. The Scottish club will be high on confidence after thrashing old rivals Rangers 5-1 on Saturday.

"It's clear it wasn't our best game, they didn't have many chances but they were very effective," said midfielder Sergio Busquets. "We lacked a spark, we lacked a lot of things. It is hard to say it is a deserved defeat because they also didn't

create a lot. "Now we have to think about Celtic because the season rolls on." And Iniesta insisted Barca will have licked their wounds and learned the lesson in time for the visit of the Scottish champions.

"We have to do better in the next game in a different competition," added the Spanish international. "As always when there is a defeat, we have to analyse it and correct it for the next game." — AFP



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi (2nd R) vies with Alaves' defender Victor Laguardia (2nd L) beside Barcelona's Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez (R) during the Spanish league football match FC Barcelona vs Deportivo Alaves at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona yesterday. — AFP

SPURS BOSS POCHETTINO REVELS IN STOKE ROUT

STOKE-ON-TRENT: Mauricio Pochettino believes Tottenham have shaken off the hangover of last season's meltdown in the Premier League title race as they prepare to challenge on multiple fronts.

Pochettino's side host Monaco in their opening Champions League fixture on Wednesday in the second of seven games in 22 days. And after a low-key start to their title challenge, Pochettino says Saturday's 4-0 win at Stoke proves his players have moved on from last term, when they fell away to finish third after heading into the final weeks as title contenders.

"We have a very hard season with the Champions League and everything and it's important we have everyone competing," he said. "After four games unbeaten you can see the players are thinking about the new season and the new challenge."

"We have forgotten the past. It was tough for us, but we have worked hard to forget last season and refocus. "We are up for the challenge, we are always optimistic and believe in our players, so why not go better than last season?" An emphatic win saw Harry Kane end his goal drought, with the England striker scoring the fourth for Spurs and his first in 10 games for club and country.

It also made him the fastest Spurs striker ever to reach 50 Premier League goals. "It was very important for him to recover the feeling of scoring," Pochettino said. "Strikers always worry when they do not score goals. He will be happy." South Korea midfielder Son Heung-Min scored twice for Tottenham after being linked heavily with a move away from White Hart Lane in the transfer

window. And Pochettino admitted Son could have left White Hart Lane before the transfer deadline.

"Last season was tough for him," Pochettino said. "We had to decide in or out in the window. It was difficult for us. The decision was for him to stay and I am very pleased."

HUGHES IN HOT WATER

Stoke manager Mark Hughes denied swearing at fourth official Jon Moss following his sending-off in the first half.

Hughes was sent to the stands on a miserable afternoon for the Potters after reacting angrily to a yellow card for diving for winger Marko Arnautovic, and the FA could now review footage after he appeared to remonstrate again with Moss after being dismissed by referee Anthony Taylor. But he denied using abusive language towards the officials and revealed he had been sent from the dugout as part of a new Premier League clampdown on managers leaving their technical areas.

"I did not swear," Hughes said. "I was sent off before I engaged with Jon Moss. So let's put that to bed."

"I came out of my technical area. I was a bit upset. The assistant referee had not flagged for a foul (on Jon Walters) and the referee then thought it was the right decision to book Marko when he was taking evasive action. "They were two decisions I thought should have gone our way. "So I reacted in a forceful manner and came out of my technical area, which this year you are not allowed to do, and sometimes you forget that. — AFP

Sports

UFC champ Miocic survives knock down, wins by KO



Totti saves Roma as England 'keeper suffers debut heart-break



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NEW YORK: Angelique Kerber of Germany returns a shot to Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic during their Women's Singles Final Match on Day Thirteen of the 2016 US Open at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. (Inset) Kerber holds up the championship trophy after beating Karolina Pliskova, of the Czech Republic, to win the women's singles final of the US Open tennis tournament, Saturday, in New York. — AFP, AP

KERBER BEATS PLISKOVA TO WIN US OPEN

NEW YORK: Angelique Kerber won the US Open on Saturday, marking her rise to world number one with a gritty victory over Karolina Pliskova to add a second Grand Slam crown to her magical 2016 season.

"Being there as champion, this year, to hold this trophy, I can't say it in words," said Kerber, who added the US Open crown to the Australian Open title she claimed in January.

Seeded second Kerber rallied from a break down in the third set to beat the hard-hitting 10th-seeded Czech 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 — breaking Pliskova at love to cap the triumph. "Amazing to win a second Grand Slam in one year," Kerber said. "It's the best year of my career."

"It all started for me here in New York five years ago when I reached the semi-finals and now I am here with the trophy," she added. "It's incredible."

It certainly seemed improbable when Kerber finished 2015 ranked 10th in the world. The 28-year-old left-hander, who beat Serena Williams in the final at Melbourne and lost to the US great in the Wimbledon final, will officially rise to world number one on Monday.

But she was assured of that spot when Pliskova top-

pled Williams in the semi-finals. "To be number one and win Grand Slam titles was always my dream ever since I was a little girl," Kerber said. "It means so much."

Pliskova, who had never made it past the third round of a Grand Slam in 17 prior attempts, also beat Venus Williams en route to the title match, becoming just the fourth player to beat both Williams sisters in the same Grand Slam. Pliskova was the first player to take a set off Kerber at Flushing Meadows. Her powerful groundstrokes had Kerber on the run at times, but her 47 unforced errors were, finally, too much to overcome despite her 40 winners.

When Pliskova's final forehand sailed out, Kerber was launched on a joyous celebration, climbing into box where coach Torben Beltz was sitting then returning to the court where the tears flowed.

QUICK START

Kerber took advantage of Pliskova's miscues to open the match with a break.

The quick advantage gave Kerber plenty of breathing room. She was able to maintain it with authoritative

play from the baseline, fending off three break points before cracking Pliskova's serve again when the Czech double-faulted to give her a set point.

Kerber seized her chance with a forehand down the line to pocket the first frame in 44 minutes, having committed just three unforced errors.

Having saved the first break point she faced in the second set, but unable to make inroads on Pliskova's serve, Kerber was beginning to look demoralized by the power shots coming her way.

Pliskova, gaining in confidence, grabbed her first break of the match for a 4-3 lead, lofting a lob over the dejected German.

Serving for the set three games later the Czech fired her fourth ace of the match out wide for set point. Her rocket to the baseline on the next point left Kerber helpless and the match was level at two sets apiece.

"In the second set, I found some power," Pliskova said. Faced with the challenge, Kerber admitted she was "a little negative" in the second set.

"In the second set my body language was not the best and I was trying to change it in the third," Kerber

said. "It was not so easy because Karolina is a tough opponent and she was up a break early. "I was thinking a little bit of the final in Australia when I was also in the third set and I believed in my game."

"I was just believing in myself in the third set and going for it ... I was trying to take the chance."

IN THE MOMENT

Pliskova couldn't maintain the advantage. Two errors gave a break back to Kerber in the sixth game.

Even after her capitulation in the final game, Pliskova said she had no regrets. "We all know that the last game wasn't great, but it's so hard against her," Pliskova said. "I went twice to the net and was going really for the shot. It could go the other way ... So I would not change it. It didn't happen, but this is the way I have to play."

Amidst the disappointment she was looking forward to building on her breakthrough Slam performance. "I found out I can play against the best players in the world on the big courts," Pliskova said. "Angie proved she is the number one, it was an honor to play her." — AFP

DIEGO COSTA BRACE RESCUES RAGGED CHELSEA AT SWANSEA



SWANSEA: Diego Costa scored twice, including an 81st-minute equaliser, as Antonio Conte maintained his unbeaten start to life as Chelsea manager in a 2-2 draw at Swansea City yesterday.

The irrepressible Costa levelled with a deflected but spectacular overhead bicycle kick after Branislav Ivanovic's shot had been sent spinning in his direction.

The goal, Costa's fourth in as many games, spared Conte from his first loss in English football after two controversial Swansea goals in three second-half minutes had cancelled out Costa's opener. That passage of play marked an incredible turnaround for the Welsh side, who had been second-best against a Chelsea team seeking a win to join Manchester City at the top of the Premier League table.

The visitors were made to pay for their string of misses in the 59th minute when a rare Swansea attack saw Modou Barrow cross for Gyfi Sigurdsson, who was tripped by Chelsea goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois.

Courtois was booked and Sigurdsson converted the ensuing

penalty himself. Just three minutes later, Gary Cahill was caught in possession by Leroy Fer 25 yards from the Chelsea goal. Television replays suggested the defender had been fouled, but Fer was allowed to advance before rolling the ball beneath Courtois.

The Belgian goalkeeper scrambled back, but could not prevent the ball crossing the line.

Costa first struck 18 minutes into a half of almost relentless Chelsea pressure after Swansea's defensive frailties were exposed.

Goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski elected not to collect a cross and Federico Fernandez's two poor headers failed to clear the danger. Oscar pounced on the loose ball and neatly teed up Costa to unleash an impressive curling finish from just inside the Swansea area.

FLYING FABIANSKI

By that stage, Chelsea had already wasted at least two very good chances, Willian's terrific shot stinging Fabianski's hands and the goalkeeper saving well from the Brazilian's cross-shot.

After taking the lead, the visitors remained equally impressive, with Fabianski saving well from Eden Hazard, who surged into a shooting position from just inside the Swansea half. Not until the 40th minute did Swansea have a real sight of goal when Fer's drive through the middle saw the ball break to Sigurdsson,

whose curling shot flew just beyond the left-hand post.

Chelsea responded instantly and should have doubled their lead, with Costa missing a far easier opening than the one he had converted earlier, shooting wide of an open goal from a Willian corner.

By that stage, Swansea manager Francesco Guidolin had already abandoned his game-plan of playing with three defenders, changing to a back four and hooking the unfortunate Neil Taylor. The new formation brought no immediate change in fortune, with Jordi Amat joining fellow centre-back Fernandez in earning a yellow card for a foul on Costa.

Amat's feud with the Spain international striker might have seen him dismissed in the minutes that followed. The two Swansea goals followed in quick succession.

As Chelsea pushed for a response, Hazard inexplicably pulled out of a challenge with Fabianski on the edge of the Swansea area, when he looked capable of equalising. Moments later, Oscar's 20-yard shot was superbly saved by the flying Fabianski.

Kyle Naughton denied Costa a far-post header from Hazard's chipped cross, while Oscar's low drive narrowly missed the target.

After Chelsea's second goal, only a brilliant Fabianski save denied Costa a hat-trick and the visitors all three points. — AFP



SWANSEA: Chelsea's Eden Hazard, center, and Swansea City's Kyle Naughton, right, battle for the ball during their teams' English Premier League soccer match at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea, Wales, yesterday. — AP

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DAMASCUS: Syrian vendors wait for customers at the Hamidiyeh popular market in the old part of the capital, Damascus, as Syrians shop in preparation for the Muslim Eid Al-Adha holiday yesterday. —AFP

EU/IMF RIFT ON DEBT HURTING GREECE: PM

I'LL WEAR A TIE WHEN WE GET A DEBT DEAL, SAYS TSIPRAS

THESSALONIKI: A rift between the International Monetary Fund and the European Union over how to make Greece's debt sustainable is damaging the country's attempts at economic recovery, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said yesterday. Describing the debt pile, equivalent to more than 170 percent of economic output, as not just a Greek but a "European problem," he said investors would remain wary of the country for as long as the two sides were at odds on how to restructure it.

"I would say that what is creating conditions of delay in regaining trust of markets and investors ... is the constant clash and disagreement between the IMF and European institutions," Tsipras told a news conference in the northern city of Thessaloniki.

Greece almost tumbled out of the euro zone last year, with investors fleeing its assets as talks dragged on between Athens and international lenders over terms of a financial bailout, the country's third since 2010. The IMF has yet to decide whether to participate in Greece's newest international bailout, saying it is not yet con-

vinced the country's debt is sustainable or its fiscal targets feasible.

Greece's debt to GDP ratio is the highest in the eurozone.

Tsipras said differing views among lenders was preventing the inclusion of Greek debt in the European Central Bank's quantitative easing (QE) asset purchase program. The ECB has said it cannot specify when it could start buying Greek bonds, but that Greece needs to pass a debt sustainability analysis before it happens. Lenders have promised to look at how Greece's debt mountain can be made sustainable, and whatever they decide will swing whether the IMF decides to sign up for the latest bailout deal.

NO EARLY ELECTIONS

Tsipras, a leftist who came to power in early 2015 promising to end years of austerity, is trailing opposition New Democracy in opinion polls. A Kapa Research poll published by the To Vima newspaper on Saturday showed New Democracy ahead by 3.9 points.

On Sunday, Tsipras ruled out early elections, saying: "The country doesn't need elections. The country needs stability." On Friday, euro zone finance



THESSALONIKI: Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras delivers a press conference during the Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF) in Thessaloniki yesterday. —AFP

ministers called on Greece to stay on track with reforms it must pursue under the bailout, which is worth up to 86 billion euros, ahead of a second round of progress in meeting terms that is due to start in October.

It still needs to pursue energy market reforms, create a new body to oversee privatisations and establish a new independent revenue agency.

The Greek premier said the country had already completed 70 percent of

reforms required under the bailout program. Tsipras, who eschews ties and prefers open-collared shirts, reiterated a pledge that a "significant event," such as debt relief, would make him put one on.

"I never got married, so I couldn't wear one at my wedding," he joked. "I don't have any hang-ups about it, but I made a commitment that I would make that wardrobe change when we have an important event."

Struggling

Leftist-led Greece is struggling to deliver on fresh reforms needed to unlock a further 2.8 billion euros (\$3 billion) in bailout loans and more crucially, launch negotiations on debt relief later in the year. "We are closer than ever before to a solution to this crisis. What is delaying the effort of regaining the trust of the markets is the constant disagreement between the European institutions and the IMF," Tsipras said during a press conference at the Thessaloniki International Fair.

The Washington-based IMF, which was key to Greece's three bailouts, has said it won't give a penny to the latest one until it sees a concrete plan from

the Europeans to cut substantially Greece's massive debt burden. The IMF and EU creditors disagree on just how much Athens can improve its finances through ongoing reforms.

"The IMF has set as deadline for the end of this year... A country that has gone through such a harsh adjustment can't wait any longer. Its people are entitled to a fair solution of the debt issue," he said. Eurogroup head Jeroen Dijsselbloem warned Athens on Friday to swiftly deliver on overdue reforms as its massive bailout program fell off track triggering fears of a new row with Greece.

Athens has committed to deliver on the reforms by the end of the month. They include the long delayed launch of a massive privatization fund and reforms in the highly sensitive energy sector.

The EU's Economic Affairs commissioner Pierre Moscovici said Athens must deliver on 15 reforms, with only two of those achieved so far.

Yesterday, some 14,000 people demonstrated in Thessaloniki, the second largest city of Greece, to protest against planned austerity measures. —Agencies



PARIS: Former French Economy Minister and candidate for the left-wing primary ahead of the 2017 presidential election Arnaud Montebourg arrives for the summer conference of the French dissident Socialist MPs known as "Les Frondeurs" (The Insubordinates) yesterday. —AFP

BRITAIN FACES BIG FREE TRADE HEADACHE AFTER BREXIT VOTE

LONDON: Britain's desire to become a free trade leader following its vote to leave the EU is seen as wishful thinking by experts, who say London's hands are tied until a formal exit from the bloc.

Prime Minister Theresa May used this month's G20 summit in China to explore potential trade deals with Australia, India, Mexico, Singapore and South Korea. But international trade experts have been quick to highlight Britain's lack of experience in such negotiations.

"Currently, legally speaking, the UK is part of the EU and therefore is not able to conclude free trade agreements," said Hosuk Lee-Makiyama, director of trade policy think tank, the European Centre for International Political Economy. "For me, it is more an experience problem because the UK has actually not negotiated" on such matters since 1973 when the country joined the European Union, Lee-Makiyama added.

At stake is Britain's position as a major world economy along with its future economic and employment growth. International trade to and from the country each year totals hundreds of billions of pounds, around half of which is with the European Union.

Brussels and Berlin have lost no time in reminding Britain that while it remains within the EU, trade negotiations on behalf of all member states are the sole respon-

sibility of the European Commission.

May has meanwhile come up against hurdles outside the EU, with US President Barack Obama insisting that Washington's priority remains striking a free trade deal with Brussels, however unlikely, before tackling any separate agreement with London. British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson on Friday insisted at a joint ministerial meeting that "Australia is keen to do a free trade deal" and the two countries would be able to "at least to sketch out a very productive deal," while Britain negotiates its exit from the EU.

Australian counterpart Julie Bishop said that Brexit opened "many opportunities to develop an even closer relationship," but her trade minister warned earlier this week that formal negotiations on a deal must wait until Brexit is concluded, which could take years.

"We are now in a time where lawyers don't matter," Lee-Makiyama told AFP. "It is about high politics."

'No friends'

Tim Oliver of the London School of Economics stressed that "there are no friends or special relationships in international trade." He told AFP: "Some countries will know the UK is keen to do deals and vulnerable because it has little experience at negotiating

them." The Conservative government has yet to set out its vision for Brexit following the June 23 referendum, beyond saying it would not start formal exit negotiations with Brussels until next year. "The focus for the first deal is that with the EU," said Oliver. "All others are secondary for the time being."

Andrew Cahn, a former head of the government's department for international trade, has suggested it is "highly unrealistic" that London will have several deals ready to sign once Britain's exit is formalized. Britain is meanwhile widely seen as having an insufficient number of specialist staff to successfully carry out such negotiations.

"We will have to learn quickly," said Oliver. The boss of popular British pub chain JD Wetherspoon last week called on the government to scrap trade talks, as he mocked critics who had forecast economic disaster in the event of Brexit. Tim Martin, founder and chairman of JD Wetherspoon, was a vocal Brexit supporter and "Leave" campaign donor in the run-up to the vote.

"Common sense... suggests that the worst approach for the UK is to insist on the necessity of a 'deal,'" he said Friday. "We don't need one and the fact that EU countries sell us twice as much as we sell them creates a hugely powerful negotiating position." —AFP



A Polish trader waits for Russian shoppers in Braniewo, a town near Poland's border with the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad. — AFP

EAST-WEST TENSIONS CRAMP STYLE OF RUSSIAN SHOPPERS

WARSAW SUSPENDS VISA-FREE TRAVEL WITH KALININGRAD

GRZECHOTKI, Poland: Russian shopper Inna swipes her hand in a dismissive gesture as she waits in her car for a Polish border guard to check the visa stamped in her passport.

"It's all politics," insists the feisty middle-aged Kaliningrader who until recently could shop visa-free in an ample strip of territory on the Polish side of the border. Warsaw suspended its local border traffic agreement allowing visa-free travel with Russia's highly militarized Kaliningrad exclave on July 1 over security concerns, all against the backdrop of the worst tensions between Moscow and the West since the Cold War.

Poland imposed similar restrictions on Ukraine to boost security for July's NATO summit and a visit by Pope Francis, but then lifted them in August. Not so with the Russian territory. Interior Minister Mariusz Blaszczak cites "reasons of securi-

ty", but is keeping mum on what exactly caused Warsaw to deny Kaliningrad visa-free travel.

Sandwiched between Poland and fellow EU and NATO member Lithuania, Kaliningrad's one million citizens rely heavily on trade with their neighbors for everyday goods, including food, white goods and electronics. Travelling with her daughter-in-law Nadezda, Inna told AFP that visa-free travel had meant their whole family could visit and shop in Poland, but say that many cannot afford the 100 euro (\$112) fee for a 90-day multiple-entry Schengen visa.

"Now many of us can't go to Poland," said Inna, who declined to reveal her surname. "It's not just shopping in Polish border towns, but also visiting larger cities like Gdansk, Gdynia and the opportunity to relax at the beach." According to Polish customs agent Marek Borowiec, the geo-

political tensions appear to have hit the once busy Grzechotki-Mamonovo crossing hard: traffic is down by around 30 percent since July.

"The drop was triggered not just by the suspension of (visa-free) small border traffic, but also by EU sanctions on Russia imposed two years ago over the Ukraine crisis and the systematic devaluation of the Russian rouble," he told AFP.

"Before July the queue of cars would stretch back half a kilometre-about a two-hour wait. Now they just zip through."

High unemployment

Russians from Kaliningrad spent nearly 70 million euros in Poland last year, money that was a lifeline for border areas plagued by an unemployment rate of up to 30 percent. Just 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) from the Kaliningrad border, the Polish town of Braniewo has a lot to lose from the travel

restrictions. Supermarkets, clothing retailers, restaurants and hotels popped up after visa free travel was introduced in 2011, making the town of 17,000 people a one-stop shop for Kaliningraders.

"We had hundreds of Russians coming everyday, now it's just a few," Mayor Monika Trzcinska told AFP, adding that jobs are at risk with some businesses reporting up to 70 percent in lost sales.

Like others in the town, Trzcinska is puzzled over the Polish government's pre-occupation with security.

"We don't feel threatened by Russians. We feel safe! I find it difficult to understand, but maybe there's something else going on that we don't know about."

Security concerns?

Moscow has stepped up its presence in the Baltic Sea area. Its jets regularly violate the airspace of smaller ex-Soviet NATO allies like Estonia and in April they even buzzed a US naval destroyer. The US said in March it would deploy an additional armoured brigade of about 4,200 troops in eastern Europe from early 2017 on a rotational basis. NATO also decided to deploy four multinational battalions to the Baltic states and Poland as of next year.

Warsaw suggests the US-led battalion on its territory will likely be deployed near Kaliningrad. "Some of the NATO forces will be close to Kaliningrad borders," Michal Baranowski, Warsaw office director of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, told AFP. NATO strategists are particularly concerned by a nearby 65-kilometre (40-mile) stretch of Polish-Lithuanian border that is sandwiched between Kaliningrad and Belarus. Dubbed the Suwalki Gap, they warn it is the Achilles' heel of NATO's eastern flank: its capture would amputate the alliance's three Baltic members and so shatter its credibility.

Fears that Russia could attempt an attack surged after Moscow's 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, a move which sent East-West relations to their lowest point since the Cold War. "A big armed attack or scenario of 'little green men' or the hybrid threat is something that could happen in Kaliningrad," Baranowski said. — AFP



The Poland's border with the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad is pictured in Grzechotki. — AFP

ANGOLA ORDERS 17 WARSHIPS AS ECONOMY FLOUNDERS

LUANDA: Angola has commissioned a Middle Eastern shipbuilding company to build 17 military patrol vessels for more than half a billion dollars, despite the country's economy being bruised by falling oil prices. The 495-million-euro (\$555 million) contract with the Prinvest shipbuilding group was announced in a decree signed by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos on August 29.

Prinvest is owned by French-Lebanese businessman Iskandar Safa. The type of vessels was not specified in the decree, but it said they were ordered for "interception and deterrence, as well as for ongoing surveillance of the coast". Prinvest confirmed in a press release "the start of a major shipbuilding and maritime economy program with the Republic of Angola". The company also announced a new shipyard in the southern African country, to be built with metals company Simportex. "This marks another step in our cooperation with one of the most dynamic economies in Africa," Prinvest president Boulos Hankach said in the statement.

Prinvest has shipyards in the Middle East and Europe, and says it has delivered more than 2,000 vessels to more than 40 navies around the world. Following the end of its 27-year civil war, Angola's economy boomed, but the drop in oil prices has strangled its currency reserves and slashed growth. Finance minister Armando Manuel was on Monday sacked after three years in the role, without any official explanation. — AFP

CANADIAN UNEMPLOYMENT EDGES UP TO 7% IN AUGUST

OTTAWA: The Canadian economy created 26,000 jobs in August, a bit better than expected amid a struggling economy, and the unemployment rate ticked higher to seven percent, the government said. The increase in unemployment occurred because "more people participated in the labor market," Statistics Canada reported.

Economists had predicted 25,000 new jobs and a decline in the jobless rate to 6.8 percent from 6.9 percent in July. The lackluster jobs numbers come at a rough moment for the Canadian economy, which contracted at an annual rate of 1.6 percent in the second quarter following a large drop in oil production caused by wildfires in the Alberta oil-sands region.

The public sector created 57,000 jobs in August "offsetting declines observed in July," Statistics Canada said. The level of private-sector jobs was little changed from July, but was up by 97,000 compared with a year ago. The professional, scientific and technical services industry lost 23,000 jobs month-over-month. Employment rose by 22,000 jobs in August among youths age 15 to 24, with the unemployment rate little changed at 13.2 percent.

For those 55 and older, there was jobs growth of 29,000 payrolls, with unemployment unchanged at 6.0 percent. Meanwhile, those 25 to 54 saw a decrease of 25,000 jobs for the month. Their unemployment rate rose to 6.6 percent from 6.3 percent. Geographically, the eastern province of Quebec created 22,000 jobs in August, with the jobless rate stable at 7.1 percent.

Ontario-Canada's richest and most populated province saw unemployment rise 0.3 percentage points to 6.7 percent with virtually no change in employment. — AFP

CHINA AUTO SALES UP 24.2% IN AUGUST

SHANGHAI: Auto sales in China, the world's biggest car market and crucial to worldwide manufacturers, grew at a faster rate in August, data from an industry group showed Friday.

Sales reached 2.07 million units in August, up 24.2 percent year-on-year, the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM) said. Both growth and total sales surpassed July, when vehicles sales rose 23 percent to 1.85 million units. Auto sales growth has accelerated for the last four months in China as the economy shows signs of stabilising.

An official measure of manufacturing activity rebounded to its strongest level in nearly two years last month while China's producer prices fell at their slowest rate for more than four years.

Sales of passenger cars with engines smaller than 1.6 litres, which accounts for more than 70 percent of total auto sales, jumped 40.7 percent to 1.29 million, CAAM data showed.

The government slashed the purchase tax on passenger cars with small engines last October. Some foreign manufacturers saw their Chinese sales surge last month, with US auto giant General Motors selling 293,537 vehicles, up 18 percent year-on-year, and Ford's sales jumping 22 percent to 96,450 units. — AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.944
Indian Rupees	4.542
Pakistani Rupees	2.900
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.088
Nepali Rupees	2.852
Singapore Dollar	225.140
Hongkong Dollar	38.964
Bangladesh Taka	3.853
Philippine Peso	6.431
Thai Baht	8.755

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.643
Qatari Riyal	83.070
UAE Dirham	82.335

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	29.550
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.423
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.214
Tunisian Dinar	138.330
Jordanian Dinar	426.730
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.015
Syrian Lira	2.0155
Morocco Dirham	31.749

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	302.250
Euro	343.050

Sterling Pound	405.470
Canadian dollar	235.400
Turkish lira	103.160
Swiss Franc	314.190
Australian Dollar	232.730
US Dollar Buying	301.050

GOLD	
20 Gram	267.700
10 Gram	136.700
5 Gram	69.200

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.900
Canadian Dollr	233.320
Sterling Pound	403.380
Euro	338.920
Swiss Frank	298.130
Bahrain Dinar	800.735
UAE Dirhams	82.700
Qatari Riyals	83.910
Saudi Riyals	81.495
Jordanian Dinar	426.815
Egyptian Pound	34.013
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.084
Indian Rupees	4.548
Pakistani Rupees	2.902
Bangladesh Taka	3.854
Philippines Pесо	6.495
Cyprus pound	159.645
Japanese Yen	3.915
Syrian Pound	2.405

Nepalese Rupees	3.825
Malaysian Ringgit	74.815
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.695
Thai Bhat	9.720
Turkish Lira	102.840

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.389705	0.404705
Czech Korune	0.004466	0.016466
Danish Krone	0.041251	0.046251
Euro	0.0331946	0.0340946
Norwegian Krone	0.032268	0.037468
Romanian Leu	0.075610	0.075610
Slovakia	0.009018	0.019018
Swedish Krona	0.031427	0.036427
Swiss Franc	0.301266	0.312266
Turkish Lira	0.097608	0.107908
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.219217	0.231217
New Zealand Dollar	0.212884	0.222384
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.225725	0.234725
Georgina Lari	0.136691	0.136691
US Dollars	0.298550	0.303250
US Dollars Mint	0.299050	0.303250
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003289	0.003873
Chinese Yuan	0.043702	0.047202

Hong Kong Dollar	0.036926	0.039676
Indian Rupee	0.004259	0.004648
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002852	0.003032
Kenyan Shilling	0.002978	0.002978
Korean Won	0.000261	0.000276
Malaysian Ringgit	0.071019	0.077019
Nepalese Rupee	0.002809	0.002979
Pakistan Rupee	0.002699	0.002989
Philippine Peso	0.006307	0.006607
Sierra Leone	0.000051	0.000057
Singapore Dollar	0.216485	0.226485
South African Rand	0.014836	0.023336
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001641	0.002221
Taiwan	0.009414	0.009594
Thai Baht	0.008417	0.008967
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.796216	0.804716
Egyptian Pound	0.023748	0.028866
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.422712	0.431712
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019618	0.043618
Nigerian Naira	0.001248	0.001883
Omani Riyal	0.779684	0.785364
Qatar Riyal	0.082319	0.083769
Saudi Riyal	0.079620	0.080920
Syrian Pound	0.001283	0.001503
Tunisian Dinar	0.133987	0.141987
Turkish Lira	0.097608	0.107908
UAE Dirhams	0.080975	0.082675
Yemeni Riyal	0.001368	0.001448



Activists of Novissen Association for farmers protest against the "Mille vaches" farm in Drucat, yesterday. — AFP



ACCRA: Women attend a class during a driving lesson organized by the Ghanaian charity Network of Women in Growth (NEWIG) in Accra. — AFP

GHANAIAN WOMEN LOOK TO DRIVE STEREOTYPES OFF THE ROAD

ACCRA: Faith Lawson carefully backs a large silver pick-up truck through cones placed on the red soil of a military camp in Ghana's capital, Accra. As she checks her mirrors and slowly reverses, 14 young women standing in military formation look on.

Two months ago, the 24-year-old had never even gripped a steering wheel and was frightened by the very thought of driving. Now she hopes to become a professional driver and break into a male-dominated vocation after completing a program aimed at creating jobs and empowering women.

Lawson is one of 15 being trained as a driver on a course run by Ghanaian charity Network of Women in Growth (NEWIG), which works to draw women into more lucrative professions.

For eight weeks, the women learn the ins and outs of driving, from how to change a tyre to reading maps. Ultimately, they hope to take the wheel as chauffeurs or commercial drivers and in the process overturn rigid gender stereotypes in the west African nation.

Fiawomorm Landzo-Wene comes from a small town on the Volta River, where women traditionally bake bread or sell food and fabric at busy market stands.

But at 21, she has a different dream. "I have been desiring to drive for so long and now the chance has come," she said. "Now looking at it I see that what men can do, women can do—and do it better."

Sewing to steering

Mawusi Awity founded NEWIG in 2002 to help marginalised women break into the workforce, teaching them skills to make a living in areas such as textiles, beads or catering.

There is also education on domestic violence and family planning. But this year Awity wanted to encourage women to get into better-paid professions—usually those more associated with men. Encouraging women to drive would also be a service to society, said Awity.

"Statistically women are less involved in accidents. Men are more

offensive on the roads and women defensive," she said. The Ghanaian army has partnered with the charity to make sure the new drivers operate on the roads with military discipline.

Clothed in charcoal grey overalls embellished with pink accents, the students learn how to spot hazards on the road and train in first aid. Awity is proud to report that the fear the women once had of driving has been "broken" and the training has made them "more confident and assertive."

Ghana ranked 63 out of 145 countries in the World Economic Forum's "Gender Gap Index" in 2015, with the country part of a group making "the largest absolute gains in senior roles", including legislators, senior officials and management positions.

According to the United Nations 2015 Human Development Report, women in Ghana work more than men but are paid less because they are more involved in the informal sector.

Women's estimated gross national income per capita was \$3,200 (2,832 euros) in 2014, compared to men at \$4,515 (3,995 euros).

'Gender statement'

Soon, some of the qualified drivers may even join the ranks of Esenam Nyador, one of the few female taxi drivers operating in Accra. Nyador wanted to be a truck driver but for lack of training the 39-year-old decided to go into the taxi business. Three years later, she's a minor celebrity on Accra's streets. In a demonstration of her business acumen, Nyador caters to well-heeled expatriate clients and has even dubbed her taxi the "UN car". The mother of two knows she's setting an example and describes her work as "a gender statement."

"I am daring the status quo and the gender relations that exist or govern society here in Ghana," she said. It's a career path Landzo-Wene plans to emulate.

She has already mapped out her future, starting by driving a taxi, then a bus, and has an ultimate goal in mind. "I know with my ambition I will surely drive the president," she said. — AFP

FRANCE PONDERING RIPPING UP FIRM EU BUDGET RULES

STABILITY PACT MEANT TO ENSURE PUBLIC FINANCES REMAIN SOUND

PARIS: Nobody yet knows the winner of France's presidential election next year, but the smart money is on one loser: The three-percent cap on government deficits enshrined in euro-zone rules.

A bedrock of euro stability for some, the requirement to keep government deficits to below three percent of gross domestic product (GDP) is seen by many as an insufferable straight-jacket on governments wanting to spend their way out of economic sluggishness.

Many French politicians, on the left and right, wonder aloud whether France should start ignoring the EU Commission and three-percent defenders, including powerhouse Germany, and break free.

"The European left, Social Democrats, should speak more about economic revival, about loosening the rules of the Stability Pact," Prime Minister Manuel Valls said at the end of August.

The EU's Stability Pact is meant to ensure public finances remain sound and has underpinned the austerity policies of many nations since the global economic crisis. It was an unusual message from Valls, who has a reputation as a budget hawk and has several times pushed through deficit reductions sought by Brussels. But his finance minister was quick to add that Paris would honour its promise to bring its public spending deficit down to 2.7 percent next year.

"That doesn't concern 2017, it is a debate on afterwards," said Michel Sapin. Even as he unveiled this past week billions in tax cuts to businesses and households for 2017, Sapin reaffirmed France would meet its deficit target. "We've made that promise to parliament and EU authorities and we're going to keep it," he told AFP in an interview.

But despite such promises, France's Court of Auditors warned recently that Paris risked again missing the three-percent target in 2017, after years of already doing so. The EU has warned that France will not be allowed to exceed the three-percent deficit target again. France "has been granted a delay of two years twice. This will not be extended again," EU Economic Affairs Commissioner Pierre Moscovici said in January. But Sapin nevertheless considers the debate legitimate about the future of the EU budget rules given the changed circumstances, particularly the need for increased spending on security given the wave of terror attacks in Europe.

'Absurd, obsolete and suicidal'

Such statements "clearly mark a change in direction," said Alain Trannoy, head of research at the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences in Paris. He noted that criticism of the pact, agreed in 1997 as preparations for the introduction of the euro stepped up, has spread across the political spectrum.

"The Maastricht and Lisbon treaties have bogged down the eurozone in crisis, locked it in absurd, obsolete and suicidal rules," said Arnaud Montebourg, a former Socialist economy minister who announced his run for the presidency last month. The two treaties underpin the euro and public finance rules in the eurozone.

Montebourg's view is shared by both the far left which is anti-austerity, and by the far-right National Front on national sovereignty grounds. It also appears to be making inroads among the Republicans, the centre-right party, which is in favour of massive cuts in taxes to stimulate the economy. If certain candidates in the Republican presidential primary, such as Francois Fillon or Herve Mariton, still insist on the need to rapidly

return to a balanced budget, others remain vague on spending cuts to compensate for their promised fiscal jumpstart to the economy.

"For Brussels as well as our European partners and the holders of French debt, what counts is that we attack the structural cause of the deficits," said former president Nicolas Sarkozy, who is vying to win the Republican nomination, when asked recently about the Stability Pact.

'Curious timing'

Trannoy believes that while the criticisms by the candidates must certainly be considered in the light of presidential campaign, they also reflect growing concerns that the EU's budgetary austerity has held back economic growth and job creation. "The current rules don't work," said Mathieu Plane, a researcher at the French Economic Observatory at the Sciences Po university in Paris.

"Reducing debt is necessary, but restrictive policies are not necessarily the best means," he said.

The European Commission can impose massive fines on countries that fail to take sufficient steps to bring down their public deficits. It has threatened to do so in recent years in order to enforce budgetary discipline although many economists believe eurozone states should take advantage of ultra-low interest rates to make needed investments in infrastructure and boost their economies, even though debt levels are worryingly high.

Trannoy said there was a bit of "curious timing" to the comments as France's economy is expanding, if just barely. "The economic rule is to make deficits when things are going bad and cut back when things are getting better. Yet things are getting better." — AFP



PARIS: Around 700 entrepreneurs ride their old blue mopeds on the Avenue des Champs-Elysees near the Arc de Triomphe, in Paris, yesterday during the 2016 "Grand prix meule bleue". — AFP

A WORLD BANK GROUP FLAGSHIP REPORT

DOING BUSINESS IN KUWAIT 2016

MEASURING REGULATORY QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY

KUWAIT: Doing Business sheds light on how easy or difficult it is for a local entrepreneur to open and run a small to medium-size business when complying with relevant regulations. It measures and tracks changes in regulations affecting 11 areas in the life cycle of a business: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, resolving insolvency and labor market regulation. Doing Business 2016 presents the data for the labor market regulation indicators in an annex. The report does not present rankings of economies on labor market regulation indicators or include the topic in the aggregate distance to frontier score or ranking on the ease of doing business.

In a series of annual reports Doing Business presents quantitative indicators on business regulations and the protection of property rights that can be compared across 189 economies, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, over time. The data set covers 47 economies in Sub-Saharan Africa, 32 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 25 in East Asia and the Pacific, 25 in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 20 in the Middle East and North Africa and 8 in South Asia, as well as 32 OECD high-income economies. The indicators are used to analyze economic outcomes and identify what reforms have worked, where and why.

THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

For policy makers trying to improve their economy's regulatory environment for business, a good place to start is to find out how it compares with the regulatory environment in other economies. Doing Business provides an aggregate ranking on the ease of doing business based on indicator sets that measure and benchmark regulations applying to domestic small to medium-size businesses through their life cycle. Economies are ranked from 1 to 189 by the ease of doing business ranking.

The 10 topics included in the ranking in Doing Business 2016: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency. The labor market regulation indicators are not included in this year's aggregate ease of doing business ranking, but the data are presented in the economy profile.

For policy makers, knowing where their economy stands in the aggregate ranking on the ease of doing business is useful. Also useful is to know how it ranks relative to comparator economies and relative to the regional average. The economy's rankings and distance to frontier scores on the topics included in the ease of doing business ranking provide another perspective.

Just as the overall ranking on the ease of doing business tells only part of the story, so do changes in that ranking. Yearly movements in rankings can provide some indication of changes in an economy's regulatory environment for firms, but they are always relative.

Moreover, year-to-year changes in the overall rankings do not reflect how the business regulatory environment in an economy has changed over time or how it has changed in different areas. To aid in assessing such changes, Doing Business introduced the distance to frontier score. This measure shows how far an average economy is from the best performance achieved by any economy on each Doing Business indicator.

STARTING A BUSINESS

Formal registration of companies has many immediate benefits for the companies and for business owners and employees. Legal entities can outlive their founders. Resources are pooled as several shareholders join forces to start a company. Formally registered companies have access to services and institutions from courts to banks as well as to new markets. And their employees can benefit from protections provided by the law. An additional benefit comes with limited liability companies. These limit the financial liability of company owners to their investments, so personal assets of the owners are not put at risk. Where governments make registration easy, more entrepreneurs start businesses in the formal sector, creating more good jobs and generating more revenue for the government.

What do the indicators cover?

Doing Business records all procedures officially required, or commonly done in practice, for an entrepreneur to start up and formally operate an industrial or commercial business, as well as the time and cost to complete these procedures and the paid-in minimum capital requirement. These procedures include obtaining all necessary licenses and permits and completing any required notifications, verifications or inscriptions for the company and employees with relevant authorities. The ranking of economies on the ease of starting a business is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores for starting a business. These scores are the simple average of the distance to frontier scores for each of the component indicators.

Where does Kuwait stand

What does it take to start a business in Kuwait? According to data collected by Doing Business, starting a business there requires 12.00 procedures, takes 31.00 days, costs 2.30 percent of income per capita and requires paid-in minimum capital of 8.20 percent of income per capita (figure 2.1). Most indicator sets refer to a case scenario in the largest business city of an economy, except for 11 economies for which the data are a population-weighted average of the 2 largest business cities. See the chapter on distance to frontier and ease of doing business ranking at the end of this profile for more details.

Globally, Kuwait stands at 148 in the ranking

of 189 economies on the ease of starting a business. The rankings for comparator economies and the regional average ranking provide other useful information for assessing how easy it is for an entrepreneur in Kuwait to start a business. Economies around the world have taken steps making it easier to start a business-streamlining procedures by setting up a one-stop shop, making procedures simpler or faster by introducing technology and reducing or eliminating minimum capital requirements. Many have undertaken business registration reforms in stages-and they often are part of a larger regulatory reform program. Among the benefits have been greater firm satisfaction and savings and more registered businesses, financial resources and job opportunities.

What are the details?

Underlying the indicators shown in this chapter for Kuwait is a set of specific procedures-the bureaucratic and legal steps that an entrepreneur must complete to incorporate and register a new firm. These are identified by Doing Business through collaboration with relevant local professionals and the study of laws, regulations and publicly available information on business entry in that economy. Following is a detailed summary of those procedures, along with the associated time and cost. These

follow with respect to the company name selection, such as: the chosen name must not be in breach of "public morals." Once approved, the Commercial Registry issues a letter confirming the proposed name and reserves it for 3 months.

In deference to the Department of Companies' letter, the bank open an account in the name of the company with the term "under formation" annexed to the account. The deposited capital remains frozen until the bank receives the notarized deed of incorporation and the commercial license of the company, following which the term "under formation" is removed and the account is activated. The bank issues a deposit certificate in the name of the company addressed to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, detailing the amount deposited by each partner against his/her share in the company.

Once the municipality receives the request for inspection of the company premises from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, it contacts the entrepreneur to schedule an inspection date in order to verify that the premises comply with municipal health and safety regulations. This includes an inspection by the Fire Department to check for compliance with fire regulations. If the company premises successfully pass inspection, the municipality issues a

certificate of no objection in the name of the company, allowing the use of the indicated premises as the company location. This process usually takes 5 to 14 days.

Obtain the approval of the memorandum of association from the Department of Companies. The entrepreneur proceeds to the Department of Companies to submit the draft memorandum of association. If the entrepreneur does not use the standard form of the memorandum of association, the amendments or additions to the standard memorandum must be accepted by the MOCI before it approves the company incorporation. Once the final draft is signed, the Department of Companies issues a letter addressed to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) requesting the authentication of the company incorporation, accompanied by the draft memorandum of association.

What do the indicators cover?

Doing Business records all procedures required for a business in the construction

industry to build a warehouse along with the time and cost to complete each procedure. In addition, this year Doing Business introduces a new measure, the building quality control index, evaluating the quality of building regulations, the strength of quality control and safety mechanisms, liability and insurance regimes, and professional certification requirements. The ranking of economies on the ease of dealing with construction permits is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores for dealing with construction permits. These scores are the simple average of the distance to frontier scores for each of the component indicators.

What does it take to obtain a new electricity connection in Kuwait?

According to data collected by Doing Business, getting electricity there requires 8.00 procedures, takes 64.00 days and costs 52.20 percent of income per capita.

Most indicator sets refer to a case scenario in the largest business city of an economy, except for 11 economies for which the data are a population-weighted average of the 2 largest business cities. See the chapter on distance to frontier and ease of doing business ranking at the end of this profile for more details. Globally, Kuwait stands at 128 in the ranking of 189 economies on the ease of getting electricity. The rankings for comparator economies and the regional average ranking provide another perspective in assessing how easy it is for an entrepreneur in Kuwait to connect a warehouse to electricity.

What are the details?

The indicators reported here for Kuwait are based on a set of specific procedures-the steps that an entrepreneur must complete to get a warehouse connected to electricity by the local distribution utility-identified by Doing Business. Data are collected from the distribution utility, then completed and verified by electricity regulatory agencies and independent professionals such as electrical engineers, electrical contractors and construction companies. The electricity distribution utility surveyed is the one serving the area (or areas) in which warehouses are located. If there is a choice of distribution utilities, the one serving the largest number of customers is selected. Ensuring formal property rights is fundamental. Effective administration of land is part of that. If formal property transfer is too costly or complicated, formal titles might go informal again. And where property is informal or poorly administered, it has little chance of being accepted as collateral for loans-limiting access to finance.

What do the indicators cover?

Doing Business records the full sequence of procedures necessary for a business to purchase property from another business and transfer the property title to the buyer's name. The transaction is considered complete when it is opposable to third parties and when the buyer can use the property, use it as collateral for a bank loan or resell it. In addition, this year Doing Business adds a new measure to the set of registering property indicators, an index of the quality of the land administration system in each economy. The ranking of economies on the ease of registering property is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores for registering property. These scores are the simple average of the distance to frontier scores for each of the component indicators. To make the data comparable across economies, several assumptions about the parties to the transaction, the property and the procedures are used.

What does it take to complete a property transfer in Kuwait? According to data collected by Doing Business, registering property there requires 8.00 procedures, takes 49.00 days and costs 0.50 percent of the property value.

What are the details?

The indicators reported here are based on a set of specific procedures-the steps that a buyer and seller must complete to transfer the property to the buyer's name-identified by Doing Business through information collected from local property lawyers, notaries and property registries. These procedures are those that apply to a transaction matching the standard assumptions used by Doing Business in collecting the data (see the section in this chapter on what the indicators cover). The procedures, along with the associated time and cost, are summarized below.

The seller must request a Cadastral Description Certificate from the Municipality providing the details of the property in question (i.e. its size, the developments on it, the zoning, etc) and confirming that the property is in compliance with all the Municipality regulations. This document is prepared following an inspection of the property by an architect of the Municipality. The warehouse is likely to be in one of the following areas; Shuwaikh, Sulaibiya, Sabhan, Al Rai, Anghara and Ardiya. This is however not an exclusive list. The Kuwait Municipality, which is the authority responsible for zoning, may authorize the construction of a warehouse in an area that is not ordinarily used for warehousing.

Once the No Objection letter is received from the Municipality, the parties receive an SMS to come to the Ministry of Justice to complete the transaction. The seller must prepare an application requesting a transfer of title to be filed with the Contracts Control Department of the Real Estate Registration Office of the Ministry of Justice. The Contracts Control Department reviews the application and the attached documents internally (3-7 days). After reviewing the application, the Contracts Control Department will take an extra 17-28 days to check all the documentation and approve the transfer. If approved, the form of the sale agreement is transferred to the notarization department for review. Once approved, the same is printed on the official green papers used by the Ministry and becomes ready for signature. The 0.5 percent registration fee is paid to the Department of Real Estate Registration & Authentication (Ministry of Justice) upon the completion of the registration Procedures, who approves the submitted documents before parties sign the notarized sale contract. The documentation shall include: a) Form of the sale agreement (available at the Real Estate Registration Office) b) Form I 15 calendar days.

Working Hours	Data
Maximum number of working days per week	6.0
Premium for night work (% of hourly pay)	0.0
Premium for work on weekly rest day (% of hourly pay)	50.0
Premium for overtime work (% of hourly pay)	25.0
Restrictions on night work?	0.0
Whether nonpregnant and nonnursing women can work the same night hours as men	No
Restrictions on weekly holiday?	1.0
Restrictions on overtime work?	Yes
Paid annual leave for a worker with 1 year of tenure (working days)	30.0
Paid annual leave for a worker with 5 years of tenure (working days)	30.0
Paid annual leave for a worker with 10 years of tenure (working days)	30.0
Paid annual leave (average for workers with 1, 5 and 10 years of tenure, in working days)	30.0

procedures are those that apply to a company matching the standard assumptions (the "standardized company") used by Doing Business in collecting the data (see the section in this chapter on what the indicators measure).

STANDARDIZED COMPANY

To register, the entrepreneur must submit a completed standard application form to the Department of Companies of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI), accompanied by the following documents:

1. Copy of the entrepreneur's identity card (ID)
2. Certificate issued by the Social Security Authority attesting that the Kuwaiti partners are not civil servants
3. Lease contract, a receipt of rent payment, and a certificate from the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) confirming that the premises are registered with PACI. The completed application must include the names of the founding partners and their respective shares; the capital, scope and objective of the company; and the name of the manager.

Once the application is approved, it is stamped and signed by the Department of Companies, and allocated a reference number. The MOCI electronically sends an inspection request to the Municipality to proceed with the inspection of the company premises at the relevant point of incorporation process. The MOCI also sends a request to the Ministry of Interior to run background checks verifying that the founding partners do not have a criminal record.

Reserve a unique company name

The entrepreneur submits a company name reservation application to the Commercial Registry. The Commercial Registry searches the computer database to ensure that the proposed company name(s) does not already exist or resemble other reserved names. The Commercial Registry has certain guidelines to

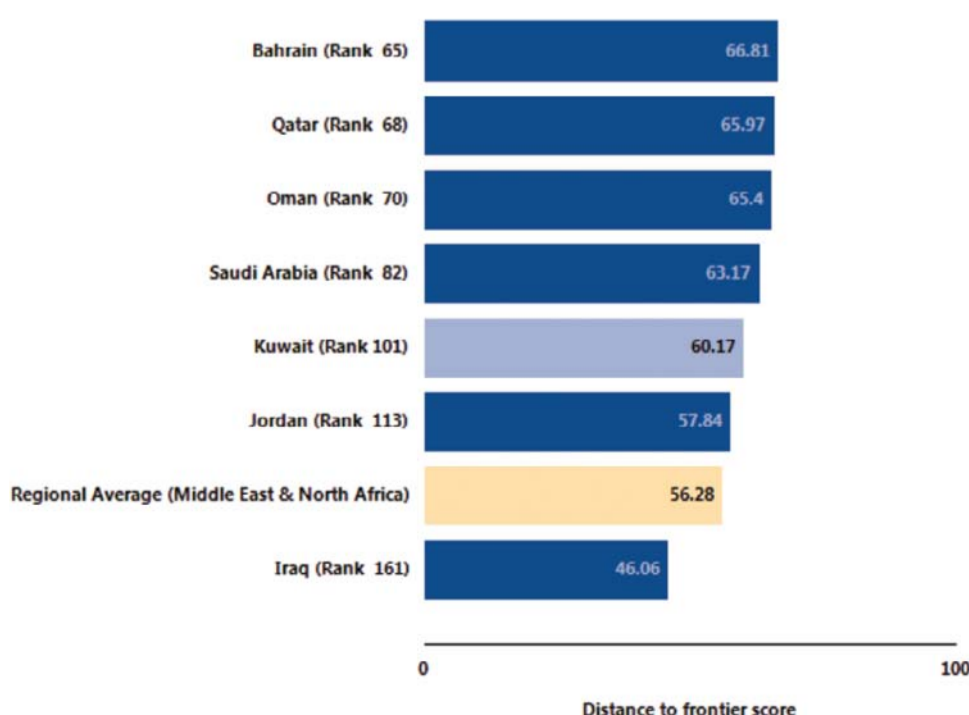
certificate of no objection in the name of the company, allowing the use of the indicated premises as the company location. This process usually takes 5 to 14 days.

Obtain the approval of the memorandum of association from the Department of Companies. The entrepreneur proceeds to the Department of Companies to submit the draft memorandum of association. If the entrepreneur does not use the standard form of the memorandum of association, the amendments or additions to the standard memorandum must be accepted by the MOCI before it approves the company incorporation. Once the final draft is signed, the Department of Companies issues a letter addressed to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) requesting the authentication of the company incorporation, accompanied by the draft memorandum of association.

Notarize the MoA

The entrepreneur submits the draft memorandum of association along with Department of Companies' letter and the bank capital deposit certificate to the Notary Public Department at the Ministry of Justice. The officer verifies that the required documents are complete and schedules an appointment for signing before the notary public at the Company Formation Department of the Ministry of Justice, during which the memorandum of association is signed by the founding partners and notarized on the set date in 3 originals: one for the company, one for the Ministry of Justice, and one to be filed with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The entrepreneur files a signed and notarized copy of the memorandum of association at the Department of Companies of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. A copy thereof is then submitted to the Commercial Registry and a certificate of registration is obtained. The certificate of registration includes the company's full name and commercial regis-



Where does the economy stand today?

What does it take to comply with the formalities to build a warehouse in Kuwait? According to data collected by Doing Business, dealing with construction permits there requires 22.00 procedures, takes 216.00 days and costs 0.30 percent of the warehouse value. Most indicator sets refer to a case scenario in the largest business city of an economy, except for 11 economies for which the data are a population-weighted average of the 2 largest business cities. See the chapter on distance to frontier and ease of doing business ranking at the end of this profile for more details. Globally, Kuwait stands at 133 in the ranking of 189 economies on the ease of dealing with construction permits (figure 3.2). The rankings for comparator economies and the regional average ranking provide other useful information for assessing how easy it is for an entrepreneur in Kuwait to legally build a warehouse. The indicators reported here for Kuwait are based on a set of specific procedures-the steps that a company must complete to legally build a warehouse-identified by Doing Business through information collected from experts in construction licensing, including architects, civil engineers, construction lawyers, construction firms, utility service providers and public officials who deal with building regulations. These procedures are those that apply to a company and structure matching the standard assumptions used by Doing Business in collecting the data. According to No. 30/2012 issued by Kuwait Municipality on August 2012, the building permit will not be granted unless the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) gives its approval on the electric supply. A site inspection must be conducted before the approval can be issued. MEW is understaffed and therefore, it can take anywhere from 1 week to 1 month for the site inspection to happen. Approval of the plans can take 1-2 months after the inspection takes place. Once the Kuwait Municipality is satisfied with the information and documentation concerning the building's specifications and construction works, it will grant the necessary approvals.

Building Quality Control Index

The building quality control index is the sum of the scores on the quality of building regulations, quality control before construction, quality control during construction, quality control after construction, liability and insurance regimes, and professional certifications indices. The index ranges from 0 to 15, with higher val-

A WORLD BANK GROUP FLAGSHIP REPORT

DOING BUSINESS IN KUWAIT 2016

MEASURING REGULATORY QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY

Continued from Page 24

GETTING CREDIT

Two types of frameworks can facilitate access to credit and improve its allocation: credit information systems and borrowers and lenders in collateral and bankruptcy laws. Credit information systems enable lenders' rights to view a potential borrower's financial history (positive or negative)-valuable information to consider when assessing risk. And they permit borrowers to establish a good credit history that will allow easier access to credit. Sound collateral laws enable businesses to use their assets, especially movable property, as security to generate capital-while strong creditors' rights have been associated with higher ratios of private sector credit to GDP.

The ranking of economies on the ease of getting credit is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores for getting credit. These scores are the distance to frontier score for the strength of legal rights index and the depth of credit information index. How well do the credit information system and collateral and bankruptcy laws in Kuwait facilitate Globally, Kuwait stands at 109 in the ranking of 189 economies on the ease of getting credit (figure 6.1). The rankings for comparator economies provide other useful information for assessing how well regulations and institutions in Kuwait support lending and borrowing.

What are the details?

The getting credit indicators reported here for Kuwait are based on detailed information collected in that economy. The data on credit information sharing are collected through a survey of a credit registry and/or credit bureau (if one exists). To construct the depth of credit information index, a score of 1 is assigned for each of 8 features of the credit registry or credit bureau (see summary of scoring below).

The data on the legal rights of borrowers and lenders are gathered through a survey of financial lawyers and verified through analysis of laws and regulations as well as public sources of information on collateral and bankruptcy laws. For the strength of legal rights index, a score of 1 is assigned for each of 10 aspects related to legal rights in collateral law and 2 aspects in bankruptcy law.

PROTECTING MINORITY INVESTORS

Protecting minority investors matters for the ability of companies to raise the capital they need to grow, innovate, diversify and compete. Effective regulations define related-party transactions precisely, promote clear and efficient disclosure requirements, require shareholder participation in major decisions of the company and set detailed standards of accountability for company insiders.

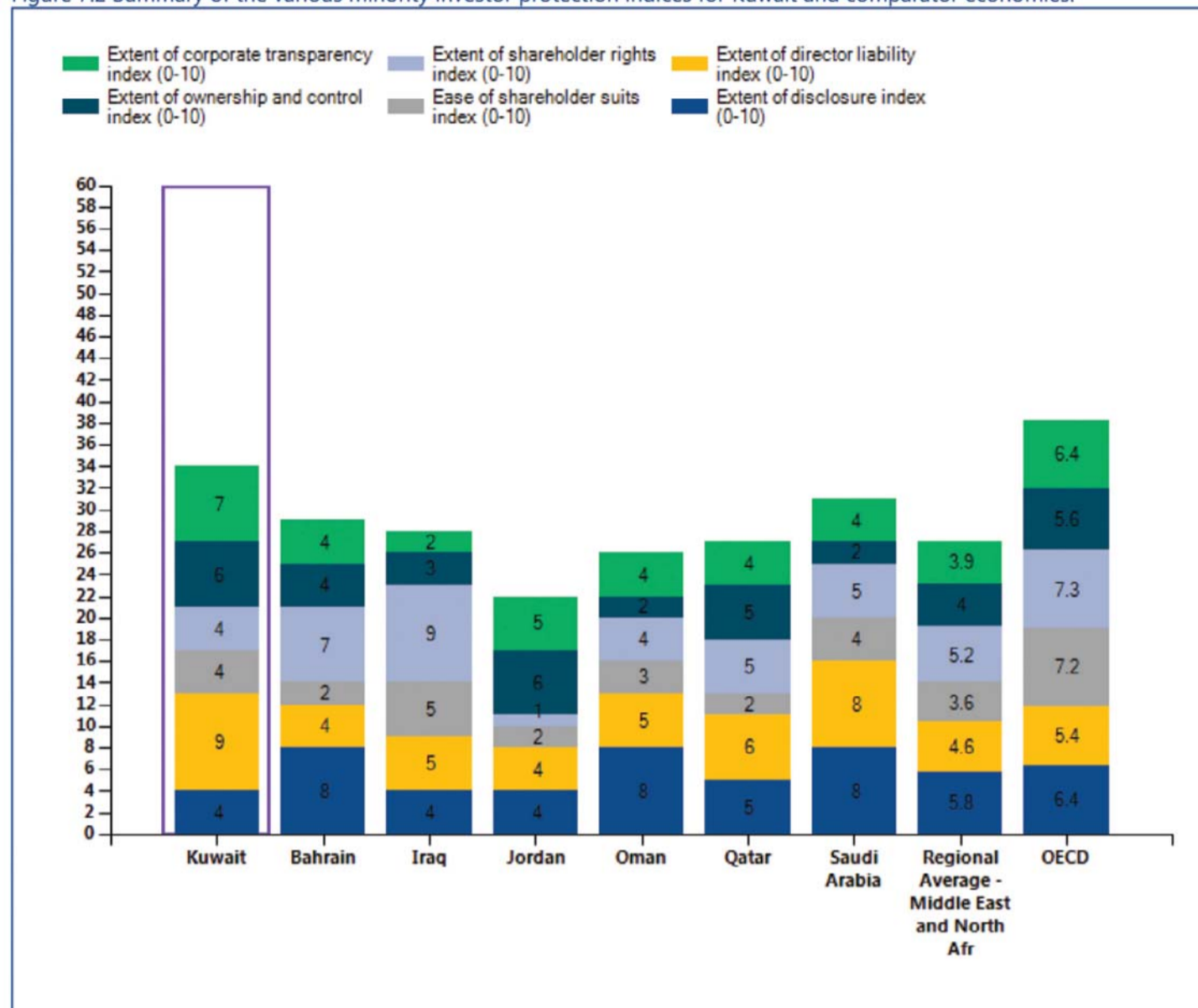
What do the indicators cover?

Doing Business measures the protection of minority investors from conflicts of interest through one set of indicators and shareholders' rights in corporate governance through another. The ranking of economies on the strength of minority investor protections is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores for protecting minority investors. These scores are the simple average of the distance to frontier scores for the extent of conflict of interest regulation index and the extent of shareholder governance index. To make the data comparable across economies, a case study uses several assumptions about the business and the transaction.

How strong are minority investor protections against self-dealing in Kuwait? The economy has a score of 5.70 on the strength of minority investor protection index, with a higher score indicating stronger protections.

One way to put an economy's scores on the protecting minority investors indicators into context is to see where the economy stands in the distribution of scores across comparator economies. Economies with the strongest protections of minority investors from self-dealing require detailed disclosure and define clear duties for directors. They also have well-functioning courts and up-to-date procedural rules that give minority shareholders the means to prove their case and obtain a judgment within a reasonable time. As a result, reforms to strengthen minority investor protections may move ahead on different fronts-such as

Figure 7.2 Summary of the various minority investor protection indices for Kuwait and comparator economies.



Source: Doing Business database.

through new or amended company laws, securities regulations or civil procedure rules. What minority investor protection reforms has Doing Business recorded in Kuwait. Kuwait strengthened investor protections by making it possible for minority shareholders to request the appointment of an auditor to review the company's activities.

PAYING TAXES

Taxes are essential. The level of tax rates needs to be carefully chosen-and needless complexity in tax rules avoided. Firms in economies that rank better on the ease of paying taxes in the Doing Business study tend to perceive both tax rates and tax administration as less of an obstacle to business according to the World Bank Enterprise Survey research.

What do the indicators cover?

Using a case scenario, Doing Business records the taxes and mandatory contributions that a medium-size company must pay in a given year as well as measures of the administrative burden of paying taxes and contributions. This case scenario uses a set of financial statements and assumptions about transactions made over the year. Information is also compiled on the frequency of filing and payments as well as time taken to comply with tax laws. The ranking of economies on the ease of paying taxes is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores on the ease of paying taxes. These scores are the simple average of the distance to frontier scores for each of the component indicators, with a threshold and a nonlinear transformation applied to one of the component indicators, the total tax rate³. All financial statement variables are proportional to 2012 income per capita. Globally, Kuwait stands at 11 in the ranking of 189 economies on the ease of paying taxes (figure 8.1). The rankings for comparator economies and the regional average ranking provide other useful information for assessing the tax compliance burden for businesses in Kuwait.

What are the details?

The indicators reported here for Kuwait are based on the taxes and contributions that

would be paid by a standardized case study company used by Doing Business in collecting the data (see the section in this chapter on what the indicators cover). Tax practitioners are asked to review a set of financial statements as well as a standardized list of assumptions and transactions that the company completed during its 2nd year of operation. Respondents are asked how much taxes and mandatory contributions the business must pay and how these taxes are filed and paid.

TRADING ACROSS BORDERS

In today's globalized world, making trade between economies easier is increasingly important for business. Excessive document requirements, burdensome customs procedures, inefficient port operations and inadequate infrastructure all lead to extra costs and delays for exporters and importers, stifling trade potential.

What do the indicators cover?

Doing Business records the time and cost associated with the logistical process of exporting and importing goods. Under the new methodology introduced this year, Doing Business measures the time and cost (excluding tariffs) associated with three sets of procedures-documentary compliance, border compliance and domestic transport-within the overall process of exporting or importing a shipment of goods. The ranking of economies on the ease of trading across borders is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores for trading across borders. These scores are the simple average of the distance to frontier scores for the time and cost for documentary compliance and border compliance to export and import.

ENFORCING CONTRACTS

Effective commercial dispute resolution has many benefits. Courts are essential for entrepreneurs because they interpret the rules of the market and protect economic rights. Efficient and transparent courts encourage new business relationships because businesses know they can rely on the courts if a new customer fails to pay. Speedy trials are essential for small enterprises, which may lack the resources to

stay in business while awaiting the outcome of a long court dispute.

What do the indicators cover?

Doing Business measures the time and cost for resolving a standardized commercial dispute through a local first-instance court. In addition, this year it introduces a new measure, the quality of judicial processes index, evaluating whether each economy has adopted a series of good practices that promote quality and efficiency in the court system. This new index replaces the indicator on procedures, which was eliminated this year. The ranking of economies on the ease of enforcing contracts is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores. These scores are the simple average of the distance to frontier scores for each of the component indicators.

Globally, Kuwait stands at 58 in the ranking of 189 economies on the ease of enforcing contracts (figure 10.1). The rankings for comparator economies and the regional average ranking provide other useful benchmarks for assessing the efficiency of contract enforcement in Kuwait. The data on time and cost reported here for Kuwait are built by following the step-by-step evolution of a commercial sale dispute within the court, under the assumptions about the case described above. The time and cost of resolving the standardized dispute are identified through study of the codes of civil procedure and other court regulations, as well as through questionnaires completed by local litigation lawyers (and, in a quarter of the economies covered by Doing Business, by judges as well).

Quality of judicial processes index

The quality of judicial processes index measures whether each economy has adopted a series of good practices in its court system in four areas: court structure and proceedings, case management, court automation and alternative dispute resolution. The score on the quality of judicial processes index is the sum of the scores on these 4 sub-components. The index ranges from 0 to 18, with higher values indicating more efficient judicial processes.

RESOLVING INSOLVENCY

By clarifying the expectations of creditors and debtors about the outcome of insolvency proceedings, well-functioning insolvency systems can facilitate access to finance, save more viable businesses and sustainably grow the economy.

What do the indicators cover?

Doing Business studies the time, cost and outcome of insolvency proceedings involving domestic legal entities. These variables are used to calculate the recovery rate, which is recorded as cents on the dollar recovered by secured creditors through reorganization, liquidation or debt enforcement (foreclosure or receivership) proceedings. To determine the present value of the amount recovered by creditors, Doing Business uses the lending rates from the International Monetary Fund, supplemented with data from central banks and the Economist Intelligence Unit.

The ranking of economies on the ease of resolving insolvency is determined by sorting their distance to frontier scores for resolving insolvency. These scores are the simple average of the distance to frontier scores for the recovery rate and the strength of insolvency framework index. The Resolving Insolvency indicators do not measure insolvency proceedings of individuals and financial institutions. The data are derived from questionnaire responses by local insolvency practitioners and verified through a study of laws and regulations as well as public information on bankruptcy systems.

Globally, Kuwait stands at 122 in the ranking of 189 economies on the ease of resolving

insolvency. The resolving insolvency indicators are based on detailed information collected through questionnaires completed by insolvency experts, including lawyers, practitioners (administrators, trustees), accountants and judges. Data on the time, cost and outcome refer to the most likely in-court insolvency procedure applicable under specific case study assumptions. Data on provisions applicable to judicial liquidation and reorganization is based on the current law governing insolvency proceedings in each economy.

LABOR MARKET REGULATION

Doing Business has historically studied the flexibility of regulation of employment, specifically as it relates to the areas of hiring, working hours and redundancy. This year Doing Business has expanded the scope of the labor market regulation indicators by adding 16 new questions, most of which focus on measuring job quality. Over the period from 2007 to 2011 improvements were made to align the methodology for the labor market regulation indicators (formerly the employing workers indicators) with the letter and spirit of the International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions. Ten of the 189 ILO conventions cover areas now measured by Doing Business (up from four previously): employee termination, weekend work, holiday with pay, night work, protection against unemployment, sickness benefits, maternity protection, working hours, equal remuneration and labor inspections.

Between 2009 and 2011 the World Bank Group worked with a consultative group-including labor lawyers, employer and employee representatives, and experts from the ILO, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), civil society and the private sector-to review the methodology for the labor market regulation indicators and explore future areas of research.

Doing Business 2016 presents the data for the labor market regulation indicators in an annex. The report does not present rankings of economies on these indicators or include the topic in the aggregate distance to frontier score or ranking on the ease of doing business. The data on labor market regulation are based on a detailed questionnaire on employment regulations that is completed by local lawyers and public officials. Employment laws and regulations as well as secondary sources are reviewed to ensure accuracy. Employment laws are needed to protect workers from arbitrary or unfair treatment and to ensure efficient contracting between employers and workers. Many economies that changed their labor market regulation in the past 5 years did so in ways that increased labor market flexibility. What changes did Kuwait adopt that affected the Doing Business indicators on labor market regulation. Kuwait increased the number of days of paid annual leave and increased the notice period applicable in case of redundancy dismissals. The data reported here for Kuwait are based on a detailed survey of labor market regulation that is completed by local lawyers and public officials. Employment laws and regulations as well as secondary sources are reviewed to ensure accuracy.

Hiring

Data on hiring cover five areas: (i) whether fixed-term contracts are prohibited for permanent tasks; (ii) the maximum cumulative duration of fixed-term contracts; (iii) the minimum wage for a cashier, age 19, with one year of work experience; (iv) the ratio of the minimum wage to the average value added per worker (the ratio of an economy's GNI per capita to the working-age population as a percentage of the total population), and (v) the availability of incentives for employers to hire.

Working hours

Data on working hours cover nine areas: (i) the maximum number of working days allowed per week; (ii) the premium for night work (as a percentage of hourly pay); (iii) the premium for work on a weekly rest day (as a percentage of hourly pay); (iv) the premium for overtime work (as a percentage of hourly pay); (v) whether there are restrictions on night work; (vi) whether non-pregnant and non-nursing women can work the same night hours as men; (vii) whether there are restrictions on weekly holiday work; (viii) whether there are restrictions on overtime work; and (ix) the average paid annual leave for workers with 1 year of tenure, 5 years of tenure, and 10 years of tenure.

Redundancy rules

Data on redundancy cover nine areas: (i) the length of the maximum probationary period (in months) for permanent employees; (ii) whether redundancy is allowed as a basis for terminating workers; (iii) whether the employer needs to notify a third party (such as a government agency) to terminate one redundant worker; (iv) whether the employer needs to notify a third party to terminate a group of nine redundant workers; (v) whether the employer needs approval from a third party to terminate one redundant worker; (vi) whether the employer needs approval from a third party to terminate a group of nine redundant workers; (vii) whether the law requires the employer to reassign or retrain a worker before making the worker redundant; (viii) whether priority rules apply for redundancies; and (ix) whether priority rules apply for reemployment.

Redundancy cost

Redundancy cost measures the cost of advance notice requirements and severance payments due when terminating a redundant worker, expressed in weeks of salary. The average value of notice requirements and severance payments applicable to a worker with 1 year of tenure, a worker with 5 years and a worker with 10 years is considered.

Depth of credit information index (0-8)	Credit bureau	Credit registry	Index score: 6.00
Are data on both firms and individuals distributed?	No	Yes	1
Are both positive and negative credit data distributed?	Yes	No	1
Are data from retailers or utility companies - in addition to data from banks and financial institutions - distributed?	Yes	No	1
Are at least 2 years of historical data distributed? (Credit bureaus and registries that distribute more than 10 years of negative data or erase data on defaults as soon as they are repaid obtain a score of 0 for this component.)	Yes	No	1
Are data on loan amounts below 1% of income per capita distributed?	Yes	No	1
By law, do borrowers have the right to access their data in the credit bureau or credit registry?	No	No	0
Can banks and financial institutions access borrowers' credit information online (for example, through an online platform, a system-to-system connection or both)?	Yes	Yes	1
Are bureau or registry credit scores offered as a value-added service to help banks and financial institutions assess the creditworthiness of borrowers?	No	No	0

DOLLAR DROPS AS RATE HIKE EXPECTATIONS FADE

NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

KUWAIT: The US economy continued to release disappointing figures for the second week in a row taking the USD lower as rate hike expectations fade. With recently released poor employment figures and with last week's slowing services sector, the Fed might be unwilling to raise rates as early as expected. As a result, the greenback was sent significantly lower against its major counterparts.

In other news, the ECB concluded its monetary policy meeting with key policies unchanged. There were two main takeaways from the ECB decision and press conference. The first is that inflation and growth forecasts were lowered but only marginally reflecting the negative impact of the Brexit vote. The other is that the committee has been given a full mandate to redesign their QE measurers. In other words, the central bank is approaching the point at which it will no longer be possible to carry out QE in its current form, but it is looking at ways to overcome it. However, Draghi made it clear that QE will continue, stating that it will run until or beyond the current expiry if necessary. He also claimed that it will run until inflation is consistent with their 2% goal.

On the currencies front, the biggest mover this week was the US ISM Non-Manufacturing PMI which came back significantly lower than expected. Stocks fell, bonds climbed and the dollar dropped by the most in five weeks as investors digested the implications for the Fed. Once again, the US dollar's performance is being tied to rate hike speculation.

The euro hit a nearly two-week high against the dollar on Thursday after the European Central Bank left interest rates unchanged before quickly retreating to its 1.1250 levels. The Euro saw its biggest move after the poor US Services figure rising almost 0.90 percent from 1.1156 to 1.1255. It managed to hold on to those levels for the next few days but hit a short lived high at 1.1320 after the ECB conference before retreating after US unemployment claims came back better than expected.

The pound sterling also rose on the USD's weakness but was not able to hold on to its newly reached levels with the release of mixed economic data. Unlike the US, the UK services PMI had a record rebound from 47.4 to 52.9 in July.

The GBP/USD pair managed to rise from 1.3330 to 1.3446 after the US report but found itself at the week's low of 1.3280 after UK manufacturing production was revealed to have dropped 0.9 percent in July and US unemployment claims rebounded.

In Japan, the Yen gained against the US Dollar last week supported by a significant drop in US rate hike expectations and a surprisingly positive GDP figure. The pair opened the week at 103.92 and managed to drop to a low of 101.21. The greenback managed to recoup some of its losses following the jobsless claims figure but still closed the week lower.

managed to reach a high of 47.42 dollars per barrel after opening the week at 44.12.

US Services Index Fall

The Institute for Supply Management's non-manufacturing index unexpectedly slumped to 51.4 from 55.5 in July. While a reading above 50 indicates expansion, it was

big decline in imports into the Gulf of Mexico and the US East Coast. "The reason for the drop in stocks was not that folks were not buying oil, but it was the shipping delayed by the storm," said James Williams, president of energy consultant WTRG Economics in London, Arkansas. Tropical Storm Hermine had interrupted shipping routes and production last week before eventually turning to the north-east avoiding key facilities in the Gulf.

ECB leaves policies unchanged

The European Central Bank left interest rates unchanged as widely expected and maintained the key parameters of its 1.74 trillion euro asset buying program as it seeks to revive growth and inflation. The ECB added that it continues to expect its key interest rates to remain at present or lower levels for an extended period of time and well past the horizon of the net asset purchases. It also said that its 80 billion euro per month asset purchase program is intended to run until the end of March 2017, or beyond if necessary, and until the bank sees a sustained adjustment in inflation consistent with their targets. However, ECB president Mario Draghi noted that "for the time being, the changes are not substantial enough to warrant a change in policy." And he said that the current stimulus program is "effective and we should focus on its implementation." But Draghi reiterated that "if warranted, we will act by using all the instruments available within our mandate."

UK services PMI rebound

The UK service sector returned to growth in August following abrupt contractions in output and new business in July due to disruptions from the outcome of the EU referendum. The latest data signaled a return to growth as companies reported that uncertainty had subsided somewhat. The latest data also signaled rising inflationary pressure linked to the weak pound. The services index rebounded to 52.9 in August, from 47.4 in July marking the largest month-on-month gain in twenty years. The renewed expansion of activity was supported by resumption in growth for businesses in August. Companies saw greater demand from new clients, higher export business linked to the weak pound, higher domestic tourism and returning of confidence following the Brexit.

UK manufacturing production fall

The release shows production is relatively flat month-on-month in July 2016 with a fall in manufacturing negated by a rise in oil and

gas. Manufacturing decreased from June 2016, falling by 0.9 percent with the largest contribution from pharmaceuticals. However, this was offset by growth in other sectors, particularly mining & quarrying, which increased by 4.7 percent. Furthermore in the 3 months to July 2016, total production and manufacturing output increased by 1.0 percent and 0.5 percent respectively.

BoE Mark Carney testifies

Governor Mark Carney defended the Bank of England's recent stimulus package in the quarterly Inflation Report Hearings. Some lawmakers believed that the Bank of England moved too aggressively to help Britain's economy through the Brexit shock in early August when it cut interest rates, expanded its bond-buying program and took other measures to ease lending. "I absolutely feel comfortable with the decision I supported and that the committee took in August to supply monetary policy stimulus," stated Carney. Finally, Deputy Governor Jon Cunliffe, also speaking in the hearing, said he expected to vote for another rate cut in 2016 if the economy slows as expected.

Japan GDP revised higher

Japan's gross domestic product had its final revision showing the Japanese economy posted only modest growth in the second quarter. The Cabinet Office confirmed GDP advanced 0.2 percent in the April-June period, up from a preliminary estimate of zero. Business investment declined for the second consecutive quarter while plunging exports also dragged on growth, as domestic manufacturers struggled with a surging yen. The slowdown in GDP sends a clear signal Japan is still reliant on government stimulus for growth.

RBA leaves policies unchanged

The Reserve Bank of Australia left its policies unchanged after a 0.25 percent cut in their previous meeting. Economists believe while employment figures are showing signs of a softening labor market, there was no need for rates to go any lower so soon after August's cut. However, financial markets believe there is a 50/50 risk of a further reduction to 1.25 percent by the end of the year. Furthermore, this marks the last meeting for RBA Governor Glenn Stevens who will step down on September 17 after ten years as governor. Stevens's deputy of four years Philip Lowe will resume leadership of the Bank.

Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30120

The USD/KWD closed at 0.30120 last week.



On the commodity front, Oil rebounded on Thursday after US data revealed US crude inventories slumped more than 14 million barrels last week in the biggest weekly drawdown since 1999. Analysts say imports to the Gulf and East Coast hit a record low due to Tropical Storm Hermine. Furthermore, renewed hope of an oil production cut by Opec and Non-Opec members also boosted oil prices. Iran signaled on Tuesday it was prepared to work with Saudi Arabia and Russia to prop up oil prices a day after Russia and Saudi Arabia signed a pact agreeing to work together to help balance the oil market. West Texas oil

the weakest reading in six years showing signs of fading optimism about the economy. The services slowdown, combined with last week's poor manufacturing and employment figures, is raising questions about the economy's strength.

Oil Inventories Plummet

The US Energy Information Administration said crude inventories fell 14.5 million barrels for the week ended September 2nd, compared with expectations for an increase of 225,000 barrels. It was the largest one-week drop since January 1999, particularly after a

MIAMI BUSINESS OWNERS ANXIOUS FOR ZIKA WARNINGS TO END

MIAMI: Business owners are anxious for federal health officials to lift a travel advisory warning pregnant women and their partners to avoid parts of Miami and South Beach that have been identified as zones of active transmission of the Zika virus. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said it could lift its advisory for a 1-square-mile zone encompassing Miami's Wynwood neighborhood on Sept. 19 if no new locally contracted cases are confirmed.

Business owners and analysts say if Zika infections persist in Miami and a 1.5-square-mile portion of Miami Beach, visitors who have been waiting to make reservations in Miami-Dade County may turn elsewhere. The Wynwood Business Improvement District has asked the city of Miami for money to compensate for Zika's impact.

Cancellations since the first local Zika infection was confirmed in Wynwood in late July have forced Felipe Correa to lay off one employee from his company running tours in Miami, Key West and the Everglades. "My Miami tour basically collapsed ... all of my pre-arrival reservations canceled," said Correa. Connecticut resident Coco Lewis decided to move her annual birthday party from South Beach to Las Vegas next month because of Zika.

"We don't want to chance it," said Lewis, 23. "It's just too risky." South Florida's luxury real estate market, already slumping because of weak foreign currencies, is reporting cancellations by potential buyers from New York and Europe. "Zika is a deal-breaker for clients who plan to have children," said Senada Adzem of brokerage Douglas Elliman.

The European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention has classified all Miami-Dade County as an area of "widespread transmission." The United Kingdom has advised pregnant women to avoid the county for non-essential travel and consider postponing non-essential travel in the rest of Florida.

In August, leisure airfare prices fell 17 percent year-over-year at Miami International Airport and Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, according to an analysis by Harrell Associates. Hotel bookings in greater downtown Miami fell by nearly 3 percent in the first three weeks of August compared to last year, according to data collected by analytics firm Smith Travel Report.

It's not clear how much of that decline is attributable to Zika. Zika infection can cause severe brain-related birth defects, including a dangerously small head, if women are infected during pregnancy. The mosquito-borne virus also can be sexually transmitted.

Of Florida's 56 non-travel-related Zika cases, 11 have been traced to Miami Beach and 29 to Wynwood. The rest are being considered isolated cases and have not prompted authorities to issue warnings of local transmission. Miami-Dade County officials expect to spend an extra \$10 million fighting Zika through the summer. The city of Miami approved \$247,000 for special events meant to draw customers back to Wynwood. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity is surveying local businesses about economic damage related to Zika.

Miami Beach officials are hoping to minimize Zika's effect on the local economy. Hotels regularly spray for mosquitoes, and planes fly over the beach with banners reading, "Use insect repellent. No Zika."

Critics have been troubled by the release of information about Zika infections by Gov. Rick Scott and state agencies, saying not enough details have been provided about where infections are suspected and that the number of tourists contracting the virus in Florida may be under-reported.

Florida's health department told The Miami Herald that residents have contracted Zika in Florida but are not included in the state's total count of local Zika infections. "The department reports cases of Florida residents," spokeswoman Mara Gambineri said. As of Friday, health officials have confirmed 616 travel-related Zika cases statewide, including 84 pregnant women. — AP

NOW OR NEVER FOR LAGOS TOURISM SECTOR

LAGOS: Traffic jams may clog the city and the beaches look like garbage dumps, but for the Lagos state government developing tourism is now a do or die matter. Nigeria has survived almost exclusively on oil revenues for decades, but the plunge in crude prices since mid-2014 along with militant attacks on oil infrastructure have driven the continent's economic giant into a recession.

"We must find alternatives," Lagos state tourism minister, Folorunsho Folarin-Coker, told AFP. "Encouraging tourism is a matter of life or death now." Lagos, Nigeria's financial hub, is arguably the best placed to respond positively to the economic crisis.

The city has the most solid economic foundation, accounting for 25 percent of the country's gross domestic product and 65 percent of commercial activities, according to Lagos state ministry of Commerce and Industry. Despite a suffocating dollar shortage that has made imports more expensive for businesses, those in the metropolis of 20 million say the city is ready for reform.

"Recreation and tourism are the

fastest ways to revive the economy. The money they generate drives straight into the community," Coker said.

"A concert can support vendors of suya (grilled meat) in the street, sound engineers, promote an artist," he said, imagining Lagos nightlife as the new "Ibiza of Africa."

Emerging middle-class

According to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), tourism accounted for only 1.7 percent of Nigeria's gross domestic product in 2014. That number could be much higher. The tourism sector is "neglected," said the Oxford Business Group consultancy, which believes it could reach nearly five percent of the economy this year if managed properly.

The city authorities have a steep climb facing them. The Lonely Planet travel guide describes Lagos as having "wall-to-wall people, bumper-to-bumper cars, noise and pollution beyond belief, an intimidating crime rate ... and absurd traffic jams."

Coker admits there are challenges,

but says that he isn't necessarily aiming to turn Lagos into Miami overnight. First he has to convince people from Nigeria that Lagos is a worthwhile option for a vacation.

"Today we must build the foundations for local tourism. Tourism is a middle-class thing, and we have an emerging middle-class," he explained. Having enough hotel rooms is part of the problem. In 2014, Coker estimated the city was short 8,000 hotel rooms.

Major international brands including Radisson Blu and Intercontinental have recently established themselves in the rich neighborhoods of the city, but there is a major need for rooms catering to the middle-class.

Crisis 'creativity'

Raphael Chiadikobi worked 18 years in banking before entering the hospitality industry. His first 3-star hotel, Imax Guesthouse, opened last month in the bustling port neighborhood of Apapa.

"Every country has petrol now. We have now to think out of the box,"

Chiadikobi said. "The hotel industry has a lot of potential. But we have no electricity, no good roads," he said, "Nigeria is a place where a businessman has to provide everything for himself."

This desire to build up an industry from scratch is what pushed Emeka Okocha to launch "Nothing to do in Lagos", a mobile application that lists activities and entertainment for 20,000 subscribers. "People complain that there is nothing to do but it's unfair," the young entrepreneur said. His site lists upcoming movie nights, concerts, sporting events and even picnics.

"There is no park in Lagos, no reliable road map and don't even count on Google to find anything. But thanks to word of mouth, we find amazing places." In some ways, the country's economic crisis may help push Lagos into realizing its tourism potential-starting with the locals. "With the fall of the naira, Nigerians can no longer travel, and the economic crisis is making people stay and spend their money here," Okocha said. "The crisis forces us to be more creative." — AFP



LAGOS: People look down as they walk across the canopy walkway above the forest floor in the Lekki Conservation Centre in Lagos. Traffic jams may clog the city and the beaches look like garbage dumps, but for the Lagos state government developing tourism is now a do or die matter. — AFP

NIGERIAN EBOLA MOVIE EXTOLS MOMENT OF HEROISM

LAGOS: Hollywood plague movies are usually about a fictional viral outbreak, unleashing chaos and anarchy that can only be stopped by heroes who transcend the panic. That's not true for "93 Days", a Nollywood film premiering on Tuesday, which dramatises the story of Nigeria's response to the very real Ebola epidemic in 2014 that killed more than 11,000 people in West Africa.

Hundreds had already died from the disease in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone when Ebola surfaced in Nigeria as a Liberian finance ministry official, Patrick Sawyer, arrived in Lagos on July 20, 2014, visibly unwell.

When it was confirmed he had the haemorrhagic virus, there were fears it would spread like wildfire in the megacity of 20 million and across Africa's most populous nation and then beyond. But that's not what happened in Nigeria, and for many people that was nothing short of a miracle. There were just 19 confirmed Ebola cases and seven deaths, including

Sawyer, and Nigeria lifted its state of emergency 93 days after he was first admitted to hospital.

During a recent advance screening of "93 Days" in Lagos, the audience was chatting and flicking through their smartphones as the titles rolled, in typical Nigerian fashion. But when the words "based on a true story" appeared on screen, the room fell silent. "For the first time, Nigerians united to fight against a common enemy, everyone was scared," producer Bolanle Austen-Peters told AFP. "Two years later, it is as if there had been a general amnesia, no one seems to remember what we went through. "It seemed to me important that we document our own history of our country."

Blood spray

Directed and co-produced by Nigerian Steve Gukas and written by South African Paul Rowlston, "93 Days" portrays the medical staff of First Consultants hospital, where Sawyer

was patient zero. At the time, coverage of the Ebola epidemic was dominated by images of people being carted away by medical staff encased in head-to-toe protective suits. The movie shows the horror of the virus. There were gasps in the audience when Sawyer rips out his intravenous drip and blood sprays onto the medical staff. But it also reveals the humanity in the crisis, showing the courage and sacrifice of those on the front lines of the battle against Ebola.

Some in the audience were sobbing during the scene when a young man says goodbye to his dying mother, trapped behind the clear plastic wall of an isolation ward. The mother, played by Nigerian actress Bimbo Akintola, was the clinic's most senior doctor, Stella Adadevoh, who heroically refused to discharge Sawyer despite heavy pressure from Liberia.

In the last scene, Nigeria's green and white flag is behind hospital director Benjamin Ohiaeri, played by US movie star Danny Glover, as he gives a rousing

speech on the resilience of Nigerians.

Sponsored by the Lagos state government, the scene mirrors the naked patriotism seen in such Hollywood films as "Independence Day".

Premiere in church

But for many that moment of national pride is worth celebrating at a time when Nigeria is in the depths of an economic recession and armed groups, including Boko Haram in the northeast, are wreaking havoc. "Here we come!" actress Somkele Iyama Iyama said, raising her left fist. She is taking the movie to the Toronto International Film Festival later this month, where "93 Days" was selected alongside seven other Nigerian productions. "That's what I've always wanted to do, to put my country on a better light," said Iyama, who plays Doctor Ada Igonoh who contracted Ebola but recovered.

Igonoh gave birth to a baby girl in the United States last November in what the First Consultant Hospital

called "a new lease of life and in memory of fallen colleagues and survivors" of Ebola. Iyama said Nigerian cinema is now "taken more seriously" and has a crucial role to play in the country's development. "We have shown that the economy can survive with a huge input from the entertainment sector... We can save the economy," she said.

That economic contribution can be seen as Nollywood films-traditionally low budget-are improving and being helped by pan-African satellite TV channels. Nigeria's entertainment industry grew to 1.4 percent of GDP — \$7.2 billion in 2014, according to Oxford Business Group. The premiere of "93 Days" is being held at the House on the Rock, an evangelical mega-church in the prosperous suburb of Lekki that can seat 7,000 under its roof. "There are not so many places in Lagos that can host so many people," event organiser Joseph Umobom said. Still, for a movie about a miracle, perhaps there's no better place. —AFP

ELECTION HACKS RAISE FEARS OF RUSSIAN INFLUENCE

WASHINGTON: Recent hacks of election data systems in at least two states have raised fear among lawmakers and intelligence officials that a foreign government is trying to seed doubt about - or even manipulate - the presidential race, renewing debate over when cyberattacks cross red lines and warrant a US response.

Federal officials already are investigating cyberattacks at the Democratic National Committee and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, believed to be the work of hackers tied to the Russian government. Trolling a private organization's email is one thing, cyberexperts say, but breaching state election systems to undermine the integrity of the November ballot would be quite another.

"The mere access to those systems is incredibly concerning to me," said Sean Kanuck, former national intelligence officer for cyber issues at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. "I think that the manipulation of election data or voting systems would warrant a national security response." No one has yet confirmed that data was actually manipulated. Law enforcement and intelligence officials are investigating the election-related breaches, but also are looking at the extent to which Russia could be involved in a disinformation campaign to diminish US clout worldwide. Russian President Vladimir Putin says Moscow wasn't involved in the hacking of emails of the Democratic Party.

Trump's opinion

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump said last week he thinks it's unlikely that Russia is trying to influence the election. "I think maybe the Democrats are putting that out," he said on RT America, the US partner of Kremlin-backed network Russia Today. But Defense Secretary Ash Carter issued a public warning to Moscow last week while in Europe. "We will not ignore attempts to interfere with our democratic processes," Carter said. Asked later to elaborate, Carter said he was referring to Russia's use of hybrid warfare - "interference in the internal affairs of nations, short of war" - which he said is a concern across Europe.

Late last month, the FBI sent a "flash alert" to warn state officials to strengthen their election systems in light of evidence that hackers targeted data systems in two states. The FBI described a "compromise" of one elections board website and "attempted intrusion activities" in another state's system. The FBI didn't name the states, but

state election websites in Illinois and Arizona experienced hack-related shutdowns in the parts of the websites that handle online voter registration.

Manipulating an election in the United States would be difficult, officials say, because there are thousands of electoral jurisdictions across the 50 states. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said Thursday that the election system is "so decentralized, so vast ... it would very difficult to alter the count."

FBI Director James Comey agrees

"The vote counting in this country tends to be kind of clunky," which is a blessing because it makes harder for hackers to infiltrate, Comey said. "It makes it more resilient and farther away from an actor who might be looking to crawl down a fiber-optic cable, and find there actually is no fiber optic cable - that it's actually some woman named Sally and a guy named Joe and they roll the thing (voting machine) over and pull out the punch cards," Comey said.

Such reassurances have not eased concern on Capitol Hill, yet reaction has been mixed. Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada was "deeply shaken" after a half-hour briefing about Russian activities that he received at the FBI office in Las Vegas, according to an individual familiar with the briefing. The individual was not authorized to publicly discuss the briefing and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

An aide to another senator, who also was briefed, said what gave the lawmaker "pause" was that Russia might be meddling in the United States in the same way it has in Eastern Europe where it has a history of using cyberattacks to facilitate their political objectives. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said there is bipartisan concern about the "Russian government engaging in covert influence activities." He said a section of this year's intelligence authorization bill directs the president to set up an interagency committee to "counter active measures by Russia to exert covert influence over peoples and governments." Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said, however, that he's not surprised by the hacks. "I just think people have been asleep," he said. "This is the challenge of going to digital records, digital voting. This is why it's imperative to keep paper voting." How the US should respond to cyberattacks is the subject of much debate. — AP



HO CHI MINH CITY: This picture taken on September 5, 2016 shows French (L) and Vietnamese employees working inside the French IT company Linkbynet. —AFP

VIETNAM'S 'SILICON VALLEY' SPARKS STARTUP BOOM

VIETNAM'S STARTUP SECTOR CREATES APPS

HO CHI MINH CITY: Recent Vietnamese graduate looking for an English-language teacher? There's an app for that. Or hunting the best bowl of pho in your Hanoi neighborhood? There's now an app for that, too.

A decade ago such technology would likely have been developed in California's Silicon Valley. But today those apps are being churned out by Vietnam's startup sector—an industry driven by local techies trained overseas but returning home to prow for opportunities.

The sector's growth in a young tech-hungry nation has caught the eye of foreign firms—President Francois Hollande on Wednesday visited French tech firm Linkbynet in Ho Chi Minh City, the communist country's startup hub.

Much of the technology, which also includes popular mobile games and e-commerce software, is being produced for local consumers in Vietnam, where the median age is 30 and internet connectivity is rapidly expanding. "The local market is large, young, fast-growing, and not fully tapped," said Eddie Thai of 500 Startups, a venture with a \$10 million pot—mostly of foreign cash—to splurge on tech enterprises for Vietnamese users or made by local developers.

US-born Thai, 31, whose parents left during the Vietnam War, belongs to a vanguard of entrepreneurs who have arrived to offer expertise in the country, where Intel and Samsung already have a foothold in the hardware industry.

Homegrown talent

"I kept getting tugged by Vietnam, I saw that the opportunity to make an impact and make money doing it were bigger the sooner I came

back," he told AFP. For Thai, the mathematics made the move a no-brainer: 90 million people, 45 million internet users, 30 million smartphone users and internet usage 10 times what it was a decade ago.

He arrived in 2012 to work for a corporate firm, and eventually joined 500 Startups, which has funded ventures including the language learning app Elsa and online ticketing platform Ticketbox. Other apps developed in Vietnam include Lozi for food lovers and mobile bespoke tailor UKYS, which are not connected to Thai's firm. But much of the talent is also homegrown: Vietnamese teens rank ahead of peers in the United States, Britain and Sweden in maths and science, according to the latest survey from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in 2012.

That educated labour force, which comes cheap compared with China or Singapore, is helping to pique interest from tech heavyweights like Google CEO Sundar Pichai, who took time away from his holiday in December to speak to tech entrepreneurs in Hanoi.

Comprehensive official figures are not available. But state media reported turnover in the software and IT services industry was \$3 billion last year, from \$2 billion in 2010, citing the Vietnam software and IT services association.

The government has also outlined its own strategy for the sector, and founded Vietnam Silicon Valley in 2013 to create an "ecosystem of innovations and technology commercialization". Hollande applauded the industry during his visit to IT service provider Linkbynet, which was founded in a garage in France. "What strikes me

is the global character... it's Vietnam but it's a global environment, with global clients," he said.

Growing pains

But some observers say investors should be wary of the hype, warning of red tape and murky local laws. "Vietnam has hidden tech potential, but it could take another five years maybe really to create these huge massive companies that have global influence," said Anh-Minh Do of Singapore-based Vertex Venture Holdings.

"The law needs to be better, the government needs to be more supportive, there needs to be more interaction from Vietnamese-Americans, specifically Vietnamese-Californians because of the 'Valley' connection."

While Vietnam's startup sector is smaller than early entrants such as Indonesia and Malaysia, there is hope the country is fast evolving from export industries such as garments or commodities like coffee. "Vietnam has been present in the tech sector for several years but now it is moving up the value chain," said Romain Caillaud, Southeast Asia director for US company FTI Consulting.

"The sector is growing because Vietnam is making strategic moves in terms of competitive advantages to attract foreign investment." Thai conceded the road is sometimes rocky, but he is optimistic Vietnam's startup culture will overcome growing pains to see substantial progress, even if it is a few years off. "Generally speaking, Vietnam is moving one step back occasionally, but two steps forward. Hopefully in the next five or 10 years it will get better." —AFP



KREMLIN, RUSSIA: In this Sept. 7, 2016 file photo, Russian President Vladimir Putin holds the Cabinet meeting. —AP

APPLE WARNS AGAINST SCAMS INVOLVING ITUNES CARDS

SAN FRANCISCO: Apple is warning consumers about scam artists who pressure their victims into transferring money by purchasing iTunes gift cards after the fraudsters spin a bogus story about unpaid bills or a relative who needs bailing out of jail.

Authorities have previously warned about similar scams involving pre-paid debit cards. But in recent months, the IRS and the Federal Trade Commission have said criminals are using the popular Apple gift cards as an easy, and difficult-to-trace, method of transferring cash.

In a typical scheme, a con artist calls a victim and claims to be a tax officer, bill collec-

tor or a lawyer representing a relative who's just been arrested. Victims are told to purchase several hundred dollars' worth of gift cards and then provide the 16-digit code from each card, usually over the phone. Fraudsters use the codes to redeem the value of the cards or even re-sell the numbers online. Apple posted a warning on its website Friday, advising that iTunes cards should only be used for online purchases of digital music, books or apps, and not for transferring money. The Cupertino, California, company also said it's giving retailers tips on helping potential victims, often people buying cards in large quantities. —AP

EX-SWIMMER IN RAPE CASE JOINS THOUSANDS IN OHIO SEX DATABASE

COLUMBUS: A former Stanford University swimmer whose six-month jail sentence for sexually assaulting an unconscious woman sparked a national outcry has registered as a sex offender in Ohio, where he is living with his parents.

Brock Turner, 23, registered at the Greene County sheriff's office four days after he was released from a California jail on Sept. 2 for good behavior after serving half his term. As a Tier III sex offender, the harshest of three levels in Ohio, Turner must register as a sex offender for life, checking in every three months.

Ohio's sex offender registry started in 1997 in response to public outcry nationally over high-profile child sex abuse cases, including the 1989 abduction of 11-year-old Jacob Wetterling from a rural Minnesota road by a masked gun-

man as he rode bikes with his brother and a friend near his home. The 1994 federal Jacob Wetterling Act required states to create a system of sex offender registration. Ohio's database was originally for law enforcement only. It became accessible to the public in 2004. Last year, the Ohio Supreme Court said the state's registry requirements were constitutional and didn't amount to cruel and unusual punishment. On Sept. 3, Wetterling's remains were finally located and three days later, Minnesota man Danny Heinrich confessed to abducting and killing Wetterling.

How the database works

Ohio's online database currently has about 17,500 offenders, with photos included, listed in a database searchable by name, addresses,

offenders' emails and phone numbers, and whether offenders have violated registration rules. Offenders must register within five days of entering a new

county or when changing their address. They must provide fingerprints, DNA, social security numbers and contact information. — AP



SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA: In this Sept. 2, 2016, Brock Turner leaves the Santa Clara County Main Jail. —AP

PUERTO RICO DOCTORS WARN OF SCARCE RESOURCES TO FIGHT ZIKA

SAN JUAN: Doctors in Puerto Rico are warning that the US territory does not have the resources to handle the fallout of a Zika epidemic as officials report an uptick in the number of fetuses with malformations that were carried by women infected with the virus.

The cases are among the first of what health officials believe could reach a couple hundred next year, sparking concerns about the lack of funds and specialists needed to care for children with severe birth defects on an island mired in a deep economic crisis.

"We are talking about babies that will have problems with hearing disorders, developmental disorders," said Dr. Nabal Bracero, who runs a fertility clinic. "And now, because of the complexity of Puerto Rico's financial situation, our

health system is not ready for that."

So far, 13 dead fetuses belonging to Zika-infected mothers have been identified. Several of them presented signs of brain damage, and one was sent to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta to be analyzed, according to Health Secretary Ana Rius.

It is unclear whether the 13 cases involved miscarriages or abortions. Jillian Oliveras, a spokeswoman for Puerto Rico's Health Department, said no further information would be released because of privacy laws.

First case reported in May

Puerto Rico reported the first Zika-related microcephaly case acquired on US soil in May, and a recent study estimates that up to 10,300 pregnant

women on the island could be infected with Zika and that between 100 to 270 babies could be born with microcephaly. "We are moving into what I call the perfect storm, which will be spring of 2017," Bracero said. "We will have a peak of cases with the least amount of resources."

Puerto Rico faces a nearly \$70 billion public debt load it is seeking to restructure, and a federal control board is expected to soon take over the island's finances as a result of a recent US rescue package. Government officials have warned there is barely enough money to keep providing essential services such as education, health and public safety.

The island's Health Department is currently identifying how many med-

ical specialists there are and where they are located as it prepares for a surge in cases, said Dr. Miguel Valencia Prado, director of the department's Division of Children with Special Medical Needs.

The cost to treat a microcephaly case throughout a person's lifetime could range roughly from \$3.8 million to \$10 million, depending on the severity of the case, he said, adding that he was concerned given Puerto Rico's financial situation plus other limits as a result of being a US territory. "We cannot expand many services given a cap on Medicaid," he said, referring to a US law that limits the amount of federal funding Puerto Rico receives. "We have to figure out how to make this work."

His concern comes as the CDC director warned Friday that the US govern-

ment has essentially run out of money to fight Zika amid funding delays, and that microcephaly cases will increase as a result. Previously, Republicans who delayed acting on a \$1.9 billion request to fight Zika said none of the money should go to affiliates of Planned Parenthood in Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico has a total of 17,871 Zika cases, including 1,517 pregnant women. A total of 144 people have been hospitalized, including 45 diagnosed with a temporary paralysis condition known as Guillain-Barre. Two people who had Zika coupled with other medical conditions have died, and a third person between 35 and 45 years old died in July after becoming infected with Zika and developing Guillain-Barre. —AP

CDC DIRECTOR: 'ESSENTIALLY OUT OF MONEY' TO FIGHT ZIKA

17 BABIES BORN WITH MICROCEPHALY SO FAR

WASHINGTON: The head of the government's fight against the Zika virus said that "we are now essentially out of money" and warned that the country is "about to see a bunch of kids born with microcephaly" in the coming months.

Friday's warning from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Thomas Frieden came as lawmakers start to sort out a stopgap government funding bill that is being targeted to also carry long-delayed money to battle Zika.

Zika is spreading more widely in the US and can not only cause microcephaly - in which babies are born with grave brain defects - but other problems that the country will face for decades. And 671 pregnant women in the states and Washington, DC, have the virus, leading to the birth of 17 babies with microcephaly so far.

Frieden said funding delays have slowed long-term studies of the disease and production of new tests for it. "We haven't been able to get a running start" on a long-term battle against Zika, he said.

Frieden added that "we don't like to see" the use of pesticides such as Friday morning's spraying of naled, in Miami Beach. But, he said, new technologies for the application of such toxic chemicals are safe for humans. The two localized mosquito-borne outbreaks in Miami are "quite difficult to control," Frieden said, adding that the type of mosquitoes that spread Zika "are the cockroach of mosquitoes."

Obama's requests

President Barack Obama in February requested \$1.9 billion to fight Zika, but Republicans controlling Congress acted slowly on the request. A Capitol Hill fight this summer stalled the Zika aid. Republicans attached restrictions on any of the money going to affiliates of Planned Parenthood in Puerto Rico. Democrats objected and blocked the \$1.1 billion measure.

In the interim, the administration has shifted about \$650 million from other accounts to battle Zika, most of it unused money approved two years

ago to fight Ebola. That money is almost gone.

Now, negotiations are underway to break the impasse over Zika and add it to the only piece of legislation that has to pass Congress before the election: A stopgap funding bill to avert a government shutdown on Oct. 1.

Democrats and the White House have greater leverage now since their approval is needed for the stopgap spending bill, and Republicans are signaling they'll likely lift the restrictions on delivering contraception, treatment and care through Planned Parenthood, an organization that many Republicans loathe since it is a major provider of abortion.

A bipartisan consensus is emerging to fund the government through mid-December, though some House tea party conservatives are opposed and want a longer duration for the measure to avert a lame duck session of Congress.

Since the summertime impasse, Zika has spread even more widely, and frustration is mounting from lawmakers representing affected areas. Almost 3,000 people in the continental US have been found to have Zika, and the total is far higher since most people don't display symptoms. The figures including Puerto Rico and the other territories are much worse.

"Look if we don't, then fire all of us," said Florida GOP Rep. David Jolly, whose state is bearing the brunt of the disease in the continental US "If we can't get Zika funding by the end of September then we're nothing but a bunch of idiots up here." "I think we'll look at this delay in time and say, 'How could they have waited so long?' This was so urgent. It was the very definition of an emergency," Frieden said. "Not only is this unanticipated, it's unprecedented. It's potentially catastrophic, and it's certainly that for the kind of brain damage we're seeing."

Frieden noted that it is extremely unusual to have a new cause for a severe birth defect and that the health care system will be grappling with the effects of Zika for years. While microcephaly is the most immediate result of the outbreak, Frieden noted that infants are having problems swallowing and with their vision and hearing. "We don't know what congenital Zika syndrome will look like," Frieden said. "We will likely be dealing with this for decades to come." —AP



WASHINGTON: In this photo taken July 13, 2016, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Tom Frieden testifies on Capitol Hill. —AP

MORE CASES OF SUPERBUG PRECURSOR REPORTED, BUT NO SPREAD

NEW YORK: A fourth US person has been diagnosed with bacteria resistant to a last resort antibiotic, but researchers are expressing relief that so far these superbug precursors have not spread to others.

The latest case is a 2-year-old Connecticut girl who was diagnosed earlier this year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Friday. She and three other Americans have been found to have E. coli bacteria that were resistant to an important medicine called colistin. Colistin is an old, powerful drug with significant side effects that is reserved for germs that already resist other important antibiotics.

Health officials have worried that the colistin-resistant bacteria will spread their special trait to bacteria already resistant to other medicines, setting the stage for true superbug infections that are impervious to all known antibiotics. For example, researchers reported last week a worrisome case of a 76-year-old man treated in 2014 at a New Jersey hospital. In follow-up testing this year, he was found to have been infected by a germ that was resistant to both colistin and another class of antibiotics called carbapenems that are also reserved to treat especially tough bugs.

It was the first time this kind of double-resistance was reported in the US, though several other cases have been

reported elsewhere in the world. All the US cases have been treatable by other antibiotics. And, importantly, researchers report that the bacteria do not seem to have infected other people. When bacteria spread, they encounter other bacteria and can exchange genetic traits, creating more opportunity for a superbug to emerge.

The Connecticut girl developed diarrhea during a June trip to the Caribbean. It turns out another bug caused her

symptoms, one that she probably picked up from something she ate. But lab testing revealed she also was carrying E. coli that carried colistin resistance, said Maroya Walters, a CDC epidemiologist who investigated the case. She recovered, Walters said. Six family members were tested and none tested positive for bacteria carrying the colistin-resistance gene, called mcr-1 by scientists.

The CDC on Friday also updated an investigation into

one of the four other colistin-resistant cases, a Pennsylvania woman whose case was first reported in May. Investigators were not able to determine where she picked up her infection, but they tested more than 100 people but found no evidence it had spread to anyone else. Based on what researchers seen so far, "we're hopeful that the risk of transmission to otherwise healthy people is relatively low," said Dr. Alexander Kallen, a CDC epidemiologist who worked on the case. —AP



ATLANTA: In this Monday, Nov. 25, 2013 file photo, a microbiologist works with tubes of bacteria samples in an antimicrobial resistance and characterization lab within the Infectious Disease Laboratory at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. —AP



SEBASTOPOL, CALIFORNIA: This Oct. 29, 2009, file photo shows trays of marijuana clones and gardening supplies underneath grow lights at the Peace in Medicine dispensary. —AP

QUESTIONS REMAIN AS OHIO MEDICAL MARIJUANA LAW TAKES EFFECT

COLUMBUS: Ohio has yet to outline how exactly its new medical marijuana law will work even as it takes effect Thursday, leaving a host of unanswered questions by doctors, patients, pharmacists, police and many others. Rules for producing, prescribing and distributing cannabis to eligible patients are expected to take up to a year to craft. Ohio is the 25th state to legalize medical marijuana. Its law was fast-tracked by a Republican-controlled Legislature after it appeared all but inevitable voters would do it if lawmakers didn't.

The narrow law has an implementation schedule that's slower than in some other states. How soon real access comes, remains to be seen. The program isn't required to be fully operational until September 2018.

Uncertainty abounds

The law allows people with certain listed ailments - including AIDS, Alzheimer's, cancer, PTSD and pain - to begin using marijuana immediately. But it's unclear where they would legally get it.

Cultivators, processors, dispensaries and testing laboratories have yet to get their marching orders. And about a dozen mostly small communities have declared moratoriums on dispensaries that could affect access even after the rules are written. "The law is here - but that doesn't mean that patients are going to be able to get marijuana any time soon," said Aaron Marshall, of Ohioans for Medical Marijuana.

Doctors in limbo, workplaces in flu the state Medical Board has yet to issue guidance to doctors for recommending marijuana to patients. "Doctors really are in limbo," said Reginald Fields, a spokesman for the Ohio State Medical Association. "There's a little confusion out there, so we're essentially asking physicians to stand by until some of these issues are clarified and we can assure they're acting on the right side of the law."

Meanwhile, it could be a new world at work. Private or public sector employers aren't required to abandon drug testing or zero-tolerance policies, yet employees have new rights under the law to use mari-

jua in oil, edible, patch and vapor form. Smoking is still prohibited.

Navigating federal law

The clash between Ohio's law and a federal prohibition against the drug further muddies the waters for police and prosecutors, poses complications as patients move through airports and prevents banks from touching marijuana-related cash.

"Our members are in an untenable position," said James Thurston, of the Ohio Bankers League. "There are businesses that want banking services, but we can't legally provide banking services to those businesses." He said doing so would violate a laundry list of federal laws, including the Controlled Substances Act, the Bank Secrecy Act, the Patriot Act and RICO, the law against organized crime.

Ethics woes for lawyers

Ohio lawyers, too, are in a holding pattern. A rule has been proposed at the Ohio Supreme Court that would let attorneys counsel clients seeking to comply with the law without violating their rules of professional conduct.

The suggested amendment, in public comment through Sept. 18, addresses concerns that advising marijuana-related businesses would be unethical because using, growing and selling marijuana is a federal crime.

What's next

The law creates a Medical Marijuana Advisory Committee to help develop regulations and make recommendations for putting a medical marijuana system in place. It gives 30 days from Thursday for appointees to be named.

Marshall said patients will be eagerly waiting. "The reality is that, right now, there are Ohioans that are using marijuana for medical purposes. They're just doing it illegally. They're getting it from the black market or from their friends or wherever," he said. "I know there are a lot of moving pieces, but that's going to be how it continues until these rules are put in place." —AP

THAILAND FINDS 21 NEW CASES OF ZIKA IN BANGKOK, INCLUDING PREGNANT WOMAN

BANGKOK: Twenty-one new cases of locally-transmitted Zika virus have been confirmed in central Bangkok, including a pregnant woman who later gave birth with no complications, Thailand's public health ministry said yesterday.

Residents in the Thai capital were urged not to be alarmed after the cases were confirmed in the Sathorn area of the city, an up-market neighborhood popular with the city's expatriate community and part of the capital's business district. "Of the 21 cases confirmed in the Sathorn area there was one pregnant woman who recovered and gave birth successfully," Ministry of Public Health spokesman Suwannachai Wattanyingcharoenchai told Reuters by telephone. "Mother and newborn are safe," he said, adding that the pregnant woman's husband had recently returned from Singapore.

Thailand first recorded the Zika virus in 2012 and the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority conducts regular testing for the virus. The new Thai cases follow confirma-

tion from Malaysia on Wednesday of its first case of the Zika virus in a pregnant woman, a 27-year-old living in a southern city next to Singapore.

Island city-state Singapore reported its first locally infected Zika patient on Aug. 27 and since then, the number of reported infections has swelled to more than 300. Zika infections in pregnant women have been shown to cause microcephaly, a severe birth defect in which the head and brain are under-sized, besides other brain abnormalities.

Suwannachai said that 30 pregnant women with Zika were being monitored in Thailand. So far, six of the women had given birth without complications or any birth defects. Sixteen out of Thailand's 76 provinces have confirmed cases of Zika since January this year, according to the health ministry, but no birth defects or deaths have been reported. "There have been no deaths or complications so far, so I urge our brothers and sisters not to be alarmed," said Suwannachai. —Reuters



WASHINGTON: Vice President Joe Biden speaks on Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016. —AP

REPORT SETS RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR BIDEN'S CANCER MOONSHOT

WASHINGTON: A new report outlines a scientific roadmap for the White House's cancer "moonshot" initiative - urging research to harness the power of immune-based therapy, and to better tailor treatment by helping more patients get their tumors genetically profiled.

Those are among a list of recommendations issued Wednesday by a panel of cancer experts and patient advocates advising the moonshot project on ways to speed progress against the nation's No. 2 killer.

Also on the list: Learning what drives childhood cancer, finding ways to minimize the side effects of treatment, and making better use of some proven anti-cancer strategies. For example, about 3 percent of colorectal cancers are fueled by certain inherited genetic mutations - and the report proposes a pilot project to test all newly diagnosed patients so the relatives of those who harbor the defects could learn if they, too, are at risk.

The recommendations mark "a bold but feasible scientific proposal," said Dr. Doug Lowy, acting director of the National Cancer Institute, who will send the panel's report to Vice President Joe Biden's cancer moonshot task force.

Biden proposed the moonshot idea after his son, Beau, died of brain cancer in 2015. President Barack Obama has request-

ed about \$1 billion over two years for the project, money that would be in addition to ongoing cancer research. Whether Congress provides funding will determine how Wednesday's recommendations move forward.

The goal: Target research areas that specialists find most promising.

Immunotherapy, for example, is transforming care for some hard-to-treat kinds of cancer, and often is less toxic than standard chemotherapy. But scientists don't understand why it works for some patients and not others. To try to uncover why, the report urges creating a national clinical trial network for immunotherapy.

Likewise, scientists have long known that genetic differences inside tumors help explain why one person's cancer is more aggressive than another's, and why treatments work better for one patient than the next. Increasingly, major cancer centers are "profiling" patients' tumors to help guide treatment.

The moonshot report recommends creating a national network to give more patients around the country access to tumor profiling. Those patients also would be able to share their genetic data with researchers, and volunteer for cutting-edge clinical trials of treatments that match their genetics. —AP

WHY INSURANCE DENIES YOUR CLAIM, BUT PAYS YOUR NEIGHBOR'S

THE BATTLE TO GET COVERAGE

CALIFORNIA: Tracey Stahl lost part of a leg to bone cancer last fall, and she has to wince through bouts of crippling pain from an ill-fitting artificial limb because of a strange health insurance limit: Her plan covers just one limb per lifetime.

She now has to weigh whether to dump the nearly \$9,000 cost of a new leg on her credit card as she fights her insurance company over the restriction. "I feel - it's embarrassing to say - paralyzed about what to do," said Stahl, from her home in Penfield, New York.

Caiti Riley's left leg was amputated below the knee at age 4 due to a rare birth defect. The San Antonio resident is 31 now and covered by the best insurance she's ever had. Her plan is paying most of the roughly \$5,000 bill for a new running leg to complement the one she uses every day. "I work out every day, there's nothing really that I can't do now," she said.

Glaring differences in insurance coverage persist for amputees, children with autism and others in need of certain expensive treatments even after the Affordable Care Act set new standards as part of its push to expand and improve coverage, and despite efforts by states to mandate coverage for some treatments.

These differences don't develop simply because some people pay more for better coverage. Instead, they stem from random factors like what state someone lives in or who happens to provide their coverage - and often people can do nothing about it. The federal health care law largely leaves decisions on what actually gets covered up to states or employers who provide insurance for their workers.

These gaps can bury patients in debt or force them to skip care. And they may become more common as health care costs continue to rise and insurers and employers look for ways to control that expense.

Researcher Sabrina Corlette thinks nothing short of federal action can close these coverage gaps, and she doesn't see that happening anytime soon. "I think you would need to see Congress say, 'Ok, we need more uniformity here,'" said Corlette, a Georgetown Health Policy Institute professor. "And I just don't see this Congress or any near-term Congress stepping in and wanting to do that."

States have passed about 1,800 mandates requiring the coverage of various treatments or conditions, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. But those mandates don't extend

beyond state borders, and they don't apply to the self-funded coverage offered by nearly all large employers.

Coverage examples

North Carolina, for example, recently became one of 44 states to require coverage of autism treatments - and it won't help Iris Castillo one bit.

The Raleigh, North Carolina, resident said it felt like a cold bucket of water had been tossed on her when she learned that insurance from her new job won't cover applied behav-

beyond what Castillo's family can afford. "You don't feel like you're in control," she said.

Her employer's coverage is self-funded, which means it pays its own health care bills instead of buying coverage from an insurer. That also means it doesn't have to comply with most state coverage mandates.

Employers have been slowly switching to this type of coverage for several years to help control what has become one of their largest expenses and to avoid some of the requirements imposed by the

widely for a range of patients that also includes people recovering from eating disorders like anorexia and women who need breast reduction surgery to ease back pain.

Coverage differences

The cost of a particular treatment, the need for it in a covered population and lingering disagreements over necessity help explain some coverage differences.

Bariatric surgery, which can improve the health of obese patients by limiting food intake, can cost \$7,000 to \$30,000. Coverage is improving, and Dr. John Morton estimates that about 75 percent of patients who need the surgery have some insurance for it. But the quality of that coverage varies widely, according to the Stanford School of Medicine surgeon. Some plans only cover the procedure for severely obese patients, while others may charge deductibles of around \$10,000, which can dissuade many from having surgery.

An annual survey of large employers by the benefits firm Mercer found that 40 percent offered no coverage for infertility treatment last year. Some companies don't view it as essential to a person's health, while others with an eye toward attracting and keeping good workers, have started offering the coverage to help LGBT patients conceive. "We see a lot of variation between employers, and it's extremely confusing to the consumer," said Dr. David Kaplan, a senior partner at Mercer.

Tracey Stahl, who lost her leg to cancer, got a prosthesis in January, but her leg shrank so the artificial limb no longer fits. This forces her to use crutches or a wheelchair when she has to walk more than a short distance. If the pain grows too intense, she retreats to bed and keeps her leg elevated.

She bought her coverage on New York's public insurance exchange. Her insurer, Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, said the coverage it sells there follows a model set by the state. The insurer rejected Stahl's claim for a new limb in May and then rejected her appeal in July.

In Texas, Caiti Riley said her previous insurance capped limb coverage at \$2,500 every four years, which she likened to "a smack in the face." Now her coverage is so good she says she almost feels bad about it. "I know what the challenges are," she said. "If you go out and get in a car accident and lose your leg, you're not going to be prepared for something like this." —AP



SAN ANTONIO: In this Thursday, Sept. 1, 2016, photo, Caiti Riley, who lost her left leg when she was 4-years-old, poses for a photo near her home. —AP

ior analysis therapy for her 9-year-old son, Alex.

Hours of this daily therapy, which is a standard treatment for autistic children, have helped Alex learn simple tasks like how to brush his teeth or say hi to another kid. Castillo worries that her son will regress if treatment stops. But it can cost more than \$40,000 a year, far

ACA, said Robert Laszewski, a health care consultant and former insurance executive. He expects gaps or differences in coverage to become more common as health expenses grow.

Insurers and employers routinely cover organ transplants, heart procedures and other expensive surgeries. But coverage still varies

WOMAN SENTENCED FOR FAKING CANCER IN LATE-TERM ABORTION

PHOENIX: An Arizona woman was sentenced Thursday to a total of 28 years in prison for faking a cancer diagnosis to get the state to pay for her late-term abortion and for convictions in two other cases.

Chalice Renee Zeitner, of Phoenix, was convicted in April of fraud, theft and forgery charges in the case involving the late-term abortion. A separate jury found her guilty of fraud and theft five weeks ago after authorities said she defrauded a charity for military veterans and the leader of a second charity in 2012. She also was convicted in May of aggravated drunken driving.

In the abortion case, Zeitner was accused of presenting falsified medical records to support her claim that she had cancer in her abdomen and lower spine and telling an obstetrician that her pregnancy put her life in danger.

The Arizona health care program in

which Zeitner was enrolled covers the cost of abortions in limited circumstances, such as when a mother's life is endangered. Investigators say the scheme was discovered a year after the April 2010 abortion when a doctor who performed a C-section during Zeitner's subsequent pregnancy found no signs of cancer. Another doctor who was listed on medical records as having treated Zeitner for cancer later said he never treated her.

Zeitner's lawyer told jurors that his client genuinely believed she had cancer and didn't set out to defraud anyone. In the case involving the charities, Zeitner was accused of persuading one charity to buy \$7,700 worth of tickets for a gala with the promise of returning the money and providing a portion of the event's proceeds. But investigators say Zeitner canceled the event and instead spent the money on personal expenses. —AP

STUDY: FIVE-SECOND RULE IS TOO GENEROUS FOR FALLEN FOOD

NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY: It might be time to reconsider the five-second rule when thinking about eating food that has fallen on the floor. Researchers at Rutgers University in New Jersey say in a new study that bacteria can contaminate food that falls on the floor instantaneously.

The findings were published this month in the American Society for Microbiology's journal.

Researcher Donald Schaffner said the five-second rule is a "significant oversimplification of what actually happens when bacteria transfer from a surface to food."

Schaffner's research isn't the first to conclude that the favorite excuse for why that yummy snack that fell on the ground is still OK to eat is wrong.

The research did find that longer contact

time means more bacterial transfer, but that the type of food and surface is just as, or more, important.

The Rutgers researchers tested watermelon, bread, butter, and gummy candy on stainless steel, ceramic tile, wood and carpet. They found that watermelon had the most contamination, and that transfer of bacteria is affected most by moisture. —AP

CLINIC

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem

د. فهد علي المخيزيم

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

Congratulations



Egyptian patron of the Catholic Church: Kuwait model of coexistence and moderation
He congratulated the patron of the Coptic Church (Egyptian) Kuwait Catholic Father Angelos Massoud, His Highness Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed and the Prime Minister and all the

Kuwaiti people and residents of Eid al-Adha.

Said Father Angelos: Kuwait is a model of coexistence between different religions and peoples and nationalities, and an example to the wise leadership represented by His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, who is keen to inculcate human values and the dissemination of moderation at a time when the region desperately need those values due to the spread of extremist ideology and terrorism, which devastated many of our Arab countries and became a knock on the doors of the Western world.

He said Father Angelos, and take a chance the second anniversary of the naming of His Highness leader humanly, and Kuwait for humanitarian action, to stress the glory of the Arabs this honor to the UN Prince. Father Angelos pointed to the role of the Prince and the State of Kuwait in alleviating the suffering of millions of refugees in various countries of the world, regardless of religion, color or race.



NSH SPONSORS UNESCO'S INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

Global Village Harmony, a humanitarian Association, registered with the Indian Embassy in Kuwait, celebrated the UNESCO's International Literacy Day. The program attended by the special invitees and large number of community members was part of its social responsibilities, said Sabu, President of Global Village Harmony. It was sponsored by NSH (Nasser S Al Hajri Corporation). The Master Brain Quiz, by Pani J. Anthony, witnessed the highlight of the event.



IES HOSTED THE SEVENTH EDITION OF KQ MATTERS IN OLYMPIC STYLE

The seventh edition of the illuminating KQ Matters - the cerebral extravaganza, the only one of its kind in the State of Kuwait, hosted by IES (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan), had its grand finale held in the IES auditorium in the radiant eve of September 08, Thursday.

KQ Matters, the mega quizzing combat, was graced by the auspicious presence of the most distinguished Chief Guest Dr. Ramesh Pandita, consultant of Hematology at Kuwait Cancer Control Center. The other notable personalities present for the august gathering were the Chairman of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan institutions in the Middle East, Mr. N.K.Ramachandran Menon, his better half, Mrs. Sudha Ramachandran, the eminent Principal of IES, Mr. T Premkumar, Head of Jack and Jill, Mrs. Rathi Ravindran, Head of Bhavans' Pearl Nursery, Mrs. Rajni Menon, Mrs. Lalitha Premkumar, Vice Principal (primary and kindergarten) and Mr. Suresh V Balakrishnan, Sr. Vice Principal. The presence of the students and the teachers of the participating schools, the parents, and the staff of IES and the infinite inquisitive seekers of knowledge all over the country graced the occasion.

The events of the lustrous evening commenced auspiciously with the recitation of a

verse from Holy Quran followed by the rendition of the Kuwait National Anthem. The six participating school teams comprising two quizzers each from United Indian School (UIS), Carmel School Kuwait (CSK), Indian Learners Own Academy (ILOA), Gulf Indian School (GIS), Indian English Academy School (Don Bosco) and the host school were ushered on to the KQ platform by the Sports Captain of IES, Sai Krishnan, with the Olympic torch light. The Student Council members accompanied each participating team.

The programme started officially with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp with the fire from the Olympic Torch conjointly performed by the Chief Guest, the Chairman and the Principal. The school choir rendered the prayer song. The prestigious gathering was then welcomed by the School head girl Evelyn Biju George.

The auditorium was further enlivened when the quizmasters of the evening, the charismatic and multi-faceted Mr. Suresh V Balakrishnan, (Sr. Vice Principal, Middle and Senior Wings), the vibrant and charming Mrs. Vinita Maheshwari (HoD EVS and Math, Primary), the elegant and exuberant Mrs. Anselma Tessa Judeson (HoD Biology, Head of SEAK Academy), the enthusiastic and elevated

Mr. Sree Aswathaman (Faculty, French Department) and the vivacious and versatile Mrs. Neethu Maria, (Coordinator, Kindergarten 1, IES) were invited to the stage.

KQ Matters 2016 shone with the theme Olympics, from the decorated rostrums to the warriors of the intellectual combat in their Physical Education uniforms. The quiz masters too had a unique dress code as it matched the colours of Olympic rings. The teams were named Atlanta 1996 (GIS), Sydney 2000 (IES), Athens (2004), Beijing 2008 (ILOA), London 2012 (IEAS - Don Bosco) and Rio 2016 (UIS). The Quiz Masters (referees) and the quizzers (athletes) took the pledge of adherence to rules and fair play, another novelty that added glitter to KQ Matters 2016. The seven rounds of the 'Olympic' Brain Battle each different from the other, were named Medley Relay, Pentathlon, Pole Vault, Athens to Rio, Archery, Hurdles and Decathlon proclaiming novelty as the benchmark of the interschool quiz contest yet again.

The adept referees unremittingly tested the retention skills, smartness, promptness and knowledge of the ace athletes in various fields such as literature, entertainment, science, mathematics and whatnot by intellectually flooding them with questions. The multi-

farious scattered images, unscrambled words, completing the incomplete, and puzzles with perplexities made the infotainment a real celebration of the supremacy of knowledge. There was nothing quixotic about KQ Matters for the audience as they too took active participation and won many a prize in the 'Audience Round'. The whole show stood testimony to the tag line of KQ Matters 2016 "Knowledge is the only lifeline". It indeed was another challenging platform, raised by the school with a difference, for the knowledge seekers, aspiring teachers and inquisitive students and quizzers to grasp, gather information, and enrich themselves.

The team London 2012 (Indian English Academy School), comprising the aspiring scholars, Jason Miranda and Shawn Siby scored 73 points which entitled them to the KQ Matters ever-rolling trophy, a cash award of KD 500 and certificates. Scoring 50 points, team Atlanta 1996 (Gulf Indian School) comprising Yash Y Alva and Athul Rajeev bagged the second position and team Rio 2016 (United Indian School) represented by Don Mathew Shaji and Ajith Suresh Nair finished third with 42 points. The first and second runners up positions entitled them to cash prizes of 300 KD and 200 KD respectively. The win-

ners and the participants were honoured with cash prizes, trophies, mementos and certificates by the Chief Guest, the Chairman and the Principal.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Ramesh Pandita, while addressing the audience expressed his delight in being a part of the truly cerebral extravaganza. He was in awe of Bhavans for organizing magnificent events like KQ Matters, which made an attempt to quench the thirst of the knowledge seekers, and said that competitions like the KQ Matters help the students go beyond the usual classroom learning and develop new interests. Congratulating the participants, he said, "You all are winners, for voyaging and reaching the finals of a prestigious contest". Mr. N.K. Ramachandran Menon, the Chairman, Bhavans Middle East presented the Chief Guest a memento, as a token of the gratitude and respect of Bhavans' fraternity.

Aditya Jaypal, the school head boy proposed the vote of thanks. The coordinator of KQ Matters 2016 was Mr. Sunil Kumar Menon (Sanskrit Department). The emcees for the day were Shiv Govind (Grade 11) and Mitsumi Nandi (Grade 10). The intellectual combat - KQ Matters 2016 solemnly concluded with the singing of the Indian National Anthem.



INDIAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL RESUMES WITH A NEW VISION

With rising concerns and rumors circulating around The Indian Community School Kuwait, the Sponsor had dismissed the previous Board earlier this year. The foremost objective was to safeguard the interests of the students of the Indian Community and to ensure that they are provided with high quality education and facilities. The sponsor has ordered an audit enquiry and has constituted a Board of Trustees with five Indian board members - Shaikh Abdul Rahman (Chairman), Vinukumar Nair (Vice Chairman), A. Amer Mohammed (Secretary), Agnelo A. S. Fernandes (Joint Secretary) and S N Raju (Treasurer). The present Board is committed to support the school to reach greater heights. The Principals of all the four branches of ICSK - Senior, Junior, Amman and Khaitan have been entrusted with administrative powers for effective func-

tioning. Principal of ICSK Senior Dr V Binumon has been appointed as the Senior Administrator of ICSK. He has been entrusted with the overall responsibility of administration pertaining to all the four schools thus leading to better management. This, in turn, shall uplift the quality of education at ICSK. The fund of KD 2.5 million, present in the school's account, has been set aside for providing the teachers with their indemnity, settlement of school commitments and for the development of the school. Auditing is being conducted by a reputed audit firm and the report will be made available to the public. The present Board has been instrumental in making several changes to uplift the school. The cost of the uniform is reduced by 10 percent and the cleaning contract is reduced by 8 percent. The present Board played a pivotal role in negotiating interest rates on the

deposits held in banks which will increase the interest income by around KD 27,000 annually. For the first time in recent years, free ship was distributed to all the 85 financially weak applicants within a short period of their applying. Sports Scholarship was also awarded to the suitable candidates. Honorarium to teachers for excellent class XII CBSE result 2015-16 was also awarded before the end of academic term. Highly capable and experienced Mr. Ravi has been appointed as the Vice-Principal of ICSK Khaitan, a position that was pending for more than one academic year. C Sheja has been appointed as the Vice-Principal of ICSK Junior to fill the vacancy that would have arisen with the retirement of the existing Vice-Principal. Both Vice-Principals come from DPS Kuwait and bring vast experience with them. Further, Deepak Kumar Seth who has just retired from Indian Embassy after

serving the community for 34 years has been appointed as HR and Admin officer of the School. This year, the maintenance work of the school, including the civil work, commenced immediately in the summer holidays and has been completed successfully. IT infrastructure is under review and is being modernized. Additionally, a plan has been structured to upgrade the libraries of all four branches of the Indian Community School Kuwait. ICSK is the only CBSE School in Kuwait to provide NIOS scheme of studies. Under the NIOS system, students can opt for any combination of subjects as per their abilities. Commendably, ICSK is the only NIOS center in Kuwait that is authorised to offer a choice of Science subjects to the students. Plans are also underway to introduce regular BBA and B.Com courses from reputed and recognized Indian

Universities. Classes will be held in the afternoon and this will be a great advantage to girl students and working Indian Community. The results of the Senior Secondary and Secondary Board examinations, conducted by the CBSE, were exemplary. All the students from the school made their alma mater proud by securing First Class results. This is the first time in the Middle East that such a large number of students have secured a First Class result from a school in the All India Senior Secondary Examination conducted by CBSE. Dr V Binumon, Senior Administrator of The Indian Community School Kuwait, has reported these developments to draw the attention of the Indian diaspora to highlight the measures taken to serve the Indian community in Kuwait through diligent governance, thereby, providing quality education to the children of the Indian community.

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

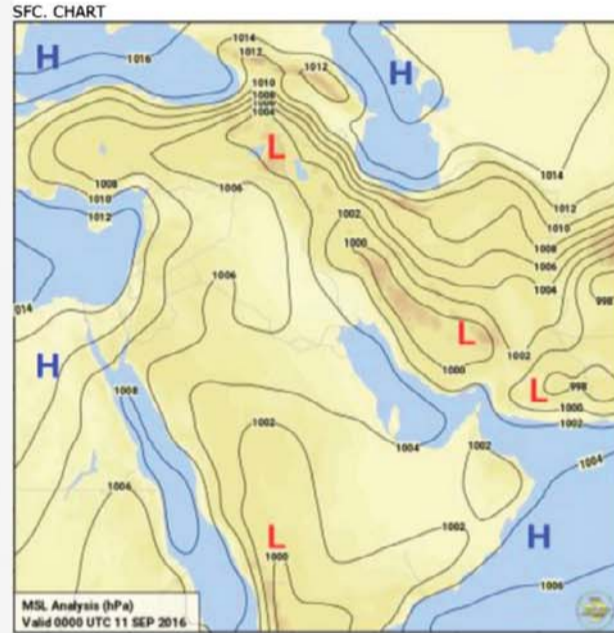
STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 11/09/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr
Max Temperature 43 °C
By Day : Hot with variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h
By Night : Fair with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather: hot	Expected Weather: hot	Expected Weather: hot	Expected Weather: hot
Min Temp °C: 23	Min Temp °C: 24	Min Temp °C: 25	Min Temp °C: 24
Max Temp °C: 45	Max Temp °C: 44	Max Temp °C: 44	Max Temp °C: 44
Wind Direction: north westerly	Wind Direction: north westerly to light variable	Wind Direction: north westerly	Wind Direction: variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly
Wind Speed km/h: 08 - 30	Wind Speed km/h: 12 - 35	Wind Speed km/h: 12 - 35	Wind Speed km/h: 08 - 30

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	31		39	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	23		43	
ABDALY	26		42	
BUBYAN	24		34	
JAHRA	28		43	
FAILAKA ISLAND	27		37	
SALMIYAH	32		34	
AHMADI	30		34	
JAL ALIYAH	26		43	
QAROH ISLAND	31		36	
UMM AL-MARADEM	31		36	
NUWAISIB	25		38	
WAFRA	23		44	
MANAGISH	24		44	
SALMY	26		43	
MUTRIBA	25		45	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	42
Min Temp (°C)	24
Max Rel Hum (%)	68
Min Rel Hum (%)	11
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	36 SE
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm
Sunrise	05:30
Sunset	17:59

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:10
Sunrise	05:30
Zuhr	11:45
Aer	15:16
Sunset	17:59
Isha	19:17

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



PRIVATE CLINICS

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BBC FIRST

- 09:20 Call The Midwife
- 10:15 Doctors
- 10:45 Eastenders
- 11:15 Dickensian
- 12:00 Doctors
- 12:30 Doctors
- 13:00 Eastenders
- 13:30 Casualty
- 14:20 New Tricks
- 15:15 Call The Midwife
- 16:10 Dickensian
- 17:00 Doctors
- 17:30 Eastenders
- 18:00 New Tricks
- 18:55 Call The Midwife
- 19:50 Dickensian
- 20:40 Doctors
- 21:10 Eastenders
- 21:40 New Tricks
- 22:30 Call The Midwife
- 23:25 Dickensian
- 00:15 Casualty
- 01:05 New Tricks
- 02:00 Doctor Foster
- 03:00 Doctor Foster
- 03:55 Silent Witness
- 04:55 Orphan Black
- 05:50 Casualty

- 22:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 23:00 Backstage
- 23:25 Alex & Co.
- 23:50 Girl Meets World
- 00:15 Austin & Ally
- 00:40 Best Friends Whenever
- 01:05 Liv And Maddie
- 01:30 Jessie
- 01:55 Violetta
- 02:45 Backstage
- 03:10 H2O: Just Add Water
- 03:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 04:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 04:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 05:10 Hank Zipzer
- 05:35 Binny And The Ghost



- 09:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 09:20 Calimero
- 09:35 Zou
- 09:45 Loopdidoo
- 10:00 Art Attack
- 10:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 10:35 Calimero
- 10:50 Zou
- 11:00 Loopdidoo
- 11:15 Art Attack
- 11:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 11:50 Calimero
- 12:00 Zou
- 12:20 Loopdidoo
- 12:35 Art Attack
- 13:00 The Hive
- 13:10 Zou
- 13:25 Loopdidoo
- 13:40 Gummi Bears
- 14:05 Sofia The First
- 14:30 Goldie & Bear
- 14:40 PJ Masks
- 14:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 15:10 Doc McStuffins
- 15:20 Miles From Tomorrow
- 15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 15:45 Goldie & Bear
- 16:00 Sofia The First
- 16:25 The Lion Guard
- 16:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 17:20 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 17:25 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 17:50 The Hive
- 18:00 Doc McStuffins
- 18:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 19:00 The Lion Guard
- 19:30 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
- 19:45 Aladdin
- 20:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 20:45 Doc McStuffins
- 21:15 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 21:20 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies



- 09:40 Fast N' Loud
- 10:30 Garage Gold
- 11:00 How Stuff Works
- 11:30 How Do They Do It?

- 21:40 Supa Strikas
- 22:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 22:30 Danger Mouse
- 22:55 Kirby Buckets
- 23:25 K.C. Undercover
- 23:50 Annedroids
- 00:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 00:40 K.C. Undercover
- 01:05 Counterfeit Cat
- 01:10 Gravity Falls
- 01:35 Pickle And Peanut
- 02:00 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 02:25 Supa Strikas
- 02:55 K.C. Undercover
- 03:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 03:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 04:15 Marvel Avengers Assemble
- 04:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 05:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



- 09:40 Botched
- 10:35 Botched
- 11:30 Fashion Bloggers
- 12:00 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 12:55 El News
- 13:25 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 14:20 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 15:15 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 16:10 El News
- 16:40 Fashion Bloggers
- 17:10 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 18:10 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 19:10 WAGs
- 20:05 WAGs
- 21:00 El News
- 21:30 Fashion Bloggers
- 22:00 WAGs
- 23:00 WAGs
- 01:00 WAGs
- 02:00 Stand Up 2 Cancer
- 03:00 WAGs
- 04:00 LA Clippers Dance Squad
- 05:00 El News



- 09:25 When Ant & Dec Met The Prince
- 10:45 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild
- 17:50 The Hive
- 18:00 Doc McStuffins
- 18:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 19:00 The Lion Guard
- 19:30 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
- 19:45 Aladdin
- 20:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 20:45 Doc McStuffins
- 21:15 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 21:20 The Adventures Of The Disney Fairies
- 09:40 Fast N' Loud
- 10:30 Garage Gold
- 11:00 How Stuff Works
- 11:30 How Do They Do It?



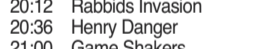
THE EXPENDABLES 3 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 22:20 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
- 23:15 The Food Files
- 23:40 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 00:10 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 00:35 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 01:05 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 01:30 A Marriage Of Flavours
- 02:00 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 02:25 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med

- 21:40 Animal Autopsy
- 22:35 Animal Fight Club
- 23:30 Grizzly Empire
- 00:25 Spine Chillers: Vampire Bats
- 01:20 Dangerous Encounters
- 02:10 Animal Autopsy
- 03:00 Animal Fight Club
- 03:50 Grizzly Empire
- 04:40 Spine Chillers: Vampire Bats
- 05:30 Life On The Barrier Reef



- 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



- 09:01 Paw Patrol
- 09:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 09:35 Dora The Explorer
- 09:59 Max & Ruby
- 10:07 Bubble Guppies
- 10:29 Little Charmers
- 10:41 Shimmer And Shine
- 11:05 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 11:27 Zack & Quack
- 11:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 12:00 Paw Patrol
- 12:13 Paw Patrol
- 12:36 Dora The Explorer
- 13:00 Wanda And The Alien
- 13:11 Zack & Quack
- 13:22 Dora And Friends
- 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

- 05:22 Louie
- 05:30 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 05:53 Olive The Ostrich
- 05:58 Olive The Ostrich



- ACTION**
- 10:00 Justice League: Gods And Monsters
- 12:00 S.W.A.T.
- 14:00 Heatstroke
- 15:45 The Expendables 3
- 18:00 Freezer
- 19:45 S.W.A.T.
- 21:45 Deep Rising
- 23:45 The Expendables 3
- 02:00 First Response
- 04:00 Alien Outpost



- KIDS**
- 10:15 Goat Story 2
- 12:00 Cher Ami
- 14:00 Hatching
- 15:45 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 17:15 Space Warriors
- 19:15 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels
- 20:45 Columbus In The Last Journey
- 22:30 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 00:15 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 02:00 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby
- 04:00 Columbus In The Last Journey
- 05:30 Moomins And The Comet Chase



- COMEDY**
- 09:00 Dr. Ken
- 09:30 Last Man Standing
- 10:00 My Big Fat Greek Life
- 10:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 11:30 Better With You
- 12:00 Mad Love
- 12:30 S#! My Dad Says
- 13:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 14:00 My Big Fat Greek Life
- 14:30 Better With You
- 15:00 Dr. Ken
- 15:30 Angie Tribeca
- 16:00 Crowded
- 16:30 S#! My Dad Says
- 17:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 18:00 Mad Love
- 18:30 My Big Fat Greek Life
- 19:00 Better With You
- 19:30 S#! My Dad Says
- 20:00 Last Man Standing
- 20:30 Angie Tribeca
- 21:00 Crowded
- 21:30 2 Broke Girls
- 22:00 2 Broke Girls
- 22:30 Mad Love
- 23:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 00:00 Dr. Ken
- 00:30 Last Man Standing
- 01:00 Wrecked
- 01:30 Crowded
- 02:00 Difficult People
- 02:30 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving
- 03:00 2 Broke Girls
- 03:30 2 Broke Girls
- 04:00 Baskets
- 04:30 Hot In Cleveland
- 05:00 The Last Man On Earth
- 05:30 The Last Man On Earth



- FAMILY**
- 09:15 The Country Bears
- 11:00 Aladdin
- 13:00 G-Force
- 15:00 Harriet The Spy
- 17:00 Brave
- 19:00 Monsters Inc
- 21:00 The Mighty Ducks
- 23:00 The Rookie
- 01:15 Flubber
- 03:00 The Shaggy Dog
- 05:00 The Mighty Ducks



- 09:00 The Good Dinosaur
- 11:00 Tarzan
- 13:00 Make Your Move
- 15:00 The Good Dinosaur
- 16:45 Fantastic Four
- 18:45 The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie
- 20:30 Inside Out
- 22:15 Jurassic World
- 00:30 Star Wars: The Force Awakens
- 03:00 Before We Go
- 05:00 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I



- COMEDY**
- 10:00 Three Men And A Little Lady
- 12:00 Vampire Dog
- 14:00 Sweet Home Alabama
- 16:00 My Girl
- 18:00 Three Men And A Little Lady
- 20:00 Caveman
- 22:00 Sweet Home Alabama
- 00:00 Mr. Destiny
- 02:00 The Starving Games

- 04:00 Blue Streak



- 09:00 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike
- 11:00 Inside Llewyn Davis
- 13:00 The Assault
- 15:00 Belle
- 17:00 Stone Markers
- 19:00 God Help The Girl
- 21:00 The Assault
- 23:00 Belle
- 01:00 The Horse Whisperer
- 04:00 Every Day



- 10:15 Goat Story 2
- 12:00 Cher Ami
- 14:00 Hatching
- 15:45 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 17:15 Space Warriors
- 19:15 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels
- 20:45 Columbus In The Last Journey
- 22:30 Moomins And The Comet Chase
- 00:15 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 02:00 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby
- 04:00 Columbus In The Last Journey
- 05:30 Moomins And The Comet Chase



- 09:00 Moon Machines
- 09:48 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 10:36 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 11:24 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 12:12 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 13:00 How Do They Do It?
- 13:26 Mythbusters
- 14:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 15:02 Mega Builders
- 15:50 How Do They Do It?
- 16:14 Food Factory
- 16:38 Race To Escape
- 17:26 Mythbusters
- 18:14 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 19:02 How Do They Do It?
- 19:26 Food Factory
- 19:50 Mega Builders
- 20:38 Race To Escape
- 21:26 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 22:14 Mythbusters
- 23:02 Mega Builders
- 23:50 Mythbusters
- 00:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 01:30 Meteorite Men
- 02:20 How Do They Do It?
- 02:45 Food Factory
- 03:10 Extreme Engineering
- 04:00 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 04:50 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 05:40 Mythbusters



- 09:15 Cake Boss
- 09:35 Buddy's Family Vacation
- 10:00 Buddy's Family Vacation
- 10:20 Little People, Big World
- 10:45 Little People, Big World
- 11:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 12:00 Bakery Boss
- 12:50 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners
- 13:40 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 14:30 Little People, Big World
- 14:55 Little People, Big World
- 15:20 Kate Plus 8
- 16:10 Love, Lust Or Run
- 16:35 Cake Boss
- 17:00 My Big Fat Fabulous Life
- 17:25 Say Yes To The Dress
- 17:50 Bakery Boss
- 18:40 Buddy's Family Vacation
- 19:05 Buddy's Family Vacation
- 19:30 Say Yes To The Dress
- 19:55 Say Yes To The Dress
- 20:20 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day
- 21:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 22:00 Little People, Big World
- 22:25 Little People, Big World



STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 03:30 Kumail Nanjiani: Beta Male
- 04:18 South Park
- 04:42 South Park
- 05:05 South Park
- 05:30 South Park

- 12:00 Deadliest Catch
- 12:50 Misfit Garage
- 13:40 Fast N' Loud
- 14:30 Gold Divers
- 15:20 Garage Gold
- 15:45 How Stuff Works
- 16:10 How Do They Do It?
- 16:35 Wheeler Dealers
- 17:25 Misfit Garage
- 18:15 Street Outlaws
- 19:05 How Stuff Works
- 19:30 Storage Hunters
- 19:55 Garage Gold
- 20:20 Gold Divers
- 21:10 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 22:00 Deadliest Catch
- 22:50 Fast N' Loud
- 23:40 Misfit Garage
- 00:30 How Stuff Works
- 00:55 How Do They Do It?
- 01:20 Gold Divers
- 02:10 Storage Hunters
- 02:35 Garage Gold
- 03:00 Gold Divers
- 03:50 Yukon Men
- 04:40 Trailblazers
- 05:30 Fast N' Loud

- 01:15 Coronation Street
- 02:10 The Chase
- 03:00 Paul O'grady's Animal Orphans
- 03:55 Tonight At The London Palladium
- 04:50 Emmerdale

- 03:15 The Food Files
- 03:40 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 04:30 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 04:55 Lucky Chow
- 05:20 What's For Sale?
- 05:45 What's For Sale?



- 09:05 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 09:30 Tripping Out With Allie & Georgia
- 09:55 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 10:20 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
- 11:10 The Food Files
- 11:35 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 12:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 12:25 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 12:50 A Marriage Of Flavours
- 13:15 What's For Sale?
- 13:40 What's For Sale?
- 14:05 Eat Street
- 14:30 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 14:55 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 15:20 Tripping Out With Allie & Georgia
- 15:45 David Rocco's Dolce India
- 16:10 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Med
- 17:00 The Food Files
- 17:25 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 17:50 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 18:15 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 18:40 Lucky Chow
- 19:05 What's For Sale?
- 19:35 What's For Sale?
- 20:00 Eat Street
- 20:30 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 20:55 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia
- 21:25 A Marriage Of Flavours
- 21:50 David Rocco's Dolce India



- 09:50 No Man Left Behind
- 10:45 Ultimate Survival Alaska
- 11:40 Yukon Gold
- 12:35 Untamed Americas
- 13:30 Asia's Deadliest Snakes
- 14:25 Yukon River Run
- 15:20 Ultimate Survival Alaska
- 16:15 Migrations
- 17:10 I Wouldn't Go In There: WW2 Special
- 18:05 The Yard
- 19:00 Man Hunt
- 20:00 World's Weirdest
- 21:00 Untamed Americas
- 22:00 Migrations
- 23:00 I Wouldn't Go In There: WW2 Special
- 00:00 The Yard
- 01:00 Untamed Americas
- 02:00 Migrations
- 02:50 I Wouldn't Go In There: WW2 Special
- 03:40 The Yard
- 04:30 Untamed Americas
- 05:20 Yukon Gold



- 09:45 Dangerous Encounters
- 10:40 Dead Or Alive
- 11:35 Africa's Blood River
- 12:30 Caught In The Act
- 13:25 Dangerous Encounters
- 14:20 Dead Or Alive
- 15:15 Animal Fight Club
- 16:10 Killer Shots
- 17:05 Spine Chillers: Scorpions
- 18:00 Life On The Barrier Reef
- 18:55 Cat Fight
- 19:50 Caught In The Act
- 20:45 Dangerous Encounters



THREE MEN AND A LITTLE LADY ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY



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



- 12:00 Boyster
- 12:10 Super Matrak
- 12:35 Super Matrak
- 13:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 13:25 K.C. Undercover
- 13:50 Supa Strikas
- 14:15 Danger Mouse
- 14:40 Phineas And Ferb
- 15:05 Counterfeit Cat
- 15:10 Gravity Falls
- 15:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 16:00 Rocket Monkeys
- 16:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 16:50 Boyster
- 17:20 Boyster
- 17:45 Pair Of Kings
- 18:10 Pair Of Kings
- 18:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 19:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 19:55 Phineas And Ferb
- 20:20 Kickin' It
- 20:45 Kickin' It
- 21:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 21:15 Supa Strikas

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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (08/09/2016 TO 14/09/2016)

Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time
SHARQIA-1		PETE'S DRAGON	4:00 PM	SULLY	12:45 AM	BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	8:30 PM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:45 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	6:15 PM	AVENUES-1		BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	11:30 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	3:00 PM	SULLY	8:30 PM	ANTBOY 3	12:00 PM	AL-KOUT.1	
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	5:15 PM	SULLY	10:45 PM	ANTBOY 3	2:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	11:30 AM
PETE'S DRAGON	7:30 PM	SULLY	1:00 AM	ANTBOY 3	4:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	1:45 PM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	9:45 PM	FANAR-2		ANTBOY 3	6:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	4:00 PM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:05 AM	KILL ZONE 2	11:30 AM	ANTBOY 3	8:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	6:15 PM
SHARQIA-2		ANTBOY 3	2:00 PM	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	10:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	8:30 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	11:30 AM	ANTBOY 3	4:00 PM	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	12:15 AM	ASHAN KHARGEN	10:45 PM
PETE'S DRAGON-3D	1:45 PM	ANTBOY 3	6:00 PM	AVENUES-2		ASHAN KHARGEN	1:00 AM
ASHAN KHARGEN	4:00 PM	ANTBOY 3	8:00 PM	PETE'S DRAGON-3D-4DX	12:15 PM	AL-KOUT.2	
PETE'S DRAGON-3D	6:15 PM	KILL ZONE 2	10:00 PM	PETE'S DRAGON-3D-4DX	2:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	11:45 AM
ASHAN KHARGEN	8:30 PM	KILL ZONE 2	12:30 AM	PETE'S DRAGON-3D-4DX	5:00 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	2:15 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	10:45 PM	FANAR-3		PETE'S DRAGON-3D-4DX	7:15 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	5:00 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	1:00 AM	ASHAN KHARGEN	12:15 PM	PETE'S DRAGON-3D-4DX	9:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	7:15 PM
SHARQIA-3		ASHAN KHARGEN	2:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON-3D-4DX	11:45 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	9:30 PM
SULLY	11:30 AM	LIGHTS OUT	4:45 PM	AVENUES-3		BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	11:45 PM
SULLY	1:30 PM	BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	6:30 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:45 PM	AL-KOUT.3	
SULLY	3:30 PM	LIGHTS OUT	9:30 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	3:00 PM	PETE'S DRAGON-3D	12:30 PM
SULLY	5:45 PM	LIGHTS OUT	11:15 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	5:15 PM	SULLY	2:45 PM
SULLY	8:00 PM	LIGHTS OUT	1:00 AM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	7:30 PM	LIGHTS OUT	4:45 PM
LIGHTS OUT	10:15 PM	FANAR-4		BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	9:45 PM	SULLY	6:30 PM
LIGHTS OUT	12:05 AM	SULLY	11:30 AM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:05 AM	LIGHTS OUT	8:30 PM
MUHALAB-1		SULLY	1:30 PM	AVENUES-4		LIGHTS OUT	10:15 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	11:30 AM	SULLY	3:30 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	12:30 PM	LIGHTS OUT	12:45 AM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	2:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	5:45 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	2:45 PM	AL-KOUT.4	
ASHAN KHARGEN	4:30 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	8:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	5:00 PM	ANTBOY 3	11:30 AM
PETE'S DRAGON	6:45 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	10:30 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	7:15 PM	ANTBOY 3	1:30 PM
LIGHTS OUT	9:00 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	12:45 AM	ASHAN KHARGEN	9:30 PM	ANTBOY 3	3:30 PM
BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	10:45 PM	MARINA-1		ASHAN KHARGEN	11:45 PM	Digital (2D)	5:30 PM
LIGHTS OUT	1:00 AM	PETE'S DRAGON	11:45 AM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	12:05 AM	ANTBOY 3	7:30 PM
MUHALAB-2		BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	2:00 PM	360°-1		ANTBOY 3	9:30 PM
SULLY	12:30 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	4:15 PM	ANTBOY 3	11:30 AM	ANTBOY 3	12:05 AM
SULLY	2:45 PM	BOGET FAKARA (Kuwaiti Film)	6:15 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D	1:30 PM	ANTBOY 3	5:30 PM
BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	5:00 PM	LIGHTS OUT	8:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D	3:45 PM	ANTBOY 3	7:30 PM
NO MON+TUE		LIGHTS OUT	10:15 PM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D	6:00 PM	KILL ZONE 2	9:30 PM
JANATHA GARAGE - Telugu	5:00 PM	LIGHTS OUT	12:15 AM	PETE'S DRAGON -3D	8:15 PM	KILL ZONE 2	12:05 AM
MON+TUE		MARINA-2		PETE'S DRAGON	10:30 PM	BAIRAQ-1	
SULLY	8:00 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN 12:45 PM	3:00 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	12:45 AM	ASHAN KHARGEN	12:30 PM
SULLY	10:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	5:15 PM	360°-2		ASHAN KHARGEN	2:45 PM
SULLY	12:30 AM	ASHAN KHARGEN	7:30 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	12:00 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	5:00 PM
MUHALAB-3		ASHAN KHARGEN	9:45 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	2:15 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	7:15 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	12:45 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	12:05 AM	ASHAN KHARGEN	4:30 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	9:30 PM
PETE'S DRAGON-3D	3:00 PM	MARINA-3		ASHAN KHARGEN	6:45 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	11:45 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	5:15 PM	SULLY	11:30 AM	ASHAN KHARGEN	9:00 PM	BAIRAQ-2	
ASHAN KHARGEN	7:30 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	1:30 PM	ASHAN KHARGEN	11:15 PM	SULLY	11:30 AM
ASHAN KHARGEN	9:45 PM	PETE'S DRAGON	3:45 PM	LIGHTS OUT	1:30 AM	PETE'S DRAGON	1:30 PM
ASHAN KHARGEN	12:05 AM	PETE'S DRAGON	6:00 PM	360°-3		PETE'S DRAGON	3:45 PM
FANAR-1		PETE'S DRAGON	8:15 PM	BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	11:30 AM	PETE'S DRAGON	6:00 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	11:30 AM	SULLY	10:30 PM	BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	2:30 PM	SULLY	8:15 PM
PETE'S DRAGON	1:45 PM			BAAR BAAR DEKHO- Hindi	5:30 PM	SULLY	10:30 PM
						SULLY	12:30 AM



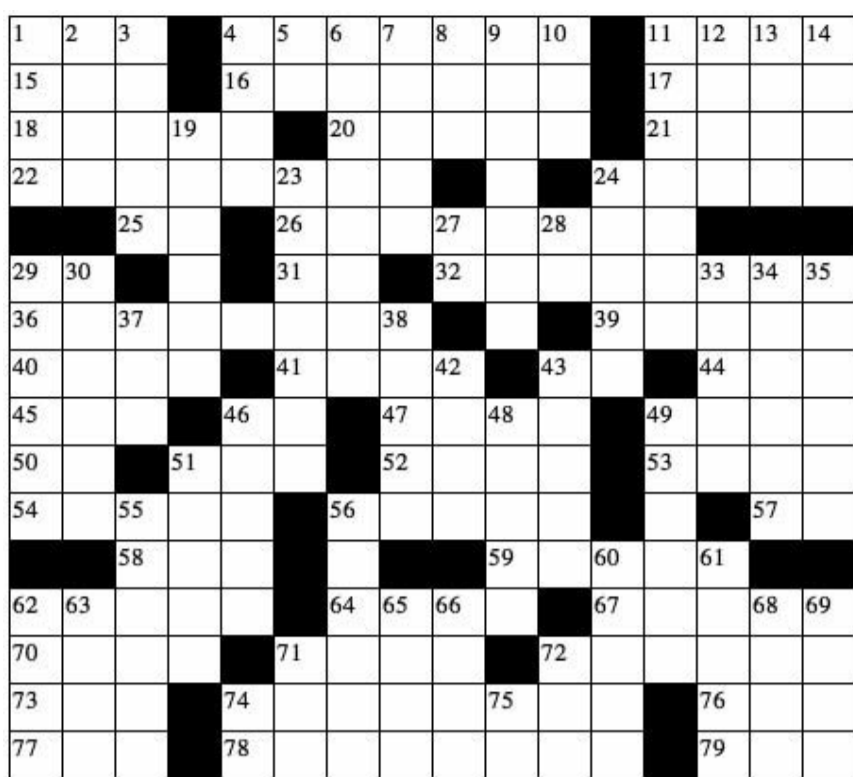
Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Monday 12/9/2016				Departure Flights on Monday 12/9/2016			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	KNE	382	Taif	14:55
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
FDK	803	Damascus	00:35	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
MSC	501	Alexandria	02:00	ETH	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:00	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	FEG	954	Asyut	06:00
THY	1404	AYT	02:30	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	JZR	240	Amman	06:55
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	BAW	156	London	08:25
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
MEA	406	Beirut	04:10	KAC	173	Munich	08:35
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	JZR	256	Beirut	09:05
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
BAW	157	London	06:40	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
JZR	563	Sohag	06:55	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	IRA	666	Esfahan	10:15
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	ETD	920	Abu Dhabi	10:20
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	JAV	622	Amman	10:25
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	153	Istanbul	11:00
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	741	Dammam	11:35
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	AXB	890	Mangalore	11:55
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	KAC	103	London	12:10
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
JAV	621	Amman	09:25	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	FDK	802	Damascus	13:15
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	FEG	934	Sohag	13:55
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
FDK	801	Damascus	12:15	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25				
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30				
JZR	241	Amman	12:30				
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45				
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55				

CROSSWORD 1371



- ACROSS**
- Former measure of the US economy.
 - A member of an Indian people formerly living along the Gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.
 - A unit of length equal to 1760 yards.
 - A unit of length of thread or yarn.
 - Having had the bones removed.
 - Any property detected by the olfactory system.
 - An artificial language.
 - A short composition for a solo instrument.
 - A state of confusion and disorderliness.
 - East Asian perennial herbs.
 - (Astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
 - Any of various long-legged carrion-eating hawks of South and Central America.
 - A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
 - A colorless explosive liquid that is volatile and poisonous and foul-smelling.
 - A monastery for lamas.
 - A derogatory term for a white person (said to have been used by North American Indians).
 - Not clearly understood or expressed.
 - (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
 - Suggestive of the supernatural.
 - A change in the electrical properties of the skin in response to stress or anxiety.
 - A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
 - The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
 - A hemoprotein composed of globin and heme that gives red blood cells their characteristic color.
 - Of or relating to or characteristic of the Republic of Chad or its people or language.
 - A member of an Iroquoian people formerly living on the south shore of Lake Erie in northern Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania and western New York.
 - (of pain or sorrow) Made easier to bear.
 - A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
 - Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
 - German chemist who did research on high-speed chemical reactions (born in 1927).
 - English scholastic philosopher and assumed author of Occam's Razor (1285-1349).
 - Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
 - A condensed but memorable saying embodying some important fact of experience that is taken as true by many people.
 - Tropical woody herb with showy yellow flowers and flat pods.
 - The compass point midway between northeast and east.
 - The compass point that is one point east (clockwise) of due north.
 - A recurring sleep state during which dreaming occurs.
 - Of or relating to the urethra.
 - Belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself).
- DOWN**
- Take by theft.
 - Type genus of the Nepidae.
 - A small contrasting part of something.
 - An edge tool used to cut and shape wood.
 - A brittle silver-white metalloid element that is related to selenium and sulfur.
 - Temporary cessation or suspension.
 - A member of the Dravidian people living in the Nilgiri hills in southern India.
 - (Babylonian) The sky god.
 - A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
 - A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
 - A port city in southern Kenya on a coral island in a bay of the Indian Ocean.
 - The content of cognition.
 - The act of losing.
 - Any of several related languages of the Celts in Ireland and Scotland.
 - Exultantly proud and joyful.
 - A member of one of the four divisions of the prehistoric Greeks.
 - An anti-TNF compound (trade name Arava) that is given orally.
 - A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
 - Before noon.
 - A member of an agricultural people in southeastern India.
 - Moth having nonfunctional mouthparts as adults.
 - A former communist country in eastern Europe and northern Asia.
 - United States psychologist who studied the intelligence of primates (1876-1956).
 - A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.
 - Any plant of the genus Erica.
 - A member of an extinct North American Indian people who lived in the Pit river valley in northern California.
 - A family of Sino-Tibetan languages spoken in southeastern Asia.
 - A woman of refinement.
 - Worn or shabby from overuse or (of pages) from having corners turned down.
 - Any plant of the genus Reseda.
 - Established by or founded upon law or official or accepted rules.
 - A political leader (especially of Tammany Hall).
 - Large aquatic animal supposed to resemble a serpent or plesiosaur of Loch Ness in Scotland.
 - A small mallet used by a presiding officer or a judge.
 - Wife of Balder.
 - A stick that people can lean on to help them walk.
 - Having the slant of a bevel.
 - (of persons) Highest in rank or authority or office.
 - A desert in central Asia.
 - Divisible by two.
 - A prominent rock or pile of rocks on a hill.
 - An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
 - A ductile malleable reddish-brown corrosion-resistant diamagnetic metallic element.
 - A heavy brittle metallic element of the platinum group.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

A strong need for nurturing others could be met when you involve yourself in a volunteer group or in a religious group that visits shut-ins or the handicapped. You may have insights or breakthroughs with regard to your living situation. This could come about while using your imagination toward improvements or ways in which to beautify your environment. You may feel very idealistic about your friends, especially someone who is younger or who could use your help. Others value you for your independence and you can generate a good deal of support for whatever you want to accomplish. This is quite a busy day; however, there is still time to visit and be with elderly family members. You easily pass along positive energy to others.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

It is easy to overdo today. Your energies are high-physically-you may feel that you can do anything. In other words, do not try to roof the house in one day! Set your priorities and pace yourself throughout the day. Your patience may be tested. You may complain of never having any privacy or time to think. Your living pattern seems to throw you into contact with lots of people and the world outside of your family. Being an extrovert, you may have difficulty understanding reclusive types. You may find time with friends this evening is the best way to relax. Your mind is ever on communication, how you present yourself and how you come across with others. There is plenty of room for a candlelight dinner and a little romance this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a wonderful time to appreciate philosophy, religion and all that is mystical. Your value system and the way you care for others may shoot up a notch to a higher plane. There is a surge of independence-a need for freedom and an interest in trying new and different things. These things hold your attention. You may want to take a short trip or visit a new friend this afternoon. Circumstances may stimulate and enhance your enjoyment of life. You may decide to purchase the more expensive item when it comes to merchandise or good taste. Purchasing, selecting colors, etc., are at a high. There is some concern about future financial affairs. Connecting with stable, trustworthy people is an important consideration as you make new friends this evening.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Go ahead... Volunteer to help out where you would usually not be a volunteer. This is one way of having a new understanding and gaining new insight. This day is frequently taken up with chores and routine tasks. Conditions at home are due a change for the better. Go slowly just now. There is a tendency to seek out the most exciting activities this afternoon and a rebellious mood might find you wanting to ignore responsibilities. Careful, something could break. You are able to relax and enjoy some delightful activity later today. Breathe deeply and relax. There is a renewed interest in exploring the realm of dreams tonight. There is a big discussion on the subject of dreams. Keep a journal of your dreams for more insight.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Family members adore you and appreciate your ease in making practical decisions. You seem to have matured with a fine ability to sense what others want and need at this time, particularly concerning the elderly. Clear decisions affecting others could be made now. Be truthful in laying out the options that are available so that decisions are acceptable and easy to choose. Others depend on your input. This may take some patience on your part. Your most essential quality has to do with the very real love and compassion you radiate. Your sense of value and sheer appreciation for life are communicated to all who come to know you. There is time this evening to enjoy a candlelit dinner with a loved one. Consider a walk under the stars.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This time ushers in a most sentimental and perhaps an emotional time for you. Keepsakes and memorabilia remind you of earlier times. You may be enjoying the old picture albums of friends from the past. You are learning more about yourself these days and will be more involved in understanding how society relates to you and your family and how you are faring in comparison to others. Emotional and financial security are subjects that catch your attention and conversations around these subjects will find you deeply involved in planning ways to build up your finances. Group get-togethers and social gatherings are the thinking for this day.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Today is one of your best days-a great time to plan or carry through on your plans to refurbish or update your living surroundings. This may mean you put in a new showerhead or you rebuild or improve your living space. This afternoon has plenty of feel-good moments when you show off your hard work. You will also find yourself in a great social mood. You may see that others want to show appreciation of you. Perhaps a meal away from home with the group can be a source of great fun. Staying in touch and on top of the latest developments are the subjects that make up wonderful conversations. Brothers or sisters play a big role in supporting your ideas. Young people as a whole, figure more prominently in your life now.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You have great insight into matters of personal freedom. You come up with brilliant ways to express, or act out things. New methods of lovelinking, raising kids and caring for animals are yours. You are outspoken, impressive and regal. You may enjoy a trip to the country this afternoon, perhaps a fruit or vegetable stand, perhaps a garage sale. You relax with children, sports, acting, singing and such this day. This evening you may enjoy your eccentric or unconventional friends-groups with some kind of humanitarian flavor will appeal. This could mean you and your friends have some involvement with a child care group, such as a religious group or an orphanage. You and your friends working with you will make a difference.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

This is a day when recognition should be present from the public and from family and friends. A new project is at hand. Perhaps some monetary rewards are in the forecast for this project. Neighborhood news might consist of lost and found pets or construction sites that hinder traffic in and out of the neighborhood, school news, garage sales, etc. You could help organize the neighbors to create a positive change through city meetings. A nearby park could have signs that display the hours, or "drive slowly" signs on the street where children play may present the answers that are needed. It won't be long before the way your neighborhood handles community problems catches on with other neighborhoods. You could be awarded some prize this year.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

A cycle of nostalgia and domesticity begins now, emphasizing a need for security and a sense of roots. Family, home, relatives and real estate play a big part in your life. You express your appreciation of your loved ones today. You may decide to cook the meals, treat your loved ones to a meal out or take them to a play, a movie or a concert. Ideas and thoughts will have greater meaning and form just now. Listening also becomes important as you try to understand and have understanding for those around you. Self-sacrifice and this understanding attitude on your part could have far-reaching effects on your own life-path. Tonight is a good time to complete ongoing projects-cleaning, mending, sorting through clothes, cooking, etc.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Be ready for a change that brings new insight into how you can take better advantage of your current situation. You are more able to see what is worth saving. You may have breakthroughs that are a bit unconventional in health and diet. You are at your mental best with clear thoughts. This is an excellent time to make decisions and take care of mental work. Instant gratification is one of the temptations to which you may be subject now; you want things and you want them this instant. This is a practical and materialistic kind of focus, one that emphasizes the making and spending of money. Learning what really counts is an important lesson that you keep trying not to have to learn the hard way-leave the credit cards at home this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Getting your message across to others is at a high just now. Your timing should be perfect and those around you should find you most relaxed. Outer circumstances are favorable and it should be easy for you to push forward in projects that you may have been putting off lately. Things may seem almost magical in the way they work out in your favor. This is a great time to organize and get things accomplished. You may find some really good discounts while shopping for staples today-gas, food, etc. While you are buying things, pick up a card for a friend or relative you have not seen in a while. Find ways to become more involved in the experience of living and loving. Attend a community function or youth activity with someone in the family.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Physics 2

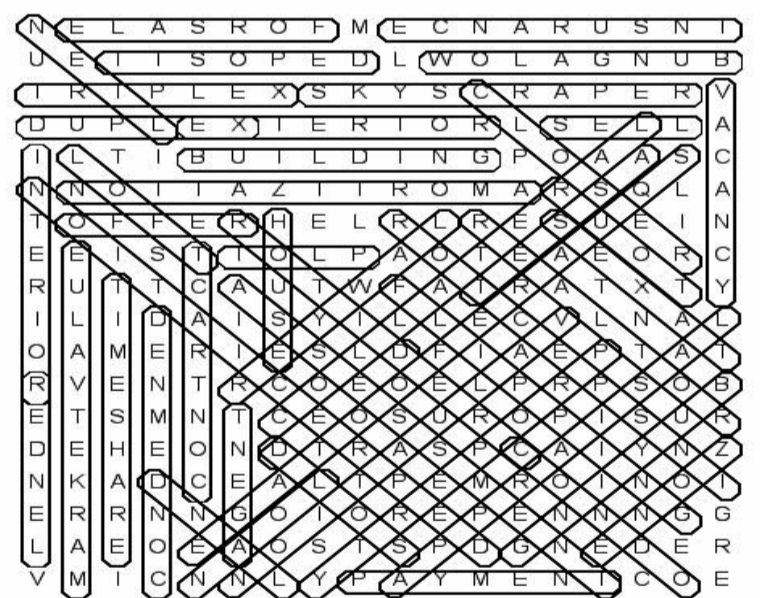
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 58 letters spell a Bruce Feirstein quotation.



- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| ABSOLUTE ZERO | DRAG | IONIZATION | PROTON |
| ADHESION | ELASTICITY | JOULE | PULLEY |
| AERODYNAMICS | ELECTRONICS | KINETICS | REFLECTION |
| AIR MASS | ENTROPY | LIGHT | SCIENCE |
| AMPLIFIER | FARADAY | MATTER | SPEED |
| BIG BANG | FORCE | MOLECULE | TEMPERATURE |
| BOLLING POINT | FRICTION | MOTION | TORQUE |
| CENTRIFUGAL | FUNCTION | NEUTRON | VACUUM |
| CHAIN REACTION | GALILEO | NIELS BOHR | VELOCITY |
| DECIBEL | HALF LIFE | PARTICLE | VOLUME |
| DIFFRACTION | HEAT | PHOTON | WAVELENGTH |
| DISTANCE | INERTIA | PRESSURE | WEIGHT |

Yesterday's Solution

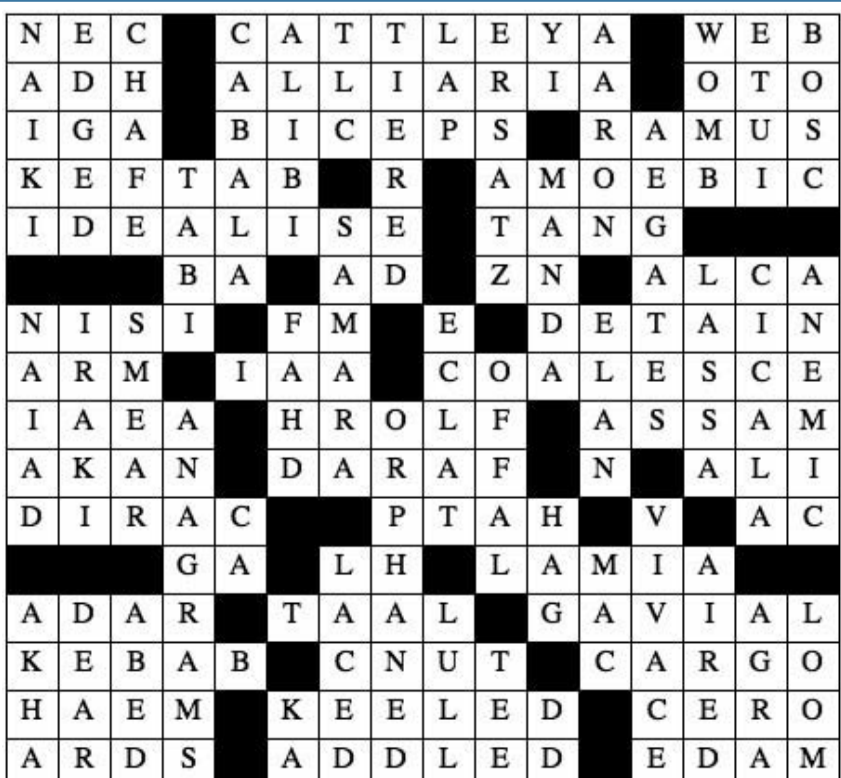
Real Estate 1



- | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| AGENT | CONTRACT | INTERIOR | REALTOR |
| AMORTIZATION | CREDITOR | LAND | SELL |
| APPRAISAL | DEED | LAWYER | SKYSCRAPER |
| ASSESSMENT | DEPOSIT | LENDER | SOLD |
| ASSET | DEPRECIATION | LIEN | SQUARE FOOTAGE |
| BUILDING | DUPLEX | LOAN | TAXES |
| BUNGALOW | EXTERIOR | LOFT | TIMESHARE |
| BUYING | FLIPPING | MARKET VALUE | TOUR |
| CLOSER | FOR SALE | OFFER | TRIPLEX |
| COLLATERAL | HOUSE | PAYMENT | VACANCY |
| CONDEMNED | INSPECTOR | PLOT | VALUATION |
| CONDO | INSURANCE | PROPERTY | ZONE |

The hidden message is: MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE

Yesterday's Solution



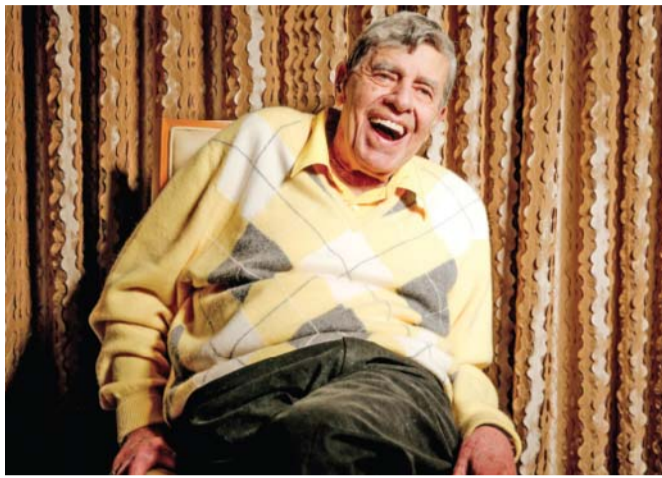
Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



JERRY LEWIS SHOWS QUIET, SENSITIVE SIDE IN DRAMA 'MAX ROSE'



In this photo comedian Jerry Lewis reacts during an interview at the Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles. —AP

If Jerry Lewis is known for being caustic and cantankerous, he left that side of him behind for "Max Rose." There's no trace of the elastic-faced comic in this new film (expanding Friday), though Lewis is in every frame. Even as he sits down to discuss coming out of retirement to take what is likely his last leading role, the 90-year-old entertainer is uncharacteristically gentle and sincere. "I love the movies. I love them," he said in a recent interview at the Four Seasons Hotel. "I love being in them, I love watching them. I love what they represent. I love when I see it affect people, and you feel very special doing it."

More than that, Lewis just loves to perform, whether for an audience of thousands or just a few people at a party. He says a deep desire to connect with others is what keeps him out there. "I'm very cognizant of the fact that the people I (perform) for are my audience, and my audience has to know one way or another that I love them," he said. "What I bring to my work is love. I love why I do it, I love for whom I do it and I love people in general."

His love for both the work and the audience is what inspired Lewis to make "Max Rose," a quiet drama unlike any of his past credits. Lewis plays a widower awash in grief after losing his wife of 65 years and discovering she may have been unfaithful early in their marriage. He's anchored, though, by a tender relationship with his adult granddaughter (Kerry Bishe). Writer-director Daniel Noah sent the script unsolicited, and Lewis loved it, calling it "exceptional" and "perfect." The role would bring him back on a film set for the first time in almost two decades, and in the hands of a first-time filmmaker.

Comedic chops

"I had already committed to making my last film," Lewis said, referring to 1995's "Funny Bones." "But when this script came to me, I thought: 'Why would that be my last film? Why can't this be my last film?' It was that simple." The character felt close to him, he said, and would challenge him as an actor: Could he move viewers without relying on his comedic chops? "For a pratfall comedian and for a noisy bastard like I can get, it's good to put that aside for a while," Lewis said. "I never thought prior to the film that I would do that one day. I never thought about it. Because you don't. You're thinking about straight comedy. And now you have to shake your brain clean to get all of that out of there to put this nice, quiet stuff in there."

Noah had envisioned only Lewis in the film's lead role and still can't quite believe it happened. But until they met, the filmmaker didn't realize how "uncannily similar" the

fictional Max Rose was to the real Jerry Lewis. "Jerry did not act in 'Max Rose,'" Noah said. "He is not performing. He genuinely let us photograph the real him." Lewis describes it differently: "I kept one thought in mind: Don't let Jerry in here. When you do what I've done all of my life, it's tough. It's very tough because it becomes a part of your personality... It's not that easy to just make a quick change and it works."

Yet a lifetime of creating comedy is what gave him the confidence to take the role. He drew, as he says he always has, on lessons learned from his entertainer parents and former mentor, Charlie Chaplin. "There's nothing more dramatic than the comedy I've done," Lewis said. "Because the comedy I've done is to get to the audience, get them to feel it, or they won't laugh ... and by getting comedy right, I learned how to do Max Rose." Slightly hunched and hard of hearing, Lewis is as eager to work as ever. Although he repeatedly reminds a reporter that he's 90 ("Every time I say it, I get nervous."), he says he feels 17. He may use a "Dictaphone" to take notes, but he still rises at 4:30 or 5 each morning to write, and if a great idea hits, he could be there until 4 in the afternoon. He recently finished a new script, and he has standup shows scheduled through October in Las Vegas and New York.

Remains undiminished

Asked what he likes to do when he's not working, Lewis says, "Work." But he also spends time doting over his youngest daughter, 24-year-old Danielle, and relaxing with his wife of 33 years, Sam, at their palatial Las Vegas home. Getting older has had its frustrations. Lewis sometimes loses his train of thought and uses a cane and a wheelchair to get around. But his desire to connect with audiences, with people, remains undiminished. Lewis knows he can be difficult, but says it's only because he cares so much. He feels entertaining and making movies is such a privilege that he can't tolerate those who don't treat it that way.

Noah didn't experience the difficult Lewis, the one who lambastes colleagues or fans with equally cutting zeal. Instead, he found a man who loves the craft, willing to try something new and "let the real him be seen" after 70 years onscreen. "When the truth comes down to the truth, I am so grateful that I'm on that stage or in front of that camera. I still feel it like it's the first day," Lewis said. "To have a career that I had in film, I'm the luckiest Jew that ever lived. I'm so grateful for it. I don't take advantage of it. I don't use it improperly. And I love the fact that there's nowhere I can go where people don't know me." And he's happy to finally show them his softer side. — AP

Hip-hop collective Dungeon Family reunites at festival

The legendary Dungeon Family music collective, which birthed a generation of hip-hop stars, reunited on stage Saturday night for the first time in a decade, and they're not looking to stop there. They want to create new songs and eventually collaborate for their own big festival or tour. First, they performed together as the headliner at the seventh annual ONE Musicfest in Atlanta. The rap collective has



In this Oct 14, 2013 file photo, musician CeeLo Green poses for a portrait in New York. — AP

consisted of a multitude, including such big names as Andre 3000, Big Boi, CeeLo Green, Killer Mike and Sleepy Brown. Some members are also associated with other groups including Outkast, Goodie Mob and production trio Organized Noize.

"It feels so good to be here with my brothers," Big Boi told the sold-out crowd, while Andre 3000 stood beside him. "It's a long time coming." More than 20 Dungeon Family members shared the stage, performing some of their biggest hits. Outkast performed "So Fresh, So Clean," and Goodie

Mob did "Cell Therapy." The crowd clapped along as CeeLo sang his hit "Crazy," and the masses cheered when T.I. joined Killer Mike and Bone Crusher for "Never Scared."

Rapper Witchdoctor of Goodie Mob believes the Dungeon Family has more fresh music to offer. "Our hope is to make a song, then take this product on the road," he said. "I'm thinking we can refresh the world and give them an intro to what we have going today." Producer Rico Wade of Organized Noize said he envisions a festival that will mirror Lollapalooza and Coachella. "Those fit the Dungeon Family brand," he said. "Our fan base is so eclectic." The idea of reuniting the Dungeon Family at the one-day event originated after the Netflix documentary, "The Art of Organized Noize," was released in March. The documentary focused on the production company's impact in rap and told how the trio of Wade, Ray Murray and Sleepy Brown produced the soulful sound of Grammy-winning group Outkast and produced TLC's 1995 hit "Waterfalls."

The Dungeon Family collectively played an influential role in raising the profile of Southern hip-hop in the 1990s and 2000s. Big Boi said getting everyone on the same page was tough initially. But he said rehearsals reminded everyone of their special bond. "It was like getting nine cooks in the Waffle House trying to fry an egg," he said. "But the egg tastes good as hell when we got it together. When we started rehearsing, it all came together." Wade said several of the Dungeon Family members made financial sacrifices to make it happen.

"We had to ask each other, 'Are you willing to take a little pay cut?'" Wade recalled. "Some of the guys can get paid a lot more if they did this on their own." — AP



Newly crowned Miss World Japan Yoshikawa, left, rides an elephant in the Mekong River in Luang Prabang, Laos.

Newly crowned Miss Japan proud of Indian roots

The newly crowned Miss World Japan is hardly a typical Japanese woman. Being half-Indian is only part of it. Priyanka Yoshikawa, crowned Monday after outshining more than 6,900 other applicants, has a certificate in elephant training, teaches English to children, enjoys kickboxing and volunteers as a translator at medical meetings. The 22-year-old is preparing for the worldwide pageant in Washington, DC, in November. Being fitted for a couture gown for the event is part of the program, but fashion plays a small role in Yoshikawa's life. And she doesn't want to fit into any stereotype.

She told The Associated Press on Wednesday that being in a beauty contest is a way to achieve her ambitions: Go to Bollywood, while pursuing her goal of building a children's home in India. A national debate was sparked in largely homogeneous Japan last year when Ariana Miyamoto, a half-American of African descent, was chosen Miss Universe Japan, another international beauty contest. Miyamoto faced criticism that she doesn't look Japanese enough, even though she mostly grew up in Japan and speaks the language perfectly.

More acceptable

So far, Yoshikawa has faced less criticism. She says her victory is perhaps a sign that Japan is becoming more tolerant of diversity. "I think (being mixed race) is getting more acceptable," she said, citing her victory as the second in a row. It's a matter of "who can represent your country (best) and I think that's the answer," she said after a fitting at a Tokyo dressmaker's office and discussing the design of her gown for the November event.

She did think about her identity at length, but being called "hafu," or half, a term in Japanese for people of mixed-race, doesn't bother her, though it sometimes has negative connotations. Her roots have expanded her cultural experiences and perspective, she said. While traveling in Asia, she is often mistaken as a local, while in Japan she is constantly scrutinized, Yoshikawa said. Japanese people seem to have stereotypes of how Japanese, Asians, or Americans should look. "I just let it go ... you can be anything now. We are all the same human beings."

Japanese with foreign roots or cultural backgrounds have faced discrimination, though less so as global exchanges prompt more interna-



Newly crowned Miss World Japan Priyanka Yoshikawa smiles during an interview with The Associated Press in Tokyo.



Priyanka Yoshikawa smiles with a couture dress in Tokyo.

tional marriages. Mixed-race Japanese Olympians earned medals for Japan at the Rio Games. Yoshikawa, who has an Indian father and a Japanese mother, grew up mostly in Japan but spent one year in India and three years in America. She says living overseas gave her a broader perspective, but that she still calls Japan home. What struck her the most was a year in Kolkata. As a 9-year-old girl, she saw her peers living in poverty, up close.

Living in India

"That totally changed my life. If I didn't live in India, or India was not inside me or part of me, I don't think I would have been here talking as Miss World Japan," she said. "Living in India has changed everything, how I see the world, how I want to live, my vision." After returning to Japan with her family, cleanliness and safety here struck her again. She says the stark difference inspired her to work for a change to improve the lives of children in India.

To help send her message out, Yoshikawa hopes the elephant training license on her resume will catch attention because, she says, there will be more mixed-race people in Japan and that will no longer be a way to stand out. The license, which she obtained in Laos, is not

just a decoration. She loves elephants, in part because of her Indian roots, and can ride an elephant with a passenger on the back and can bathe them.

"That's me, I can do that." Beyond Miss World, she wants to achieve her ambitions in India in Bollywood's film industry and Kolkata. "I would like to go into that industry. I need to learn dancing and Hindi but yes, of course I love to try anything," she said. — AP



Actress Dakota Fanning, from left, actor/director Ewan McGregor, and actresses Jennifer Connelly and Uzo Aduba attend the "American Pastoral" press conference on day 3 of the Toronto International Film Festival at the TIFF Bell Lightbox on Saturday in Toronto.

Actor Ewan McGregor admits to nerves in debut as director

Scottish actor Ewan McGregor admitted to being "very nervous" about making his directorial debut with the movie adaptation of Philip Roth's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, "American Pastoral." The film, which premiered Friday night at the Toronto International Film Festival, also sees McGregor in the lead role of the hard-working man in late 1960s America whose family begins to fall apart after his daughter Merry (Dakota Fanning) becomes politically radicalized.

McGregor, 45, said he had spent years waiting for the right directorial opportunity to emerge but felt pressure in interpreting Roth's work on the big screen. "I was very nervous," said the star of "Trainspotting" at a news conference on Saturday. "I think it's a massive responsibility to take on - a responsibility to the producers, a responsibility to Philip Roth, a responsibility to everybody who had read that novel and who liked that novel," he added.

He also wanted to make sure the film "represented me in some way." McGregor said Roth has seen the film and reacted positively to the adaptation of his 1997 masterwork, voted one of Time magazine's 100 greatest novels. "It was very important

to me that Philip liked the book," he said. "Last week, when (producer) Tom (Rosenberg) phoned me to tell me that he had heard from Philip and that Philip very much liked the film and felt that we had captured his novel, it was a huge relief. I hadn't realized how much I had been carrying the fear of maybe the fact that he wouldn't like it."

Critics were not so kind. Variety called the debut "as flat and strangled as Philip Roth's novel is furious and expansive." McGregor is soon to be seen in the second "Trainspotting" movie as well as the third season of the television series "Fargo." And he has hopes to direct again soon. "I'll certainly be keeping my eye open for something. Something will find me, I guess. The right story will come along. It's an enormous commitment," he said.

Jennifer Connelly, who plays McGregor's wife in the film, called her director's debut a "wonderful experience." "He clearly appreciates acting and actors and made a lot of space and I think we all felt very supported and eager to collaborate and explore together and I had a great time," she said. "American Pastoral" is slated for release in US theaters on Oct 28. — Reuters

Woman kissed by sailor in famed photo at World War Two's end dies

Greta Friedman, the woman in white kissed by a sailor in New York's Times Square in a photograph symbolizing the end of World War Two, has died at age 92, media reports said on Saturday. Her son, Joshua Friedman, said she died on Thursday in Virginia after suffering a series of ailments, including pneumonia, NBC News reported. CBS News said she would be laid to rest with her late husband, Mischa Elliot Friedman, at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Friedman, then a dental assistant on a break, was the woman in one of the most famous pictures of the 20th century, the moment Americans learned of the Japanese surrender on Aug 14, 1945. Photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt snapped a sailor in a dark uniform kissing Friedman with his arms around her and her white-clad body bent backwards as revelers in New York's Times Square celebrated the victory over Japan, or V-J Day. "I did not see him approaching, and before I know it I was in this vice grip," Friedman told CBS News in 2012. After the embrace, Friedman and the sailor, quartermaster George Mendonsa of Rhode Island, went their separate ways.

Eisenstaedt's photo, "V-J Day in Times Square," ran the following week in Life magazine. The photographer recalled in his 1985 book "Eisenstaedt on Eisenstaedt" that a sailor in Times Square was kissing women randomly. "When he saw a flash of white, he took four shots in 10 seconds. 'If she (Friedman) had been dressed in a dark dress I would never have taken the picture. If the sailor had worn a white uniform, the same," he said. Mendonsa and Friedman were not identified until 1980 when Life asked the unknown pair to come forward. Mendonsa told CBS he and his future wife had been celebrating the end of the war when he began kissing women in the street.

In a 2005 interview with the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project, the Austrian-born Friedman said she later designed dolls' clothes, worked in summer theater and became a book restorer. She moved to Frederick, Maryland, and graduated from Hood College in 1981, the same year her son and daughter graduated from university. Friedman said of the photo, "It was a wonderful coincidence, a man in a sailor's uniform and a woman in a white dress ... and a great photographer at the right time." — Reuters



Director Lav Diaz holds the Golden Lion award for Best Film for the movie "The Woman Who Left" during the awards ceremony of the 73rd Venice Film Festival. — AP/AFP photos



Director Amat Escalante (left) and director Andrei Konchalovsky both receive the Silver Lion award for Best Director respectively for their movies "The Untamed" (La Region Salvaje) and "Paradise".

'The Woman Who Left' by Filipino auteur Lav Diaz wins Venice Film Festival Golden Lion

The "Woman Who Left," a revenge drama by Filipino auteur Lav Diaz about the struggle of a wrongly convicted schoolteacher in the outside world after 30 years behind bars, is the winner of the 73rd Venice Film Festival's Golden Lion. Shot in black and white and lasting nearly four hours "Woman Who Left" was praised by Variety critic Guy Lodge as a "powerful and, by his [Diaz's] standards, refreshingly contained moral study." "This is for my country, for the Filipino people; for our struggle and the struggle of humanity," said Diaz, as he thanked the jury headed by Sam Mendes.

Tom Ford-directed romantic noir "Nocturnal Animals," set in the LA art scene and the Texas criminal underworld, took the fest's Jury Grand Prize. It is the second film directed by the fashion designer, following "A Single Man" which premiered in Venice in 2009. "I have a very beautiful memory of the warm reception my first film received here seven years ago," the former Gucci guru said speaking in Italian. "To return here is for me the realization of a big dream."

A dystopian fairy tale

Best director honors were split between Mexican helmer Amat Escalante's eclectic mix of naturalistic drama and sci-fi erotica, "The Untamed," and Veteran Russian auteur Andrei Konchalovsky's Holocaust drama "Paradise." The Special Jury Prize went to "The Bad Batch," a dystopian fairy tale set in a Texas wasteland by Iranian-American director Ana Lily Amirpour. Lodge called it a "blood-spattered mash-up of genres, from cannibal exploitation to spaghetti western." Amirpour thanked festival organizers for "bringing me and my weird, twisted fairy tale to Venice; it's been a dream." "I wish my mom and dad were here because they would really love this shit," she added. Emma Stone scooped the best actress prize for her role as Mia, an aspiring actress and playwright with a passion for the magic of old movie stars, in Damien Chazelle's musical "La La Land," itself a tribute to old Hollywood, which opened the festival on a decidedly positive note. Stone was not present at the awards ceremony.

The best actor prize went to Argentinian actor Oscar Martinez for his role as a Nobel-winning author who returns to his native village for inspiration in directorial duo Gaston Duprat and Mariano Cohn's "The Distinguished Citizen" ("El ciudadano ilustre"), a comedy about art, fame, and petty provincial jealousy. Noah Oppenheim won the best screenplay nod for "Jackie," directed by Chilean director Pablo Larraín. Starring Natalie



Director Ala Eddine Slim (right) and actor Jawher Soudani (center) receive the Lion of the Future "Luigi de Laurentiis" Venice award for the movie "The Last of Us".

Portman as First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, it reconstructs the four-day period right after President John F Kennedy was assassinated.

"One of the things I like most about the Venice Film Festival, and all festivals-and something I didn't really understand from the outside-is that we can only give one award per movie," Mendes said on stage. "Of course festivals serve the purpose of having certain films reach broader audiences," Mendes later noted at the post ceremony press conference. "But we did not talk about this in our discussions. We talked about all movies in the same way."

Best first work for drama

The Marcello Mastroianni award for best young performer went to German actress Paula Beer for her role as a World War I widow in French director Francois Ozon's period drama "Frantz." It

was the first time she performed in French. Tunisian director Ala Eddine Slim won the Luigi De Laurentiis Lion of the Future for best first work for drama "The Last of Us," which screened in Critics' Week and has no dialogue. It tracks a Sub-Saharan man through the desert to North Africa where he steals a boat and embarks on an imaginary surrealistic odyssey.

The jury of the Horizons section dedicated to more cutting edge works awarded its top prize to "Liberami," a documentary about exorcism in Sicily by Italy's Federica di Giacomo. The Horizons Special Jury Prize went to Turkish director Reha Erdem for his dark drama "Big Big World." The 73rd edition of Venice was one of the strongest in recent memory combining a diverse mix of potential Oscar contenders from the US with classic auteur and more esoteric fare from other parts of the world, and attaining a good batting aver-

age with relatively few letdowns. It reinforced the Lido's status as a prime Oscar launching pad and an important sales springboard to closing deals in Toronto.

Winners of the 73rd Venice film festival official awards:

- International Competition**
- Golden Lion** "The Woman Who Left" (Lav Diaz, Philippines)
- Silver Lion Best Director (Tie)** "Paradise," Andre Konchalovsky, Russia, Germany
- "The Untamed," Amat Escalante, Mexico
- Jury Grand Prize** "Nocturnal Animals" (Tom Ford)
- Special Jury Prize** "The Bad Batch" (Ana Lily Amirpour, US)

Actor
Oscar Martinez ("The Distinguished Citizen," Argentina, Spain)

Actress
Emma Stone ("La La Land," US)
Marcello Mastroianni Prize for Young Performer
Paula Beer ("Frantz," France)

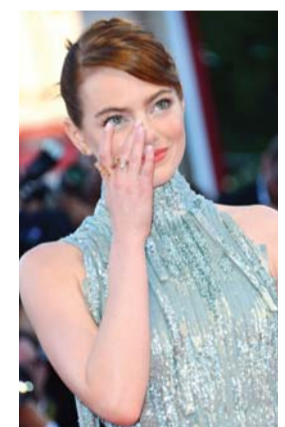
Best Screenplay
Noah Oppenheim ("Jackie," US)
Luigi De Laurentiis Lion of The Future
"The Last of Us," (Ala Eddine Slim, Tunisia)
Horizons Jury

Best Film
"Liberami" (Federica di Giacomo, Italy)
Best Director
"Home" (Fien Troch, Belgium)

Special Jury Prize
"Big Big World" (Reha Erdam, Turkey)
Special Prize for Best Actor
Nino Lopes ("Sao Jorge") by Marco Martins (Portugal)
Special Prize for Best Actress
Ruth Diaz ("The Fury of a Patient Man") by Raul Arevalo (Spain)

Best Screenplay
"Bitter Money," by Wang Bing (China)
Best Short
"La Voz Perdida," Marcelo Mantinessi (Paraguay)

Venice Classics Awards
Best Documentary on Cinema
"Le Councours," (Claire Simon)
Best Restored Film
"Break-Up-L'uomo dei cinque palloni," (Marco Ferreri, Italy) —Reuters



Actress Emma Stone winner of Best Actress in the film "La La Land".



Actress Paula Beer receives the Marcello Mastroianni Award for the Best Young Actor in the movie "Frantz".



Director Federica Di Giacomo holds the Orizzonti Award for Best Film for the movie "Liberami".



Director Fien Troch holds the Orizzonti award for Best Director for his movie "Home".



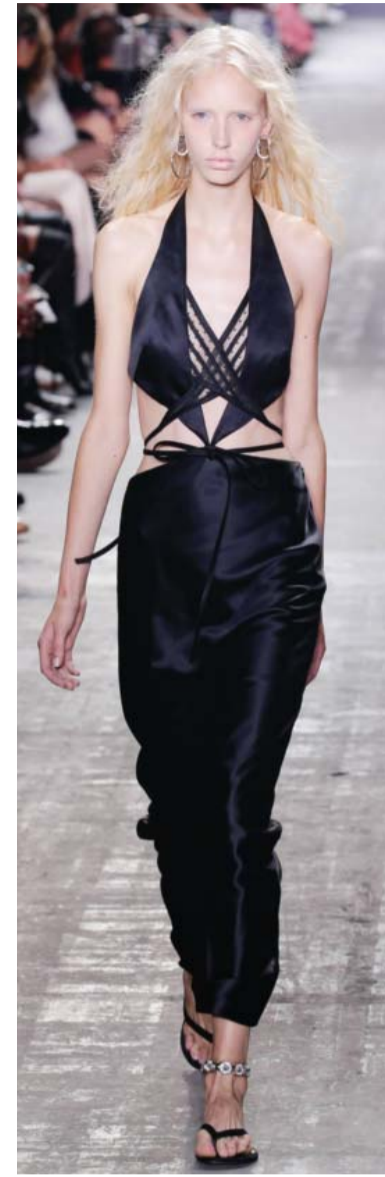
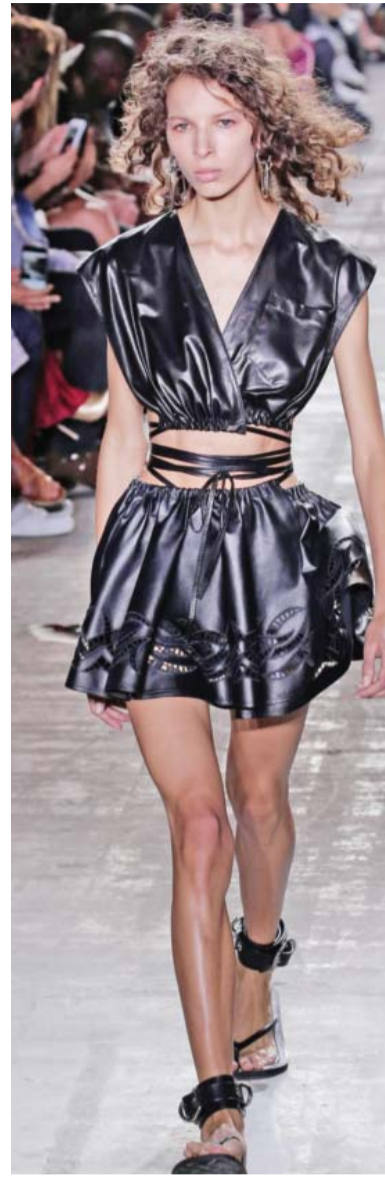
Director Tom Ford receives the Grand Jury Prize for the movie "Nocturnal Animals".



Director Ana Lily Amirpour receives the Special Jury Prize for the movie "The Bad Batch".



Actor Oscar Martinez holds the Volpi Cup award for Best Actor in the film "The Distinguished Citizen" (El Ciudadano Ilustre).



In his biggest show yet, Wang presents Adidas unisex line

In a surprise finale to his Fashion Week show, Alexander Wang sent an army of 70 models down the runway to announce his new collaboration with Adidas. Christian Siriano was inspired by the casual chic of Capri and earned applause for a few plus-size models who walked his runway, and Banana Republic presented looks influenced by India as New York Fashion Week continued Saturday.

A surprise finale - and new partnership - for Alexander Wang

Alexander Wang is, by his own description, a total sneakerhead. He once even designed a whole clothing collection around them, with dresses, tops and handbags emulating his favorite sneaks, like the classic white-and-



The "Adidas Originals by Alexander Wang" collection is modeled during Fashion Week in New York, Saturday. — AP/AFP photos



crowd - which included Madonna and Nicki Minaj - craned their necks and snapped endless photos. It was, Wang said, "the biggest show we've ever done."

In designing the new line, the key challenge was to change up the Adidas look so it feels fresh - but not to the point that it's unrecognizable, Wang said in an interview. "It was really about saying, how do we take something and shake it up a little, disrupt it, but at the same time not change it so much where it doesn't feel right."

The 32-year-old designer is recognized as one of the most talented and busiest of his generation. He launched his own, eponymous label 11 years ago, at age 21. Last year, he ended a prestigious three-year stint as creative director at Balenciaga, a job that had him splitting his time between Paris and New York. Since then, he's been back fulltime at his own label, where he focuses heavily on streetwear - and is a favorite of the celebrity set.

As for Adidas, it clearly wanted to capitalize on Wang's edgy and youthful vibe. "I've been a fan for a long time, this connection he has with culture and New York and breaking down boundaries," said Nic Galway, vice president of design for adidas Originals. For Wang, it was a chance to work with a brand he often wore as a child, and especially to work with sneakers. "I grew up on sneakers," he said. "It's a very interesting time obviously for (all) sportswear, the whole market and how people utilize fitness, incorporate it into their daily uniform. So the sneaker is something that I've always been very close to. And it's always been something that's very hard for us to do in house, to be honest - obviously Adidas has the most innovative resources."

Wang also showed his own label's spring collection on Saturday night, and it was a marked contrast to the all-black Adidas garb: Colorful, whimsical warm-weather clothes that would have been just right for the beach. The designer said backstage that he was going for a "liberating, free, surfer attitude and sensibility. Everything was put through the lens of water sports." "I'm from California," he added. "I love the beach; there's such a kind of laid-back attitude and sensibility that I really wanted to bring into this collection." Wang's after-parties are as famous as his shows. As guests left the runway, they walked into a cavernous space filled with colorful trucks, some dispensing snacks, Slurpees, or stronger beverages. Partiers could even take a can of spray paint and decorate a van, if they chose.



green Adidas Stan Smith. Now, Wang has taken his sneaker love to a new level, partnering with Adidas for a line of apparel and footwear that seeks, in his words, to "disrupt" the famous Adidas look while still preserving its familiarity. One example: rotating the well-known trefoil logo upside down. Another: "deconstructing" the Adidas sneaker. Also, the entire collection is unisex: Tops, bottoms, shoes.

Wang introduced the new line as a surprise finale to his Fashion Week runway show Saturday night, in a huge space on a Hudson River pier. After modeling creations from Wang's own label, models rushed backstage to change into new Adidas garb, while a one-and-a-half minute film teased the new collection. Then they marched onto the runway, more than 70 of them, all clad in black, as the



Banana Republic Spring 2017 fashion is modeled.



The Christian Siriano Spring 2017 collection is modeled during Fashion Week in New York.



Models walk the runway at the VFILES fashion show during New York Fashion Week 2016 at Spring Studios.





Models walk the runway at Parsons MFA Runway.

Siriano makes a statement on size
 Five models who were NOT sample size got a few cheers from the crowd as they walked the beachy, Capri-themed runway of Christian Siriano. Siriano's strong statement on size comes after 6-foot Leslie Jones complained in July that no designers wanted to dress her for the "Ghostbusters" premiere. Siriano made her a red gown, and he dressed the curvy Uzo Aduba in the same color Friday night at the Toronto Film Festival screening of her "American Pastoral."

to hit the cover of the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue this year. To be sure, plenty of Siriano's walkers were the usual model thin. It's been a big year in other ways for Siriano, who got hitched to longtime boyfriend Brad Walsh at their country home outside New York City over the summer. Soon after, on July 25, first lady Michelle Obama stunned in a royal blue Siriano dress that fell just below the knee as she addressed the Democratic National Convention. It was just the second time the first lady had worn one of his designs. "It was an amazing, amazing moment," Siriano said backstage before his show of ladylike, Capri-inspired looks. "Every now and then it's nice to have someone like that just give you a little bit of a push that you need for the world to agree."



Banana Republic goes to India
 Gap Inc's Banana Republic brand offered a presentation of 40 spring looks for men and women, inspired by its design team's trip to India early this year. "We were loving the idea of the old meeting the new, like technology meeting the old handcrafted ideas," said Michael Anderson, senior vice president of design for the brand. "Everybody does a lot of manufacturing in India, but we wanted to show a different side to India." In particular, the design team was inspired by the lattice work in that country, using a vendor in Portugal to do laser cutting of fabrics.

For women, there were off-the-shoulder laser cut eyelet tops paired with matching skirts, shirt dresses styled with white trousers and pajama-styled striped shirts and matching pants. For men, there were plenty of fashions in madras plaid, including shirts, pants and vests. The collection highlighted colors that included oranges and cinnamons.

For those who can't wait until next spring, Banana Republic offered 15 looks from the women's collection that can be purchased on its website now or at Banana Republic's store in New York's Flatiron district. That capsule included a one-shoulder asymmetric dress in red stripes and a cream-colored, laser-cut blouse. It's the second time the brand made some pieces available for purchase right away. "We want to have a deeper relationship with our consumer," Anderson said. "There is a customer who is on the edge. They want things before everybody else gets them. There's this heightened sense of urgency." — AP

On Thursday, "Project Runway" mentor Tim Gunn wrote a thought-provoking takedown of most top designers for ignoring plus-size women, considering - as he wrote in The Washington Post editorial - that research shows the average woman in the US wears size 16 to 18. "I've dressed so many different types of women and it's fun," said Siriano, who won the fourth season of "Project Runway" back in 2008. "I grew up with a mom who was a 16 and a sister who was a zero. There should be normalcy, I think."

Among those applauding the models of size was Ashley Graham, who sat front row and made history as the first plus-size model



Lifestyle

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

'The Woman Who Left' by Filipino auteur Lav Diaz wins Venice Film Festival Golden Lion

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A Palestinian man buys sweets as Muslims shop in preparation for the holiday of Eid Al-Adha at a market in the West Bank town of Hebron yesterday. — AFP

In vast West, new music center aims big by going small

Winding through the arid green hills, the highway gives way to a rugged gravel road ending at a lonesome gate like so many in this land of ranches. Inside lies an experiment in music, sculpture and how to present art in the 21st century. Inaugurated this summer, the 4,700-hectare (11,500-acre) estate called Tippet Rise is the brainchild of a wealthy couple of free-spirits who are fulfilling a lifelong goal of creating their own classical music venue. The Tippet Rise Art Center, hidden some 105 kilometers (65 miles) from Montana's largest city Billings, aims to marry art to the American West's overpowering natural openness, with musicians at times performing outdoors amid sculptures in view of the Beartooth Mountains.

But while the ambitions and setting are big, the founders, Peter and Cathy Halstead, have deliberately gone small in audience size. With

Montana famous for fast-gathering storms, most concerts take place inside an acoustically state-of-the-art barn with just 150 seats. The intimacy is integral to Tippet Rise, with the audience invited to join beforehand in a gourmet buffet dinner featuring local produce and to linger around afterwards to discuss the music with the artists over wine under a star-filled sky. "Who wants to build Carnegie Hall? It's already there," asked Peter Halstead. He and Cathy, grandparents who have known each other since they were teenagers, speak exuberantly about the project and complete each other's sentences.

"Think of all these things that were built in the '40s and '50s to show that you had a proud civic organization that could afford to have a big audience," Peter said of the era of big classical venues. "Suddenly we started noticing that nobody is in the big halls anymore.



Tourists observe "Beartooth Portal," a work by Spanish sculptors Anton Garcia-Abril and Debora Mesa, known together as Ensamble Studio, at the Tippet Rise Art Center near Fishtail, Montana. — AFP photos

They're half empty," he said. "What we have is the same size as the Temple of Solomon." For more recent models, the Halsteads looked to Snape Maltings, the rural English barley mill transformed into a concert hall by composer Benjamin Britten, and (Le) Poisson Rouge, the nightclub in New York's Greenwich Village that showcases experimental music with cozy informality.

Informality at the concert hall

The Halsteads are more than just patrons of Tippet Rise, which is named after Cathy's mother. Inside the barn, the Halsteads take unreserved seats for each performance, the bearded Peter sporting sandals and a faded bucket hat. For a performance of Messiaen's "Visions of the Omen," Peter interspersed the dark work by reciting his poems about the September 11 attacks and sat beside pianist Svetlana Smolina, turning her notes for her. Peter, who has recorded as a pianist and published poetry, hails from an East Coast banking family. Cathy, whose passion is painting, took over the liquor company of her billionaire father Sidney Frank who promoted Grey Goose vodka and Jagermeister liqueur.

The couple has no expectation that Tippet Rise will ever make money. Tickets cost \$10, far from enough to take care of the land's 3,000 sheep, 500 cattle and 5.5 kilometers (three and a half miles) of newly designed walking trails, as well as up to 40 employees in season. "We have the wonderful luxury that we come from the world of being able to give," Cathy said.

Tippet Rise runs entirely on geothermal and solar energy, generating enough power to distribute to neighboring ranches, and has the capacity to collect 380,000 liters (100,000 gallons) of rain water, said Alban Bassuet, the French-born acoustician and designer who relocated to Montana to head construction. "Arts centers are usually notorious for their energy consumption. It is very unusual to do this," he said.

A hill for a sculpture

Another concert in the barn celebrated Mark di Suvero, one of the leading contempo-

rary sculptors, who sat in jeans in the audience. Di Suvero is among the signature artists on display at Tippet Rise, where electric-run vans shuttle visitors to works across the estate. Di Suvero's "Beethoven's Quartet" imagines musical instruments in an abstract steel meld, with guests hitting it with mallets and hearing the sound reverberate through the hills.

"We said, what if a sculpture were not in a museum, where it tends to be confined by the walls, or even outside with a lot of sculptures?" Peter Halstead said. "What if it had its own valley?" he said. "What if you could spend the entire day with that one sculpture?" With Montana's harsh winters, the center-best reached by four-wheel-drive vehicle—does not anticipate concerts year-round. When shows are off, the Halsteads envision Tippet Rise as a retreat, where musicians can stay with their families and practice on the center's dozen Steinway pianos.

The scope for audience growth is narrow, with Tippet Rise already obliged to turn away visitors who showed up without tickets. Instead, Tippet Rise has built an in-barn studio with 3D immersive sound that is capable of livestreaming or broadcasting performances. "There are never going to be more than 150 people in the audience, so you get to the point where the entire global footprint of the festival is going to be streaming-video and



"Inverted Portal," a work by Spanish sculptors Anton Garcia-Abril and Debora Mesa, known together as Ensamble Studio, is seen at the Tippet Rise Art Center near Fishtail, Montana.

audio-of an extraordinarily high nature," said Tippet Rise's music director Christopher O'Riley, a pianist known as host of the "From the Top" program on National Public Radio as well as his Radiohead covers. "And I think we're very happy with that. It becomes a bucket place to go, but it doesn't mean you can't experience it." — AFP



"Two Discs" (right), a sculpture by Alexander Calder on loan from the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, DC, and the Olivier Music Barn (left) are seen at the Tippet rise Art Center.



"Beethoven's Quartet," a work first made in 2003 by US sculptor Mark di Suvero, is seen at the Tippet Rise Art Center near Fishtail, Montana.



Nancy Baker of The Food Artist Group poses with her elaborate Chris Stapleton Farmland bacon sculpture at the Farmland Bacon Club booth on Saturday at LouFest in St Louis. — AP